

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**



(U S A)

MINUTES

**ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH
STATED MEETING
October 26, 2021**

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The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
129th Stated Meeting
October 26, 2021
Virtual Meeting – via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Teaching Elder Hal Bennett, Moderator, convened the 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. with prayer.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Dr. Hal Bennett, opened the 129th 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 129th 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 129th Stated Meeting will be written by the Rick Leissner, Co-Commissioned Pastor at Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church. Luke Johnson, Director of Media Ministries at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, managed the livestream of the meeting.

GENERAL COUNCIL

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

That the Presbytery approve conducting the 129th 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	E	Kat Achtemeier	E	Mark Achtemeier	E
Jefferson Aiken, Jr.	P	Wyatt Aiken, Jr.	E	Merriam Alexander	P
Terry Alexander	E	Stephen Aschmann	E	James Aydelotte	E
Patricia Bacon	E	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	P
David Bonnema	P	Ronald Botsford	E	Lee Bowman	E
Richard Boyce	P	Grace Boyer	A	David Bradley	E
Ryan Brakemeyer	A	Ronald Brauer	E	Hayden Britton	E
Sandra Brown	E	Thomas Brown	P	William Buchanan	A
Monty Burnham	E	Sue Burton	E	Constance Button	P
Joey T. Byrd	A	David Cameron	E	Kathryn J. Cameron	E
John T. Campbell	E	Kathy Campbell	P	Amy Cantrell	A
H. Pride Carson	E	Dwight Christenbury	P	William Christian	E
Richard Coble	P	Sarah Coburn	E	James Cockerham	E
Jeffrey R. Coffey	E	James A. Cogswell	E	Evelyn Coleman	A
J. Hunter Coleman	E	Daniel Commerford	P	Monty Cook	E
Thomas C. Cook, Jr.	E	Donald L. Cooper	E	W. Riley Covin	P
Robert Bruce Cumming	P	James Dale	E	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	Priscilla Durkin	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	E	Kevin E. Frederick	P	Keith B. Freeman	P
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	P	David Garnett	A
Lisle Garrity	A	Tee G. Gatewood	P	Denise Geiger	E
Samantha Gonzalez-Block	A	Gregory Grana	E	Theodore Grant	E
Keith Grogg	P	Robert J. Gruber	E	Decherd Guess	P
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	E
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	P
William R. Hoyt, III	E	George B. Hutchins	E	Jill V. Isola	E
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	P	Patrick Johnson	P	Franklin Jones	A
Rebecca S. Jones	E	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	E
Janice Krouskop	E	Lee Kruse	E	Michael Lamm	E
John H. LaMotte	P	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	E
Jamie Bibee Lloyd	E	Neal Lloyd	E	Laura Long	E

Billy T. Lowe	A	William Lowery	E	Robert L. Lowry	E
Alexandra Lusak	P	David R. Lytle	A	Kathleen Madigan	A
J. Whit Malone	P	Andrew Mangione	A	Marjorie Marsh	P
Joan C. Martin	P	Roberta Martin	E	W. Tyler Martin	E
John S. McCall	A	Sandra McClinton	E	Rachael M McConnell	P
Robert A. McCully, Jr.	P	Noah McIntee	P	David W. McKee	P
Michael T. McKee	A	Alex P. McNeill	P	Kenyon Meeks, Jr.	E
C. Lynn Michie	A	Beth Ann Miller	P	James Millsaps	A
Robert L. Montgomery	E	Sarah Grace Montgomery	P	Anne Morgan	E
Richard L Morgan	E	S. Keith Morrison	E	David E. Mulford	E
D. Cameron Murchison	P	David Nash	P	Wanda Neely	E
William K. Neely	E	Thomas G. Nelson	E	Elizabeth D. Newman	P
John H. Niles	E	Richard Nygren	E	Daniel J. Oedy	P
O'Hyun Park	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	E	Donald G. Price	E	Caroline Proctor	P
E. Allen Proctor, Jr.	P	Edyth P. Pruitt	A	Tamara Puffer	E
Allan Purtill	P	Jay K. Rabuck	E	Daria L. Ragan	A
Joseph Rand	E	Earl M. Rash	E	Mary Elizabeth Ray	A
Patricia Reid	P	Calvin S. Rice	E	G. Harriss Ricks	E
Don Robb, III	E	Mary Katherine Robinson	P	William (Billy) Robinson	P
David Roquemore	P	Steven Runholt	P	T. Field Russell	P
Richard M. Rustay	E	Donald Scofield	P	Henry D. Scoggins	E
Carol N. Seaman	E	Dana V. Seiler	P	William Serjak	E
Albert D. Shaw	E	Marcia Mount Shoop	P	Mary Elizabeth Sigmon	P
Robert Singdahlsen	E	Wirt Skinner	E	Allen Smith	P
David B. Smith	P	Paul S. Smith	E	John N. Somerville	E
Becky B. Stanley	P	J. Mark Stanley	P	Margie B. Stansell	E
Carol Steele	P	Daniel G. Stitt	E	Cynthia R. P. Strickler	A
Charles E. Swann	E	William B. Sweetser, Jr.	E	Christopher Taylor	E
Beverly Thompson	E	George Thompson, Jr.	E	Keith J. Thompson	P
Denise Thorpe	E	Yvonne M. Thurmond	P	Russell D. Tillotson, Sr.	E
Daniel Tipton	E	Kathleen Rankin Tompkins	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	P
Lynn Webber	P	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	E	Philip Adams	A	Phillip Ashley	A
Robert Ayala	A	John Bates	P	Sally Beghtol	P
Kerry Border	P	Mildred Bruns	A	Vickie Burgess	P
Tamika Garrison	P	John Hall	A	Beth Hall	A

Lynn Honeycutt	P	Robin Honeycutt	P	Kenneth Humphreys	P
Linda Johnson	P	James Koone	E	Peggy Koone	E
Rick Leissner	P	Deborah Lesenger	P	James Millsaps	A
Marla Patchel	A	Randy Patterson	A	John Pea	P
Marcia Reighley	A	Russell Reighley	P	Barbara Ross	E
Dennis Stamper	A	John Stanley	P	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:

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

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

Arbor Dale (1)	Bob Bertini		
Asheville First (3)	Cathie Dodson	Robert White	
Banner Elk (1)	Lyndsay Ennis		
Belmont First (3)	A		
Bessemer City First(1)	A		
Black Mountain (2)	Leslie Case	Bill Straughn	
Brevard-Davidson River (2)	Frank Anderson	Mary Johnson	
Bridgewater (1)	A		
Brittain (1)	A		
Brittain's Cove (1)	A		
Bryson City (1)	A		
Buladean (1)	A		
Burnsville, First (1)	A		
Calvary (2)	A		
Canton (1)	A		
Cherryville, First (1)	A		
Chinchfield (1)	A		

Columbus (1)	Donna Ashley		
Conley Memorial (1)	A		
Crossnore (1)	A		
Dallas First (1)	A		
Dixon (1)	Scoot Dixon		
Dorland Memorial (1)	A		
Dulatown (2)	A		
Etowah (1)	Don Wauchope		
Fairview (1)	Vernon Yount		
Fletcher (1)	Claudie Winfree		
Forest City First (1)	Mary Sandra Sparrow		
Franklin First (1)	Judy Comer		
Gastonia, First (3)	David Dickson	Larry Stiles	
Good Hope (2)	A		
Grace Covenant (2)	Blake Martin	Roger Meade	Anne Turnage
Grassy Creek (1)	A		
Green Mountain (1)	A		
Green Street (2)	A		
Hayesville (1)	Don Schneider		
Hendersonville First (1)	Ronald Howard		
Hickory First (3)	A		
Highlands First (1)	A		
Irononton (1)	E		
Jack's Creek (1)	A		
John Knox (1)	A		
Kenilworth (1)	Leslie Peterson		
Korean Church of Asheville (2)	A		
Lenoir First (1)	Lucilla Hooper		
Long Creek (1)	A		
Love's Chapel (2)	A		
Lowell (1)	A		
Marion First (1)	A		
Marshall (1)	Lynn Simpson		
Micaville (1)	A		
Mills River (1)	Edwin Holcombe		
Montreat (1)	R. Mason Blake		
Morganton First (2)	Libba Belton	John Krahne	
Morrison (1)	A		
Mount Holly First (1)	Donna Love		
New Hope (Asheville) (1)	Margaret Marsh		
New Hope (Gastonia) (1)	A		
Newdale (1)	A		
Newland (1)	A		

Newton First (2)	Suzanne Rhinehart		
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)	Catherine Roberts		
Ridgeview (2)	A		
Robinson Memorial (2)	Mildred Laughridge		
Rutherfordton (3)	Susan Allred	Stewart Powell	
Ryburn Memorial (3)	A		
Saluda (2)	A		
Shelby (3)	Nancy Hendrix		
Sherrill's Ford (2)	A		
Shiloh, Grover (2)	A		
Siloam (2)	A		
Southminster (3)	A		
Spruce Pine First (2)	A		
Sweetwater (2)	A		
Sylva First (2)	A		
Third Street (3)	E		
Trinity (3)	A		
Tryon (3)	A		
Union (2)	Faye Harrell		
Union Mills (2)	E		
United (2)	Candace Triplett		
Unity (3)	A		
Vians Valley (2)	A		
Waldensian (3)	James Furr	Mary Louise Hatley	
Walnut (2)	A		
Warren Wilson (2)	Sharon Lytle		
Waynesville First (2)	A		

Ministers	105
Elders	43
Council/Committees	15
DCE	3
Visitors	17
TOTAL	183

The following corresponding member was in attendance.

- Rev. Warren LeSane, Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

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**

Land Acknowledgement **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
Mission Committee	S
Finance	BB
Building Hope	BH
Synod of Mid-Atlantic Commissioner Report	II

9:15 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper
*Worship leaders: David Bonnema and Dana Seiler, pastors at Unity Presbyterian Church
Reed Conley, organizing pastor at Artisan Church*

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

10:05 Breakout Rooms (10 minutes)

10:15 General Council (10 minutes) (Work of the committee)	Dick Larson	C
Christian Education Committee (5 minutes) (Work of the committee)	Julie Hester	W
Camp Grier and Impact of Building Hope (5 minutes)	Jason McDougald	
Youth Ministry (5 minutes) (Work of the committee)	Sarah Grace Montgomery	Y
UKirk Ministries (7 minutes)	Noah McIntee	
Preparation for Ministry (10 minutes)	Dwight Christenbury	K
Disaster Response in Canton (5 minutes)	Esta Jarrett	
Committee on Ministry (35 minutes) (Work of the committee, Commissioning of Ruling Elder)	Whit Malone	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of William M. Upchurch, Jr. CP, Long Creek <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Questions from members; vote ○ Charge and Prayer of Commissioning • Presentation of Robert D. Gamble – Exec. Director, This Child Here, Inc. • Presentation of David Holloway – Transitional Pastor, The Presbyterian Church of Lowell • Presentation of Lynn Turnage – Sermon/Examination and Ordination – Montreat Conf. Ctr. 		
Peace and Justice (5 minutes)	Jill Isola	T
Nominating/Representation Committee (5 minutes) (Work of the committee, election of General Assembly and Synod Assembly Commissioners)	Charles Kincaid	I
Matthew 25 (5 minutes)	Grace Covenant & Faith4Justice	
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)

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

Mission Committee (Appendix C)
Finance (Appendix D)
Building Hope (Appendix E)
Synod of Mid-Atlantic Commissioner Report (Appendix F)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk, presented recommendations 1-6 included in the Stated Clerk's report, stating that these recommendations had previously been approved in the Consent Agenda.

He then referred to items 7-10 as items for information.

- CA 1. THAT Hal Bennett, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the January 29, 2022 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the July 31, 2021 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the October 2021 reports of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Appendix G)**
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Lincolnton
Administrative Commission for West Avenue
Administrative Commission for West Asheville
Administrative Commission for Duncan's Creek
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 4. THAT the Administrative Commission for the West Avenue Presbyterian Church, Gastonia having completed its work, be dissolved effective October 26, 2021 with the thanks of the Presbytery for its good work.**
- CA 5. THAT the minutes of the ordination and/or installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Dana Seiler (Appendix H)
- CA 6. THAT the Committee on Nominating/Representation, having completed their annual report for the year ending December 31, 2020 and submitted it to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, requests that it become a part of the permanent record of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. (Appendix I)**

FOR INFORMATION:

- 7. THAT the 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022 virtually via ZOOM. THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, January 6, 2022. THAT the deadline for an overture is Thursday, December 30, 2021.**

8. **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 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 July 26, 2021 meeting of Presbytery:**

Asheville First	Grace Covenant	Olney
Belmont First	Hendersonville First	Pineola
Black Mountain	Highlands First	Siloam
Brevard-Davidson Riv.rr	Ironton	Southminster
Bridgewater	Kenilworth	Spruce Pine First
Brittain	Lenoir First	Sylva First
Buladean	Long Creek	Third Street
Calvary	Love's Chapel	Trinity
Cherryville First	Lowell	Union
Clinchfield	Marshall	Union Mills
Dallas First	Mills River	Unity
Fletcher	Montreat	Warren Wilson
Franklin First	Mount Holly	
Good Hope	New Hope, Asheville	

9. **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.**

Brittain's Cove (2017-2020)	Micaville
Bryson City	Morrison
Burnsville, First	New Hope, Gastonia
Canton	Newdale
Columbus (2017-2020)	Northminster
Conley Memorial (2017-2020)	Oak Forest (2012-2020)
Dixon	Oakwood
Dorland Memorial	Old Fort
Dulatown	Pine Street (2006-2020)
Duncan's Creek	Reems Creek-Beech
Etowah (2018-2020)	Ridgeview (2006-2020)
Forest City, First	Robinson Memorial
Gastonia, First	Ryburn Memorial (2015-2020)
Green Mountain (2012-2020)	Saluda
Green Street	Shelby
Hayesville	Sherrill's Ford
Hickory, First	Shiloh, Grover
Jack's Creek (2013-2020)	Sweetwater
John Knox	United
Korean Church Asheville (2017-2020)	Vians Valley (2017-2020)

Walnut

Waynesville, First

- 10. THAT the 2020 minutes of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina have been reviewed and found to be in order. (Appendix J)**

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

The Rev. David Bonnema, Pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church, led us in worship, assisted by Associate Pastor, Dana Seiler, Unity Presbyterian Church and Reed Conley, Organizing Pastor of Artisan Church. Rev. Bonnema's sermon, was titled "Many Approaches to Planting Churches." The scripture and sermon were taken from Matthew 28:16-20 and Acts 1:1-8.

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

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, Ruling Elder Dick Larson presented recommendation 1 for action. Recommendation 1 was moved. As the recommendation was coming from a committee, it did not require a second. The recommendation was approved. Recommendation 2 was previously approved in the Consent Agenda.

Ruling Elder Dick Larson presented items 3-7 for information which required no action.

- 1. THAT the Presbytery elect Teaching Elder Mark Stanley as Moderator of the Presbytery for 2023, serving as Vice-Moderator in 2022.**

- CA 2. THAT the Presbytery elect the following persons to serve on the Nominating and Representation Committee:**

Michael Poulos (Spruce Pine)	(F)	Class of 2022
Judy Gale (Quaker Meadows)	(E)	Class of 2023
Susan Allred (Rutherfordton)	(C)	Class of 2023
Patrick Hardy (Walnut)	(B)	Class of 2024
Peggy Ferguson (Pineola)	(F)	Class of 2024

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- 3. THAT the General Council approve an offering to be collected for Medical Debt Relief. The funds collected would be given to RIP project for use in our geographic region. Donations from churches may be received at the Presbytery office through April 2022.**
- 4. THAT a Revisioning Task Force has been formed to examine our committee and cluster structures, as well as reviewing the suitability of nominating persons to a three-year term of service. Members of the Revisioning Task Force are:**
- Rev. Blake Daniel, First Presbyterian Church, Sylva
Rev. Heather Davis, First Presbyterian Church, Hickory

Mr. Bob Forsythe, Trinity Presbyterian Church
Rev. John Hagmann, First Presbyterian Church, Morganton
Mrs. Helen Hall, Dulatown Presbyterian Church
Mrs. Sally McGinnis, Union Presbyterian Church
Rev. Bill Neely, Honorably Retired
Mrs. Laura Russell, Banner Elk Presbyterian Church
Mrs. Lauren Vanacore, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia

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

6. THAT the following dates have been set for 2022 Presbytery meetings:

2022

Saturday, January 29, 2022 – Virtual
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – Montreat Conference Center (Co-Host, Montreat Presbyterian Church)
Saturday, July 30, 2022 – Virtual
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 – Waldensian Presbyterian Church

7. THAT the General Council expresses appreciation for the churches who have contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing for at least 20 years.

Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Kenilworth Presbyterian Church
Black Mountain Presbyterian Church
Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church of Franklin
Trinity Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville
First Presbyterian Church of Belmont
Unity Presbyterian Church
First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia
Olney Presbyterian Church
Saluda Presbyterian Church
New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville
Shelby Presbyterian Church

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, Julie Hester reported on the work of the Christian Education Committee. She shared details of the 2022 Spirituality Retreat to be held at William Black Lodge March 22-26, 2022. The retreat leader for this event will be Donna Chase. She also shared about the “Lunch and Learn” that was held and the plans for future Christian Education Continuing Education opportunities. (Appendix K)

CAMP GRIER

Jason McDougald, Executive Director at Camp Grier, presented a well done video reporting on Camp Grier and the impact of Building HOPE. He highlighted that the Building HOPE funds laid the foundation for the revitalization of the camp. Through the Building HOPE funds received, Camp Grier was able to rebuild all eight of their summer cabins, provide new and enhanced programs for the campers, rebuild trails, purchase new equipment, and build a riding arena for the Equestrian Program.

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. Churches were encouraged to register their youth for the upcoming Middle School Retreat, to be held at Camp Grier on November 6-7, 2021. She also encouraged churches to review the information about Presbyterian Youth Triennium that will be held in Indianapolis, IN in July 2022. (Appendix L)

UKIRK MINISTRIES

Noah McIntee, pastor of the UKirk Ministries at Western Carolina University (WCU) prepared a brief video highlighting the ministry on the Campus of WCU and the Hillside Grind Café. The UKirk Ministries at WCU is a non-profit donation based coffeehouse ministry which offers weekly Bible study, a place for pastoral care, commuter parking spaces, a space for studying, Wi-Fi connection, and the best coffee in Cullowhee.

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 M)

- I. THAT** Brandon Davis, a member of Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church and a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.
- II. THAT** Erin Tolar, a member of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church and a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.

Brandon Davis shared his faith journey and his 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 Brandon Davis as a Candidate. The Moderator then asked the questions in the *Book of Order*, G-14.0305F, which were answered affirmatively. Rev. Tee Gatewood delivered the charge and offered prayer.

Erin Tolar 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 Erin Tolar as a Candidate. The Moderator then asked the questions in the *Book of Order*, G-14.0305F, which were answered affirmatively. Rev. Dr. Marcia Mount Shoop delivered the charge and Elder Heath Rada offered prayer.

DISASTER RESPONSE IN CANTON

The Reverends Esta Jarret and Keith Grogg shared of the natural disaster that occurred in Canton on August 17, 2021. The disaster was devastating to Canton and its rural community, and the ministry of

the missional connection. The community has received \$70,000 from donations through the Presbytery of WNC and has sent numerous work groups. The churches in the area are working together to organize work groups. The Canton Presbyterian Church and Haywood County are very appreciative of support of the Presbytery.

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

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

The Committee on Ministry recommended the following to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

- That Rebecca Gurney become the installed pastor, with a designated term of two years, of the Reems Creek-Beech Presbyterian Church.

The recommendation was unanimously approved.

The Committee on Ministry recommended that when COM and its sub-committee on Examinations judges a minister of another Christian church is adequately prepared to serve in a validated ministry of PWNC, it may enroll such a minister as a temporary member of presbytery during the period of her/his/their service. This recommendation has the endorsement of the General Council. The recommendation was approved.

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

- Dechard Guess, effective September 1, 2021.
- Gary Van Brocklin, effective July 1, 2021.

**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 N)

- Tommy Brown, as Director of William Black Lodge in Montreat, through October 26, 2022.
- Joey Byrd, as Chaplain in the U.S. Army, through October 26, 2022.
- Bill Buchanan, as Executive Director of Asheville Youth Mission, through October 26, 2022.
- Lisle Garrity, as Creative Director of A Sanctified Art, through October 26, 2022.
- Joan Martin, as Chaplain at Covenant Village, Gastonia, NC, through October 26, 2022.
- Bob McCully, as Treatment Director for Cherokee County Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, through October 26, 2022.
- Lynn Webber, as Chaplain, J. Iverson Riddle Developmental Center, through October 26, 2022.
- Robert Gamble, as Executive Director for This Child Here, Inc., through October 26, 2022.
- Lynn Turnage, as Director for Programs for Montreat Conference Center, through October 26, 2022.
- David Bradley, as Pastoral Counselor, Marriage and Family Therapist, through October 26, 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 William M. Upchurch, Jr. to be commissioned as commissioned pastor to Long Creek Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain, NC. Following questions and answers, the motion passed. Moderator Hal Bennett then offered prayer. The commissioning for William M. Upchurch, Jr. is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session and officiate at weddings. (Appendix N)

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 a new minister in the Presbytery. He spoke briefly. His Statement of Faith and Biographical Statement was included in the report of the Committee on Ministry. (Appendix N)

- Robert D. Gamble, from Presbytery of Highlands, to serve as Executive Director at This Child Here, Inc., effective October 5, 2021.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
V. ORDINATION/INSTALLATION

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Sub-Committee, Elder John Pea introduced Lynn Turnage (Candidate from Salem Presbytery), as a candidate for ordination/installation by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and to serve as Director for Programs at Montreat Conference Center. Following her sermon showcasing her storytelling and other gifts, and the scripture taken from Matthew 18:1-7, Elder John Pea moved on behalf of the Committee on Ministry that Lynn Turnage be ordained and installed by the Presbytery of Western North Carolina effective upon ordination. The motion passed and General Presbyter, Byron Wade, offered prayer. (Appendix N)

PEACE AND JUSTICE

Rev. Billy Robinson invited congregations to attend a webinar on November 3, 2021 on advocacy training. The webinar, “What Is Advocacy?” will be hosted by Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PCUSA Office of Public Witness in Washington, DC. The advocacy training seminar will be centered around the Matthew 25 initiative.

He also brought to the attention that five-cents-a-meal contributions are down and that requests for funding have increased. Congregations were encouraged to continue the collection for five-cents-a-meal.

Rev. Billy Robinson introduced the initiative on the Medical Debt Relief that was outlined in the presbytery packet and detailed some of the realities of medical debt and the opportunity we have as a Presbytery to respond. He then referred to the Rev. Jill Isola to present the Medical Debt Relief action to the Presbytery.

Rev. Isola presented an outline of Relieving Medical Debt – Matthew 25 in Action: Eradicating Poverty and Dismantling Racism. By responding to the Matthew 25 Initiative, the Presbytery will be collecting offerings to assist with relieving medical debts in western North Carolina. (Appendix O)

NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Ruling Elder Charles Kincaid presented the work of the committee and their recommendations for commissioner representatives to the 225th (2022) General Assembly in Baltimore, Maryland. All were duly elected. Commissioners to the 224th (2020) General Assembly will be Teaching Elders Dana Seiler and Keith Thompson and; Ruling Elders Colin Caldwell and Sarah Thornburg; and YAD Leah Brooks. (Appendix P)

The Nominating Committee presented the following recommendation as alternate commissioner to the 225th (2022) General Assembly: Teaching Elder Whit Malone. All were duly approved. (Appendix P)

The Presbytery approved the recommendation that the Nominating Committee, along with the Moderator of Presbytery and the chair of the Committee on Ministry, be given the authority to replace a commissioner to the General Assembly in the event that the elected commissioner(s) and/or alternate commissioner(s) are unable to attend. (Appendix P)

MATTHEW 25

Three initiatives in the Matthew 25 emphasis of our presbytery were highlighted at this meeting:

- Building Congregational Vitality in our worship.
- Stepping toward eradicating systemic poverty was suggested by the medical debt relief initiative.
- Dismantling structural racism.

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

The General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Byron Wade reported on his visits and activities that he has been a part of within the Presbytery. He highlighted several items that he would like everyone to be aware of. (Appendix Q)

- On the Western Front Videos
- LOGOs - please take time to review the logos that we have been sharing and share your comments.
- Upcoming Educational Event – “Who’s in Charge?” will be offered for committee chairs and others. More information will be shared.
- Advocacy Video presented by the Reverend Jimmy Hawkins for the Presbytery of WNC that will be held via ZOOM on Wednesday, November 3, 2021.
- Lunch with those in the Presbytery. These meetings are being held by ZOOM. He has held meeting with pastors, Christian Educators, and would like to have lunch with retired ministers.
- Giving Tuesday which will be held the last Tuesday in November. On November 30th, four of our ministries in Western North Carolina will be highlighted: BeLoved Asheville and the Presbyterian Hunger Program, racial justice with Faith 4 Justice, New Worshipping Communities with the Artisan Church New Worshipping Community in Lincolnton, and Asheville Young Adult Volunteers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Roger Wise, Commissioned Pastor at Fletcher Presbyterian Church in Newland, led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

With the business of the 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina completed and adjournment voted, Moderator Bennett adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m. with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

The 130th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2022 virtually.

These minutes were prepared by the following:

Harold “Hal” Bennett, Moderator

D. Cameron Murchison, Stated Clerk

Robbin Buchanan, Assistant Stated Clerk

These minutes are to be approved by Presbytery on January 29, 2022 at the 130th Stated Meeting (to be held virtually).

APPENDICES

- A. Consent Agenda**
- B. Guatemala Partnership Report**
- C. Mission Committee Report**
- D. Finance Committee**
- E. Building Hope**
- F. Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Commissioner Report**
- G. 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**
- H. Installation Minutes for Dana Seiler**
- I. Annual Report of the Representation Committee**
- J. Letter of Review for 2020 Presbytery of WNC Minutes**
- K. Christian Education Committee Report**
- L. Youth Committee Report**
- M. Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
- N. Committee on Ministry Report**
- O. Peace and Justice Report**
- P. Nominating/Representation Committee Report**
- Q. Report of the General Presbyter**

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