

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**



**MINUTES
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIXTH
STATED MEETING
July 29, 2023**

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The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
136th Stated Meeting
July 29, 2023
Virtual Meeting – via ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Teaching Elder Mark Stanley, Moderator, convened the 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina at 9:00 a.m. with prayer.

CONSTITUTION

The Moderator, Teaching Elder Mark Stanley opened the One-Hundred Thirty-Sixth Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with prayer.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Moderator Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley continued our land acknowledgement today by specifically remembering that we live, worship, and serve in the region of the Native lands of the Catawba, Sugaree, and Cherokee peoples among others; paying our respects to elders of the past and present, known and unknown.

ORIENTATION

A brief time of orientation to the ZOOM meeting process was led by Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison. 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. The orientation process was concluded after the orientation and identifying all in attendance.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Presbytery of WNC conducted its 136th Stated Meeting via ZOOM, thereby eliminating the appointment of standing committees. Marie Palacios, John Pea, Commissioned Pastor at Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Bob Forsythe, Ruling Elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison served as Hosts/Co-Hosts in the ZOOM meeting, and helping with technical matters. The Presbytery in Brief for the 136th Stated Meeting will be written by the Ruling Elder, Rick Leissner from First Presbyterian Church, Morganton. Luke Johnson managed the livestream of the meeting. The Rev. Drew Mangione, pastor at Shelby Presbyterian Church, will lead prayers of intercession.

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):

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

Robert M. Abel	P	Kat Achtemeier	E	Mark Achtemeier	E
Jefferson Aiken, Jr.	E	Wyatt Aiken, Jr.	E	Merriam Alexander	P
Terry Alexander	E	Stephen Aschmann	P	James Aydelotte	E
Patricia Bacon	A	Tony Baker	E	Edna Banes	P
Ashley Beavers	E	Joseph Bennett	E	Cynthia M. Benz	E

Lynn Bledsoe	P	Randall Boggs	P	David Bonnema	P
Ronald Botsford	E	Lee Bowman	E	Richard Boyce	E
Grace Boyer	P	David Bradley	E	Ryan Brakemeyer	A
Troy Braswell	P	Ronald Brauer	E	Hayden Britton	E
Sandra Brown	E	Thomas Brown	E	William Buchanan	A
Monty Burnham	E	Constance Button	P	Joey T. Byrd	E
David Cameron	E	Kathryn J. Cameron	E	John T. Campbell	E
Kathy Campbell	P	Amy Cantrell	A	Rebekah Carpenter	P
H. Pride Carson	E	Dwight Christenbury	E	William Christian	E
Richard Coble	A	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	P	Robert Bruce Cumming	P
James Dale	E	Blake J. Daniel	A	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	Steven Eason	E	Robert Edmunds	E
Leah E. Epps	P	Lee S. Feero, Jr.	E	David Carter Florence	A
Richard Floyd	P	Clarence D. Fouse, III	P	Kevin E. Frederick	P
Keith B. Freeman	E	Alice Schaap Freeman	P	John L. Frye, Jr.	E
Laurie Furr-Vancini	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	P	Lisle Garrity	A
Tee G. Gatewood	A	Denise Geiger	E	David Germer	P
Samantha Gonzalez-Block	A	Gregory Grana	E	Theodore Grant	A
Keith Grogg	P	Decherd Guess	P	Rebecca Gurney	E
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	Julie Hester	E
J. Robert Hewett	E	J. Richard Hobson	E	J. Samuel Hobson, Jr.	E
James J. Holeman	P	David Holloway	A	Matthew Horne	P
James S. Hornsby	E	David Hosick	E	Carol Hovis	A
William R. Hoyt, III	E	George B. Hutchins	E	Dennis Eugene Hysom	P
Jill V. Isola	P	Lindsay Jacaruso	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	Joseph Kang	A
Lynne Keel	E	David Kennedy	E	Ira K. Kennerly	E
R. Paul Kercher	E	William L. Kirk	E	Albert D. Kissling	E
Janice Krouskop	A	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	P

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	E	Sandra McClinton	E	Robert A. McCully, Jr.	P
David W. McKee	P	Michael T. McKee	E	Megan McMillan	P
Alex P. McNeill	A	Kenyon Meeks, Jr.	E	C. Lynn Michie	A
Beth Ann Miller	P	Robert L. Montgomery	E	Sarah Grace Montgomery	A
Anne 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	A
Richard Nygren	E	Daniel J. Oedy	E	O'Hyun Park	A
Albert G. Peery, Jr.	E	Margaret B. Peery	E	Lance Perry	P
Martha Jane Petersen	E	J. Thomas Phillips	P	James N. Poling	E
Michael J. Poulos	P	Donald G. Price	E	Caroline Proctor	P
E. Allen Proctor, Jr.	A	Edyth P. Pruitt	A	Tamara Puffer	E
Allan Purtill	P	Jay K. Rabuck	E	Daria L. Ragan	P
Earl M. Rash	E	Mary Elizabeth Ray	P	Patricia Reid	E
Calvin Rice	E	G. Harriss Ricks	E	Mary Katherine Robinson	P
William (Billy) Robinson	A	David Roquemoire	E	Steven Runholt	A
T. Feild Russell	E	Donald Scofield	E	Henry D. Scoggins	E
Carol N. Seaman	E	Dana V. Seiler	P	Caroline Sell	A
Nathan Sell	A	William Serjak	E	Albert D. Shaw	E
Michael Shepard	E	Rachel Shepherd	A	Marcia Mount Shoop	E
Mary Elizabeth Sigmon	P	Wirt Skinner	E	Allen Smith	P
David B. Smith	P	Lance Smith	P	Paul S. Smith	A
Becky B. Stanley	P	J. Mark Stanley	P	Margie B. Stansell	P
Carol Steele	A	Daniel G. Stitt	E	Cynthia R. P. Strickler	A
Dana Sutton	A	William B. Sweetser, Jr.	E	Christopher Taylor	A
Beverly Thompson	P	George Thompson, Jr.	P	Keith J. Thompson	A
Denise Thorpe	E	Yvonne M. Thurmond	A	Russell D. Tillotson, Sr.	E
Daniel Tipton	E	Kathleen Rankin Tompkins	A	Margaret Torrence	E
Lynn Turnage	E	Christina B. Tutterow	P	Robert J. Tuttle	E
Melissa Anne Upchurch	P	William Upchurch, Jr.	P	Gary Van Brocklin	E
Lauren S. Vanacore	P	Susan Verbrugge	A	Byron A. Wade	P
Rockwell P. Ward	E	Samuel P. Warner	E	Robert M. Warren	P
Lynn Webber	A	Judith Weger	E	Kimberleigh E. Wells	E
Joseph Welker, Jr.	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	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

John Hall	P	Beth Hall	P	Lynn Honeycutt	P
Robin Honeycutt	P	Linda Johnson	A	James Koone	E
Peggy Koone	P	James Millsaps	A	Marla Patchel	P
Randy Patterson	A	John Pea	P	Marcia Reighley	A
Russell Reighley	P	James Tate	P	James Taylor	P
Sheila Renee Warthen	A	Roger Wise	P		

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	A	Bill Carpenter	A
Ellen Cinq-Mars	P	Don Coleman	A	Dorothy Descieux	P
Peggy Ferguson	A	Betsy Fonvielle	A	Bob Forsythe	P
Corise Gambrell	P	Rob Groves	A	Dennis Howell	A
Dick Larson	A	Tom Karvonen	A	Melvin Meares	P
Katherine Mull	A	Roger Rizk	A	Julia Rush	A
Laura Carringer Russell	A	Katrina Shambaugh	P	Laura Sigmon	A
Becky Stevens	P	Sarah Thornburg	P	Ron Tingle	A
Paula Wallace	A	Rick Leissner	P	Sue Johnson	P

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

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

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

Arbor Dale (1)	A		
Asheville, First (3)	Beth Himes	Bob White	
Banner Elk (1)	A		
Belmont, First (3)	David Comstock	Laurie Maulsby	
Bessemer City, First (1)	A		
Black Mountain (2)	Margo Smith		
Brevard-Davidson River (2)	Dorothy Knowles	Kathryn Clark	
Bridgewater (1)	E		
Brittain (1)	Nancy Norris	Dick Hood	
Brittain's Cove (1)	A		
Bryson City (1)	A		
Buladean (1)	A		
Burnsville, First (1)	Jonathan Ward		
Calvary (2)	A		
Canton (1)	A		
Cherryville, First (1)	E		
Clinchfield (1)	A		
Columbus (1)	A		

Crossnore (1)	Janis Kenyon		
Dallas, First (1)	E		
Dixon (1)	A		
Dorland Memorial (1)	Mary Gahagan		
Dulatown (2)	Helen Hall		
Etowah (1)	Don Wauchoup		
Fletcher (1)	Mime Gossett		
Forest City, First (1)	A		
Franklin, First (1)	A		
Gastonia, First (4)	Cynthia Anderson Kevin Schultz	Charles Gallman	Richard Hovis
Good Hope (3)	A		
Grace Covenant (3)	Bob Lane	Russell Kominski	Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks
Grassy Creek (2)	A		
Green Mountain (2)	A		
Green Street (3)	A		
Greenway (2)	A		
Hayesville (2)	Don Schneider		
Hendersonville, First (2)	A		
Hickory, First (4)	Charles Gallman	Caroline Culpeper	Susan Guest
Highlands, First (2)	A		
Ironton (2)	Pat Bradshaw		
Jack's Creek (2)	A		
Kenilworth (2)	Leslie Peterson		
Korean Church of Asheville (3)	A		
Lenoir First (2)	Candice Triplett		
Long Creek (2)	A		
Love's Chapel (3)	A		
Lowell (2)	Bobby Massey		
Marion, First (2)	Kathy Brendle	Nancy Wanamaker	
Marshall (2)	Lynne Simpson		
Micaville (2)	A		
Mills River (2)	Jackie Auten		
Montreat (2)	Grace Nichols	William Brown	
Morganton, First (3)	Ed McDaniel	Maggie McKinney	
Morrison (2)	A		
Mount Holly, First (2)	Sue Johnson		
New Hope (Asheville) (2)	Andrew Morse		
New Hope (Gastonia) (2)	A		
Newdale (2)	Roger Burns	Wanda Woodby	
Newland (2)	A		
Newton First (2)	Suzanne Rhinehart		
Northminster (2)	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)	Karen Border		
Ridgeview (1)	A		
Robinson Memorial (1)	A		
Rutherfordton (2)	Jody Wall		
Ryburn Memorial (2)	A		
Saluda (1)	A		
Shelby (2)	A		
Sherrill's Ford (1)	A		
Shiloh, Grover (1)	A		
Siloam (1)	A		
Southminster (2)	William Glover		
Spruce Pine, First (1)	A		
Sweetwater (1)	Susan Flowers		
Sylva, First (1)	A		
Third Street (2)	Carolyn Werts		
Trinity (2)	Enrique Sanchez	Julie Carter	
Tryon (2)	Cherie Brooks	Catherine Lynch	
Union (1)	A		
Union Mills (1)	A		
Unity (2)	Reed Conley		
Vians Valley (1)	A		
Waldensian (2)	Michael Helmick	James Furr	
Walnut (1)	Isaac Lassiter		
Warren Wilson (1)	Sharon Lytle		
Waynesville, First (1)	A		

Ministers	97
Elders	57
Council/Committees	10
DCE	1
Visitors	7
TOTAL	172

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, the Stated Clerk, presented the docket and moved the approval of the docket as presented on pages 4-5 in the Presbytery Packet. The motion was approved by common consent.

9:00 Call to Order

Mark Stanley, Moderator

Convene with Prayer of Invocation

Mark Stanley, Moderator

Land Acknowledgement

Mark Stanley

Appointment of Host, Co-Host & Standing Committees

Mark Stanley

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

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

Nominating/Representation Committee

I

Christian Education Committee

W

Finance Committee

BB

Building Hope

BH

Personnel Committee

FF

9:30 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper

(Worship leaders: Tom Phillips, Schaap Freeman, Beverly and George Thompson)

10:15 Breakout Rooms (15 minutes)

10:30 General Council (10 minutes)

(Work of the committee)

Sarah Thornburg

C

Committee on Ministry (40 minutes)

Jim Taylor

D

(Introduce new ministers and recommendations for Presbytery approval)

- Presentation of Matthew Horne
- Presentation of Lance Smith
- Presentation of Lindsay Jacaruso
- Presentation of Troy Braswell

(Commissioning of Ruling Elders as Commissioned Pastors)

- Leslie Peterson, Kenilworth Presbyterian Church
- Dick Hood, Brittain Presbyterian Church
- Reed Conley, Artisan Church, New Worshipping Community

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (15 minutes)

Merri Alexander

K

(Recommendation that Levi Bannerman be moved from Inquirer to Candidate)

Malawi Team Report, including Men in the Mirror (15 minutes)	Reed Conley Kevin Frederick	S
Church Leadership School (5 minutes) <i>(Video promoting CLS)</i>	Kerry Border	OO
Youth Committee (5 minutes)	David Germer	Y
Report of the General Presbyter (5 minutes) Prayers of Intercession	Byron Wade	GP
Benediction and Adjournment	Mark Stanley	

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 through 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/Representation Committee (Appendix B)
 Christian Education Committee (Appendix C)
 Finance Committee (Appendix D)
 Building Hope (Appendix E)
 Personnel Committee (Appendix F)

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison, the Stated Clerk, presented recommendations 1 through 6 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 7 through 12 for information that required no action.

- CA 1. THAT Mark Stanley, Cam Murchison, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the October 24, 2023 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the April 25, 2023 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the Presbytery accept the report of membership and worship statistics as submitted by the Sessions on the Annual Statistical Report. (Appendix G – Membership Statistics and Appendix H – Worship Statistics)**
- CA 4. THAT the July 2023 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Appendix I)**
 - Administrative Commission for West Asheville
 - Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry

Administrative Commission for Oak Forest

- CA 5. THAT the minutes of the ordination and installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**

William “Will” Upchurch (Appendix J)

- CA 6. THAT the Committee on Nominating/Representation, having completed their annual report for the year ending December 31, 2022, 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 K)**

FOR INFORMATION:

- 7. THAT the 137th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC. THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, October 5, 2023. THAT the deadline for an overture is Monday, September 25, 2023.**
- 8. THAT ONLINE OPTIONS FOR BOUNDARY TRAINING have been sent to Ministers and Commissioned Pastors who are due for training this year. Members are reminded to sign up for one of the two options as soon as possible.**

- 9. THAT the following Session Records for 2022 were submitted and approved on Saturday, May 13, 2023, at a Session Records Review held at Reems Creek-Beech Presbyterian Church, Weaverville:**

Black Mountain	Kenilworth
Brittain’s Cove	Marshall
Highlands, First	Reems-Creek Beech

- 10. THAT the following Session Records for 2022 were submitted and approved on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at a Session Records Review held at the Presbytery of WNC, Morganton:**

Dorland Memorial	Spruce Pine, First
Lenoir, First	Vians Valley

- 11. THAT the following Session Records for 2022 have been received, reviewed, and approved by the Stated Clerk, having been submitted by Clerks of Session who elected the option to complete a records review checklist with documentation and return it to Presbytery by September 9, 2023:**

Arbor Dale	Grassy Creek
Asheville, First	Montreat
Banner Elk	Newland
Bessemer City, First	Olney
Dallas, First	Quaker Meadows
Fairview	Rutherfordton
Forest City, First	Union
Good Hope	Unity

- 12. THAT TERMS OF CALL for 2023 that have been received at the Presbytery office are included in the packet for this meeting. Most churches have not yet reported terms for Ministers of Word and Sacrament per G-2.0804 and are urged to do so no later than September 1, 2023 so that a complete report can be made available at the October 2023 meeting.**

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

Presbytery Associates, Rev. Tom Phillips, Rev. Schaap Freeman, Rev. Dr. Beverly Thompson, Rev. Dr. George Thompson, and Bob Ayala, Commissioned Pastor, led us in worship. The sermon was entitled "Tough Times", with scripture taken from I Kings 3:5-12 and Romans 8:26-39. Worship concluded with a celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

GENERAL COUNCIL

On behalf of the General Council, Ruling Elder Sarah Thornburg referred to page 25 of the packet and noted that there were no recommendations to be approved. She called attention to the information outlined in items 1 through 8 of the report.

Sarah Thornburg added an additional matter of information that was not included in the written report of the General Council.

THAT the General Council approved the request of Newland Presbyterian Church to acquire property subject to an encumbrance if necessary in order to buy property adjacent to the church for the furtherance of its ministry.

Sarah Thornburg shared the following report regarding the Presbytery's participation in the RIP Medical Debt Relief:

The \$29,515.10 contributed by members of the Presbytery has enabled the cancellation of \$6,866,775.01 in medical debt, mostly within counties of our Presbytery.

- 1. THAT a list of upcoming PWNC events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
- 2. THAT the following dates have been set for 2023 and 2024 Presbytery Meetings:**

2023
Saturday, July 29, 2023 - Virtual
Tuesday, October 24, 2023 – Southminster Presbyterian Church

2024
Saturday, January 27, 2024 – Virtual
Tuesday, April 30, 2024 – Montreat Conference Center
Saturday, July 27, 2024 – Virtual
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 – Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian
- 3. THAT the General Council approved to extend the lease of Camp Woodson property to Camp Grier until December of 2023, at which point a closing on the sale of the property to Camp Grier is anticipated. All documents have been signed.**

4. **THAT the General Council approved establishing an ad hoc committee for the purpose of establishing a policy for the Presbytery regarding disabilities.**
5. **That the General Council approved the recommendation of the Administrative Commission for the now dissolved Oak Forest Presbyterian Church to survey and separate the cemetery portion of the property from the remainder of the church property, conveying this portion to a cemetery corporation gratis once it is formed.**
6. **That the General Council authorized the Administrative Commission for the now dissolved Oak Forest Presbyterian Church to place the remaining property on the real estate market with permission to execute a contract of sale when satisfied regarding the terms thereof.**
7. **THAT the General Council approved the disbursement of \$50,000 to the Oak Forest Cemetery, Inc. fund upon the sale of the Oak Forest Presbyterian Church.**
8. **THAT the General Council approved the guarantee of a loan in the amount \$195,000 for Northminster Presbyterian Church, Hickory, NC, from Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program.**

**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 L)

**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 L)

- A. John Campbell, Counselor, Eastatoe Trail Counseling Center, through July 29, 2024.
- B. Joe Bennett, Chaplain, Compassionate Care WNC, Hospice of Yancey County, through July 29, 2024.
- C. Ryan Brakemeyer, Pastor, Grace Reformed United Church of Christ, Newton, NC, through July 29, 2024.
- D. Amy Cantrell, BeLoved, Asheville, through July 29, 2024.
- E. Tamika Garrison, Director of Community Relations for Carolina Caring, a hospice and palliative care facility, through July 29, 2024.
- F. Lynn Webber, Chaplain, Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center, through July 29, 2024.

The recommendation was approved by common consent without objection.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
III. INTRODUCTION OF NEW MINISTERS**

On behalf of the Examinations Sub-Committee and Committee on Ministry, Elder James Taylor introduced Lindsay Jacaruso, Matthew Horne, Troy Braswell, and Lance Smith as new ministers in the Presbytery. They spoke briefly. Their Statements of Faith and Biographical Statements were included in the report of the Committee on Ministry. (Appendix L)

- Lindsay Jacaruso, from Minnesota Valley Presbytery to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Member-at-Large, effective March 7, 2023.
- Matthew Horne, from Providence Presbytery to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Honorably Retired, effective May 2, 2023.
- Troy Braswell, from Scioto Valley Presbytery to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as Member-at-Large, effective July 11, 2023.
- Lance Smith, from United Church of Christ, Wisconsin Conference; WI Southwest Association, Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello, WI granting a Temporary Membership to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina under the Formula of Agreement, effective July 1, 2023.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder Jim Taylor presented the following recommendations to the Presbytery and moved for approval. The recommendations were approved by common consent without objection. (Appendix L)

1. In 2024, the PWNC minimum effective salary for ministers be increased by 3.5 % to \$38,050.00, representing 57% of the 2024 median.
2. In 2024, Presbytery recommends that its congregations consider at least a 3.5% increase to effective salary for all other ministers.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

V. COMMISSIONED PASTORS

On behalf of the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Committee, Ruling Elder Jim Taylor recommended that the Presbytery approve Leslie Peterson (Kenilworth Presbyterian Church), Dick Hood (Brittain Presbyterian Church), and Reed Conley (Artisan Church – New Worshipping Community) to be commissioned as commissioned pastors. Following questions and answers, the motion passed. Moderator Mark Stanley then offered prayer. The commissioning for Leslie Peterson and Dick Hood is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session and officiate at weddings. The commissioning for Reed Conley is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments and officiate at weddings. The moderator thanked the congregations of Kenilworth, Rutherfordton, and Unity for sharing Leslie Peterson, Dick Hood, and Reed Conley with the Presbytery. (Appendix L)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Rev. Merri Alexander made the following recommendation to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. (Appendix M)

THAT Levi Bannerman, a member of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and a student at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.

Levi Bannerman shared his faith journey and call to the ministry. Moderator Mark Stanley opened the floor for questions. Following a period for questions, the Presbytery approved the enrollment of Levi Bannerman as a Candidate. The Moderator then asked the questions in the *Book of Order, G-14.0305F*, which were answered affirmatively. Rev. Deck Guess delivered the charge and Ruling Elder Beth Gunn offered the prayer.

MALAWI TEAM REPORT MEN IN THE MIRROR REPORT

Reed Conley reported on behalf of the mission team that traveled to Malawi in April 2023. Eight members from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina traveled to Malawi and visited the Nkhoma Hospital and its Medical Centers, the Ebenezer School, the Synod, and its Seminary, all of which the Presbytery of WNC has supported. During the visit, relationships were renewed, ministries that we support were reviewed, and we learned of new challenges. Two new ministries were initiated during our visit: Men in the Mirror, and Hygiene Period Pads to help keep girls in school and support women. Next year, the Presbytery of WNC will celebrate twenty years of ministry in Nkhoma. This year we celebrated 15 years of support of the Ebenezer School. The next mission trip to Malawi will be in the Spring of 2024. (Appendix N)

CHURCH LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

Kerry Border, Commissioned Pastor, reported on the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's Church Leadership School. The Church Leadership School provides training to church members wanting to strengthen their faith, their church, and their skills. The Presbytery has been providing this training since 1999. Participants have two ways in which to attend classes, in-person and via ZOOM.

In May 2023, five individuals graduated from the Church Leadership School. (Appendix O)

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Rev. David Germer, co-chair of the Youth Ministries Committee, reported on the work of the committee and upcoming Youth Events in the Presbytery of WNC. (Appendix P)

- September 24, 2023 – Pathways Event at Montreat, NC
- November 4-5, 2023 – Middle School Retreat at Camp Grier, Old Fort, NC
- February 10, 2024 – Faith and Sexuality Retreat, First Presbyterian Church, Morganton
- March 8-9, 2024 – High School Mission Retreat
- April 27, 2024 – Adventure Day, Camp Grier, Old Fort, NC
- Summer 2024 – Guatemala Youth Delegation Trip

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyter, shared that building relationships between the Presbytery and congregations is who we are. The Presbytery has hired four part-time Associates, a part-time Guatemala Partnership Coordinator, and a part-time Director of Communication to work alongside our program and office staff to ensure that the Presbytery runs well and our congregations are taken care of.

Rev. Dr. Wade continued his report by asking, what new relationships and plans are we making? How can we support our smaller churches? He sees these questions continuing to be part of the work of the

Revisioning Task Force, our partnerships with Guatemala and Malawi, the gathering of pastors in the pastoral cohort, and his visits to congregations. (Appendix Q)

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Drew Mangione, pastor at Shelby Presbyterian Church, led the Presbytery in prayers of intercession.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

With the business of the 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina completed and adjournment voted, Moderator Stanley adjourned the meeting at 12:24 p.m. with prayer.

NEXT MEETING

The 137th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at Southminster Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC.

These minutes were prepared by the following:

Mark Stanley, Moderator

D. Cameron Murchison, Stated Clerk

Robbin Buchanan, Assistant Stated Clerk

These minutes are to be approved by Presbytery on October 24, 2023, at the 137th Stated Meeting to be held at Southminster Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC.

APPENDICES

- A. Consent Agenda**
- B. Nominating/Representation Report**
- C. Christian Education Report**
- D. Finance Committee Report**
- E. Building H.O.P.E. Report**
- F. Personnel Committee Report**
- G. 2021 Membership Statistics**
- H. 2021 Worship Statistics**
- I. Administrative Commission Report for West Asheville Presbyterian Church, and Churches Concluding Their Ministry**
- J. Minutes of Ordination/Installation for William “Will” Upchurch**
- K. Committee on Representation Annual Report**
- L. Committee on Ministry Report**
- M. Committee on Preparation Ministry Report**
- N. Malawi Team and Men in the Mirror Report**
- O. Church Leadership School Report**
- P. Youth Committee Report**
- Q. Report from the General Presbyter**

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

CONSENT AGENDA

For the purpose of expediting some of Presbytery's decisions which are routine and non-controversial, a Consent Agenda will be used. These motions are included throughout the packet.

PLEASE READ THESE MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY!

Matters may be removed from the Consent Agenda when:

- A. Any member of the governing body requests removal of an item included in the CA whereupon that item shall be removed and presented to the governing body as part of the report from which it originated.*
- B. When the Consent Agenda is presented on the floor, opportunity shall be given for members of the governing body to request, without comment or debate, for removal of specific items from the CA.*

A FAVORABLE VOTE ON THE CA SHALL BE RECORDED AS A FAVORABLE VOTE ON ALL MATTERS INCLUDED IN THE MOTION. THEREFORE, PLEASE READ AND PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER ALL MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY.

**THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING
RECOMMENDATIONS, BE ADOPTED:**

RECOMMENDATIONS 1 thru 6 FROM THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT

(See Stated Clerk's Report (B) for contents of recommendations.)

- CA 1. THAT Mark Stanley, Cam Murchison, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the October 24, 2023 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the April 25, 2023 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the Presbytery accept the report of membership and worship statistics as submitted by the Sessions on the Annual Statistical Report. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1 – Membership Statistics and Stated Clerk Attachment 2 – Worship Statistics)**
- CA 4. THAT the July 2023 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 3)**
 - Administrative Commission for West Asheville
 - Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
 - Administrative Commission for Oak Forest

- CA 5. THAT the minutes of the ordination and installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
William “Will” Upchurch
- CA 6. THAT the Committee on Nominating/Representation, having completed their annual report for the year ending December 31, 2022, 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. (Stated Clerk Attachment 4)**



NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE July 29, 2023

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT!

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in our Presbytery? Do you have a passion for leadership and service? The Presbytery of WNC is seeking individuals like you to join our team of leaders. We are excited to announce our Nominating/Representation Committee **brochure**, which outlines the many ways in which you can get involved and make a positive impact. Whether you're interested in serving on a committee, leading a ministry, or simply sharing your ideas, there's a place for you here. So why wait? Review the brochure today and complete the form to begin your journey as a leader in the Presbytery of WNC.

As disciples of Christ, we are gathered together to be the Church, each bringing our own gifts and talents to share so the Good News of the Gospel may be spread throughout the world. As the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, our gifts are utilized in ways to enable congregations and leaders to best engage in ministry.

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina includes numerous committees, commissions, and task forces that depend upon the gifts and talents of its Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders and other church members.

The Nominating/Representation Committee of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina is responsible for nominating to Presbytery all chairpersons and members of committees, commissions, task forces and agencies of Presbytery. Your assistance in providing us with names of individuals you consider to possess the gifts, skills, and passion for service within the structure of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina is critical and greatly appreciated. Pastors, Sessions, Christian Educators, lay persons, and other interested individuals are encouraged to complete a nomination form and return it to the Committee on Nomination/Representation.

Please prayerfully consider how you may use your gifts to serve the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. We look forward to receiving a Nominations Form from you.

SEE, We Are The Body Of Christ
We Covenant to ...
Strengthen Congregations
Equip Disciples
Engage in Mission

Nomination and Representation Committee Members

Peggy Ferguson, Moderator
828/387-7223

pegferg@yahoo.com
Pineola Presbyterian Church

Lynn Honeycutt
828/896-5395

lynnhoneycutt61@gmail.com
Sweetwater Presbyterian Church

Mr. Dennis Godfrey
704/865-9272

salesdemand@carolina.rr.com
Lowell Presbyterian

Susan Allred
828-712-0423

susanallred@att.net
Rutherfordton Presbyterian

Judy Galey
828/403-0321

judygaley@hotmail.com
Quaker Meadows Presbyterian

Ms. Allen K. Lowery
(H)704/287-4147
aklowery01@gmail.com
Third Street Presbyterian

Rev. Dr. W. Riley Covin
828/648-3281
rileyandjudy@bellsouth.net
Waynesville, First Presbyterian

Rev. Patrick Hardy
775/230-4780
pthr7@aol.com

Rev. Dr. David Nash
828/676-3696
dwnash1@att.net
Grace Covenant Presbyterian

Mrs. Paula Wallace
704/865-3754
phwgaw@gmail.com
Belmont, First Presbyterian



CALLING UPON THE GIFTS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

*For just as the body is one
and has many members,
and all the members of the body,
though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
(1 Corinthians 12:12)*

APPENDIX B

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION/REPRESENTATION

2022-2023

**PRESBYTERY OF
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

114 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, NC 28655
Phone: 828-438-4217
Fax: 828-437-8655
website: www.presbyterywnc.org

NOMINATIONS FORM

Name of Nominee:

Mailing Address:

Phone:

Email:

Congregation:

Minister

Elder

Gender

Ethnicity/Race

Committee/Commission for Nomination

☐ GC☐ CE

☐ COM☐ Youth

☐ EXAMS☐ Congregational Formation/Trans

☐ CPM☐ Evangelism

☐ Finance☐ Smaller Membership Church

☐ PJC☐ Campus Ministry

☐ Nomination/Representation☐ Peace & Justice

☐ Personnel☐ Mission

☐ Hunger

Referred By:

Please detach and return to:
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Attn: Nomination/Representation Committee
114 Silver Creek Road
Morganton, NC 28655

Or Email the above information to:
rbuchanan@presbyterywnc.org

Committees, Commissions, and Task Forces

General Council (GC) Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Past Experience on Presbytery CommitteesCommitment to the mission and work of the Presbytery	GC meets the second Wednesday of each month. Responsibilities include coordinating the mission and program of the Presbytery, offering leadership by setting Presbytery goals, serving as Trustees and legal officers of the Presbytery, approving plans for Presbytery Gatherings, providing leadership through proposals and /or recommendations to the Presbytery as well as its committees and commissions.
Committee on Ministry (COM) Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creative ThinkingDecision makingExperience with churches in transitionUnderstanding the PC(USA) Polity	COM meets the first Tuesday of each month. Responsibilities include working with churches in pastoral transitions, approving pastoral calls, and general oversight of all Teaching elders and Commissioned Ruling elders, including those in Validated Ministries. Additional work outside the monthly meeting may occasionally include visiting sessions and congregational meetings.
Examinations Sub-Committee Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Knowledge of PC(USA) PolityFamiliarity with Reformed TheologyWillingness to read and reflect on Statements of Faith	EXAMS typically meets the Monday prior to the COM meeting. This is a sub-committee of the COM and is charged with examining candidates for ordination. Ruling Elders for commissioning, and Teaching Elders who are transferring into the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.
Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Experience with the call processCompassion and pastoral careCreative ThinkingFamiliarity with Reformed Theology	CPM meets 5 to 6 times a year, the third Wednesday of the month. The committee guides and supports Presbytery members who feel called to serve as Teaching Elders. The process includes the individual's development from Inquirer to Candidate ready to receive a call by meeting Book of Order and Presbytery requirements. Members will serve as liaisons to individuals through this process.
Finance Committee Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial Management, Accounting and Real Estate	FINANCE meets as needed. Responsibilities include a proposed annual Presbytery budget, oversight of Presbytery funds, investments, debt retirement, expenditures, and oversight of management of properties under direct control of Presbytery.
Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Knowledge of civil and church lawConflict Resolution	PJC meets as needed. When needed, they meet frequently. Responsibilities include offering guidance for remedial and disciplinary cases that come before the Presbytery.
Committee on Nomination/Representation Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Knowledge of leaders in the PresbyteryKnowledge of Committees & CommissionsCommitment to inclusion and diversity	Nominating/Representation meets 5 times per year (Feb, May, Aug, Sept, Nov. on a Saturday). Responsibilities include identifying individuals to serve on Presbytery committees/commissions and filling vacancies as needed, as well as, nominate individuals to serve as Synod and General Assembly commissioners for Presbytery. Representation function is primarily to ensure a range of diversity on the committee/commissions of the Presbytery.
Personnel Committee Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Management experienceHuman Resources	Personnel meets as needed. Responsibilities includes oversight of Presbytery staff (including annual reviews and compensation recommendations) and supporting the General Presbyter.
Christian Education Committee (CE) Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creative thinkingFamiliarity for resources and trainings	CE meets the second Thursday of the month. Responsibilities include strengthening faith development in local churches by providing teaching, training, and encouragement for children, youth, adults, officers and those in special ministry and to encourage assist churches to minister to special needs of the congregations and provide resources and training on the Reformed tradition in music and worship.
Youth Committee Useful Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creative thinkingYouth Ministry	Youth Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month. The committee is responsible for strengthening congregations by identifying opportunities to share youth ministry resources between congregations, equip disciples by organizing special events for fellowship and faith development and engage in mission.

Where Do You See God?



JOIN US FOR THE JOURNEY!

PWNC's CE Committee is hosting its fall "Lunch & Learn" in person!

The path to our adventure begins at the entrance of Valdese Lakeside Park. Event leader Tamika Garrison will take us through the two mile greenway to a covered picnic shelter for lunch, exploring God's amazing creation along the way. We will then hike the two miles back to our starting point.
(Trails are crushed cinder. Please wear appropriate shoes.)



Valdese Lakeside Park
1149 Lake Rhodhiss Dr NE
Valdese NC 28690



Saturday, September 16, 2023
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Bring your own lunch
and water bottle.
(Coolers will be available for storage.)

REGISTER BY 9/1!

Questions? Contact Tonya at the Presbytery Office.



828/438-4217



twilliams@presbyterywnc.org

(Group size is limited to 20 participants. There is no cost to participate, but registration is required.)



Lunch & Learn Registration Form

September 16, 2023 ~ 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Valdese Lakeside Park
1149 Lake Rhodhiss Drive NE
Valdese, NC 28690

Name: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Role (minister/elder/educator/etc.): _____

Phone Number: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Will you need cooler space for your lunch? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Would you like to receive communications regarding Christian
Education news and events? ☐ Yes ☐ No

REGISTER EARLY! SPACE IS LIMITED TO 20 PARTICIPANTS!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

**Please dress appropriately for the hike and arrive to the entrance by
9:55 a.m. so that we may begin promptly at 10 a.m.**

Finance Committee
Tom Karvonen & Feild Russell – Co-Chairs
July 29, 2023

For information only the Finance Committee presents:

- ◆ The ‘Operating Budget Summary’ of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of June 30, 2023, BB-2.

For the complete financial statements contact the Presbytery office at 828/438-4217 or lpresley@presbyterywnc.org

APPENDIX D

BB-1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY AS OF JUNE 30, 2023

ACCOUNT	2023 ANNUAL BUDGET	2023 YTD BUDGET	2023 YTD ACTUAL	% OF Annual Budget	2022 YTD ACTUAL	2021 YTD ACTUAL	2020 YTD ACTUAL	2019 YTD ACTUAL	2018 YTD ACTUAL
INCOME:									
Unified Giving from churches	\$695,431	\$347,715	265,054	38.1%	331,569	369,127	315,063	378,072	\$375,776
Work of Presbytery only-churches	2,750	1,375	625	22.7%	1,250	1,500	1,500	750	2,000
Other income	23,000	11,500	11,025	47.9%	13,645	11,105	11,400	18,072	9,000
Anticipated Grants/Income	5,000	2,500	5,000	100.0%	5,000	5,000	5,000	0	0
Designated Proceeds for NWC	45,000	22,500	22,500	50.0%	30,687	0	0	7,928	15,240
Income from Investment(5%)	185,061	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Recovery-Admin Commission/Legal	10,000	5,000	0	0.0%	195	9,464	3,460	2,063	0
TOTAL INCOME	\$966,241	\$390,590	\$304,204	31.5%	\$382,346	\$396,196	\$336,423	\$406,884	\$402,016
EXPENSES:									
General Assembly Per Capita/Unified Giving	\$165,000	\$82,500	62,888	38.1%	76,547	82,494	69,307	81,930	\$82,281
Synod Per Capita	14,944	7,472	5,696	38.1%	7,220	8,038	6,715	5,906	5,882
Institutions & Agencies	4,000	2,000	1,525	38.1%	2,320	2,500	2,100	2,483	2,420
Outreach/Mission Development	\$45,900	22,950	8,205	17.9%	7,125	4,620	10,643	8,715	6,200
Congregational Development	25,829	12,915	9,483	36.7%	9,483	9,733	10,889	20,003	27,561
Artisan NWC	45,000	22,500	22,500	50.0%	30,687	0	0	0	0
Leadership Development	5,800	2,900	801	13.8%	(320)	(194)	(702)	32	(1,433)
Youth Ministries	16,950	8,475	1,471	8.7%	3,183	2,000	6,609	5,773	5,830
Committee on Ministry	3,600	1,800	468	13.0%	1,707	595	858	1,444	1,766
Preparation for Ministry	3,400	1,700	1,318	38.8%	153	1,221	837	1,090	856
General Council	3,500	1,750	1,500	42.9%	1,500	1,500	1,663	5,380	1,927
Nominating/Representation	525	263	0	0.0%	0	0	0	90	0
Finance	52,589	26,295	22,637	43.0%	20,372	21,380	25,750	24,933	29,115
Personnel	504,504	252,252	197,206	39.1%	221,567	222,485	184,275	214,463	230,882
Joint Outdoor Ministries	16,000	8,000	0	0.0%	8,000	8,500	8,500	10,000	11,500
Permanent Judicial	250	125	0	0.0%	0	0	3	0	3
Supplies, Equip,Serv/Comm	34,450	17,225	15,118	43.9%	13,651	14,290	17,526	18,032	17,081
Stated Clerk	12,000	6,000	2,193	18.3%	1,802	2,095	2,245	(785)	(2,079)
Administrative Commissions	2,000	1,000	133	6.6%	869	93	(9)	10,597	1,237
Legal Fees	10,000	5,000	0	0.0%	195	9,464	3,460	2,063	3,391
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$966,241	\$483,121	\$353,140	36.5%	\$406,062	\$390,815	\$350,669	\$412,148	\$424,419
NET INCOME/(LOSS)		(\$92,530)	(48,936)		(\$23,716)	\$5,381	(\$14,246)	(\$5,264)	(\$22,403)

Building H.O.P.E. Financial Statement

Health Care (Malawi) - Outdoor Adventures (Camp Grier) - Partnered Growth (Vital Churches) - Education (Guatemala)

As of 6/30/23

Campaign Totals		Ministry details			
		Malawi	Camp Grier	Vital Churches	Guatemala
Collected	\$1,954,761.42	\$887,318.41	\$373,744.31	\$381,737.10	\$311,961.60
Gain/Loss (subject to market fluctuations)	\$372,964.17	\$172,773.83	\$77.47	\$89,381.43	\$110,731.44
Campaign Expenses	\$107,280.00	\$48,697.27	\$20,511.60	\$20,950.25	\$17,120.88
Utilized	\$799,862.97	\$284,209.32	\$352,011.84	\$56,535.81	\$107,106.00
Available for Requests	\$1,420,582.62	\$727,185.65	\$1,298.34	\$393,632.47	\$298,466.16

Malawi (Health Care & Education)	
Projects	Utilized
Rural Health Clinics	\$64,587.54
Rural Health Clinic Housing	\$39,019.78
Research Accountability	\$0.00
Mobile Health Unit	\$61,786.00
Medicines Fund	\$102,200.00
Ebenezer Institute Endowment Fund	\$16,616.00

Camp Grier (Outdoor Adventures)	
Projects	Utilized
Adventure Program Equipment *	\$93,500.00
Lake Front Upgrades *	\$0.00
Trail Development	\$70,000.00
Lodge Renovations	\$188,511.84
* The camp received funds from other sources to help with these projects, Building HOPE funds reallocated to the other project needs	

Vital Churches (Partnered Growth)	
Projects	Utilized
<i>Worship Initiatives & Congregational Development</i>	
Assessment tools	\$16,699.75
Water to Wine	\$9,200.00
New Worshipping Communities	\$0.00
<i>Leadership Development & Pastoral Revitalization</i>	
Church Leadership Workshops	\$8,636.25
Pastoral Initiatives	\$9,999.81
Supplement Leadership Support	\$0.00
Supplement Pastoral Support	\$0.00
Pastoral Education	\$0.00
<i>Consultants, Seminars & Upgrades in Technology</i>	
Hardware & Software	\$12,000.00
Websites	\$0.00
Consultants & Seminars	\$0.00

Guatemala (Education)	
Projects	Utilized
Higher Education Endowment	\$40,000.00
Fund for Theological Education of Pastors	\$47,500.00
Libraries/Teacher/Parent Formation Programs	\$14,656.00
Dream Goals	\$4,950.00

Building HOPE Campaign website:

<http://buildinghope.wncpresby.org/>

APPENDIX F

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the following Salary Packages for 2023 beginning April 24, 2023 for Sarah Robinson and May 1, 2023 for the others be accepted.

Rev. Schaap Freeman
Temporary Presbytery Associate
(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$ 0
Housing	\$23,600
TOTAL	\$23,600

**Rev. Dr. Beverly Thompson &
Rev. Dr. George Thompson**
Temporary Presbytery Co-Associates
(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$ 0
Housing	\$23,600
TOTAL	\$23,600

Rev. Tom Phillips
Temporary Presbytery Associate
(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$ 0
Housing	\$23,600
TOTAL	\$23,600

Sarah Robinson
Guatemala Partnership Coordinator
(12 hours / week)

Salary	\$14,318
FICA	\$ 1,095
TOTAL	\$15,413

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

CHURCH NAME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
ARBOR DALE	128	127	122	91	73	72	72	86	86	89	98	9	25	(30)
ASHEVILLE FIRST	736	755	755	778	812	741	766	785	793	791	565	(226)	(247)	(171)
BANNER ELK	186	181	186	188	195	198	196	196	193	184	182	(2)	(13)	(4)
BELMONT FIRST	718	740	781	790	819	851	872	899	873	907	946	39	127	228
BESSEMER CITY	35	33	33	32	32	32	32	32	31	31	13	(18)	(19)	(22)
BLACK MOUNTAIN	657	679	596	610	521	546	554	564	564	572	595	23	74	(62)
BREVARD DAVIDSON RIVER	491	495	496	464	430	402	412	410	378	372	343	(29)	(87)	(148)
BRIDGEWATER	37	44	44	45	45	44	43	43	43	41	41	0	(4)	4
BRITTAIN	54	52	50	48	50	48	45	32	32	31	34	3	(16)	(20)
BRITAINS COVE	45	43	42	42	36	36	34	33	29	29	29	0	(7)	(16)
BRYSON CITY	87	90	94	88	80	82	93	104	107	107	111	4	31	24
BULADEAN	21	18	12	12	15	17	18	19	14	15	15	0	0	(6)
BURNSVILLE FIRST	188	195	193	133	138	140	139	142	143	139	133	(6)	(5)	(55)
CALVARY	58	60	62	63	63	50	50	56	56	57	59	2	(4)	1
CANTON	52	53	51	44	45	49	56	54	52	51	51	0	6	(1)
CHERRYVILLE FIRST	303	310	283	278	268	239	239	219	213	196	181	(15)	(87)	(122)
CLINCHFIELD	20	20	22	18	18	18	19	14	14	12	6	(6)	(12)	(14)
COLUMBUS	124	148	149	150	86	86	90	93	93	92	92	0	6	(32)
CROSSNORE	94	107	77	76	77	79	79	81	77	84	85	1	8	(9)
DALLAS FIRST	62	71	71	69	69	63	58	58	55	57	54	(3)	(15)	(8)
DIXON	72	76	72	70	70	64	62	62	62	64	62	(2)	(8)	(10)
DORLAND MEMORIAL	27	26	24	24	24	24	31	37	31	29	29	0	5	2
DULATOWN	132	125	124	123	66	65	61	60	59	59	56	(3)	(10)	(76)
ETOWAH	52	55	49	51	50	50	48	46	33	29	27	(2)	(23)	(25)
FAIRVIEW	133	101	99	97	96	87	70	69	66	65	53	(12)	(43)	(80)
FLETCHER	67	68	70	70	72	73	71	69	67	67	65	(2)	(7)	(2)
FOREST CITY FIRST	81	83	81	81	81	81	31	36	32	22	21	(1)	(60)	(60)
FRANKLIN FIRST	153	138	127	128	132	140	100	95	92	84	84	0	(48)	(69)
GASTONIA FIRST	1077	1065	1052	1035	922	932	924	925	855	846	844	(2)	(78)	(233)
GOOD HOPE	21	21	21	21	22	21	20	16	16	11	11	0	(11)	(10)
GRACE COVENANT	635	653	677	699	654	674	698	722	741	740	733	(7)	79	98
GRASSY CREEK	32	29	28	28	27	26	25	19	19	19	18	(1)	(9)	(14)
GREEN MOUNTAIN	21	15	10	10	15	15	19	19	18	18	18	0	3	(3)
GREEN STREET	51	48	49	48	47	41	43	48	42	40	38	(2)	(9)	(13)
HAYESVILLE	37	35	33	36	33	34	33	32	24	24	18	(6)	(15)	(19)
HENDERSONVILLE	446	465	34	39	44	47	44	45	44	45	43	(2)	(1)	(403)
HICKORY FIRST	837	854	874	796	783	781	801	835	842	591	625	34	(158)	(212)

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

CHURCH NAME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
HIGHLANDS FIRST	197	189	190	180	171	168	185	187	176	177	137	(40)	(31)	(60)
IRONTON	10	9	10	12	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	0	(1)	(1)
JACK'S CREEK	24	27	21	21	24	20	26	18	20	20	20	0	0	(4)
KENILWORTH	50	55	55	67	73	64	70	72	66	58	56	(2)	(8)	6
KOREAN OF ASHEVILLE	14	14	14	14	14	18	18	18	18	18	20	2	2	6
LENOIR FIRST	432	437	369	309	24	31	31	32	29	33	33	0	2	(399)
LONG CREEK	99	100	72	73	74	71	71	71	66	61	63	2	(8)	(36)
LOVE'S CHAPEL	21	20	14	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	(2)	(2)	(10)
LOWELL	147	97	93	101	105	106	104	108	104	104	105	1	(1)	(42)
MARION FIRST	134	138	152	157	158	157	153	157	154	150	154	4	(3)	20
MARSHALL	71	73	74	70	65	40	36	34	35	33	34	1	(6)	(37)
MICAVILLE	36	33	33	30	28	25	27	27	25	28	29	1	4	(7)
MILLS RIVER	117	119	120	112	117	127	149	148	112	91	95	4	(32)	(22)
MONTREAT	78	78	92	92	103	109	107	117	130	136	141	5	32	63
MORGANTON FIRST	654	655	650	478	492	499	488	427	413	407	403	(4)	(96)	(251)
MORRISON	74	79	77	82	73	71	66	59	58	59	58	(1)	(13)	(16)
MT. HOLLY FIRST	145	151	144	142	139	128	119	119	111	108	110	2	(18)	(35)
NEW HOPE (GASTONIA)	179	170	164	160	157	162	166	173	157	156	161	5	(1)	(18)
NEW HOPE (SKYLAND)	136	129	119	113	95	89	85	95	101	101	104	3	15	(32)
NEWDALE	44	46	46	49	50	41	40	21	20	16	18	2	(23)	(26)
NEWLAND	57	57	55	59	63	63	68	77	79	82	94	12	31	37
NEWTON FIRST	386	393	398	412	357	352	329	326	325	308	295	(13)	(57)	(91)
NORTHMINSTER	295	312	250	247	167	152	149	154	153	153	147	(6)	(5)	(148)
OAK FOREST	65	64	65	68	67	67	62	60	41	39	38	(1)	(29)	(27)
OAKWOOD	59	60	55	54	59	60	63	63	68	67	67	0	7	8
OLD FORT	9	9	9	9	8	8	8	7	6	6	6	0	(2)	(3)
OLNEY	76	71	69	76	67	66	63	59	54	49	47	(2)	(19)	(29)
PINE STREET	23	31	30	30	30	30	32	32	32	37	37	0	7	14
PINEOLA	49	49	42	42	45	44	44	43	44	35	34	(1)	(10)	(15)
QUAKER MEADOWS	115	111	110	86	85	85	84	84	78	77	50	(27)	(35)	(65)
REEMS CREEK	111	106	107	100	102	102	108	107	104	79	82	3	(20)	(29)
RIDGEVIEW	18	18	17	15	16	10	10	10	9	9	9	0	(1)	(9)
ROBINSON MEMORIAL	45	45	45	45	46	48	48	47	49	49	46	(3)	(2)	1
RUTHERFORDTON	337	342	342	340	339	340	338	347	344	344	345	1	5	8
RYBURN MEMORIAL	40	32	33	37	38	37	35	36	20	20	20	0	(17)	(20)
SALUDA	39	39	45	42	30	30	31	21	21	18	20	2	(10)	(19)
SHELBY	620	511	511	493	490	469	472	465	463	427	418	(9)	(51)	(202)

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

CHURCH NAME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
SHERRILL'S FORD	74	70	60	80	77	80	93	106	118	114	126	12	46	52
SHILOH	87	10	28	28	28	27	27	20	19	18	18	0	(9)	(69)
SILLOAM	7	6	6	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	0	(2)	(3)
SOUTHMINISTER	342	307	325	329	324	332	354	362	359	366	366	0	34	24
SPRUCE PINE FIRST	119	119	108	111	115	103	107	87	84	81	88	7	(15)	(31)
SWEETWATER	74	74	50	50	50	48	51	51	51	43	43	0	(5)	(31)
SYLVIA FIRST	165	163	161	160	162	171	108	109	108	106	110	4	(61)	(55)
THIRD STREET	72	73	71	72	45	45	45	41	39	39	28	(11)	(17)	(44)
TRINITY	367	356	335	331	322	308	305	285	282	297	293	(4)	(15)	(74)
TRYON	333	333	332	328	322	322	249	251	258	258	260	2	(62)	(73)
UNION	196	180	174	179	178	178	172	172	162	160	162	2	(16)	(34)
UNION MILLS	19	19	20	27	27	25	24	29	29	30	30	0	5	11
UNITED	105	102	92	91	83	66	63	61	51	49	47	(2)	(19)	(58)
UNITY	638	654	679	684	516	509	531	577	582	573	596	23	87	(42)
VIAN'S VALLEY	30	30	30	29	29	27	27	27	26	26	14	(12)	(13)	(16)
WALDENSIAN	406	379	391	391	386	378	375	370	319	315	315	0	(63)	(91)
WALNUT	33	24	30	28	28	27	25	25	24	24	20	(4)	(7)	(13)
WARREN WILSON	172	171	170	170	169	151	144	140	134	135	136	1	(15)	(36)
WAYNESVILLE FIRST	128	134	135	133	126	129	146	151	146	143	140	(3)	11	12
HENDERSONVILLE (Members Pending Dismissal)			433	433	433	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PAINT GAP (Members Awaiting Transfer)				8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SWANNANOA FIRST (Members Awaiting Transfer)			18	18	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ELLENBORO (Members Awaiting Transfer)							7	7	7	7	7	0	7	7
WEST AVENUE (Members Awaiting Transfer)							76	20	20	20	20	0	20	20
LINCOLNTON FIRST (Members Awaiting Transfer)									81	81	81	0	81	81
TOTALS	17,196	16,817	16,425	15,974	14,878	14,077	13,984	13,980	13,614	13,076	12,798	(278)	(1,340)	(4,398)

Gray indicates no reporting from church. Assumes previous yr total carries forward.

APPENDIX H

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

CHURCH NAME	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance			
ARBOR DALE	109	110	100	87	78	89	94	90	60	95	81	(14)	(8)	(28)
ASHEVILLE FIRST	300	350	350	325	286	285	283	282	340	268	300	32	15	0
BANNER ELK	175	175	190	195	197	198	164	162	158	134	146	12	(52)	(29)
BELMONT FIRST	206	230	250	213	188	260	170	250	100	150	200	50	(60)	(6)
BESSEMER CITY	25	22	17	17	18	15	15	15	6	6	7	1	(8)	(18)
BLACK MOUNTAIN	415	415	335	329	320	320	325	288	288	325	350	25	30	(65)
BREVARD DAVIDSON RIVER	340	350	300	300	300	202	204	201	192	105	121	16	(81)	(219)
BRIDGEWATER	29	24	24	24	24	24	30	32	32	20	20	0	(4)	(9)
BRITTAIN	39	38	33	29	29	30	27	27	18	17	19	2	(11)	(20)
BRITTAIN COVE	26	25	22	23	23	23	20	18	15	12	12	0	(11)	(14)
BRYSON CITY	82	72	70	72	75	72	44	74	100	56	60	4	(12)	(22)
BULADEAN	16	16	18	18	18	18	15	15	7	7	7	0	(11)	(9)
BURNSVILLE FIRST	90	95	80	70	73	67	61	57	50	50	49	(1)	(18)	(41)
CALVARY	45	30	32	29	26	28	25	27	20	15	25	10	(3)	(20)
CANTON	22	24	20	18	17	17	19	19	19	15	15	0	(2)	(7)
CERRYVILLE FIRST	172	180	162	107	150	141	140	138	52	79	90	11	(51)	(82)
CLINCHFIELD	18	15	15	16	16	14	14	14	10	11	9	(2)	(5)	(9)
COLUMBUS	57	57	57	57	52	53	57	57	18	30	31	1	(22)	(26)
CROSSNORE	75	70	68	60	60	60	62	68	45	54	80	26	20	5
DALLAS FIRST	52	55	47	45	40	35	30	25	23	25	25	0	(10)	(27)
DIXON	60	60	55	55	50	50	46	46	46	40	40	0	(10)	(20)
DORLAND MEMORIAL	20	20	18	15	20	20	20	25	20	18	15	(3)	(5)	(5)
DULATOWN	64	61	61	35	35	30	57	63	35	30	25	(5)	(5)	(39)
ETOWAH	60	54	49	48	50	41	41	30	10	20	18	(2)	(23)	(42)
FAIRVIEW	65	55	45	45	40	40	40	40	25	12	12	0	(28)	(53)
FLETCHER	25	30	28	31	28	29	27	29	25	24	25	1	(4)	0
FOREST CITY FIRST	35	40	28	30	24	20	20	15	7	10	10	0	(10)	(25)
FRANKLIN FIRST	100	85	65	76	81	76	81	77	50	50	50	0	(26)	(50)
GASTONIA FIRST	296	277	373	270	254	230	228	229	210	123	142	19	(88)	(154)
GOOD HOPE	15	15	15	15	12	11	10	10	8	8	8	0	(3)	(7)
GRACE COVENANT	266	271	292	298	300	300	278	284	550	450	300	(150)	0	34
GRASSY CREEK	24	24	22	22	22	21	15	14	12	15	14	(1)	(7)	(10)
GREEN MOUNTAIN	20	20	11	13	15	25	18	19	16	20	20	0	(5)	0
GREEN STREET	41	37	38	33	30	32	30	35	20	20	22	2	(10)	(19)
HAYESVILLE	30	30	28	28	28	30	27	25	15	12	14	2	(16)	(16)
HENDERSONVILLE	265	279	36	36	41	38	25	25	25	22	18	(4)	(20)	(247)
HICKORY FIRST	348	297	280	269	238	237	239	234	241	275	325	50	88	(23)
HIGHLANDS FIRST	181	164	164	151	145	145	140	141	74	114	140	26	(5)	(41)
IRONTON	14	14	14	14	13	13	12	11	6	6	6	0	(7)	(8)
JACK'S CREEK	25	22	22	18	18	18	18	15	11	11	6	(5)	(12)	(19)
KENILWORTH	40	40	45	52	50	45	43	45	40	40	40	0	(5)	0
KOREAN PRES CHURCH	40	12	12	12	12	12	10	10	10	10	14	4	2	(26)
LENOIR FIRST	250	275	275	275	24	25	25	25	50	50	35	(15)	10	(215)
LONG CREEK	65	57	45	45	45	45	40	42	20	25	27	2	(18)	(38)
LOVE'S CHAPEL	17	15	12	12	15	11	10	10	10	10	11	1	0	(6)
LOWELL	64	61	56	60	61	56	51	50	34	34	38	4	(18)	(26)

APPENDIX H

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

CHURCH NAME	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
	Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance				
MARION FIRST	94		98		122		100		98		97		52		85		83		65		55		(10)	(42)	(39)
MARSHALL	30		27		23		20		18		18		18		18		12		13		12		(1)	(6)	(18)
MICAVILLE	38		19		24		23		18		22		23		18		15		18		21		3	(1)	(17)
MILLS RIVER	64		64		59		52		53		60		70		70		50		34		63		29	3	(1)
MONTREAT	79		81		89		90		100		100		100		111		140		160		160		0	60	81
MORGANTON FIRST	250		250		250		186		184		177		169		163		150		150		150		0	(27)	(100)
MORRISON	62		62		62		62		45		38		33		35		30		30		25		(5)	(13)	(37)
MT. HOLLY FIRST	110		85		68		63		56		53		57		56		60		46		47		1	(6)	(63)
NEW HOPE (GASTONIA)	100		100		100		80		80		80		77		80		80		75		55		(20)	(25)	(45)
NEW HOPE (SKYLAND)	61		54		52		53		59		57		62		72		81		69		58		(11)	1	(3)
NEWDALE	35		40		40		45		40		29		15		20		10		12		15		3	(14)	(20)
NEWLAND	40		41		52		55		64		63		74		87		75		81		83		2	20	43
NEWTON FIRST	175		169		179		167		151		136		148		143		65		87		70		(17)	(66)	(105)
NORTHMINSTER	159		133		90		88		71		70		69		69		78		74		60		(14)	(10)	(99)
OAK FOREST	35		41		41		39		40		40		34		30		20		20		20		0	(20)	(15)
OAKWOOD	22		30		32		32		32		34		35		37		30		30		45		15	11	23
OLD FORT	7		3		5		5		5		8		9		10		10		6		6		0	(2)	(1)
OLNEY	37		37		32		29		22		20		17		15		12		10		10		0	(10)	(27)
PINE STREET	26		20		20		22		25		25		20		25		25		25		25		0	0	(1)
PINEOLA	45		35		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		30		0	0	(15)
QUAKER MEADOWS	45		45		45		46		43		38		31		30		25		28		45		5	(10)	(18)
REEMS CREEK	68		74		78		72		68		60		56		48		45		45		50		(7)	(22)	(4)
RIDGEVIEW	22		22		25		30		35		40		33		35		30		25		18		(5)	(5)	(10)
ROBINSON MEMORIAL	40		40		30		30		35		35		35		35		53		42		30		(12)	(5)	(17)
RUTHERFORDTON	117		117		117		115		115		115		110		112		110		100		100		0	(15)	(17)
RYBURN MEMORIAL	17		25		17		17		17		17		20		20		15		16		12		(4)	(5)	(5)
SALUDA	24		24		24		24		20		25		18		19		18		17		18		1	(7)	(6)
SHELBY	196		184		182		172		163		155		147		133		162		159		119		(40)	(36)	(77)
SHERRILL'S FORD	42		48		70		55		57		56		60		75		150		150		150		0	94	108
SHILOH	49		9		14		12		12		12		7		7		7		20		9		(11)	(3)	(40)
SILOAM	7		4		4		6		5		5		7		5		5		7		6		(1)	1	(1)
SOUTHMINSTER	146		134		156		164		154		162		164		158		175		234		234		0	72	88
SPRUCE PINE FIRST	90		95		97		94		90		80		73		65		40		50		55		5	(25)	(35)
SWEETWATER	53		40		40		42		42		42		40		40		35		35		35		0	(7)	(18)
SYLVA FIRST	119		96		95		100		110		98		106		98		53		80		75		(5)	(23)	(44)
THIRD STREET	40		35		35		35		30		28		26		25		20		22		20		(2)	(8)	(20)
TRINITY	201		152		199		193		191		175		170		173		43		77		129		52	(46)	(72)
TRYON	175		200		175		180		122		129		104		106		107		100		120		20	(9)	(55)
UNION	105		100		95		94		98		96		87		77		72		57		51		(6)	(45)	(54)
UNION MILLS	25		25		25		25		20		20		20		20		18		17		17		0	(3)	(8)
UNITED	56		53		44		42		33		32		28		28		27		21		19		(2)	(13)	(37)
UNITY	356		334		365		330		302		276		304		353		344		393		369		(24)	93	13
VIAN'S VALLEY	20		18		18		16		16		16		14		14		15		15		12		(3)	(4)	(8)
WALDENSIAN	175		170		169		158		149		145		135		132		131		86		100		14	(45)	(75)
WALNUT	23		25		26		32		28		24		23		23		17		17		9		(8)	(15)	(14)
WARREN WILSON	104		104		92		90		86		83		76		76		82		44		57		13	(26)	(47)

APPENDIX H

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

CHURCH NAME	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR		Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS		Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS	
	Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance		Worship Attendance							
WAYNESVILLE FIRST	110		105		107		104		95		93		92		97		87		57		66		9		(27)		(44)	
TOTALS	9,102		8,746		8,370		7,840		7,138		6,918		6,554		6,682		6,132		5,957		5,957		85		(961)		(3,145)	

Gray indicates no reporting from church. Assumes previous yr total carries forward.

APPENDIX I

West Asheville Presbyterian Church: As reported to the previous meeting of presbytery, the AC has continued to prepare for the eventual replacement of the facility, restricting any maintenance or upkeep expenses to the bare minimum required for safety and liability. Furnishings are being made available to those who were members of the church and to other churches of presbytery. Tina Joyner has been added to the membership of the AC by the General Council. In the next phase of its work with a shared lens around racial equity, the AC is exploring inviting community partners into the decision-making process for the property's future use. Arrangements continue with daily presence of caretaker at the building to ensure its well-being.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Mount Shoop and Patrick Johnson, Co-chairs

Churches concluding their Ministry: This AC currently has oversight of the properties of the former John Knox Presbyterian Church in Shelby and the former Conley Memorial Presbyterian Church in Marion. An Option Agreement continues with Preservation North Carolina (PNC) for the disposition of the John Knox property in a manner that preserves its historical integrity. In the meantime, a leasing arrangement with a local congregation has been arranged while a buyer for the property is sought. At Conley Memorial, following unsuccessful negotiations with another congregation for a lease/purchase agreement, the AC has decided to place the property on the general real estate market with expectations for a prompt sale.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Brittain, Chair

Oak Forest Presbyterian Church: Following work by the AC with families that have an interest in helping to form a cemetery association for perpetual care of the cemetery on the church property, the Oak Forest Cemetery, Inc. has been formed and officers have been designated. Trust funds of the church totaling \$80,000 have been dedicated to the cemetery corporation for its long-term maintenance. In addition, General Council has agreed to devote \$50,000 of additional funds from the eventual sale of the remaining church property to the cemetery corporation for the same purpose. General Council has also agreed on behalf of presbytery that the portion of the church property that comprises the cemetery will be conveyed without cost to the cemetery corporation, and a survey for this purpose is underway. Finally, with permission of the General Council, the AC has placed the church property on the general real estate market with hopes for a prompt sale.

Respectfully submitted,
James Aydelotte, Chair

APPENDIX J

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY COMMISSION TO (ORDAIN AND) INSTALL (Return immediately to Presbytery Stated Clerk)

Rev./Ms./Mr. Will Upchurch

As Pastor of the Long Creek Presbyterian Church(es)

The Commission, according to the appointment of Western North Carolina Presbytery met at the
Long Creek Presbyterian Church at 3:30 PM on May 7, 20 23.

Present were: Ministers Mark Stanley, James Holeman, Bill Lowe, Tee Gatewood

Elders Sandy Jones, Joyce Houser, John Pea

Ministers/Elders invited by Presbytery to serve on the Commission:

A quorum was present, and the meeting was opened with prayer, led by the Presbytery appointed Moderator,
Mark Stanley. John Pea was elected/appointed to serve as Clerk.

The assigned parts and the Order of Worship were reviewed, and a motion was made and passed that the worship service be approved as carrying
out the Commission's assigned responsibilities.

In the service of worship that followed, Tee Gatewood and John Pea assisted in the leadership of worship;
James Holeman preached the sermon 2 Timothy 3:10-17 from the text 2 Timothy 3:10-17

Mark Stanley reminded the congregation of the meaning of this service and proposed the Constitutional questions to
the minister; Sandy Jones proposed the Constitutional questions to the congregation.

These being answered in the affirmative Will Upchurch was (ordained with prayer and the laying on of hands,
and) installed as pastor of the Long Creek Presbyterian Church(es) agreeably to the Word of God and the Book of Order.

The charge to the pastor was delivered by Bill Lowe, and to the congregation by
Joyce Houser. The newly installed pastor pronounced the benediction.

~~Following the service, the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and adjourned with prayer, led by~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of a motion was made, and approved, to let the moderator and clerk approve the minutes and be
adjourned with the benediction.

Moderator

Clerk

PRESBYTERY REPORT TO SYNOD ON REPRESENTATION 2023 Form for Year 2022

Page 1 of 2

Presbytery _____ Western North Carolina _____

I a If you have a COR:

how often does it meet? ____5 times per year__

does it meet with the Presbytery Nominating Committee? ____yes_____

how does it report to Presbytery? _Written Report to Presbytery Quarterly

b If you do not have a COR, please state how you handle oversight of appropriate representation?

N/A

II What is the size of your presbytery? Churches__93____ Members__12,717____

What percentage of members are minorities? __3.87%____

III. Of the leadership positions with in your presbytery (Leadership includes all Presbytery level committee members) :

How many are filled by women? __55____ How many are filled by men? ____55__

IV. In the past 5 years, have you had a non-majority Moderator?

Yes ____X____ No _____

V. What actions or initiatives has your COR taken to try and improve your record of representation on committees?

- Correspondences has been sent to Clerks of Session, Ministers, and Churches seeking a recommendation for committees.
- Through the Presbytery packets, we ask for volunteers to serve on committees of the Presbytery and also have an announcement on our display board at Presbytery meetings.

APPENDIX K

VI. What might the Synod COR do to assist your efforts to be more effective in your work?

- Sharing best practices and success stories from around the Synod
- Provide publications or aids to assist Presbyteries with the struggle of seeking volunteers to serve on committees.

Report submitted by ___Peggy Ferguson___ Signature ___Peggy Ferguson___

Phone # ___828/387-7223___ e-mail ___pegferg@yahoo.com___

This document was/will be part of COR's report to Presbytery on ___July 29, 2023___

Stated Clerk ___D. Cameron Murchison___

Signature ___

Date ___June 14, 2023___

Please return this form on or before **(In office Deadline Date of June 28, 2023)**: via email to tscott@synatlantic.org or to Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, 3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227.

VI.

2023 COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT

PRESBYTERY NAME:Western North Carolina

	Committee	Total	Male Clergy	Male Laity	Female Clergy	Female Laity	Asian Amer.	African		African Amer.	Hispanic Latino	Native American	Multi-Cultural	Middle Eastern	White	Other Self Ident	Person With Disability	Youth 25/ Under	Young Adult 26-35	Adult 36- 64	Senior Adult 65+
1	Budget & Finance	9	1	5	1	2				1					8					2	7
2	Church Development	22	2	8	6	6				3					19					10	12
3	Committee on Ministry	21	4	7	5	5						1			20				1	6	14
4	Presbytery Officers	4	2	1	1										4					2	2
5	Presbytery Council	17	5	4	3	5									17					9	8
6	Nominating Committee	9	3			6				1					8					2	7
7	Commissioner to 222 GA/ 239-243 SOMA Assembly	7	2	1	1	3				1		1			5			1	1	2	3
8	Committee on Preparation	12	3	2	5	2									12					5	7
9	Permanent Judicial Commission	9	3	2	2	2									9					4	5
10																					
11																					
12																					
13																					
14																					
	TOTAL	110	25	30	24	31				6		2			102				1	2	42

APPENDIX K

[Type text]

APPENDIX L

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
MR. JAMES TAYLOR, CHAIR
July 29, 2023**

FIRST SECTION

I. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY FOR COMMISSIONING BY THE PRESBYTERY AS COMMISSIONED PASTORS:

A. LESLIE PETERSON

From: Elder, Kenilworth Presbyterian Church

As: Commissioned Pastor, assisting the pastor at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church

(The Commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session, and officiate at weddings.)

Effective: July 29, 2023

(See COM Attachment 1 for Biography and Statement of Faith)

B. DICK HOOD

From: Elder, Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church

As: Commissioned Pastor, Brittain Presbyterian Church

(The Commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, moderate the Session, and officiate at weddings.)

Effective: July 29, 2023

(See COM Attachment 2 for Biography and Statement of Faith)

C. REED CONLEY

From: Elder, Unity Presbyterian Church

As: Commissioned Pastor, Artisan Church, New Worshipping Community

(The Commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments, and officiate at weddings.)

Effective: July 29, 2023

(See COM Attachment 3 for Biography and Statement of Faith)

II. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:

A. John Campbell, Counselor, Eastatoe Trail Counseling Center, through July 29, 2024.

B. Joe Bennett, Chaplain, Compassionate Care WNC, Hospice of Yancey County, through July 29, 2024.

C. Ryan Brakemeyer, Pastor, Grace Reformed United Church of Christ, Newton, NC, through July 29, 2024.

D. Amy Cantrell, BeLoved, Asheville, through July 29, 2024.

E. Tamika Garrison, Director of Community Relations for Carolina Caring, a hospice and palliative care facility, through July 29, 2024.

F. Lynn Webber, Chaplain, Black Mountain Neuro-Medical Treatment Center, through July 29, 2024.

III. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE FOLLOWING 2024 MINIMUM TERMS OF CALL

1. In 2024, the PWNC minimum effective salary for ministers be increased by 3.5 % to \$38,050.00, representing 57% of the 2024 median.
2. In 2024, Presbytery recommends that its congregations consider at least a 3.5% increase to effective salary for all other ministers.

APPENDIX L

Rationale:

In 2021, COM adopted the following plan regarding annual recommendations to Presbytery about increases in effective salary for ministers.

(a) Beginning in July 2021 and continuing each following July thereafter, in order to provide adequate information for congregational budgeting for succeeding years, the COM will make recommendations to the Presbytery about minimum terms of call for the upcoming calendar year for decision and approval by the Presbytery. The recommendations will be based on a percentage of the church-wide median effective salary usually published in May of each year by the Board of Pensions.

(b) Beginning in July 2021 and continuing each following July, the COM will make recommendations to the Presbytery about increases in all other (nonminimum) terms of call for the upcoming calendar year for decision and approval by the Presbytery. The recommendations will be based on the percentage increase between the current year and the coming year of the church-wide median effective salary usually published in May by the Board of Pensions.

In July, 2023 the BOP report of the changes for 2024 in the church-wide median salary indicated the following.

	Median effective salaries		% Change
	for 2023	for 2022	2024 vs. 2023
Ministers	\$67,100	\$64,800	3.5%

SECOND SECTION

The Book of Order provides (G-3.0307) that the Committee on Ministry may be given authority by the Presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for service of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other Presbyteries, required by G-3.0306, to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the Congregation and pastor concur, to dismiss ministers to other Presbyteries, and to approve administrative commissions to ordain/install with the provision that such actions be reported at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery. This permission was granted to our Committee on Ministry; therefore, the following actions are hereby reported and are to be admitted to the record.

I. APPROVED FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

A. Lindsay Jacaruso

From: Minnesota Valley Presbytery

As: Member-at-Large

Effective: March 7, 2023

(See COM Attachment 4 – Bio and Statement of Faith)

B. Matthew Horne

From: Providence Presbytery

As: Honorably Retired

Effective: May 2, 2023

(See COM Attachment 5 – Bio and Statement of Faith)

APPENDIX L

C. Troy Braswell

From: Scioto Valley Presbytery

As: Member-at-Large

Effective: July 11, 2023

(See COM Attachment 6 – Bio and Statement of Faith)

D. Richard Coble

To: East Tennessee Presbytery

As: Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, TN

Effective: July 31, 2023

II. APPROVED FOR TEMPORARY MEMBERSHIP IN PWNC UNDER THE FORMULA OF AGREEMENT:

A. Lance Smith

From: United Church of Christ, Wisconsin Conference; WI Southwest Association,

Zwingli United Church of Christ, Monticello, WI

As: Installed Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Forest City

Effective: July 1, 2023

(See COM Attachment 7 – Bio and Statement of Faith)

III. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL:

A. LANCE SMITH

EFFECTIVE SALARY	50,000.00
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Social Security (7.65% of effective salary)	3,825.00
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Total direct compensation to Minister	53,825.00
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Pension/Insurance (39% of effective salary)	19,500.00
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Medical 29%	14,500.00
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Pension 8.5%	4,250.00
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Death & Disability 1%	500.00
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Temporary Disability .5%	250.00
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Allowances for Professional Expenses (ARP)*	4,830.00 *
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Professional Development	1,250.00
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Automobile Allowance	3,580.00
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Additional salary, benefits, or reimbursement

Total Cost to Church	78,155.00
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OTHER TERMS

Vacation (Presbytery minimum)	4 weeks
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Study Leave (Presbytery minimum)	2 weeks
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IV. APPROVED TRANSITIONAL PASTOR RELATIONSHIP:

A. Approved Transitional Pastor Agreement between Royce Browder and First Presbyterian Church, Franklin

Term: August 1, 2023 – January 31, 2024

V. APPROVED COMMISSIONED PASTOR AGREEMENTS:

A. Lin Johnson, Saluda, extended May 30, 2023 to December 31, 2023

B. Roger Wise, Fletcher, extended August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024

C. John Pea, Robinson Memorial, extended August 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024

APPENDIX L

- D. Dick Hood, Brittain, from July 29, 2023 to July 28, 2024
- E. Leslie Peterson, Kenilworth, from July 29, 2023 to July 28, 2024
- F. Margaret Victoria Burgess, Dallas, First, extended April 27, 2023 to April 26, 2024

VI. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS:

- A. Richard Coble and Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Effective: July 31, 2023
- B. Steve Runholt and Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
Effective: December 31, 2023

VII. APPROVED STATED PASTOR RELATIONSHIP:

- A. Bill Whiteside and Vians Valley Presbyterian Church
Effective: May 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023

VIII. APPROVED AS MODERATORS:

- A. Rob Warren, Bridgewater Presbyterian Church
- B. Bob Ayala, First Presbyterian Church, Burnsville

IX. APPROVED MOVING TO MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

- A. Caitlin Johnson
Effective July 31, 2023

X. APPROVED THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF WILLIAM “WILL” UPCHURCH ON SUNDAY, MAY 7, 2023 AT LONG CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility on Commission</u>	<u>Minister/Elder</u>	<u>Church</u>
Mark Stanley	Moderator/Preside	Minister	Trinity
James Holeman	Preach the Sermon	Minister	Union
Mark Stanley	Propound Constitutional Questions	Minister	Trinity
Sandy Jones	Propound Questions to Congregation	Elder	Long Creek
Bill Lowe	Charge the Minister	Minister	Cherryville, First
Joyce Houser	Charge the Congregation	Elder	Shiloh
John Pea	Lead in Worship	Commissioned Ruling Elder/Pastor	Robinson Memorial
Tee Gatewood	Lead in Worship	Minister	Arbor Dale

XI. RECEIVED AND APPROVED THE ATTACHED REPORT OF TERMS OF CALL. (See COM Attachment 8).

My Statement of Faith of Leslie Peterson

I believe that the one and only Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is sovereign and loves us dearly. By the Grace of God I am a child of God, a disciple of Jesus Christ and am guided by the Holy Spirit. (*Brief Statement of Faith* 11.1.1-6)

I believe in God the Father, the creator and sustainer of all things from the beginning to the present and for all time. Due to God's grace, power and perfect plan, God has elected to give all persons the right to participate in the communion of Saints, receive the forgiveness of sins, experience resurrection of the body and have everlasting life in Heaven. God's grace is sufficient for all things in all ways and at all times. (*Apostles' Creed* 2.1)

I believe in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus Christ is the incarnate presence and teacher of who God is and who God wants us to be and is our savior from sin. Jesus Christ justifies us by grace through faith. God placed Christ as the head of the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. We are called into discipleship in Jesus Christ. (*Brief Statement of Faith* 11.2.7)

I believe in the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of God—everywhere the giver and renewer of life who moved at the dawn of creation, anointed Christ at his baptism, poured out at Pentecost, and who seals in us at Baptism and always. The Spirit guides the Church and each individual while interpreting the meaning of the Word of God for us. The Spirit has comforted me my whole life and continues to do so. (*Brief Statement of Faith* 11.4.53-60)

I believe the Holy Scriptures, are the true and authentic word of God, interpreted by our Lord and Savior during his walk on this earth, written by men and women while inspired and guided by the Holy Spirit.

I believe that we have two sacraments, Baptism and The Lord's Supper. Our Baptism is a sign and seal that incorporates us into Christ, seals us by the Holy Spirit, and leads us to join together in God's mission. Baptism is administered only once, as God's grace is sufficient. The Lord's Supper is the sign and seal of eating and drinking in communion with the crucified and risen Lord. We join together in the meal with our Lord on a consistent basis.

I believe in the one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Glory to our Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit always! (*Apostles' Creed* 2.3)

God calls us to care for and show compassion to those who suffer due to hunger, violence, racism, or any situation that may separate them from praising and glorifying God. We are to love God and love others as ourselves. We are to follow the Word of God, written and incarnate; rely on our reformed and always reforming tenets; retain our confessional nature; and follow the instruction and guidance of the Holy Spirit, always striving for the all-knowing and purely perfect plan of our Almighty God. Glory always to God! (*Brief Statement of Faith* 11.4.73-74) (*The Confession of 1967* 9.20)

APPENDIX L

Biography of Leslie D. Peterson

I was born at Shaw Field Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina. My father served in the Air Force until I was 7 years old. My parents divorced a year after my father left the Air Force. (As an Air Force “brat” I had to change schools often, so my ability to feel comfortable in new or unknown situations was formed at a young age.) My mother was a housewife. I have an older sister and younger brother. I attended public schools, graduating in 1975 and later attending accounting classes at a community college. My two grandmothers, one a Methodist and one a Baptist, helped form my spiritual life. Several relatives also influenced my faith.

I raised four children while attending churches of several denominations, off and on. I served as a Sunday School teacher and was an active member of the women’s program at times. At one point, I discussed having a strong urge to become a preacher with our pastor but was told I should be a mother and forget that idea.

I have over 30 years experience in the business world, but my proudest moments were when coworkers and friends would turn to me to discuss their spiritual life and issues in their personal life. My business career provided me with the achievement of many skills and a variety of experiences. I advanced from a tax professional for corporations and individuals to retire as a Director of Background Screening and leader over two corporations, which required extensive training and security clearances from several government departments and agencies. I am an N.C. Notary Public, TWIC /TSA certified professional, and a trained public speaker. I currently serve on the Board of Directors of Mountain Area Residential Facilities (MARF). As a recent retiree, I am excited to have more time to grow and to serve in my ministry.

I have been a radio host for several local radio stations. My shows focused on encouraging Christians to follow their Christian beliefs in all areas of their life, including the business world. I also hosted shows to inspire and inform women that God loves them and we are all one family.

I met my current husband while hosting radio shows. He introduced me to his church, Kenilworth Presbyterian Church (KPC). I grew to understand more about the Presbyterian faith and doctrine, which led me to a greater sense of belonging than with other denominations where I had attended. I became a member of KPC in 2015 and have been active on the hospitality committee. My desire to support others led me to serve on the Congregational Care Committee, and I became the chairperson of that committee in 2017. I continue to serve in this capacity today, making contacts and visits with a number of our members and congregants. I am a graduate of the Presbytery’s Church Leadership School, where I began to enhance my knowledge and skills to better serve and care for our congregation and all of God’s children. During the school’s program, I was shown by God that my call is to care for others in all pastoral ways as a Commissioned Pastor at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church.

My husband is Don Peterson, current Clerk of Session at KPC and Asst. Treasurer. We are blessed with 6 grown children, 5 grandsons and one “in-charge” granddaughter. Our family includes Peggy Sue, a spoiled elderly dachshund who came to us after my mother passed.

Dick Hood

Biographical Sketch

I guess my walk started on September 2, 1940 in Kingsport, TN.

Through grade school, high school, college and the military I did not attend church very much if any.

I believe my true walk started on a Sunny Indian Summer afternoon in Kenosha County, Wisconsin in September of 1976. I had just had a hernia operation and I was told I had to be very careful and not do stairs. My bird dog Coco and I went for a walk – temperature was about 70. I got tired and sat down by a big oak tree. The geese, ducks and Red Wing blackbirds were all heading South. At some point something was telling me that we had to move. It was not a voice or bright light. It did not say where we were to move, but we had to move. I did not say anything to Joyce until January 1977. We had just moved into our dream home on 14 acres, pond and a 2-stall horse barn. She asked where we were moving to and I said either East Tennessee or Western NC. She asked what was I going to do and I told her probably the moving business.

On Easter Sunday 1978 we looked at and bought a house on 80 acres in the Mt. Vernon Community in Rutherford County, NC.

Joyce told me that there were two things she wanted 1) a swimming pool and 2) to find a church. I told her I would handle the pool and she could handle the church.

She visited several churches and settled on the Rutherfordton Presbyterian Church in Rutherfordton.

We got involved in church – Sunday School and the youth group.

It was on a beach trip with the youth group that I accepted Jesus Christ.

When Ann resigned, Joyce and I took over the youth group meetings at our house.

In 2004 I was made aware of the CLP School and enrolled in September. I graduated in May of 2006.

I have worked in the Rutherford Larger Parish, served at John Knox, in Shelby for 3 ½ years and preached at many churches in our presbytery. I have preached Brittan many times over the years.

Dick Hood

A Brief Statement of Faith

When a person dies and is buried, there is usually a Headstone that sits at the head of the gravesite. On it are two dates: 1) the date of the birth of the individual and 2) the date of the death of the individual. The individual does not have any say so in these dates. God and God alone will make that call. The individual does have the choice as to how he or she will be remembered during the lifetime between the birth and death. During this lifetime the person will be able to make a choice to invite Jesus Christ into his or her life. If he or she makes that decision, like at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit will come into their life. For this reason, I truly believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

Even though we have the Holy Spirit in our heart, He will not be apparent at all times, but when He does involve Himself in our lives, we have to have the wisdom to be aware of His presence.

I believe that if a person or persons does not believe in Genesis 1:1, there is no reason to go any further in reading God's Word. We as Christians do not have the luxury of being able to pick and choose what we want to believe from Scripture.

I believe that Jesus Christ was crucified, died and was resurrected in order that we as sinners would be forgiven of our sins past, present and future. I also believe that when we sin, we have to ask for forgiveness. I think of the Prodigal Son when he found himself in the pig sty and decided to go to his father and tell him he was not worthy to be his son. His father was waiting every day to welcome him home. Our father is always waiting for sinners to come home – of their choice.

I believe that we like Jacob will wrestle with God many times in our life, but like Jacob, we need to never let go. God will never let us go. I also believe that every time we falter, God is waiting to pick us up.

I thank God daily for His Love, for His Grace and for His Forgiveness.

All glory to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

AMEN

APPENDIX L

Reed Conley - Biography and Faith Journey
6-21-2023

I was born into a loving Christian family rooted in the local southern Baptist church. At First Baptist Church of Tampa, my paternal grandparents were faithful Sunday school teachers and my parents were active choir members at church since childhood. The church building was always like a second home as we were there whenever the doors were open. Wednesday nights for supper and choir, Sunday school and worship in the morning and services Sunday evening.

My first steps in faith came from my mother teaching me to sing the Jesus Loves Me. She tells stories of parading me in front of friends and family to share my gift of singing as she undoubtedly beamed with pride. When the question arose when I was eight years old, "Would you like to invite Jesus into your heart?" I accepted, prayed the prayer and was soon baptized by immersion in the sanctuary. That decision and outward display of faith imprinted on me and gave great direction to my character. In another sense, part of me wondered if Jesus was always in my heart and with me before I ever sang that old song.

When I went away to university, and the world grew for me and unfolded in my view, I was searching deeper for truth in faith and church life that I could own. I met good folks who doubted or didn't believe in Jesus. I also met those who claimed to be followers of Christ who carried out harsh judgment on others who were different. In this season, I let go of some values and faith practices, and stopped attending church. I decided to let my own pursuits guide me on a solo faith journey.

Some years later by the grace of God, the Spirit drew me back to a community of faith and healthier expressions and teachings of the Jesus way. My wife who was then my fiancé was raised Catholic and searching for a safe place to worship as a new protestant. We agreed to try a community that was new to each of us. Soon we made Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church our home. The modern expression of worship in the gymnasium, the music, the word, the come as you are attitude that created a safe place for us to build life-long friendships. Faith began to grow for me again. In particular, the value of following Christ in community was made so clear. I found evidence of true fellowship bearing the fruit, transforming values in my own life and others in our community. In simply seeking to follow Christ together I could see the Spirit changing hearts and especially my own heart. It continues to be those relationships with others on the journey that strengthens my faith the most.

My path into ministry has been taken in small steps. First, serving on the tech team on Sunday, then leading worship music on Sunday, then writing songs for worship, and eventually accepting a full time position at a local Methodist church leading a band and designing worship services. Sharing prayers in worship, curating liturgies, leading small group study of scripture. I been trusted to speak and offer songs at funerals and to officiate weddings. Even today, I still find opportunities to stand up and lead the song "Jesus Loves Me" in a congregation of adults to pray the song over a newly baptized infant. In all of this, God is growing in me a passion for creative expressions to glorify our Creator. Also growing, is my heart for radically welcoming community, inclusivity and justice issues. My heart also longs for the voice of the church to speak to the unchurched, doubters, or de-churched. I feel God's call to innovate, to consider what a radically welcoming faith community might look like today and how it might speak God's love into those spaces in our particular context and culture.

I believe God is a loving creator and rules over all in love. God is for us and not against us. God is holy, just, and quick to forgive. God is the one who frees the slaves, loves the animals, and walks with people in their troubles. God is the one who says to Moses is on Mount Sinai “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” God’s grace is sufficient beyond all measure. Like a father running out to welcome the prodigal son who returns home empty handed, God’s love is faithful to us God’s people. (11.3)

I believe Jesus was born on earth, all divine and all human. God’s greatest gift to creation is Jesus Christ. Through him comes the sanctification and redemption of humanity. (8.13) His life, teaching, his death and resurrection, show God’s unparalleled love and care for us, and call us into the kingdom of heaven. Jesus lifts up and values the outsider. He breaks the cycle of human violence. Jesus’ wisdom is relevant now and always. I believe that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. (11.5) The deeper we follow Christ’s teaching and trust in the Lord, the more life’s mystery unfolds and the more we find purpose in life. By following how the Spirit is moving among us, we, the followers of Jesus, get to partner with God in building the kingdom of heaven, right here and now, by loving God and loving one another according to God’s purpose.

I believe the Holy Spirit is an ever-present guide, a nudge towards the Lord’s work, a whisper of how things ought to be according to God’s purpose. (6.052) Also a powerful force that indwells believers and unites them to Christ. The Holy Spirit moves hearts to repent and to draw closer to God.

I believe God the Abba Father Creator, Holy Spirit Sustainer, and Jesus Christ Redeemer, are the one triune God.

I believe the Bible is the sole rule that directs us how to glorify and enjoy God. (7.002) Both old and new testaments of the Bible, are the Spirit inspired words of men and women recorded in the context of the life and time they were written. They are to be approached by the church with literary and historical understanding to interpret God’s message for God’s people in current context and culture. (9.29)

I believe the church universal is comprised of believers who are sent into the world with the mission of sharing God’s message of reconciliation. The local expression of church is meant to gather together, to praise God, to hear God’s word for the people, to baptize and to partake in the Lord’s Supper, to pray together, to share gifts, and to be renewed by the encouragement of one another and through the power of the Holy Spirit. (9.36) Christ calls the church people to then disperse into the world, to be light in the darkness, to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, visit the sick and imprisoned, and to make disciples of all nations for the transformation of the world.

I am Presbyterian first because of the love and welcome I was shown by Presbyterians in the local church even while I was an outsider. Also, I am Presbyterian because of my appreciations for the representative form of government, the ecumenical openness of the confessions, the church’s stance on human rights, on LGBTQ inclusion, on racial justice issues, and on the ordination of women.

The two sacraments, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, are both outward signs and physical acts of faith as well as an inward grace of the Holy Spirit. (7.273) Each is an active reminder of God’s promise to God’s people. Baptism is a sign and seal of the Holy Spirit. The Lord’s Supper is an encounter with the risen Christ. They are to be carried out with others in communities of Christian faith according to the teaching of Jesus Christ.

APPENDIX L

Lindsay Jacaruso Brief Biography

I grew up a child of the church with pastors that invited me into the work and wonder of being the Church in the world. It was a safe space for me and a place where I relished the opportunity to greet new friends and cherish old friends of all ages and walks of life. I still believe there is no better way to build and stretch your heart than to invest in the community that is the church.

My pastors saw gifts for me in ministry before I had the sense to know what a call into ministry was, yet I learned quickly as the first church I walked into as a college student saw and nurtured those gifts in me as I developed and ran their youth program. From that moment onwards, I was on a journey in ministry.

I worked in downtown Memphis for a summer before starting seminary and learned of my call to love and serve the people who we do not see in many traditional church settings – people who are immigrant, outcast, poor, homeless, queer, native. This community is the part of my call that makes me a bridge builder – healing wounds the church has created and discovering opportunities to reconcile and make new ways of being a better church.

I served several churches and ministry settings in Austin, TX where I graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2013. I began my first ordained call as a resident minister at First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor, MI. Following that call I served as Associate Pastor for Mission, Young Adults, and Congregational Care at First Presbyterian Church in Burlington, NC. My most recent call had me in Mankato, MN serving as the head of staff at First Presbyterian Church where I got to enjoy using my gifts to create and innovate in church revitalization.

In October of 2022, my spouse Martin and I welcomed our son August, and we completed our move to Western North Carolina that is closer to some family and hosts a dream job for Martin at Western Carolina University in outdoor programs. This also fulfills our mutual dream of living in the mountains. I am taking my own sabbatical from full-time church ministry during this season while I learn to parent and settle into life in the mountains. I have applied to the Spiritual Direction Certification Program at Columbia Theological Seminary that I hope (upon completion) to put to good use in service of ministers and lay people alike in WNC. Additionally, I look forward to being a part of the presbytery, assisting with pulpit supply as my schedule allows, and reconnecting with some old colleagues and friends in the area.

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LJacaruso – Statement of Faith

I believe in a God who plays.

From the beginning of creation,
when the Spirit marveled over the possibilities.

Building trees like sandcastles and making oceans like splashing puddles -
God played, imagined, breathed creation into being from the creative being God is.
God continues to play creatively in the church and in the world, opening opportunities
for us to respond faithfully to the loving imagination that propels the church forward as a
beacon of a hope and proclaimers of God's peaceful and glorious reign.

I believe in a Jesus who moves.

Wandering from city to city with faithfully foolish disciples,
Turning tables, disturbing social orders, drawing lines in the sand.
Inviting the deaf and lame, the outcast and sinner,
to get up, take up mats, discard linens of death,
walk, wash, and proclaim the wonders of God.

Jesus cried out with the broken world,
bearing the weight of all sin as he was whipped, stripped and crowned with thorns.

With every created being etched on his heart, Jesus died.

Defeating all hell and sin and death, Jesus rose victorious and claimed a place for all
God's beloved in the wonder of what lies ahead.

Jesus still moves - wanders in our midst and can be seen in the faces of the homeless
and outcast,

in the body of the church at work in worship and mission. Jesus appears everywhere
God's people are called to fulfill the greatest commandment of love for one another.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who dances.

Meeting Job in a whirlwind, and parting seas for safe passage,
Letting God's beloved go through the furnace unharmed,
releasing a final breath in death on the cross,
and inspiring holy chaos in language and tongues of fire.

The Spirit dances on our hearts until we hear our calls to serve,
frolics through our worship that we might be in awestruck wonder of God, whispers
through the searing pain of death promising a resurrection.

God plays and moves and dances.

God laughs and wonders and invites us to do the same. For it is in those moments
where we are reminded,
of the beloved of God that we are.

So we come to worship as the Church - bent and broken and beautiful.

We find grace and belonging again and again as Baptism gives us sign and seal.

We humbly approach the table knowing Jesus calls us to Feast even when we are
wretched cowards and sinners and hypocrites.

We open the Holy Book - pouring over the story that saves us every day.

And in these things, the haphazard gathering we call the Church begins to learn to play,
to move, to dance, and to be - the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

APPENDIX L

Matthew B. Horne
Faith and Ministry Journey

I am a cradle-to-grave (God willing) Presbyterian (PCUS, then PCUSA type), and was baptized and spent my formative years in First PC of Hampton, Virginia. Our family was constant in Sunday School and worship, and I sang faithfully in every choir from Christmas cherubs onward. My family prized Biblical familiarity and I took to it naturally. To counter some early teen doubt and skepticism, it was hymn texts and choir anthems, as well as diligent youth group and Sunday school teachers, modelling the faith for me. I learned to fear neither doubt nor troubling questions. Though I hadn't yet encountered Anselm, I can see in my pre-college and college years a quality of 'faith seeking understanding' in my life that paved the way for my sense of call. I began to discern the call to ministry in my junior year of high school and felt confirmed in it as a senior. That sense has never left me.

I declared as a Religion Major at Davidson College, which exposed me heavily to the theology of Barth and the Niebuhrs, and to higher Biblical criticism, which a concerned elder in Hampton had warned me away from as 'the low view of the Bible.' I found it anything but low! Rather, such work opened up for me what was in the text, how it cohered with Scripture and theology, and how to proceed in interpretation. Most seminal for me was exposure to the work of Kierkegaard, where I found some keys for understanding the fault lines of the contemporary American church in its self-appointed custodianship of American culture. For me, once you appropriate some Kierkegaard, it is impossible to cross back over to a pre-Kierkegaardian acceptance that authentic discipleship has much to do with 'fitting in' to a secular or quasi-religious culture.

Because of an ROTC scholarship, I owed the Army four years of active duty before I could enter seminary. I had no idea that I would spend 30 years in commissioned service, the final 20 as an Army Reserve chaplain! I thought the Army a sort of a Tarshish-like detour for me in one sense, but also providing further formation for me and a deliberate experience of 'lived contradiction' with my sense of call (and also my turn as a literal defender of the culture!). I studied theology and kept up my Greek during the Army time, and was intentional about learning German in my three-year tour there as preparation for anticipated academic work beyond the MDiv. After six years my sense of call was as strong as ever, and I left active duty to attend Union Seminary in Virginia. In my final year there I married D.C. Grubb, also working on her MDiv after PSCE and some time as a DCE in Richmond. I was ordained and installed at 1st PC of Concord, NC in October of 1987. We both served in Concord for three years as Associate Pastors and an additional five years at Covenant PC in Charlotte as Associates. While in Charlotte, my reappointment as an Army Reserve Chaplain came through. This was near the time I was promoted to major. Combining civilian with Army Reserve ministry created occasional tensions, but my sense of call to both stayed strong.

We moved next to Rock Hill, SC, in 1995 where I was installed as pastor of Covenant PC. I served there six years as solo pastor for a largely blue-collar congregation that affirmed both my pastorate there and my military ministry. We completed our family of three children during this time. I was mobilized twice, first to El Salvador for 5 months in 1999 and then to Bosnia for 10 months in 2001-2. I resigned from Covenant for the Bosnia mobilization because the congregation needed a full-time pastor. Both mobilizations were important, direct preparations for the future Reserve service I was to perform. I returned from Bosnia in late 2002 and was soon interim pastor of Oakdale PC in Clover, SC. But after just a few months, I was again called to active duty, this time as Command Chaplain of the Army's Theater Logistics Command for CENTCOM. I was responsible for direct supervision and support of 72 chaplains in Kuwait and Iraq, plus support for another 30 or so chaplains reliant on my headquarters. Mine was more of an administrative leadership role than direct pastoral ministry. I was in Theater on Easter of 2003 through November of 2005. With my military skills, interests and experience I felt it a 'for such a time as this' opportunity to serve in my capacity. I think of it as a pinnacle of my ordained service.

I returned to do a year and a half of CPE at Palmetto Health in Columbia, SC. I was subsequently hired as a hospital Staff Chaplain there instead of returning to full-time PCUSA

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parish ministry as I had intended. I served for over 11 years into 2017. During roughly the same time I served Pleasant Grove PC in Chester, SC as part-time supply pastor. In 2008 I was retired from the Army.

In May 2018 I was called and installed as pastor of Oakdale PC in Clover and served there for 2½ years. When its session voted to pursue withdrawal from the PCUSA, the vote was made without consultation with me and, apart from my abstention, was unanimous. I knew that upwards of 95 percent of the congregation would either strongly agree or happily go along with the session's decision. The session expected/wanted me to stay with them through their transition. As my ordination vows were to the PCUSA, and I thought the motivation for withdrawal to be wrong-headed, biblically unsupportable, and contradictory to my allegiance to the Book of Order and polity of the PCUSA, I chose to resign – with a heavy heart.

My last pre-retirement ministry was as supply pastor to Limestone Presbyterian Church of Gaffney, SC, from January through June 2022. DC and I moved from Rock Hill to Montreat in July. I sought and was granted Honorable Retirement from Providence Presbytery which became effective in October 2022. In February of this year, I began part-time work as a two nights per week night-shift chaplain at HCA Mission Hospital in Asheville, which I hope will be acceptable to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina should I be accepted into the Presbytery.

NOTE: I am I aware of the stated requirement of one page for this submission, but incorporating parallel military and hospital chaplaincy ministries seem to me to require a little more ink. Miserere me!

STATEMENT OF FAITH – Matthew B. Horne

I believe God, as revealed in the Bible, has provided us all the data necessary to recognize, appropriate by faith, and understand God as the self-revealing, sovereign, and ultimate power of the universe. God chooses to relate to human creatures in what can best be described as awesome and limitless love. This sovereign love remains despite all human flaws and defects, and is cancelled neither by human sin (rebellious, usurping pride and disobedience) or the vagaries and vicissitudes of human existence. **(BC 11.3)** The Bible, in its sweep and its detail, witnesses to the nature of God as Trinity – the divine love in creation (Father) , the drama of redemption (Son), and the ongoing life of the faith community which it owes its existence and finds its own witness and warrant in the world (Holy Spirit).

John Calvin wrote of nature as being all one should need to reveal God – that creation itself manifests the glory of God to humankind. Thus there is Good News in Creation for those with eyes to see and hearts to appreciate. Because of human dullness caused by sin, this knowledge from creation proves insufficient. Scripture is the authority which specifies the way God reveals divine and sovereign love through Jesus the Messiah, the Good News that Christ, in his teaching and His being, is the focus and the actuator of God's love. In his own humiliation and exaltation, Christ is the locus of salvation that is a light to the nations and hope of the world – the Good News that God has acted for us. **(7.156–7.164)** Jesus Christ is, as my college's statement of purpose used to read, "the central fact of history." At least, it must be for those who believe. Followers of Christ seek to order their lives in Him, bringing more and more of their lives under His banner by the aid of the Holy Spirit. **(7.035)**

The work of the Holy Spirit supplies another focus of the Good News, depicted in Acts as the spread and penetration of faith in Christ into the known world and in Revelation as the triumph of steadfast faith in Christ against all powers arrayed against it. The Spirit empowers the church to proclaim, worship, witness, serve and evangelize in the name of Christ, lifting up Christ in worship and sacraments; studying the Scriptures for understanding, growth and faithfulness; and obeying Christ's teachings in paths of justice, mercy, service and love for all those Christ gave us to love – revealed in Scripture as all of humankind. **(10.1–10.9; 9.48–9.52)**

One of the greatest problems of our time I see is the crowning of the individual, with her/his personal construals and 'feelings,' as the right measure of what can be truthful, valid and authentic. The authority of Scripture stands above and outside of human subjectivity and finite human certitudes, just as salvation in Christ comes from outside our meager powers and potentials alone. **(9.27)** The Scriptural witness to God in Christ is the true measure which measures us, and, in Barth's phrase, "reads us." This to me is a profound implication of *Sola Scriptura*.

Church organizations and confessions may vary, but there should and can be no authority above the Bible and its faithful interpretation in community. **(4.095)** Ours is the task of bringing what faith the Holy Spirit has apportioned to us in search of understanding that conforms us more and more to Christ, rather than domesticating Christ as some divine sponsor of our own tastes and mores. I count it as a Providential gift to me that I was raised in the Reformed tradition and the Presbyterian heritage of the United States, and this continues to be integral to my faith identity. I admire and willingly submit to the PCUSA's form of governance, with checks and balances, with reliance on distributive and accountable power, with systems of redress for wrongs, and considerations for the minority as well as the majority in its rulings and witness. The Presbyterian Church USA provides a promising confession for serious theological discourse – the nurture and exercise of the life of the mind in the service of God.

TROY BRASWELL

Biography

I was born into this faith, but not this denomination. My father's side was Baptist, Missionary Baptist to be exact. His mother, my grandmother, taught English and Bible to Native Americans in Gallup, New Mexico. My mother's side was United Methodist, with a family line tracing back the history of New Sharon United Methodist Church, in which I was raised. Half-Baptist, half-Methodist, I essentially split the difference in choosing Presbyterianism as my adult faith, the faith of my calling. I began that journey by literally splitting the difference - choosing to attend seminary and pursue the greater requirements for UMC ordination, while attending a Baptist seminary. Neither felt quite right to me, but one of my fellow seminarians and good friend told me, "The truth is, if it weren't for believer's baptism, I'd be a Presbyterian." And so, I did my research, visited some churches with my then-fiancee, and then joined an Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church after we wed. Work took us to a new location without a conveniently located ARP church, which then led us to First Presbyterian Church of Morganton, NC, and The Presbyterian Church (USA).

I was also blessed to eventually make my way to the Charlotte campus of Union-PSCE, now Union Presbyterian Seminary as part of the Genesis Class. There, I was given the invaluable opportunity to grow in my faith, to ask questions, to challenge theology, and to study! I was never told, "this is what you must believe"; I was given freedom to figure it out for myself. There are so many moments from my time at UPSem which left an indelible impact on my life and faith, but exchanges stand out. The first was a moment of light-hearted confrontation. I was very traditional in my Biblical interpretation at the time of my Old Testament classes and chafed at Professor Sadler's use of the term "myth" to describe the first 10 chapters of Genesis. I asked him after class one day, "If at the end of this course, I completely disagree with everything you've taught, are we going to be ok?" He responded with grace, and a chuckle: "Well, I hope you don't disagree with EVERYthing I say, but yes, if at the end of this course, we have different opinions, that'll be ok." The second moment came when I expressed concern to Dean Curry about my sister-in-law, who is an atheist, in large part due to church hurt and very poor examples of faith in her youth. Dean Curry spoke these words that continue even now to inspire me: "I believe God's grace is greater even than our unbelief." These two moments, which both represent to me radical acceptance, form the core of who I now hold myself to be in faith.

I've changed a lot over the past 18 years since my ordination in 2005. I served as solo pastor to Long Creek Presbyterian for 5 ½ years, followed by another 5 years as solo pastor/head of staff for Circleville Presbyterian in the Scioto Valley Presbytery. That call was wrought with conflict and led me to seriously question my faith for the first time. I considered walking away from it all. But that's not me. So I took a job for a year as Youth Director for a friend's congregation, Covenant Presbyterian in Upper Arlington, OH, and began work on my 2nd master's degree, this time in Counseling Ministries. I continued to serve the Presbytery of Scioto Valley as a pulpit supply, which led to another 5 year relationship, unofficial but constant, filling the pulpit for Bloomingburg Presbyterian Church. There, I healed much of my church hurt as they let me be me, sharing my heart and vulnerability, and just preaching the Word. Now, back in NC, I'd like to make myself available here as well, to serve PWNC, maybe fill a pulpit now and then, while focusing myself on counseling through BetterHelp, where I have a number of clients who have requested counseling from a Christian perspective.

APPENDIX L

Statement of Faith

“Faith is not belief without question; faith is believing through questioning.” I coined that phrase myself, not long after my ordination, in part as a counterpoint to another phrase that I had heard far too often - that to be a true Christian, one must trust God and never doubt. But that idea, that concept, is rooted in a blind trust of what one has “always been taught”, and that teaching based on what people before have “always believed”. But rote belief without question is frankly, un-Biblical and un-Presbyterian! (5.013). Jesus told Thomas, “Do not doubt, but believe.” With those words Thomas came to be identified not as Believing Thomas, but as Doubting Thomas. And the example was set. But that neglects the greater truth of humanity! Every other person in that room, apart from Jesus, was no less a doubter than Thomas. They all doubted, questioned everything they had been told, by Mary and Jesus both, until they each and every one saw for themselves and then believed.

“Ask and it shall be given to you. Seek and you shall find. Knock and it shall be opened to you.” I have not always believed this way. Time was, I accepted what I was taught and challenged those who questioned it. My faith was very... traditional. But seminary challenged me, or to be more precise, Union-PSCE challenged me in a way that prior seminaries and church experience had not. I in turn challenged my professors. And they accepted me, allowed me to ask, to seek, and to knock with great frequency on my professor’s doors! I wrestled with my faith and their teaching. And I’m stronger for it! That’s a big part of why I love being Presbyterian (USA). Ours is a church that encourages education, conversation, and discourse, and has evolved over generations, changing many of its own beliefs to stand as a beacon of affirmation of Civil Rights, Gender and Orientation Inclusion, and Immigration Reform.

I believe the Bible likewise reflects, not some firm instruction book, inerrant and infallible, but instead testaments to the evolution in faith and thought of first the Hebrews, and then the disciples who became apostles, and then still later generations of believers. It is not without contradictions (2 Samuel 24 vs 1 Chronicles 21 as example, Sinai vs Horeb as another), but nevertheless is received as the Word of God, and the witness without parallel. In this, I embrace the exegetical approach of the Confession of 1967, that the Scriptures are by faith received as authoritative for instruction and the writers as inspired by the Holy Spirit, but the words, context, and life experiences recorded therein are their own (9.29). Separating a bit from the Confessions, I also value modern experiences of life and faith as holy encounters with the Divine, and themselves also holding a form of authority as witness to the presence of God.

The Kingdom of God in this world is vast and expansive, with no one true way to believe, but with multiple paths through which the Spirit of God leads and works (9.34), and in which we ministers in particular, are called to practice forgiveness and work toward reconciliation to God and to one another as ambassadors of Christ (5.098). I believe that in the person of Jesus, we see the incarnation of God, the perfect union of human and Divine (3.06). In his death and resurrection we know grace and forgiveness, find our belonging, and rejoice in the assurance of eternal life (4.001). We are joined to this faith through Baptism, and nurtured at the table in Communion. And we are made one, as celebrated in the Confession of Belhar, in a way that defies the division of politics, race, gender, orientation, social standing, wealth, and of any other aspect of humanity by which we divide ourselves. Nevertheless, we must still work to make this oneness more visible so that even more may ask, seek, and know the peace and love of God.

Lance A Smith Spiritual Journey

As a child I attended regular Sabbath school, worship services and was baptized in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Listening and learning the stories of the bible as well as the life and teachings of Jesus were a huge art of my life. At 14 I told my pastor that I thought I wanted to be a pastor as well, I found myself in the pulpit a few weeks later, knees shaking and brow sweating, preaching a sermon. Later in my church life, a canoe trip in upper Michigan would end with my baptism in the cold waters of the river.

As I grew older, the definition of the words "Church and Christian" began to narrow in my perspective; I could only view these words from the confines of my church experiences. I began to feel alone and that organized religion had little meaning, the unconditional love that I could hear and feel in the parables and teachings of Jesus seemed to be lost in what I perceived as a sea of judgment. For years I wandered, thinking I was alone in my theories, beliefs and faith. Though I never lost my faith in the creator god, I did not know the joys of being in a faith community. My wife's Pastor performed our wedding service. She attended the Congregational Church of Tryon NC (UCC) and introduced me to the UCC. I experienced the power of a community of faith on a local as well as a denominational church level.

I began to see that by isolating myself, I was limiting the power of Christ in my life and in turn the world. After many years of being "spiritual but not religious" I began to experience the reality of the "Body of Christ"; a "Christ" that goes beyond a tablet full of commandments, The "Christ" that is living and breathing within me and all those around me. We are the "Body of Christ", the believers who are called to bring unconditional love, mercy and justice to an unjust world.

My life continued to transform as I seemed to flow back into the church, first through developing Sunday school for my own children and their friends and then as an associate minister, and most recently here in Southern WI. Daily I experience situations and conversations that bring biblical stories and teachings to life. I have learned and continue to learn the power of the ministry of presence. Just being in a place and reminding people that they are not alone, that the Christ walks with them, is empowering to people in times of trouble! The power of the kingdom is easy to see in the love of a caring christian community.

It seems each direction I gaze I see the handiwork of a loving savior. In the lives and actions of my parishioners I see faith and love lived. The Gospel comes to life, the "Christ" is with us, working around and through us; immanuel. It is this "Christ", the one that I had missed, but was and is still there beside me all the while, I am called to share with everyone.

Like me, people need to experience a place of enlightenment. Love only grows in a place surrounded in love and acceptance. Each one of us is homesick for a place and a purpose. My calling is to inspire a safe community where anyone can search for and find the "Christ" in their lives; a family where diverse individuals nurture, care and share in each other's joys, fears and challenges. I am called to cultivate a community where each member feels a purpose in the ministry of their church, to nurture a place of both joy and celebration of God's Love as well as quiet reflective meditation. I'm called to live out the joys, sorrow, tears and laughter with the community of Christ.

The Sovereignty of God and the Power of the Holy Spirit

I believe in God the father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth (Boc1.1& 2.1) . I truly believe this statement and I have dedicated my life to understanding this being and the relationship between us, even though a great deal of this being we call God is still a mystery to me.(BOC 3.01, 6.011-6.013, 9.15) I know, live and breathe what this God has created and the lengths he has gone for the humans that he longs to be in closer relationship with. This God wants so much to understand and build a close relationship with us that he became one us, walking with us as the Israelites say Imanuel. This Is a God who gets us, he came as the person of Jesus of Nazareth to experience all that we humans experience. Pain, joy, love, laughter, temptation, the powers and perils of this thing we call ego, this God even experienced the feelings of betrayal, and physical pain unto death. (BOC1.2) By enduring and conquering all these things “Human”, He showed us that we are in a constant state of transformation and that this earthly life is only a part of the journey (BOC 3.04). God in the form of Jesus showed us a new mystery about God's Nature following his resurrection. The Nature of the Holy Spirit (BOC 2.2 & 5.018) is where we humans can feel and later see God working through us transforming us, challenging and changing us through the work of the spirit. The by-products of this change are the works of the spirit. Compassion and care for those around us is the result of the Spirits work within us (BOC 3.13, 5.017).

The Ministry of Jesus

Through healing and parables as well as righteous livelihood Jesus illustrated a way of living, a way of walking with God. But there is even more to the ministry of Jesus not only did he share himself and his life style with us, He was not only our teacher and Companion but Jesus was willing to sacrifice himself for what he believed, providing a way for all of us to gain forgiveness and be free of guilt, shame and sin, those things that stand in the way of our relationship with this triune entity, GOD! (BOC 1.2,2.2, 3.08-3.10, 4.013-4.014, 4.015-4.020. 9.07-)

Scripture and Biblical Authority

I believe the bible is a documentation or the relationship of a God to his people! We learn from the successes and failures of ourselves and those around us. The Bible is invaluable in sharing the experiences of the early believers.This is a book that was written for people to find ways that it speaks to the situations of life they are living through. Not a handbook, not a how to book but a living entity that first must be understood in the context written and then applied to current life situations. (BOC 5.001-5.003, 9.29-9.30). Each and every reading must be weighed and evaluated to the overall teachings of Jesus the Christ, the question how does this speak to love should always be asked when interpreting a text.

Sacraments- Role and Importance

Baptism and Communion are the outward expressions of our relationship to God, they are important reminders of place and purpose “Who We are, Whose we are, and How we live” (BOC 1.3,2.3, 3.2, 3.23, 5.02, 5.173, 6.149-6.0160)

The Role of the Church

The church is the place where spirit filled people come to share their gifts and talents and experience the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus spoke of in his walk. The place where people of faith and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit come together to form the Body of Christ. To celebrate and honor the God whose essence is love. To empower the faithful, to inspire those traveling the path of the christ. (BOC 1.3,2.3, 4.023, 9.31-9.33)

COM ATTACHMENT 8

TERMS OF CALL 2023

	Church/Org	Mbrshp	Base	Def Comp	Utilities	Housing	Manse	SS	Prof. Exp	Prof Dev	Other	Total	2022 Total
Bacon, Patricia	Calvary	59	26,520		1,200	6,600		2,665	3,146	1,097		41,228	41,228
Bonnema, David	Unity	596	59,000	2,000		38,000		8,160	2,000	1,500	1,000	111,660	108,535
Brown, Tommy	William Black Lodge		60,000			Provided						60,000	55,000
Campbell, Kathy	Crossnore	85	40,111			31,621		5,755	3,580	1,250	3,500	85,817	77,646
Christenbury, Dwight	Trinity	293	52,355			12,500		4,961				69,816	65,864
Coble, Richard	Grace Covenant	733	36,981			30,000		5,124	3,000	2,000		77,105	70,000
Commerford, Daniel	Gastonia First	844	24,216			75,000		7,590	4,800	2,000		113,606	111,898
Daniel, Blake	Sylva First	110	50,036			20,000		5,358	2,600	2,000		79,994	77,004
Davis, Heather Wood	Hickory First	625	32,815			22,851		4,584		1,400		61,650	58,805
Davis, Holly	Waynesville First	140	34,621			29,000		4,867		1,304		69,792	67,369
DeWater, Janet	Mount Holly First	110	28,284			27,000		4,162	3,400	1,200		64,046	64,036
Epps, Leah	Greenway	100	27,454			9,600		2,835	3,677	1,283		44,849	42,998
Florence, David C.	Black Mountain	595	38,000			26,000		4,896	2,500	1,500		72,896	70,857
Floyd, Richard	Hickory First	625	71,500			38,500		9,056		1,650	1,000	121,706	
Gatewood, Thomas	Arbor Dale	98	41,601			52,947		7,529	3,866	1,250	800	107,993	99,672
Germer, David	Asheville First	565	39,202			25,680		4,964	2,000	2,000	2,000	75,846	69,290
Gurney, Rebecca	Reems Creek-Beech	82	18,500			31,500		3,825	3,800	1,250		58,875	56,902
Isola, Jill	Northminster	147	34,000			20,000		4,131	1,000	3,500		62,631	62,631
Jarrett, Esta	Canton	51	29,613		2,050	8,134		3,044	3,580	1,475		47,896	47,896
Johnson, Patrick	Asheville First	565	84,913			47,468		10,127	4,000	2,000		150,508	137,369
Jordan, Shannon	Asheville First	565	26,362			38,520		4,964	2,000	2,000		75,846	69,290
Lowe, Billy T.	Cherryville First	181	42,880		8,011	36,477		6,933			7,839	102,140	100,102
Mangione, Drew	Shelby	418	48,360			31,200		6,087	3,950	2,500		92,097	86,938
McKee, Michael	Newland	94	35,500			40,500		5,814	3,500	3,100	2,000	90,414	82,448
McMillan, Megan	Mills River	95	28,929	2,066		27,891		4,505	4,480	1,250		69,121	
Oedy, Dan	Southminster	366	62,000			40,000		8,170	2,500		1,800	114,470	105,149
Poulos, Michael	Spruce Pine	88	35,130			18,000		4,064	1,800		2,000	60,994	60,094
Purtill, Allan	Tryon	260	56,753		5,500	19,276		6,390	3,600	2,500	2,000	96,019	95,062
Ragan, Daria	Belmont First	946	37,163			32,000		5,291	309	1,916	990	77,669	72,068
Robinson, Mary K.	Black Mountain	595	65,000			30,000		7,268	5,000	1,500		108,768	108,882
Roquemore, Davic	Newton First	295	50,700			18,300		5,280	5,200	3,000	3,000	85,480	82,480
Scofield, Donald	Rutherfordton	345	68,350			35,000		7,906	3,000	1,200	5,194	120,650	116,057
Seiler, Dana V.	Unity	596	28,000	2,000		38,000		5,715	2,000	1,500	1,000	78,215	63,500
Shoop, Marcia M.	Grace Covenant	733	93,400			36,000		9,899	3,600	4,200		147,099	139,994
Smith, Allen	Kenilworth	56	21,538			20,000		3,178	3,300	1,000	3,458	52,475	52,474
Stanley, Mark	Trinity	293	63,629			29,200		7,101			2,250	99,930	94,274
Strickler, Cynthia	Presbyterian Reformed Min., Int.		23,973			50,027			Reimb	1,000		77,250	77,249
Thompson, Keith	Brevard-Davidson River	343	48,696			34,080		7,584	5,000			95,360	95,360
Upchurch, Melissa	Marshall	34	30,779			9,234		3,061	3,580	1,250		47,904	46,318
Wade, Byron	PWNC		34,960	12,125		34,960		6,276	6,000	3,500		97,821	94,180

TERMS OF CALL 2023

	Church/Org	Mbrshp	Base	Def Comp	Utilities	Housing	Manse	SS	Prof. Exp	Prof Dev	Other	Total	2022 Total
Warner, Samuel	Belmont First	946	74,047			45,000		9,107	7,000	1,800	990	137,944	132,274
Warren, Rob	Marion First	154	32,585	1,000	5,000		11,576	3,837			6,000	59,998	58,933

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
The Reverends Dwight Christenbury & Merri Alexander, Co-Chairs
July 29, 2023

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends the following to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

- I. THAT** Levi Bannerman, a member of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and a student at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.

Recently, your Committee on Preparation for Ministry conducted an interview with an Inquirer who asked, with the support of their sponsoring congregation and Session, that they be enrolled as Candidate in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. We recommend him to you today for your approval.

Levi Bannerman comes with the support of his congregation and the recommendation of the Session of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. His written call to ministry/faith statement is contained in this packet (see CPM Attachment 1).

The Process of Becoming a Candidate and Beginning to Receive a Call

“It is important that those who are to be ordained as teaching elders receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into a covenant relationship with those preparing to become teaching elders and with their sessions and congregations. This relationship shall be divided into the two phases of inquiry and candidacy.” (*Book of Order G-2.0601*)

Inquiry Phase:

In order to begin the inquiry phase, an applicant must be a member of the sponsoring congregation, shall have been active in the work and worship of that congregation for at least six months, and shall have received the endorsement of their session. This person is then examined by CPM, and if approved, is enrolled as an Inquirer.

“The purpose of the inquiry phase is to provide an opportunity for the church and those who believe themselves called to ordered ministry as teaching elders to explore that call together so that the presbytery can make an informed decision about the inquirer’s suitability for ordered ministry.” (*G-2.0603*) A person must be an Inquirer for at least one year.

Candidacy Stage:

When an Inquirer believes, through their discernment, that they are called to the position of teaching elder, they can request that they become a Candidate. The Inquirer will meet with their Session and explain their sense of call. The Session can endorse them and recommend them to the CPM. The CPM, through its discernment, can decide to recommend them to the Presbytery. At the recommendation of the CPM, the Inquirer comes before the Presbytery to share part of their faith journey and their sense of call. The Presbytery can then ask them questions in respect to their sense of call, not questions of content of an ordination exam. They can ask about "their Christian faith, forms of Christian service, and motives for seeking the ministry." (Adopted from a previous *Book of Order*.)

"The purpose of the candidacy phase, then, is to provide for the full preparation of persons to serve the church as teaching elders." (G-2.0604)

Preparation for a Call:

Before a person may take a call in our Presbytery, they must have completed the following:

- Pass the Bible Content Exam.
- Pass the four Senior Ordination Exams (Biblical Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity).
- Complete a two-day battery of assessments administered by a Career & Personal Counseling Center.
- Complete one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education training (CPE).
- Normally, complete at least one year at a PCUSA seminary.
- Meet annually with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
- Have been an Inquirer at least one year and have been a Candidate at least one year.
- Take a course in Reformed Theology and Polity.
- Complete Seminary.

Must be Approved by CPM to Receive a Call:

A Candidate may not begin to enter negotiations about a call as a teaching elder without the approval of the CPM, which has been delegated this task. When a Candidate has completed the above, the CPM will examine the Candidate and determine if he/she is ready to begin looking for a call, and if so, will "certify the person ready to receive a call." The Candidate will also have their Personal Information Form (PIF) reviewed and approved by CPM. When the person receives a call, the Candidate will be examined by the receiving presbytery.

If a Candidate who is under care of this Presbytery receives a call within our bounds, that candidate will preach before the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and their sermon will be included in the Presbytery report.

For Your Information:

William Upchurch, a Candidate certified ready to receive a call from Cherryville First Presbyterian Church, has accepted a call to serve as the Designated Pastor of the Long Creek Presbyterian Church in Kings Mountain, NC.

As of July, we have 11 students under care of PWNC:

- 5 Inquirers and 6 Candidates
- All are from large membership churches (over 300 in membership): Grace Covenant, Black Mountain, Belmont First, Waldensian, Gastonia First, Morganton First
- 1 is authorized to circulate their PIF
- The following seminaries have recently graduated students or have students currently attending: Union Presbyterian Seminary, Charlotte; Columbia Theological Seminary; Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond

APPENDIX M

Levi Bannerman
Union Presbyterian Seminary - Richmond, VA
Statement of Call

Dear Members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina,

I have arrived at this moment of my journey only through the intervention of the indispensable people and experiences that have shaped me along the way. Family, food, and the outdoors are major components of my identity. I was born into a vivacious family that extended beyond my own parents and sister. My grandparents were at the helm of my extended family and can best be described as larger than life. They were both formally and informally educators and major figures within the Presbyterian Church. The focus of their teaching always centered around recreation, dance, hospitality, and most importantly, community. My grandparents' core principles were contagious and took hold for my family who bought into their vision for life and adopted a similar mindset. My family has had the greatest impact on who I am today, and I am forever grateful to them for imparting priceless wisdom about how to navigate my own life. I know that my love for God and all of God's creation is a direct result of the loving family that raised me.

I have very fond memories of my childhood where I grew up in Black Mountain, NC surrounded by family, an intimate group of friends, and a church congregation who cared for me. Black Mountain Presbyterian is where I came to know a God who called me by name and who made me in God's own image. I graduated from Presbyterian College in 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science. Afterwards, I accepted a position with Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC as the Director of High School Youth. I spent two years at Covenant gaining professional skills and continuing to search for direction. Wanting to be closer to my partner, I left Covenant in 2019 and took a similar position with White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. I thoroughly enjoyed these jobs but I found that I was eager to seriously explore my faith beyond the bounds of youth ministry and decided to attend seminary. During this time, Mary Katherine and I became engaged and were married in 2019.

Mary Katherine has had an enormous impact on my life and is a constant light and companion to me. As a public elementary school teacher, she possesses a strong sense of purpose as she educates, supports, and cares for her students. Her lived experiences in the classroom and beyond have expanded my understanding of empathy and how to approach larger systems in need of change. She is one of many people who have impacted my life's direction but her impact cannot be overstated. Mary Katherine embodies so much of what I value in life, her care for others, her value of family, and her positive outlook on the world. Mary Katherine and I were drawn to each other due to our shared intentionality and through three years of marriage we have only grown in our intentionality with time and presence as well as with how we interact with others. Marriage has provided me with countless lessons, and I am certain that it has made me more thoughtful and selfless. My marriage has only added to my personal understanding of the importance of relationships (of all kinds) and the necessity of connecting with others. I firmly believe that we are not called to walk through life alone but must share our journey and burdens with others.

APPENDIX M

My call has been particularly influenced during Thanksgiving weekends. My Thanksgiving tradition is not the typical one-day event consisting of turkey, football, and pumpkin pie, but rather a full weekend of Bannerman Folk Camp. A tradition begun by my grandparents and held over five decades, Bannerman Folk Camp continues to be a holiday event featuring contra and folk dancing, live music, recreation, crafts, hiking, outdoor games, puppet shows and storytelling. This weekend gathering, consisting of ~150 people from various families and backgrounds, is a culmination of my grandparents' life work and reflects my own core values. It is truly a unique gathering over a holiday weekend where participants live intentionally with each other while participating in a wide array of activities. It fittingly occurs over Thanksgiving weekend as a natural theme of generosity and reciprocity emerges every year. We give thanks for time spent together, for the natural beauty that surrounds us, and for time to retreat and rest. Attending this holiday tradition has allowed me to understand the beauty of a diverse community, embrace the mountain traditions of my home, develop leadership skills, and recognize the importance of taking time for play and renewal. Thanksgiving weekends have served as an essential model of what a healthy, vulnerable, and life-giving community looks like.

At the most basic level my family, friends, church community, and Mary Katherine have taught me to see the worth and value of myself and of every individual. This basic belief has led me to a call to ministry that I am currently living out in seminary. I am a product of Appalachia where I grew up experiencing community through barn dances, the dining room table, and mountain trails. I am a product of my family where I learned to be accepting, empathetic, hospitable, and rooted in an ethic of reciprocity. Finally, I am a child of God who understands the value and worth of each unique individual and the broader creation in which we reside.

I have been baptized, confirmed, ordained as a ruling elder, and currently occupy the role of inquirer within the Presbyterian Church (USA). I have been fortunate to enjoy positive experiences within my home church, where I developed the fundamentals of my faith from within that community. I have wrestled with and doubted a number of topics along my faith journey. My time at seminary has been valuable to take the tools gained from my courses and apply them to my own theology. I have become fascinated with the way God interacts with the world and how individuals of all backgrounds perceive God and God's presence amongst us. Seminary has allowed me to develop a more expansive theology that seriously considers the role and benefit of other faith backgrounds, as well as a concern for all of creation. It is through my own wrestling that I have developed a call towards pastoral/spiritual care and more specifically chaplaincy. I gravitate towards moments included in the common human experience where God's presence feels close at hand. My faith does not call me to a life of isolation but to one that joins with others to find harmony in the shared connections.

At Union, I have completed two courses in the field of pastoral care. These courses have not only expanded my understanding of care but solidified my belief in the entwined nature of mind, body, and spirit. Dr. Rubén Arjona taught my Pastoral Care courses by gracefully facilitating discussions that challenged emotionally and stimulated intellectually. Over the course of my time at seminary, Dr. Arjona has encouraged me to explore the field of pastoral care as a vocation. Through this encouragement, I have begun to develop a deeper call to serving others through a clinical pastoral setting.

APPENDIX M

This summer, I am currently enrolled in my first unit of CPE at UVA Hospital in Charlottesville, VA. My pastoral care experience with patients and families has been nothing short of profound. It is not my intention to say that the care I have offered has always been profound but instead that my interactions have had a profound impact on me. I have found the visits with patients and families to be astoundingly unique. Every time I enter a room, I engage with more than just a presenting medical problem, but with a full life history. This life history combined with my own personal makeup creates a unique situation. I believe that at the core of my call is a belief in the value and worth of all people. In a hospital setting, this belief is shared between both chaplains and all other healthcare staff which allows for a universal approach to care. I greatly appreciate being in a setting where a person is treated and cared for regardless of their personal history. My theology and ministry directly align with a healthcare setting. In my own faith, it is imperative that we love God and our neighbor. More specifically, as followers of Christ, we are called to pay particular attention to the sick, oppressed, and marginalized. My personal and religious upbringing constantly highlight the significance of connection and support. I have received an overwhelming amount of unearned love and care from my own community and because I know of the profound impact that care can achieve, I feel called to provide that care to others. I also believe that I have an expansive theology that makes room for those with different beliefs or approaches to the divine. Frequently, there are visits I make where religion is never mentioned, and a prayer is not uttered. Presence and care are being provided regardless of our spiritual beliefs. For me, these moments are sacred and holy, but I recognize that someone else might classify them differently. The important part is showing up for each other and recognizing that our well-being is intertwined. This is at the core of my developing theology of reciprocity.

I would describe my spirituality and call as being at a turning point. Up to this point in my life, my faith has been shaped by my experiences in the church. Growing up I found church provided me with abundant spiritual resources and a supportive community that prepared me to go out and experience the world for myself. Ever since college, I have been able to lean on that foundation, but I would say that my spirituality and faith have felt uninspired and stagnant. While I have continued to hold on to fundamental truths about my faith, my spirituality has been a glowing ember, rarely receiving enough oxygen to light. Despite this, I still felt called to seminary and hoped that through my seminary experience I would be able to confront my faith and sort things out for the better. Seminary has been a meaningful experience but it has not been until CPE that I felt a sense of reinvigoration. CPE has granted me the opportunity to interact with a multitude of previously unknown to me individuals while confronting life's most difficult questions. During CPE, I have experienced God more frequently and more clearly in the hospital than I have in a long time. I say that my call is at a turning point because while it previously felt unsatisfactory, it has now been ignited through my experiences with patients, families, staff, and colleagues. I am eager to complete my summer unit of CPE and continue to explore the field of pastoral care, relying on God's call in my life to assist me in navigating whatever comes next.

Malawi Team Report – Trip April 2023

In April, eight members of the Presbytery traveled to Malawi to visit the Nkhoma Hospital and its Medical Centers, the Ebenezer School, and the Synod and its Seminary, all of which this Presbytery has supported. We renewed our relationships, caught up on changes that happened during Covid, looked at the ministries we support, and learned of new challenges. Responding to requests, we together initiated two new ministries: Men in the Mirror, and Hygiene Period Pads to help keep girls in school and support women. The trip was life-changing as we listened to their challenges and celebrations and as we talked, worshiped, prayed, and laughed together, renewing our commitment to support our brothers and sisters in Christ at Nkhoma. Team members are willing to speak at your church. Next year, PWNC will celebrate our twenty years of ministry in Nkhoma and this year our 15 years of support of Ebenezer School.

Malawi – General Information:

-Located in southwest Africa. Size of Pennsylvania. Population of 20 million.

-One of the world's least developed and poorest nations. 85% of the population lives in rural areas, with 70% living on less than \$2 per day. Primarily subsistence farming with no access to electricity or running water. Most are without access to clean water. The main source of food is corn/maize. Walking is the main source of transportation, few with bicycles.

Religion: 75% Christian, 15% Muslim, and 10% other. There are over 3 million Presbyterians in Malawi (more than in the US). There are three Synods in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) in Malawi. Nkhoma Synod is the middle Synod, where the capital, Lilongwe, is located. Nkhoma Mission Hospital was founded over 100 years ago by Scottish missionaries.

History of Presbytery of Western NC Involvement in Nkhoma:

Began in 2004: PWNC supported Dr. Barbara Nagy as a mission co-worker at Nkhoma Hospital, providing 80% of her salary. Dr. Nagy's work with other team members decreased the Hospital's pediatric mortality rate by 90% and newborn mortality decreased by 95%. She also developed improved medical processes and protocols to be used in other locations in Malawi. Dr. Nagy returned to Morganton in 2017.

Nkhoma Hospital now has 290 beds with multiple specialties, 11 rural health centers, a Mobile Health Care Unit/ambulance, and medical residency programs. PWNC has been involved in multiple initiatives, including the purchase of the Mobile Health Care Unit, funding for rural health centers including access to electricity and running water, staff housing, patient medications, and emergency funds. Many of these are provided through Building Hope Funds. Previous mission teams took oxygen concentrators to be used in various locations in the hospital. Now the Hospital has an oxygen manufacturing facility. Recent funding provided for communications and internet needs, and signage for the facility.

During COVID (2020-2022), PWNC raised \$62,150 for COVID relief at the hospital plus \$12,000 for oxygen concentrators. PWNC sent \$24,000 of general support, \$16,100 for medicine and supplies and \$23,000 from "Daily Change" to help provide food on the Children's Unit.

Hospital Water Project 2019: water supply to Nkhoma Hospital and Village was tripled by an engineering study and upgrading of the existing system. Funding for the project through grants from a PWNC donor and David Canon Belk Foundation equaled \$100,000.

Nkhoma Synod's Josophat Mwale Theological Institute – CCAP Presbyterian Synod Seminary in Nkhoma: Each year, graduates are provided a study Bible, clerical shirt, and bicycle. Graduation dresses are provided for female spouses. Funding has also been provided for student housing and stoves.

Ebenezer Institute of Learning: was founded by Malawians with a funding grant from First Presbyterian, Gastonia in 2009. Private school for pre-K through Middle School, primarily for children of hospital staff, but also local villagers. Funding continues for scholarships, supplies, maintenance, curriculum, and furniture through individual contributions and Building HOPE. Donor funding has also been provided for the library, chapel, and staff housing. COVID relief provided \$11,000. Currently 400 students are enrolled. A scholarship of \$300 covers schooling for a child for a year.

New Initiatives – 2023:

Hygiene pads for girls: Education of girls and women can be an avenue out of poverty for women and their families. Lack of sanitary products impacts adolescent girls from regular school attendance and contributes to dropping out of school. Women from PWNC churches made a total of 4,380 washable/reusable sanitary pads and 350 drawstring bags for carrying the products for girls in Nkhoma. Members of our team, working with Esther Latif ,RN, Director of Patient Services and Quality Improvement at the hospital, assisted with distribution and education of the girls at 3 schools. The remainder of the products will be distributed over time at other schools.

Men in the Mirror (MIM): In response to an invitation from Nkhoma Synod, The Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick spent 6 days teaching MIM curriculum to a group of 20 local pastors and to 24 graduating seminarians. The curriculum seeks to help men reflect on their relationship skills and learn from the example set by Jesus for human relationships. A central component of the course is humility. Over the next year, these pastors will teach MIM to men in their congregations. Many of these pastors have 3-4 churches with approximately 1000 members per congregation. Going forward, additional groups of pastors will be trained by the seminary and Synod staff to implement MIM curriculum in their own congregations. Cost of this workshop was \$20,266 – including translation, editing/publication of MIM information, travel costs for the leader, Study Bibles for seminarians, and expenses for workshops.

Support for Malawi: Continuing support is needed for the ministries in Nkhoma. We are now doing more to help the Seminary and its graduates and need to identify people and churches interested in helping that area. Also consider giving gifts to friends for birthdays, weddings, funerals, and other events by donating to the Ebenezer School, the Nkhoma Hospital, or the Synod's Seminary. Gift inserts for Ebenezer are on the PWNC website (see below), and other inserts will soon be available.

2024 Mission Trip to Malawi: A trip will be planned for April or May of next year. Consider going or funding someone to go. Applications and information about the time, needs, etc. will be available in October. If you are interested, call Michael McKee (828-733-2186) or Bobbi White (828-674-8671). More information is on the PWNC website under Malawi Mission, including links for contributions to Ebenezer Institute and to Nkhoma Mission Hospital.

www.presbyterywnc.org/mission/malawi-mission

Malawi Mission Team: Front: Terri Forsyth and Ed Forsyth (Belmont), Carol Nagy (Valdese) Back: Byron Wade (Presbytery), Kevin Frederick – creator of Men in the Mirror (Retired), Barbie Heilman -leader (Valdese), Reed Conley (Artisan Church), Becky Stevens (First Lenoir)



Men in the Mirror Training in Malawi April 2023

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to, “Have this mind in you that was in Christ Jesus.” This curriculum seeks to help men reflect on their own relationship skills and learn from the example set by Jesus regarding human relationships. A central component undergirding this course is humility.

Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick spent six days teaching the Men in the Mirror (MIM) curriculum to a select group of 20 pastors for three days, and later also for three days to 24 seminarians who graduated in May.

Within the next year, these forty-four pastors will teach the MIM curriculum to men in their congregations. Already 19 of the 20 experienced pastors have started teaching the course. The new pastors out of seminary were encouraged to spend six months getting familiar with their role as pastors and with their congregational members before starting a Men in the Mirror class in their congregations. Going forward, additional groups of pastors will be trained by the seminary and Synod staff to implement the MIM curriculum in their own congregations.

Responses to training:

The pastors were very appreciative and recognized the integrity of critiquing their own masculinity and the male-dominated values of their nation with the teachings and examples of Christ and were appreciative of this perspective. The seminarians as a group mentioned that the curriculum fleshes out an essential component of study not covered in their seminary training. Several seminarians noted that this course clearly demonstrated the importance of honoring and valuing the roles of women in the church. They are the primary workers in congregations and their service is as important as the men's. The church would be much weaker without the ministry of women. Currently, there are no women ordained to leadership positions in the church.

New Development: Couples in a Mirror

In response to requests for something to reinforce and continue the learning after the MIM curriculum is completed, Kevin has recently completed a devotional series for couples entitled, “Couples in a Mirror.” Using devotionals and case studies, the goal is to deepen the concepts learned and to develop relationships between spouses. The 44 pastors and seminary students trained in Malawi are serving as a pilot group for this work. Couples in the Mirror has recently been translated into Chichewa and will be translated into Spanish this fall. Future fundraising will be used to translate and publish this resource in both languages. The Seminary staff of Nkhoma Synod have heartily agreed to teach this course to pastors and seminary students. The funding will be used for those purposes in 2024 and the purchase of Bibles in Chichewa for Men who take the course and do not have a Bible. PWNC funding raised for Men in the Mirror will supplement half the cost of the Bibles and the other half will come from the men who complete the training and wish to purchase a Bible for their own use.

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Kevin E Frederick

Presbytery of Western North Carolina**2023 AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANTS****Apply By September 1st**

In every corner of the nation, congregations are taking the lead in the struggle for Affordable Housing. Churches working alone, in partnership with other congregations, church governing bodies, faith-based organizations, and nonprofit housing developers are making an impact on the housing shortages in their communities. Studies indicate that there is a shortage of over 207,000 rental units for extremely low-income families in North Carolina. The need within the geographic boundaries of our presbytery is widespread and well-documented.

The 218th General Assembly encouraged Presbyterians to be a part of this life-changing effort, declaring, "As foundational to faithful ministry with persons who are homeless, . . . Universal Access to Safe, Decent, Accessible, Affordable, and Permanent Housing is a measure of a just society and a sign of the coming Reign of God."

In this spirit and embracing our Matthew 25 commitment to eradicate poverty, our Presbytery invites congregations and nonprofits who partner with churches to apply for an Affordable Housing Grant. \$200,000 from the sale of presbytery properties has been made available to assist congregations who desire to make a difference. Grants will range from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The Missions Committee of the Presbytery will evaluate and allocate grant disbursements. Applications are to be received by September 1, 2023.

Some Basics! These grants are intended to serve those individuals and families who have extremely low incomes. These are neighbors who are veterans, retirees, and laborers who work for extremely low-paying wages. Even when these families can find a place to live, they often pay more than half their income on rent and utilities, leaving them cost-burdened with little available income for genuine necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and healthcare. Grant funds may be used to build homes, develop living spaces, renovate and re-purpose congregation-owned structures! Congregations are encouraged to be imaginative and innovative.

The Grant Application and informational Guidelines can be found on the Presbytery website in the "Forms and Info" section or by contacting Steve Aschmann, Chairperson of the Missions Committee at 919-455-6238 or email se43aschmann@gmail.com.

APPENDIX O

WHAT CAN CLS DO FOR YOU?

The **PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA'S CHURCH LEADERSHIP SCHOOL** provides quality training to church members wanting to strengthen their faith, their church and their skills.

We've been doing this since 1999, producing positive results for churches in our Presbytery as well as other Presbyteries.



STRENGTHENING FAITH

Participants come to CLS with a wide range of Biblical knowledge, but all come away with a deeper understanding of scripture and Reformed theology. Courses include exploration of worship services, the Directory of Worship and the Sacraments.



STRENGTHENING CHURCHES

Graduates of the program often take on leadership roles in the church and the Presbytery. Many go on to teach Sunday School classes, while some take on Commissioned Pastor roles in smaller churches. Polity is also a part of the curriculum.



STRENGTHENING SKILLS

Pastoral care is not the exclusive domain of a pastor. Our school provides training in the basics. Students also find out more about what goes into preaching and planning worship services. History of the Church provides valuable background on our faith journey.

WHAT IS CLS?

The Church Leadership School is a course designed to help participants learn and grow in discipleship.

WHO ATTENDS?

Our students have diverse life experiences – some retired, some already leaders in their congregation, some simply seeking enrichment.

WHEN?

Every other Saturday September through May. Two sessions each day 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m.



TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: Classes are held every other Saturday at **First Presbyterian of Morganton**. While in-person is encouraged, students can also attend via Zoom when necessary.

APPENDIX O

WHERE CAN CLS TAKE YOU?

For some participants, the Church Leadership School is the first step in becoming a Commissioned Pastor (also known as a Commissioned Ruling Elder), providing 170 hours of instruction.

For others CLS provides valuable insight into the practices of the church and tools to develop deeper ties to God and Scripture. Many to attend seek to be better teachers, elders and deacons.

WHO ARE THE TEACHERS?

With Montreat, Black Mountain and the lure of the Blue Ridge in the boundaries of our Presbytery, we are blessed with a large number retired ministers and seminary professors. In addition to this resource, we have highly qualified pastors currently serving churches. All faculty members are volunteers, dedicated to making CLS top notch.



Dean Kerry Border (left) with the Class of 2023.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Complete the accompanying enrollment form with basic information and briefly describe why you are applying and what your expectations are.

Obtain a letter of recommendation from your home church.

The CLS committee will review your application and answer any questions you may have.



WATCH a sample class on YouTube at https://youtu.be/4H46WOvf_ZE

COURSE SCHEDULE

FALL TERM 2023

6 Saturdays

Preaching (2nd-year students)

New Testament Survey (1st-years)

Theology I

WINTER TERM 2024

6 Saturdays

Old Testament Survey

Theology II

SPRING TERM 2024

5 Saturdays

Church History

New Testament Focus

■ Matthew

■ John

■ Luke

■ Hebrews

Worship workshop

IMPORTANT DATES

AUG. 15 Enrollment deadline

SEPT. 9 Orientation session

SEPT. 23 Fall term begins

WHAT DOES IT COST?

Tuition for each term (3 terms per year) is **\$75**. Tuition pays for books and other supplies needed for the coursework. Check with your church as many will cover tuition.

No charge for graduates of the program wishing to join us for refresher courses.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Kerry Border, Dean of CLS

■ Email: kerryborder@charter.net

■ Phone & Text: (586) 243-9362

Also check out our website <http://presbyterywnc.org>



Youth Leaders

Save These Dates!

September

24

Pathways Event
@ Montreat, NC

November

4-5

Middle School Retreat
@ Camp Grier

March

8-9

High School
Mission Retreat

February

10

Faith and Sexuality
Retreat
FPC Morganton

April

27

Adventure Day
@ Camp Grier

Plus! Summer 2024 - Guatemala Youth Delegation Trip

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

YOUTH COUNCIL

ALWAYS FUN

ALWAYS CHALLENGING



Youth should join PYC because you get to meet so many other Christians of all ages! You also get to progress your leadership skills, help difference places through community service projects, lead at various youth events, and most of all, have fun with your friends while service the Lord!

Ainsley VanderMeer - FPC Belmont

Being a member of PYC has helped me become closer to God. I have had a fun and entertaining experience learning about scripture and helping others across Western NC. Joining PYC is a fun and amazing opportunity for any youth wanting to stretch their faith.

Lauren Monnat - Bryson City Presbyterian

why should **YOU** apply?

I have loved PYC and the community it has brought with it! It has allowed me to explore my leadership skills and discover my passion in youth ministry! PYC is great for anyone who wants to make friends, be a leader, and spread the Lord's word around WNC!

Maggie Brock - First Presbyterian Church, Hickory

Questions?

Email Beth beth.gunn@gmail.com

PYC is a great experience that allows you to connect with other youth from across the presbytery and apply yourself to spreading God's word. It is a time to ask questions, to grow in your faith, to reach out to others about their faith. Each event is a new chance for you to be a leader. Being a member of PYC means that you are part of a family that works hard and plays hard.

Applications available on the Presbytery website

(www.presbyterywnc.org)

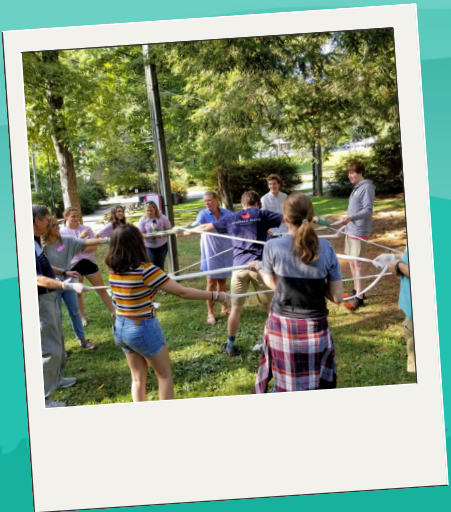
There's still room and time to apply!

PATHWAYS

PWNC Youth Kick Off Event

Games, energizers,
recreation, music & more!

**SUNDAY,
SEPT 24TH**



- ✓ For: 6th-12th grade youth
- ✓ Place: The Barn @ Montreat, NC
- ✓ Time: 10am - 5pm
- ✓ Cost: \$10 per person *
(includes program & pizza dinner)

**Gather with other youth from across the presbytery
for a day exploring God's great out of doors!**

**Bring a picnic lunch to eat on the grounds. The afternoon will
be a time for youth and leaders to discover various pathways
that help us explore God's huge love for all people. Join us!**

***registration begins August 15th**



**Questions? Email Beth Gunn
at beth.gunn@gmail.com**

MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

**REGISTRATION
OPENS SEPT 15**

**DEADLINE:
OCTOBER
28**



NOVEMBER 4-5, 2023

Join Middle School Youth from across our Presbytery for an overnight retreat at Camp Grier with recreation, keynote, small groups, fellowship and fun!

**KEYNOTER:
AMY KIM KREYMES PARKS,
SHE/HER/ELLA**



SCHEDULE:

Registration begins at 9:30 am on Saturday. The retreat concludes with Sunday morning worship. No lunch will be served Sunday.

BRING:

Sleeping bag or bed linens, pillow, towel, toiletries, mask (optional), medications, comfy shoes and clothes, Bible, flashlight, water bottle, rain gear, offering for Sunday Worship.

**QUESTIONS?
CONTACT BETH GUNN**
beth.gunn@gmail.com

Amy Kim Kyremes-Parks serves as The Director of Formation for Children, Youth and Their Families at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville, NC. Amy Kim loves creating space for folks to interact with the Holy through art and opportunities for disruption. Amy Kim leads workshops and conferences nationally for the PCUSA and has been published in ministry periodicals about Spiritual Formation and disrupting Racism. Her life is shared with her amazing spouse, Justin, children, Natalily & Isaiah along with Obed the poodle.

APPENDIX Q

GP-1

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER 136nd STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA Byron Wade, General Presbyter July 3, 2023

“Make a new plan, Stan.”

- Paul Simon

Many of you may remember the classic song “50 Ways to Leave Your Lover” by Paul Simon from his 1975 album *Still Crazy After All These Years*. A portion of the lyrics goes like this –

*You just slip out the back, Jack
Make a new plan, Stan
You don't need to be coy, Roy
Just get yourself free.*

Paul Simon wrote this song after divorcing his first wife as a humorous account of the event. However, when I heard the words *make a new plan, Stan* it reminded me of trying to plan forward – in a serious way! – in light of all the transitions and transformations the church is facing in today’s world. And let’s face it - some of these changes have been downright unpleasant. Church members have not fully returned to in-person worship. Finances are difficult to pin down in terms of estimating church budgets. The number of people participating in ministry is not what it used to be pre-pandemic. Throw in all the strife and divisions we face, it is difficult to make any plans. With all that the church is encountering at this point in life, what is the new plan?



I believe the church can plan on engaging in the mission of God, both nationally and internationally. Many of you know that I returned from a Presbytery delegation trip to Malawi right before our April stated meeting. It was my first time visiting Malawi! It was a joy to meet with our partners of the CCAP (Central Church of Africa Presbyterian) Nkhoma Synod and witness their ministries to others. We visited the Nkhoma hospital, a village clinic that served women and children, the

CCAP seminary as we celebrated the 24 graduating seniors, and participated in a two-day pastors training led by Kevin Frederick using the Men in The Mirror curriculum. In addition, some in our delegation went to a local school to distribute sanitary pads and undergarments to young female students. It was also a great pleasure to see Frank Dimmock and his contributions to the CCAP over many years on behalf of our Presbytery and meet Rev. Vasco Kachipapa, General Secretary of the CCAP Nkhoma Synod. It was a real blessing to visit and I hope you will keep our Malawi partners in your thoughts and prayers.

APPENDIX Q

GP-2

Building relationships between the Presbytery and the congregations is a part of the new plan. As many of you already know, we hired four part-time Presbytery Associates for three positions (!?) as well as a Guatemala Partnership Coordinator, and a Director of Communications. They began their time on May 1st and are contacting pastors and congregational leaders in their particular areas. All of them are very gifted and will be a real asset to the Presbytery! Of course, it goes without saying that our office and other program staff are top-notch and ensure the Presbytery runs well. We are in good hands!

In these times I am certain God has us making new plans for ministry. I see this through the continuing work of the Revisioning Task Force, our partnerships with Guatemala and Malawi, the gathering of pastors in the pastoral cohort, my visits to congregations, and in many other ways. It is with great enthusiasm that we are witnessing the movement of God's Holy Spirit and I look forward to seeing what else God will do through us to serve God's people. I hope you do as well.

May God bless!

Peace,
Byron