

Introduction _____ 0000

Welcome Letter from the Pastor _____ 0100

This policy and procedure manual represents the combined efforts of not only the Administrative Council, but also several other staff members and council leaders. The whole document was significantly rewritten during 2005 and 2006 and was approved by the Session in June of 2006. It was during these years that First Presbyterian Church adopted a new church organization scheme, which aligned with its new (2004) mission statement, the Great Ends of the Church. By posting these policies on the World Wide Web, we hope to move away from the situation where only a few leaders, possessing rare paper copies, know what is, or should be, going on. Our hope is that our officers will be familiar with what is contained here and that all church members will at least browse this document. Our aim is to enable all of us to operate more sensibly, fairly, and, just possibly, more simply.

In Christ's Service,

Doug DeCelle

Church History _____ 0200

First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange

March 21, 1829 – The LaGrange Presbyterian Church was formed with 14 charter members; the Presbyterians shared a facility on the corner of Bull and Broome Streets with the Baptists.

January 3, 1846 – LaGrange Presbyterian Church moved to a new building on the corner of Church and Haralson Streets.

1919 – LaGrange Presbyterian Church was given the lot on the corner of Lewis and Broad Streets, its current location, by Miss Laura Loyd. She later donated the property for the formation of Loyd Presbyterian Church.

1922 – LaGrange Presbyterian changed its name to First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange. Membership reached 336; Sunday school enrollment was 333.

April 29, 1951 – A Sunday morning fire destroyed the church building. The 11 o'clock service was immediately moved to the LaGrange High School auditorium.

February 22, 1953 – Our first Sunday worship in our new sanctuary. The First Presbyterian Church of Columbus offered as a gift their pipe organ, which is still used today.

1956 and 1962 – First Presbyterian acquired the lots directly behind the church and on the corner of North Lewis and Haralson Streets.

1973 – Our church elected the first women deacons.

1976 – The church began a Montessori pre-school.

1988 – The James & Louise Gallant Education Building was dedicated.

February 1, 1998 – Our renovated sanctuary was dedicated.

August 1998 – A childcare center was established.

2003 - Eric Brown Youth Fellowship House was dedicated.

Known ministers of First Presbyterian Church __ 0300

1831-1832	The Reverend H.C. Carter
1832-1834	The Reverend Thomas F. Scott
1834-1838	The Reverend William K. Patton
1838-1840	The Reverend John G. Likens
1841-1870	The Reverend W. M. Cunningham D.D.
1871-1883	The Reverend Francis McMurray
1884-1891	The Reverend J.T. Bruce
1892-1899	The Reverend J. P. Anderson
1900-1919	The Reverend J. G. Herndon
1919-1922	The Reverend T. D. Bateman
1922-1942	The Reverend Dr. A. E. Dallas
1942-1944	The Reverend Dr. Henry E. Russell
1945-1957	The Reverend Dr. John A. Wilson
1957-1969	The Reverend Dr. Charles R. McCain
1970-1976	The Reverend Dr. Lawrence A. Wood
1977-1990	The Reverend Dr. John Kimbirl
1990-2002	The Reverend Dr. George Sinclair
2003-	The Reverend Dr. Douglas DeCelle

Presbytery History _____ 0400

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta began in the late 1700's with the formation of Presbytery of Hopewell that covered all the territory of Georgia. Several of the earliest churches are still in existence. Fairview (1823), Decatur (1825), McDonough (1825), Philadelphia (1825), Fayetteville (1827), Smyrna (1827), Newnan (1828), LaGrange (1829) and Greenville (1829) were all organized before 1830.

Mission Statement _____ 0500

Respecting our Presbyterian heritage, the First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange embraces the Great Ends of the Church: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the proclamation of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.