

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**



**MINUTES
ONE HUNDRED THIRTIETH
STATED MEETING
January 29, 2022**

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The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
130th Stated Meeting
January 29, 2022
Virtual Meeting – via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Teaching Elder Hal Bennett, Moderator, convened the 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. with prayer.

INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR/VICE-MODERATOR

As the immediate past Moderator, Teaching Elder Hal Bennett led a service to install Ruling Elder Sarah Thornburg as Moderator and Teaching Elder Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley as Vice-Moderator for 2022.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Sarah Thornburg, opened the 130th Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with the prayer of invocation.

Thanks were extended to our outgoing Moderator, Rev. Dr. Hal Bennett, for the connectional work he undertook during his tenure, and we look forward to his continuing leadership as the chair of the General Council.

ORIENTATION

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison and Marie Palacios led a brief orientation to the ZOOM meeting process. 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 130th Stated Meeting via ZOOM. 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 Bills and Overture Committee was chaired by the Rev. Allan Purtill, pastor of Tryon Presbyterian Church. Other Bills and Overture Committee members were Angela Drummond, elder First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, and Heather Wood Davis, Associate Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Hickory. The Presbytery in Brief for the 130th Stated Meeting will be written by the Rev. Daria Ragan, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Belmont. Luke Johnson, Director of Media Ministries at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, managed the live stream 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 130th 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 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	P
Patricia Bacon	E	Tony Baker	E	Edna Banas	E
Ashley Beavers	E	Harold Bennett, Jr.	P	Joseph Bennett	E
Cynthia M. Benz	E	Lynn Bledsoe	E	Randall Boggs	P
David Bonnema	A	Ronald Botsford	E	Lee Bowman	E
Richard Boyce	P	Grace Boyer	P	David Bradley	A
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	P
Joey T. Byrd	A	David Cameron	P	Kathryn J. Cameron	P
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	A	James Cockerham	E
Jeffrey R. Coffey	E	Evelyn Coleman	A	J. Hunter Coleman	E
Daniel Commerford	E	Monty Cook	E	Thomas C. Cook, Jr.	E
Donald L. Cooper	E	W. Riley Covin	P	Robert Bruce Cumming	P
James Dale	A	Blake J. Daniel	P	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
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	P	Kevin E. Frederick	P
Keith B. Freeman	E	Schaap Freeman	P	John L. Frye, Jr.	E
R. Curtis Fussell, III	P	Tempe Fussell	P	Willis Gaines	P
Paul Galbreath	E	Lewis F. Galloway	E	Robert D. Gamble	E
David Garnett	P	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	Dechard Guess	E	Rebecca Gurney	P
John Hagmann	P	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	A	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	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	A	G. Wallace Johnson	E	Katherine B. Johnson	P

Patrick Johnson	A	Franklin Jones	A	Rebecca S. Jones	A
Shannon D. Jordan	P	Kimberly L. Justice	A	Dong Uk Kang	A
David Kaylor	E	Lynne Keel	P	David Kennedy	E
Ira K. Kennerly	P	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	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	E	William Lowery	E
Robert L. Lowry	E	Alexandra Lusak	P	David R. Lytle	A
Kathleen Madigan	P	J. Whit Malone	P	Andrew Mangione	P
Marjorie Marsh	P	Joan C. Martin	P	Roberta Martin	E
W. Tyler Martin	E	John S. McCall	A	Sandra McClinton	A
Rachael M McConnell	P	Robert A. McCully, Jr.	A	Noah McIntee	P
David W. McKee	P	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	P	Anne Morgan	E
Richard L Morgan	E	S. Keith Morrison	E	David E. Mulford	E
D. Cameron Muron	P	David Nash	P	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	P
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.	P	Edyth P. Pruitt	A	Tamara Puffer	P
Allan Purtill	P	Jay K. Rabuck	E	Daria L. Ragan	P
Earl M. Rash	A	Mary Elizabeth Ray	P	Patricia Reid	P
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	E
Caroline Sell	P	Nathan Sell	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	P	Paul S. Smith	A	John N. Somerville	E
Becky B. Stanley	P	J. Mark Stanley	P	Margie B. Stansell	P
Carol Steele	P	Daniel G. Stitt	E	Cynthia R. P. Strickler	A
William B. Sweetser, Jr.	E	Christopher Taylor	E	Beverly Thompson	P
George Thompson, Jr.	P	Keith J. Thompson	P	Denise Thorpe	E
Yvonne M. Thurmond	P	Russell D. Tillotson, Sr.	A	Daniel Tipton	A
Kathleen Rankin Tompkins	P	Lynn Turnage	P	Christina B. Tutterow	P
Robert J. Tuttle	E	Melissa Anne Upchurch	P	Gary Van Brocklin	E
Lauren S. Vanacore	P	Christopher P. Vogado	P	Byron A. Wade	P
Rockwell P. Ward	E	Samuel P. Warner	A	Robert M. Warren	A
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	A	John Bates	A	Sally Beghtol	P
Kerry Border	P	Mildred Bruns	A	Vickie Burgess	A
Tamika Garrison	A	John Hall	A	Beth Hall	A
Lynn Honeycutt	P	Robin Honeycutt	P	Kenneth Humphreys	P
Linda Johnson	A	James Koone	A	Peggy Koone	A
Rick Leissner	P	Deborah Lesenger	A	James Millsaps	A
Marla Patchel	P	Randy Patterson	A	John Pea	P
Marcia Reighley	A	Russell Reighley	A	Barbara Ross	E
Dennis Stamper	A	James Taylor	P	William M Upchurch, Jr.	P
Sheila Renee Warthen	A	Roger Wise	P		

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

Virginia Bradford	A	Bill Carpenter	A	Lois Camp	A
Dorothy Descieux	P	Jan Duncan	A	Peggy Ferguson	A
Bob Forsythe	P	Rob Groves	A	Dennis Howell	A
Tina Joyner	A	Ann Lampron	P	Katherine Mull	A
Sally McGinnis	A	Melvin Meares	E	Charles Sellers	P
Roger Rizk	P	Laura Carringer Russell	A	Becky Stevens	P
Katrina Shambaugh	A	Laura Sigmon	A	Ron Tingle	P
Sharon Stewart	A	Sarah Thornburg	P		

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

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

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

Arbor Dale (2)	C. Shipley	Gene Smith	
Asheville First (4)	Cathie Dodson	Angela Drummond	Bob Riddle
Banner Elk (2)	Dick Larson	McNair Tornow	
Belmont First (4)	Sue Johnson		
Bessemer City First(2)	A		
Black Mountain (3)	Margo Smith	Tommy Wilkinson	
Brevard-Davidson River (3)	Gail Blunt	Jack Britt	Dorothy Knowles
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)	E		
Canton (2)	A		
Cherryville, First (2)	E		
Chinchfield (2)	A		
Columbus (2)	A		
Crossnore (2)	A		
Dallas First (2)	A		
Dixon (2)	A		
Dorland Memorial (2)	Mary Gahagan		
Dulatown (3)	Helen Hall		
Etowah (2)	Don Wauchope		
Fairview (2)	Lois Clark	Bill Sullivan	
Fletcher (2)	Claudie Winfree		
Forest City First (2)	Mary Sandra Sparrow		
Franklin First (2)	Sara Wood		
Gastonia, First (3)	Josie Conner	Warren Quarles	Beth Silvers
Good Hope (2)	A		
Grace Covenant (2)	Anne Turnbow-Roustol	John Legerton	
Grassy Creek (1)	A		
Green Mountain (1)	A		
Green Street (2)	A		
Hayesville (1)	Don Schneider		
Hendersonville First (1)	Ron Kuebler		
Hickory First (3)	Jay Crane	Steve Harlan	
Highlands First (1)	A		
Ironton (1)	A		
Jack's Creek (1)	A		
Kenilworth (1)	Leslie Peterson		
Korean Church of Asheville (2)	A		
Lenoir First (1)	Donna Fellers		
Long Creek (1)	A		
Love's Chapel (2)	A		
Lowell (1)	Bobby Massey		
Marion First (1)	A		
Marshall (1)	Cathy Seiler		
Micaville (1)	A		
Mills River (1)	Mary Ellen Pacocha		
Montreat (1)	Jim Henderson		
Morganton First (2)	Chris Bergelin	Rich DeAugustinis	
Morrison (1)	A		
Mount Holly First (1)	Nan Kaylor		

New Hope (Asheville) (1)	Virginia Hebert		
New Hope (Gastonia) (1)	A		
Newdale (1)	A		
Newland (1)	A		
Newton First (2)	Suzanne Rhinehart		
Northminster (1)	Garland Hughes		
Oak Forest (1)	A		
Oakwood (1)	A		
Old Fort (1)	A		
Olney (1)	A		
Pine Street (2)	A		
Pineola (1)	E		
Quaker Meadows (1)	A		
Reems Creek-Beech (1)	A		
Ridgeview (1)	A		
Robinson Memorial (1)	Mildred Laughridge		
Rutherfordton (2)	Karen Andrews	John Martin	
Ryburn Memorial (2)	A		
Saluda (1)	A		
Shelby (2)	Richard Fletcher		
Sherrill's Ford (1)	A		
Shiloh, Grover (1)	A		
Siloam (1)	A		
Southminster (2)	A		
Spruce Pine First (1)	A		
Sweetwater (1)	A		
Sylva First (1)	Steve Baxley		
Third Street (2)	Allen Lowery	Carolyn Werts	
Trinity (2)	Kathryn Forsythe	Molly Garnett	
Tryon (2)	Catherine Lynch		
Union (1)	Tim Grigg		
Union Mills (1)	A		
United (1)	Dee Strickland		
Unity (2)	Ann Lampron		
Vians Valley (1)	A		
Waldensian (2)	David Fletcher	Marian Hartman	
Walnut (1)	A		
Warren Wilson (1)	Kenneth Murchison		
Waynesville First (1)	Ron Tingle		

:

Elders	60
Council/Committees	8
DCE	3
Visitors	10
TOTAL	192

The following corresponding members were in attendance:

Elizabeth Little, Board of Pensions;

James McQuiston, supplying Ironton Presbyterian Church, member of the Charlotte Presbytery; and

Michael Shepard, attending Etowah Presbyterian Church, member of the Redstone Presbytery.

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

Hal Bennett
Immediate Past Moderator

Installation of Moderator and Vice-Moderator

Convene with Prayer of Invocation

Sarah Thornburg
Moderator

Appointment of Host & Co-Host & Standing Committees

Sarah Thornburg

Recognition of Elders Attending for First Time, Visitors, 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, Overture(s))

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

Nominating Committee

I

Building Hope

BH

9:30 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the

Lord's Supper and Necrology

(Worship leader: Rev. Janet DeWater)

Break Out Rooms (8 minutes)

10:30 General Council (5 minutes) <i>(Work of the committee, Presbytery Treasurer)</i>	Hal Bennett	C
10:35 Finance Committee (7 minutes) <i>(Work of the committee and Proposed Budget for 2022)</i>	Charles Sellers	BB
Personnel Committee (5 minutes) <i>(Work of the committee)</i>	Connie Button	FF
Board of Pensions (5 minutes)	Elizabeth Little	NN
Committee on Ministry (15 minutes) <i>(Work of the committee, introduction of new ministers.)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of new members: Caroline Sell; Shannon D. Jordan; David Germer; Lynne Keel; and Nathan Sell.	James Taylor	D
Report from the Bills and Overtures Committee (25 minutes)	Allan Purtill	
Christian Education Committee (5 minutes) <i>(Work of the committee, information about the upcoming virtual spirituality retreat)</i>	Rick Leissner	W
Hunger Committee (3 minutes)	Billy Robinson	R
Peace & Justice Committee (5 minutes) <i>(Medical Debt)</i>	Jill Isola	T
Good News from Around Presbytery (5 minutes)	Southminster	
Youth Committee (5 minutes)	Sarah Grace Montgomery	Y
Report of the General Presbyter (5 minutes)	Byron Wade	GP

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 11 and 12 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)
Building Hope (Appendix C)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, the Stated Clerk, presented recommendations 1-10 included in the Stated Clerk's report, stating that these recommendations had previously been approved in the Consent Agenda.

He then referred to items 11-14 as items for information.

- CA 1. THAT Sarah Thornburg, Cam Murchison, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the April 26, 2022 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of October 26, 2021, Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the past/present membership roster of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Permanent Judicial Commission as required in BO: D-5.0206b, be reported and become a part of the permanent record of Presbytery. (Appendix D)**
- CA 4. THAT the Stated Clerk be given permission to attach a current list of ministers of this Presbytery and that the list becomes a part of the permanent record. (Appendix E)**
- CA 5. THAT the January 2022 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Appendix F)**
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Lincolnton
Administrative Commission for West Asheville
Administrative Commission for Duncan's Creek
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 6. THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Robert M. Warren (Appendix G)
Daniel Commerford (Appendix H)
- CA 7. THAT the minutes of the ordination/installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Rachael Margaret McConnell (Appendix I)
Caitlin C.T. Johnson (Appendix J)
Lynn Turnage (Appendix K)
- CA 8. THAT the Presbytery celebrate the lives and service of the following teaching elders/Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who died during the year 2021 and that their names become a part of the permanent record:**
John Calvin Chestnutt (1/2/2021)
John Craven (7/8/2021)
Joseph O. Rand (8/5/2021)
Wilson P. Rhoton, Jr. (9/12/2021)
Blan C. Aldridge (9/12/2021)
Jack M. Beaver (10/12/2021)
James A. Cogswell (11/18/2021)

- CA 9. THAT the Presbytery celebrate the lives and service of the following Elders, as reported by their local congregations, who died during the year of 2021, and that their names become a part of the permanent record:

Arbor Dale

Charlotte Wilson

Asheville, First

Frederick R. Brooking
Dr. Hugh Richard Graham
John C. Jackson
Neil C. Leach
Nancy Lippard Lalley
O. E. Starnes
Joycelyn Smith Baumgarten

Banner Elk

Edwin Carraway Newman, II

Black Mountain

Gladys Rena Martin Brooks

Brevard-Davidson River

Grace Munro Ray
Marie Engelson

Canton

Don Murphy
Peggy Morgan

Cherryville, First

Fred Charles Brown
Suzanne O. Smith
Martha Browne Sellers
Glenn Randall

Clinchfield

Charles Larry Hollifield

Dorland Memorial

Nancy Lippard Lalley

Forest City, First

Gilbert Carl Mays

Gastonia, First

Phyllis Hallman
Roger Stowe
Dr. Glen King
Wilson Dunn
David Pegram

Grace Covenant

Betsy Rhodes
Elizabeth Rupp
Virginia Stevens

Green Street

Doris Y. McDonald

Good Hope

Nathaniel Von Sweat

Hickory, First

Alice McNeely Smith

Marshall

Jenice H. Pegg

Montreat

Arline Taylor
Catherine McLauchin Peterson

Morganton, First

Nancy Thornwell Bernhardt Collett
Elisabeth Crawford Ervin
Carl Marion Lovelace

Newton, First

Dave Clarke
John Holshouser

Northminster

Barbara Walter
Gene Rice
Jack Hopkins

Olney

Phyllis Howe Hallman
James Lamar Howe
James Harper Torrence
Delilah Robinson Suggs

Pine Street

Aaron Franks

Pineola

Mary Smith Clark

Shelby

Dr. Doug Boyette

Spruce Pine, First

Ernest Charles Canipe
Calvin Francis Hall
Jennie Burleson Cornett

United

Virginia Orders Sauer

Unity

Eugene Franklin
Joyce Wieringa
Harold Sellers
Gary Hinrichs

Waldensian

Mary Barstow
Harvey Jones

CA 10. 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 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.

FOR INFORMATION:

11. THAT the overture submitted to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina by the Session of the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, regarding amending the *Book of Order* G-2.0505b, has been referred to the Presbytery's Bills and Overtures Committee for a report and recommendation of action at this meeting. "You can learn more about what has led to this overture from Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church by following this link: <https://youtu.be/gRmf3H7ciZI> (Appendix L)

12. THAT the 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC. *THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2022. THAT the deadline for an overture is Monday, March 28, 2022.*

13. 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 January 2022 meeting of the 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 have been received and approved by the Stated Clerk since the October 26, 2021 meeting of Presbytery:

Brittain's Cove
Bryson City
Gastonia, First

Korean Church of Asheville
Newdale
Sweetwater

14. THAT the following Session Records for 2020 have not been reviewed and are delinquent in meeting the requirements of the *2019-2021 Book of Order*. For churches desiring to meet the requirements of the *Book of Order* and be in compliance, please contact Stated Clerk, Cam Murchison, for further instructions.

Burnsville, First
Canton
Columbus (2017-2020)
Dixon
Dorland Memorial
Dulatown
Etowah
Forest City, First
Green Mountain (2012-2020)
Green Street
Hayesville

Hickory, First
Jack's Creek (2013-2020)
Micaville
Morrison
New Hope, Gastonia
Northminster
Oak Forest
Oakwood
Old Fort
Pine Street (2006-2020)
Reems Creek-Beech

Ridgeview (2006-2020)
Robinson Memorial
Ryburn Memorial (2015-2020)
Saluda
Shelby
Sherrill's Ford

Shiloh, Grover
United
Vians Valley (2017-2020)
Walnut
Waynesville, First

SERVICE OF WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Rev. Janet DeWater, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Holly, led us in worship, assisted by ruling elder Roger Rizk, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, and ruling elder, Nan Kaylor, First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Holly. Rev. DeWater's sermon was a reflection that reminded us that God plow right through our comforting and easy boundaries and into the challenges of the uncomfortable for us. The scripture and sermon were taken from Luke 4:21-30.

The sacrament of communion was celebrated, and all were able to partake using whatever elements were available in their home. The music was shared by elders of First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Holly.

The lives of 7 ministers of the Word and Sacrament and 58 elders of Presbytery who had passed on to the Church Triumphant during the year 2021 were celebrated.

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, Teaching Elder Hal Bennett presented recommendations 1 through 4 included in the General Council's report, stating that these recommendations had previously been approved in the Consent Agenda.

Teaching Elder Hal Bennett presented items 5 through 15 for information that required no action.

CA 1. THAT the Presbytery elect the following persons to serve on the Nominating and Representation Committee:

Ms. Peggy Ferguson (Pineola)		Chair for 2022
Ms. Paula Wallace (Belmont, First)	(D)	Class of 2024
Rev. Riley Covin (Honorably Retired)	(A)	Class of 2024
Rev. David Nash (Honorably Retired)	(B)	Class of 2024

CA 2. THAT permission be granted for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper to be celebrated at Presbytery sponsored events, mission trips, UKirk Campus Ministry, Presbyterian Women, and Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church during 2022.

CA 3. THAT permission be granted to the North Carolina Presbyterian Pilgrimage to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Pilgrimage events during 2022. *(This will be administered by Presbyterian ministers for the Presbytery of WNC and surrounding Presbyteries.)*

CA 4. THAT Ruling Elder Melvin Meares be elected as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for 2022.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

5. THAT the Corporate Officers for 2022 will be:

President (Chair of General Council) – Hal Bennett
Vice-President (Moderator of Presbytery) – Sarah Thornburg
Secretary (Stated Clerk) – D. Cameron Murchison, Jr.
Treasurer (Treasurer of Presbytery) – Melvin Meares

6. THAT the Leadership Team of the General Council for 2022 consists of:

Chair (Chair of General Council) – Hal Bennett
Vice-Chair (Moderator of Presbytery) – Sarah Thornburg
Vice-Moderator of Presbytery – Mark Stanley
Two At-Large Members – Dot Desciueux
James Taylor
General Presbyter – Byron Wade
Stated Clerk – Cam Murchison

7. THAT the General Council authorized the Moderator of the PWNC to appoint the Bills & Overtures Committee chair and members for the 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery prior to the meeting.

8. THAT pursuant to the responsibility given to it in Standing Rules IV.D.17, the General Council on behalf of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

A. Appoints the following Administrative Commission to work with Churches wishing to conclude their ministry, and gives it the following responsibilities and authority:

Members of the Commission:

Rev. Don Scofield (Rutherfordton)
Mr. John Auten (Shelby)
Ms. Barbara Ross (Crossnore)
Rev. Bobbi White (Morganton)
Mr. John Pea (Robinson Memorial)
Mrs. Laura Russell (Banner Elk)
Mr. Steve Brittain (Gastonia, First)

Ex Officios:

Rev. Dr. Byron Wade (General Presbyter)
Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison (Stated Clerk)

Responsibilities and Authority:

- To work pastorally with the members of churches wishing to conclude their ministry, supporting them in their closing worship, their transition to other congregations, and giving thanks for the ministry of the Church.
- To hold members on the roll of Presbytery and transfer their membership to congregations of their choosing.
- To oversee the dissolution of the congregation, close the church (G-3.0301a), and take possession of its records (G-3.107).

- To administer the funds in the church's accounts, pay any outstanding bills and debts, and to make payments on behalf of the Church and the Presbytery.
- To determine the disposition of all the property, including the authority to sell the property and dispose of any contents (G 4.0205).

B. Responds affirmatively to the request of John Knox Presbyterian Church that its ministry concludes and the congregation be dissolved as of December 31, 2021, assigning oversight to the Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding their Ministry. Clerk of Session, Sherrie Rich, and treasurer, Lin Robinson, will advise and assist the Administrative Commission.

C. Responds affirmatively to the request of Conley Memorial Presbyterian Church that its ministry concludes and the congregation be dissolved as of December 8, 2021, assigning oversight to the Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding their Ministry. Clerk of Session, John Childers, and treasurer, Pat Davis, will advise and assist the Administrative Commission.

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

REGIONAL REQUESTS				
Agency	Location	Sponsor Church	Request Amount	Amount Granted
Haywood - Pathways	Waynesville	FPC Waynesville	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Heartlife	Morganton	First, Morganton PC	\$1,800.00	\$1,500.00
Bounty and Soul	Buncombe	Black Mountain PC	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00
		Requests Total:	\$18,800.00	\$16,500.00
		Funds Remaining:	\$28,185.68	
INTERNATIONAL REQUESTS				
Agency	Location	Sponsor Church	Request Amount	Amount Granted
Guatemala Partnership		PWNC	\$23,300.00	\$20,000.00
		Requests Total:	\$23,300.00	\$20,000.00
		Funds Remaining:	\$8,185.68	

10. THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.

11. **THAT thanks was expressed to Dick Larson for chairing the General Council during 2021, and for his years of service on the General Council and dedicated service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
12. **THAT thanks was expressed to Betty Davenport for her years on the General Council and her dedicated service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
13. **THAT thanks was extended for the work of Lisa Pressley, Controller, Melvin Meares, Interim Treasurer, and Charles Sellers, Finance Committee Chair, for their work during 2021 and their longstanding service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
14. **THAT the General Council will welcome invitations from churches or institutions willing to host Presbytery meetings in 2023.**
15. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2022 and 2023 Presbytery Meetings:**

2022

Saturday, January 29, 2022 – Virtual
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

FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Finance Committee, elder Charles Sellers updated the Presbytery on the work of the committee, the Presbytery, church contributions, and Presbytery revenue and expenses. He also advised that the Presbytery had met its budget for the calendar year 2021. The expenses for 2021 proved to be less than the forecasted or budgeted amounts due to the COVID pandemic and other circumstances.

The 2022 Budget of \$994,477 was presented, with the endorsement of the General Council, based on anticipated donations from churches being submitted during 2022. This represents an increase of \$9,295 over the 2021 budget. A motion was made to approve the 2022 budget. The 2022 Budget of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina was approved. (Appendix M)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Reverend Connie Button reported on the work of the committee for 2021, presented the salaries for Program Staff for 2022, and gave a report of their recommendations for 2022. The Personnel Committee recommended a 1.5% salary increase for the Presbytery staff for 2022. The motion was adopted and passed by common consent.

Rev. Button advised that Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyter, will be afforded six (6) weeks medical leave with pay and whatever may be needed for his recovery and healing from his illness and surgery. (Appendix N)

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Elizabeth Little, the Church Consultant for the Board of Pensions, addressed the body with updates and information on the work of the Board of Pensions. She advised the body that:

- 2022 will bring increased and broader eligibility for BOP insureds.
- Beginning April 1st, Quantum Health will become the primary contact for BOP insureds to navigate their health, handling claim issues, precertification, assisting in medical information, and decisions arising out of changed medical situations.
- Beginning February 1st, the BOP will adhere to the new federal requirements for the provision of free at-home COVID testing kits. BOP insureds will only need to present their insurance cards to participating pharmacies to utilize this new testing program and obtain at-home testing kits at no charge.

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 O)

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

- Patricia Reid, effective November 30, 2021
- Lynn Bledsoe, effective November 12, 2021.
- Becky B. Stanley, effective January 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 O)

- Clay Fouse, as VA National Chaplain's Service CPE Program Coordinator, through January 29, 2023.
- Tamara Puffer, as Minister of Vulnerability at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, through January 29, 2023.
- David Lytle, as Chaplain of Novant Community Hospital, Huntersville, NC, through January 29, 2023.
- Nate Sell, as Chaplain at Asheville School, through January 29, 2023.
- Lynne Keel, as Director of Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through January 29, 2023.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS

On behalf of the Examinations Sub-Committee and Committee on Ministry, Elder John Pea introduced the following as a new minister in the Presbytery. They spoke briefly. Their Statements of Faith and Biographical Statements were included in the report of the Committee on Ministry. (Appendix O)

- Caroline Sell, from Salem Presbytery, to serve as a member-at-large, effective November 2, 2021.
- Shannon D. Jordan, from Presbytery of North Alabama, as Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, effective January 5, 2022.
- David Germer, from Olympia Presbytery, to serve as designated Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, effective January 1, 2022.

- Lynne Keel, from Charlotte Presbytery, to serve as Director of Programs at Montreat Conference Center, effective January 11, 2022.
- Nathan Sell, from Salem Presbytery, to serve as Chaplain at Asheville School, effective January 11, 2022.

BILLS AND OVERTURES COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Bills and Overtures Committee, Allan Purtill presented a proposed overture to 225th General Assembly from the Session of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church which would amend G-2.0505 by deleting in its entirety G-2.0505b (the “dual ordination prohibition”). The Bills and Overtures Committee recommended approval of the overture. Following a period of questions and discussion, a vote was conducted. The motion was passed and adopted. The overture and its proposed amendment will be sent by the Stated Clerk to two presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, elder Rick Leissner advised that due to the ongoing pandemic, the Lenten Spiritual Retreat, previously scheduled for March 25-26, 2022, has been postponed to March 24-25, 2023. The Lunch and Learn event is set for February 24, 2022, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Appendix P)

HUNGER

Rev. Billy Robinson reported on behalf of the Hunger Committee. He shared that through the receipt of 5 cents-a-meal offerings, the committee had awarded \$16,500 in regional grants and \$20,000 in international grants. He confirmed that the 5 cents-a-meal offerings have been low due to the pandemic and that the need is greater than ever before due to the decrease of governmental financial support.

PEACE AND JUSTICE

Rev. Jill Isola, chair of the Peace and Justice Committee, shared the work of the committee. The committee has been attempting to work on resolving medical debt, a leading cause of bankruptcies, and its disparate effect upon people of color. She explained that with a donation of \$100.00, the medical debt of \$10,000 can be fully resolved. Our Presbytery has set a goal of collecting \$10,000 from donations provided from the October 2021 Stated Meeting through the April 2022 Stated Meeting. With that sum, \$1 million of medical debt can be resolved.

GOOD NEWS FROM AROUND PRESBYTERY

Rev. Dan Oedy, the pastor of Southminster Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, announced that the church celebrated its 28th birthday on January 9, 2022. The church recently completed its third stage of construction, which is a new sanctuary with the use of the Armstrong Memorial stained-glass windows.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

On behalf of the Youth Ministries Committee, Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery reported on the work of the committee and shared highlights of upcoming events. She announced the following events:

- February 26, 2022 – Faith and Sexuality Retreat, Montreat.
- March 11-12, 2022 – High School Mission Retreat.
- July 23-27, 2022 – Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Byron Wade, General Presbyter, spoke about his three goals for 2022:

- Support our pastors and leaders.

- Stewardship.
- Sharing the purpose, mission, and ministry of the Presbytery

He followed up with the advisement of his surgery that is set for February 9, 2022, and thanked everyone for their support and prayers for his family and him during these challenging times. (Appendix R)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

With the business of the 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina completed and adjournment voted, Moderator Thornburg adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m. with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

The 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2022, at Montreat Conference Center.

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 April 26, 2022, at the 131st Stated Meeting to be held at Montreat Conference Center.

APPENDICES

- A. Consent Agenda**
- B. Nominating/Representation Committee Report**
- C. Building Hope Report**
- D. Permanent Judicial Commission Roster (2022)**
- E. Ministers on Role of PWNC**
- F. 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**
- G. Installation Minutes for Robert N. Warren**
- H. Installation Minutes for Daniel Commerford**
- I. Ordination/Installation Minutes for Rachael Margaret McConnell**
- J. Ordination/Installation Minutes for Caitlin C.T. Johnson**
- K. Ordination/Installation Minutes for Lynn Turnage**
- L. Overture Submitted by Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**
- M. Finance Committee Report**
- N. Personnel Committee Report**
- O. Committee on Ministry Report**
- P. Christian Education Committee Report**
- Q. Youth Ministries Committee Report**
- R. Report of the General Presbyter**

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