

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**



(U S A)

MINUTES

**ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHTH
STATED MEETING**

July 31, 2021

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**The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
128th Stated Meeting
July 31, 2021
Virtual Meeting – via ZOOM**

CALL TO ORDER

Teaching Elder Hal Bennett, Moderator, convened the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. with prayer.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Dr. Hal Bennett, opened the 128th 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 128th 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 128th Stated Meeting will be written by the Rick Leissner, Commissioned Pastor at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church. Micah Hayes, Assistant 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 128th 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.	E	Wyatt Aiken, Jr.	E	Blan Aldridge	E
Merriam Alexander	P	Terry Alexander	E	Stephen Aschmann	E

James Aydelotte	P	Patricia Bacon	P	Tony Baker	E
Edna Banes	E	Ashley Beavers	E	Harold Bennett, Jr.	P
Joseph Bennett	E	Cynthia M. Benz	E	Lynn Bledsoe	P
Randall Boggs	E	David Bonnema	A	Ronald Botsford	E
Lee Bowman	E	Richard Boyce	P	Grace Boyer	P
David Bradley	E	Ryan Brakemeyer	A	Ronald Brauer	E
Hayden Britton	E	Sandra Brown	A	Thomas Brown	E
William Buchanan	P	Monty Burnham	E	Sue Burton	E
Constance Button	P	Joey T. Byrd	A	David Cameron	P
Kathryn J. Cameron	P	John T. Campbell	E	Kathy Campbell	E
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	Daniel Commerford	P
Monty Cook	E	Thomas C. Cook, Jr.	E	Donald L. Cooper	E
W. Riley Covin	E	Robert Bruce Cumming	P	James Dale	A
Blake J. Daniel	A	Charles W. Davenport	P	Dent C. Davis	E
Heather Wood Davis	A	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	E
Steven Eason	E	Robert Edmunds	E	Stephen Elderbrock	P
Leah E. Epps	P	Lee S. Feero, Jr.	E	Meagan Findeiss	A
David Carter Florence	P	P. Edward Forsyth	E	Clarence D. Fouse, III	E
Kevin E. Frederick	P	Keith B. Freeman	E	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	E
Lewis F. Galloway	E	David Garnett	A	Lisle Garrity	A
Tee G. Gatewood	P	Denise Geiger	E	Samantha Gonzalez-Block	A
Jean Goodwin	A	Gregory Grana	E	Theodore Grant	A
Keith Grogg	P	Robert J. Gruber	E	Decherd Guess	P
Rebecca Gurney	A	John Hagmann	P	Samuel W. Hale	E
Michal H. Hall	E	Terry L. Hanna	E	Patrick Hardy	E
Randall A. Hardy	E	Martin L. Harkey, III	E	William G. Heck	E
Robert T. Henderson	E	Julie Hester	E	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	E
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	P	G. Wallace Johnson	E
Katherine B. Johnson	A	Patrick Johnson	P	Franklin Jones	A
Rebecca S. Jones	A	Kimberly L. Justice	A	Dong Uk Kang	E
David Kaylor	E	David Kennedy	E	Ira K. Kennerly	E
R. Paul Kercher	E	William L. Kirk	E	Albert D. Kissling	P
Janice Krouskop	E	Lee Kruse	A	Michael Lamm	E
John H. LaMotte	E	John C. Laughlin	E	Margaret P. Lauterer	E
James E. Layman	E	Thomas G. Lewis	E	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	E
Billy T. Lowe	A	William Lowery	E	Robert L. Lowry	E
Alexandra Lusak	P	Fred Lyon, II	E	David R. Lytle	A
Kathleen Madigan	E	J. Whit Malone	E	Andrew Mangione	P
Marjorie Marsh	E	Joan C. Martin	P	Roberta Martin	E
W. Tyler Martin	E	John S. McCall	A	Sandra McClinton	E
Robert A. McCully, Jr.	P	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	E	Wanda Neely	E
William K. Neely	E	Thomas G. Nelson	E	Elizabeth D. Newman	E
John H. Niles	E	Richard Nygren	E	Daniel J. Oedy	A
O'Hyun Park	E	Albert G. Peery, Jr.	E	Margaret B. Peery	E
Martha Jane Petersen	E	J. Thomas Phillips	E	James N. Poling	P
Michael J. Poulos	E	Donald G. Price	E	Caroline Proctor	E
E. Allen Proctor, Jr.	A	Edyth P. Pruitt	P	Tamara Puffer	P
Allan Purtill	A	Jay K. Rabuck	E	Daria L. Ragan	E
Joseph Rand	E	Earl M. Rash	E	Mary Elizabeth Ray	P
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	A	Steven Runholt	E
T. Field Russell	E	Richard M. Rustay	E	Donald Scofield	E
Henry D. Scoggins	E	Carol N. Seaman	E	Dana V. Seiler	E
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	P	Paul S. Smith	E
John N. Somerville	E	Becky B. Stanley	E	J. Mark Stanley	P
Margie B. Stansell	E	Carol Steele	A	Daniel G. Stitt	E
Cynthia R. P. Strickler	P	Charles E. Swann	E	William B. Sweetser, Jr.	E
Christopher Taylor	A	Beverly Thompson	P	George Thompson, Jr.	P
Keith J. Thompson	A	Denise Thorpe	E	Yvonne M. Thurmond	P
Russell D. Tillotson, Sr.	E	Daniel Tipton	A	Kathleen Rankin Tompkins	P
Christina B. Tutterow	P	Robert J. Tuttle	P	Melissa Anne Upchurch	P
Gary Van Brocklin	A	Lauren S. Vanacore	E	Christopher P. Vogado	A
Byron A. Wade	P	Rockwell P. Ward	E	Samuel P. Warner	A
Robert M. Warren	A	Lynn Webber	A	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	E
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	A	John Hall	A	Beth Hall	P
Lynn Honeycutt	P	Robin Honeycutt	P	Kenneth Humphreys	A
James Koone	A	Peggy Koone	A	Rick Leissner	P
Deborah Lesenger	P	James Millsaps	A	Marla Patchel	P
Randy Patterson	A	John Pea	P	Marcia Reighley	A
Russell Reighley	P	Barbara Ross	A	Betty Shaw	A
Dennis Stamper	A	John Stanley	P	James Taylor	P
Sheila Renee Warthen	A	Roger Wise	P	Wanda Woodby	A
Vickie Burgess	P	Linda Johnson	P		

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

John Auten	P	Virginia Bradford	A	Jamie Brady	P
Bill Carpenter	P	Lois Camp	A	Betty Davenport	P
Jan Duncan	P	Rob Groves	A	Dorothy Descieux	P
Bob Forsythe	P	Tina Joyner	A	Sue Johnson	A
Charles Kincaid	P	Ann Lampron	A	Dick Larson	E
Melvin Meares	P	Roger Rizk	A	Sally McGinnis	A
Jerry Ragan	A	Laura Carringer Russell	E	Charles Sellers	P
Katrina Shambaugh	A	Laura Sigmon	A	Becky Stevens	P
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	E
Heath Rada	P	Lynn Thomas	A	Patricia Tuttle	P
Jann Vann	A				

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

Arbor Dale (1)	Mary Archer Vann		
Asheville First (3)	Cindy Clarke		
Banner Elk (1)	Don Hilsmier		
Belmont First (3)	A		
Bessemer City First(1)	A		
Black Mountain (2)	Ellen Begley	Tommy Wilkinson	
Brevard-Davidson River (2)	Kathryn Clark	Julie Duval	
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)	A		
Chinchfield (1)	A		
Columbus (1)	A		
Conley Memorial (1)	A		
Crossnore (1)	A		
Dallas First (1)	A		
Dixon (1)	A		
Dorland Memorial (1)	A		
Dulatown (2)	A		
Duncan's Creek (1)	A		
Etowah (1)	A		
Fairview (1)	Joel Reese		
Fletcher (1)	Denise Burleson		
Forest City First (1)	A		
Franklin First (1)	A		
Gastonia, First (3)	Ellen Cinq-Mars	Mary Layton	Beth Silvers
Good Hope (2)	A		
Grace Covenant (2)	Sheryl Aikman	Timothy Moe	
Grassy Creek (1)	Whitney Hobart		
Green Mountain (1)	A		
Green Street (2)	Jackie Scott		
Hayesville (1)	E		
Hendersonville First (1)	Ronald Kuebler		
Hickory First (3)	A		
Highlands First (1)	A		
Ironton (1)	Pat Bradshaw		
Jack's Creek (1)	A		
John Knox (1)	A		
Kenilworth (1)	Leslie Peterson		
Korean Church of Asheville (2)	A		
Lenoir First (1)	A		
Long Creek (1)	Susan Smith		
Love's Chapel (2)	A		
Lowell (1)	A		
Marion First (1)	Larry Hartman		
Marshall (1)	Sidney Mashburn		
Micaville (1)	A		

Mills River (1)	Lynne Lenihan		
Montreat (1)	Ann Dupre Rogers		
Morganton First (2)	Marny Pritchard	Hugh Lowe	
Morrison (1)	A		
Mount Holly First (1)	A		
New Hope (Asheville) (1)	Andrew Morse		
New Hope (Gastonia) (1)	Jill Kimbirl		
Newdale (1)	A		
Newland (1)	A		
Newton First (2)	William Long		
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)	A		
Ryburn Memorial (3)	A		
Saluda (2)	A		
Shelby (3)	John Brotherton		
Sherrill's Ford (2)	A		
Shiloh, Grover (2)	A		
Siloam (2)	A		
Southminster (3)	A		
Spruce Pine First (2)	A		
Sweetwater (2)	Susan Flowers	Jenni White	
Sylva First (2)	Lynda Parlett		
Third Street (3)	Allen Lowery	Carolyn Werts	
Trinity (3)	Bob Forsythe	Ed Spencer	
Tryon (3)	A		
Union (2)	Billy Jordan		
Union Mills (2)	A		
United (2)	Candice Triplett		
Unity (3)	A		
Vians Valley (2)	A		
Waldensian (3)	Steve Demiter	Debra Garrou	
Walnut (2)	A		

Warren Wilson (2)	Robert Gambrell		
Waynesville First (2)	Beth Johnson		
West Asheville (2)	A		

Ministers	90
Elders	45
Council/Committees	13
DCE	2
Visitors	10
TOTAL	160

There were no corresponding members in attendance.

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

Guatemala Partnership	Q
Finance	BB
Building Hope	BH
Church Leadership School	OO

9:15 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Worship leaders: Rev. Jill Isola, Alex McNeil, Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks

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. Feel free to be creative and use what you have on hand.

10:05 Breakout Rooms (10 minutes)

10:15 General Council (15 minutes) Sarah Thornburg C
(Work of the committee)

Christian Education Committee (5 minutes) Jill Kimbirl W
(Work of the committee; Lunch and Learn Event; and 2022 Spirituality Retreat)

Youth Ministry (5 minutes) Sarah Grace Montgomery Y
(Work of the committee)

Preparation for Ministry (10 minutes) Dwight Christenbury K

- Recommendation regarding Brandon Davis – Inquirer from Arbor Dale
- Presentation of Emily Beaver – Candidate from Black Mountain

Committee on Ministry (45 minutes) John Pea D
(Work of the committee, Commissioning of Ruling Elder)

- Presentation of Linda Johnson, CP, Saluda
 - Questions from members; vote
 - Charge and Prayer of Commissioning
- Presentation of Daniel Commerford - Gastonia, First
- Presentation of Drew Mangione - Shelby Presbyterian Church
- Presentation of Caitlin Johnson – Examination and Ordination – Oak Forest
- Presentation of Rachael McConnell – Sermon/Examination and Ordination – Banner Elk
- Presentation of Reed Conley – Lincolnton New Worshipping Community

25 Years Service

William Buchanan
 Contance Button
 Elizabeth D. Newman
 Caroline Proctor
 Denise Thorpe
 Judith Weger
 Barbara White

50 Years Service

Ronald A. Botsford
 G. Wallace Johnson
 David W. McKee
 D. Cameron Murchison, Jr.
 Earl M. Rash
 Albert D. Shaw, Jr.
 Rockwell P. Ward
 V. Otis Wilson, Jr.

60 Years Service

Wyatt Aiken, Jr.
 J. Monty Cook
 Thomas C. Cook, Jr.
 Robert J. Gruber
 Albert D. Kissling
 Richard M. Rustay

Honorably Retired

Kevin Frederick

CLS Graduates (2021)

Elizabeth Barbee
 Janeen Duncan

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

Prayers of 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)

Guatemala Partnership (Appendix B)

Finance (Appendix C)

Building Hope (Appendix D)

Church Leadership School (Appendix E)

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.

The Stated Clerk presented 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 October 26, 2021 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. **THAT the minutes of the April 27, 2021 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. **THAT the Presbytery accept the report of membership and worship statistics as submitted by the Sessions on the Annual Statistical Report. (Appendix F – Membership Statistics and Appendix G – Worship Statistics)**
- CA 4. **THAT the April 2021 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Appendix H)**
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Lincolnton
Administrative Commission for West Avenue
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry

FOR INFORMATION:

5. **THAT the 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at Unity Presbyterian Church, Denver, NC.**
6. **THAT COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the scheduled Clerk of Session Trainings and Reviewing of Church Record during 2021. Each clerk was asked to follow the process as outlined in the correspondence from the Stated Clerk dated March 12, 2021. In order to certify 100% compliance with the review of Session Records at the October 2021 meeting of Presbytery of WNC, clerks were asked to complete a records review checklist with documentation and return to the Stated Clerk by September 15, 2021. The following records reviews have been received and approved by the Stated Clerk thus far:**

Arbor Dale

Banner Elk

Bessemer City, First

Crossnore
Fairview
Grassy Creek
Marion, First

Morganton, First
Newland
Newton, First
Quaker Meadows

Rutherfordton
Tryon
Waldensian

7. **THAT the plan for virtual two-hour Sacred Trust-Relational Boundaries Training with supplemental debriefing in a subsequent one-hour Zoom session with members of the Sacred Boundaries Team has been communicated to those required to take training in 2021. The virtual training can be done according to each individual’s schedule any time prior to taking part in one of the Zoom debriefing sessions on September 23, 2021 (2-3 p.m.) or October 28, 2021 (7-8 p.m.).**

Anyone with questions about requirements or procedures should contact the Presbytery office.

The criteria for those who should attend are 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.

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. Jill Isola, Pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Alex McNeill, Executive Director of More Light Presbyterians, and Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks, Director of Children's Family Ministries at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, led us in a meaningful and inclusive worship service. Rev. Isola's sermon was "Abundant Love and Radical Hospitality." The scripture and sermon were taken from Matthew: 25:34-40.

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

PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

David Staniunas, Records Archivist at the Presbyterian Historical Society, gave a brief history of the Presbyterian Historical Society which is located in Philadelphia and has been there since 1852. The Presbyterian Historical Society provides a broad range of services for Presbyterians, scholars, and the general public.

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, Ruling Elder Sarah Thornburg presented recommendations 1-3 for action. Recommendations 1-3 were moved. As the recommendations were coming from a committee, they did not require a second. The recommendations 1- 3 were approved.

Items 4 thru 12 of the General Council report were presented as items for information and required no action.

The General Council of the Presbytery presented the following recommendations:

- 1. THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina concur with the General Council and the Personnel Committee to recommend that the Rev. Dr. D. Cameron Murchison be re-elected for a third three-year term as part-time Stated Clerk, beginning August 1, 2021.**
- 2. THAT the Presbytery of Western North approve the dissolution of West Asheville Presbyterian Church and appointment of an Administrative Commission for the church, as specified in General Council Attachment 1. (Appendix I).**

THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

- Approve the dissolution of West Asheville Presbyterian Church following its request made on July 10, 2021, effective July 31, 2021;
- Plan with and join with members of the congregation on a date to be determined for a service celebrating its years of ministry in Asheville and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
- Appoint these persons to an Administrative Commission (G-3.0109b.) for West Asheville Presbyterian Church:
 - Patrick Johnson, TE/MWS, FPCA
 - Marcia Mount Shoop, TE/MWS, GCPC
 - Kim Wells, TE/MWS, New Hope (Arden)

- Cheryl Miller, RE, West Asheville
 - Don Hawkins, RE, West Asheville
 - Dot Descieux, RE, Kenilworth
 - Byron Wade, TE/MWS, PWNC General Presbyter, ex officio
 - Cam Murchison, TE/MWS, PWNC Stated Clerk, ex officio
- That the Commission will have the following responsibilities, power and authority:
 - A. To work pastorally with the members of West Asheville, supporting them in their closing worship, their transition to other congregations and giving thanks for the ministry of West Asheville Presbyterian Church.
 - B. To hold the membership roll until members are properly transferred at their request to another Christian church. (G-3.0301c)
 - C. To exercise original jurisdiction over the affairs of the church, safeguarding its records, administering the funds of the church's accounts and making payments on behalf of the church. (G-3.0303e)
 - D. To develop and implement a plan for the use of the property on behalf of the presbytery. (G-4.0205)

3. THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approve the dissolution of Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church and appointment of an Administrative Commission for the church, as specified in General Council Attachment 2. (Appendix J).

THAT the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

- Approve the dissolution of Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church following its request made on June 27, 2021, effective July 31, 2021;
- Plan with and join with members of the congregation on a date to be determined for a service celebrating its years of ministry in Rutherford County and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
- Appoint these persons to an Administrative Commission (G-3.0109b.) for Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church:
 - John Auten, RE, Shelby
 - Joe Brooks, RE, Duncan's Creek
 - Judy Brown, RE, Duncan's Creek
 - Barbara Ross, CP, PWNC Associate
 - Byron Wade, TE/MWS, PWNC General Presbyter, ex officio
 - Cam Murchison, TE/MWS, PWNC Stated Clerk, ex officio
- THAT the Commission will have the following responsibilities, power and authority:
 - A. To work pastorally with the members of Duncan's Creek, supporting them in their closing worship, their transition to other

congregations and giving thanks for the ministry of Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church.

B. To hold the membership roll until members are properly transferred at their request to another Christian church. (G-3.0301c)

C. To receive all official church records, including but not limited to minutes of Session and Deacons, registers of membership, weddings, etc. (G-4.0205)

D. To arrange for the disposition of the property on behalf of the presbytery (G-4.0205) by conveyance to a Christian body being formed in the Duncan's Creek community that will include current active members of Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church and others from the community, under the following term

I. The conveyance not to require cash payment to the Presbytery.

II. The conveyance to be made with a commitment from former members of Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church to ensure that the newly formed Christian body will participate in the Nickel a Meal monthly offering of PWNC.

III. The conveyance to require the concurrence of PWNC through its General Council for any subsequent sale or transfer of the property, which concurrence will not be unreasonably withheld

IV. Any such conveyance to stipulate a fifty/fifty sharing of net proceeds between PWNC and the newly formed Christian body should the property be sold subsequently.

V. The costs of conveyance from PWNC to be borne by newly formed Christian body to whom transfer is made.

The General Council of the Presbytery presented the following as information:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4. **THAT the General Council, in collaboration with the Committee on Ministry, has appointed Reed Conley as the organizing pastor of the Lincolnton New Worshipping Community. Details are provided in General Council Attachment 3. (Appendix K)**
5. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
6. **THAT the General Council approved the following recommendation from the Task Force on Returning to Face-to-Face Gatherings for the stated meetings of Presbytery, effective January 2022.**
 - a. **January (winter) meeting online using ZOOM**
 - b. **April (spring) meeting in-person at Montreat Conference Center**
 - c. **July (summer) meeting online using ZOOM**
 - d. **October (fall) meeting in-person at a host church or churches**

Note: The current pattern of stated presbytery meetings is two on Saturdays (January and July) and two on Tuesdays (April and October).

7. **THAT the General Council approved the following recommendation from the Task Force for Returning to Face-to-Face Gatherings for the presbytery and presbytery committees regarding in-person and online meeting:**
 - a. **Advising committees to consider meeting either in person once a quarter, twice a year, or alternate between in-person and online.**
 - b. **Advising division chairpersons to discuss options with committee moderators regarding meetings.**

8. **THAT the General Council approved the following recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Nominations:**
 - a. **That a Task Force for Committee Revisioning be formed with their work to begin this year and bring back recommendations for restructuring of committees in the spring/summer of 2022.**

9. **THAT the General Council approved the dismissal of the Ad Hoc Committee on Nominations with commendation for their work.**

10. **THAT the General Council approved to extend the lease of Camp Woodson property to Camp Grier for one year until May of 2022.**

11. **THAT the following Synod Grant applications were approved by the General Council and will be forwarded to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic:**

Small Church Grant:

Sherrill’s Ford Presbyterian Church	\$5,000
Old Fort Presbyterian Church	\$5,000
Dulatown Presbyterian Church	\$5,000
Crossnore Presbyterian Church	\$5,000

12. **THAT the General Council reports approval of the following Regional and International Nickel-A-Meal Hunger Grants:**

REGIONAL GRANTS			
Agency	Location	Sponsor Church	Amount Granted
Corner Table Soup Kitchen	Newton	Newton, First	\$ 8,000.00
LINC Home Meals	Lincolnton	Lincolnton, First	\$ 5,000.00
Feeding Avery Families	Newland	Banner Elk	\$ 8,000.00
Interfaith Ministries	Hendersonville	Trinity	\$ 8,000.00
N Buncombe Snack Sacks	Weaverville	Reems Creek-Beech	\$ 2,850.00
Haywood Christian Ministry Food Security Program	Waynesville	Waynesville, First	\$7,500.00
		Regional Total	\$39,350.00
INTERNATIONAL GRANTS			
Nkhoma Hospital	Malawi, Africa	PWNC Malawi Partnership Cmte	\$11,000.00
		International Total	\$ 11,000.00

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, Jill Kimbirl reported on the work of the committee highlighting the upcoming “Lunch and Learn” event. Lunch and Learn is a one-day event that will be held on October 14 at 11:00 a.m. and led by Stephanie Fritz. She also asked everyone to mark their calendars for March 25-26, 2022 for the 2022 Spirituality Retreat to be held at the William Black Lodge in Montreat. (Appendix L)

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery, co-chair for the Youth Ministries Committee reported on behalf of the committee. The Youth Ministries Committee has a full slate of events planned for the coming year. She highlighted their next event, The Youth Rally for middle and high school youth will be held on October 3, 2021 at Upper Anderson, Montreat. The keynoter speaker for the event will be Kari Morgan. (Appendix M)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Rev. Dwight Christenbury made the following recommendations to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina: (Appendix N)

I. RECOMMEND that Presbytery waive the one-year requirement for the inquiry phase for Brandon Davis, an Inquirer from Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church. (Appendix N)

Following a time of discussion, the recommendation of waiving the one-year requirement inquiry phase for Brandon Davis was unanimous approved.

II. THAT Emily Beaver, a member of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery. (Appendix N)

Emily Beaver shared her faith journey and her call to the ministry. Moderator Hal Bennett opened the floor for questions. Following a period of time for questions, the Presbytery approved the enrollment of Emily Beaver as a Candidate. The Moderator then asked the questions in the *Book of Order, G-14.0305F*, which were answered affirmatively. Rev. Mary Katherine Robinson delivered the charge and Rev. Bob Tuttle offered prayer.

CHURCHES AND PASTORS

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

I. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder John Pea reported on the actions taken by the Committee on Ministry on behalf of the Presbytery. (Appendix O)

The Committee on Ministry recommended the following to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina: that in 2022, the minimum effective salary be increased by 1.5% to \$35,246.89, representing 57% of the 2022 median salary and that its congregations consider at least 1.5% increase to effective salary for all other ministers. Following a time for discussion, both recommendations were approved.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
II. VALIDATION OF MINISTRIES

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry, Ruling Elder John Pea moved that the Presbytery validate the ministries of the following: (Appendix O)

- A. Joe Bennett, as Hospice Chaplain at Compassionate Care WNC, through July 31, 2022.
- B. John Campbell, as Pastoral Counselor at Eastatoe Trail Counseling and Consultation Center, through July 31, 2022.
- C. Alex McNeill, as Executive Director of More Light Presbyterians, through July 31, 2022.
- D. Daniel Tipton, as Chaplain for Four Seasons for Life Hospice, through July 31, 2022.
- E. Ryan Brakemeyer, as Pastor of Grace Reformed Church (UCC), through July 31, 2022.
- F. Amy Cantrell, as Co-Pastor and Co-Director at BeLoved Asheville, through July 31, 2022.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
III. COMMISSIONED PASTOR

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Committee, Ruling Elder John Pea recommended that the Presbytery approve Linda C. Johnson to be commissioned as commissioned pastor to Saluda Presbyterian Church in Saluda, NC. Following questions and answers, the motion passed. Moderator Hal Bennett then offered prayer. The commissioning for Linda C. Johnson is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session and officiate at weddings. (Appendix O)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
IV. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

On behalf of the Examinations Sub-Committee and Committee on Ministry, Elder John Pea introduced the following as new ministers in the Presbytery.

- A. Daniel John Commerford, from the Presbytery of Tropical Florida, as pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, effective July 1, 2021.
- B. Andrew Guy Mangione, from Southern New Jersey Presbytery, as pastor at Shelby Presbyterian Church, Shelby, effective August 1, 2021.

Each spoke briefly. Their Statements of Faith and Biographical Statements were included in the report of the Committee on Ministry. (Appendix O)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
V. ORDINATION/INSTALLATION

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Sub-Committee, Elder John Pea introduced Caitlin Johnson. As Caitlin Johnson was a candidate of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, she delivered a sermon and was approved and recommended by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Elder Pea moved, on behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, that she be ordained by the Presbytery to accept the call as designated pastor (half-time) of Oak Forest Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC. The motion passed and the Rev. Dr. Patrick Johnson, pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville, offered prayer. (Appendix N)

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Sub-Committee, Elder John Pea introduced Rachael Margaret McConnell (Candidate from Mission Presbytery), as a candidate for ordination/installation by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and to serve as Pastor at Banner Elk Presbyterian Church. Following her sermon entitled “God’s Abundance,” and the scripture taken from 2

Corinthians 8:8-15, Elder John Pea moved on behalf of the Committee on Ministry that Rachael Margaret McConnell be ordained and installed by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina effective upon ordination. The motion passed and Elder Don Hilsmier, Banner Elk Presbyterian Church, offered prayer. (Appendix N)

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, gave an outstanding presentation of his activities and visions. He shared some of his priorities, his preaching and meeting schedule and a new presbytery logo. He shared the importance of the Matthew 25 initiative, communication, and educational opportunities. (Appendix P)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Esta Jarrett, pastor at Canton Presbyterian Church in Canton, led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

With the business of the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina completed and adjournment voted, Moderator Bennett adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

The 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at Unity Presbyterian Church in Denver, NC.

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 October 26, 2021 at 129th Stated Meeting to be held at Unity Presbyterian Church in Denver, NC.

APPENDICES

- A. Consent Agenda**
- B. Guatemala Partnership Report**
- C. Finance Committee Report**
- D. Building HOPE Report**
- E. Church Leadership School Report**
- F. Annual Membership Statistics**
- G. Annual Worship Statistics**
- H. Administrative Commission Report for First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton; West Avenue Presbyterian Church, and Churches Concluding Their Ministry**
- I. West Asheville Administrative Commission**
- J. Duncan's Creek Administrative Commission**
- K. Lincolnton New Worshipping Community**
- L. Christian Education Committee Report**
- M. Youth Committee Report**
- N. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
- O. Committee on Ministry Report**
- P. General Presbyter Report**

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