



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.
Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

Georgia State Chapter Committee Meeting Minutes
Christ UMC, 417 N Frontage Rd, Forsyth, GA 31029
December 6, 2025

1. Call to order
 - Welcome - Beverly Upperman
 - Opening Devotion and Prayer – By Rev. Ann Mann, “A Heart That Makes Room” based on Mark 10:45. Christ came, not to be served, but to serve, as should we.
2. Roll call, confirmation of quorum – Diane Morgan: Quorum met. Attendance attached
3. Additions to agenda - None
4. Secretary report – Diane Morgan
 - 2026 Meeting Dates: Executive Committee Fridays, 1/30, 5/29, 8/28, 4th meeting date TBD. Strategic Planning Meeting mid-January, information will be sent to Executive Committee. **Saturdays, 1/31, 5/30, 8/29, 12/5 (PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!)**
 - Leader Nominations approved: AMSP-Ken Joiner, KO Coastal-Nan Wallace (Repeat Leader at New Start), Walker-Jeremy Mallett
 - Variances approved by KPMI: Coastal-Tim Fausel, Rogers-Chris Roberts, Washington-Bobby Thomas
 - AC Secretaries 2026 Elections recorded on Kairos Messenger as of 12/2/2025: Atlanta Torch, Emanuel, KO Coastal, Lee State, Macon YDC, Pulaski. All AC elections should be posted in Kairos Messenger by 12/31/2025. No exceptions.
5. Financial Secretary report – by Walter Straham for Roxann Davis
 - Financial Statements reviewed – Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss as of 10/31/2025: We are in good shape financially. Walter showed reports in graph format. Key takeaway: The State is worth today \$459 K, with Net loss of \$-26.6 K. Challenge made by Walter to see which AC knows their financial status. Game format.
6. Treasurer report – David Griffin
 - PEX card discussion between David and Roxann prior to this meeting. Question as to whether an amount can be added to each AC card for Reunion and Retreat expenses as well as Weekend expenses. David explained that only \$1,000 can be added to a card per day. If AC needs funds over that amount immediately, card can't be funded for four business days. Funding requests need to be submitted in a timely fashion. Important that AC's plan ahead. David will confer with Chris at KPMI to get the answer as to amount for the year on each card.
 - Question: Does one who makes a donation get a letter from the State for tax purposes? Yes. If AC Donor Coordinator wants to write a Thank You letter, contact Roxann for donor's name and contact information.
 - Walter explained the process and stressed that AC financials should be looked at monthly by Donor Coordinator, who reports P&L to the AC.
 - Need Deposit slips? See David



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

7. IC report – Dawson Long

- IC's purpose is to represent the State on our National Kairos forum. One Ministry, Three Programs
- Dawson served in the Kitchen on KO Coastal's first Weekend. He encouraged us to "expand your horizons" by serving on one of the other two Programs.

8. AKT – Ann Straham

- Georgia hosted AKT on October 10 weekend at Camp Fortson, with 35 attendees
- The next Georgia AKT will be October 23, 2026. The goal is to host two sessions a year. One done in 2025. Different location is being sought.
- Beverly thanked drivers who volunteered to pick up people from the Airport: Steve Byrd, Tom Kibler, Lester Harvey, Jeremy Mallett and Rosie Febles

9. Program Committee – Robert Carter

- He has been busy the last 3-4 weeks working on starting Kairos in Coffee County Prison. He sent 22 letters to churches and three replied. He spoke at Harvest Church of God in Coffee County, and his message was well received. One interested in Kairos Outside and the name was given to Tajuana (KO Coastal Chair). A Radio personality will be doing an on-air recording of Robert's presentation, and a radio DJ is dedicating one Friday night to Kairos, inviting Robert to be there for Q&A. Robert met with Judge Gillis, who is very interested in having Kairos in the Coffee County Prison and Robert feels an AC will be formed. Good job, Bob!
- Zoom Information Sessions were held on Nov. 19 and 20 at 11:00 and 6:00 on both days. Judge Gillis attended one of the sessions. There will be more follow-ups.
- Dawson reiterated that IC Reps collect information of churches surrounding a given prison. Presentations include information on all three Kairos Programs.
- Beverly noted that we receive many reach-ins, but we may lose contact with those if it is not the right season. Stay in touch with them. She also suggested quarterly Information Sessions might help with recruitment.
- Tajuana suggested that all ACs could hold a monthly Information session.
- David suggested that letters sent to churches should have the Kairos address in Forsyth as the return address. (Address is on Kairos of Georgia website.)
- Rick Byrd, Phillips said they got a potential volunteer into the prison with a GCIC form approved by the Warden and Chaplain.
- Beverly asked if ACs were having badging challenges. None noted, but if one arises, let the State Chair for 2026, Walter, know and he will speak with DOC Chaplaincy. Dr. Ellis at DOC says we should not be having badging issues now.
- More information about recruitment will come from Robert Carter, Programs Coordinator, and Tajuana Jackson-Williams our new Outreach Coordinator.

10. Vice Chair Report – Walter Stratham: Executive Committee / State Chair Meeting Notes presented in PowerPoint slides. Lots of important information was disseminated through PowerPoint presentation. Request was made for the presentation to be sent to all AC Chairs. (This was sent out a few days after our State Meeting.) for accurate reporting to their Councils including:



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

- Order for future Weekend Leaders to prepare for leading – AKT, Weekend on Kairos Calendar (updating when applicable), then ordering of Ezra
- What to do if Leader needs to withdraw after Team Meetings begin
- Recruitment Position, Focus and Purpose
- Procedure for AC Elections
- Budgeting
- Websites
- Opportunities for Sponsorship Events
- Information on having/getting Liability Insurance for any Kairos meetings occur
- Monitoring/Reviewing AC Financials Monthly
- NEW 2026 Program Manuals coming soon
- Roll of Executive Committee
- KPMI 2026 Annual Conference to be July 22-25 in Orlando, Florida, 50th Anniversary!

Note: AC Budgets were due to Roxann by December 8.

Note: Karen Kinsler, Pulaski, mentions a recruiting event in Macon (Georgia Fair?)

Note: All AC meetings are to be face-to-face in 2026. Comment was made that monthly AC meetings would be difficult for all members to attend. Is Zoom still an option for those, or could they be hybrid with some in-person and some on Zoom? Beverly will clarify that with KPMI. Clarification provided after the SCC meeting: **The Advisory Council Operating Procedures says the best practice is to be together. Rule is 50% or more must be in person. See the ACOP (page 11).**

At this time in the meeting Rev. Beverly Upperman, outgoing State Chair was honored in a special way. Each AC was invited to present her with a rose and a gold nugget and to speak from the heart of the special things about Beverly. (Thank you, Strahams for setting this up)

11. Chairman report – Beverly

- 2025 Annual Plan reviewed. Some objectives met, some not. Beverly said that one of our Quarterly Newsletters Co-Editors has moved out of state. If you know someone who could fill that position, please let Beverly or Walter know. Reverends Ann and Beverly attended a Chaplain and Clergy Conference which was rooted in scripture. Suicide prevention was discussed.
- Inter-ministry Blessing request from KPMI included New Start ACs in Kenya, Nigeria and Uganda. Motion was made by Dawson to donate \$5,000 to each of the three Kairos ACs. David seconded and motion passed by unanimous vote.
- Beverly reported that a lady from a Senior Home reported she was told of the joy residents felt in coloring 13 placemats for Kairos. Joy wins over quantity! Placemats will be given to Kairos Torch.
- Also, it is reported that some have not received meeting notices that go out one week prior to each State Meeting. Asked all SCC members to check spam/junk folder if notice not received.
- Our Fundraiser position is currently unfilled. Suggestions needed.



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

The Nominating Committee (Gerald Rankin (Burruss), Jeanenne Brewton (KO GA), Ladson Golden (Valdosta) presented our slate of officers to be voted on for 2026. Names were presented. Vote was unanimous. Serving in 2026 are: Chair-Walter Straham, Vice Chair-Lester Harvey, Secretary-Diane Morgan, Financial Secretary-Roxann Davis, Treasurer-David Griffin, International Council Reps-Dawson Long and Vanessa Velez-Cruz, Agape Coordinator-Edward Bynum, Website Development Coordinator-Ladson Golden, Clergy Training/Recruiting Coordinator-Ann Mann, AKT Coordinator-Ann Straham, Programs Coordinator-Robert Carter, Outreach/Volunteer Recruitment-TaJuana Jackson-Williams. Position to be filled: Fundraising Coordinator.

12. AC Reports

- Atlanta Torch, Tonia Broadnax: It's been a good year, full AC, Kairos Torch #6 led by Craig Allen. 8 new volunteers. Goals to increase revenue and to be more effective in 2026
- Augusta, John Zook: 34 last Weekend, 135 attended November reunion
- Baldwin, Woody Sanderson: Rough year, security issues, last Reunion was in August. Will stay in contact with the Chaplain. May combine volunteers with Burruss
- Burruss, Gerald Rankin: Could not do a Weekend. They have a new Chaplain who needs training. Interesting fact, he is a ventriloquist named Willie Brown
- Coastal, Dawson Long: They had a great Weekend in November, 36 participants. Christmas Reunion with 150 Residents. Election is completed and the AC needs a new laptop
- Hancock, Mark Bopp: They were locked out of 3 of 4 events due to violence in the prison. Two weekends were cancelled with 24-hour notice. They became inactive in June, but the prison still wants them there. There are enough veterans to have Reunions. Many members stay active at Washington
- Washington, William Zachary: 42 participants at the November Weekend. Good experience with 8 or 9 Hancock Volunteers
- KO Coastal, TaJuana Jackson-Williams: Held their first Weekend November 7-9. Weekend #2 is May 15, 2026. She went to Rogers and Lee State Closings and is getting applications as a result
- KO Georgia, Nita Hodges: They helped KO Coastal with #1 Weekend. Their volunteers served as mentors to train and be ready for KO Coastal #2. Recruitment is needed so veterans don't get worn out. Their August Weekend was bumped to November 2026 giving time to reenergize volunteers and the Council to recruit. She has begun process of badging to get into prison Closings. Forms are being updated.
- Lee State, Trent Jennings: Kairos #50 was held in September with 30 participants. It went well. They are active with Wednesday night meetings. More volunteers are needed. Their next Weekend will be late Spring or early Summer
- Phillips, Rick Byrd: There is a new Chaplain, a retired policeman. He's being educated. Their first Weekend in two years will be June 18-21. Last Reunion saw 160 participants. For Christmas, eggnog, angel cakes and cards were given to all prisoners. They will meet on Friday about Prayer and Share. There is an Inside Council.
- Pulaski, Karen Kinsler: Next Weekend is March 12. Their great Data Coordinator has cleaned up their records. Six volunteers spoke at large churches. Young mothers were encouraged to serve as outside support, since they are unable to do Weekends. They are willing to do Reunions at McRae. They have updated their information packets. There will be a prayer vigil in Hawkinsville in 2026 all churches invited. Past Weekend leaders gathered and wrote "Weekend Leader Notes" to give tips to new leaders prior to their Weekends. She will share that document



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

Kairos of Georgia State Chapter

- Rogers, Mark Worsham: completed last 2025 Weekend; although power failed, was able to use generators and had 36 participants
 - Whitworth, Jane Johnson: 36 participants attended October Weekend, which had a wonderful Leader. Next Weekend is in March. Upcoming Reunion expects 110 Ladies. We are blessed financially. We stay at the Mennonite Center near the prison. Very economical. Noted that at the next 1st Team Formation that Reunion attendance needs to be emphasized. She asked if Volunteer Prospects could attend a Reunion without first serving on a Weekend. Need to look into that.
 - Emanuel, Julie Brannen: 24 participants with 5 new volunteers for last Weekend. They are trusting the Lord to being new volunteers
13. Beverly reported on Prayer Vigils. Dec, 19-21 last one for 2025. Ann Mann will lead Zoom call on Dec. 21. Kairos Inside starting prayers for Women, AC Chairs and Volunteers on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Prayer Vigils for Kairos Torch occur monthly. She also noted that we should look at prayer opportunities for those challenged with grief, illness, and loneliness. And encouraged us to be sensitive to those in our circle of influence.
14. Benediction / Adjournment: Pastor Steve Byrd (Vice-Chair Burruss) prayed us out at 12:55.
- Christmas White Elephant gift exchange followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Morgan, Secretary Kairos of Georgia

Note: Next meeting –January 31, 2026 in-person, Christ UMC, Forsyth, GA