

Presbytery of  
South Louisiana

February 18

2020

## 144<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**411 W. Charles Street**  
**Hammond, LA 70401**  
**985-345-1543**  
[www.fpchammond.org](http://www.fpchammond.org)





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN  
PRESBYTERY OF SOUTH LOUISIANA



# Spring Gathering 2020



**MARCH 28 - 9:00 AM-LUNCH**

**UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**REGISTRATION: \$15**

**CARPOOLS FROM NEW ORLEANS**

Contact: Kathy Randall , PSL- PW Coordinator  
504-866-7435 hm 601-519-2413 cell



Valerie L. Young  
*Synod Leader  
& Stated Clerk*  
[valerie.young@synodsun.org](mailto:valerie.young@synodsun.org)

## **Reading 2018 Presbytery Minutes**

December 2, 2019

To: Rev. Dr. Ron Sutto, Stated Clerk, South Louisiana Presbytery  
From: Valerie Young, Stated Clerk, Synod of the Sun

The Synod's Minutes Review Committee led by Ernest Higginbotham, Assistant Stated Clerk, has reviewed the 2018 South Louisiana Presbytery Minutes in accordance with G-3.0108a. Consider this the resulting report for your presbytery records.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

None

### **COMMENTS:**

Item #2: Page numbers were off due to the addition of the checklist at the beginning of the document

Item #5: Saw no reflection of the opportunity for nominations from the floor.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or Ernest Higginbotham, Assistant Stated Clerk.

Blessings on your ministry in South Louisiana Presbytery.

Valerie Young  
Synod Leader  
& Stated Clerk

# COUNCIL REPORT

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February 18, 2020

## Listening Project

The four major theses that came out of the listening visits are:

Continue these personal visits to congregations on behalf of the presbytery.

Address the communication gaps frequently lifted up by sessions.

Provide more regular, comprehensive pastoral care to pastors.

Bring the presbytery together for purposes other than business.

In keeping with the goal of responding to and finding ways to implement them, a Focus Group is being formed with two members from each geographical region. All the slots have not been filled yet but so far, the Group consists of Jeff Simms, Northshore; Patrice Butler and Judy McGehee, Greater Baton Rouge, Deborah Serra, West, and Jenni Hew, Greater New Orleans/Bayou. Our goal is to have definite suggestions for each theme to present to the June Presbytery meeting.

In the interest of acting in a timely manner, Barry Chance, Moderator of PSL, is working on workshops at the June and October meetings.

## Committees

The Council discussed committees which have been inactive or without leadership. They will be reviewed, and recommendations made.

## Financial Management

The Council reviewed the Treasurer's report. Authorized the Treasurer to follow up and resolve the tax situation with Church of the Way.

## **Action Items:**

The Council recommends the following actions be taken by the Presbytery.

- 1) That the Presbytery approve the 2020 Restricted Funds Manual as presented by the Treasurer.
- 2) That the Presbytery approved the proposed Administrative Commission for Okra Abbey as presented by Rev. Hannah Quick.

# Preparation for Ministry

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Committee on the Preparation for Ministry  
Report to Presbytery – January 2020

## **Information:**

1. The CPM continues PREPARATION work with individuals who are attending seminary to become Teaching Elders and those who are in the CP program.
2. Patrice Butler (First PC, Scotlandville), having successfully completed all requirements for PSL CP seekers, was assessed as ready to receive a commission at the meeting of CPM on January 13, 2020.
3. Received a letter from FPC Abbeville indicating that RE Leigh Rachal would like to be enrolled as a CP seeker. CP Handbook and intake forms will be sent to her to begin the process.

## **Recommendations to Presbytery:**

CPM recommends that RE Patrice Butler serve in the PSL as a CP.

**Individuals Under Care:** The CPM asks for your prayers for these individuals:

### Inquirers:

### Candidates:

Colleen Earp (Candidate, Union, Richmond – TE Chancellor-Watson)  
Jeff Ferguson (Candidate, grad of SFTS, lives in Boston – RE Alexander)  
Hannah Mills (Candidate, Union NYC – TE Chancellor-Watson)

### Seekers to become Commissioned Pastors (CP):

Norma Jean Luckey (Seeker, First Lafayette – TE Ingram)

### Seekers who have completed PSL CP requirements:

Patrice Butler (Seeker, First Scotlandville – TE Watson)  
Theresa King (Seeker, First Bogalusa – RE Alexander)  
Miriam Schulingkamp Hollar (Seeker, St. Charles Avenue, NOLA – Liaison N/A)  
Dale Tullier (Seeker, Broadmoor – Liaison N/A)

# COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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February 2020

## **For Information:**

- The COM approved Terms of Call for: TE Aaron Ochart (John Calvin)(effective June 29, 2020) and TE Chandler Willis (First Lake Charles).
- Approved Terms of Service for CP Glenda Keegan (Gheens).
- Approved Commissioning of Patrice Butler (Scotlandville).
- Received Session's annual evaluating of CP's Leslie and Erich Mansell (Westminster, Sulphur) as information.
- Appointed TE Ron Sutto as Moderator of First Presbyterian, Abbeville, Session.
- Appointed TE Kristina Peterson as Moderator of the Bayou Blue Session. Voted to send a letter requesting a waiver to the Bureau of Pensions to permit TE Peterson to serve at the Bayou Blue Church.
- Approved COM liaisons for PSL churches.

## **ACTION ITEM**

Vote to Commission Patrice Butler as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Scotlandville

Nanette Cagney, Moderator

Committee on Ministry



**COM Liaisons 2020**

<b>Church</b>	<b>Region</b>	<b>Liaison</b>
Abbeville FPC	West	Pat Wadsworth
Alexandria FPC	West	Debbie Serra
Crowley FPC	West	Chan Willis
DeRidder FPC Korean NWC	West	Chan Willis
Lafayette FPC	West	Pat Wadsworth
Lafayette Grace	West	Debbie Serra
Lake Charles FPC	West	Nanette Cagney
St Andrew Lake Charles	West	Chan Willis
St Andrews Leesville	West	Nanette Cagney
New Iberia FPC	West	Pat Wadsworth
Palmer Memorial Pineville	West	Debbie Serra
Woodland PC Pineville	West	Debbie Serra
Westminster Sulphur	West	Nanette Cagney
Welsh FPC	West	Nanette Cagney
Gheens	GNO/Bayou	Richard Maag
Gray FPC, Bayou Blue	GNO/Bayou	Richard Maag
Faith PC Harvey Be Well, Come Together NWC	GNO/Bayou	Ann Philbrick
Jefferson PC	GNO/Bayou	Sharon Fortin
Chinese PC Kenner	GNO/Bayou	Richard Maag
John Calvin, Metairie	GNO/Bayou	Loretta Credo
Metairie Ridge	GNO/Bayou	Sharon Fortin
Parkway, Metairie	GNO/Bayou	
Atkinson Memorial	GNO/Bayou	Sharon Fortin
Berean NO	GNO/Bayou	Richard Maag
NO FPC	GNO/Bayou	Loretta Credo
Korean PC NO	GNO/Bayou	Jerry Egbert

Lakeview NO	GNO/Bayou	Loretta Credo
St Charles Ave PC	GNO/Bayou	Sharon Fortin
Raceland	GNO/Bayou	Richard Maag
Okra Abbey NWC	GNO/Bayou	Sharon Fortin/ Loretta Credo
YAV's	GNO/Bayou	Sharon Fortin/ Loretta Credo
Baker	Greater Baton Rouge(GBR)	Jack Bagent
Broadmoor	GBR	Ann Knapp
Faith	GBR	Jack Bagent
Highland	GBR	Beth Paskoff
University	GBR	Chip Chiphe
Scotlandville	GBR	Beth Paskoff
Clinton	GBR	Chip Chiphe
Jackson/Clinton	GBR	Chip Chiphe
Norwood	GBR	Jack Bagent
Port Allen	GBR	Chip Chiphe
Zachary	GBR	Ann Knapp
Albany-Hungarian	Northshore	Stuart Ball
Amite-Arcola	Northshore	Chad Sheridan
Bogalusa FPC	Northshore	Dianne Kaack
Covington FPC	Northshore	Chad Sheridan
Hammond FPC	Northshore	Stuart Ball
Ponchatoula FPC	Northshore	Stuart Ball
Slidell FPC	Northshore	Chad Sheridan
Madisonville	Northshore	Stuart Ball
Northminster, Pearl River	Northshore	Dianne Kaack



# BILLS AND OVERTURES

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The Bills and Overtures Committee met on February 7, 2020 to review two overtures for sent for our consideration from Cimarron Presbytery and Mission Presbytery. The committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Presbytery of South Louisiana concur on Overture #8 (see attached) from Mission Presbytery.

**Committee Members:** Bill Bottomley, RE; Barry Chance, TE; Sarah Chancellor-Watson, TE; Jerry Egbert, TE; Henrietta Harris, RE

## Overture from Mission Presbytery

Resolved that Mission Presbytery, a border presbytery, respectfully overture the 224th General Assembly (2020) of the Presbyterian Church (USA), working through appropriate ministry units of the General Assembly Council, to do the following as soon as possible:

1. Provide the whole church with information about conditions that precipitate migration, obstacles to care of refugees, and about detention and deportation practices;
2. Challenge violations of the 14th Amendment of the US Constitution, Refugee Act, Immigration and Nationality Act, and International Law;
3. Act on the beliefs expressed in *Declaration of Barmen* (1934). *Confession of Belhar* (1986) and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, that the Church and its members may continue to be a prophetic witness against cruelty, hate and racism;
4. Advocate to United States Congress for legislative compassion in Immigration Reform.
5. Advocate to United States Administration for humane implementation of Immigration Law and Refugee Policy;
6. Advocate for the United Nations to develop resources to support refugees in Mexico and in other countries bearing the burden and privilege of refugee support;
7. Encourage the Stated Clerk, Office of Public Witness, and Office of Immigration Issues to work with others including ecumenical, interfaith and civil society agencies to develop resources for advocacy and welcoming for refugees;
8. Encourage congregations, presbyteries and synods to engage with the refugee community by participation in welcoming activities, advocacy for the development of helping public resources, and resistance to unlawful or unhelpful government activity;
9. Provide a toolkit for local congregation action for reasonable and compassionate treatment of refugees;
10. Establish a \$250,000 grant to be used to implement the provisions of this Overture;
11. Provide a report to the 225th General Assembly on progress toward achieving the goals of this Overture.

1   **Rationale Section:**

2   Our faith requires us to welcome strangers and foreigners, *Hebrews 13:2*:

3   The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) should renew its commitment to compassion and justice for  
4   those who have fled their homelands due to fear of political prosecution and for fear of the  
5   continuing cycle of violence;

6   Many times, in the past, General Assemblies have given endorsement to welcoming of  
7   refugees;

8   For at least three decades the USA government has engaged in tactics and strategies in  
9   dealing with immigration that violate the United States Constitution, Public Law and  
10   International Law;

11   Central Americans and others seeking asylum in the USA, are not admitted to the United States  
12   and are made to wait in Mexico, for periods of weeks, encouraging attempts at illegal entry;

13   Refugee status is denied to those fleeing domestic abuse in nations unable or unwilling to  
14   protect them;

15   For decades border enforcement has occasionally resulted in the arrest of adults attempting  
16   illegal entry into the USA, but in April 2018, the USA government initiated a “zero tolerance”  
17   policy that resulted in massive and unnecessary family separations;

18   USA government is incarcerating minors under the supervision of the U.S. Department of Health  
19   and Human Services and in private detention facilities, which are below the standards of  
20   human dignity;

21   USA government has allowed the following conditions to remain: Asylum applications take  
22   many years, sometimes including detention during the wait; longtime residents of the USA are  
23   in uncertain status because of the revocation of Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals;  
24   immigration quotas have been lowered to unreasonable levels; and dishonest claims are  
25   made about migration activity, encouraging hatred and fear.

26   White supremacists, white nationalists and racists are spreading false stories about the dangers  
27   posed by asylum seekers and other migrating people.

28   At the time of this overture there are more refugees and displaced persons in the world that at  
29   any time since World War II.

30   We strongly believe God is still calling the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to be a prophetic voice  
31   in support of strangers in our land. This overture will demonstrate our denomination's  
32   commitment to serve those who have been forced to leave their own country and cannot  
33   return.

34

1. STATEMENTS FROM STATED CLERK ON IMMIGRATION AND FAMILY SEPARATION

from 6. 16.2018: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/16/stated-clerk-issues-statement->

Strong policy statement on immigration policy.

from 10.3.2015: <https://thinkprogress.org/donald-trump-claims-hes-a-presbyterian-so-church-leaders-are-calling-him-out-bbbbdd141597/>

Stated Clerk challenges Donald Trump's policies and his claim of being a Presbyterian

From 9.6.2018: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pcusa-stated-clerk-issues-statement-on-anniversary-of-daca-repeal/>

Stated Clerk urges steadfastness on the anniversary of DACA repeal.

From 8.26.18: <https://www.brickchurch.org/presbyterian-church-usa-stated-clerk-issues-statement-on-separated-immigrant-families/>

Stated Clerk condemn family separation policy.

2. ACTIONS BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY from website page: <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/mid-council-ministries/immigration/>.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joined with other organizations to oppose H.R. 4731, the "Refugee Program Identity Restoration Act of 2016." Read [the letter to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee Leadership](#) - March 15, 2016 (PDF).

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joined with 272 organizations in a letter asking the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to designate El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras for Temporary Protected status. This status would acknowledge the danger present for many families in those countries and allow for a temporary immigration status for those families who come here seeking protection but do not meet the narrow legal requirements for asylum.

[Letter to President Obama on Temporary Protection Status \(TPS\) for Northern Triangle Countries](#) - January 24, 2016 (PDF)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) joins other organizations to voice opposition to Immigration and Customs Enforcement's plan to begin immigration raids of Central American families in 2016.

[Letter to President Obama on DHS round-ups of Central American families](#) - December 31, 2015 (PDF)

1           3.       The above initiatives of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
2 were taking in concert with the other mainline Protestant Churches i.e. The Episcopal Church,  
3 The United Methodist Church, Lutheran Refugee Services, and the Baptist Peace Fellowship of  
4 North America. Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) moral leadership was in cooperation with all  
5 major churches in this country.

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# YOUTH COORDINATOR

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**February 18, 2020**

1. The PSL youth went to Feliciana Retreat and Conference Center for its Family Fun Day held on November 9, 2019. It was a day that introduced a lot of new youth to the property (all of who seemed genuinely interested in coming back for Camp Agape!). There were plenty of Camp Agape alumni and current campers in attendance as well. I was excited to get to show off my family and little ones as well! We climbed the rock wall, zip lined, canoed, played four square, played ga-ga ball, and so much more! When we needed to rest, we made lots of bird feeders (peanut butter, pine cones, and bird seed). We also had a great fellowship time while we ate delicious burgers and chilidogs! S'mores rounded out the meal as the perfect dessert! We can't thank FRCC enough for hosting such a fun event!
2. On December 4, 2019 the Youth Advisory Board met via Zoom. Those in attendance were Amy Heintz (youth coordinator), Charlene Aguillard, Jackie Cummings, Loretta Credo, and Kathy Randall. We reaffirmed the decision to attend Montreat for senior high, MoRanch Jr High Jubilee for our middle school youth, and that the PSL will sponsor a Confirmation Retreat over Labor Day weekend. Likewise, we will continue to encourage all youth to attend Camp Agape this year, and Amy will help churches coordinate any other trips they may need help with (i.e. Synod Youth Workshop). In 2021, the senior high will plan to attend Senior High Celebration at MoRanch, followed by Triennium in 2022. This rotation of conferences will ensure that our high school students get to travel to the three big Presbyterian conferences held around the country. We also decided to donate \$200 from the Triennium Restricted fund to Balmoral Presbyterian as a thank you for hosting our youth this past summer. We spoke about some ideas for upcoming events and what each advisory board member is looking for in a program. Everyone is looking forward to 2020!
3. On December 7, 2019 the PSL youth met for Laser Tag in Metairie. We ended up having 25 kids and adults join in the laser tag fun. We also had plenty of pizza and soda to accompany our fellowship time together. In between our three laser tag games, the kids played in the expansive arcade. The youth (and even our adult participants!) had a fantastic time. It was great to watch them run around looking like fools!
4. On January 19-20, 2020 the PSL youth partnered with Albany Hungarian Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Hammond for a laser tag, a lock-in, and a day of service. We had 32 youth and lots of adults from 7 different churches come together for this awesome event! We met at FPC Hammond for pizza on Sunday evening (1/19). After pizza, we proceeded to laser tag for more fun and lots of soft drinks! The kids had a great time running around, hiding from each other, and playing in the arcade! That night, headed to Albany Hungarian Presbyterian for fellowship and to spend the night. We played lots of name games, never-have-I-ever, ships and sailors, made brownies, had deep discussions about life and faith, and stayed up way too late! The next day (1/20) we will gathered in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

for a day of service. We used the day off of school to really reflect on his message of love and how that is directly applicable to Christians. We will volunteered our time beautifying AHP's building and grounds, made bird houses at FPC Hammond to benefit the Fuller Center, volunteered at multiple members' houses, and helped clean and get the SLU Campus Ministry house ready for new residents on Monday.

5. The summer trips are closer than you think. It's time to start getting ready! Youth always seem to act disinterested until they actually get to the camp...Don't let them fool you! We have limited spots available for each trip, so the sooner you sign up, the better.

**Camp Agape at FRCC- June 7-12, 2020**

-3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades (having just completed)

-Look for brochures at the next Presbytery meeting!

-Don't forget Intro Camp: April 24-26, 2020 for grades 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>!

**Mo Ranch Jr. High Jubilee in Hunt, TX- June 28 - July 2, 2020**

-6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades (having just completed)

-Total Cost: \$350

**-Sign Up Deadline: March 1, 2020** (if you sign up after this date the cost increases to \$400)

-Sign Up Deposit: \$150

-Final Payment will be due May 1, 2020

**Senior High Youth Conference at Montreat in Montreat, NC - July 25 - August 1, 2020**

-9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades (having just completed)

-Total Cost: \$550

**-Sign Up deadline: March 1, 2020** (if you sign up after this date the cost increases to \$600)

-Sign Up Deposit: \$150

-Final Payment will be due May 1, 2020.

*Remember, these prices are the TOTAL cost of the trip. Many churches will pay (and the youth will fundraise) large portions of the cost, so as only to pass along smaller costs to the families. The Presbytery also has some scholarships available.*

**6. Tentative Youth Calendar:**

*Obviously this is all subject to change. **Highlighted items** signify youth included activity.*

February 18, 2019- Presbytery Meeting

April 24-26, 2020- **Intro camp at Camp Agape**

May TBA- **Possible Lock-in** (for all youth, but also a meet and greet for those attending the out-of-state conferences)

May 5, 2020- Council Meeting

June 2, 2012- Presbytery Meeting

June 7-12, 2019- **Camp Agape @ FRC**



1 June 28- July 2, 2020- Junior High Jubilee @ MoRanch  
2 July 25-Aug 1, 2020 - Senior High Conference @ Montreat  
3 September 4-6, 2020- Confirmation Retreat

4  
5 I am always looking for an idea and help with a youth event to be held in the Western  
6 Cluster. If you have any ideas or leads, feel free to pass it along! Like us on Facebook to  
7 see youth updates and lots of pictures! **[www.facebook.com/pslyouth](https://www.facebook.com/pslyouth)**  
8

9 Respectfully submitted,

10  
11 Amy Heintz

12 Youth Coordinator

13 Presbytery of South Louisiana

14 [amy@pbysouthla.org](mailto:amy@pbysouthla.org)

15 (318) 230-423  
16  
17



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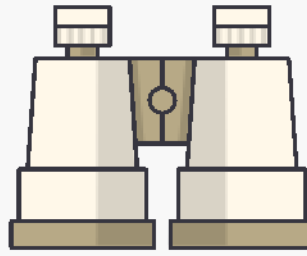
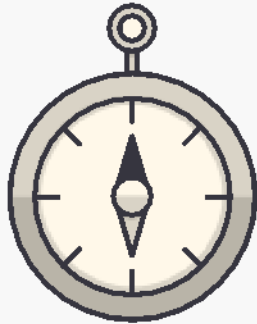
FRCC Family Fun Day- November 9, 2019





PSL Youth Laser Tag- December 4, 2019

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SAVE THE DATES:

# CAMP AGAPE

JUNE 7- 12, 2020

GRADES 3- 12

# I NTRO CAMP

APRI L 24- 26, 2020

GRADES 1 & 2

@ FELICIANA RETREAT AND CONFERENCE CENTER



# **JUNIOR HIGH JUBILEE**

## **@ MO RANCH**

**WHEN?**  
**6/28-7/2, 2020**

**WHO?**  
**GRADES 6TH-8TH**  
COMPLETED

**COST?**  
**\$350\***

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**SIGN UP DEADLINE 3/1/2020**

**\$150 DUE AT REGISTRATION**

**\*PRICE INCREASES TO \$400 AFTER DEADLINE**

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE 5/1/2020**

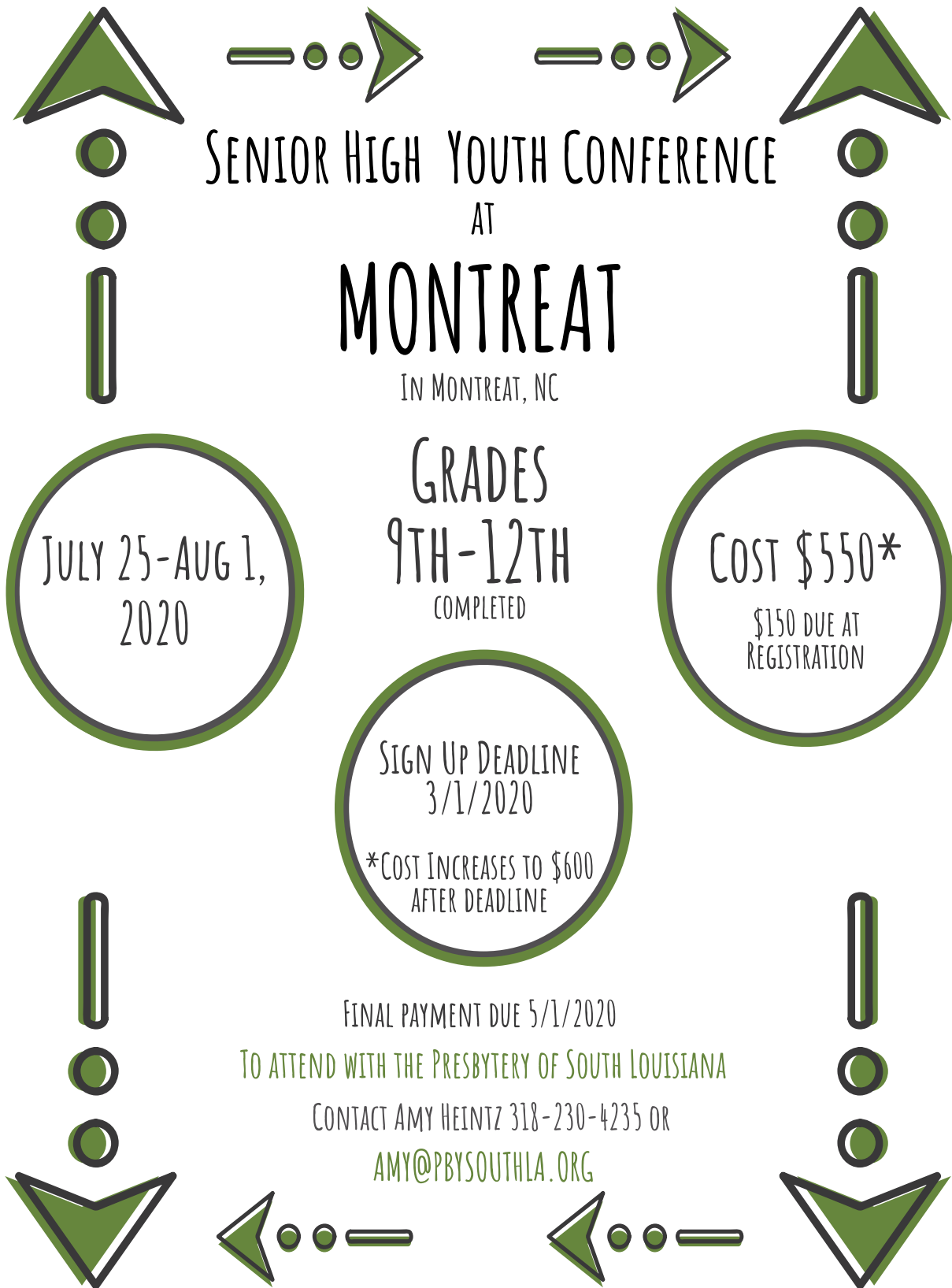
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**CONTACT AMY HEINTZ TO ATTEND WITH THE PSL**

**AMY@PBYSOUTH.LA.ORG**

**OR 318-230-4235**







# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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## **Presbytery of South Louisiana Presbyterian Women Presbytery Coordinating Team**

Cathy Dunn, PWP Representative to Council  
344 S. Diamond Street  
New Orleans, LA 70130  
Cell 504.460.5106  
catherine.c.dunn.pe@gmail.com

**January 24, 2020  
Report to Council**

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team of the PWSL met on January 23, 2020 to discuss budget and upcoming plans. Items discussed included the budget for 2020, upcoming bible studies, updates on Area Clusters, ideas for ways to generate support and active members, ecumenical ideas, historian's report, and upcoming events. Special thanks to Julia Miller Brady for her assistance and setting up lunch for all those who attended,

**Upcoming activity of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery:**

- 1. Spring Gathering**
  - a. University Church in Baton Rouge
  - b. March 28, 2020
  - c. Jane Rasi, Chair
  - d. Request that a moment be set aside at next Presbytery meeting to promote the Spring Gathering.
- 2. Fall Rally**
  - a. Grace Presbyterian Church in Lafayette
  - b. August 22, 2020
  - c. Brenda Stephens, Chair
  - d. There will be only one Fall Rally as this is a central location for all the churches
- 3. Presbytery of South Louisiana Presbyterian Women have been invited to host the 2022 Synod PW Gathering.**
  - a. St. Charles Avenue PC in New Orleans.
  - b. July 21-23, 2022
  - c. Attendance will include women from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.
- 4. Fall Retreat**
  - a. Feliciana Retreat Center
  - b. October 16-17, 2020
  - c. Rev. Sarah Chancellor-Watson, leader
  - d. Miriam Hollar, coordinator

# TREASURER'S REPORT

**February 8, 2020**

PSL Operating cash on hand as of February 8, 2020:

We are in the process of switching our General Fund accounts due to changes in the online banking platform used by Capital One.

**Capital One:**

PSL Operating Checking: \$57,185.01

**Hancock Whitney**

LBPP Grant Account funds were used to open both the new checking and savings accounts. Since then all deposits received have been made to Hancock Whitney.

Preferred Business Checking: 57,379.08

Preferred Money Market (Savings): 4,975

Commercial MM Investment: 588.50

We have recently received access to online banking with Hancock Whitney just yet. I will begin the process of transferring automatic payments and our most used vendors in the next week.

**CASH FLOW**

I have attached the end of the year report that includes the years 2017 and 2018 so you can have an idea of where we are in our spending. This gives you an idea of each of the bills of the Presbytery so you will see exactly where the funds are going.

2019 was second year we have paid out our full per capita. This year, I will try something a little different with the GA and Synod payments. 2020 will be paid out in its entirety in one lump sum payment in January and the money that we were paying monthly to both entities will be transferred to the PSL Savings account (once we are up and going). This will allow (hopefully) for more saving within the PSL General Fund.

2019 amount due to GA: 42,226.20 (amount transferred monthly: \$3,518.85)

2020 amount due to GA: \$40,176.55

2019 amount sent to Synod: 10,800 (amount transferred monthly: \$900)

2020 amount sent to Synod: 11,000

**DESIGNATED FUNDS**

The chart below provides for the internally designated funds from where Presbytery decided we can draw operating capital in February of 2017.

Gentilly Proceeds (3211)	\$112,812.82
Luling (3224)	\$741.28
	<b>113,554.10</b>

There are several Presbytery obligations that are tied specifically to restricted funds. It appears that over the last several years, General Fund dollars were used to fund restricted obligations. While on the surface, it appeared the PSL was always in the red, the fact is that funds were not being pulled from the restricted account to fund specific items (ex. Salary matching grants, Youth Coordinator Salary, etc.) I understand why this was done this way as you want to try to keep the restricted fund balance at a high amount to ensure the longevity of the Presbytery.

I have attached a proposed new edition of the Restricted Fund Manual. Per notes from previous editions, this manual must be approved by Presbytery. If you have any questions or comments regarding the revision, please let me know.

### **ASSETS AND WEALTH ASSESSMENT**

I have online access to our portfolio, so I will be able to access our amounts without having to wait on a member of our assessment team to respond. I CANNOT MAKE ANY CHANGES ON THE SITE. Please keep in mind that funds that are with our Wealth and Asset Management Team are the same funds that are referred to on our PSL Restricted Investment worksheet. While we refer to them as different funds (Luling, Gentilly, CPUMI, etc.) they are one lump sum of money tied to a single portfolio.

#### **Portfolio (Restricted Fund) position as of January 20, 2020**

-Cash and Equivalent: \$171,109.17 – 9.2% of our assets.

-Equities: \$683,178.34 – 36.83% of our assets.

-Fixed Assets (Bonds and Mutual Funds): \$1,000,630.41- 53.94% of our assets.

TOTAL PORTFOLIO: \$1,854,917.92

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW vs. AUDIT**

I met with Mary Kay Carleton last week and we are finalizing the financial reviews for 2016-2019. She is aware with our transition to a new bank, so we are going to get everything cleared up with Capital One before we close out the general fund account. Please remember the financial review process will be cheaper than what are used to spending with the audit. Upon completion of the financial reviews, we will comprise a plan of action with Carleton & Company to ensure any deficiencies are addressed.

From there we will iron out our financial procedures and depend on Quickbooks for our transaction maintenance and financial reports as we have obtained a Quickbooks account through Carleton & Company. Please be patient as there are several aspects of PSL finances that we are trying to work through, and this transition of accounts is not making any of this any easier.

### **CHART OF ACCOUNTS**

The Chart of Accounts will be revised as we get settled in with Carleton and Company and the separation of duties has been finalized.

### **OTHER PSL ACCOUNTS**

#### **2016 FLOOD ACCOUNT**

There is one Flood checking account maintained at Capital One Bank.

Flood operating cash on hand as of February 8, 2020:

Flood Operating Checking: \$9,859.45

Funds for Disaster Assistance Personnel payroll, Board of Pensions, and credit cards are paid out of the PSL General Fund and reimbursed monthly.

Looking at recurring expenses, roughly \$7,500 per month is spent on salary, BOP, and the flood credit card. Per an email from Christina, they are working to have everything wrapped up by the end of the month. I will meet with Christina this month to obtain the files and equipment.

### **YAV FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

There is one YAV checking account maintained at Chase bank.

YAV operating cash on hand as of February 8, 2020:

YAV Operating Checking: \$127,785.52

Funds for YAV Coordinator payroll, board of pensions, and credit card are paid out of the PSL General Fund and reimbursed monthly. Funds to cover YAV stipend and Food Card are paid directly from YAV checking account.

**Looking at recurring expenses, \$7,066.01 per month is spent on salary and the YAV food card. That is not taking into consideration the credit card which can range from 1000-4000 depending on the month of the year. With recurring expenses alone, the YAVs have enough funds for the next 18 months. Remember that is not including the credit card.**

### **OKRA ABBEY**

A checking account has been set up strictly for use with Okra Abbey at Chase Bank.

Okra Abbey operating cash on hand as of February 8, 2020:

Okra Abbey Operating Checking: \$57,011.41

Funds for Okra Abbey payroll and credit card are paid out of the PSL General Fund and reimbursed monthly. The Board of Pensions payment is paid directly from the Okra Abbey checking account.

**Looking at recurring expenses, roughly \$5,000 per month is spent on salary and credit card. With recurring expenses, Okra Abbey has enough funds for roughly the next twelve months. Hannah has been made aware of the program's finances.**

**Kenner Presbyterian Church (former Renegade Gospel Checking):** All disbursements have been made and we are currently waiting on one check to clear this account (Friends of Westminster). Upon that check clearing, this account will be closed.

## **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (INSURANCE)**

**READ BLVD:** No report at this time.

**MAIN STREET (LAPLACE):** No report at this time.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **CHURCH OF THE WAY PRESBYTERIAN**

I received a notice from the son of the former Treasurer of Church of the Way that the assets of the church were to be seized due to failure to pay Louisiana State taxes. I am working with the Louisiana State Department of Revenue to get this cleared up. This led me to contact the federal government to ensure that the taxes were paid for the employee in 2019 (as I had to

1 issue W-2s). They had not been paid. This call resulted in an audit of church tax payments. I  
2 am waiting to hear how much will be owed to them to clear this debt.

3  
4  
5 **BATON ROUGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

6 PSL received a \$7,500 grant from PDA to support community recovery in Baton Rouge in light  
7 of traumatic events that occurred during the summer of 2016. This money was placed in the  
8 PSL General Fund. Use of these funds remains under consideration.

9  
10  
11 **ONLINE GIVING/PAYMENTS**

12 Just a reminder, the following entities are able to receive online donations through our online  
13 account: Presbytery of South Louisiana, Be Well Come Together, First Korean Presbyterian  
14 Church of DeRidder, Living Waters for the World, Cuba Missions and Partnership, 2016 Flood,  
15 Young Adult Volunteers, and Okra Abbey.

16  
17 *If you know of any other missions that would benefit from being able to accept donation or*  
18 *payments online, please let me know.*  
19  
20

## Administrative Commission for Okra Abbey

### Step 1: Administrative Commission for Okra Abbey

The Administrative Commission (AC) from the Presbytery of South Louisiana will serve as the initial governing board of Okra Abbey (NWC).<sup>1</sup> The Administrative Commission will provide oversight and governance while planning for a financially sustainable future and the inclusion and empowerment of local leaders. In collaboration with the Okra Abbey Pastor/Director, members of the AC will co-create goals for Okra Abbey regarding mission and vision, programming, fundraising, and organizational infrastructure. Prayerful decisions will be made collectively for the betterment of the Okra Abbey community and the Pigeon Town neighborhood.

The Administrative Commission will oversee and approve the Okra Abbey working budget in consultation with the Finance Committee and Presbytery Treasure, and when necessary will sign off on grant applications. In consultation with the director, the AC will approve any major programmatic changes. All members of the commission will take on individual responsibilities based on their skills and interests as it relates to fundraising, networking, community outreach, and programming.<sup>2</sup> In order to be personally connected with the Okra Abbey, we ask that all commission members attend three to four Okra Abbey events or meals each year. All involved with the steering of Okra Abbey are asked to regularly pray for Okra Abbey and the surrounding neighborhood we seek to serve.

The Okra Abbey Administrative Commission will not have hiring or firing powers, those will remain with the Presbytery Council, however, the Council should seek the advice of the commission when it comes to personal decisions. The Administrative Commission for Okra Abbey will be a multi-year project evolving from year to year to empower local leaders and lift up local voices.<sup>3</sup> Based on Presbyterian polity an Administrative Commission can only be made up of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders which leaves out nearly all of the Okra Abbey Community. To ensure that the community voice is heard two non-voting seats will be reserved for Okra Abbey community members.<sup>4</sup> While the community member seats are non-voting they have full voice and individual responsibilities that serve the commission. The Administrative commission will help set the foundations for a permeant Okra Abbey board and non-voting members will transition into voting board members.

In the first year, the Administrative Commission will be made up of five voting members and two non-voting Okra Abbey community members. Listed below are the individual seats we are seeking to fill:

Foundation Fundraiser	Presbytery Voting Member
Social Services Liaison	Presbytery Voting Member
Congregation Liaison	Presbytery Voting Member
Creative Worship Resource	Presbytery Voting Member
Garden Growth	Presbytery Voting Member
Hospitality Leader	Non-Voting Community Member
Neighborhood Liaison	Non-Voting Community Member



## Step 2: A Hybrid Board at Okra Abbey

The Administrative Commission will work to create a Hybrid Board. The Hybrid Board of Okra Abbey will take on the responsibilities of the Administrative Commission, to provide oversight and governance while planning for a financially sustainable future and the inclusion and empowerment of local leaders. In collaboration with the Okra Abbey, Pastor/Director members of the Okra Abbey Hybrid Board will co-create goals for Okra Abbey regarding mission and vision, programming, fundraising, and organizational infrastructure. Prayerful decisions will be made collectively for the betterment of the Okra Abbey community and the Pigeon Town neighborhood.

This iteration of the Okra Abbey leadership board seeks to empower the local community members by requiring that half the seat are held by local members. Local leaders will be expected to lead the board on areas of spiritual growth, hospitality, and neighborhood relations. These are the areas of responsibility that most focused on the day to day happenings at Okra Abbey therefore the board and Okra Abbey are best served by a local leadership on these issues. Presbytery voting members will lead the board on more board areas such as fundraising, social services, and maintaining/building relationships with congregations and peer organizations. The voice and vote of Presbytery members and local community members will be equal. Local Community members will be expected to maintain regular attendance at Okra Abbey events and meals. At least one board member from the community will be expected to attend the “Open Leadership Meetings”<sup>5</sup> to hear concerns and ideas that are voiced from the larger Okra Abbey community and report back to the board. Presbytery members will be expected to attend three to four Okra Abbey events or meals each year. All who take on the responsibilities of this Leadership board are asked to regularly pray for Okra Abbey and the surrounding neighborhood we seek to serve. As we make prayer a larger part of our time together and our individual lives we will be moved by the Holy Spirit to make thoughtful decisions for the Okra Abbey community.<sup>6</sup>

In the second year, the Administrative Commission will transition into a hybrid board made up of three presbytery members and three community members, all of whom will have voice and vote on the board. Listed below are the individual seats we are seeking to fill in year two:

Foundation Fundraiser	Presbytery Voting Member
Social Services Liaison	Presbytery Voting Member
Congregation Liaison	Presbytery Voting Member
Spiritual Growth Leader	Community Voting Member
Hospitality Leader	Community Voting Member
Neighborhood Liaison	Community Voting Member

### Step 3: The Okra Abbey Board

The final iteration of Okra Abbey Board will resume the responsibilities of the Hybrid Board and the Administrative Commission that preceded it. The Okra Abbey board will make financial, personnel, and programmatic decisions for the Okra Abbey, giving garden and new worshipping community. The Okra Abbey Board will work with the staff of Okra Abbey to create a welcoming Christ-centered community and a bountiful giving garden for the Pigeon Town neighborhood.

The final form of the Okra Abbey Board requires that half of the board member seats are filled by local Okra Abbey community members, two seats will be reserved for Presbytery members, and the other seat will be open to a New Orleans community member-at-large. Prayerful decisions will be made collectively for the betterment of the Okra Abbey community and the Pigeon Town neighborhood. The local community members will continue to lead the board in the areas of hospitality and neighborhood relations, a Presbytery members will retain responsibility for building and maintaining relationships with partner congregations, while other areas of responsibility would be open to a voting member from any constituency based on the gifts and interests of those willing and able to serve the Okra Abbey in this way. All board members will be expected to be present multiple times throughout the year at community events and/or Grace and Greens community meals. The expectation of Local Community members is even higher, they will be expected to maintain a regular presence at Okra Abbey events and meals, and regularly attend and report on the insights of the “Open Leadership Meetings”. While no member of the Okra Abbey Board will be asked to confidently confess the Christian Faith we ask that all community members pray for the Okra Abbey and the neighborhood.

In the third year, the Okra Abbey Board will reach its final form, made up of at least half local community members, Presbytery members, and potentially community members from the greater New Orleans area. Listed below are the individual seats we are seeking to fill in year three:

Foundation Fundraiser	Any Voting Member
Social Services Liaison	Any Voting Member
Congregation Liaison	Presbytery Voting Member
Spiritual Growth Leader	Any Voting Member
Hospitality Leader	Local Community Voting Member
Neighborhood Liaison	Local Community Voting Member

### The Christian Witness of Okra Abbey:

Okra Abbey occupies a unique space in the mission of the Presbytery of South Louisiana, drawing its missional model from historical abbeys. Historically abbeys were sacred spaces using extra resources to care for the poor, provide sanctuary for the outcast, and educate the young. While Okra Abbey is not on track to charter as a Presbyterian congregation, it is clear that Okra Abbey is providing an important Christian witness in the Pigeon Town neighborhood of New Orleans. The Okra Abbey board will serve as a source of support and accountability as we continue the work and witness of an Abbey in today’s context.

## Notes from Worshipping Community Leaders

<sup>1</sup> Beacon Church (Philadelphia, PA) began with an Administrative Commission before determining if they would charter as a PCUSA congregation or not. The AC provided necessary stability and allowed the staff to build relationship within the Presbytery.

<sup>2</sup> Beacon Church (Philadelphia, PA) advise to give AC members very specific duties and responsibility based on the gifts each individual brings to the community.

<sup>3</sup> First Presbyterian Church Hayward (Hayward, CA) is the sending congregation of multiple New Worshipping Communities in the Bay Area. From their experience they advise to plan for everything to take longer than you think it should. We plan for each phase to take a year but note it could take longer. First Presbyterian has a five year plan for each of their church plants.

<sup>4</sup> Be Well Come Together (Harvey, LA) advised to start with at least a few community based board members. Be Well Come Together, is sponsored by Faith Presbyterian Church and launched with a board fill exclusively by Faith Presbyterian Church members.

<sup>5</sup> Common Cathedral (Boston, MA). In addition to having community members on the executive board Common Cathedral has weekly leadership meetings that are open to anyone who shows up. This is an opportunity for anyone to share insights and ideas even when they are unable to committee to serving on a board for a full term.

<sup>6</sup> Common Cathedral (Boston, MA) highlighted the importance of merging meetings and worship to set the tone for the business and emphasizes the leadership of the local and more vulnerable community members.