

145th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Saturday, January 31, 2026
VIRTUAL - ZOOM

PAGES ARE ARRANGED IN PACKET ORDER

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GUIDE TO WORSHIP AND WORK

ONE-HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING

Saturday, January 31, 2026

VIRTUAL - ZOOM

**145th STATED MEETING
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
January 31, 2026
DOCKET**

9:00 Call to Order **Ken Murchison, Moderator**
Immediate Past Moderator

Installation of Moderator and Vice-Moderator

Convene with Prayer of Invocation **Wanda Neely, Moderator**

Land Acknowledgment **Wanda Neely, Moderator**

Appointment of Host & Co-Host & Standing Committees **Wanda Neely, Moderator**

Recognition of Elders Attending for First Time, Visitors, and Corresponding Members

Orientation

Certification of Quorum **Ann Philbrick, Stated Clerk**
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 team report from which it was drawn.)

Stated Clerk's Report **Ann Philbrick** **B**
(Work of the Clerk, Presbytery Meeting Dates, Administrative Commission Reports, Overture(s))

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

Nominating/Representation Team	I
Building Hope	BH
Personnel Team	FF
Faith Formation Team	W
Engaging in Missions	S

**9:30 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the
Lord's Supper and Necrology**
Worship Leader: Libby Sigmon, Olney Presbyterian Church

10:40 Speak Out (10 minutes)

Finance Team (20 minutes) **Don Scofield** **BB**
(Work of the team; 2026 Proposed Budget)

Report of Disaster Recovery Coordinator (10 minutes)
(Work of the Team)

Anne Waple

Coordinating Ministry (10 minutes)
(Work of the team/ministry)

Ken Murchison **C**

- Second Reading: Standing Rules Revision and Vote

Igniting Imagination Congregational Engagement (15 minutes) **David Bonnema**

Commission on Ministry (30 minutes)
(Introduce new ministers and recommendations for Presbytery approval)

Michael Poulos/Keith Grogg **D**

- Presentation of Anne Apple
- Presentation of James “Jim” Ewing
- Presentation of Jess Rigel

Preparation for Ministry Team (20 minutes)
(Work of the team; Inquirers and Candidates)

Deck Guess **K**

Youth Ministry Team (5 minutes)
(Work of the Team)

David Germer **Y**

Guatemala Partnership (5 minutes)
(Work of the Team)

Doug Michael **Q**

Commission Pastor Team (3 minutes)
(Work of the Team)

George Thompson

Report of Bills and Overtures (as/if needed)

Report of the General Presbyter (5 minutes)

Byron Wade **GP**

Prayers of Intercession

Benediction and Adjournment

Wanda Neely

Attendance and Voting. Each teaching elder shall attend each meeting of Presbytery, and each congregation shall be represented by at least one ruling elder at each meeting. Congregations are entitled to ruling elder commissioners based on the following active membership (BO: G-1.0402), as shown on the most recent statistical report (*For the 2026 year, churches G through N are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2024 Statistical Report as figures are not available for 2025.*):

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

Retired teaching elders shall be welcome at all meetings, but their necessary non-attendance shall be excused. To ensure approximate parity in numbers between ruling elder and teaching elder commissioners:

1. All members of the Coordinating Ministry, and Commission on Ministry shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
2. All division, team and sub-team chairs shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
3. All Commissioned Pastors shall have voice and vote.
4. All Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and, in addition, other Christian Educators who have
 - earned at least a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent)
 - served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and
 - been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the Faith Formation Team shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to BO: G-2.1103, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).
5. All ruling elder commissioners to the Synod Assembly and to the General Assembly shall have voice and vote as long as their terms last.
6. All exempt staff of Presbytery shall have voice.
7. All racial/ethnic congregations and other congregations designated by the Coordinating Ministry shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
8. Only teaching elders who are active members (including retired teaching elders) or members-at-large of Presbytery, as defined by the *Book of Order*, shall have voice and vote.

DATE	LOCATION	PACKET DEADLINE	POWERPOINT DEADLINE	OVERTURE DEADLINE
2026 Presbytery Meeting Dates				
Saturday, January 31	Virtual - ZOOM	January 2, 2026	January 9, 2026	December 29, 2025
Tuesday, April 28	Montreat Conference Center	April 2, 2026	April 9, 2026	March 31, 2026
Saturday, July 25	Neighborhood Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artisan – Eastern • Greenway – Central • Mills River – Western • Crossnore - Mayland 	July 2, 2026	July 9, 2026	June 30, 2026
Tuesday, October 27	First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia	October 1, 2026	October 8, 2026	September 29, 2026
2027 Presbytery Meeting Dates				
Saturday, January 30	Virtual - ZOOM	January 4, 2027	January 11, 2027	December 29, 2026
Tuesday, April 27	Montreat Conference Center	April 1, 2027	April 8, 2027	March 30, 2027
Saturday, July 31	Neighborhoods (TBD)	July 1, 2027	July 8, 2027	June 29, 2027
Tuesday, October 26	TBD	October 1, 2027	October 7, 2027	September 28, 2027

Calendar of Events

MEETINGS HELD BY ZOOM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

JANUARY

- 21 Preparation for Ministry Team
- 24 Church Leadership School
- 27 Commission on Ministry Leadership Team
- 31 **145th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina ZOOM-Virtual**

FEBRUARY

- 2 Examinations Team
- 3 Disaster Recovery Neighborhood Meeting - Canton
Commission on Ministry
- 4 Coordinating Ministry Leadership Team
Disaster Recovery Neighborhood Meeting - Tryon
- 7 Church Leadership School
- 10 Disaster Recovery Neighborhood Meeting – Cherryville, First
- 11 Coordinating Ministry
- 12 Disaster Recovery Neighborhood Meeting – New Hope Ashville
- 16 **Presbytery Office Closed – President’s Day**
- 20 **Statistics Deadline for Churches**
- 21 Church Leadership School
Faith & Sexuality Retreat (5th – 8th Graders & Their Parents) - Shelby
Nominating/Representation Team - Presbytery Office
- 24 Commission on Ministry Leadership Team
Disaster Recovery Neighborhood Meeting – Spruce Pine, First
- 26 Lunch & Learn with Christina Tutterow
Youth Ministry

MARCH

- 2 Examinations Team
- 3 Commission on Ministry
Peace and Justice
- 4 Coordinating Ministry Leadership Team
- 6-7 Mission Retreat – High School Youth - First Presbyterian, Spruce Pine
- 7 Church Leadership School
- 11 Coordinating Ministry
- 13 Youth Leaders Forum - Warren Wilson Pres. Church
- 18 Preparation for Ministry Team
- 21 Church Leadership School
- 30 Examination Team
- 31 Commission on Ministry Leadership Team

APRIL

- 2 **Presbytery Packet Deadline for the 146th Stated Meeting**
- 3 **Presbytery Office Closed – Good Friday**
- 6 **Presbytery Office Closed – Easter Monday**
- 7 Commission on Ministry
- 8 Coordinating Ministry
- 11 Church Leadership School
- 25 Church Leadership School
- 28 **146th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Montreat Conf. Ctr.**



To: Members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina
From: Ann Philbrick, Stated Clerk
Date: January 19, 2026
Re: One-Hundred Forty Fifth Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday and is ready for what 2026 has in store.

As the winter months are upon us, that means that our next quarterly stated meeting of Presbytery is just around the corner. Our upcoming meeting on January 31, 2026 will be conducted by electronic means. We will again meet by ZOOM, working together, assisting, and teaching one another as we go.

REGISTRATION will happen electronically and in advance in order for you to have remote access to the meeting. By the time you see this letter, you should have received a separate communication about the process for registration. If you have not, please contact the presbytery office by telephone right away (828-438-4217). If you are reading this electronically, you can register via this [link](#). You will need to register in advance and not later than January 28, 2026.

ORIENTATION will be necessary for everyone because of our virtual format. So please plan to join the meeting no later than 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 31st.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER requests should be communicated to the Stated Clerk by Wednesday, January 28th, by email (aphilbrick@presbyterywnc.org) for inclusion in the meeting

ELDER REPRESENTATION - For the 2026 year, the following churches (G through N) are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the **2024** Annual Statistical Report.

0 - 250 members – 1
251 - 750 members – 2

751 - 1250 members - 3
1251 - 1750 members – 4

Gastonia, First
Green Mountain
Hendersonville, First
Jacks Creek
Love's Chapel
Micaville
Morrison
Newdale

Good Hope
Green Street
Hickory, First
Kenilworth
Lowell
Mills River
Mount Holly, First
Newland

Grace Covenant
Greenway
Highlands, First
Lenoir, First
Marion, First
Montreat
New Hope, Asheville
Newton, First

Grassy Creek
Hayesville
Ironton
Long Creek
Marshall
Morganton, First
New Hope, Gastonia
Northminster

FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE, e-mail Katie at kquinn@presbyterywnc.org or call the Presbytery Office at 828-438-4217 by Wednesday, January 28, 2026.

Please join us via ZOOM on Saturday, January 31, 2026 for our first Presbytery meeting of the new year.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

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 through 9 FROM THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT

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

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

- CA 1. THAT Wanda Neely, Ann Philbrick, and Katie Quinn be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the April 28, 2026 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the October 28, 2025 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the past/present membership roster of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Permanent Judicial Commission as required in BO: D-5.0206b, be reported and become a part of the permanent record of Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1)**
- CA 4. THAT the Stated Clerk be given permission to attach a current list of ministers of this Presbytery and that the list becomes a part of the permanent record.**

- CA 5. **THAT the January 2026 report of the following Administrative Commission be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery: (Stated Clerk Attachment 2)**
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 6. **THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Michael McCracken
- CA 7. **THAT the Presbytery celebrate the lives and service of the following teaching elders/Ministers of the Word and Sacrament who died during the year 2025 and that their names become a part of the permanent record:**
- | | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Victor M Wilson | 1/19/2025 |
| John Richard Hobson | 3/26/2025 |
| Ronald Botsford | 5/14/2025 |
| William G. Heck | 5/29/2025 |
| Carol Seaman | 9/28/2025 |
- CA 8. **THAT the Presbytery celebrate the lives and service of the following Elders, as reported by their local congregations, who died during the year 2025, and that their names become a part of the permanent record:**

Asheville, First

Jeff Byers
Diane Kessler
Milly Middleton
John Shuler

Banner Elk

Allen Knox

Belmont, First

Dave Hall
Eleanor Grass

Black Mountain

Joseph William Walker
Jerone Carson Herring
Gene Leon Schimpf

Canton

William "Bill" Rolland

Cherryville

Scott Mauney
Don Shaw

Dallas, First

James Edward Bates
Erma Clemmer
John Rhyne Finger
Grace Petty Blanks

Dixon

Russia "Lib" Stewart

Etowah

Mary Jean Welch

Fletcher

Lowell E. Wise

Franklin, First

Betty Gregory
Rusty Gilbert Key
Julia Mae Gray

Grace Covenant

Peggy Joyce Fish Rada
Margaret Grace Rada
Eric "Rick" Pyeritz

Greenway

Bobbie Jean Curtis
Margret Lillard
Elaine Bush
Betsy McRee
Gay Kirby

Hickory, First

Antonia Coleman
Richard Washer

Morganton, First

David Berry Rader
Deborah Wellmon

Mount Holly, First

Robert Randall
Henry Massey
Clifford Farris
Nancy Jessen

New Hope

Margot Coleman
Peg Lewis

Newdale

Wanda Woodby

Newton, First

Mrs. Lee Crawford

James Roddy

Michael Induni

Frances Inscoc

Richard Hedrick

David McCart

PWNC

Lincolnton, First (closed)

James Ross

Lawrence Warlick jr.

Shelby

John Auten

JoAnn Richards

Dot Roark

Shiloh

Elizabeth "Love" Redmond

Carolyn Hambright

Siloam

Larry Eugene Tipton

Southminster

Amy Leigh Anderson

Spruce Pine, First

Don Baucom

Sarah Earley

Ron Royer

Trinity

Bob Lux

Ken Sugawara

Pat Dienst

Bonnie Godsey

Bob Kitts

Unity

Linda Seibert Dwyer

Jane Thornhill Cobb

Ronald Marshall Bost

Waldensian

Rosalba Shook

Margaret Blyenat

CA 9. THAT any disparity in number between ruling elder and teaching elder commissioners be corrected in the following manner:

Attendance and Voting. Each teaching elder shall attend each meeting of Presbytery, and each congregation shall be represented by at least one ruling elder at each meeting. Congregations are entitled to ruling elder commissioners based on the following active membership (BO: G-1.0402), as shown on the most recent statistical report (*For the 2026 year, churches G-N are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2024 Statistical Report as figures are not available for 2025.*):

Gastonia, First

Good Hope

Grace Covenant

Grassy Creek

Green Mountain

Green Street

Hayesville

Hendersonville, First

Hickory, First

Highlands, First

Ironton

Jack's Creek

Kenilworth

Lenoir, First

Long Creek

Love's Chapel

Lowell

Marion, First

Marshall

Micaville

Mills River

Montreat

Morganton, First

Morrison

Mount Holly, First

New Hope, Asheville

New Hope, Gastonia

Newdale

Newland

Newton, First

Northminster

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

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 - been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the Faith Formation Team
 shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to BO: G-2.1103, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).
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6. All exempt staff of Presbytery shall have voice.
7. All racial/ethnic congregations and other congregations designated by the Coordinating Ministry shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
8. Only teaching elders who are active members (including retired teaching elders) or member-at-large of Presbytery, as defined by the *Book of Order*, shall have voice and vote.
9. That Churches G-N (Gastonia, First through Northminster) be requested to send one additional elder commissioner for the year 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS 2 thru 3 FROM THE COORDINATING MINISTRY REPORT

(See Coordinating Ministry Report (C) for contents of recommendations)

- CA 2. That the Presbytery approve the following members for the Nominating/Representation Team:**

CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Cam Murchison	Laina Yates	Allen Baroody
Leah Epps	Allen Lowery	Will Gaines
Zion Roberts	Dwight Christenbury (Chair)	Tamara Puffer
(vacant)	Tamika Garrison	Dennis Godfrey
(vacant)	Cat Kessler	(vacant)

- CA 3. That the Presbytery elect Melvin Meares as the Treasurer of the Presbytery for 2026.**

RECOMMENDATIONS 1 thru 7 FROM THE NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION TEAM

(See Nominating/Representation Team Report (I) for contents of recommendations.)

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--|--|------------|
| CA | 1. | <u>Finance Team</u>
Ms. Cheryl Miller | Class of 2028 | |
| CA | 2. | <u>Personnel Team</u>
Rev. Sam Warner (Belmont, First) | Class of 2028 | |
| CA | 3. | <u>Commission on Ministry</u>
Rev. Dr. Keith Grogg | | Chair 2026 |
| CA | 4. | <u>Preparation for Ministry Team</u>
Ms. Darinda Fredricksen (Lowell)
Mrs. Corise Gambrell (Montreat) | Class of 2028
Class of 2028 | |
| CA | 5. | <u>Commissioned Pastors Team</u>
Rev. Dr. David Hosick (Retired) | | Chair 2026 |
| CA | 6. | <u>Peace and Justice Team</u>
Ms. Mary Jo Clark (Black Mountain/Montreat)
Ms. Nancy W. Clarke (Black Mountain)
Mr. John S. Curry (Grace Covenant)
Ms. Cathie Dodson (Asheville, First)
Mr. Paul Garrity (Black Mountain)
Dr. Rick Hobson (Trinity)
Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley (Retired)
Rev. Dr. Lynn Turnage (Grace Covenant) | Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028 | Chair 2026 |
| CA | 7. | <u>Campus Ministry Team</u>
Rev. Patricia Reid | Class of 2028 | |

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PERSONNEL TEAM

(See Personnel Team Report (FF) for contents of recommendations.)

CA THAT the following Salary Packages for 2026 be accepted.

Rev. Dr. Byron A. Wade

General Presbyter
(40 hours/week)

Salary	\$39,329
Housing	\$39,329
Deferred Compensation	\$12,125
SSA	\$6,945
Travel/Business Exp	\$6,000
Cont Education	\$3,500
SUBTOTAL	\$107,227

Medical & Pension	\$42,668
TOTAL	\$149,895

Beth Gunn Associate for Youth

(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$25,742
FICA	\$1,969
TOTAL	\$27,711

Rev. Schaap Freeman Presbytery Associate

(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$ -
Housing	\$25,819
TOTAL	\$25,819

Rev. Dr. Beverly Thompson & Rev. Dr. George Thompson Presbytery Co-Associates

(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$ -
Housing	\$25,819
TOTAL	\$25,819

Rev. Dr. Ann Philbrick Stated Clerk

(19 hours/week)

Salary	\$26,154
Housing	\$12,000
TOTAL	\$38,154

Sarah Robinson Guatemala Partnership Coordinator

(12 hours / week)

Salary	\$15,664
FICA	\$1,198
	\$1,198
TOTAL	\$16,862

Rev. Tom Phillips Presbytery Associate

(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$ -
Housing	\$25,819
TOTAL	\$25,819

Jim Taylor Presbytery Associate

(10-12 hours/week)

Salary	\$18,300
TOTAL	\$18,300

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Ann Philbrick, Stated Clerk

January 31, 2026

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Don Shaw

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John Rhyne Finger
Grace Petty Blanks

Dixon

Russia “Lib” Stewart

Etowah

Mary Jean Welch

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Lowell E. Wise

Franklin, First

Betty Gregory
Rusty Gilbert Key
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Margret Lillard
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Betsy McRee
Gay Kirby

Hickory, First

Antonia Coleman
Richard Washer

Morganton, First

David Berry Rader
Deborah Wellmon

Mount Holly, First

Robert Randall
Henry Massey
Clifford Farris
Nancy Jessen

New Hope

Margot Coleman
Peg Lewis

Newdale

Wanda Woodby

Newton, First

Mrs. Lee Crawford
James Roddy
Michael Induni
Frances Incoe
Richard Hedrick
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Lincolnton, First (closed)
James Ross
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Elizabeth “Love” Redmond
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Larry Eugene Tipton

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Amy Leigh Anderson

Spruce Pine, First

Don Baucom
Sarah Earley
Ron Royer

Trinity

Bob Lux
Ken Sugawara
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Gastonia, First	Jack's Creek	Montreat
Good Hope	Kenilworth	Morganton, First
Grace Covenant	Lenoir, First	Morrison
Grassy Creek	Long Creek	Mount Holly, First
Green Mountain	Love's Chapel	New Hope, Asheville
Green Street	Lowell	New Hope, Gastonia
Hayesville	Marion, First	Newdale
Hendersonville, First	Marshall	Newland
Hickory, First	Micaville	Newton, First
Highlands, First	Mills River	Northminster
Ironton		

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3. All Commissioned Pastors shall have voice and vote.
4. All Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and, in addition, other Christian Educators who have
 - earned at least a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent)
 - served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and
 - been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the Faith Formation Team
 shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to BO: G-2.1103, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).
5. All ruling elder commissioners to the Synod Assembly and to the General Assembly shall have voice and vote as long as their terms last.
6. All exempt staff of Presbytery shall have voice.
7. All racial/ethnic congregations and other congregations designated by the Coordinating Ministry shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
8. Only teaching elders who are active members (including retired teaching elders) or member-at-large of Presbytery, as defined by the *Book of Order*, shall have voice and vote.
9. That Churches G-N (Gastonia, First through Northminster) be requested to send one additional elder commissioner for the year 2026.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- 10. THAT the 146th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Montreat Conference Center, Montreat, NC. *THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, April 2, 2026. THAT the deadline for an overture is Monday, March 31, 2026.***
- 11. THAT the following procedure for reviewing session records for 2025 in the year 2026, will be as follows:**
- A. Each clerk of session will gather the 2025 Session minutes for her/his congregation.**
 - B. By the end of February 2026, the Clerk's office will distribute an updated checklist to each clerk.**
 - C. During March and April, the Stated Clerk will run training events (some on zoom, some in person) which will include orientation on the updated checklist. Dates TBD and sent out to each clerk.**
 - D. No later than September 1, 2025, use the updated checklist, to review your records and return the checklist to the PWNC.**
- 12. THAT the following Session Records for 2024 were submitted and approved, after the October 2025 Presbytery meeting and prior to the January 2, 2026, packet deadline:**

**Dallas, First
Hendersonville, First**

Dixon

Olney

- 13. THAT the following Sessions Records for 2024 have not been submitted for approval and are delinquent:**

**Bridgewater
Brittain's Cove
Buladean
Burnsville, First
Calvary
Canton
Cherryville, First
Columbus
Dorland Memorial
Etowah
Gastonia, First**

**Grace Covenant
Green Mountain
Green Street
Hayesville
Ironton
Jack's Creek
Kenilworth
Long Creek
Love's Chapel
Morganton, First
Northminster**

**Old Fort
Pine Street
Ridgeview
Ryburn Memorial
Shelby
Sherrill's Ford
Shiloh, Grover
Spruce Pine, First
Unity
Vians Valley
Waynesville, First**

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION ROSTER

NAME AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION	YR BEGAN SERVING	TERM EXPIRES	YRS SERVED
Rev. Ted Beasley, Jr. (Deceased)		1990	1991	1
Mr. Robert J. Robinson 41 Stratford Road, Asheville, NC 28804	(o) 828/255-7641 (h) 828/252-0878	1990	1998	8
Rev. William Serjak (Deceased) 149 Damascus Road, Sylva, NC 28779	(o) (h) 828/586-2181	1990	1994	4
Mr. Gwyn Harper, Jr.		1990	1992	2
Mr. David Moore (Deceased) 721 Boulware Ave., Gastonia, NC 28052	(h) 704/864-5850	1990	1996	7
Rev. Marcus Prince, III (Deceased)		1990	1996	7
Mr. Tom Arnold		1990	1993	3
Mr. Robert L. Thompson (Deceased)		1990	1993	3
Mr. Marvin Wooten 308 Kings Grant Rd. Lincolnton, NC 28092	(o)704/344-6169 (h)704/735-7020	1992	1996	4
Rev. William McLean (Deceased)		1992	1993	1
Mr. Robert Weaver (Deceased) 6 College Row, Brevard, NC 28712	(h) 828/884-3452	1992	1994	2
Ms. Judie Shapiro 117 Fairforest Dr., Rutherfordton, NC 28139	(o)828/286-5000 (h)828/287-5378	1992	2000	8
Mr. Lloyd Hice P.O. Box 273, Spruce Pine, NC 28777	(h)828/765-2056	1993	1998	5
Rev. Brian Weger (Deceased) 202 Amethyst St., Spruce Pine, NC 28777	(h) 828/4678332	1993	1998	5
Rev. Gerrit Dawson (MOVED)		1993	1994	1
Ms. Jane Holt P.O. Box 357, Montreat, NC 28757	(h)828/669-7544	1993	1996	3
Rev. J. Thomas Phillips		1997	2004	7
Rev. Dr. Ronald Botsford 106 Rainbow Ln, Blk Mountain, NC 28711	(h) 828/664-9484	1997	2000	3
Mr. Sam Ervin, III (Deceased)		1997	2002	5

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION ROSTER

NAME AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION	YR BEGAN SERVING	TERM EXPIRES	YRS SERVED
Mr. John Lafferty P. O. Box 1188, Lincolnton, NC 28092	(o) 704/735-2542 (h) 704/732-1253	1997	2002	5
Rev. Roger G. Miller (Deceased)		1998	2002	4
Ms. Carolyn Miller		1998	2002	5
Rev. Eugene Witherspoon (Deceased) 200 Tabernacle Rd,G-205, Black Mtn, NC 28773	(h) 828/669-0197	1999	2004	5
Rev. Robert E. Frost (MOVED -Deceased)		1999	2004	5
Rev. Robert Ratchford (Moved-Deceased) P. O. Box 39, Blk Mtn, NC 28711	(o) 828/669-2725 (h) 828/669-1270	1999	2004	5
Mr. Phil Cooper (Deceased) 447 Dogwood Trail, Tryon, NC 28782	(h) 828/859-9050	2000	2006	6
Rev. Alan Wildsmith (MOVED EPC) 252 Valley River Ave, Murphy, NC 28906	(o) 828/837-6153 (h) 828/837-9480	2000	2006	6
Mr. Tom Bowen		2000	2002	2
Rev. Hunter Coleman P. O. Box 548, Highlands, NC 28741	(o) 828/526-3175 (h) 828/526-3193	2000	2004	4
Ms. Linda Wortman Lowe 305 Inglewood Drive, Morganton, NC 28655	(o) 828/726-2457 (h) 828/433-9480	2001	2006	5
Ms. Johnnie Moore (Deceased)		2001	2002	1
Rev. Dr. Monty Burnham 1348 Land Harbor, Newland, NC 28657			Resigned Committee	
Ms. Sarah Thornburg 216 Robinhood Road, Asheville, NC 28804	(o) 828/254-8800 (h) 828/236-2683	2003	2008	6
Ms. Paula Wallace 2341 Jefferson Lane, Gastonia, NC 28054	(h) 704/865-3754	2003	2008	6
Rev. Dr. Luke Harkey P. O. Box 1444, Shelby, NC 28151	(o) 704/487-8503 (h) 704/480-7838	2005 2011	2010 2016	5 5
Rev. David Mulford 22 Timber Park Dr, Blk Mtn, NC 28711	(h) 828/669-2067		Moved 2006	

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION ROSTER

NAME AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION	YR BEGAN SERVING	TERM EXPIRES	YRS SERVED
Rev. Dr. Thomas Parker (DECEASED) P. O. Box 779, Etowah, NC 28729	(h) 828/891-8666	2005 2011	2010 2016	5 5
Rev. Riley Covin 29 Haywood Drive, Canton, NC 28716	(h) 828/648-3281	1993 2007	1998 2012	6 6
Rev. Dr. William Sweetser P. O. Box 764, Spruce Pine, NC 2877	(o) 828/765-4036 (h) 828/766-7694	2006	2014	8
Rev. Layton Mauze (DECEASED) 1532 Royalty Circle, Statesville, NC 28625	(h)	2006	2010	5
Mr. John Heilman 500 Campbell Ave, SE, Valdese, NC 28690	(h) 828/879-8430	2007	2012	6
Mr. Parks Wilson P. O. Box 901, Belmont, NC 28012	(o) 704/864-5728 (h) 704/825-7071	2007	2012	6
Mr. Jim Henderson P.O. Box 936, Montreat, NC 28757	(h) 828/669-1159	2009	2014	6
Mrs. Sandy Jividen (DECEASED) 82 Wagon Trail, Black Mountain, NC 28711	(h)828/669-4026	2009	2014	6
Rev. Margaret P. Lauterer 20 Orchard Street, Burnsville, NC 28714	(h) 828/682-1374	2011	2012 Resigned	2
Rev. Merriam Alexander (B) 94 LedgeStone Drive, Fairview, NC 28730	(H)828/338-5050	2014	2016	3
Mrs. Cindy Combs (E) 818 45th Ave Lane, NE, Hickory, NC 28601	(H)828/256-4545	2014	2016	3
Mr. Bob Forsythe 82 Wildwood Forest Lane, Mills River, NC 28759	(h) 828/684-0643	2013	2018	6
Mr. Lacy Thornburg P. O. Box 8, Webster, NC 28788	(h) 828/586-1166	2013	2018	6
Rev. Carol Steele 102 Fairway Dr, Black Mountain, NC 28711	(o) 828/669-2911 (h) 828/545-6715	2013	2018	6
Mr. John Lafferty (E) P.O. Box 1188, Lincolnton, NC 28092	(O)704/735-2542 (H)704/732-1253	2015	2019	4

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION ROSTER

NAME AND ADDRESS	CONTACT INFORMATION	YR BEGAN SERVING	TERM EXPIRES	YRS SERVED
Rev. Samuel P. Warner (D) P.O. Box 1, Belmont, NC 28012	(O)704/825-3357 (H)704/825-5157	2015	2020	6
Rev. Dr. Richard N. Boyce (D) 5141 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210	(O)980/636-1669 (H)704/825-4568	2017	2022	6
Mrs. Jane Vann (B) 1 Clear Vista Drive, Asheville, NC 28805	(H)828/296-7419	2017	2022	6
Rev. Kathy Campbell 121 Woodwinds Ln, Banner Elk, NC 28604	(O) 828/733-1933 (H) 828/963-5190	2018	2022	5
Mr. Beverly Beal 230 Tremont Drive, SE, Lenoir, NC 28645	(H)828/758-8664 828/381-6520	2019	2024	
Rev. Dr. Whit Malone 237 Second St., NW Hickory, NC 28601	(O)828/322-6343 (H)828/455-0338	2019	2024	
Mrs. Sarah Thornburg 216 Robinhood Rd., Asheville, NC 28804	(O)828/254-8800 (H)828/236-2683	2018	2024	
Rev. Dr. James Aydelotte 48 Wagon Trail, Black Mountain, NC 28711	(H) 828/707-6363	2020	2026	
Rev. Janet DeWater 143 Woodhill Dr., Mount Holly, NC 28120	(O) 704/827-0521 (H) 425/864-3838	2020	2026	
Mr. John Auten 140 Kester Drive, Cherryville, NC 28021	(H) 704/482-1511 (C) 704/473-7726	2019 2019	2020 2026	
Rev. Dr. Donald Scofield P. O. Box 1133, Rutherfordton, NC 28139	(H) 828/286-0082 (C) 828/289-0902	2023	2028	
Rev. Carol Steele 102 Fairway Drive, Black Mountain, NC 28711	(H) 828/546-6715 (C) 828/419-9832	2023	2028	
Ms. Paula Wallace 2341 Jefferson Avenue, Gastonia, NC 28056	(H) 704/865-3754 (C) 704/214-1011	2023	2028	
Mr. Doug Trump 2202 Timber Pl., Asheville, NC 28804	(C) 862/812-8620	2025	2026	
Rev. Mark Stanley 265 Raven Top Dr., Penrose, NC 28766	(H) 828/553-6425	2025	2030	
Mr. Bob Forsythe 82 Wildwood Forest Lane, Mills River, NC 28759	(H) 828/684-0643 (C) 314/973-4535	2025	2030	
Mrs. Helen Hall P.O. Box 1231, Lenoir, NC 28645	(H) 828/729-7898	2025	2030	

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORTS

January 2026

Churches Concluding their Ministry:

The AC currently has oversight of two properties: one from the former Saluda Presbyterian Church and one from the former First Presbyterian Church of Bessemer City.

The AC is continuing to pursue steps to transfer the Saluda Fellowship Hall to the Saluda Pop-Up Pantry and the Church Sanctuary to the Saluda Historical Committee as well as the FPC Bessemer City property to the Bessemer City History and Art Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Brittain, Chair

COORDINATING MINISTRY
Ken Murchison, Chair
January 31, 2026

SECTION ONE

The Coordinating Ministry RECOMMENDS to Presbytery:

1. That the Presbytery approve the revised Standing Rules on its second reading.
 (Attachment 1)
- CA 2. That the Presbytery approve the following members for the Nominating/Representation Team:

CLASS OF 2026	CLASS OF 2027	CLASS OF 2028
Cam Murchison	Laina Yates	Allen Baroody
Leah Epps	Allen Lowery	Will Gaines
Zion Roberts	Dwight Christenbury (Chair)	Tamara Puffer
(vacant)	Tamika Garrison	Dennis Godfrey
(vacant)	Cat Kessler	(vacant)
- CA 3. That the Presbytery elect Melvin Meares as the Treasurer of the Presbytery for 2026.

SECTION TWO

The Coordinating Ministry informs Presbytery regarding the following matters:

1. The Presbytery docket includes a list of upcoming events.
2. The Coordinating Ministry continued the payoff arrangement to the continuing First Church Lenoir that will result in reduced payments through 2031.
3. The Coordinating Ministry approved the following Daily Change Offering Grants proposed by the Hunger Team:

Regional Requests

Agency	Approved
BackPack Weekend Food Program (sponsored by FPC Belmont)	\$12,000
Clay County Food Pantry (sponsored by Hayesville PC)	\$5,000
LINC Home Delivered Meals of Lincoln Co (sponsored by Ironton PC)	\$5,000
Macon County Care Network (CARENET) (sponsored by FPC Franklin)	\$8,000

International Requests

Agency	Approved
Proyecto de Salud-PWNC Guatemala Health Project (sponsored by the PWNC Guatemala Partnership Team)	\$19,000

Total Funds Granted	\$49,000
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4. **The Coordinating Ministry approved celebration of the Lord's Supper at the following occasions in 2026: Presbytery Events and Retreats, Mission Trips/Presbyterian Pilgrimages, Campus Ministry Cullowhee, Wee Kirk Presbyterian Church, and Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Gatherings.**
5. **The Presbytery hired Katie Quinn as the new Administrative Assistant to the Stated Clerk, and Jim Taylor to serve as the Presbytery Associate for the Mayland Neighborhood, both with a start date of January 5, 2026.**
6. **The Coordinating Ministry expressed its appreciation to Dana Seiler for chairing in 2025 and for her three years of service on the Coordinating Ministry and her dedicated service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
7. **The Coordinating Ministry expressed its thanks to Lisa Pressley, Controller, Melvin Meares, Treasurer, and Feild Russell and Don Scofield, Finance Team Co-Chairs for their work during 2025 and their long-standing service to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.**
8. **The individuals listed below will serve as members of the Coordinating Ministry for 2026:**
 - Mr. Ken Murchison – Past Moderator of the Presbytery and Chair
 - Rev. Wanda Neely – Moderator of the Presbytery
 - Mr. Robin Honeycutt – Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery and Moderator-elect
 - Mr. Melvin Meares – Treasurer of the Presbytery (pending election by the Presbytery)
 - Rev. Dr. Becky Stanley – Strengthening Congregations Ministry
 - Rev. Dr. Allan Purtill – Equipping Disciples Ministry
 - Ms. Sue Johnson – Engaging in Mission Ministry
 - Rev. Dr. Donald Scofield – Coordinating Ministry
 - Rev. Dr. Keith Grogg – Supporting Leadership Ministry
 - Mrs. Corise Gambrell – Presbyterian Women
 - Rev. Jill V. Isola – At-large representative (Class of 2026)
 - Mr. Ron Tingle – At-large representative (Class of 2026)
 - Rev. Pete Peery – At-large representative (Class of 2027)
 - Rev. Lindsay Jacaruso – At-large representative (Class of 2028)
 - Mrs. Helen Hall – Synod Commissioner
 - Rev. Dr. Byron Wade – General Presbyter (ex-officio without vote)
 - Rev. Dr. Ann Philbrick – Stated Clerk (ex-officio without vote).
9. **The Coordinating Ministry approved the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program application for the First Presbyterian Church of Asheville, NC.**

10. The Coordinating Ministry elected the following officers for 2026:

Ken Murchison – Chair
Wanda Neely – Vice-chair
Robin Honeycutt – Secretary
Melvin Meares – Treasurer (pending election by the Presbytery).

11. Under the Standing Rules of the Presbytery, the following individuals will serve as the Corporate Officers for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina for 2026:

Ken Murchison – Chair
Wanda Neely – Vice-chair
Ann Philbrick – Secretary
Melvin Meares – Treasurer (pending election by the Presbytery).

12. Under the Standing Rules of the Presbytery and following the election of two at-large representatives, the following individuals will serve as the Coordinating Ministry Leadership Team for 2026:

Ken Murchison (Chair of the Coordinating Ministry)
Wanda Neely (Vice-chair of the Coordinating Ministry)
Robin Honeycutt (Secretary of the Coordinating Ministry)
Byron Wade (Executive Presbyter)
Ann Philbrick (Stated Clerk)
Jill Isola (At-large representative)
Ron Tingle (At-large representative)

13. The Coordinating Ministry approved a revision to the Disaster Recovery Grant Procedures. (Attachment 2)

COORDINATING MINISTRY ATTACHMENT 1

STANDING RULES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA



Presbytery of WNC

Including All Approved Revisions through *April 26, 2022*

Further Revisions – Submitted to Presbytery October 28, 2025

COORDINATING MINISTRY ATTACHMENT 1

STANDING RULES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

I. PRESBYTERY

A. Name. The Presbytery shall be known as the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

B. Constitution. The Presbytery shall always operate in compliance with the provisions of the Constitution (Book of Confessions and Book of Order) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It shall have the right to adopt Standing Rules (as a manual of administrative operations/ bylaws) that are in harmony with that Constitution.

C. Relationship to Higher Governing Bodies. The Presbytery is subject to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), as provided in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

D. Geographical Area. The geographical jurisdiction of the Presbytery includes the 23 counties of: Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland, Gaston, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, and Yancey. The Presbytery may be divided into ~~clusters~~ *geographical regions*, which may serve as units for pastoral care, training, worship, and other useful purposes.

E. Incorporation. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina is incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation according to the laws of the State of North Carolina. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Corporation shall meet at the same time and place, and in the announcement of the meeting, "Presbytery of Western North Carolina" shall designate both its functions.

F. Members. All enrolled Ministers of Word and Sacrament (also known as Teaching Elders), as certified by the Stated Clerk, shall be members of the Presbytery.

II. OFFICERS OF PRESBYTERY

A. The Officers of the Presbytery shall be the Moderator, Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect), Stated Clerk, and Treasurer.

B. Moderator's Election and Term. Each year at the third stated meeting of Presbytery, the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* of Presbytery shall present a nominee for Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect). The name of the nominee will be announced in the docket packet mailed/e-mailed prior to the meeting and will be placed in nomination at the meeting. The Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect) shall take office on January 1 following his or her election. On the next January 1, the Vice-Moderator shall become the Moderator being formally recognized at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery. The Moderator shall serve in that office for one year, or until his/her successor takes office.

C. Moderator's Duties. The Moderator shall preside at all meetings of Presbytery and perform all the duties prescribed in the Book of Order.

D. Vice-Moderator's Duties. The Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect) shall carry out the Moderator's duties when so requested by the Moderator, or when deemed necessary by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*.

COORDINATING MINISTRY

ATTACHMENT 1

E. Stated Clerk's Duties. The Stated Clerk shall be elected by the Presbytery and serve the Presbytery as its constitutional officer. The Stated Clerk shall perform those duties and functions prescribed in the Book of Order and those agreed upon by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*. He or she shall annually arrange for the records of all Sessions to be reviewed. Subject to the approval of the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*, the Stated Clerk may appoint an Assistant Stated Clerk, whose term of service shall be the same as the Stated Clerk's. Should an investigating committee be necessary, the Stated Clerk and the chairs of the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* and the ~~Committee~~ *Commission* on Ministry, with consultation of the General Presbyter shall together appoint one, following the Rules of Discipline in the Book of Order. The Stated Clerk shall be elected for a term set by Presbytery, and is eligible to be re-elected.

F. Treasurer's Duties. The Treasurer shall be elected by Presbytery and have oversight of the finances of Presbytery and is responsible for ensuring that the financial policies and procedures are followed. The Treasurer shall oversee receipt and disbursement of the funds of Presbytery as authorized, keep detailed account of all receipts and disbursements and report them to the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* at each of its meetings and to Presbytery annually, and work with any financial campaign approved by Presbytery. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term set by Presbytery, and is eligible to be re-elected.

III. MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY

A. Stated Meetings. The Presbytery of Western North Carolina shall *ordinarily* hold four stated meetings each year, some of which may be a part of celebrative events. The time and place shall be set by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*. In the scheduling of meetings, consideration shall be given to varied geographical locations throughout Presbytery and to work patterns of participants in the meetings.

B. Special Meetings. The Moderator may call a special meeting at the request, or with the concurrence, of three teaching elders and three ruling elders, all elders being of different churches. Should the Moderator be unable or unwilling to act, the Stated Clerk may, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both Moderator and Stated Clerk are unable or unwilling to act, any five teaching elders and five ruling elders, all elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The synod may direct the Presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. The notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten days in advance to each teaching elder and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.

C. Meetings and Invitations. Invitations to host meetings shall be received and acted on by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*. Meetings, whether stated or special, may be held in-person or by virtual means. The decision about which means is to be used is made by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* and communicated to all teaching elders and each session in as timely a fashion as circumstances allow. *Quorums for electronic meetings shall be the same as those described for in person meetings. If a written ballot is required or requested at a virtual meeting, a tally of the phone votes combined with the results of a published poll shall suffice.* All actions taken in meetings whether held in-person or virtually are fully authoritative, requiring no subsequent ratification.

D. Docket. The Moderator and the Stated Clerk, in consultation with the General Presbyter, shall together prepare the proposed docket for each meeting of Presbytery, which shall be approved by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*. Copies of the proposed docket shall be sent electronically or be mailed to all teaching elders, clerks of sessions, and others as requested ~~at least~~ *ordinarily* ten days before

COORDINATING MINISTRY

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each meeting. There shall be a worship service during each meeting that shall include the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The Moderator of Presbytery shall be responsible for contacting and inviting a person to preach at each worship service of Presbytery, with the concurrence of the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*. The preacher may be but is not necessarily the pastor of the host church. Ordinarily, the pastor and session of the host church participate in this worship service. Memorials for church professionals and ruling elders who have died in the preceding twelve months shall be included in the worship service of one stated meeting each year.

E. In order to ensure fairness and access to all necessary information, any new business to be dealt with at a Presbytery meeting, not arising from a Presbytery ~~committee~~ *ministry, team, or commission*, shall be submitted to the Stated Clerk for inclusion in the packet no later than thirty days before the scheduled meeting of Presbytery. By a two-thirds affirmative vote, however, Presbytery may decide to consider other new urgent business, if brought to the Stated Clerk before ~~10:00 a.m.~~ *at the beginning* of the Presbytery meeting. This new business shall be referred to the Bills and Overtures Committee for report later in that meeting.

F. There shall be no distribution of materials at Presbytery meetings without prior approval from the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*.

G. Rules of Procedure. The rules that shall govern all the transaction of business in all meetings of Presbytery shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), these Standing Rules (bylaws), and the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

H. Attendance and Voting. Each *Minister of Word and Sacrament* (teaching elder) shall attend each meeting of Presbytery, and each congregation shall be represented by at least one ruling elder at each meeting. Congregations are entitled to ruling elder commissioners based on the following active membership (BO: G-1.0402), as shown on the most recent statistical report *published by the General Assembly*.

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

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

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

1. All members of the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* and ~~Committee~~ *Commission* on Ministry shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
2. All ~~division, committee and sub-committee~~ *ministry, team, and commission* chairs shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
3. All Commissioned Pastors in active service shall have voice and vote.
4. All Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and, in addition, other Christian Educators who have
 - earned at least a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent)
 - served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or

COORDINATING MINISTRY

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one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and

- been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the ~~Christian Education Committee~~ *Faith Formation Team* shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to ~~BO: G-2.1103~~, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).

5. All ruling elder commissioners to the Synod Assembly and to the General Assembly shall have voice and vote as long as their terms last.

6. All exempt staff of Presbytery shall have voice.

7. All racial/ethnic congregations and other congregations designated by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.

8. ~~Only All Ministers of Word and Sacrament (or Teaching Elders) who are active members (including honorably retired teaching elders) or members at large of Presbytery, as defined by the Book of Order, enrolled with the presbytery shall have voice and vote.~~

I. The quorum for stated meetings of Presbytery shall be at least fifty commissioners including twenty *Ministers of Word and Sacrament* (Teaching Elders) and ruling elders commissioned by at least twenty sessions. The quorum for special meetings shall be half of the above.

J. Corresponding Members and Visitors. The Presbytery may give voice but no vote to any of the following:

- Official representatives from the Synod or the General Assembly.
- Teaching or ruling elders from another presbytery, a Reformed Church in communion with the Presbyterian Church (USA), or any other Christian church.
- Or those others approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of Presbytery.

Other visitors are welcome to attend as observers, unless the Presbytery, for good reason, votes to go into executive session.

IV. PRESBYTERY ~~GENERAL COUNCIL~~ *COORDINATING MINISTRY*

A. Purpose. The ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* shall ensure that the priorities of Presbytery are carried out by the ~~Divisions, committees, and other units~~ *ministries, teams, or commissions*, as well as the staff of Presbytery, and that these priorities are reflected in the Presbytery budget. It shall coordinate the many parts of Presbytery to contribute to the life and witness for Christ of the whole Church. It shall foster positive attitudes within the Presbytery and encourage its members to engage in regular prayer regarding the mission of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, the Synod of Mid-Atlantic, the General Assembly and the whole Presbyterian Church (USA). The ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* is the servant of Presbytery and has only those powers provided by these Standing Rules or authorized by Presbytery.

B. Membership. The ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* shall be composed as follows:

1. Voting Members

- Immediate Past Moderator of Presbytery, who shall serve as chair for one year *and as President of the Corporation*.

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- Moderator of Presbytery, who shall serve as vice-chair for one year *and as Vice-President of the Corporation.*
- Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect) of Presbyter, who may serve as secretary.
- Treasurer, *who shall serve as Treasurer of the Corporation.*
- ~~Chair (or his or her designee) from each Division.~~ *A Liaison from each of the Ministries (Equipping Disciples, Strengthening Congregations, Engaging in Mission, Coordinating Ministry, and Supporting Leadership)*
- Chair of Personnel Team
- Moderator or her designee of the Presbyterian Women of Presbytery.
- Six at-large members, nominated by the Nominating/Representation ~~Committees~~ *Team* (giving due consideration to geography and experience, with equal number of teaching and ruling elders) and elected by Presbytery, serving three-year staggered terms (two on, two off each year). These may be nominated and elected for an immediate second three-year term, after which they may not serve on the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* for at least one year before being eligible again.

2. Non-Voting Members*

- General Presbyter
- Stated Clerk, *who shall serve as Secretary of the Corporation.*
- Any staff of Presbytery chosen by the General Presbyter

C. Leadership Team. The chair (Moderator of ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*), vice-chair (Moderator of Presbytery), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, secretary of ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*, two at-large members elected from the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*, the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk shall form a leadership team for the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*, whose duties shall be to

- Make preparations for each meeting of the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*
- Submit recommendations to the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*
- Carry out assignments given by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*
- Take appropriate action on urgent matters that cannot wait for the next ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* meeting, such action to be reported at the next meeting

D. Functions: The ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* shall have the following responsibilities:

1. To lead Presbytery in setting appropriate goals in accord with its Mission Statement.
2. To coordinate the mission and programs of Presbytery.
3. To review the work of all ~~Divisions, committees and other units~~ *ministries, teams, and commissions* of Presbytery, offering helpful advice as warranted.
4. To approve the proposed annual budget prepared by the ~~Administration Division~~ *Finance Team* ensuring that Presbytery's priorities are reflected therein, for submission to Presbytery; and to make adjustments to the budget approved by Presbytery, provided that such are reported to the

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next meeting of Presbytery.

5. To refer work to, and to hear recommendations from, the ~~Divisions, committees and other units~~ *ministries, teams and commissions* of Presbytery.

6. To approve the proposed docket for the Presbytery meetings prepared by the Moderator and Stated Clerk, in consultation with the General Presbyter, and have oversight of worship at Presbytery meetings.

7. To serve as the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery Corporation, with the right to designate some of their members to exercise that responsibility on behalf of the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*.

8. To consider requests from congregations regarding the exercise of their property rights under G-4.0206 in the Book of Order, and recommend appropriate actions to Presbytery.

9. To recommend persons for the Nominating/Representation ~~Committees~~ *Team* of Presbytery, and for the offices of Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect) and if necessary, Moderator.

10. To approve the appointment of persons by the Nominating / Representation ~~Committees~~ *Team* to fill vacancies ~~on committees~~ in cases of emergency (subject to ratification by Presbytery).

11. To act as a hearing board in personnel matters which may be appealed from the ~~Administration Division~~ *Personnel Team*.

12. To refer actions of the General Assembly and Synod to ~~Divisions and committees~~ *ministries, teams and commissions* for study and interpretation.

13. To keep Presbytery informed of its work through reports at each meeting.

14. To review Presbytery's fulfillment of its responsibilities listed in the Book of Order (G-3.03).

15. To authorize celebrations of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at retreats, camps, conferences and special gatherings under the jurisdiction of Presbytery.

16. To recommend personnel policies to Presbytery for all its employees, which shall embody the inclusiveness required in the Book of Order.

17. Between meetings of Presbytery, to act on behalf of Presbytery in urgent matters by a two-thirds majority vote, provided that a full report of such action is given to Presbytery at its next meeting.

~~V. DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES~~ *MINISTRIES AND TEAMS*

A. The Presbytery shall have the following ~~Divisions~~ *Ministries* in accordance with its Mission Statement. These ~~Divisions~~ *Ministries* should include, but are not limited to, the following tasks:

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

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1. **Ministry** (Equipping Congregations and Leaders)
2. **Administration**
3. **Congregational Development Division** (Equipping and Strengthening Congregations, and Developing Leaders,)
4. **Leadership Development Division** (Strengthening and Equipping Leaders and Disciples, and Developing Leaders)
5. **Youth Division** (Developing Leaders, Strengthening and Equipping Young Leaders and Disciples, Engaging in Mission)
6. **Outreach/Mission Development Division** (Sharing God's Love, Strengthening and Equipping Congregations for Discipleship and Engagement In Mission)

*1. **Coordinating Ministry** (Permanent Judicial Commission, Nominating/Representation Team, Personnel Team, Finance Team, Property Team)*

*2. **Supporting Leadership Ministry** (Commission on Ministry, Examinations Team, Validated Ministry Team, Sexual Misconduct Response Team, Preparation for Ministry Team, Commissioned Pastor Team, Church Leadership School)*

*3. **Strengthening Congregations Ministry** (Church Vibrancy Team, Youth Team/Youth Council, Faith Formation Team, Campus Ministry Team)*

*4. **Equipping Disciples Ministry** (New Worshipping Communities Team, Digital Church Team, Community Outreach Team, Peace and Justice Team, Disability Inclusion Team)*

*5. **Engaging In Mission Ministry** (Hunger Programs Team, Self-Development of People Team, PWNC Disaster Assistance Team, Housing Team, Guatemala Team, Malawi Team)*

B. General Regulations:

1. Subject to the approval of Presbytery, the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* shall determine the general responsibilities and the number of members of each ~~Division~~ *ministry*.
2. Working with the ~~General Council~~, *Coordinating Ministry*, each ~~Division~~ *ministry* shall determine the ~~committees/sub-committees~~ *teams* it deems necessary, as well as the number of members and the duties of each.
3. ~~Members of the Divisions and committees shall be nominated by the Nominating and Representation Committees and elected by Presbytery. Members of the sub-committees shall be selected by the Nominating/Representation Committee or the relevant Division and confirmed by the General Council. Normally, no more than half of these members should be teaching elders.~~
3. *Equipping Ministry, Strengthening Congregations Ministry, and Engaging in Mission Ministry shall be composed of three members, each on a staggered three-year term. The member in their final year of service shall serve as the liaison to the Coordinating Ministry. These ministry members shall be nominated by the Nominating/Representation Team and elected by presbytery. All teams and team leaders under these ministries shall be recruited and appointed by the ministry itself. Normally, no more than half of each team should be teaching elders.*

Coordinating Ministry is defined by its section of these Standing Rules. Supporting Leadership

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Ministry shall be made up of representatives of the constituent teams and commissions. All members of its teams and commissions shall be nominated by the Nominating/Representation Team (with the exception of the SMRT) and elected by presbytery.

4. Normally, ~~members of the Divisions and committees~~ *those members elected to teams or ministries* shall serve a three-year term, may be re-elected, but may not serve more than six consecutive years, after which they may not serve on the same body for at least one year before being eligible again.

5. All ~~Divisions and committees~~ *ministries and teams* should report to Presbytery through the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* to enable it to coordinate activities in Presbytery. The ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* may not alter any ~~Division or committee~~ *ministry or team* report, but may offer advice to Presbytery concerning ~~Division or committee~~ recommendations.

6. ~~Divisions and committees~~ *Ministries and teams* shall develop and implement plans and programs that carry out their goals as adopted by Presbytery, and evaluate and report to Presbytery their activities annually. ~~Some committees may need to meet as a whole only a few times a year, with sub-committees working on specific tasks during the rest of the time.~~ *Divisions and committees* Ministries and teams may also meet *in-person*, by telephone conference, emails, *web-based conferencing* or other suitable methods.

7. ~~Divisions and committees~~ *Ministries and teams* shall be encouraged to be creative and to explore new avenues of ministry with accountability to Presbytery through the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*.

8. ~~Divisions and committees~~ *Ministries and teams* shall annually submit their budget requests to the ~~Administration Division~~ *Finance Team*. They shall carry out their responsibilities within the approved budgets, unless an overrun is approved in advance by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*.

9. Ordinarily, a person may serve on only one Presbytery ~~Division or committee~~ *ministry, team or commission* at the same time. Normally, there should not be more than one representative of any one church on the same Presbytery ~~Division or committee~~ *ministry, team, or commission* at the same time (except congregations having more than two hundred active members may have more than one representative on the same committee).

10. ~~Divisions and committees~~ *Ministry and team* chairs will contact any *elected committee* member after three meetings in a year have been missed (without a reasonable excuse approved by the ~~committee~~ *team*) and inquire as to their ability and willingness to serve at this time, and will advise the ~~committee~~ member that a further unexcused absence will result in removal from the ~~committee~~ *team*. It will be the responsibility of the ~~committee~~ chair to inform the Nominating/Representation ~~Committee Team~~ when members have missed half of the ~~committee~~ meetings and the Nominating /Representation ~~Committee Team~~ shall replace such members as soon as possible.

11. Terms of office for ~~Division and committee~~ chairs shall be one year, with no chair serving more than two consecutive terms. Each *electable committee* chair shall be nominated specifically for that position by the Nominating/Representation ~~Committee Team~~, but still be from the total membership of the ~~committee team~~. In extenuating circumstances, an additional year as chair may be recommended to ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*.

12. Each ~~committee~~ may ~~co-opt~~ additional members as desired, who shall have voice but no vote

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~~in the committee deliberations.~~

~~13.~~ 12. ~~Divisions and committees~~ *Ministries and teams* are encouraged to suggest to the Nominating/Representation ~~Committee~~ *Team* suitable persons for new members and new chairs.

~~14.~~ 13. Each ~~committee~~ *ministry* may, on its own initiative, create one or more on-going ~~working groups~~ *teams* for long-term projects or ~~temporary task forces~~ for specific short-term projects. ~~Both working groups and task forces will report to the creating committee.~~ When a ~~task force~~ *such a team* has completed its assignment, it shall cease to exist. The membership and statement of purpose of all ~~working groups or task forces~~ *teams* shall be reported to the General Council within a month after their formation.

~~15.~~ 14. Each ~~Division and committee~~ *ministry and team* shall keep accurate minutes. Copies of all minutes, and reports should be submitted to the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry* on a regular basis.

~~16.~~ 15. The quorum for each ~~Division and committee~~ *ministry or team or commission* shall be a majority of its members.

~~17. Sub-committees should comply with all the above regulations and shall report to the Division and General Council through their committees.~~

VI. NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION TEAM

The Nominating/Representation Team shall consist of fifteen (15). It shall be broadly representative of the member churches of the Presbytery. Ordinarily, one-third of its members shall be ministers, one-third laywomen, and one-third laymen (youth to be included among the laity). There shall be racial/ethnic representation of up to twenty-five percent, whenever possible. Nominees for vacancies on the Nominating/Representation Team and its moderator shall be made to Presbytery by the Coordinating Ministry.

VII. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

A. Purpose and Authority: The purpose of the Commission on Ministry is to enable the presbytery to fulfill the responsibilities and powers assigned the presbytery by G-3.0301, 3.0303, 3.0306, and 3.0307, and may function as a commission of the presbytery when engaged in carrying out the following functions:

- *Examining and receiving Ministers of Word and Sacrament into membership or temporary membership in the presbytery;*
- *Approving calls and changes in terms of call;*
- *Creating or dissolving pastoral relationships in a church;*
- *Approving contracts for temporary pastoral positions;*
- *Approving commissioned pastor contracts;*
- *Validating ministries;*
- *Appointing ordination and installation commissions;*

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- *Appointing session moderators;*
- *Setting minimums for terms of call and contracts;*
- *Settling difficulties (respecting G-2.0901);*
- *Giving permission for ministers not serving a congregation to celebrate the sacraments;*
- *Dismissing a minister in good standing from the presbytery;*
- *Approving ministers to the status of Retired;*
- *Visiting congregations reported to be affected with disorder, inquiring into and offering support to settle difficulties.*

All such actions are reported to the next meeting of the presbytery. In cases of disagreement, appeals can be made to the next presbytery meeting.

B. Membership: The Nominating/Representation Team shall nominate and the Presbytery shall elect a COM of no fewer than eighteen (18) members with teaching elders and ruling elders in nearly equal numbers as possible. Members shall be divided into three equal classes. Members shall normally be elected to a three-year term and may be re-elected to a second full or partial term. No member may serve more than six consecutive years.

C. Subteams: The Nominating/Representation Team shall nominate and the presbytery shall elect members of the COM Subteams of Examinations and Validation of Ministry. COM shall determine the number of members needed. Members shall be divided into three equal classes. Members shall normally be elected to a three-year term and may be re-elected to a second full or partial term. No member may serve more than six consecutive years.

VIII. PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

A. Purpose and Authority. The Permanent Judicial Commission has the powers prescribed by and conducts proceedings according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as found in the Book of Church Discipline.

B. Membership and Officers. The Nominating/Representation Team shall nominate and the Presbytery shall elect a Permanent Judicial Commission of no fewer than seven (7) members with teaching elders and ruling elders in nearly equal numbers as possible. Members shall be divided into three equal classes. Members shall normally be elected to a six-year term and may be re-elected to a second full or partial term. There shall be no more than one member from any one church on the commission. The Commission shall elect it's own moderator and clerk from its membership.

C. Procedure and Responsibilities. Membership, procedure, powers and responsibilities are those contained in the Book of Order, the Church Discipline.

IX. SEXUAL MISCONDUCT RESPONSE TEAM

A. Definition and Purpose. The SMRT is charged with providing pastoral care, support, and advocacy where needed in cases involving accusations of sexual misconduct within the Presbytery. The purpose of the SMRT is to assure that an expeditious, professional, objective, effective, and caring response is made by the Presbytery to charges of sexual misconduct. This team shall not investigate allegations or

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in any way function as an investigating committee for disciplining members or officers but shall confine itself to coordinating a process that shall meet the specific needs of the accuser and their family (if any), the victim (if not the accuser) and their family (if any), the accused person and their family (if any), employing entities, congregations, and councils.

B. Membership. There shall be at least six members of the SMRT, each appointed for a three-year term by the COM. The Team shall elect its own Moderator. It shall be composed, as nearly as possible, of an equal number of clergy and ruling elders. Members may serve no more than six consecutive years.

C. Activation. The SMRT shall be activated whenever an allegation of sexual misconduct is received by the Stated Clerk, or when deemed appropriate by the COM Moderator in consultation with the Stated Clerk.

~~VI.~~ X. PRESBYTERY STAFF

Presbytery shall hire staff as required to fulfill its mission and responsibilities. The General Presbyter shall be head of staff. Staff shall be responsible to Presbytery, reporting through the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*, and not be responsible to a single ~~Division or committee or sub-committee~~ *ministry, team or commission*. ~~All Divisions, committees, and sub-committees shall have support and resourcing.~~ *Coordinating Ministry, with the guidance of the Personnel Team, shall determine all support and resourcing from staff for ministries and commissions and teams.* The “Personnel Manual of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina” provides guidelines and policies for hiring, supervising and terminating staff, and for the provision of salary and benefits.

~~VII.~~ XI. AMENDMENT

These Standing Rules for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina shall be periodically reviewed by the ~~General Council~~ *Coordinating Ministry*, with any changes recommended to Presbytery. Such proposed amendments may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any stated meeting of the Presbytery.

Presbytery of WNC Approved Revisions April 26, 2022

Further Revisions submitted to Presbytery October 2025

Coordinating Ministry

Attachment 2

Policy for use of Presbytery Hurricane Helene Relief Funds: Amended January 14th, 2026

Overview

- Purpose: We want to help churches in our presbytery who were damaged by Helene to repair their property; we want to help churches provide direct relief to their communities; and we want to provide housing and materials to work teams who come to our area.
- The fund is to be used for support of direct relief efforts as detailed hereafter in this policy
- The fund is not for salary and expenses of PWNC's Disaster Recovery Coordinator.

Categories and Process

- Churches that have incurred damage attributable to Hurricane Helene may submit requests for funding, as follows:
 - Provide receipts for repairs already made that will not be funded by FEMA, Insurance, or other parties.
 - Provide bids received for repairs to be made (at least two bids where possible) that will not be funded by FEMA, Insurance, or other parties.
 - Priority is given to this category of need. Churches may request funds for this kind of assistance up to three times each year.
 - Session shall approve the requests of their churches before they are submitted.
 - The maximum amount that can be awarded to a church in one request is \$10,000.00
 - A church can submit up to 3 requests for funding in a year, one before each of the following deadlines: March 31, July 31, and October 31.
 - A church shall indicate the date by which it expects to have distributed the funds covered by its request. Within 90 days after that date, the church shall report to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator how the funds were distributed.
 - Except under conditions of exceptional need, priority will be afforded to churches that have not already submitted multiple requests.
- Churches may submit requests for funding to provide direct relief for members and neighbors who have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene. When funding is requested for a partner organization, the request shall still be submitted from the church and a new or existing partnership should exist between church and organization.
 - Session shall approve the requests of their churches before they are submitted.

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- The maximum amount that can be awarded to a church for direct relief of members and neighbors or to existing and effective partners in one request is \$10,000.00.
 - A church can submit up to 3 requests for funding in a year, one before each of the following deadlines: March 31, July 31, and October 31.
 - A church shall indicate the date by which it expects to have distributed the funds covered by its request. Within 90 days after that date, the church shall report to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator how the funds were distributed.
- PWNC's costs of providing housing and resources for work teams that provide direct relief to churches and communities affected by Hurricane Helene.
 - Provide receipts for such costs that are not otherwise funded from other sources.
 - The maximum amount that can be awarded to a church for *housing* costs for volunteers is \$2,500.00.
 - A church can submit up to 3 requests for funding in a year, one before each of the following deadlines: March 31, July 31, and October 31
 - Cost of *materials* for work teams will be coordinated between the PWNC Disaster Recovery Team and the established work partners. After case-managed cost-estimates are provided by the work partners, and only as a cost-share, the PWNC DRT will consider requests up to \$10,000 per property for a total of no more than \$100,000 per year, and will approve and distribute on an as needed frequency.

Plan for disbursement of funds in year two:

- Priority in order indicated above in categories and process.
- 20% of available funds to Churches that have incurred damage.
- 35% of available funds to Churches to provide relief for members and neighbors who have been severely impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- 10% of available funds to costs to provide housing for work teams.
- 35% of available funds to costs to provide materials for work teams
- This policy will be reviewed after each application deadline and may be changed as needs evolve and new needs emerge.

Procedure

1. Applicants will submit requests for funding to the Disaster Recovery Coordinator. The Coordinator may request such additional information as the Coordinator thinks is necessary for the Disaster Recovery Team to make an informed decision.
2. The Disaster Recovery Team may create such forms as it believes will help it consider requests for funding.

Coordinating Ministry

Attachment 2

3. The Disaster Recovery Team shall decide all requests for relief as soon as possible. Whenever feasible, the team will make a decision within 30 days of the application deadlines.
4. If available funds are insufficient to fund completely all approved requests, the Disaster Recovery Team will divide the funds as equitably as possible giving priority to churches who have submitted fewer requests. If additional funds become available, the Disaster Recovery Team can distribute them among approved requests.
5. As the Disaster Recovery Team gains experience with the process of distributing relief funds, it shall recommend to the Coordinating Ministry Team any changes to these procedures it believes will improve the process.

Communication regarding this policy

- Once approved by Coordinating Ministry on January 14, 2026, the amended policy will be communicated to all churches of PWNC.
- A form to assist churches request funding will be available and will be communicated shortly thereafter.
- Requests will be responded to as soon as possible after application deadlines.
- The Presbytery will welcome contributions to continue to grow the PWNC Hurricane Helene Relief fund and provide financial support for a minimum of 2 years. Communications about the size of the fund, the amount available to disburse and the review process will be shared widely and frequently.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
KEITH GROGG, CHAIR
January 31, 2026**

FIRST SECTION

There are no items for action coming from COM for this meeting.

SECOND SECTION

The Book of Order provides (G-3.0307) that the Commission 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 Commission on Ministry; therefore, the following actions are hereby reported and are to be admitted to the record.

1. APPROVED FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

A. Anne Apple

From: Presbytery of Florida

As: Member-at-large

Effective: December 2, 2025

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

B. James Ewing

From: Presbytery of Charlotte

As: Pastor, First Presbyterian Church – Newton

Effective: January 1, 2026

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

C. Jess Rigel

From: Presbytery of Salem

As: Pastor, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

Effective: March 29, 2026

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

D. David Lytle

To: Presbytery of Foothills

Effective: Retroactively on October 2, 2025

E. Christian Wingard

To: Presbytery of Cherokee

Effective: Retroactively on July 1, 2025

2. APPROVED TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS - TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

- A. Ron Tippens, First Presbyterian Church - Cherryville
Effective: November 30, 2025-May 26, 2026

3. APPROVED TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS – STATED PASTOR:

- A. Keith Freeman and Pineola Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026
- B. Will Gaines and Britains Cove Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026
- C. Garland Honeycutt and Buladean Presbyterian Church
Effective: November 1, 2025-October 31, 2026
- D. William “Bill” Neely and Siloam Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026
- E. Bonnie Peggs and Morrison Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2026-December 31, 2026
- F. William “Billy” Robinson and Dorland Memorial Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2026-June 30, 2026

4. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL**A. Jessica Rigel, Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church**

Effective Salary	\$ 70,000.00
Base	\$43,072.00
Housing Allowance	\$26,928.00
Social Security Equivalent	\$ 5,355.00
Professional Accounts	
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,580.00
Professional Development	\$ 3,000.00
Board of Pensions	\$24,605.00

B. Jim Ewing, Newton Presbyterian Church

Effective Salary	\$75,000.00
Base	\$35,000.00
Housing Allowance	\$40,000.00
Social Security Equivalent	\$ 5,737.50
Professional Accounts	
Professional Expenses	\$ 3,700.00
Professional Development	\$ 1,300.00
Moving Costs	Up to \$10,000
Board of Pensions	\$22,200.00

5. **APPROVED DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP:**
 - A. Luke Harkema, Associate Pastor, Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 31, 2026
6. **APPROVED MISSION STUDY:**
 - A. Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church
7. **APPROVED MDP FORM:**
 - A. Trinity Presbyterian Church

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Anne HK Apple - Call to Ministry and Pastoral Experience

Formation and Early Faith

As the youngest child and only daughter of lifelong educators Do and Bob Kaiser, my faith journey began with baptism at Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When our family moved to Memphis in the late 1960s for my father's faculty position at Memphis State University, we became founding members of Balmoral Presbyterian Church under Reverend Vernon Hunter's pastoral leadership. This new church development proved formative through its courageous witness in Civil Rights work on Memphis streets and in member homes and with its innovative Christian education program led by Rosemary Banta and Fran Addicott, who encouraged exploration of scripture and faith practices across multiple learning styles.

Professional Life and Growing Church Involvement

After graduating from Rhodes College, where I met my husband Jim Apple, I began my career as a product manager for the Ilizarov trauma product at Richards Medical Company. Jim's career took us from Marietta, Georgia, where I served with the choir and Club 360 afterschool ministry at First Presbyterian Church, to Mobile, Alabama. There we joined Spring Hill Presbyterian Church—reuniting with Reverend Hunter—and became deeply engaged in congregational life and ministry as a deacon.

The Call to Pastoral Ministry

When Vernon retired, interim pastor Frank Beall encouraged me to attend a "Come See Columbia" seminary weekend. While I had always known I would serve Christ in the church, I had not imagined pastoral ministry as a possible pathway. That weekend experience crystallized a clear call to ministry of Word and Sacrament. With our two young children, Betsy and James (ages 5 and 3), and through prayerful discernment as a family, I attended Columbia Theological Seminary while Jim maintained his work in Mobile. I completed summer internships at Government Street Presbyterian Church.

Pastoral Ministry Experience

Following graduation, I began PhD studies in Instructional Design and Educational Counseling at the University of South Alabama while pastoring **Grace Presbyterian Church**, a small country congregation in Mobile. This congregation taught me *how* to be a pastor. During this season, we welcomed our third child, Abigail. Seeking to be closer to family, we returned to Memphis for Jim's work. Jim joined **Idlewild Presbyterian Church**, where I served in progressively responsible roles over many years: Parish Associate, Interim Associate Pastor, Associate Pastor, Executive Associate Pastor, and Acting Head of Staff following Senior Pastor Steve Montgomery's retirement, through the COVID-19 pandemic. This congregation shaped my pastoral identity and ministry philosophy through seasons of growth, adaptive change, challenges, and profound loss. After David Powers was called as Head of Staff at Idlewild, I left Idlewild and took a discernment year and served as Interim Pastor at **First Presbyterian Church in Tallahassee, Florida**. Most recently, I completed a four-month temporary pastorate at **Government Street Presbyterian Church in Mobile**, providing pastoral leadership during the pastor's Lilly Endowment Sabbatical. Throughout ministry, I am sustained by a commitment to innovative Christian education, diverse community engagement, and faithful pastoral presence during times of both celebration and grief. My call continues to unfold as I seek to serve in that spirit nurtured at Balmoral in courage and creativity.

COM ATTACHMENT 1

Anne HK Apple Statement of Faith

I believe in one Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (10.1) YHWH, the God of Israel, whom Jesus called Father. Ancient and New, Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last. Sovereign and Provident. In the marvelous light of living and in the darkness and despair of dying, I trust that I belong to God, (4.001) I am precious in God's sight, and God calls God's people into a covenant community. I am called to proclaim the mighty acts of God, to glorify God, and to serve God. In God's own image, I have been mercifully created to live responsibly in God's good creation. Although created in God's image, I am a sinner, daily. (4.005) The roaring lion, Satan, prowls around, seeking me. (3.16) I have been grown in God's grace and covered in forgiveness from the love of God, the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

I have been given this gift that I might live, search, discern, serve, and testify. (9.40) I am called to share God's love in Christ's light through the power of the Spirit. I believe that Jesus Christ was fully human yet fully divine, God with us. I believe that Jesus Christ is my personal Lord and Savior and calls me to be a faithful disciple. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God in his teaching, preaching and healing. Jesus suffered and was crucified for the sinful, turned away nature of humanity. Jesus died and was raised from the dead and ascended into heaven. Jesus promises he will come again and I trust in these mysteries I cannot fully know. In Christ's incarnation, I have inherited a blessing that binds me in community and individually that keeps my tongue from speaking evil and my lips from speaking deceit; stretches my heart to be expansive with loving kindness and encourages life with righteous action - the work of God's justice. I am to live my life to live honorably, with a unity of Spirit, sympathy, love, and hope for all.(5.055)

I believe that God's power is present with us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit binds us to Jesus Christ and illuminates our hearts so we hear the Word. Scripture, given by inspiration, is to be the rule of faith and life. (6.002). The Holy Spirit advocates for the least of these and calls us together as Christ's body and equips our sacramental life in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. I believe that the Spirit empowers the church in joyful worship (3.14) as the community of faith working together to continue Christ's work in the world as faithful evangelists; a people set apart by God to witness to the reconciling, good news of Jesus Christ. (9.55) I pray, "Lord, ready me to make my defense to anyone who demands from me an accounting of the hope that is within me." "Lord, make this defense gentle and reverent." "Lord, clothe me with humility under the mighty hand of God." "Lord, make me a witness to Jesus who calls me, not always softly and tenderly, but in risky and venturesome ways." "Lord, help us to recognize, acknowledge and change the places where we are complicit and contribute to the work of evil in the world." (9.43) I understand these prayers are only possible and perfected in Christ and the Spirit. I believe that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (11.5) All glory, praise and honor belong to God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as witnessed in the Bible and in the life and work of the mission of the church. So I believe, so I pray. So I pray, so I believe. Amen and amen.

COM ATTACHMENT 2

Brief Biography of Jim Ewing

I was born and raised in Charlotte, NC. My parents were married at Covenant Presbyterian Church where I was baptised and confirmed. Covenant was a spiritually nurturing place where I grew in my faith and understanding of God. I learned scripture and Christian History, which became foundational for my faith later in life. At Covenant, close friendships were fostered that I continue to cherish to this day. It provided a faith community where I could explore and deepen my faith journey.

During college, I learned how to take that relational faith experience and find community with other peers from different theological backgrounds. When I returned to Charlotte after college, I was invited to help with the Youth Program at Covenant and participate in Christian Education programs that once again deepened my relationship with scripture and other members.

It was during that time that the ministers of the church invited me to consider ministry as a vocation. Like most, I was reluctant at first, but they were patient and helped me to see that God uses all sorts of people for God's ministry in the world. So I toured and applied to different Presbyterian seminaries and was led to Union in Richmond. From there God has called me to marriage, fatherhood, and a wonderful vocation as minister of Word & Sacrament. In addition to family, I have had the joy of serving at St. Andrews Presbyterian College, Community Presbyterian Church, and Avondale Presbyterian Church. Each call has brought with it the joy of living life in a faith community that allows me to *be* nurtured as much as I'm called to nurture. Certainly each place has had challenges which have led to personal growth and development. However, at every milestone, crossroad, and discernment opportunity, I have experienced God's sovereignty and presence. Naturally this fills me, time and time again, with gratitude and praise for our God who shows us divine love through the life and resurrection of Jesus.

Statement of Faith Rev. Jim Ewing

Theology

I believe in God who has created and who is creating. I believe in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. I believe that ultimately our hope in life and in death rests in God's loving sovereignty that is shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe that through the work of the Holy Spirit we can learn about the nature of God's love for creation found in the unique scriptures of the Old and New Testament, and that with the help of the Holy Spirit we learn to follow Jesus by loving God and loving our neighbor. (BOC 11.5)

Scripture

One aspect that I have appreciated about our faith is that it has transpired over thousands of years. One of the connecting threads, for me, has been the unique and holy scriptures that are found in the Bible. It is a powerful thought for me that if I was worshipping in 1025 AD or worshipping 2025 AD, God would be revealed through God's Word which would be shared to those gathered on that day. (BOC 9.27)

Sacraments

In those same ancient words we hear Christ commanding his followers to participate in the Lord's Supper and to Baptise. I have always been taught and have come to appreciate how these Sacraments are for us "holy signs and seals of the covenant of grace." (BOC 6.149) At the table we are given a spiritual food that nurtures us, sustains us, and reminds us of God's love for us. We are claimed by God in the waters of Baptism and that nothing in life or in death will ever separate us from that love of God. (BOC 9.51 - 9.52; 11.5)

Polity

I have always been grateful for the Presbyterian tradition which, from birth, has provided a safe place for me to learn, grow, practice, and serve in the faith. I am grateful that our Presbyterian tradition recognizes the privilege of ministry for all members and not exclusively for clergy. For me, that understanding unifies the church as truly being the body of Christ (BOC 9.4). I am grateful that we do not boast to be the only church, but a part of the greater apostolic church (BOC 1.3). I believe that when people of faith are in relationship with one another, they can truly encourage each other in their faith journeys. As Jesus reminds us, "wherever two or three are gathered together in my name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20). With Christ in our midst, we can support and build up the body of Christ together to serve God. (BOC 9.36)

COM ATTACHMENT 3

Jess Rigel - Biography

I was raised a child of Pennington Presbyterian Church, a historic, vibrant congregation near the Delaware River in New Jersey. I came to the church through grief; when I was five, my older brother Josh was killed by a drunk driver. Our parents had been church-hopping at the time and were not members of any congregation, but when my brother died the local Presbyterian Church overwhelmed my family with much needed practical support, and thus, I became a Presbyterian. I grew up attending weekly services and participating in youth group, confirmation, and mission trips, but I only became comfortable calling myself a Christian in college. It was there that I realized there were a variety of interpretations of Christian belief, many of which differed vastly from my own. I became a religion major to more deeply explore this reality, yet found myself drawn to other traditions, particularly Buddhism, which prompted me to study for a semester in Northern India. My experiences there forever changed my relationship with God.

In India, I began to study and practice meditation as a form of contemplative prayer, which opened my heart to a deeper awareness of Divine love and peace. I returned to the U.S. with a stronger commitment to Christ than I'd ever had before, which eventually led me to the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer program, where I served as a land steward in southern Arizona and as a community gardener in New Orleans, Louisiana. Each of my YAV years significantly impacted the way I interact with God's good creation and the way I understand Jesus, justice, and Christian community.

It was during my time as a YAV in New Orleans that I was encouraged to pursue Seminary, and though I was hesitant, I trusted the movement of the Spirit and was accepted at Princeton Theological Seminary in 2014. Entering with no intention of becoming a pulpit pastor, I was shocked when my studies led me to fall in love with coursework in Hebrew Bible, Practical Theology, and Preaching. Through field education, I was blessed to practice ministry as both a college chaplain and a pastor for young adults, and through CPE I was able to serve in both traditional hospital and behavioral healthcare settings. It was these experiences that guided me to accept my call to parish ministry.

Upon graduating from Seminary, I was ordained and installed as the Discipleship Pastor of Alamance Presbyterian Church, a mid-sized, PC(USA) congregation in Greensboro, North Carolina. At Alamance, in addition to mission work, preaching, teaching and pastoral care, I focused primarily on programming opportunities for children and youth. Through this focus I particularly grew in my understanding of how youth & children process grief, as well as my awareness and response to body image and disordered eating issues. I loved my time at Alamance, and am excited to follow my call to Western North Carolina, where I hope to continue to grow in relationship with Christ and lead others to Christ through serving His people.

COM ATTACHMENT 3

Jess Rigel – Statement of Faith

Our God is one – the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all, who remains ever present with creation, refusing to abandon it. (10.1, Belhar) God relishes beauty, and embodies grace, forgiveness, and absolute love, such that, though God has the authority to control everything, God instead empowers humanity and creation with the agency to choose or ignore God of their own volition. Jesus Christ, God's son yet God's self, emerged from Mary's womb fully human while remaining fully Divine. This Jesus loved, laughed, healed, suffered, died, and had the audacity to return from the dead through the power of God to demonstrate His love for humanity. (2.2, Apostles' Creed) I trust in the Holy Spirit, and I live in awe of the way I glimpse the Spirit working through lives, including my own. I believe that the Spirit is not always gentle, but is persistent, committed to enriching lives to find the wholeness, fulfillment, and peace of Christ and to become reflections of God's grace. (9.20, 1967)

I believe in the authority of Scripture, which serves as a witness to God's great love. Scripture reflects the intended relationship between God and the created order, and it revolves around human stories as a means of helping believers understand, grow and persevere in their relationship with the Divine. (6.006, Westminster) Through studying and struggling with these writings, we can become more faithful to living in the ways of Christ, whose commitment to prayer, presence, and service is embodied throughout the Gospels. (9.29, 1967) To be a disciple of Christ is to submit to such spiritual practices with a grateful heart. (9.30, 1967)

I believe that the sacraments manifest the grace of God through their focus on our unity and humility before Christ in worship. In baptism and communion, communities of faith engage Christ's power through dying to their own sin and being resurrected to a relationship with Him rooted in sustenance and fellowship. By practicing these sacraments, believers experience God's healing presence in our daily lives and recommit ourselves to the kingdom vision of the beloved community. (4.073, 4.075, Heidelberg)

I believe that the Church was formed to manifest the grace of God. (8.17, Barmen) As a human institution, this catholic vision fractured, yet has remained a powerful force, often for good, sometimes for ill. (9.34, 1967) I trust in the tenets of the Presbyterian faith as a means of organizing followers of Christ in service and worship, and better understanding the work and witness of the Church in the world. I believe PC(USA) polity strives to create equity, structure, and accountability for the community of Christ it seeks to serve. When grounded in humility and welcome, the Church can offer glimpses of God's kingdom on earth. (9.40, 1967)

Our Triune God redeemed the world and continues to redeem it through abounding grace. (9.15, 1967) When we open our hearts to welcome the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and empowered to walk beside all who suffer. Through grace, we become Christ's hands and feet in the world until He comes again. (10.7, Belhar; 8.16, Barmen)

NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION TEAM

January 31, 2026

The Nominating/Representation Team presents the following nominations to fill vacancies within the Class of 2028 and other open positions. The next team meeting will take place in February 2026.

The Nominating/Representation Team is tasked with filling team/committee positions throughout the year. To assist in this process, we encourage you to reflect on your interest in serving on a Presbytery team/committee or to suggest someone who may be well-suited for service.

We offer our heartfelt gratitude and praise to God for your dedicated service.

- | | | | | |
|----|----|--|---|------------|
| CA | 1. | <u>Finance Team</u>
Ms. Cheryl Miller | Class of 2028 | |
| CA | 2. | <u>Personnel Team</u>
Rev. Sam Warner (Belmont, First) | Class of 2028 | |
| CA | 3. | <u>Commission on Ministry</u>
Rev. Dr. Keith Grogg | | Chair 2026 |
| CA | 4. | <u>Preparation for Ministry Team</u>
Ms. Darinda Fredricksen (Lowell)
Mrs. Corise Gambrell (Montreat) | Class of 2028
Class of 2028 | |
| CA | 5. | <u>Commissioned Pastors Team</u>
Rev. Dr. David Hosick (Retired) | | Chair 2026 |
| CA | 6. | <u>Peace and Justice Team</u>
Ms. Mary Jo Clark (Black Mountain/Montreat)
Ms. Nancy W. Clarke (Black Mountain)
Mr. John S. Curry (Grace Covenant)
Ms. Cathie Dodson (Asheville, First)
Mr. Paul Garrity (Black Mountain)
Dr. Rick Hobson (Trinity)
Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley (Retired)
Rev. Dr. Lynn Turnage (Grace Covenant) | Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028 | Chair 2026 |
| CA | 7. | <u>Campus Ministry Team</u>
Rev. Patricia Reid | Class of 2028 | |

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
Kelley Connelly, Chair
January 31, 2026

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

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Susie Burns, an inquirer from Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Black Mountain, NC, and a student at Union Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.
2. THAT Mary Taneti, an inquirer from First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC, and a student at Union Theological Seminary in Charlotte, North Carolina, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.

Recently, your Preparation for Ministry Team conducted separate interviews with two Inquirers who asked, with the support of their sponsoring congregation and Session, to be enrolled as a Candidate in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. We recommend Susie Burns and Mary Taneti to you today for approval.

Susie comes with the support of her congregation and the recommendation of the Session of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church in Black Mountain. Her written call to ministry/faith statement is contained in this packet (PMT Attachment 1).

Mary comes with the support of her congregation and the recommendation of the Session of First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia. Her written call to ministry/faith statement is contained in this packet (PMT Attachment 2).

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 PMT, 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." (G2.0603) 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 PMT. The PMT, through its discernment, can decide to recommend them to the Presbytery. At the recommendation of PMT, the Inquirer comes before the Presbytery to share part of their faith journey and their sense of call. The Presbytery can then ask 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 Preparation for Ministry Team.
- 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 PMT to Receive a Call:

A Candidate may not begin to enter negotiations about a call as a teaching elder without the approval of PMT, which has been delegated this task. When a Candidate has completed the above, the PMT 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 Discernment Profile (PDP) reviewed and approved by PMT. 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 Preparation for Ministry Team and their sermon will be included in the Presbytery report.

FOR INFORMATION:

- Levi Bannerman, a member of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church and a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina who received permission to circulate his PDP on 10/30/2024, has accepted a Chaplain position with UVA Health in Charlottesville, VA. His ordination was held on January 10, 2026 in the Presbytery of the James.

PMT

Attachment 1

Susie Burns
Statement of Call

Dear Members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina,

I am incredibly grateful to each one of you and the many ways that my faith has been strengthened as I continue the journey to be faithful where God continues to lead. I am deeply aware that we are called to community together and it is in that community that we are shaped and formed by our love first to God and to each other.

Throughout my life I have been blessed to experience deep friendships that continue to nurture me along as I formally pursue my Master of Divinity as I seek God's call on my life. It's been somewhat of a miracle given that I did not graduate College. I graduated one year early from a small rural high school because I was going to work in floral design and marry my childhood sweetheart. Further education was not supported by my family or needed to fulfill these goals, so I got a jump start on feeling more secure by financially supporting myself.

Many religious communities have shaped my ecclesiastical journey. I was baptized and confirmed in my family's Methodist church. I experienced a sense of wonder and safety there and through my grandmother, whose message of love was contrary to wrathful church messages. When my grandmother passed away, so did my sense of safety in the church. I began to feel more alienated than loved and forgiven.

I was married and divorced at an early age and spent most of my young adult life outside of organized religion. I visited many churches that left me feeling vulnerable, excluded and judged because I was an unwed mother with many gay friends. One of my dearest friends had AIDS and feared that God would subject him to a fiery pit of Hell. I wanted to belong to a community that would welcome him too.

Eventually, I married Bob, who became a father to my 12-year-old daughter. The subsequent births of our two boys inspired us to search for a faith community. We landed in a Unity Church because of the solace I had found in their daily devotion, *The Daily Word*. This was a safe, inclusive, authentic place of healing for both of us.

On February 19, 2001 my life was abruptly interrupted when I found that Bob had died in the early hours of the morning. The following days were filled with the unspeakable. The pastor who was working with Bob to plan our sons' baptism was now working with me to plan Bob's funeral. I was filled with a divine presence that can only be described as God's grace. We decided to incorporate the baptism as a part of Bob's celebration.

I knew that God was present in my life and in the lives of my children. My church community enveloped me as I grieved and healed old church wounds. I volunteered there and eventually become Director of Youth and Families. Though I had not formally studied scripture, I moved forward prayerfully in my intention to serve God. The program grew from a few children and youth to 125 every week. This was built out of the love that comes when a church family stands together in community,

Attachment 1

they faithfully live into their Baptismal vows. They loved God deeply along with loving each other to live into a life of Christian service. I could sense God's call and the deep abiding love that was growing in my heart. I began to consider the path of theological education.

I asked my architect friend, Wade, to visit my church and advise us about the best use of our small space. As his brief trip progressed, we became aware of our mutual love. A month later, he proposed, and I traveled to his home in Montreat to discuss wedding details. We sat on top of the hill where we built our first home and took in God's beauty, and I knew God was calling me to something more.

Montreat became my home, and I came to understand it as "a thin place," where the veil between heaven and earth is almost nonexistent and people of faith gather to rest, renew, and listen for God's call. This was my first exposure to the PC (U.S.A.). We joined Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, and I connected with others who were also searching, questioning, and seeking out the sacred in everyday life.

As Director of Church Relations for Montreat Conference Center, I had an incredible opportunity to serve and walk with many different congregations across the United States. I would travel to share Montreat's ministry with churches across the country. I experienced throughout those years a deep longing to serve and love people. One of the most profound experiences I had during my time at Montreat as it relates to my call was several years back when I was worshipping at The Church of the Master in Atlanta, GA. I experienced what can only be described as a gentle nudging from the Holy Spirit to explore Theological Education. I had the gift of walking with wonderful Mentors throughout the years since that initial nudging. As I reflect on those moments of the Holy encounters of deep knowing, I am grateful for all the wonderful communities of faith walking with me.

I have always prayerfully sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit as I have moved through my discernment process. It has been one filled with moment of surprise and wonder. As I first started the process of ordination, I would have thought I would be ordained into my role at Montreat, serving many of the congregations across the Denomination. And yet, as I walked through my Supervised Ministry, I knew God was calling me to congregational ministry. I am deeply grateful. I am currently in the final portion of my educational process. This upcoming spring, I will be completing the requirements for CPE along with my final required classes. With God's guidance and support, I will be graduating from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte in June 2026. I have recently taken a position as the Pastoral Resident for First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, SC. I look forward to serving the families and children and walking with the congregation as we live faithfully into our Baptismal vows.

PMT

Attachment 2

My name is Mary Taneti, and I grew up in South India before moving to the USA with my family in 2005. As a child, I imagined God's call would be dramatic—lightning or a booming voice—but it was subtle. There was no defining moment, no grand promise, and no stars to count as with Abraham. Still, the journey into the unknown was quietly shaped by faith and circumstance. My parents were faithful churchgoers, starting at an early age my parents taught me to attend church, study the Word, and pray. My father served in the Indian Navy and was an active elder in his church for several years. He demonstrated fair leadership and dedication to work. My mother taught in school and took me along with her to work. I saw her work patiently and with tremendous love for her work and the children she served. This early exposure laid the groundwork for my lifelong dedication to service and faith.

As the third of five children, I earned a master's in financial accounting and supported rural women in South India by working for a microfinance company. I became active in my own church and volunteered extensively. From my microfinance work, I admired the resilience of the women I served. Their stories fueled my belief in the transformational power of education for Indian women and clarified my calling. When I married James—now a PCUSA minister and seminary professor—my commitment found new avenues. Joining his family of ministers made it natural to support and engage in church work, continuing the journey my parents began. Later, like many Indian women, I left my profession to become a full-time wife and mother, uncertain of the future.

After my career in microfinance ended, my family, James, my two young children, and I immigrated to the USA when my husband entered. In the new country, I cared for them and also sought a greater purpose. I joined a Bible Study Group for seminary spouses and audited classes,

PMT

Attachment 2

which the seminary welcomed. Inspired by this community and conversations with loved ones, I felt called to study Scripture. Encouraged by acceptance and financial aid, I began a new path. I enrolled in the Master of Arts in Christian Education program at Union Seminary in Richmond, VA.

After graduating, I received a call to serve as the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Goldsboro, NC, where I worked for 11 years before moving to Gastonia, NC. It was at my first call where people recognized my gifts for ministry and encouraged me to seek ordination. My love for working in the church kept me busy, and I felt like the path to ordination was long and difficult, and I had no time for it. Years passed, and the yearning and desire to be ordained as a minister of word and sacrament kept burning alive in me. I finally realized that I had spent several years waiting to get started in the ordination process, and that if I wanted to pursue it, I would have to go through the entire MDiv program. The Holy Spirit's nudging was firm and strong, and with much prayer and preparation, I decided to enroll in the MDiv program and pursue ordination.

Doubt and fear were present, but the Spirit's encouragement and a supportive community continually affirmed my calling. These reminders strengthened my confidence to serve the church. For 14 years, I have served as a Christian Educator, and now I feel called to serve as a minister of Word and Sacrament.

Now, instead of waiting for dramatic signs, I pay attention to daily interactions, my participation in church, building relationships, and my learning in a community of faith. Through these experiences, I clearly hear God calling me to serve and care for God's people. God calls ordinary people and in ordinary ways, and each experience confirms my calling.



Covenant

Partnership of Suchitepéquez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries (IENPG) and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PCUSA)

Why We Are Partners

This partnership exists to:

Glorify God (Romans 15:5-6)

Testify and demonstrate to all, the reconciling love of Christ (Romans 12:9-21)

Mutually encourage one another (Romans 1:12)

Help our pastors, churches and their members gain a better understanding of God's shalom and experience God's abundant life in all aspects of our lives.

Affirm our integral faith in Jesus Christ, declaring our intention to work as partners in support and mission in our respective countries, learning from each other, sharing our joys and pains in order to appreciate those gifts that each church offers for God's purpose.

As Partners

We will work together in a variety of ministries, including (but not limited to) theological and secular education, health, and church to church partnerships.

We will carefully and mutually develop plans, procedures, projects, and policies that support these ministries, using our individual gifts with generosity, justice, love, and transparency.

We will support and encourage individuals and communities through our prayers, visits, and diligent communication among all our diverse ministry teams and despite linguistic and cultural differences, so that our faith and love in Christ may grow and others around us may be positively impacted.

All of this we can achieve, as the Apostle James said, God willing.

Together in Christ

Juntos en Cristo

With Gratitude to God

Philippians 1:3-6

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the Gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ”

The sixth Partnership Covenant begins on January 1, 2026 and ends on December 31, 2030.

This covenant will be approved by the three Presbyteries at the next meeting of their Presbyteries.

As honorable witnesses those present, who created and wrote this covenant, sign this covenant.

San Felipe, Retalhuleu, Guatemala, on the 4th day of the month of October, 2025

Signatures

To the Sixth Partnership Covenant between the Presbyteries of Suchitepéquez and Sur
Occidente Presbyteries (IENPG) and the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PCUSA),
_____ (date)



Convenio

Compañerismo de los Presbiterios de Suchitepéquez y Sur Occidente (IENPG) y el Presbiterio del Oeste de Carolina del Norte (PCUSA)

Por qué somos compañeros

Esta compañerismo existe para

Glorificar a Dios (Romanos 15:5-6)

Testificar y demostrar a todos el amor reconciliador de Cristo (Romanos 12:9-21)

Animarnos mutuamente (Romanos 1:12)

Ayudar a nuestros pastores, iglesias y sus miembros a comprender mejor el shalom de Dios y a experimentar la vida abundante de Dios en todos los aspectos de nuestras vidas.

Afirmar nuestra fe integral en Jesucristo, declarando nuestra intención de colaborar en el apoyo y la misión en nuestros respectivos países, aprendiendo unos de otros, compartiendo nuestras alegrías y penas para apreciar los dones que cada iglesia ofrece para el propósito de Dios.

Como Companeros

Trabajaremos juntos en una variedad de ministerios, incluidos (pero no limitados a) educación teológica y secular, salud y compañerismo entre iglesias..

Desarrollaremos cuidadosa y mutuamente planes, procedimientos, proyectos y políticas que apoyen estos ministerios, utilizando nuestros dones individuales con generosidad, justicia, amor y transparencia.

Apoyaremos y animaremos a las personas y a las comunidades a través de nuestras oraciones, las visitas, y la comunicación diligente entre nuestros diversos equipos ministeriales no obstante a diferencias lingüísticas y culturales, para que nuestra fe y amor en Cristo crezca y que otros a nuestro alrededor se vean impactados positivamente.

Todo esto lo podemos lograr como dijo el apóstol Santiago si Dios quiere.
Juntos en Cristo
Together in Christ

Con gratitud a Dios

Filipenses 1:3-6

“Doy gracias a mi Dios cada vez que me acuerdo de ustedes, orando sin cesar con gozo en cada una de mis oraciones por todos ustedes, por su participación en el Evangelio desde el primer día hasta ahora. Estoy seguro de esto: que quien comenzó la buena obra entre ustedes la perfeccionará para el día de Jesucristo.”

El sexto Convenio de Compañerismo comienza el 1 de enero de 2026 y termina el 31 diciembre de 2030.

Este pacto será aprobado por los tres Presbiterios en su próxima reunión.

Como testigos honorables, los presentes, quienes crearon y escribieron este pacto, firman este pacto.

San Felipe, Retalhuleu, Guatemala, a los 4 días del mes de octubre de 2025.

Firmas

Al Sexto Convenio de Compañerismo entre los Presbiterios de Suchitepéquez y Sur Occidente (IENPG) y el Presbiterio del Oeste de Carolina del Norte (PCUSA), 4 octubre de 2025.

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ENGAGING IN MISSION MINISTRY

January 2026

Hunger Team

After the October 1 application deadline, this team met on October 23 to recommend grant distributions for fall. The generosity of contributions from Daily Change offerings enabled grants as follows:

Regional Requests

Agency	Requested Amount	Approved Amount
BackPack Weekend Food Program (sponsored by FPC Belmont)	\$16,600	\$12,000
Clay County Food Pantry (sponsored by Hayesville PC)	\$5,000	\$5,000
LINC Home Delivered Meals of Lincoln Co (sponsored by Ironton PC)	\$5,000	\$5,000
Macon County Care Network (CARENET) (sponsored by FPC Franklin)	\$8,000	\$8,000

International Requests

Agency	Requested Amount	Approved Amount
Proyecto de Salud-PWNC Guatemala Health Project (sponsored by the PWNC Guatemala Partnership Team)	\$19,000	\$19,000

Total Funds Granted \$49,000

Housing Team

At a December Housing Team meeting, Anne Waple shared updates from the Presbytery disaster response, including housing related work being addressed by volunteers. During PWNC disaster resilience conversations planned for February, long term resilience to encourage safe, secure, affordable housing will be discussed. There is consideration for a PWNC Mission Group participating in the disaster volunteer program.

Several congregations are exploring ways to collaborate locally to identify solutions to meet needs for affordable housing, working with Helene Recovery groups, Habitat, and other grass roots groups. One community identified property adjacent to a church but discovered that location was not suitable for construction and has moved with flexibility to other options.

Identifying options and encouraging neighboring congregations to work together on projects will be a possible discussion topic at the July 2026 Neighborhood Presbytery Meetings.

Global Missions

Upcoming 2026 PWNC Global Mission Trips

February 4 - 12 Guatemala

April 17 – May 2 Malawi

June 17 - 24 Youth to Guatemala

Applications for these trips are available on the Presbytery web site.

August opportunities

Congregations in our Presbytery have a unique opportunity to welcome, be involved, and assist with two Mission Networks of persons involved with global missions. More information will be coming.

The Malawi Mission Network will gather in Montreat August 18 – 21.

The Congo Mission Network will gather in Montreat August 26 - 29.

A group of pastors from Taiwan will have a retreat in Montreat in August.

LUNCH & LEARN

with Christina Tutterow

“All Are Welcome”

Saying what we mean – and meaning what we say!



Topics include:

- elements of inclusive worship services
- congregational auditing
- interpersonal conversations

Presentation will move beyond discussing the physicality of our congregational spaces toward communicating fuller welcome, openness, and inclusion of those living with disabilities.

This is perfect for all Church leaders (ordained & lay), those who “have the ear” of leadership, and those who are passionate about expanding congregational hospitality and welcome.

Thursday, February 26
12 p.m. to 1 p.m.
via Zoom

Register Here
by 2/20/25

Questions? Call 828/438-4217 or
 email twilliams@presbyterywnc.org.

Youth Leaders

Save These Dates!

Feb 21st

Faith & Sexuality

Retreat

5th-8th graders & their
parent(s)

Shelby Presbyterian
Shelby, NC

March 6-7

MISSION RETREAT

Overnight Retreat

High School Youth

FPC-Spruce Pine

March 12

Youth Leaders Forum

Leaders come share,
connect & support!

Warren Wilson
Presbyterian

May 2

ADVENTURE DAY

Fun and Adventure all
day long!

Middle & High School
CAMP GRIER

June 17-24

GUATEMALA TRIP

Youth Trip to build
relationships with
youth from our sister
Presbyteries

Need more info? Email Beth @ beth.gunn@gmail.com

FAITH & SEXUALITY Y-2

Exploring healthy relationships & sexuality as you and your youth enter adolescence

A Presbytery of Western NC Event for Parents, Fifth-Eighth Grade Youth & Youth Leaders

When? Saturday, February 21, 2026 from 9:00AM-5:00PM

Where? Shelby Presbyterian Church, Shelby, NC

KEY LEADERS



Karyn Cherry Davenport grew up all around NC as the daughter of a Presbyterian Minister, beginning at Poplar Tent in Concord. In 2019, she graduated with her Master of Marriage and Family Therapy from Abilene Christian University and has been practicing in the Denver, NC area since October 2021. Karyn is passionate about helping youth and their families break down barriers surrounding sexuality and is a seasoned leader for the Presbytery's Faith & Sexuality Retreat. Karyn loves theater - especially musicals, renovating her grandparents old homestead with her husband Jason, and traveling the country.



Rev. Lynn Turnage has been in youth, and children and family ministries for....a long time. Sexuality education and retreats have cycled through her ministries at least every three years. She loves the awe and wonder, energy, intelligence, imagination, and love that children and youth model for the world. Lynn advocates for good communication and healthy connections and community building in all her ministries. Lynn has daughters - 25 and 19 - a cat-dog named Daisy, loves chocolate, being outdoors, laughing and playing!

FAITH & SEXUALITY TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 Registration
- 9:30 Community Building & Recreation
- 10:00 First Session (Youth & Parents in Separate Groups*)
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Second Session (Youth & Parents in Separate Groups*)
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Joint Session (Youth & Parents Together)
- 4:30 Closing
- 5:00 Adjourn

***Youth will be divided into groups by grade for age-appropriate discussion - 5th/6th grades and 7th/8th grades.**

For more information on the program scan the QR code below to hear more about the retreat.



**USE QR CODE TO
REGISTER ONLINE BY
FEBRUARY 16th, 2026**



Faith & Sexuality Retreat

What to Expect

We understand that talking about sexuality with your middle school aged children can often be an intimidating and scary thought. Letting total strangers talk to your middle school aged children can be even scarier!! Let us put some of those fears to ease.

What should my child and I expect that day?

To be challenged by participating in discussions of what it means to be a Child of God who is created as a sexual being. We open the morning with get to know you activities and an opening session where parents and children are together. We then breakout into a parent session and youth session. Typically, youth are separated with 5th and 6th graders together and 7th and 8th so topics are developmentally appropriate. We provide lunch all together around noon, before entering separate afternoon sessions. At around 3, we come back together for some fun family time where youth will be able to share what they have learned and parents will be able to interact with their youth in a way they have not previously. To finish the day, we have a time for reflection and sending off.

What are you going to teach my child?

We discuss the biological and emotional aspects of sexuality in age-appropriate ways. Using scripture, we identify, reinforce, and discuss how we are each wonderfully and perfectly made in the eyes of God. Children are taught about healthy relationships and provided an environment where talking about sex and their bodies is acceptable and encouraged, as well as how to set and maintain healthy boundaries with partners, friends, and adults.

Why do I have to come with my child?

Talking with your child about sexuality can be very overwhelming and often parents choose not to talk to them at all. During parent sessions, they are taught about ways to talk to their child and normalizing these conversations to make it more comfortable for everyone.

One past parent offered this reflection on the retreat: “The presbytery's middle school sexuality retreat delivered on a major promise: it opened lines of communication about puberty and sexuality and faith with our kids in a way that assumed those topics are (1) GOOD to talk about and (2) rooted FIRST in our created-ness as children of God. We *laughed together as families*, which made talking about awkward things so much less awkward. An amazing and unexpected fringe benefit was sharing an experience with other parents who helped me feel like I'm on a fun journey rather than entering a dreaded phase. “

Can I bring a younger or older sibling along with us?

Please contact Beth Gunn to discuss the particular needs for your family as topics covered may not be appropriate for younger children or having older youth may not be appropriate with the middle school youth.

Y-4 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION WEEKEND

March 6-7, '26



High School Youth from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina are invited to participate in this year's mission weekend. We will be serving in Mitchell County at First Presbyterian Church (a PDA site), Spruce Pine, NC

Meals, Housing, and Programming will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Spruce Pine in conjunction with the Presbytery Youth Council.

Mission and Service activities will support ministries throughout Mitchell County.

Overnight accommodations will be at FPC Spruce Pine.

Tentative Schedule Friday 3/06

7:30 PM - Check-In
Evening Programming to follow.

Saturday 3/07

Breakfast at FPCP
Service in the Community
3:00PM - Closing Worship
3:30 PM - Departure

COST: \$15/person for the weekend.

\$5/person of this cost will be given as a donation to the local organizations we will be serving.

Cost includes:

**Housing,
Programming,
Saturday Breakfast
and Bagged Lunch**

REGISTER ONLINE Deadline is Monday, March 2, 2026

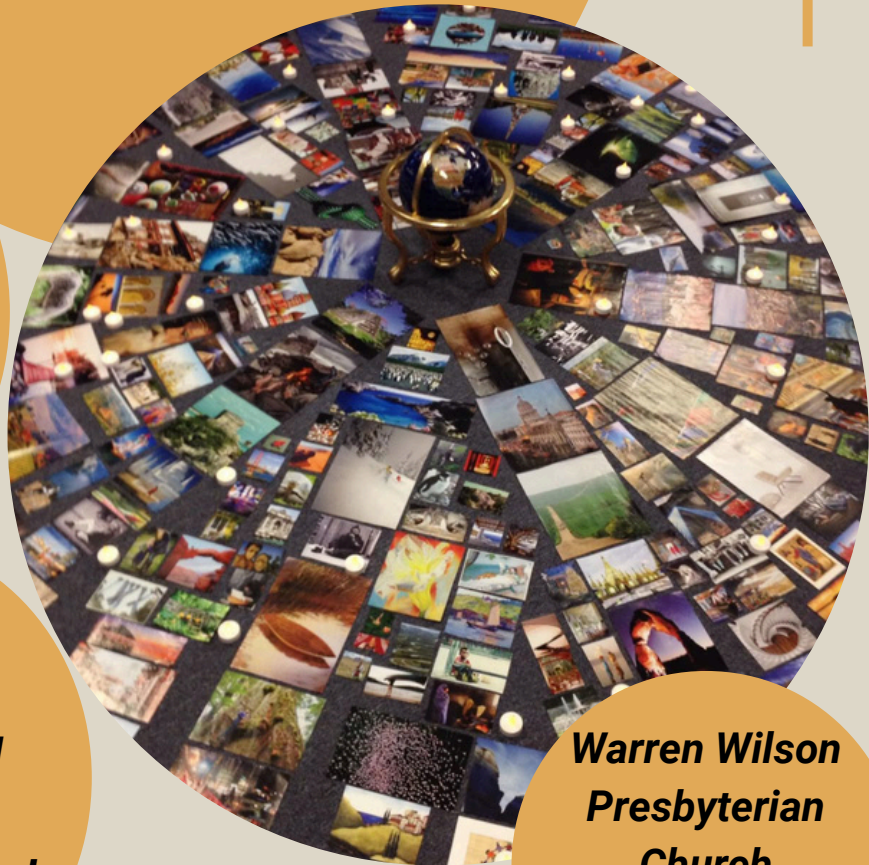
**PWNC
YOUTH
MINISTRY
TEAM**

YOUTH LEADERS FORUM

***Feel stuck? Drained? Need new
ideas or more connections?***

***Join us for all the
resource sharing,
laughter, and re-
energizing for the
work ahead!***

***Thursday
March 12th
10 am-2 PM
FREE!!
Lunch Provided***



***Warren Wilson
Presbyterian
Church
East Asheville/
Swannanoa***



let's go to guatemala!!

JUNE 17-24, 2026

PRESBYTERY YOUTH TRIP

**Click [here](#)
to apply**

To grow in faith and fellowship through cross-cultural partnership and service with our Guatemalan brothers and sisters in Christ.

**Click [here](#)
for
proposed
itinerary**

OPEN TO RISING 10TH GRADERS - GRADUATED 12TH GRADERS

"The highlight of my trip was the people that I got to meet. Specifically, I enjoyed meeting the youth from Suchi and Sur Presbytery, as well as the ones in our delegation. It was such a blast talking to these youth and sharing stories." Former PWNC youth participant

PWNC YOUTH COUNCIL

BE A PART OF THE TEAM

-YOUTH COUNCIL NEEDS
9TH-12TH GRADERS!

-YOUTH PARTICIPANTS WILL
GROW IN LEADERSHIP AND FAITH
-THE INVITATION TO JOIN OUR
TEAM IS OPEN FOR 2026-2027!



CHURCHES!! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!
INVITE YOUR YOUTH TO JOIN!



QUESTIONS?

CONTACT BETH GUNN AT
BETH.GUNN@GMAIL.COM



Finance Team
Don Scofield - 2025 Co-Chair/2026 Chair
January 31, 2026

The Finance Team presents the proposed 2026 Budget.
(BB-2 thru BB-9)

Therefore, they submit the following recommendation:

Recommendation:

- | |
|---|
| <p>1. THAT Presbytery approve the proposed 2026 Budget as presented.</p> |
|---|

For information only the Finance Team presents:

The ‘Hurricane Helene Fund Financial Statement’ of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of December 31, 2025, **BB-10.**

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026**

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
BUDGETED REVENUES			
UNDESIGNATED UNIFIED GIVING (INCLUDING PER CAPITA FOR GA & SYNOD)	674,195	19,995	694,190
HUNGER ACTION ADVOCATE SUPPORT INCOME	6,500	-	6,500
WORK OF PRESBYTERY ONLY-CHURCHES	0	(500)	-
WORK OF PRESBYTERY ONLY-INDIVIDUALS	8,000	500	8,500
OTHER INCOME	14,000	1,000	15,000
DESIGNATED PROCEEDS FOR NEW WORSHIP COMM	35,000	(5,000)	30,000
DESIGNATED PROCEEDS FOR DISASTER RECOVERY	100,000	-	100,000
RECOVERY - LEGAL	10,000	-	10,000
INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS (5%)	237,318	20,536	257,854
PWNC OPERATING REVENUES	1,085,013	36,531	1,121,544

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
<u>Strengthening Congregations Ministry</u>			
<u>Church Vibrancy Team</u>			
6001 - Church Vibrancy Team Expense	-	-	-
5111 - Redev Congregation-Third Street Support	11,946	-	11,946
6014 - Small Church Emergency Support	8,250	(8,250)	-
Total Church Vibrancy Team	20,196	(8,250)	11,946
<u>Youth Team/Youth Council</u>			
6201 - Team Expenses	700	-	700
6202 - Leadership Development	1,250	-	1,250
6207 - Sr & Jr High Youth Events	8,000	-	8,000
6208 - Summer Mission/Ministry	9,000	(1,000)	8,000
6209 - Youth Council	2,500	-	2,500
Total Youth Team/Youth Council	21,450	(1,000)	20,450
<u>Faith Formation Team</u>			
6101 - Team Expenses	200	-	200
6110 - APCE Assistance for Educators	2,500	500	3,000
6112 - Educator's Retreat	1,000	(500)	500
6121 - Regional Educational Events	1,000	-	1,000
Total Faith Formation Team	4,700	-	4,700
<u>Campus Ministry Team</u>			
5601 - Team Expenses	500	(500)	-
5610 - WCU - Cullowhee	9,000	-	9,000
Total Campus Ministry Team	9,500	(500)	9,000
<u>Total Strengthening Congregations Ministry</u>	55,846	(9,750)	46,096

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
 DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
 FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
<u>Equipping Disciples Ministry</u>			
<u>New Worshiping Communities Team</u>			
5112 - Lincolnton NWC (Artisan Church)	35,000	(35,000)	-
5113 - House of Mercy NWC	-	30,000	30,000
Total New Worshiping Communities Team	35,000	(5,000)	30,000
<u>Digital Church Team</u>			
xxxx - No current budget need - per leadership	0	-	-
Total Digital Church Team	0	0	0
<u>Community Outreach Team</u>			
xxxx - No current budget need - per leadership	0	-	-
Total Community Outreach Team	0	0	0
<u>Peace & Justice Team</u>			
5301 - Peace & Justice Team Expense	50	150	200
5325 - Environmental Action	450	(450)	-
5326 - NC Council of Churches	450	550	1,000
5328 - Criminal Justice Programs	1,050	(50)	1,000
5330 - Advocacy & Social Justice	500	(500)	-
Total Peace & Justice Team	2,500	(300)	2,200
<u>Disability Inclusion Team</u>			
5350 - Disability Inclusion Team Expense	0	200	200
Total Disability Inclusion Team	0	200	200
<u>Total Equipping Disciples Ministry</u>	37,500	(5,100)	32,400

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
<u>Engaging in Mission Ministry</u>			
<u>Hunger Team</u>			
5401 - Team Expenses	-	-	-
Total Hunger Team	0	0	0
<u>Self Development of People Team</u>			
5440 - Self Develop of People Team Expenses	-	-	-
Total Self Development of People Team	0	0	0
<u>Disaster Assistance Team</u>			
5510 - Mission Work Teams	3,000	-	3,000
5520 - Disaster Recovery Coordinator	100,000	-	100,000
Total Disaster Assistance Team	103,000	0	103,000
<u>Housing Team</u>			
5470 - Team Expenses	-	1,000	1,000
5518 - Hands & Feet of Asheville	1,000	1,000	2,000
Total Housing Team	1,000	2,000	3,000
<u>Guatemala Partnership</u>			
5503 - Partnership w/ Guatemala	20,000	-	20,000
5514 - Guatemala Coordinators-P/R Only	7,000	-	7,000
Total Guatemala Partnership	27,000	0	27,000
<u>Malawi Mission</u>			
5504 - Malawi Mission Expenses	4,000	-	4,000
Total Malawi Mission	4,000	0	4,000
<u>Total Engaging in Mission Ministry</u>	135,000	2,000	137,000

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
<u>Supporting Leadership Ministry</u>			
Commission on Ministry			
7051 - Team Expenses	500	200	700
7052 - Validated Ministry Sub-Team	-	-	-
7059 - Examinations Sub-Team	50	(25)	25
7061 - Boundaries Training	500	-	500
7062 - Background Checks	500	-	500
7070- Emergency Relief Fund	700	-	700
7071- Pastor & Church Professionals Care	500	-	500
Total Commission on Ministry	2,750	175	2,925
Preparation For Ministry			
5653 - Career & Personal Counseling	3,000	-	3,000
7101 - Team Expenses	750	-	750
7110 - Background Checks	150	-	150
7114 - Financial Assistance	1,500	-	1,500
Total Preparation For Ministry	5,400	-	5,400
Commissioned Pastors Team			
7054 - Commissioned Pastors Team Exp	-	-	-
Total Commissioned Pastors Team	-	-	-
Church Leadership School			
6009 - Church Leadership School	50	950	1,000
Total Church Leadership School	50	950	1,000
Total Supporting Leadership Ministry	8,200	1,125	9,325

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
<u>Coordinating Ministry</u>			
Coordinating Ministry Team Accounts			
5654 - Montreat Conference Center	3,000	-	3,000
6620 - Camp Grier Scholarship/Support	16,000	-	16,000
7001 - Team Expenses	500	(100)	400
5502 - Mission Interpretation-no Mission Team	250	(250)	-
5516 - Mission Personnel-no Mission Team	600	(600)	-
5517 - Young Adults in Mission-no MissionTeam	1,000	-	1,000
7002 - Mission Contingencies	507	(473)	34
Total Coordinating Ministry Team	21,857	(1,423)	20,434
Permanent Judicial Commission			
7351 - PJC Team Expenses	500	-	500
Total Permanent Judicial Commission	500	-	500
Nominating/Representation Team			
7151 - Team Expenses	-	500	500
Total Nominating/Representation Team	-	500	500
Personnel Team			
6851 - Team Expense	500	-	500
Program Staff Salaries & Housing	88,568	2,214	90,782
7406 - Program Staff BOP Dues	38,084	4,583	42,668
Program Staff - Other Business Expenses	16,275	169	16,445
Stated Clerk Salary & Housing	37,223	931	38,154
PT Associate Salaries & Housing	75,567	20,190	95,757
7411 - Entertainment Expense	250	-	250
7412 - Program Staff Discretionary	750	-	750
7419 - Travel Expense	6,000	3,000	9,000
7433 - Professional Expense	2,250	-	2,250
6205 - Associate for Youth	27,036	676	27,711
7460 - Guatemala Partnership Coordinator	16,451	411	16,862
Administrative Staff Salaries	161,943	4,897	166,840
Administrative Staff Benefits	60,749	5,799	66,548
7518 - Administrative Staff Cont Ed	1,000	-	1,000
7521 - Presbytery Staff - Appreciation	4,300	-	4,300
Total Personnel Team	536,947	42,871	579,818

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026**

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
Finance Team			
6801 - Team Expenses	-	-	-
7616 - Audit/Legal/Consult Fees	9,650	190	9,840
7618 - Insurance	15,000	2,500	17,500
7652 - Custodial Service	4,500	(300)	4,200
7653 - Facility Use	1,500	(1,500)	-
7656 - Utilities	4,600	300	4,900
7658 - Building Maintenance	5,000	-	5,000
7956 - Office Equipment	7,000	-	7,000
6909 - Communications/Web Expense	9,000	1,100	10,100
7522 - Staff Enrichment	500	-	500
7602 - Telephone	4,500	(200)	4,300
7606 - Copy Machine-Supplies-Maint	2,300	50	2,350
7608 - Postage	1,200	-	1,200
7610 - Equipment Software/Maintenance	9,600	300	9,900
7614 - Office Supplies	3,000	-	3,000
7622 - Miscellaneous/Bank Charges	2,000	-	2,000
Total Finance Team	79,350	2,440	81,790
Stewardship Team			
6503 - Stewardship Resources/Programs	250	-	250
Total Stewardship Team	250	-	250
<u>Total Coordinating Ministry</u>	<u>638,905</u>	<u>44,388</u>	<u>683,292</u>
Stated Clerk Expenses			
6951 - Sessional Records Review	500	(300)	200
7631 - Stated Clerk Travel	4,500	-	4,500
7632 - Work of Clerk	5,000	-	5,000
7633 - Presbytery Meeting Expenses	4,000	-	4,000
7634 - Administrative Commissions	2,000	-	2,000
7636 - Legal Fees	10,000	-	10,000
Total Stated Clerk Expenses	26,000	(300)	25,700
TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR PRESBYTERY	901,451	32,363	933,813

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
DETAIL OF RECOMMENDED BUDGET
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET 2025	INCREASE/ DECREASE	PROPOSED BUDGET 2026
GENERAL ASSEMBLY			
PER CAPITA GIVING (12,487 x 11.26 for 2026)	137,267	3,337	140,604
UNIFIED GIVING	27,733	(3,337)	24,396
TOTAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY	165,000	(0)	165,000
SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC			
PER CAPITA GIVING (12,487 x 1.50 for 2026)	14,562	4,169	18,731
UNIFIED GIVING	-	-	-
TOTAL SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC	14,562	4,169	18,731
SELECTED INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES			
UNION SEMINARY-CHARLOTTE CAMPUS	1,000	-	1,000
BLACK MTN HOME FOR CHILDREN	1,000	-	1,000
LEES-MCRAE COLLEGE	1,000	-	1,000
WARREN WILSON COLLEGE via WWPC	1,000	-	1,000
TOTAL INSTITUTIONS & AGENCIES SUPPORT	4,000	0	4,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,085,013	36,531	1,121,544
INCOME/(SHORTFALL)	1,085,013	36,531	1,121,544
	-	-	-

Hurricane Helene Fund Financial Statement As of 12/31/25

Donations

2024 - 4th Qtr	478,994.43
2025 - 1st Qtr	113,388.47
2025 - 2nd Qtr	26,923.00
2025 - 3rd Qtr	21,583.27
2025 - 4th Qtr	8,644.40
Total Donations	\$ 649,533.57

Passthru Funds (not included in Donations)

PC(USA)PDA Host Site Grant
New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville
\$5,000 received by PWNC Apr 2025/remitted May 2025

PC(USA)PDA Host Site Grant
Spruce Pine Presbyterian Church
\$5,000 received by PWNC July 2025/remitted Aug 2025

Designated Funds

\$960 designated to purchase
Tools for Tool Trailer

\$2,000 designated to be used for
needs in the Asheville area

Expensed

Nov-24	(1,500.00)	\$500 Pmts to Micaville PC, Marshall PC & Green Mtn PC (FPC Napa gift)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Dorland Memorial PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Green Mtn PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Green Street PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Jack's Creek PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Micaville PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to New Hope PC (Asheville) (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Black Mtn PC (GC approved for direct assistance)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Grace Covenant PC (GC approved for direct assistance)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to FPC Marion (GC approved for direct assistance)
Mar-25	(1,000.00)	Grant to Green Mtn PC - Community Healing (Lenten video Project)
Mar-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC - Church Repair
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Tryon PC - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Grace Covenant PC - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to FPC, Marion - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Warren-Wilson PC - Direct Relief to Community
Jun-25	(125.30)	Reimbursement for supplies-PWNC PDA Team - 25 trip-Canton, NC
Jun-25	(10,000.00)	Host Site Expense Fund - New Hope Presbyterian Church
Jun-25	(10,000.00)	Host Site Expense Fund - FPC Spruce Pine
Jun-25	(1,050.00)	Funds to Cover Per Diem Shortfall from 2 Volunteer Groups-FPC Spruce Pine
Aug-25	(3,999.00)	Gilreath Auto Sales LLC (Purchase of Tool Trailer)
Oct-25	(200.28)	Brotherhood Mutual (Insurance Policy for Tool Trailer)
Nov-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (grant for damages)
Nov-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Green Mountain PC (grant for damages)
Nov-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for damages)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (Old Fort Strong_Edwards House) (direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Reems Creek-Beech PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Waldensian PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(2,500.00)	Grant to Warren Wilson PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(30,000.00)	Grant to WNC Conf of United Methodist Church (Direct Relief to Neighbors)
Dec-25	(6,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (Old Fort Strong_Edwards House) (direct relief to neighbors)
Dec-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(2,000.00)	Grant to Green Street PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(13,459.00)	Grant to Jack's Creek PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(22,141.84)	Grant to Newdale PC (grant for damages)

Total Expensed \$ (368,975.42)

Current Balance \$ 280,558.15

Hurricane Helene Relief Grants Application Deadline Dates

March 31, 2026
July 31, 2026
October 31, 2026

Building H.O.P.E. Financial Statement

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

As of 12/31/25

Campaign Totals		Ministry details			
		Malawi	Camp Grier	Vital Churches	Guatemala
Collected	\$1,982,818.07	\$905,680.72	\$374,190.34	\$384,774.38	\$318,172.63
Gain/Loss (subject to market fluctuations)	\$881,766.94	\$431,156.36	\$77.47	\$226,568.03	\$223,965.08
Campaign Expenses	\$107,280.01	\$49,001.70	\$20,245.50	\$20,818.14	\$17,214.67
Utilized	\$1,075,652.97	\$472,809.32	\$352,011.84	\$82,970.81	\$167,861.00
Available for Requests	\$1,681,652.03	\$815,026.06	\$2,010.47	\$507,553.46	\$357,062.04

Malawi (Health Care & Education)

Projects	Utilized
Rural Health Clinics*	\$64,587.54
Rural Health Clinic Housing*	\$149,019.78
Research Accountability	\$6,600.00
Mobile Health Unit	\$61,786.00
Medicines Fund	\$139,200.00
Ebenezer Institute Endowment Fund	\$51,616.00

* Per General Council approval, Aug 2024, requests for Rural Health Clinics and or Clinic Housing can come from either line item

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	\$10,999.81
Supplement Leadership Support	\$12,000.00
Supplement Pastoral Support	\$0.00
Pastoral Education	\$1,535.00
<i>Consultants, Seminars & Upgrades in Technology</i>	
Hardware & Software	\$15,500.00
Websites	\$0.00
Consultants & Seminars	\$8,400.00

Guatemala (Education)

Projects	Utilized
Higher Education Endowment	\$68,800.00
Fund for Theological Education of Pastors	\$70,500.00
Libraries/Teacher/Parent Formation Programs	\$23,611.00
Dream Goals	\$4,950.00

Building HOPE Campaign website:

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

**Personnel Team Report
Rev. Connie Button, Chair
January 31, 2026**

Let us give thanks to God for the dedication, enthusiasm, and faithful service of all our staff to the Presbytery in 2025. The staff includes three full-time and 10 part-time committed people who serve the 89 congregations in 23 counties of western NC. It has been another year of transition as staffing positions have changed through retirements and filling empty positions, while maintaining the mission level that the Presbytery has set.

The Personnel Team is comprised of 6 men and women from around the Presbytery, ruling elders and teaching elders. They met 3 times during the year by Zoom, which allows more people from scattered locations to participate. The responsibilities include care and support of staff, annual reviews, recommending any changes in policies or job descriptions as well as terms of employment, and keeping salaries competitive. Two vacant staff positions have been filled to begin work on January 5, 2026.

During 2025, the Team conducted annual reviews for all permanent staff. Sabbatical Guidelines for ordained full-time Presbytery staff based on the COM recommendation to churches was presented and approved by COM. Salary recommendations for 2026 were also made based on COM recommendations to churches.

The Team learned during reviews with the Presbytery Associates who have assigned churches in specific areas of the Presbytery that the congregations appreciate the connections that are being made and find them helpful. One difficulty the churches in more isolated areas raised is their lack of internet service to fully participate in many Presbytery events, so in person visits and phone calls helped with that. Guatemala Coordinator shared the important connection PWNC has with the churches in Guatemala during the 30th year of ministry together. The Administrative staff was highly commended for their diligence in taking on extra duties due to changes and reduction in staff. During the year the Personnel Chair has served on Nominating/Representation Team, Coordinating Ministry and the Administrative Staffing Task Force.

In the fall, the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon was held at FPC Morganton. Each staff member was presented with a small gift.

In the fall, the Team also considered new Board of Pensions guidelines for medical benefits as it applies to Presbytery staff. The 2026 Personnel budget request for the Team as well as all staff members was submitted to Finance through Coordinating Ministry for approval. Please be in prayer for all our staff.

The Personnel Team and Coordinating Ministry are recommending the salary packages listed in the attached document.

Submitted by Connie Button, Chair, PWNC Personnel Committee

PERSONNEL TEAM**RECOMMENDATION:**

CA THAT the following Salary Packages for 2026 be accepted.

Rev. Dr. Byron A. Wade
General Presbyter
(40 hours/week)

Salary	\$39,329
Housing	\$39,329
Deferred Compensation	\$12,125
SSA	\$6,945
Travel/Business Exp	\$6,000
Cont Education	\$3,500
SUBTOTAL	\$107,227
Medical & Pension	\$42,668
TOTAL	\$149,895

Beth Gunn
Associate for Youth
(15 hours/week)

Salary	\$25,742
FICA	\$1,969
TOTAL	\$27,711

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

Salary	\$ -
Housing	\$25,819
TOTAL	\$25,819

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

Salary	\$ -
Housing	\$25,819
TOTAL	\$25,819

Rev. Dr. Ann Philbrick
Stated Clerk
(19 hours/week)

Salary	\$26,154
Housing	\$12,000
TOTAL	\$38,154

Sarah Robinson
Guatemala Partnership
Coordinator
(12 hours / week)

Salary	\$15,664
FICA	\$1,198
TOTAL	\$16,862

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

Salary	\$ -
Housing	\$25,819
TOTAL	\$25,819

Jim Taylor
Presbytery Associate
(10-12 hours/week)

Salary	\$18,300
TOTAL	\$18,300

General Presbyter Report

January 7, 2026

“What’s your relationship status?” Many of us have seen this question before on forms at the Doctor’s office, on a credit application, or as a part of the paperwork in applying for an open position. At first, I used to think this was an odd question to ask. I would often say “What does this question have to do with anything?”, thinking it is none of their business. Over time, my attitude and outlook have changed. Not only is this question informative for legal and medical purposes, I believe the meaning goes deeper. It means people want to know what are your connections. Who takes care of you in the time of trouble? Who can vouch for you? With whom do you share your life? What ways can we as a Presbytery strengthen our relationships and form new ones so people will know that we are connected as a body of Christ?

This year, my theme for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC) will be *Building and Sustaining Relationships*. Called to be the people of God, we do not serve or worship in isolation of the community. I have learned two things about relationships: 1) they can always be strengthened, and 2) they are crucial to our identity and growth. As we move through 2026, I plan to focus my attention to building and sustaining relationship in the following ways:

- 1) **Welcoming new members into the Presbytery** – I will be working with Rev. Laurey Harrell, who serves on our Commission on Ministry, to develop a way in which new ministers are welcomed into the Presbytery. This will serve to familiarize new ministers to the life and work of the Presbytery, as well as helping them to form and build relationships with our presbyters.
- 2) **"What Is a Presbytery and Why Does It Matter?"** – I am in the process of developing a presentation with said title for congregations, sessions, and other interested groups to learn about the PWNC and why it matters. These will be in-person presentations given by yours truly. I hope to have more information about this coming soon.
- 3) **Presbytery Stewardship Team** – the Coordinating Ministry approved the formation of this team late last year. Its purpose will be to reach out to churches that have not contributed financially or participated in presbytery activities, focusing on education about presbytery functions rather than just soliciting funds.

In addition to these, I will continue to visit churches and pastoral leaders – which I really enjoy! I solicit your prayers as we carry out the theme for this year.

We continue to work on building and sustaining relationships in other ways. I hope you have heard by now the news of having our July Presbytery meeting in neighborhoods. Members of the Coordinating Ministry, in partnership with our Presbytery Associates, are working faithfully to make this a reality. The purpose of having these neighborhood Presbytery meetings is to form closer relationships with other

churches and become familiar with the work of the PWNC in a local context. I am looking forward to this!

Finally, we have two new staff members. Jim Taylor, retired Commissioned Pastor, is the new Presbytery Associate for the Mayland neighborhood. Jim is very well known to the Presbytery in his service in the PWNC over the years and with the Newdale and Grassy Creek congregations. Katie Quinn is our new Administrative Assistant/Assistant to the Stated Clerk. We are so glad to have both on board. Please welcome them!



I look forward to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina building and sustaining relationships this year. I hope you will, too!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Byron".

Byron Wade
General Presbyter

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!



APRIL PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE:

APRIL 2nd

Please Note: Reports not submitted by the team or ministry chair/moderator by the stated deadline **will not** be included in the Presbytery meeting packet. All reports must be written and submitted by the designated chair or moderator. **No deadline extensions will be granted.**