



Handbook
Flint River Presbytery
135th Stated Meeting



May 7, 2022
St. Andrews(Macon)



Debra Tregaskis, Executive Presbyter
Rebecca Willis, Stated Clerk
Toni Hatfield, Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Cantrell, Ministry Associate

April 22, 2022

Dear Flint River Saints,

This packet of information is intended to assist you in preparing for the 135th Stated Meeting of Flint River Presbytery on **Saturday, May 7, 2022**, at **Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church, located at 501 Bass Road, Macon**. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Lunch, served after the meeting, will be provided at a cost of \$8.00. Daycare will be provided. Please RSVP the names and ages of children who will require care so that appropriate plans can be made ahead of time.

The pages that follow include the usual agenda and reports, along with information and action items from our committees. Please read all the enclosed material carefully prior to coming to the meeting so you can make informed and intentional decisions. Remember, if Addendum items are added for your review, they will not go online until Thursday, May 5th. All will receive an email notification regarding any Addendum addition. **After our meeting, please be certain to share key information with your Session and congregation.**

The presbytery meeting on May 7th features a forum time that comes as an intentional and prayerful result of Monday night Zoom conversations titled, "Candid and Careful Conversations around Race." This group was formed as a result of conversations within our Advisory Board over two years ago and consists of various Advisory Board members. During this forum time, attendees will break into small groups to provide an opportunity for honest, kind, and fruitful conversations about how we can best learn from one another and our varied experiences and viewpoints. A worship service will conclude our gathering. Curtis White, one of our newer members of the presbytery and pastor at St. Andrews, will bless us with his preaching. To conclude our meeting, we will relish our unity in Jesus Christ as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Please note that our worship offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance earmarked for the Ukraine Crisis. We continue to collect our Noisy Offering. So, bring your change to help support our FRP Hunger Fund and annual Rise Against Hunger events. You may give in-person at the meeting, or you may give online by going to www.flintriverpresbytery.org or using the GivePlus+ App. In both formats, please add a memo noting that your gift is for the May 2022 FRP offering. Thank you!

As we walk through this Easter season, may we give thanks for the gift of an empty tomb and may we be mindful of the ways in which resurrection life greets us each day. As we gather to learn, connect, and worship, may we reflect the wide love and deep courage that mirrors the way of Jesus.

We look forward to seeing you in person!

May this meeting be a time of encouragement and enrichment to you and your congregation!

With Easter Hope,

Deb, Becky, Elizabeth, and Toni

2800 Old Dawson Road, Suite 2, Box 312 , Albany, GA 31707

**Agenda of the Presbytery of Flint River of the Presbyterian Church (USA)
Saturday, May 7 2022**

**“I am about to do a new thing: now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.”
Isaiah 43: 19**

Registration with Ministry Associate, Elizabeth Cantrell 9:30 am

Orientation of Commissioners with Stated Clerk, Becky Willis 9:30 am

Gathering as God’s People

Welcome, Prayer, and Call to Order Glenda Hollingshead

Approval of the Agenda Fields Varner

Roll Call and Introductions Becky Willis

Hymns of Preparation

- #369 *I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me*
- #316 *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

Proclaiming the Good News

Connecting the Dots: Making Sense of our Packet and our Meeting Debra Tregaskis

- Hymn #418 *God, Bless Your Church with Strength*
(*to the tune of “ Crown Him with Many Crowns”)

Brief Reflection on our Shared Life: Setting the Stage for Conversations Debra Tregaskis

FORUM TIME

page 4

Courageous Conversations:

An Opportunity Share, Stretch and Strengthen One Another as Congregational Leaders

This forum time comes as an intentional and prayerful result of our Monday night group entitled "Candid and Careful Conversations around Race", which was formed as a result of conversations in our Advisory Board over 2 years ago. This group consists of various members of the Advisory Board.

Information about our Joint Ministries

Advisory Board

pages 5-6

Stated Clerk Report

page 6

Committees and Commissions

pages 6-9

Action Items

page 10

Addendum Reports

Announcements for the Common Good

Sending God's People to Serve

Closing Worship

pages 11-12

Lunch at 1 pm

FORUM TIME

Courageous Conversations:

An Opportunity Share, Stretch and Strengthen One Another as Congregational Leaders

This forum time comes as an intentional and prayerful result of our Monday night Zoom gathering entitled "Candid and Careful Conversations around Race".

This group was formed as a result of conversations in our Advisory Board over 2 years ago and consists of various members of the Advisory Board.

Purpose of this time?

- To recognize -- and to be reminded -- that our individual perspectives are one of many and that other perspectives have both validity and value
- To recognize that the church, as the body of Jesus, has a responsibility to honor all people as children of God as well as name injustice and speak against it
- To recognize that we need to model ways of talking about difficult topics in ways that are constructive and clear, focused and faithful
- To honor the relationships that we have forged over the years and trust that we can deepen these same relationships as we speak honestly about our varied experiences around issues of race

Format?

- TOGETHER watch a 5- minute clip from live footage from Selma, Alabama in 1965
- DIVIDE into pre-arranged small groups based on the number found on your round sticker

The small groups will be moderated by someone who actively participated in the Monday night calls

Small groups will open and close with shared prayer.

Questions to discuss:

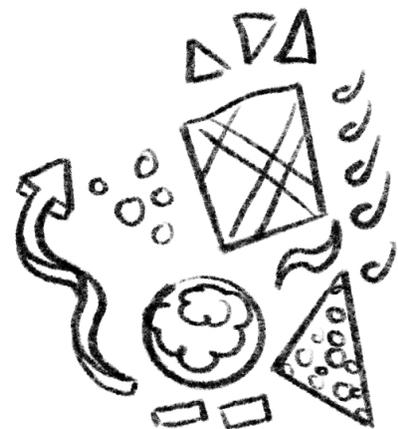
1. What do you see happening in this clip? What captures your attention?
 2. Where do you see this kind of activity happening in the world today?
 3. What role did the church play then?
 4. What role does the church play now?
 5. What role do we want the church to play?
 6. Where do we go from here as a presbytery?
- Return to shared space and groups may share BRIEFLY 1-2 key insights with the larger group
 - Close with prayer and hymn #563 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"



My Notes



{made for your enjoyment}
by Ella Hawkins}



Take Notes!

What to:

remember

Important
Dates
+ Deadlines

Ways to:

respond

How it:

relates



FOR INFORMATION

The ministry items mentioned in the follow pages occur because of the commitment and imagination of faithful people *just like you* from every corner of our presbytery. Please read this attentively and prayerfully and learn about the ways in which we are working together so that our 44 worshipping communities (40 congregations and 4 campus ministries).

Advisory Board (AB) – Fields Varner, moderator

1. Reflected on Acts 27: 21-26, the story of the “Storm at Sea” and gave thanks for the courage we share as we recover from the storm of the pandemic. We continue to learn valuable lessons from challenges and share in our joy of discovery.
2. Approved the agenda for this meeting as well as the minutes from the February 2022 presbytery meeting. (See pages 1-7 in Attachments)
3. Reviewed minutes from all our committees.
4. Approved the recommendation from the Committee on Ministry to change the wording for the *Small Church Coordinator* position in order to eliminate the requirement that the candidate be a TRE, CRE, or ordained pastor. It was also agreed that the job opening would be posted in the weekly “Tuesday Treasures” until the application deadline of Monday, May 2nd.
5. Received an update from the FRP Discernment Team regarding Donalsonville and their discernment process around departing the PC(USA).
6. Based on staff feedback, supported the decision to terminate the FRP office line (cell) at 229.435.9726 as an unnecessary expense. **All of our staff cell numbers and e-mails can be found under “About Us” at www.flintriverpresbytery.org**
7. Embraced the opportunity to partner with [New American Pathways](#), an Atlanta based nonprofit with the mission of **Helping Refugees and Georgia Thrive**. Their vision is for new Americans in metro Atlanta to become successful, contributing, and welcomed members of Georgia’s communities. Offering the most comprehensive and fully integrated continuum of services targeted to meet the specific needs of refugees and other immigrants in Georgia, their services support new Americans on their individual pathways from arrival through citizenship with programs that focus on four key milestones along the pathway – Safety & Stability, Self-Sufficiency, Success, and Service. A variety of opportunities for our shared partnership include backpack and hygiene kit collection and distribution as well as partnering with a refugee family. If your congregation would like to know what is involved in partnering with/adopting a family, please talk with our Executive Presbyter, Deb Tregaskis.
8. Noted with gratitude the completed work of the Adel Administrative Commission, which included the following individuals: Bonny Dorough (1st Albany), Jim Lowry (Moultrie), Donalee Preston (Adel), Dick and Jane Shelton (1st, Valdosta), and Don West (Boston) and received an update about the recently formed Twin Lakes/West End Administrative Commission, which will be led by some of the same experienced individuals: John Akers (Twin Lakes/ West End), Jeff Bickers (Trinity, Valdosta), Bonny Dorough (1st Albany), Dick and Jane Shelton (1st, Valdosta), and Don West (Boston). Becky Willis, Stated Clerk, has served and will continue to serve as staff support for these commissions.

9. Learned about the two most recent “Lunch and Learn” events led by Deb and Elizabeth in the NW and Southern Clusters.

Our other Lunch and Learn events are scheduled as follows.
A host church is needed for our event in the Central Cluster!

Tuesday, August 30 from 11 am to 2 pm in the Central Cluster. **Location TBD**

Tuesday, September 13 from 11 am to 2 pm in the NE Cluster. Location: Northminster (Macon)

Stated Clerk -- Becky Willis

10. All Terms of Call, Contracts, and Annual Reports were due to the presbytery by January 31, 2022. Nearly all Terms of Call and Contracts have been received at this point. Forms for contracts and annual reports can be found on the *Clerk of Session* tab on our website under *Forms*.
11. 83% of our congregations submitted Statistical Reports to the Office of General Assembly by the January 31, 2022 deadline. Thank you to Clerks of Session for completing this **required** report. We encourage those congregations who did not get their data in this year to make Statistical Reporting a priority for next year. **Remember, the Per Capita for your congregation is calculated from these official figures.**
12. Minutes and Records Review will be conducted during August 2022 for review of 2021 minutes and records. The process will be the same as in the last couple of years: mail or email your minutes, Session Records Form (checklist), statistical report, and budget to the Stated Clerk (bwillis123a@yahoo.com) or to one of the members of the Minutes and Records Committee (names and contact information found on page 19 in our online directory). If you wish to mail your minutes and records, *please send copies – not your original minutes!*
13. Last year we began a quarterly “Clerk’s Corner” training session for Clerks of Session and any interested party, and this training continues this year. The original schedule was adjusted so that more people could participate. **The remaining 2022 dates are as follows: July 19, and October 18.** All sessions are by Zoom at 7:00 pm. A simple way to connect is to go to our website and click on the event on the calendar. You may also email Elizabeth Cantrell (ecantrell@flintriverpresbytery.org) so a link can be sent to you.
14. On February 26, 2022, we had extensive training for Ruling Elders throughout our presbytery. Our Northeast cluster gathered for one of the training sessions, and our Central and Southern clusters gathered for the other. Thank you to all who provided the training and to all participants. Your presbytery is committed to providing continuing education to all those in leadership roles as well as those who simply love to learn.

Committee on Ministry (COM) – Paul Kauffmann, moderator

15. Reviewed and Approved the organizational changes to the COM Procedural Manual and requested the manual be put on the FRP website under the COM page and sent to presbytery for final approval.
16. Heard an update from and further reviewed the working drafts of “Working with a Pastor Nominating Committee as a COM Liaison” from the PNC Support Team, consisting of Angie Davis (Bainbridge), Sharon McFarland, (Americus), and Kent Sanders (Elmodel), as they seek to strengthen PNC training and support for our congregations.

17. Received an update from the Personnel Committee regarding the *Small Church Coordinator* position and, ultimately, determined that the wording for this position needed to be changed in order to eliminate the requirement that the candidate be a TRE, CRE, or ordained pastor.
18. Noted the installation service of Bradley Walker to First (Moultrie) on Sunday, March 20, 2022. (See page 8 in Attachments for the Installation Commission.)
19. Examined and approved Angie Davis as CRE to Camilla Presbyterian Church, with a commissioning date scheduled for Sunday, April 3, 2022.
20. Approved by acclamation for the sake of expediency and clarity that both Deb Tregaskis, EP, and Becky Willis, Stated Clerk, may moderate Session meetings and congregational meetings as requested and needed – without additional approval from this committee.
21. Noted that Trinity (Valdosta) formed a PNC at a congregational meeting after receiving information from Deb Tregaskis at a recent session meeting where she served as moderator.
22. Approved these contracts between the following:

Elmodel	Eric Newman, through December 31, 2022
Covenant	Sam Henderson, through April 2023
First (Cordele)	Mary Runyon, through December 31, 2022
First (Warner Robins)	Sarah McClelland-Brown through December 31, 2022
Ft. Gaines	Wade Spooner, through December 31, 2022
Sherwood	Judy Hay, through December 31, 2022
Trinity (Valdosta)	Lindsay Williams, as Interim Pastor
23. Approved the following Elder Terms of Service Waivers:
 - Cairo Presbyterian until March 2025
 - First (Cordele) until April 2025
24. Recommissioned the following CRE:
 - St. Paul (Cordele) Walter Nesbitt until March 2025
25. Appointed Sandy Monroe as Moderator of Wayside.

Finance Committee (FIN) – Frazer Loomis, moderator.

26. Reviewed year-end reports and rejoiced with the news that per capita giving was received at 97% and pledge giving was received at 102%.
27. Created an account titled, “Sale of Presbytery Property” in which the total amount from the sale of the Flint River Presbytery building is held, totaling \$185,070.00 until such time that our presbytery committees are able to provide input and ideas regarding the use of those funds before the presentation of those ideas to the presbytery as a whole. The presbytery as a whole will vote on how to use these funds after additional input has been solicited.

28. Approved a motion that as new moderators of the Finance Committee and/or treasurers of the presbytery take office, changes to the contact information on both the Jerry Lee Watts Campus Ministry Fund and the Walter Flint Fund would be automatic, so that information is shared regularly with serving members as well as staff.

Per Capita for 2022 is \$15.75

Per Capita for 2020 and 2021 was \$15.75

General Assembly - \$8.98

Synod of the South Atlantic - \$2.50

Flint River Presbytery -\$4.27

Although GA and synod per capita amounts increased in 2021, FRP's per capita decreased in 2021 and will remain decreased in 2022 in order to keep our total per capita, the same.

2022 Per Capita Reports are found in Attachments, page 9.
2022 Pledge Giving Reports are found in Attachments, page 10.

Year-end reports for 2021 can be found in Attachments:

2021 Per Capita Report page 11
2021 Pledge Report on page 12
2021 Balance Sheet on pages 13-14
2021 Operating Budget on pages 15-23
2021 Special Funds Narrative on pages 24-27

**Your Finance Committee continues to be endlessly grateful for the steady and generous giving of our congregations.
Thank you!**

Rest assured that this committee continues to pray, collaborate, and discern how to stretch pennies into dollars. Our staff are doing no less!

Most importantly, we continue to remember that these funds are gifts from God and are to be used to bless God's people and give witness to God's goodness and grace as revealed in Jesus Christ.

Committee on Mission and Evangelism (CME)

-- Beth Jarrell, moderator, and Pam Moye, volunteer staff associate

29. Received updates about our campus ministry efforts in our four clusters.
30. Heard highlights from the National Union of Presbyterian Women in Guatemala as a result of our long partnership with them.
31. Learned that approximately 10 congregations in our presbytery are interested in looking for ways to help settle refugees through the New American Pathways partnership. A variety of opportunities to partner with this organization will be communicated in a multitude of ways.

32. Approved the award of Technology grant monies as noted for a total of \$13,076.00:

Beth Salem	\$3155.00
Forsyth	\$2448.00
Edgewood	\$2898.00
New Hope	\$1805.00
The Abbey	\$1625.00
Northminster	\$1145.00

33. Approved the second round of Walter Flint grant monies as noted for a total of \$33,660:

Beth Salem	\$2500.00
Carver Heights	\$7000.00
Edgewood	\$6600.00
Washington Avenue	\$10,000.00
Westminster	\$7560.00

34. Approved the offering from the May 2022 presbytery meeting be designated to Presbyterian Disaster Relief and earmarked for Ukraine.

35. Host sites for our Rise Against Hunger cluster events on World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. If you are interested in hosting, please reach out to Beth Jarrell, CME moderator at bethjarrell827@gmail.com within the next month.

36. Over \$60,000 is available in our special funds, earmarked for a Habitat for Humanity build! If your church would like to sponsor a presbytery-wide build in your community, [please complete the brief application available on our website to be considered.](#)

Congratulations to New Hope, our newly fused congregation of All Saints and Morningside who recently received a \$30K grant from our denominational unit, 1001 New Worshipping Communities!

A new Spanish language worship service was begun in March at this same congregation.

Personnel Committee – Robert Harrison, moderator

37. Approved the nomination of Robert Harrison as moderator of the committee due to the resignation of J.D. Sumner.

38. Discussed and received applications for the Small Church Coordinator position and made a recommendation to the Committee on Ministry.

39. Approved request by Deb Tregaskis, EP, to delay her scheduled sabbatical until 2023.

40. Noted the successes of the Lunch & Learn cluster meetings hosted by New Hope (Columbus) and Trinity (Valdosta) with two upcoming meetings scheduled in the Central Cluster on August 30th and in the Northeast Cluster at Northminster in September.

ACTION ITEMS

From the Advisory Board (AB)

1. Recommends that we add the following phrase to the responsibilities given to the West End/Twin Lake Administrative Commission: that this commission be given “authority to finalize all sales pertaining to the West End/Twin Lake properties.” (This phrase was inadvertently left out of the February presbytery packet but was included in the November 2021 AB minutes.)

From the Committee on Ministry (COM)

2. Recommends the *organizational* changes to the COM Procedural Manual, noting that no content was changed from previous readings and approval. (See pages 28-69 in Attachments.)

Flint River Presbytery Closing Worship

Saturday, May 7, 2022

***denotes "please stand as able"**

Call to Worship

One: If we met you, Jesus Christ,

All: we might be surprised at what we would find!

One: Theological banter, liturgical niceties, and church lingo would not be part of the conversation.

All: Your words would point to common elements and curious truths couched in salt and dough, lost lambs and lost coins, greening seeds and singing birds.

One: We would sense that all that all these common elements point to deeper truths and richer rhythms.

All: We would see how you light up the ordinary with truth, how you engage the broken with love, how you invite the lost to follow with hope.

One: When we meet you, Jesus Christ, in the faces of those around us,

All: When we meet you, Jesus Christ, in the faces of those around us, may compassion and care, tenderness and truth-telling, be our steady companions. AMEN

*Hymn #354

Guide My Feet

Call to Prayer and Unison Prayer of Confession

Holy One,

You sent Jesus Christ into the world,
casting parables into crowds,
unleashing love, and
unbinding the broken.

You come among us still,
but we are not always interested
nor are we paying attention.

Our interest is captured instead by the
empty but alluring sheen of wealth and security.

Our attention is fixed on
bottom lines, net incomes, and tangible results.

We confess our obvious lack of trust.

(Silence)

We confess our dogged lack of hope.

(Silence)

We confess our persistent lack of imagination.

(Silence)

Encourage us, empower us, and equip us

that we may be glad witnesses to Your persistence providence and Your shining grace.

(Silence) AMEN

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture and Sermon

Curtis White

*Hymn #386 O For a World

Call to Offering and Prayer of Dedication

The offering today will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, earmarked for the Ukraine Crisis.

*The Noisy Offering, gifts of spare change,
will go to support our Hunger Fund and annual Rise Against Hunger events.*

*Hymn #507 I Come with Joy

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sending Prayer (in unison)

In deep gratitude, for this moment, this meal, and our neighbors, near and far, we give ourselves to you, dear Jesus.

You have gathered us in at table. Send us out to live as changed people. We have shared the Living Bread and are witnesses to the reality that we cannot remain the same.

Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, and encourage many through us.

May we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of earth and citizens of heaven. We make all this prayer in your holy name. AMEN

Benediction and Closing of our Meeting

Glenda Hollingshead

Our liturgy today comes, in part, from Iona Abbey Worship Book. The remaining portions were written by our Executive Presbyter.