

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**



(U S A)

**MINUTES
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-
SEVENTH
STATED MEETING
April 27, 2021**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Call to Order	3
Constitution	3
Welcome	3
Orientation.....	3
Appointment of Standing Committees.....	3
General Council	3
Attendance	3-7
Approval of Docket.....	7-9
Consent Agenda	9
Stated Clerk's Report	9-11
Service of Worship	11
General Council	11-12
Youth Committee	12
Committee on Ministry.....	12-13
Earth Care	13
Matthew 25 Initiative.....	13
Report of the General Presbyter	14
Prayers of Intercession	14
Benediction and Adjournment	14
Next Meeting	14
Appendices	15

**The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
127th Stated Meeting
April 27, 2021
Virtual Meeting – via ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Teaching Elder Hal Bennett, Moderator, convened the 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. with prayer.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Dr. Hal Bennett, opened the 127th Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with the prayer of invocation.

ORIENTATION

A brief time of orientation to the ZOOM meeting process was led by Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison and Marie Palacios. For motions requiring a vote, the moderator will state the motion and the votes will be tallied by the co-hosts. Total votes for a motion will be reported back to the moderator. Following the orientation and identifying all in attendance, the orientation process was concluded.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Presbytery of WNC conducted its 127th Stated Meeting via ZOOM, thereby eliminating the appointment of standing committees. Marie Palacios, Guatemala Partnership Coordinator, John Pea, Commissioned Pastor at Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison served as co-hosts in the ZOOM meeting, helping with technical matters. The Presbytery in Brief for the 127th Stated Meeting will be written by the James Taylor, Commissioned Pastor at Newdale and Grassy Creek Presbyterian Churches. Luke Johnson, Director of Media Ministries at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, managed the livestream of the meeting.

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, the Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, presented the following motion:

That the Presbytery approve conducting the 127th meeting of the Presbytery of WNC virtually utilizing the ZOOM platform, understanding that all actions taken in this meeting will be ratified on the next occasion of this body meeting face-to-face. The motion was adopted by common consent.

ATTENDANCE

The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present by reference to our registration data and by observation of those in attendance.

The following **MINISTERS WERE ENROLLED** (P = Present; E = Excused; A = Absent without excuse):

Robert M. Abel	P	Kat Achtemeier	E	Mark Achtemeier	E
Jefferson Aiken, Jr.	P	Wyatt Aiken, Jr.	E	Blan Aldridge	E
Merriam Alexander	P	Terry Alexander	E	Stephen Aschmann	P
James Aydelotte	P	Patricia Bacon	A	Tony Baker	E
Edna Banes	E	Ashley Beavers	E	Harold Bennett, Jr.	P
Joseph Bennett	E	Cynthia M. Benz	A	Lynn Bledsoe	P
Randall Boggs	P	David Bonnema	P	Ronald Botsford	E
Lee Bowman	A	Richard Boyce	P	Grace Boyer	E

David Bradley	E	Ryan Brakemeyer	P	Ronald Brauer	E
Hayden Britton	E	Sandra Brown	E	Thomas Brown	P
William Buchanan	P	Monty Burnham	E	Sue Burton	E
Constance Button	P	Joey T. Byrd	A	David Cameron	E
Kathryn J. Cameron	E	John T. Campbell	E	Kathy Campbell	P
Amy Cantrell	A	H. Pride Carson	E	Dwight Christenbury	P
William Christian	E	Richard Coble	P	Sarah Coburn	E
James Cockerham	E	Jeffrey R. Coffey	E	James A. Cogswell	E
Evelyn Coleman	A	J. Hunter Coleman	E	Monty Cook	E
Thomas C. Cook, Jr.	E	Donald L. Cooper	E	W. Riley Covin	P
John W. Craven	E	Robert Bruce Cumming	P	James Dale	A
Blake J. Daniel	A	Charles W. Davenport	P	Dent C. Davis	E
Heather Wood Davis	P	Holly K. Davis	P	Arthur DeJong	E
Susan Denne	E	Janet DeWater	P	Edward D. Donnell	E
Ellen H. Dozier	P	Philip W. Dunford	E	Priscilla Durkin	P
Steven Eason	E	Robert Edmunds	E	Stephen Elderbrock	P
Leah E. Epps	P	Lee S. Feero, Jr.	E	Meagan Findeiss	P
David Carter Florence	A	P. Edward Forsyth	E	Clarence D. Fouse, III	P
Kevin E. Frederick	P	Keith B. Freeman	P	Schaap Freeman	P
Berry G. French, III	A	John L. Frye, Jr.	P	R. Curtis Fussell, III	P
Tempe Fussell	P	Willis Gaines	P	Paul Galbreath	P
Lewis F. Galloway	E	David Garnett	P	Lisle Garrity	P
Tee G. Gatewood	A	Denise Geiger	E	Samantha Gonzalez-Block	P
Jean Goodwin	A	Gregory Grana	E	Theodore Grant	A
Keith Grogg	E	Robert J. Gruber	E	Decherd Guess	P
Rebecca Gurney	P	John Hagmann	A	Samuel W. Hale	E
Michal H. Hall	E	Terry L. Hanna	E	Patrick Hardy	P
Randall A. Hardy	E	Martin L. Harkey, III	P	William G. Heck	P
Robert T. Henderson	E	Julie Hester	P	J. Robert Hewett	E
J. Richard Hobson	E	J. Samuel Hobson, Jr.	E	James J. Holeman	P
James S. Hornsby	E	David Hosick	E	Carol Hovis	P
William R. Hoyt, III	E	George B. Hutchins	E	Jill V. Isola	P
Donald Jafvert	E	Willam M. Janes	E	Esta M. Jarrett	P
Cecil M. Jividen	E	Caitlin Johnson	A	G. Wallace Johnson	E
Katherine B. Johnson	P	Patrick Johnson	P	Franklin Jones	A
Rebecca S. Jones	A	Kimberly L. Justice	A	Dong Uk Kang	A
David Kaylor	E	David Kennedy	E	Ira K. Kennerly	E
R. Paul Kercher	E	William L. Kirk	E	Albert D. Kissling	E
Janice Krouskop	E	Lee Kruse	A	Michael Lamm	E
John H. LaMotte	P	John C. Laughlin	E	Margaret P. Lauterer	E
James E. Layman	E	Thomas G. Lewis	P	J. William Lindeman	E
John P. Lindsay	E	Gene Linton, Jr.	E	Deneise Deter Liss	A
Jamie Bibee Lloyd	E	Neal Lloyd	E	Laura Long	P
Billy T. Lowe	E	William Lowery	E	Robert L. Lowry	E
Alexandra Lusak	P	Fred Lyon, II	P	David R. Lytle	A
Kathleen Madigan	A	J. Whit Malone	P	Marjorie Marsh	P
Joan C. Martin	E	Roberta Martin	E	W. Tyler Martin	E
John S. McCall	A	Sandra McClinton	A	Robert A. McCully, Jr.	A
Noah McIntee	P	David W. McKee	P	Michael T. McKee	P
Alex P. McNeill	P	Kenyon Meeks, Jr.	E	C. Lynn Michie	A
Beth Ann Miller	P	James Millsaps	A	Robert L. Montgomery	E
Sarah Grace Montgomery	P	Anne Morgan	E	Richard L Morgan	E
S. Keith Morrison	E	David E. Mulford	E	D. Cameron Murchison	P
David Nash	P	Wanda Neely	E	William K. Neely	E
Thomas G. Nelson	E	Elizabeth D. Newman	P	John H. Niles	E
Richard Nygren	E	Daniel J. Oedy	P	O'Hyun Park	A
Albert G. Peery, Jr.	E	Margaret B. Peery	E	Martha Jane Petersen	E
J. Thomas Phillips	E	James N. Poling	E	Michael J. Poulos	P

Donald G. Price	E	Caroline Proctor	P	E. Allen Proctor, Jr.	P
Edyth P. Pruitt	A	Tamara Puffer	A	Allan Purtill	P
Jay K. Rabuck	E	Daria L. Ragan	P	Joseph Rand	E
Earl M. Rash	E	Mary Elizabeth Ray	E	Patricia Reid	P
Wilson P. Rhoton, Jr.	E	Calvin S. Rice	E	G. Harriss Ricks	E
Don Robb, III	E	Mary Katherine Robinson	P	William (Billy) Robinson	P
David Roquemore	P	Steven Runholt	P	T. Feild Russell	P
Richard M. Rustay	E	Donald Scofield	P	Henry D. Scoggins	E
Carol N. Seaman	E	Dana V. Seiler	P	William Serjak	E
Albert D. Shaw	E	Marcia Mount Shoop	P	Mary Elizabeth Sigmon	P
Robert Singdahlsen	E	Wirt Skinner	E	Allen Smith	P
David B. Smith	E	Paul S. Smith	A	John N. Somerville	E
Becky B. Stanley	P	J. Mark Stanley	P	Margie B. Stansell	P
Carol Steele	A	Daniel G. Stitt	E	Cynthia R. P. Strickler	P
Charles E. Swann	E	William B. Sweetser, Jr.	E	Christopher Taylor	E
Beverly Thompson	P	George Thompson, Jr.	P	Keith J. Thompson	A
Denise Thorpe	E	Yvonne M. Thurmond	E	Russell D. Tillotson, Sr.	E
Daniel Tipton	A	Kathleen Rankin Tompkins	P	Christina B. Tutterow	E
Robert J. Tuttle	E	Melissa Anne Upchurch	A	Gary Van Brocklin	A
Lauren S. Vanacore	P	Christopher P. Vogado	P	Byron A. Wade	P
Rockwell P. Ward	E	Samuel P. Warner	E	Robert M. Warren	P
Lynn Webber	P	Judith Weger	E	Kimberleigh E. Wells	P
Barbara R. White	P	Parker T. Williamson	E	Emily L. Wilmarth	A
V. Otis Wilson, Jr.	E	Victor M. Wilson	P	Chris Wingard	A
Eugene D. Witherspoon	E	W. Graham Wood, Jr.	E	Donaldson Woods	E
Rebecca Young	A				

The following COMMISSIONED PASTORS WERE ENROLLED at this meeting of Presbytery:

Linda Abel	P	Philip Adams	A	Phillip Ashley	A
Robert Ayala	A	John Bates	P	Sally Beghtol	P
Kerry Border	P	Mildred Bruns	A	Vickie Burgess	P
Tamika Garrison	P	John Hall	A	Beth Hall	A
Lynn Honeycutt	P	Robin Honeycutt	P	Kenneth Humphreys	E
James Koone	E	Peggy Koone	E	Rick Leissner	P
Deborah Lesenger	A	James Millsaps	A	Marla Patchel	P
Randy Patterson	A	John Pea	P	Marcia Reighley	A
Russell Reighley	P	Barbara Ross	P	Betty Shaw	A
Dennis Stamper	A	John Stanley	P	James Taylor	P
Sheila Renee Warthen	A	Roger Wise	P	Wanda Woodby	A

The following MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY and COMMITTEE CHAIRS WERE ENROLLED at this meeting of Presbytery:

John Auten	A	Virginia Bradford	A	Jamie Brady	A
Bill Carpenter	A	Lois Camp	P	Betty Davenport	P
Jan Duncan	A	Rob Groves	A	Dorothy Descieux	P
Bob Forsythe	A	Tina Joyner	P	Sue Johnson	P
Charles Kincaid	A	Ann Lampron	P	Dick Larson	P
Melvin Meares	P	Roger Rizk	A	Sally McGinnis	A
Jerry Ragan	A	Laura Carringer Russell	P	Charles Sellers	P
Katrina Shambaugh	A	Laura Sigmon	A	Becky Stevens	A
Sharon Stewart	A	Vance Stiles	A	Sarah Thornburg	P
Ron Tingle	P				

The following CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS WERE ENROLLED for this meeting of Presbytery:

Melinda Christian	A	Angela Drummond	A	Vivian Hare	A
Margaret Kennerly	E	Leslie McLeod	A	Mary Lou Nash	P
Heath Rada	P	Lynn Thomas	A	Patricia Tuttle	A
Jann Vann	A				

The following CHURCHES WERE ENROLLED by the attendance of their elder commissioners:

Arbor Dale (1)	Gene Smith		
Asheville First (3)	A		
Banner Elk (1)	Janet Spear		
Belmont First (3)	A		
Bessemer City First(1)	A		
Black Mountain (2)	Liesl Case	Dave Johnson	
Brevard-Davidson River (2)	Richard Ambler	Sue Heglar	
Bridgewater (1)	A		
Brittain (1)	A		
Brittain's Cove (1)	A		
Bryson City (1)	Collin Caldwell		
Buladean (1)	A		
Burnsville, First (1)	A		
Calvary (2)	A		
Canton (1)	A		
Cherryville, First (1)	E		
Chinchfield (1)	A		
Columbus (1)	A		
Conley Memorial (1)	A		
Crossnore (1)	A		
Dallas First (1)	Nina Greene		
Dixon (1)	A		
Dorland Memorial (1)	A		
Dulatown (2)	Helen Hall		
Duncan's Creek (1)	A		
Etowah (1)	Debby Vial		
Fairview (1)	Lois Clark		
Fletcher (1)	Mimi Gossett		
Forest City First (1)	Mary Sandra Costner		
Franklin First (1)	Nancy Browder		
Gastonia, First (3)	Beth Bolin	Tom Fuller	Kevin Schultz
Good Hope (2)	A		
Grace Covenant (2)	Blake Martin	Marcy Onieal	
Grassy Creek (1)	A		
Green Mountain (1)	A		
Green Street (2)	A		
Hayesville (1)	Vince Roebuck		
Hendersonville First (1)	Swanson Childress		
Hickory First (3)	A		
Highlands First (1)	Sandy Barrow		
Ironton (1)	Pat Bradshaw		
Jack's Creek (1)	A		
John Knox (1)	A		
Kenilworth (1)	A		
Korean Church of Asheville (2)	A		
Lenoir First (1)	Donna Fellers		
Long Creek (1)	Barbara Bridges		
Love's Chapel (2)	A		
Lowell (1)	A		
Marion First (1)	A		
Marshall (1)	A		
Micaville (1)	A		
Mills River (1)	Lynn Valle-McElroy		
Montreat (1)	James Henderson		

Morganton First (2)	Perry Beason	Chris Bergelin	
Morrison (1)	A		
Mount Holly First (1)	A		
New Hope (Asheville) (1)	Michael Garrett		
New Hope (Gastonia) (1)	A		
Newdale (1)	A		
Newland (1)	A		
Newton First (2)	A		
Northminster (1)	Julie Luppino		
Oak Forest (2)	A		
Oakwood (2)	A		
Old Fort (2)	A		
Olney (2)	A		
Pine Street (3)	A		
Pineola (2)	A		
Quaker Meadows (2)	A		
Reems Creek-Beech (2)	A		
Ridgeview (2)	A		
Robinson Memorial (2)	Mildred Laughridge		
Rutherfordton (3)	Susan Allred	William Stewart Powell	
Ryburn Memorial (3)	A		
Saluda (2)	A		
Shelby (3)	Fred Blackley	John Brotherton	
Sherrill's Ford (2)	A		
Shiloh, Grover (2)	A		
Siloam (2)	A		
Southminster (3)	A		
Spruce Pine First (2)	Rhonda Gunter		
Sweetwater (2)	Gerald Finney		
Sylva First (2)	A		
Third Street (3)	Lois Camp	Carolyn Werts	
Trinity (3)	A		
Tryon (3)	A		
Union (2)	Kim Lee		
Union Mills (2)	A		
United (2)	Candace Triplett		
Unity (3)	Carol Robinson		
Vians Valley (2)	A		
Waldensian (3)	A		
Walnut (2)	A		
Warren Wilson (2)	Kenneth Murchison		
Waynesville First (2)	A		
West Asheville (2)	Barbara Clark		

Ministers	116
Elders	45
Council/Committees	12
DCE	2
Visitors	10
TOTAL	185

The following corresponding member was in attendance:

- Janice Kominski, Union Seminary

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk, presented the docket and moved the approval of the docket as presented in the Presbytery Packet. The motion was approved by common consent.

9:00 Call to Order Hal Bennett, Moderator

Convene with Prayer of Invocation Hal Bennett, Moderator

Appointment of Host, Co-Host & Standing Committees Hal Bennett

Recognition of Elders Attending for First Time and Corresponding Members

Orientation

Certification of Quorum Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk

Action to approve virtual meeting

Approval of Docket

Consent Agenda A
(Consent Agenda is a consent motion. Any commissioner may pull any item from the Consent Agenda for any reason. Simply state the item to be removed from the Consent Agenda and it will be dealt with as part of the committee report from which it was drawn.)

Stated Clerk's Report Cam Murchison B
(Work of the Clerk, Presbytery Meeting Dates, Administrative Commission Reports)

Reports Submitted for Information and/or Included in the Consent Agenda

Nominating Committee	I
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	K
Congregational Development	O
Outreach/Mission Division	P
Youth Committee	Y
Finance	BB
Building Hope	BH

9:15 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Worship leaders: Hal Bennett, Pastor, Dulatown Presbyterian Church
Tamika Garrison & Rick Leissner, Co-Commissioned Pastors,
Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

Preparations: In preparation for the Sacrament, we invite you to look through your own kitchen to find "bread and beverage." While there is rich symbolism in the elements we traditionally use to celebrate the Lord's Supper, the Church also has a long history of using the most fitting materials that are readily available in any given time and setting. So feel free to be creative and use what you have on hand.

10:05 Board of Pensions Update (10 minutes) Elizabeth Little

10:15 General Council (5 minutes) Dick Larson C
(Work of the committee)

Youth Ministry (7 minutes) Sarah Grace Montgomery Y

Committee on Ministry (15 minutes) Whit Malone D

(Work of the committee, Commissioning of Ruling Elder)

- Presentation of Vickie Burgess for Commissioning
- Questions from members; vote
- Charge and Prayer of Commissioning

Earth Care Congregations in PWNC (3 minutes) Jane Laping

Matthew 25 (5 minutes) Helen Hall, Dulatown Presbyterian Church

Report of the General Presbyter (5 minutes) Byron Wade GP

Life Together Through a Year of Covid-19, Break Out Rooms (30 minutes)

Our General Presbyter will invite members to join in conversations about our experiences of trauma and grief during the past year of pandemic. Following the break-out rooms Byron will lead us in prayer, with opportunities for all to contribute petitions and intercessions through the chat.

Prayers of the People Byron Wade and the People

Benediction and Adjournment Hal Bennett

CONSENT AGENDA

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, explained the rules for the Consent Agenda. He then moved the consent agenda as presented on pages 11 and 12 of the packet for the meeting. The consent agenda and committee reports were approved by common consent. (Appendix A)

The following committees submitted reports to the Presbytery for information. All were received.

Nominating Committee (Appendix B)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Appendix C)

Congregational Development (Appendix D)

Outreach/Mission Division (Appendix E)

Youth Committee (Appendix F)

Finance (Appendix G)

Building Hope (Appendix H)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk, presented recommendations 1-4 included in the Stated Clerk's report, stating that these recommendations had previously been approved in the Consent Agenda.

He then referred to items 5-7 as items for information and announcing plans for the Sacred Trust Relational Boundaries Training for 2021.

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

- CA 1. **THAT Hal Bennett, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the July 31, 2021 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. **THAT the minutes of the January 30, 2021 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. **THAT the April 27, 2021 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Appendix I)**
 Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Lincolnnton
 Administrative Commission for West Avenue
 Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 4. **THAT the minutes of the ordination/installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Leah Elizabeth Epps (Appendix J)

FOR INFORMATION:

5. **THAT the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, July 31, 2021, virtually via ZOOM.**
6. **THAT due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following procedure for reviewing sessions records for 2021 will be as follows:**
1. Each clerk will gather the 2020 Session minutes for her/his congregation.
 2. No later than September 15, 2021, use the standard checklist to review your records as follows:
 - a. Write the name of your church at the top, indicating “2020” as the year.
 - b. For each item on the list, check “yes” or “no.”
 - c. If “yes,” in the column labeled “comment,” indicate one instance where the item can be found in your minutes.
 - i. If your minutes are numbered with consecutive pages, just indicate a page number.
 - ii. If your minutes are not numbered consecutively through the year, indicate the date of the meeting where an instance of the item is found.
 - d. If “no,” provide any explanation you may want to share in the column labeled “comment.”
 - e. In the same column labeled “comment,” add any comments you would like to make regarding any item.
 3. On the reverse side of the checklist—or on another sheet of paper if you prefer—make a note of any issues you have encountered with any items on the checklist. Especially if some are not clear and the parenthetic references to the *Book of Order* do not clarify them, please let us know what may need more explanation.
 4. If specific questions arise as you work on the checklist, feel free to call Cam Murchison on his cell number (404-556-8041). He will be happy to help, or to find the help needed.

So that we can certify 100% compliance with the review of Session Records at the October 2021 meeting of Presbytery of Western North Carolina, please complete the checklist and return it to the Stated Clerk **by September 15, 2021**, either by

1. Email to (cmurc1@gmail.com), or
2. Regular mail: 114 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655

7. **THAT the dates for virtual Sacred Trust-Relational Boundaries Training for 2021 will be announced at this meeting.**

The criteria for those who should attend is listed below.

For Pastors and Elders of the Presbytery: According to our Presbytery’s policy, clergy and elders involved in leadership are required to take sexual misconduct training once every four years.

For leaders of local congregations: The workshop is open for all local leaders who want to educate themselves about healthy boundaries.

Who should attend: All persons designated below are required to have an approved three-hour workshop of sexual misconduct sponsored by the WNC Presbytery or equivalent training approved by the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Team.

All Presbytery professionals and Presbytery volunteers are required to have the three-hour training every four years with the following exceptions:

1. Exempted from training are fully retired Presbytery professionals who have “not opted in,” with its associated limitations of not serving on Presbytery Committees, preaching in local churches, leading workshops or retreats, or exercising other pastoral functions such as celebrating the sacraments, or conducting weddings and/or funerals unless a “Single Event” exception has been requested.
2. Members on the following committees, their sub-committees, and task forces are **ineligible for exemption** during the term of their membership:

General Council	Youth
Committee on Ministry	Christian Education
Examinations	Small Membership Church
Campus Mission	Permanent Judicial Commission
3. Members of all other existing committees are exempt, though changes to committee structures may require review of eligibility.
4. Transitional Pastors/Interims who are working within the bounds of the Presbytery who receive comparable hours of training in their judicatory, at least as frequently as required in our Presbytery, may be exempt.

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP
AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER**

The Rev. Dr. Hal Bennett, Pastor of Dulatown Presbyterian Church, led us in worship, assisted by Co-Commissioned Pastors, Tamika Garrison and Rick Leissner, who serve Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church. Dr. Bennett’s sermon, “What Things?” gave us much to consider as we, too, walk the Emmaus Road with Jesus walking right along beside us, calling us to follow and serve. The scripture and sermon were taken from Micah 6:8 and 1Corinthians 12:12-14.

The sacrament of communion was celebrated, and all were able to partake in their homes using whatever elements were available in their home.

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, Ruling Elder Dick Larson presented items 1 - 6 for information which required no action. He called special attention to item #5 regarding the plans for a New Worshipping Community in Lincolnton.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

1. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
2. **THAT the General Council will welcome invitations from churches or institutions willing to host Presbytery meetings in 2021 and 2022.**
3. **THAT the General Council approved seeking forgiveness of the 2020 PPP Loan in the amount of \$91,467. The funds from the loan were used to pay payroll and expenses as required.**
4. **THAT the General Council will be entertaining the possibility, post pandemic, of continuing to have some Presbytery meetings and committee meetings in part via ZOOM. The General Council will be reviewing the Presbytery Standing Rules and revising as needed.**
5. **THAT the General Council and the Finance Committee, following a period of study, approved the funding of the Lincolnton New Worshipping Community. The General Council approved funding in the amount of \$32,500 for the current budget year and a five (5) year commitment of Presbytery funding totaling \$165,000. A Steering and Accountability Committee consisting of representation from COM, Unity Presbyterian Church Session, and the Committee on Church Formation and Transformation was formed. Membership includes:**
 - Rev. David Bonnema, Chair of Church Formation & Transformation**
 - Rev. Dan Oedy, Member of COM**
 - Two Elders from Unity Presbyterian Church**
 - Rev. James Holeman, Pastor, Union Presbyterian Church**
 - Rev. Billy Robinson, Associate Presbyter**
 - New Worshipping Community Coach from General Assembly**
6. **THAT the General Council continues to work on clarifying the Building Hope funds available to the various ministries designated in the campaign. Particular attention is being devoted to establishing a committee and process to oversee funds designated to the Vital Churches component.**

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery, co-chair for the Youth Ministries Committee reported on behalf of the committee. She shared a slide show of the recent High School mission weekend undertaken by the youth of the presbytery. In addition, Rev. Montgomery shared dates for future events. (Appendix F)

CHURCHES AND PASTORS COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

I. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Teaching Elder Whit Malone reported on the actions taken by the Committee on Ministry on behalf of the Presbytery. (Appendix K)

Teaching Elder Whit Malone reported that the following ministers requested honorable retirement:

- Kathryn Johnson Cameron, effective April 1, 2021.
- Cynthia Benz, effective May 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
II. VALIDATION OF MINISTRIES

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry, Teaching Elder Whit Malone moved that the Presbytery validate the ministries of the following: (Appendix K)

- A. Allen Proctor, as Director of the Haden Institute, through April 27, 2022.
- B. Carol Steele, as Vice-President for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April, 27, 2022.
- C. Evelyn Coleman, as Director for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April 27, 2022.
- D. Dennis Stamper, as Chaplain at Carolinas Healthcare System, Blue Ridge, through April 27, 2022.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
III. COMMISSIONED PASTOR

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Committee, Teaching Elder Whit Malone recommended that the Presbytery approve Margaret (Vickie) Burgess to be commissioned as commissioned pastor to First Presbyterian Church in Dallas, NC. Following questions and answers, the motion passed. Moderator Hal Bennett then offered prayer. The commissioning for Margaret (Vickie) Burgess is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session and officiate at weddings. (Appendix K)

EARTH CARE CONGREGATIONS

Jane Laping, Presbytery Earth Care Team, shared that nine Earth Care Congregations met by ZOOM on April 20 to tell their stories, share ideas and talk about challenges and ways to help our congregations and Presbytery grow as stewards of the earth. The following congregations were recognized as Earth Care Congregations:

Black Mountain Presbyterian, Black Mountain, NC
Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian, Brevard, NC
First Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Montreat Presbyterian, Montreat, NC
New Hope Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Northminster Presbyterian, Hickory, NC
Unity Presbyterian, Denver, NC
Warren Wilson Presbyterian, Swannanoa, NC

MATTHEW 25

Ruling Elder, Helen Hall, of Dulatown Presbyterian Church, gave a presentation on how the church is participating in the Matthew 25 Initiative. She shared the activities and programs that work for them at Dulatown Presbyterian Church and encouraged others to participate in the initiative.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, reported on his activities these past few months, and shared his offer of “video lunch dates” for those interested. He also shared how he and that the Presbytery Staff have been adapting and creatively meeting the needs of the Presbytery. Sharing that 2020 and 2021 have been challenging for both clergy and congregations, and that the Presbytery is

making considerable effort to support and encourage those who have been isolated and working from home. (Appendix L)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

With the business of the 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina completed and adjournment voted, Moderator Bennett adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m. with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

The 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, July 31, 2021 via ZOOM.

These minutes were prepared by the following:

Harold “Hal” Bennett, Moderator

D. Cameron Murchison, Stated Clerk

Robbin Buchanan, Assistant Stated Clerk

These minutes to be approved by Presbytery on July 31, 2021 at its virtual meeting to be held by ZOOM.

APPENDICES

- A. Consent Agenda**
- B. Nominating Committee Report**
- C. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
- D. Congregational Development Report**
- E. Outreach/Mission Division Report**
- F. Youth Committee Report**
- G. Finance Committee Report**
- H. Building Hope Report**
- I. Administrative Commission Report for First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton; West Avenue Presbyterian Church, and Churches Concluding Their Ministry**
- J. Minutes of the Ordination/Installation of Leah Epps**
- K. Committee on Ministry Report**
- L. General Presbyter Report**

*For a copy of the Appendices, please contact the Presbytery Office.
(828/438-4217 or rbuchanan@presbyterywnc.org)*