

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**



**MINUTES
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST
STATED MEETING
April 26, 2022**

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The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
131st Stated Meeting
April 26, 2022
Montreat Conference Center

CALL TO ORDER

Ruling Elder Sarah Thornburg, Moderator, convened the 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. with prayer in the Anderson Auditorium of the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, North Carolina.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Ruling Elder Sarah Thornburg opened the One-Hundred Thirty-First Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina in the Anderson Auditorium of the Montreat Conference Center with prayer.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Moderator Ms. Sarah Thornburg acknowledged that the land on which we were meeting was originally the land of the Catawba, Sugaree and Cherokee peoples.

MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

Richard DuBose, President of Montreat Conference Center, welcomed the body to the Conference Center, called attention to the upcoming events at the Conference Center, and invited commissioners to visit the shops.

WELCOME

Rev. Keith Grogg, Pastor at Montreat Presbyterian Church, brought greetings from their church.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Standing Committees:

Resolution of Thanks:

Rev. Keith Thompson, Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church
Elder Mary Johnson, Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church

Presbytery in Brief:

Rev. Melissa Upchurch, Marshall Presbyterian Church

Bills and Overtures:

Rev. Allan Purtill, Tryon Presbyterian Church
Elder Edwin Lewis, New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia
Rev. Emily Wilmarth, First Presbyterian Church, Highlands

Tellers: Wanda Neely, Honorably Retired Minister

Margo Smith, Elder, Black Mountain Presbyterian Church

Beverly Thompson, Honorably Retired Minister

Bill Carpenter, Elder, New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville

William Brown, Elder, Montreat Presbyterian Church

ATTENDANCE

The Stated Clerk declared that a quorum was present by referencing our registration data and observing 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	P
Jefferson Aiken, Jr.	E	Wyatt Aiken, Jr.	E	Merriam Alexander	P
Terry Alexander	E	Stephen Aschmann	P	James Aydelotte	E
Patricia Bacon	E	Tony Baker	E	Edna Banes	E
Ashley Beavers	E	Harold Bennett, Jr.	P	Joseph Bennett	A
Cynthia M. Benz	E	Lynn Bledsoe	P	Randall Boggs	E
David Bonnema	P	Ronald Botsford	E	Lee Bowman	E
Richard Boyce	E	Grace Boyer	E	David Bradley	E
Ryan Brakemeyer	A	Ronald Brauer	E	Hayden Britton	E
Sandra Brown	E	Thomas Brown	P	William Buchanan	P
Monty Burnham	E	Sue Burton	E	Constance Button	E
Joey T. Byrd	A	David Cameron	E	Kathryn J. Cameron	P
John T. Campbell	E	Kathy Campbell	E	Amy Cantrell	A
H. Pride Carson	E	Dwight Christenbury	E	William Christian	E
Richard Coble	P	Sarah Coburn	A	James Cockerham	E
Jeffrey R. Coffey	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	E	Blake J. Daniel	P	Charles W. Davenport	E
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
Steven Eason	E	Robert Edmunds	E	Stephen Elderbrock	A
Leah E. Epps	P	Lee S. Feero, Jr.	E	David Carter Florence	P
P. Edward Forsyth	E	Clarence D. Fouse, III	A	Kevin E. Frederick	P
Keith B. Freeman	P	Schaap Freeman	P	John L. Frye, Jr.	P
R. Curtis Fussell, III	P	Tempe Fussell	P	Willis Gaines	P
Paul Galbreath	E	Lewis F. Galloway	E	Robert D. Gamble	P
David Garnett	E	Lisle Garrity	A	Tee G. Gatewood	P
Denise Geiger	E	David Germer	P	Samantha Gonzalez-Block	A
Gregory Grana	E	Theodore Grant	E	Keith Grogg	P
Robert J. Gruber	E	Decherd Guess	E	Rebecca Gurney	A
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	E	William G. Heck	E	Robert T. Henderson	E
Julie Hester	P	J. Robert Hewett	E	J. Richard Hobson	E
J. Samuel Hobson, Jr.	E	James J. Holeman	P	David Holloway	P
James S. Hornsby	E	David Hosick	E	Carol Hovis	A
William R. Hoyt, III	E	George B. Hutchins	E	Jill V. Isola	P
Donald Jafvert	E	William M. Janes	E	Esta M. Jarrett	A
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	Shannon D. Jordan	P	Kimberly L. Justice	A
Joseph Kang	A	David Kaylor	E	Lynne Keel	P
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	E
John C. Laughlin	E	Margaret P. Lauterer	P	James E. Layman	P
Thomas G. Lewis	E	J. William Lindeman	E	John P. Lindsay	E
Gene Linton, Jr.	E	Deneise Deter Liss	A	Jamie Bibee Lloyd	P
Neal Lloyd	P	Laura Long	P	Billy T. Lowe	E
William Lowery	E	Robert L. Lowry	E	Alexandra Lusak	P
David R. Lytle	A	Kathleen Madigan	E	J. Whit Malone	A
Andrew Mangione	P	Marjorie Marsh	P	Joan C. Martin	E
Roberta Martin	E	W. Tyler Martin	E	John S. McCall	A
Sandra McClinton	A	Rachael M McConnell	P	Robert A. McCully, Jr.	E
Noah McIntee	P	David W. McKee	E	Michael T. McKee	A
Alex P. McNeill	A	Kenyon Meeks, Jr.	E	C. Lynn Michie	A
Beth Ann Miller	P	Robert L. Montgomery	E	Sarah Grace Montgomery	E
Anne Morgan	E	S. Keith Morrison	E	David E. Mulford	E
D. Cameron Murchison	P	David Nash	P	Wanda Neely	P
William K. Neely	E	Thomas G. Nelson	E	Elizabeth D. Newman	P
John H. Niles	E	Richard Nygren	E	Daniel J. Oedy	E
O'Hyun Park	E	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.	E	Edyth P. Pruitt	A	Tamara Puffer	E
Allan Purtill	P	Jay K. Rabuck	E	Daria L. Ragan	E
Earl M. Rash	E	Mary Elizabeth Ray	E	Patricia Reid	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	E	Richard M. Rustay	E	Donald Scofield	P
Henry D. Scoggins	E	Carol N. Seaman	E	Dana V. Seiler	A
Caroline Sell	A	Nathan Sell	A	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	E	J. Mark Stanley	E	Margie B. Stansell	E
Carol Steele	A	Daniel G. Stitt	E	Cynthia R. P. Strickler	E
William B. Sweetser, Jr.	E	Christopher Taylor	E	Beverly Thompson	P
George Thompson, Jr.	P	Keith J. Thompson	P	Denise Thorpe	A
Yvonne M. Thurmond	A	Russell D. Tillotson, Sr.	E	Daniel Tipton	A
Kathleen Rankin Tompkins	E	Lynn Turnage	P	Christina B. Tutterow	E
Robert J. Tuttle	E	Melissa Anne Upchurch	P	Gary Van Brocklin	E
Lauren S. Vanacore	P	Susan Verbrugge	P	Christopher P. Vogado	P
Byron A. Wade	E	Rockwell P. Ward	E	Samuel P. Warner	P
Robert M. Warren	E	Lynn Webber	E	Judith Weger	E
Kimberleigh E. Wells	P	Barbara R. White	P	Parker T. Williamson	E
Emily L. Wilmarth	P	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	P	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
Linda Johnson	A	James Koone	A	Peggy Koone	A
Deborah Lesenger	A	James Millsaps	A	Marla Patchel	A
Randy Patterson	A	John Pea	E	Marcia Reighley	A
Russell Reighley	A	Barbara Ross	P	James Taylor	P
William M Upchurch, Jr.	E	Sheila Renee Warthen	A	Roger Wise	E

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

John Auten	A	Royce Browder	P	Virginia Bradford	P
Bill Carpenter	P	Lois Camp	A	Don Coleman	A
Dorothy Descieux	E	Jan Duncan	A	Peggy Ferguson	P
Betsy Fonvielle	A	Bob Forsythe	P	Corise Gambrell	E
Rob Groves	A	Dennis Howell	A	Ann Lampron	A
Dick Larson	A	Melvin Meares	P	Katherine Mull	A
Roger Rizk	A	Julia Rush	A	Laura Carringer Russell	A
Katrina Shambaugh	A	Laura Sigmon	A	Becky Stevens	A
Sarah Thornburg	P	Ron Tingle	P	Paula Wallace	A

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

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

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

Arbor Dale (2)	A		
Asheville First (4)	Chris DaJarnett	Alan Young	Martha Sloan
Banner Elk (2)	A		
Belmont First (4)	Sue Johnson Mark Adcock	Charles Sellars	Mary Randall Rhyne
Bessemer City First (2)	A		
Black Mountain (3)	Ken Kelly	Margo Smith	
Brevard-Davidson River (3)	Mary Johnson	Mike Stewart	Richard Black
Bridgewater (2)	A		
Brittain (2)	A		
Brittain's Cove (2)	A		

Bryson City (2)	Collin Caldwell		
Buladean (2)	A		
Burnsville, First (2)	A		
Calvary (3)	A		
Canton (2)	A		
Cherryville, First (2)	E		
Chinchfield (2)	A		
Columbus (2)	A		
Crossnore (2)	Janis L. Kenyon		
Dallas First (2)	Gerald Burgess		
Dixon (2)	A		
Dorland Memorial (2)	Mary Gahagan	Emma Kate Davis	
Dulatown (3)	A		
Etowah (2)	A		
Fairview (2)	Linda Yount	Vernon Yount	
Fletcher (2)	A		
Forest City First (2)	A		
Franklin First (2)	Nancy Browder		
Gastonia, First (3)	Dottie LaFar	Julie Craig	Coleman Efird
Good Hope (2)	A		
Grace Covenant (2)	A		
Grassy Creek (1)	A		
Green Mountain (1)	A		
Green Street (2)	A		
Hayesville (1)	E		
Hendersonville First (1)	Buddy Massagee		
Hickory First (3)	Bob Smith	Shirley Thomasson	
Highlands First (1)	A		
Ironton (1)	E		
Jack's Creek (1)	A		
Kenilworth (1)	A		
Korean Church of Asheville (2)	A		
Lenoir First (1)	A		
Long Creek (1)	Ken Unnasch		
Love's Chapel (2)	A		
Lowell (1)	Dennis Godfrey		
Marion First (1)	John Wanamaker		
Marshall (1)	Cathy Seiler		
Micaville (1)	A		
Mills River (1)	Stephen Tody		
Montreat (1)	William Brown		
Morganton First (2)	Rick Leissner	Kelly Hawkins	
Morrison (1)	A		
Mount Holly First (1)	A		
New Hope (Asheville) (1)	Susan Maveety		

New Hope (Gastonia) (1)	A		
Newdale (1)	A		
Newland (1)	A		
Newton First (2)	Karen Mills		
Northminster (1)	A		
Oak Forest (1)	A		
Oakwood (1)	A		
Old Fort (1)	A		
Olney (1)	A		
Pine Street (2)	A		
Pineola (1)	A		
Quaker Meadows (1)	Judy Galey		
Reems Creek-Beech (1)	A		
Ridgeview (1)	A		
Robinson Memorial (1)	A		
Rutherfordton (2)	William Powell	Sally Leshner	
Ryburn Memorial (2)	A		
Saluda (1)	A		
Shelby (2)	Larry Wilson		
Sherrill's Ford (1)	A		
Shiloh, Grover (1)	A		
Siloam (1)	Amelia Tipton		
Southminster (2)	E		
Spruce Pine First (1)	A		
Sweetwater (1)	Pam Brumer		
Sylva First (1)	Bruce Henderson		
Third Street (2)	E		
Trinity (2)	Diane Bowers		
Tryon (2)	A		
Union (1)	A		
Union Mills (1)	A		
United (1)	Teddie Bowen		
Unity (2)	William Muir		
Vians Valley (1)	A		
Waldensian (2)	John Heilman	Willie Pascal	
Walnut (1)	A		
Warren Wilson (1)	Ken Murchison		
Waynesville First (1)	A		

Ministers	89
Elders	49
Council/Committees	8
DCE	3
Visitors	14
TOTAL	163

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, the 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	Sarah Thornburg Moderator	
	Convene with Prayer of Invocation	Sarah Thornburg Moderator	
	Land Acknowledgement	Sarah Thornburg	
	Appointment of Standing Committees	Sarah Thornburg	
	Resolution of Thanks		
	Bills and Overtures		
	Tellers		
	Recognition of Elders Attending for First Time, Visitors and Corresponding Members		
	Certification of Quorum	Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk	
	Approval of Docket		
	Consent Agenda		A
	<i>(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.)</i>		
	Stated Clerk's Report	Cam Murchison	B
	<i>(Work of the Clerk, Presbytery Meeting Dates, Administrative Commission Reports, Overture(s))</i>		
	Reports Submitted for Information and/or Included in the Consent Agenda		
	Nominating Committee		I
	Committee on Preparation for Ministry		K
	Finance Committee		BB
	Building Hope		BH
	249th Synod of Mid-Atlantic Stated Meeting		II
	Presbyterian Women		LL
	Celebration of Medical Debt Relief	Jill Isola	T
9:30	Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper		
	<i>(Worship leaders: Kim Wells, pastor at New Hope, Asheville; Lynn Turnage, Montreat Conference Center; Lynne Keel, Montreat Conference Center; Michael Poulos, Spruce Pine, First)</i>		
	<i>(Music: Vivian Hare, Montreat Presbyterian Church)</i>		
	Including Offering for Medical Debt Relief		
	Speak Out – Sharing news from Congregations (10 minutes)		

10:30 General Council <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Work of the committee)</i>	Hal Bennett	C
10:35 Committee on Ministry <i>(10 minutes)</i> <i>(Work of the committee, introduction of new minister.)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of new member: Susan Verbrugge, as Hospice Chaplain at CarePartners Report from the Bills and Overtures Committee <i>(25 minutes)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living in Healthy Relationships Free of Violence and Coercion Declaring the Time is Now to “Cherish, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up” 	James Taylor	D
Youth Committee <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Work of the committee, information about upcoming events)</i>	Beth Gunn	Y
Christian Education <i>(2 minutes)</i>	Julie Hester	W
Guatemala Partnership <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Updates from Guatemala)</i>	Marie Palacios	Q
Building Hope <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Update of grants awarded)</i>	Melvin Meares	BH
New Church Development <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Update on the Artisan Church)</i>	David Bonnema	
Report of the General Presbyter <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Recorded Message)</i>	Byron Wade	GP
Mission Committee <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Work of the committee)</i>	Stephen Aschmann	S
Peace and Justice Committee <i>(3 minutes)</i> <i>(Afghan Relief)</i>	Steve Runholt	T
Ukraine Experience <i>10 minutes)</i>	Robert Gamble	
Hunger Committee <i>(5 minutes)</i> <i>(Work of the committee)</i>	Virginia Bradford/ Tempe Fussell	R
Prayers of Intercession		
Benediction and Adjournment		

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 9 through 11 of the packet for the meeting. The consent agenda and committee reports were approved by common consent. (Appendix A)

Reports Submitted for Information and/or Included in the Consent Agenda
Nominating Committee (Appendix B)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Appendix C)
Finance Committee (Appendix D)
Building Hope (Appendix E)
249th Synod of Mid-Atlantic Stated Meeting (Appendix F)
Presbyterian Women (Appendix G)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, the Stated Clerk, presented recommendations 1 through 7 included in the Stated Clerk's report, stating that these recommendations had previously been approved in the Consent Agenda.

The Stated Clerk then presented items 8 through 11 for information that required no action.

- CA 1. THAT Sarah Thornburg, Cam Murchison, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the July 30, 2022 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the January 29, 2022 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the April 2022 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 Asheville
Administrative Commission for Duncan's Creek
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 4. THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Shannon Jordon (Appendix I)
David Germer (Appendix J)
- CA 5. THAT any disparity in number between ruling elder and teaching elder commissioners be corrected in the following manner:**

Attendance and Voting. Each teaching elder shall attend each meeting of Presbytery, and each congregation shall be represented by at least one ruling elder at each meeting. Congregations are entitled to ruling elder commissioners based on the following active membership (BO: G-1.0402), as shown on the most recent statistical report (*For the 2022 year, churches A through F are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2020 Statistical Report as figures are not available for 2021.*):

0 - 250 members - 1
251 - 750 members - 2
751 - 1250 members - 3
1251 - 1750 members - 4

Honorably retired teaching elders shall be welcome at all meetings, but their necessary non-attendance shall be excused.

To ensure approximate parity in numbers between ruling elder and teaching elder commissioners:

1. All members of the General Council, Committee on Ministry, and Committee on Ministry Advocates shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
2. All division, committee and sub-committee chairs shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
3. All Commissioned Pastors shall have voice and vote.
4. All Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and, in addition, other Christian Educators who have
 - earned at least a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent)
 - served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and
 - been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the Christian Education Committee shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to BO: G-2.1103, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).
5. All ruling elder commissioners to the Synod Assembly and to the General Assembly shall have voice and vote as long as their terms last.
6. All exempt staff of Presbytery shall have voice.
7. All racial/ethnic congregations and other congregations designated by the General Council shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
8. That the following churches (Churches A-F) be requested to send one additional elder commissioner for the year 2022.

CA 6. THAT the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton having completed its work, be dissolved effective April 26, 2022, with the thanks of the Presbytery for its good work.

CA 7. THAT the Administrative Commission for the Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church having completed its work, be dissolved effective April 26, 2022, with the thanks of the Presbytery for its good work.

FOR INFORMATION:

- 8. THAT the overture "On Declaring Now is the Time to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up" submitted to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for concurrence by the Session of Trinity Presbyterian Church has been referred to the Bills and Overtures Committee which, will bring a recommendation to this meeting of Presbytery. (Appendix K)**
- 9. THAT the overture "On Living in Healthy Relationships Free of Violence and Coercion" submitted to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for concurrence by the Presbytery's Peace and Justice Committee has been referred to the Bills and**

Overtures Committee, which will bring a recommendation to this meeting of Presbytery. (Appendix L)

- 10. THAT the 132nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2022, virtually by ZOOM. THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, July 7, 2022. THAT the deadline for an overture is Monday, June 27, 2022.**
- 11. THAT due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following procedure for reviewing sessions records for 2022 will be as follows:**
1. Each clerk will gather the 2021 Session minutes for her/his congregation.
 2. No later than September 15, 2022, use the standard checklist to review your records as follows: (checklist: <https://presbytery-wnc.s3.amazonaws.com/files/1/2018/2018-session-records-review-checklist-20180517.pdf>)
 - a. Write the name of your church at the top, indicating “2021” 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 parenthetical 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 2022 meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, please complete the checklist and return it to the Stated Clerk **by September 15, 2022**, either by

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

CELEBRATION OF MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF

Rev. Jill Isola, chair of the Peace and Justice Committee, shared that the Presbytery has already received \$25,000 for the committee's Medical Debt Relief initiative. That should relieve over \$2.5M of medical debt within the bounds of the Presbytery of WNC. Following the morning worship service, the Presbytery of WNC received an offering that totaled \$1,492.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Rev. Kim Wells, Pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville, led us in worship, assisted by Rev. Lynn Turnage, Montreat Conference Center, Montreat; ruling elder Lynne Keel, Montreat Conference Center, Montreat; and Rev. Michael Poulos, First Presbyterian Church, Spruce Pine. Rev. Wells's sermon was entitled "I Know." The scripture and sermon were taken from Revelation 2:1-7.

Worship concluded with a celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, led by the Reverend Kim Wells, assisted by Reverends Michael Poulos, Lynn Turnage, Mary Katherine Robinson and elder Lynne Keel. Our musician for the day was Vivian Hare.

A special offering for Medical Debt Relief was received at the end of the Service of Worship.

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, Teaching Elder Hal Bennett presented recommendations 1 and 2 included in the General Council's report. Both recommendations/motions passed by common consent.

Teaching Elder Hal Bennett presented items 3 through 7 for information that required no action.

- 1. THAT the Presbytery of Western North concur with the General Council that all actions approved in Virtual Meetings of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, and recorded in the Official Minutes of July 28, 2020, October 27, 2020, January 30, 2021, April 27, 2021, July 31, 2021, October 26, 2021, and January 29, 2022, are hereby affirmed and ratified in their entirety.**
- 2. THAT the General Council has reviewed the Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and recommends that Section III, C., be amended to add the following text:**

Meetings, whether Stated or Special, may be held in-person or by virtual means. The decision about which means is to be used is made by the General Council and communicated to all teaching elders and each session in as timely a fashion as circumstances allow. All actions taken in meetings whether held in-person or virtually are fully authoritative, requiring no subsequent ratification.

Rationale: Section III, C., currently reads as:

Meetings and Invitations. Invitations to host meetings shall be received and acted on by the General Council.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

3. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
4. **THAT the General Council will welcome an invitation from a church or an institution willing to host the Presbytery meeting in October 2023.**
5. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2022 and 2023 Presbytery Meetings:**

2022

Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – Montreat Conference Center

Saturday, July 30, 2022 – Virtual

Tuesday, October 25, 2022 – Waldensian Presbyterian Church

2023

Saturday, January 28, 2023 - Virtual

Tuesday, April 25, 2023 – Montreat Conference Center

Saturday, July 29, 2023 - Virtual

Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Seeking Host Location

6. **THAT the General Council authorized the Moderator of the PWNC to appoint the Bills & Overtures Committee, chair and members, for the 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery prior to the meeting.**
7. **THAT the General Council approved the extension of time until December 2022 for raising funds that will place approximately 230 acres of the Camp Woodson property into a conservation easement and transfer the ownership to Camp Grier.**

CHURCHES AND PASTORS COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY I. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder James Taylor reported on the actions taken by the Committee on Ministry on behalf of the Presbytery. (Appendix M)

Ruling Elder James Taylor reported that the following ministers requested honorable retirement:

- David Garnett, effective May 1, 2022.
- Margie B. Stansell, effective June 1, 2022.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY II. VALIDATION OF MINISTRIES

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry, Ruling Elder James Taylor moved that the Presbytery validate the ministries of the following: (Appendix M)

- Susan Verbrugge, as Hospice Chaplain for CarePartners, through April 26, 2023.

- Carol Steele, as Vice-President of Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April 26, 2023.
- Allen Proctor, as Director of the Haden Institute, through April 26, 2023.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

On behalf of the Examinations Sub-Committee and Committee on Ministry, Elder James Taylor introduced Susan Verbrugge as a new minister in the Presbytery. She spoke briefly. Her Statement of Faith and Biographical Statement was included in the report of the Committee on Ministry. (Appendix M)

- Susan Verbrugge, from The Peaks Presbytery to Presbytery of WNC to serve as Chaplain at CarePartners, effective April 5, 2022.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

IV. RECOMMENDATION FOR COMMISSIONED PASTORS

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry, Elder James Taylor presented the following recommendation to the Presbytery:

- A. THAT a Commissioned Pastor who has ceased to serve in the specified ministry may be commissioned again to the same or a different ministry by the following process:

1. The Ruling Elder, together with the Session of a congregation or the official leadership of another ministry, will meet with the Commissioned Pastor Sub-Committee for the assessment of the fit between the candidate and the ministry. The CP Sub-Committee will then make a recommendation to the COM.
2. Because such a Ruling Elder will have already been through the Examinations Committee in relation to a previous commissioning, no visit with the Examinations Committee is required.
3. The COM will receive the recommendation of the CP Sub-Committee, meet with the candidate, and take action to approve the new commissioned relationship. Since the Ruling Elder will have previously been commissioned in a meeting of the whole Presbytery, this re-commissioning will be conducted by the COM on behalf of Presbytery (G-3.0307) in the following manner:
 - a. In the case of commissioning to a congregation, the COM will appoint three of its members (including at least one Ruling Elder and one Minister of Word and Sacrament) to participate in a commissioning service in the presence of the congregation. The Ruling Elder so commissioned is authorized to moderate the Session, to administer the sacraments, and to officiate at weddings where permitted by state law. (G-2.1001)
 - b. In the case of commissioning to another ministry, (e.g. as a Presbytery Associate, the COM will appoint three of its members (including at least one Ruling Elder and one Minister of Word and Sacrament) to participate in a commissioning service in the presence of the persons responsible for that ministry. The Ruling Elder so

commissioned is available from time to time, in a manner consistent with the responsibilities for which they have been commissioned, to serve a particular congregation as its Commissioned Pastor with authorization to moderate the Session, to administer the sacraments, and to officiate at weddings where permitted by state law. (G-2.1001)

The motion that a Commissioned Pastor who has ceased to serve in the specified ministry may be commissioned again to the same or a different ministry by the COM process passed unanimously.

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Bills and Overtures Committee, Allan Purtill, Chair, presented the following:

Regarding the overture, “On Declaring the Time is Now to ‘Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up,” recommended **THAT PRESBYTERY CONCUR WITH THIS OVERTURE. The motion was adopted without objection by common consent.**

Regarding the overture “On Living in Healthy Relationships Free of Violence and Coercion.” recommended **THAT PRESBYTERY CONCUR WITH THIS OVERTURE. The motion was adopted without objection by common consent.**

YOUTH MINISTRIES

On behalf of the Youth Ministries Committee, Beth Gunn reported on the work of the committee and requested that Presbytery attendees personally invite youth to join the PWNC Youth. (Appendix N)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, Rev. Julie Hester directed attendees’ attention to a table sponsored by the committee in the foyer of the auditorium. Church educators were encouraged to check the presbytery website (www.presbyterywnc.org), for the Faith Formation link for information. Betty Davenport and Vivian Hare are Christian Education Committee POINT contacts. (Appendix O)

GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP

Guatemala Coordinator, Marie Connelly de Palacios reported that the Presbytery has given more than \$55K to help people in Guatemala during the pandemic. In her report, she suggested ways for congregations to engage with the Partnership. (Appendix P)

The Partnership is assessing interest and planning for a year-end delegation trip to Guatemala. They have tentative dates of either November 10-17, 2022, or December 1-8, 2022. Those interested in going to Guatemala were asked to contact Marie Palacios at pwncguatemala@gmail.com.

Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick spoke about the groundwork that is being laid for the Men in the Mirror Program. The Partnership team will be working with the Presbyterian Women Organization of Western North Carolina and the Microcredit loan program run by ADEGHUA. They are continuing to develop ways to communicate using ZOOM and developing their network of people in Guatemala. For congregations interested in learning more about the program they can contact Kevin Frederick. He is available to speak to congregations. The Men in the Mirror Curriculum is also being translated for use in the Nkhoma Synod in Malawi, Africa. It will be available in June 2022 and ready for layout and artwork for printing in the fall. Congregations who have supported Barbara Nagy in the past were encouraged to consider making a gift to Men in the Mirror through the Presbytery office.

BUILDING HOPE

Elder Melvin Meares shared with meeting attendees this initiative's progress since its inception in 2013. There has been a lot done at Camp Grier, which is now seeing increased enrollment.

Melvin shared that there are \$1,483,494.48 remaining available for requests. Mr. Meares thanked the congregations of the Presbytery for their participation and generosity in this initiative. (Appendix E)

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Rev. David Bonnema shared updates from the past year from the New Church Development Committee and the Artisan Church.

Reed Conley, the organizing pastor of the Artisan Church, shared a video of the church's activities, which featured examples of five characteristics of the church: new, worship, service, creation, and community.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

In a video message to the Presbytery, General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Byron Wade thanked the Presbytery staff for operating the Presbytery smoothly during his absence. Dr. Wade shared that he is particularly grateful for Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison for his role as temporary General Presbyter in addition to his regular role. In his absence and during his recovery, Dr. Wade spent time discerning God's direction for the Presbytery. He is exploring ways to support pastors and leaders and will be visiting with therapists to see how he can make them available to pastors and church leaders who have worked so hard through the pandemic. (Appendix Q)

MISSION COMMITTEE

Rev. Stephen Aschmann, chair of the Mission Committee, reported on the work of the committee. He also reported that affordable housing is a top priority. The committee is researching this issue and encourages congregations to dive into the depth and complexities of affordable housing in their communities.

A PDA Mission Trip is planned for the Canton area May 1-7, 2022. The cost of this trip is being subsidized by the Mission Committee at \$25 per week and \$10 per night. The group will be working for Habitat for Humanity. Those unable to attend during this time but who want to volunteer for another time were encouraged to contact Sabrina (Bree) Williams at 828/476-6009 or email her at drvunteers@wnccumc.net.

Effective January 1 of this year, donations to Mission Co-Workers was updated by the Presbyterian World Mission. The entire denomination may support mission personnel through a fund called "Mission Personnel Sending and Support (Account #E132192). The new method will help co-workers who are not as adept at fundraising as others. (Appendix R)

PEACE AND JUSTICE

On behalf of the Peace and Justice Committee, member Rev. Steve Runholt discussed the settling of Afghan and possibly Ukrainian refugees. For congregations wanting to participate, they need to organize a group of 10-12 volunteers and a leader to be the main point of contact. It is very important to understand that the resettlement will not be a short-term project.

Rev. Runholt also spoke about the initiative RIP Medical Debt. RIP Medical Debt is a non-profit organization that purchases debt from debt collectors in bundled portfolios. The intent of the organization is to forgive medical debt rather than to collect on it. Through their work, for each \$1 donated, it abolishes \$100 of medical debt. The Peace and Justice Committee is seeking \$10k total from congregations in the Presbytery. That comes to \$100 per congregation. Donations can be sent to the Presbytery and earmarked “RIP Medical Debt.” (Appendix S)

UKRAINE EXPERIENCE

Rev. Robert Gamble, representative of the nonprofit This Child Here, recently returned from Ukraine just as the Russian invasion began. Rev. Gamble spoke briefly of his experience and then described what various organizations are doing to support Ukraine to provide rhythm, safety, art cants and other projects intended to make the people feel hopeful and loved. He expressed that love helps bear the burden of war and that war makes love precious. The experience he shared gave each of us much food for thought for those of us not faced with war every day.

HUNGER COMMITTEE

Elder Virginia Bradford, chair of the Hunger Committee, reported that the Five-Cents-a-Meal program has been renamed to “Daily Change.” In the past, the Presbytery has had more funds available than grant requests. Over the past few years, gifted monies have not kept pace with pre-pandemic participation, and we are no longer keeping pace with the growing needs among our neighbors in need. While the suggested five cents per meal has not changed in years, the cost of living and the price of food has increased substantially. Therefore, congregations were asked to set aside an appropriate tithe monthly and send their meal tithes to the Presbytery earmarked “Daily Change.” (Appendix T)

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Submitted by Dr. Keith Thompson, pastor at Brevard-Davidson River, and Mary Johnson, elder at Brevard-Davidson River, **on behalf of the Resolution of Thanks Committee:**

We give thanks to the Montreat Conference Center and the Montreat Presbyterian Church staff for hosting the 131st Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Special thanks to MPC volunteers for providing appropriate hospitality in a COVID environment.

We give thanks to the Montreat, Black Mountain, and New Hope (Asheville) churches for supplying tellers for the meeting.

We give thanks for the outstanding leadership of our General Presbyter, Clerk, Moderator, and staff, and all their work, including the facilitation of this meeting.

We give thanks for the inspiring worship service that opened the meeting, and in particular, we are grateful to Kim Wells, Lynn Turnage, Michael Poulos, Lynne Keel, Vivian Hare, and Keith Grogg for their worship leadership, and we thank Mary Katherine Robinson, Mark Achtemeier, Mary Jo Clark, Heath Rada, and Carol Steele, among others, for their help.

We give thanks for the faithful witness of our teaching and ruling elders, laypersons, and vital congregations in our ongoing work of proclaiming the Gospel.

We give thanks for the gift of finally gathering together in person, for the joy of worshiping together, and for the renewed bonds of faith and fellowship that we enjoyed.

Most of all, **we give thanks** for the love of God, the grace of Jesus Christ, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we strive to be the church we have been redeemed to be. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rev. Tempe Fussell, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Franklin, led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

With the business of the 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina completed and adjournment voted, Moderator Thornburg adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

The 132nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2022, virtually.

These minutes were prepared by the following:

Sarah Thornburg, Moderator

D. Cameron Murchison, Stated Clerk

Robbin Buchanan, Assistant Stated Clerk

These minutes are to be approved by Presbytery on July 30, 2022, at the 132nd Stated Meeting to be held virtually.

APPENDICES

- A. Consent Agenda**
- B. Nominating/Representation Committee Report**
- C. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
- D. Finance Committee**
- E. Building Hope**
- F. Report from the 249th Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Stated Meeting**
- G. Report from the Presbyterian Women**
- H. Administrative Commission Report for First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton, West Avenue Presbyterian Church, West Asheville Presbyterian Church, Duncan's Creek Presbyterian Church and Churches Concluding Their Ministry**
- I. Installation Minutes for Shannon Jordon**
- J. Installation Minutes for David Germer**
- K. Overture "On Declaring Now is the Time to Cherish Creation, Cut Carbon, and Speak Up"**
- L. Overture "On Living in Healthy Relationships Free of Violence and Coercion"**
- M. Committee on Ministry Report**
- N. Youth Committee Report**
- O. Christian Education Report**
- P. Guatemala Partnership Report**
- Q. Report from the General Presbyter**
- R. Mission Committee Report**
- S. Peace and Justice Committee Report**
- T. Hunger Committee Report**

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