

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

D. Cameron (Cam) Murchison, Stated Clerk

July 29, 2017

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- | | | |
|-----|----|--|
| CA | 1. | THAT Susan Denne, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the October 24, 2017 Presbytery meeting. |
| CA. | 2. | THAT the minutes of the April 25, 2017 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted. <i>(The full set of these minutes, including appendices, is available for review at the Stated Clerk's table.)</i> |
| CA | 3. | THAT the July 2017 report of the Administrative Commission for the New Vision, Conover New Church Development be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1) |
| CA | 4. | THAT the July 2017 reports of the Administrative Commissions for the First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville; First Presbyterian Church of Swanannoa; First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain; and the First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 2) |
| CA | 5. | THAT the July 2017 report of the Board for the UKirk at WCU Cullowhee Campus Ministry be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 3) |
| CA | 6. | THAT the Committee on Nominating/Representation, having completed their annual report for the year ending December 31, 2016 and submitted it to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, requests that it become a part of the permanent record of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. (Stated Clerk Attachment 4) |
| CA | 7. | THAT the minutes of the ordination of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery: Lisle Gwynn Garrity |

FOR INFORMATION:

8. **THAT reports for the following commissions were not submitted for this meeting of Presbytery.**
Administrative Commission for Westminster
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Their Ministry

9. THAT the 114th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at the First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, North Carolina.

10. THAT the following dates have been set for 2017 and 2018 Presbytery Meetings:

2017

Saturday, July 29, 2017 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Marion

Tuesday, October 24, 2017 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Asheville

2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018 – Lowell Presbyterian Church (Co-Host Union Presbyterian Church)

Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – Montreat Conference Center

Tuesday, July 31, 2018 – Banner Elk Presbyterian Church (Lees-McRae College)

Saturday, October 27, 2018 – First Presbyterian Church, Hickory

11. THAT the following Session Records for 2016 were submitted and approved on Saturday, April 29, 2017, at a Session Records Review held at First Presbyterian Church, Morganton.

| | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Banner Elk | Brevard-Davidson | Bridgewater |
| Brittain | Burnsville, First | Fairview |
| Forest City | Grassy Creek | Green Street |
| Hickory, First | Kenilworth | Marshall |
| Morganton, First | Newland | Newton, First |
| Quaker Meadows | Robinson Memorial | Rutherfordton |
| Shelby | Sherrill's Ford | Southminster |
| Tryon | Union | United |
| | Waldensian | Warren Wilson |

12. THAT the following Session Records for 2016 were submitted and approved on Saturday, June 10, 2017, at a Session Records Review held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville.

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Asheville, First | Black Mountain | Clinchfield |
| Dorland Memorial | Dulatown | Franklin, First |
| Grace Covenant | Hayesville | Hendersonville, First |
| Mills River | Saluda | Sylva, First |
| Trinity | West Asheville | |

13. THAT the following dates have been established for Clerk of Session Training and Reviewing Church Records:

August 19, 2017 Crossnore Presbyterian Church

September 30, 2017 First Presbyterian Church, Bessemer City

14. THAT the following date has been established for Sacred Trust-Relational Boundaries Training for 2017:

November 4, 2017 Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville

For Pastors and Elders of the Presbytery: According to our presbytery's policy, clergy and elders involved in leadership are required to take sexual misconduct training once every four years.

For leaders of local congregations: The workshop is open for all local leaders who want to educate themselves about healthy boundaries.

Who should attend: All persons designated below are required to have an approved three-hour workshop of sexual misconduct sponsored by the WNC Presbytery or equivalent training approved by the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Team.

All Presbytery professionals and Presbytery volunteers are required to have the three-hour training every four years with the following exceptions:

1. Exempted from training are fully retired Presbytery professionals who have availed themselves of this option, with its associated limitations of not serving on Presbytery Committees, preaching in local churches, leading workshops or retreats, or exercising other pastoral functions such as celebrating the sacraments, or conducting weddings and/or funerals unless a “Single Event” exception has been made to Presbytery.
2. Members on the following committees, their sub-committees, and Task Forces are **ineligible for exemption** during the term of their membership:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| General Council | Youth |
| Committee on Ministry | Christian Education |
| Examinations | Joint Outdoor Ministry |
| Small Membership Church | Campus Mission |
| Permanent Judicial Commission | |
3. Members of all other existing committees are exempt, though changes to committee structures may require review of eligibility.
4. **Interims** who are working within the bounds of the Presbytery who receive comparable hours of training in their judicatory, at least as frequently as required in our Presbytery, may be exempt.

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

Report from the New Vision Administrative Commission

July 2017

New Vision Church in Conover, NC continues to move forward seeking God's will for their ministry and outreach. The church has continued to see an increase in attendance and new opportunities for outreach in the community.

Mark Osborne, CLP for New Vision, has had to deal with more pastoral care duties these past few months with many members being sick as well as a couple of deaths within the congregation. Mark and the congregation have continued to reach out and provide help and support where needed. The Wednesday Mid-week Journey continues with new members from the community coming to join in as well. There is still the continued need for additional music leadership, but they are experimenting with others forms of media including pre-recorded music. They have also started posting their services on social media in order to reach those who are not able to attend or those not familiar with the church.

The congregation continues to look for ways to reach out to the community. They have provided great support to a number of school children through the Back Pack ministry program with the local elementary school. This will start up again with the new school year in the fall. The church also hosted a visit from the VanBrocklins where they shared of their experiences ministering in East Asia. Gary is the former minister of Hispanic Ministries at New Vision, so it was a joy to have them back home. In addition, the church continues to provide help and support both financially and through volunteers with Cooperative Christian ministries and the local soup kitchen. The church has also recently partnered with Neighbors Network which provides programs and assistance for the elderly in the community.

The youth group was able to use some of the funds raised from their yard sale last fall to recently attend the Christian Music festival at Carowinds. The church is also planning for VBS in August which always is a great success and fun.

The church has continued to suffer losses from the deaths of faithful members. Throughout, the congregation has ministered to the families and has continued to be the church that they are. They have provided meals and support where needed and continue to be a blessing to all.

While finances continue to be of concern, the congregational giving has been very consistent since the first of the year and continues to show an increase over the prior year. They have been able to cut costs by changing phone providers as well as installing programmable thermostats to control temperature. The Steering team felt confident enough in the financial future, it voted to begin sending \$2,000 each quarter to be applied directly to the mortgage principle. The prayers are that this commitment will help to move the chartering process further down the road.

Despite the challenges, illnesses and deaths, New Vision continues to provide the steady, consistent and strong support to the congregation and community. They are already looking to the fall in planning for a homecoming celebration and revival as well as the annual pumpkin sale and Fall Festival. They continue to be the beacon of light within the community, sharing God's love with all who will listen.

Respectfully Submitted,

Greg Smith
Chair, Administrative Commission
New Vision Church
Conover, NC

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

July 29, 2017

Administrative Commission Report – The First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville

The agreement presented at the April, 2017 Presbytery Meeting was approved by both those wishing to depart from the PC(USA) and the congregation of the continuing First Presbyterian Church. The legal documents have been signed, and the first payment has been received.

Other aspects of the settlement, including dismissing individuals currently carried on the Presbytery's roll are ongoing.

Please join the Administrative Commission in continued prayers for both congregations to thrive as they strive to fulfill Christ's mission in Hendersonville.

Bob Forsythe
Chair

Administrative Commission Report - First Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa

The Administrative Commission for Swannanoa Pres. Church met on April 30, 2017. We approved the minutes of previous meetings and both heard and approved the treasurer's report.

One item of concern was the credibility/suitability of a potential buyer and their extremely low offer which we had counter offered.

Another was the consideration of lowering the price of the property considering very low apparent interest. Our realtor, Roy Borden, joined the meeting via phone and agreed to create another listing document with "lease to purchase." We have renewed our contact with him through December 2017.

In moving toward closing our business upon eventual sale of the property, the Administrative Commission declared First Presbyterian Church of Swannanoa be formally dissolved after the transfer of property [deed and easements] to Piney Grove Cemetery. Attorney Mike Begley, who was at our meeting, indicated that he will forthwith prepare the easements and deed for later approval.

We continue to pray for a suitable buyer for this property, that it might be put to good use and thus God's will might be done.

Sincerely,
Rev. Stephen M. Austin, Chair

Administrative Commission – First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain

The Administrative Commission of First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain is continuing its work. We are involved in mediations which is currently being dealt with by the attorneys.

Co-chair, Susan L.Denne

Administrative Commission – First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir

The Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir continues to follow the congregation in their ministry and provide support as needed.

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 3

UKirk at Western Carolina University,
a ministry of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina
July 29, 2017

Board: Heidi Buchanan; Lee Galloway; Mark Hanna (chair); Noah McIntee; Allen Proctor; Bob Tuttle; Emily Wilmarth; Karol Farris (campus minister); Anne Morgan (ex-officio, Mission Division, chairperson); Billy Robinson (ex officio, Presbytery staff).

Since its last reporting to the Presbytery in April, 2017, the Board has been very active. UKirk at WCU was notified that we did not receive our requested grant through 1001 NWC. The process for awarding campus ministry grants through 1001 NWC is being reviewed nationwide. We have petitioned their decision and await further information.

LEASE

In lieu of the much needed grant money, the Board sought other revenue streams and received permission from the Presbytery's Council to lease the upper portion of the Cullowhee facilities. As of this month, a tenant has been located and a five year lease negotiated and signed. This brings financial relief, but does not resolve all of our financial concerns.

FURNISHINGS NEED NEW HOMES

In order to make room for our new tenants, UKirk must find new homes and uses of the sanctuary furnishings from the former Cullowhee congregation. An email was sent presbytery-wide with photos of the furnishings in question. It is the desire of the presbytery to place these items in indefinite loan to congregations that may need and use them. And, we would like to keep certain items together. For instance, it is preferable to keep all of the chairs together, the communion set together, etc. For more information, please contact Billy Robinson brobinson@presbyterywnc.org.

FALL SEMESTER

We have received the names of three new students who will be attending WCU and are members of congregations within the presbytery. If you are aware of a student from your congregation who is, or will be, attending WCU, please share that information with us so we may include them in our ministry.

FUTURE PLANS AND CHANGES

As of this writing, the Board has scheduled a July 22 session with Cate Church Norman, the interim UKirk pastor at NC State. She will assist the Board in clarifying its vision for the future of campus ministry at UKirk and assist with near-future planning.

With regret and gratitude, the Board received the resignation of campus minister Karol Farris and board member Bob Tuttle. Karol is pursuing a call in her native Midwest.

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 4

PRESBYTERY REPORT TO SYNOD ON REPRESENTATION 2017 Form for Year 2016

Page 1 of 2

Presbytery ___Western North Carolina_____

I a If you have a COR:

how often does it meet? ___5 times per year_____

does it meet with the Presbytery Nominating Committee? ___yes_____

how does it report to Presbytery? ___Quarterly_____

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

II What is the size of your presbytery? Churches ___103_____ Members ___14419_____

What percentage of members are minorities? ___4%_____ What % ages 12-30? Under 25 13.5%__

What % are women? ___57_____ What % are men? ___43_____

Beyond race, gender, and age, are there other groups – people who work ‘for profit’, live in rural areas, attend large congregations, have children at home, etc - who may be under-represented or of concern? Please identify and state what could be done on their behalf.

People whose work like makes participation in many Presbytery activities impossible. Attempts to schedule activities in non-working hours and in places close to home might improve the odds.

III Generally, what successes and/or frustrations have you experienced this past year?

Members of COR working with members of Nominating to analyze and assist with committees toward resolving any balance issues.

The committee still deals with the frustration of ability to find volunteer’s whose work schedules and other responsibilities allow for Presbytery activities.

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

Sharing best practices and success stores from around the Synod

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 4

PRESBYTERY REPORT TO SYNOD COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Page 2 of 2

V To the best of your ability, share with us the state of representation in your presbytery.

Some committees do have imbalance respecting age distribution as some are predominately populated by people over the age of 65.

VI. Membership break-down- please see the attached page.

Report submitted by D. Cameron Murchison Signature 

Phone # 828/438-4217 e-mail cmurc1@gmail.com

This document was/will be part of COR's report to Presbytery on July 29, 2017

Stated Clerk D. Cameron Murchison Signature 

Date July 6, 2017

Please return this form on or before **(In office Deadline Date of July 6, 2017)**: via email to tscott@synatlantic.org or to Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, 3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227.

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 4

| VI. | 2016 COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT | | | | | | | | | | | PRESBYTERY: Western North Carolina | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|-------------|------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------------------|-------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------|------------------|
| | Committee | Total | Male Clergy | Male Laity | Female Clergy | Female Laity | Asian Amer. | African Amer. | Hispanic Latino | Native American | Multi-Cultural | Middle Eastern | White | Other Self Ident | Person With Disability | Youth 25/ Under | Young Adult 26-35 | Adul 36-64 | Senior Adult 65+ |
| 1 | Budget & Finance | 9 | | 5 | | | 4 | | 1 | | | | 8 | | | | | 3 | 6 |
| 2 | Church Development | 7 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | 7 | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 |
| 3 | Committee on Ministry | 25 | 7 | 8 | 7 | 3 | | 1 | | | | | 24 | | | 1 | 1 | 15 | 9 |
| 4 | Presbytery Officers | 5 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | 5 | | | | | 1 | 4 |
| 5 | Presbytery Council | 16 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | | 2 | | | | | 14 | | | 1 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 6 | Nominating Committee | 12 | | 7 | | 5 | | 1 | | | | | 11 | | 1 | | | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | Commissioner to 222 GA/ 239-240 SOMA Assembly | 9 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | 1 | | | | | 8 | | | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 |
| 8 | Committee on Preparation | 12 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 5 | | | | | | | 12 | | | | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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