

**114th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina**  
**October 24, 2017**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**40 Church Street, Asheville, NC 28801**



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<b>PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES</b>	
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC
Saturday, January 27, 2018	Lowell Presbyterian Church, Lowell, NC (Co-Host –Union Presbyterian Church)
Tuesday, April 24, 2018	Montreat Conf Center, Montreat, NC (Co-Host–Montreat Presbyterian Church)
Tuesday, July 31, 2018	Lees-McRae College, Banner Elk, NC (Host – Banner Elk Presbyterian Church)
Saturday, October 27, 2018	First Presbyterian Church, Hickory, NC
Saturday, January 26, 2019	TBA
Tuesday, April 30, 2019	Montreat Conf Center, Montreat, NC (Co-Host–Montreat Presbyterian Church)
Tuesday, July 30, 2019	TBA
Saturday, October 26, 2019	TBA

## Parking & Accessibility

Parking for visitors on Sunday morning and throughout the week is available in the upper parking deck, accessed from the lot entrance on Aston St. Other parking, as well as handicapped accessible parking, is available in the lower lot, also accessed from the lot entrance on Aston St.

As a downtown church, easily accessible parking is limited. There is some adjacent street parking. We are also blessed to be across the street from the [Biltmore Avenue Public Parking Garage](#), located under the Aloft Hotel, which almost always has available space. The cost of parking at the garage is free for the first hour, and \$1.00 for each additional hour or fraction thereof.



**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN  
NORTH CAROLINA**

**GUIDE TO WORSHIP AND WORK**



**ONE-HUNDRED FOURTEENTH STATED MEETING  
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ASHEVILLE, NC**

**114th STATED MEETING  
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
OCTOBER 24, 2017  
DOCKET**

- 8:30 Registration**  
**Orientation for New Elders** **Charles Davenport**
- 9:00 Call to Order** **Melvin Meares**  
**Convene with Prayer of Invocation** **Vice-Moderator**
- Welcome**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Asheville** **Patrick Johnson**
- Appointment of Standing Committees** **Melvin Meares**  
**Resolution of Thanks**  
**Bills and Overtures**  
**Tellers**
- Certification of Quorum** **Cam Murchison, 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 committee report from which it was drawn.)*
- Stated Clerk's Report** **Cam Murchison** **B**  
*(Work of the Clerk, Presbytery Meeting Dates, Administrative Commission Reports)*
- Report from the Administrative Commission for Kings Mountain**
- Reports Submitted for Information and/or Included in the Consent Agenda**
- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Finance Committee</b>  | <b>BB</b> |
| <b>Highlights of the 240th Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic</b> | <b>II</b> |
| <b>Report from the Presbyterian Women</b>                               | <b>MM</b> |
- 9:30 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper**  
**Preacher:** Rev. Patrick Johnson
- An offering will be taken during worship to support the  
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program of the PC(USA)*
- 10:30 Speak Out (5 minutes)**  
*(Opportunity to address the Presbytery for one minute or less, per speaker, on any suitable topic. No new business may be introduced at this point, but announcements, concerns, or opinions may be shared.)*
- 10:35 General Council (15 minutes)** **Barbara McLean** **C**  
*(Work of the committee.)*



<b>Committee on Ministry</b> (25 minutes) (Work of the committee; welcome new ministers: William Lowrey, Priscilla Durkin, Jeff Aiken, and Margaret Torrence; commissioning of Millie Bruns – Commissioned Pastor.)	<b>Whit Malone</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>Committee on Preparation for Ministry</b> (15 minutes) (Work of the committee; request to transfer Inquirer Loudon Young to Candidate)	<b>Dana Vaughn</b>	<b>K</b>
<b>Nominating Committee</b> (10 minutes) (Work of the Committee; election of 223 <sup>rd</sup> Commissioners to General Assembly; election of Commissioners to Synod of the Mid-Atlantic)	<b>Jane Hansel</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>PneuMatrix</b> (20 minutes) (Overview of PneuMatrix, a vehicle to Build Adaptive Change Leadership)	<b>Jim Kitchens</b> <b>Deborah Wright</b>	
<b>Christian Education</b> (5 minutes) (Work of the committee, Spirituality Retreat, APCE, and Resource Center)	<b>Rick Leissner</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>Youth Committee</b> (5 minutes) (Work of the Committee, Upcoming Events)	<b>Joseph Taber</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Report of the General Presbyter</b> (5 minutes)	<b>Bobbi White</b>	<b>GP</b>
<b>Ministry Campaign</b> (10 minutes) (Updates – Doing Together What We Cannot Do Alone)	<b>Roger Rizk</b>	<b>BH</b>
<b>Peace &amp; Justice</b> (5 minutes) (Peacemaking Offering)	<b>Anne Morgan</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>Hunger Committee</b> (5 minutes)	<b>Bill Heck</b>	
<b>Mission Committee</b> (5 minutes) (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Mission Trip to Kinston, NC – October 8-13, 2017; Malawi Mission Team Report)	<b>Bob Abel</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>Guatemala Partnership</b> (5 minutes) (Partnership Updates)	<b>Susan Maveety</b>	<b>S</b>

## **12:45 Report from the Bills and Overtures Committee**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

(Please submit requested prayers of intercession to the Stated Clerk's table before 11:00 a.m.)

### **Benediction and Adjournment**

## **1:00 LUNCH**

Please note that Presbytery Standing Rules “do not” allow any distribution of materials at Presbytery meetings without prior approval from the General Council. Also, please turn off or silence cell phones during Presbytery worship times. Your cooperation is appreciated.

The General Council reaffirms its policy that there will be no photography, audio or video recording, including all electronic devices, during a Presbytery meeting without the prior approval of the Presbytery.

**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 2016 year, churches M through R are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2015 Statistical Report as figures are not available for 2016.*):

- 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 shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
2. All division, committee and sub-committee chairs shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
3. All Commissioned Lay Pastors, actively serving, shall have voice and vote.
4. All Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and, in addition, other Christian Educators who have
  - earned at least a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent)
  - served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and
  - been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the Christian Education Committee shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to BO: G-2.1103, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).
5. All ruling elder commissioners to the Synod Assembly and 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 shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
8. Only teaching elders who are active members (including honorably retired teaching elders) or members-at-large of Presbytery, as defined by the *Book of Order*, shall have voice and vote.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### October

<b>5</b>	<b><i>DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORTS FOR OCTOBER PRESBYTERY MEETING</i></b>	
11	General Council	Morganton, First
18	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Morganton, First
<b>24</b>	<b>114<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Presbytery</b>	<b>First Presbyterian, Asheville</b>
28	Hunger Committee	Presbytery Office

### November

<b>4</b>	<b>Sacred Trust Relational Boundaries</b>	<b>Grace Covenant</b>
6	Examinations Committee	Morganton, First
7	Committee on Ministry	Morganton, First
8	General Council	Morganton, First
9	Christian Education	Presbytery Office
<b>10-12</b>	<b>Middle School Youth Retreat</b>	<b>Camp Grier</b>
13	Evangelism Committee	Presbytery Office
16	Smaller Membership Church Committee	Black Mountain
<b>23-24</b>	<b>Presbytery Office Closed ~ Thanksgiving Holiday</b>	

### December

4	Examinations Committee	Morganton, First
	Missions Committee	Black Mountain
5	Committee on Ministry	Morganton, First
<b>7</b>	<b>Presbytery Office Closed ~ Staff Retreat</b>	
13	General Council	Morganton, First
	Validated Ministries Sub-Committee	Black Mountain
<b>22-31</b>	<b>Presbytery Office Closed – Christmas Holiday</b>	

### January

1	Presbytery Office Closed ~ New Year's Day	
<b>4</b>	<b><i>DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF REPORTS FOR JANUARY PRESBYTERY MEETING</i></b>	
8	Examinations Committee	Morganton, First
9	Committee on Ministry	Morganton, First
10	General Council	Morganton, First
<b>15</b>	<b>Presbytery Office Closed ~ Observance of Martin Luther King Holiday</b>	
<b>27</b>	<b>115<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of WNC</b>	<b>Lowell Presbyterian Church</b>

#### 2017 Presbytery Meetings

October 24, 2017~ First Presbyterian, Asheville

#### 2018 Presbytery Meetings

January 27, 2018 – Lowell Presbyterian Church

(co-host Union Presbyterian Church)

April 24, 2018 – Montreat Conference Center

(co-host Montreat Presbyterian Church)

July 31, 2018-Banner Elk (Lees-McRae College)

October 27, 2018~ First Presbyterian, Hickory

#### 2019 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, January 26, 2019 – TBA

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Montreat Conference Center  
(Co-Host Montreat Presbyterian Church)

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 – TBA

Saturday, October 26, 2019 - TBA



# The Presbytery of Western North Carolina

114 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655

Phone: (828)438-4217

Fax: (828)437-8655

**To:** Members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
**From:** D. Cameron (Cam) Murchison, Stated Clerk  
**Date:** October 16, 2017  
**Re:** One-Hundred Fourteenth Stated Meeting of Presbytery

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina will hold its quarterly stated meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, at the *First Presbyterian Church in Asheville, North Carolina*. (40 Church Street, Asheville, NC)

**Registration** will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until 11:00 a.m. Please sign in at the registration area upon arrival.

**Lunch** tickets will be available for a cost of **\$10.00 per person** during registration. Meal tickets must be purchased prior to 11:00 a.m.!

**Elder Orientation** begins at 8:30 a.m. A brief overview and an attempt to answer any questions regarding the meeting will be handled at that time

**Intercessory Prayer** requests should be placed on the Clerk's table by 11:00 a.m.

Remember that for the 2017 year, *churches M through R* are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2015 Statistical Report.

Marion, First	New Hope, Gastonia	Pine Street
Marshall	Newdale	Pineola
Micaville	Newland	Quaker Meadows
Mills River	Newton, First	Reems Creek-Beech
Montreat	Northminster	Ridgeview
Morganton, First	Oak Forest	Robinson Memorial
Morrison	Oakwood	Rutherfordton
Mount Holly, First	Old Fort	Ryburn Memorial
New Hope, Asheville	Olney	

To request an excused absence, please e-mail ([mpuckett@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:mpuckett@presbyterywnc.org)), fax (828/437-8655) or phone (828/438-4217) the Presbytery Office by Monday, October 23, 2017.

Meeting Location:  
First Presbyterian Church  
40 Church Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
828/253-1431



# ***THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA***

114 Silver Creek Road ~ Morganton, North Carolina 28655 ~ 828 438-4217 ~ FAX 828 437-8655

## **NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO PRESBYTERY MEETINGS**

### **WELCOME!**

Despite rumors to the contrary, many really do enjoy the time of fellowship and sharing when our Presbytery meets. However, if you have not been to such a meeting before, it may seem a little confusing at first. It is hoped that this guide will make your participation more meaningful. For at Presbytery meetings, we have good news to share, successes to celebrate, helpful resources to publicize, important (and some not so important) decisions to make, plans to approve, and a wonderful family of 103 congregations to get to know better.

### **WHAT IS A PRESBYTERY?**

A Presbytery is the key governing body in our denomination. There are 173 Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Ours includes all the PCUSA congregations with nearly 14,500 members in 23 counties in the western part of North Carolina. It consists of all the active Teaching Elders and at least one Ruling Elder from each congregation (larger ones have additional Ruling Elders). Various procedures ensure that there is approximately an equal number of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders; both are known as commissioners and they have an equal vote. It is vital that each congregation be represented by its Ruling Elder(s)!

### **WHAT DOES A PRESBYTERY DO?**

A Presbytery is responsible for the mission and government of the Church throughout its area. "In partnership with Sessions, the mission of our Presbytery is to foster vital and faithful congregations to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ." By combining resources, Presbytery can help each church improve its ministry by assisting with the calling of pastors, teacher training, grants and loans, officer development, camping, mission trips, and many other support services.

### **WHEN DOES PRESBYTERY MEET?**

There are four full-day stated (regular) meetings, generally towards the end of the months of January (Saturday), April (Tuesday at the Montreat Conference Center), July (Tuesday), and October (for either one or one-and-a-half days, sometimes at one of our churches or an appropriate conference center). Special meetings at other times can be called, and Presbytery committees meet throughout the year.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THIS MEETING?**

All commissioners will receive, in advance, a packet of reports, proposed actions and background information. Other papers (generally called "Addenda") will be handed out when you register. Please read these carefully, and be prepared, since these papers will only be referred to during the meeting before a committee chair (with some explanation) moves adoption of an action.

In general, these things will occur:

1. **Celebration:** We will worship together with hymns, prayers, Scripture, preaching and the Lord's Supper. We will also welcome new Teaching Elders, commission teams on mission trips (especially to Guatemala and Malawi), give thanks for special achievements, and pledge ourselves to better mission and witness. Join in the fellowship of committed Christians.

2. Information: You will learn about lots of events and opportunities to share with your Session and congregation: new programs, mission plans, available resources, etc. Be a good communicator when you are back home.
3. Education: You will hear from missionaries, as well as leaders of our colleges, children's homes, camps and other institutions; Presbytery officials and Teaching Elders joining our Presbytery. There is always much to learn.
4. Presbytery Procedures: Much is fairly routine: adoption of the docket (order of consideration), approval of minutes, receiving reports, etc. Several routine housekeeping matters are put together in a "Consent Agenda" (formerly referred to as the "Omnibus Motion"), which is voted on as a unit (but you can remove any item for later discussion). Though rather unexciting, these matters are necessary.
5. Debate and Action: At most meetings, there will be a few items that deserve extensive discussion. Though each recommendation has been reviewed by a committee or the Administrative Board, it should nevertheless be carefully considered before you decide how to vote. If you do not understand what is happening, please ask the Moderator to explain the matter currently before the Presbytery. If you want to offer a motion, the Stated Clerk would be glad to help you draft it. Don't worry about parliamentary procedure. Your role is to listen carefully, share in the debate, if you feel led to do so, and then vote as the Holy Spirit leads you to understand what is best for Christ's Church

It is a privilege and responsibility to help guide this part of the Church of Jesus Christ. ***Be prepared. Listen. Pray. Take notes. Report back home.*** Remember that you are helping our Presbytery in a much valued and vital way to build up the Body of Christ, to the greater glory of our Lord.

(Prepared by James Aydelotte, former Stated Clerk, with thanks to Providence Presbytery in South Carolina.)

<b>PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES</b>	
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	First Presbyterian Church, Asheville, NC
Saturday, January 27, 2018	Lowell Presbyterian Church, Lowell, NC (Co-Host – Union Presbyterian Church)
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*updated 10/13/2017*

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

### **PLEASE READ THESE MOTIONS BEFORE PRESBYTERY!**

*Matters may be removed from the Consent Agenda when:*

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

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

\*\*\*\*\*

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

### **RECOMMENDATIONS 1 thru 6 FROM THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

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

- CA 1. **THAT Melvin Meares, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the January 27, 2018 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA. 2. **THAT the minutes of the July 29, 2017 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.** *(The full set of these minutes, including appendices, is available for review at the Stated Clerk's table.)*
- CA 3. **THAT the October 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 October 2017 reports of the Administrative Commissions for the Westminster Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church of Swanannoa; the First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir and Churches Concluding Their Ministry be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery.**



(Stated Clerk Attachment 2)

- CA 5. THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:  
Kathryn Johnson Cameron
- CA 6. THAT the General Council concurred with the Committee on Ministry the recommendation to close the Estatoa Presbyterian Church effective October 31, 2015.

### RECOMMENDATION 1 FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

(See General Council's Report (C) for contents of recommendations.)

- CA 1. THAT the Presbytery elect the following person(s) to serve on the Nominating and Representation Committees:

Nominating:

Mr. John Bates (Hickory, First)	(E)	Class of 2020
Ms. Barbara Ross (Crossnore)	(F)	Class of 2020
Ms. Alli Costner (Youth-Lowell)	(D)	Class of 2020

### RECOMMENDATIONS III. (A-E) FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

(See Committee on Ministry Report (D) for contents of recommendations.)

- CA III. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:
- A. Millie Bruns as Chaplain, The Lodge at Mills River Rehab Facility, through October 24, 2018.
  - B. William Buchanan, as Executive Director of Asheville Youth Mission, through October 24, 2018.
  - C. Lisle Garrity as Creative Director, A Sanctified Art, LLC, through October 24, 2018.
  - D. Joan Martin, as Chaplain at Covenant Village, Inc., through October 24, 2018.
  - E. Cynthia Strickler, as Director and Head of Staff, Presbyterian Reformed Ministries, Int., through October 24, 2018.

### RECOMMENDATIONS 1 thru 18 FROM THE NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(See Nominating/Representation Committee Report (I) for contents)

- CA 1. General Council
- |                                |     |               |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------------|
| Mr. Jay Crane (Hickory, First) | (E) | Class of 2018 |
| Rev. Keith Grogg (Montreat)    | (B) | Class of 2020 |

CA	2.	<b><u>Committee on Ministry</u></b>		
		Mr. John Pea (Robinson Memorial)	(D)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Esta Jarrett (Canton)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Roger Rizk (Gastonia, First)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Keith Thompson (Brevard-Davidson)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Kathryn Cameron (Hendersonville, 1 <sup>st</sup> )	(C)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Wanda Neely (Morganton, First)	(E)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Jim Taylor (Grassy Creek/Newdale)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Becky Stevens (Lenoir, 1 <sup>st</sup> )	(E)	Class of 2020
CA	3.	<b><u>Examinations Committee</u></b>		
		Mr. Robert Forsythe (Trinity)	(C)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Lauren Vanacore (Gastonia, First)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Mrs. Beth Hall (Grassy Creek-Micaville)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Dr. Wallace Johnson (Retired)	(E)	Class of 2020
CA	4.	<b><u>Preparation for Ministry</u></b>		
		Rev. Dana Vaughn (Reems Creek-Beech)	(B)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Emily Wilmarth (Highlands, First)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Michael Lamm (Retired)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Keith Morrison (Retired)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Charlie Snead (Hendersonville, 1 <sup>st</sup> )	(C)	Class of 2020
CA	5.	<b><u>Peace &amp; Justice Committee</u></b>		
		Rev. Anne Morgan (Retired)	(B)	Chair for 2018
		Rev. Dr. Priscilla Durkin (Retired)	(B)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Christopher Vogado (New Hope, Gast)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Joseph Pritchard (Morganton, First)	(E)	Ad-Hoc
		Ms. Sandra Strickland	(B)	Ad-Hoc
CA	6.	<b><u>Hunger Committee</u></b>		
		Rev. Bill Heck (Retired-Warren Wilson)	(B)	Co-Chair 2018
		Rev. Riley Covin (Retired)	(A)	Co-Chair 2018
		Mrs. Gayle Deas (Third Street)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Virginia Bradford (Brevard-Davidson)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Katie Adams (Kenilworth)	(B)	Ad-Hoc
CA	7.	<b><u>Missions Committee</u></b>		
		Rev. Robert "Bob" Abel (Hayesville)	(A)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Ellen Dozier (Retired)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Joanne Mitchell (Southminster)	(D)	Class of 2020
CA	8.	<b><u>Campus Ministry</u></b>		
		Mr. Mark Hanna (Bryson City)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Allen Proctor	(B)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Gary Greene (Brevard-Davidson)	(C)	Class of 2020

		Ms. Kathy Meacham (Grace Covenant)	(B)	Class of 2018	
CA	9.	<b><u>Smaller Membership Churches</u></b>			
		Rev. Tempe Fussell (Franklin, First)	(A)		Co-Chair 2018
		Rev. Libby Sigmon (Olney)	(D)		Co-Chair 2018
		Rev. Kitty Rankin	(D)	Class of 2019	
		Rev. Margaret “Maggie” Lauterer	(F)	Class of 2019	
		Mr. Robert Dula (Dulatown)	(E)	Class of 2020	
		Rev. Kyle Segars (Etowah)	(C)	Class of 2020	
		Mr. Don Widmayer (Trinity)	(C)	Class of 2020	
		Rev. Kimberleigh Wells (New Hope, Ashe)	(B)	Class of 2020	
CA	10.	<b><u>Youth Ministries</u></b>			
		Rev. Joseph Taber (Lowell)	(D)	Class of 2019	
		Mr. Steven Keen (Southminster)	(D)	Class of 2020	
		Rev. Carol Steele (Montreat Conf.)	(B)	Class of 2020	
CA	11.	<b><u>Christian Education</u></b>			
		Rev. Adam Bowling (Morganton, First)	(E)		Chair for 2018
		Mrs. Leila Bruder (Quaker Meadows)	(E)	Class of 2020	
		Rev. Chris Taylor	(A)	Class of 2020	
		Mrs. Peggy Ferguson (Pineola)	(F)	Class of 2020	
		Mrs. Mary Lou Nash (Grace Covenant)	(B)	Class of 2020	
		Rev. Dwight Christenbury (Trinity)	(C)	Class of 2019	
CA	12.	<b><u>Finance Committee</u></b>			
		Mr. Charles Sellers (West Avenue)	(D)	Class of 2020	Chair for 2018
		Mr. Rodney Lytle (Warren Wilson)	(B)	Class of 2020	
		Ms. Nancy Thompson (Waynesville)	(A)	Class of 2020	
CA	13.	<b><u>Personnel Committee</u></b>			
		Rev. Dr. Luke Harkey (Shelby)	(C)		Chair for 2018
		Rev. Terry Hanna (Bryson City)	(A)	Class of 2019	
		Mr. John Stanley (Gastonia, First)	(D)	Class of 2020	
CA	14.	<b><u>Administration Division Chair for 2018</u></b>			
		Mr. Charles Sellers (West Avenue)	(D)		
CA	15.	<b><u>Outreach/Mission Division Chair for 2018</u></b>			
		Rev. Harold “Hal” Bennett (Dulatown)	(E)		
CA	16.	<b><u>Leadership Development Chair for 2018</u></b>			
		Mr. Fred Van Itallie (Trinity)	(C)		
CA	17.	<b><u>Congregational Development Chair for 2018</u></b>			
		Rev. James Holeman (Union)	(D)		

CA	18.	<b><u>Guatemala Partnership Leadership Team</u></b>	
		Rev. Randall Boggs (Mills River)	(B)
		Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick (Waldensian)	(E)
		Mrs. Susan Maveety (New Hope, Asheville)	(B)
		Mrs. Beth Bolin (Gastonia, First)	(D)
		Rev. Samantha Gonzalez-Block	(B)
		(Grace Covenant)	
			Co-Chair 2018
			Co-Chair 2018
			Class of 2020
			Class of 2020
			Class of 2020

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

**D. Cameron (Cam) Murchison, Stated Clerk  
October 24, 2017**

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- CA 1. **THAT Melvin Meares, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the January 27, 2018 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA. 2. **THAT the minutes of the July 29, 2017 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.** *(The full set of these minutes, including appendices, is available for review at the Stated Clerk's table.)*
- CA 3. **THAT the October 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 October 2017 reports of the Administrative Commissions for the Westminster Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church of Swanannoa; the First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir and Churches Concluding Their Ministry be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 2)**
- CA 5. **THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**  
Kathryn Johnson Cameron
- CA 6. **THAT the General Council concurred with the Committee on Ministry the recommendation to close the Estatoa Presbyterian Church effective October 31, 2015.**
7. **THAT the October 24, 2017 report of the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery and that the actions be considered during the docketed time at this meeting. (Stated Clerk Attachment 4, Pages 1 - 13)**
8. **THAT the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville having completed its work, be dissolved, effective Tuesday, October 24, 2017, with the thanks of the Presbytery for its good work.**

9. **THAT the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir having completed its work, be dissolved, effective Tuesday, October 24, 2017, with the thanks of the Presbytery for its good work.**
10. **THAT the overture, submitted to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Marion, regarding the status between Mission Health System and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, be referred to the Presbytery's Bills and Overtures Committee for a report and recommendation of action at this meeting. (Stated Clerk Attachment 3)**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

11. **THAT a report for the following commission was not submitted for this meeting of Presbytery:**

Board of the UKirk at WCU Campus Ministry

12. **THAT the 115<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, January 27, 2018, at the Lowell Presbyterian Church, Lowell, North Carolina.**

13. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2017, 2018, and 2019 Presbytery Meetings:**

2017

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 (Co-Host, Montreat Presbyterian Church)

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

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

2019

Saturday, January 26, 2019 – TBA

Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Montreat Conference Center (Co-Host Montreat Presbyterian Church)

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 – TBA

Saturday, October 26, 2019 - TBA

**The Presbytery will welcome invitations from churches or institutions willing to host Presbytery meetings in 2019.**

14. **THAT the following Session Records for 2016 were submitted and approved on Saturday, August 19, 2017, at a Session Records Review held at Crossnore Presbyterian Church, Crossnore.**

Arbor Dale	Micaville	Reems Creek-Beech
Conley Memorial	Montreat	Siloam
Fletcher	Newdale	Spruce Pine, First
Lenoir, First	Pineola	Vians Valley
Marion, First		

15. **THAT the following Session Records for 2016 were submitted and approved on Saturday, September 30, 2017, at a Session Records Review held at First**

## Presbyterian Church, Bessemer City.

Belmont, First	Gastonia, First	Morrison
Bessemer City, First	Good Hope	Mount Holly, First
Bryson City	Highlands, First	Northminster
Canton	Ironton	Olney
Cherryville, First	John Knox	Sweetwater
Dallas, First	Lincolnton, First	Third Street
Duncan's Creek	Long Creek	Union Mills
Dixon	Love's Chapel	Unity
Etowah	Lowell	Waynesville, First

16. **THAT the following Session Records for 2016 have not been reviewed and are delinquent in meeting the requirements of the 2015-2017 Book of Order. For churches desiring to meet the requirements of the Book of Order and be in compliance, please contact Stated Clerk, Cam Murchison for further instructions.**

Brittains Cove	Buladean	Calvary
Columbus	Crossnore	Ellenboro
Green Mountain	Green Street	Jack's Creek
Kings Mountain	Korean Presbyterian	New Hope, Asheville
New Hope, Gastonia	Oak Forest	Oakwood
Old Fort	Pine Street	Ridgeview
Ryburn Memorial	Shiloh, Grover	Walnut
West Avenue		

17. **THAT the following dates have been established for 2018 for Clerk of Session Training and Reviewing Church Records for 2017:**

Saturday, April 28, 2018	First Presbyterian Church, Morganton
Saturday, June 9, 2018	First Presbyterian Church, Sylva
Saturday, August 18, 2018	
Saturday, September 29, 2018	First Presbyterian Church, Bessemer City

18. **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**

### **October 2017**

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

The church celebrated homecoming on September 17 with great attendance. This was followed by a week of evening revival worship services which was a moving time with awesome worship experiences each night. The church has also started posting services on their Facebook page and have had good feedback from users. The Wednesday Mid-week Journey continues with new members from the community coming to join in as well.

Outreach continues to be an important part of the life of the church. A new school year has started and with that the Back Pack ministry program is cranking back up. In addition, the church is looking for ways to partner with other outreach groups in the community. The church continues to provide help and support both financially and through volunteers with Cooperative Christian ministries and the local soup kitchen. The church also continues to look for ways to reach out to its sister church in Guatemala. They were able to send correspondence along with one of its members who visited Guatemala earlier this year.

One new outreach project is the start of a new program called '5<sup>th</sup> Quarter' which invites the players and students to the church after home football games to have a safe place to come and hang out. The first evening was a success with a number of students coming by. The annual Pumpkin Patch starts up this month as well. This is one of the things the church is known for in the community and raises money for the Scholarship fund. These monies are used to help fund summer camp for the youth, along with special trips or events. In addition, the church will host a Trunk or Treat event on October 21 and invite the community to participate as well. Finally, they are planning an event in December to raise money for missions by hosting a holiday craft fair.

While finances continue to be of concern, the weekly congregational giving continues to show an increase in year over year giving. Year to date, the congregational giving is almost 7% above last year at this time and 15% above the 2015 numbers at this time. This is a significant improvement in the overall stewardship of the church. Plans are already in the works for Stewardship in November. They have also been able to cut some operational costs by switching phone/network providers.

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.

Despite the challenges, illnesses and deaths, New Vision continues to provide the steady, consistent and strong support to the congregation and community. They continue to look to the Lord for His guidance and direction.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

# **STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2**

## **Commission Reports**

**October 24, 2017**

### **Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding their Ministries**

The commission has met in person and by telephone as it has begun its oversight of the properties of churches whose ministries have concluded. Special attention has been given to the properties of the former Glen Alpine Presbyterian Church and the Spindale Presbyterian Church. Though no final resolution has been reached on either as of this date, the commission is hopeful that some fruitful uses of these church properties will be found.

Rev. Don Scofield

Rev. Bill Kirk

Ms. Barbara Ross

Mr. Ken Unnasch

Mr. John Stanley

Mrs. Peggy Lafferty

Mr. Steve Brittain

Rev. Bobbi White

Rev. Cam Murchison

### **Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir**

Our Presbytery and the city of Lenoir continue to be blessed with an engaged congregation in First Presbyterian Church of Lenoir. They continue to reach out into the community through projects such as the local soup kitchen. Ministry includes a Bible study in addition to their Sunday worship services. The Administrative Commission continues to be available to the Session.

Mr. John Pea, Co-Chair

### **Westminster Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission**

Merri Alexander, Dot Descieux, Keith Grogg (moderator), Cam Murchison (stated clerk), Don Peterson, Chuck Reiley.

The Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church continues in contact with Sara Wilcox, pastor of Land of the Sky U.C.C. LOTS is currently in a process of congregational discernment regarding whether to formally agree to the proposed terms for the sale of the Overbrook property to the church.

The A.C. is anticipating receiving a response in late October or early November.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Grogg

### **Administrative Commission Report for First Presbyterian Church, Swannanoa**

The Administrative Commission for Swannanoa First Presbyterian Church, in collaboration with our realtor and the Stated Clerk, continues its efforts on behalf of the Presbytery to sell or lease the property. We give thanks for the dedicated leadership that we have had from the Rev. Steve Austin, who has accepted a call from outside the presbytery.

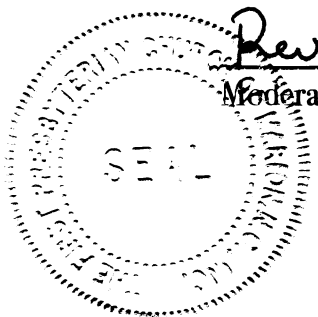
# STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 3

To: The Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Regarding the current status that exists between Mission Health System and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina

Be it resolved that the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Marion, NC overtures the assembly of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina to address the current circumstance that exists between Mission Health System and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, an impasse that directly impacts hundreds of Presbyterians and thousands of others in this region. The Presbytery ought to be empowered to communicate with Mission Health System and Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, inviting both parties to return to negotiations, offering the Presbytery to serve as a mediator if need be, and encouraging both parties to ultimately return to providing quality, accessible, and affordable health care to the people of Western North Carolina.

Approved this the 9th day of October in the year of our Lord 2017.



Rev. Jacob L. Douylliez  
Moderator, Rev. Jacob Leon Douylliez

Joyce Suppes  
Acting Clerk of Session, Elder Joyce Suppes

**Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain, NC**

Following an extensive mediation process regarding the civil complaint lodged against the Presbytery of Western North Carolina by First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain, the Administrative Commission recommends that Presbytery approve the following settlement agreement that has been approved by First Presbyterian Church.

The agreement involves the following primary components:

1. the dismissal of the civil complaint against the Presbytery;
2. the vacating of the notices of property governance and property reversion that Presbytery recorded in the register of deeds office of Cleveland County;
3. the dissolution of First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain as a congregation of the PCUSA;
4. the payment of \$50,000 in a lump sum by First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain to PWNC;
5. the provision of a Quit Claim Deed by PWNC conveying the church property to FPC, Kings Mountain;
6. the delivery of the church records of FPC, Kings Mountain to PWNC within 60 days, said records to be deposited with the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

In summary, the approval by Presbytery of the Administrative Commission's recommendation will conclude the legal matter and dissolve First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain as a congregation of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The full Agreement with Exhibits follows.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

**PROPERTY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

COUNTY OF CLEVELAND

THIS PROPERTY SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT, hereinafter sometimes referred to as the “Agreement,” is made and entered into this the \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2017, by and between FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGS MOUNTAIN, a North Carolina non-profit corporation, hereinafter sometimes referred to as “the Church”; and THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, INC., a North Carolina non-profit corporation, hereinafter sometimes referred to as “the Presbytery.”

**W I T N E S S E T H:**

WHEREAS, the Church has been a member church of the denomination known as The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (sometimes hereinafter referred to as PCUSA); and

WHEREAS, the Presbytery is a regional administrative body of PCUSA; during the times that the Church has been a member church of PCUSA, the Church has fallen within the geographical and ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, the Church voted on June 5, 2016, to withdraw its affiliation with PCUSA, and has now affiliated with another Presbyterian denomination, A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO); and

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2016, the Presbytery caused to be filed in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Cleveland County two documents, a “Notice of PCUSA Property Governance,” and a “Notice of Actions Contrary to PCUSA Property Governance and Property Reversion,” and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2016, the Church initiated litigation against the Presbytery by filing in the Superior Court of Cleveland County its Complaint for Quiet Title and Declaratory Judgment, seeking, among other things, a judicial determination that it owns the property described in the complaint free from any claim of the Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, the Presbytery thereafter filed its Answer, Defenses, and Counterclaim, seeking a judicial determination that the subject property was at all times held in trust for the benefit of PCUSA, or alternatively that title to the property is now held by the Presbytery, in trust for the benefit of PCUSA; and

WHEREAS, the parties hereto have agreed nevertheless to resolve all disputes regarding the church property and have therefore agreed upon the terms set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, this settlement is made by the parties without admission regarding the accuracy or propriety of the other party’s claims;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the payment, covenants and mutual provisions stated herein, the receipt and adequacy of which the parties expressly acknowledge, the parties contract and agree as follows:

1. **Property Addressed by the Agreement.** The Agreement is intended to address and resolve all forms of real and personal property, both tangible and intangible, owned by the Church, including all property (hereinafter referred to as The Property) described in the Complaint in the civil action pending between the parties, and any and all claims of any nature, whether civil or ecclesiastical, that the parties may have against the other, whether asserted in litigation pleadings or not, as of the date of this document. This paragraph shall not affect claims covered by Paragraph 7, “Indemnity.”
2. **Approval of the Agreement.**
  - A. **Approval by the Church.** The representatives of the Church who sign the Agreement represent and warrant that he, she or they have the authority to enter into this agreement of behalf of the Church and that they have obtained all necessary approvals from any corporate or ecclesiastical bodies.
  - B. **Presbytery Approval.** The representatives of the Presbytery who sign the Agreement represent and warrant that he, she, or they have the authority to enter into this agreement on behalf of the Presbytery and that they have obtained all necessary approvals from any corporate or ecclesiastical bodies. The Agreement is not binding until approved by the Presbytery, following receipt of the Agreement signed by the Church and receipt of a certified copy of the minutes of the meeting or meetings that resulted in the vote of disaffiliation by the Church on June 5, 2016. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery represents that the Agreement will be presented for approval to the Presbytery at its October 24, 2017, meeting, (provided that the Clerk has received this Agreement executed by the Church and the said minutes at least ten days prior to October 24, 2017), together with a recommendation that Presbytery ecclesiastically dissolve the Church as a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), recognizing that nothing therein shall be considered or construed to affect the civil and corporate status of the church as an on-going entity.
  - C. **Binding signatures.** The Agreement is not binding until signed by both parties. Signatures by counterparts is permitted.
3. **Performance of Obligations.** This Agreement shall not be considered to have been fully performed unless and until (i) all obligations agreed to herein are fulfilled to the extent that current and contemporaneous performance is required, including those requirements of payment and the conveyance of the subject property as hereinafter specified, (ii) all required Church Records (as hereinafter defined) are delivered as hereinafter provided, and (iii) all required documents are duly executed and recorded, if applicable, to provide for any future performance by the terms hereof.
4. **Conveyance of Property Claims and Payment.** Within thirty (30) days of Presbytery approval of the Agreement as set forth in Paragraph 2(B) above, the Presbytery shall execute and deliver to the Church a quitclaim deed, in the form set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto, for the purposes of releasing any and all claims based upon the denominational trust asserted in Section G-4.0203 of the *Book of Order* of PCUSA. The Presbytery stipulates and agrees that it has not declared a “true church” within the meaning of Section G-4.0207 of the *Book of Order* of PCUSA and that it will not seek to make such a declaration in the future with respect to the Church. The consideration for such conveyance shall be the contemporaneous



payment by the Church to the Presbytery of the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00), payable in cash or certified funds.

5. **Bill of Sale Transferring Tangible Personal Property to the Church.** Upon request of the Church, the Presbytery agrees to execute and deliver to the Church a bill of sale for all personal property in the possession of the Church, other than the Church Records.
6. **Church Records.** All existing records of the Church, including the records of any unincorporated association prior to the incorporation of the Church, and including, without limitation, minutes of session, deacon, congregational, and corporate meetings, from its initial formation and affiliation with the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) and later with PCUSA through and including the date of the congregational vote on June 5, 2016 (and including the records of such vote), herein referred to as the "Church Records," shall be delivered to the Presbytery for transmittal to the Presbyterian Historical Society for permanent storage. The Church shall have sixty days after the closing of the real estate transaction as described in Paragraph 3 above to make such copies of the Church Records as it desires, at its expense and without alteration, before delivery to the Presbytery. Thereafter the Church shall have access to the original records pursuant to the terms of the Deposit Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit B.
7. **Indemnity.** The Church shall indemnify and save harmless the Presbytery against and from any and all claims by or on behalf of any person, firm, or corporation arising (i) by reason of injury to person or property occurring on the Property or arising out of ministry activities of the Church, occasioned in whole or in part by any act or omission on the part of the Church or any officer, member, employee, agent, assignee or tenant of the Church, (ii) by reason of any unlawful use of any of the Property, and (iii) by reason of any matter or thing growing out of the occupancy or use of the Property by the Church. Further, the Church shall indemnify and save harmless the Presbytery against and from any tax liability owed to, charged by, or assessed by any government or governmental agency, including, without limitation, tax liability for matters related to employee payroll expenses or benefits. Failure to fully pay any such tax liability, together with any additional interest and penalty, by the final date for payment established by the respective government or governmental entity shall be considered a default under the terms of this Agreement. The Church represents that it has at all times maintained liability insurance covering potential claims described in the first sentence of this paragraph and is aware of no pending or threatened claims. The Presbytery shall indemnify and save harmless the Church against and from any and all claims by or on behalf of any person, firm, or corporation arising (i) by reason of any act or omission on the part of the Presbytery or PCUSA, or (ii) arising out of ministry activities of the Presbytery or PCUSA which subjects the Church to a claim of any nature. The indemnity provisions in this Section shall survive the closing of this transaction.
8. **Dismissal of Action.** The parties, through their counsel, shall dismiss with prejudice all claims and counterclaims asserted in the civil action now pending in the Superior Court of Cleveland County, entitled First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain, a North Carolina Non-Profit Corporation v. Susan Denne and Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc., File No. 16-CVS-1215. Together with the dismissal, the parties shall execute and present to the Court for approval a Consent Order in the form attached hereto as Exhibit C vacating the Notice of PCUSA Property Governance and the Notice of Actions Contrary to PCUSA Property Governance and Property Reversion filed June 15, 2016.

9. **Mutual Release.** Each party hereby releases and forever discharges the other party and its agents, servants, successors, heirs, executors, administrators, officers, and all other persons, corporations, firms, governmental agencies and associations of any kind from any and all claims for relief, causes of action, warranties, rights, demands, damages, costs, fees, expenses, and compensation whatsoever, including attorney fees and costs, and including claims or suits for contribution and/or indemnity, or whatever nature, which either party now has or which may hereafter accrue on account of or in any way growing out of the matters and things alleged in the above-referenced civil action, or which could have been asserted or alleged in said action, or which arise in any way out of any prior relationship between the parties.
10. **Entire Agreement.** The Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties respecting its subject matter. There are no promises, representations, conditions or obligations other than those contained or incorporated in the Agreement. The Agreement supersedes all prior communications, representations, agreements or understandings, whether verbal or written, between the parties.
11. **Successors and Assigns.** The designations of “the Church,” “the Presbytery,” and “PCUSA,” as used throughout the Agreement, shall be deemed to include said parties, their successors and assigns. Therefore, the terms and conditions of the Agreement, including, without limitation, all duties, responsibilities, obligations, covenants, restrictions and reversions, shall inure to the benefit of such parties, successors and assigns, and such parties, successors and assigns shall be subject to and bound by the burdens thereof.
12. **Additional Documents.** Once the Agreement has been approved by the Church and thereafter by the Presbytery, each of the parties shall, from time to time, at the request of the other, execute, acknowledge and deliver to the other party any and all further instruments which may be reasonably required to give full force and effect to the provisions of the Agreement.
13. **Independent Judgment and Voluntary Agreement.** The undersigned parties represent that they have had the opportunity to seek the benefit of legal counsel to explain the contents, terms, provisions and effects of the Agreement, fully understand the provisions of the Agreement and its effects, and execute the Agreement voluntarily and wholly in reliance upon their own respective judgment.
14. **Drafting.** No provision of the Agreement shall be interpreted for or against any party because that party or the legal representative of that party drafted the Agreement or drafted a particular provision of the Agreement.
15. **Headings or Titles.** Headings or titles shall not define, limit, extend, or interpret the scope of the Agreement or any particular provision.
16. **Severability.** If any provision of the Agreement is held to be invalid or unenforceable, all other provisions shall nevertheless continue in full force and effect.
17. **Governing Law.** The Agreement shall be governed and interpreted under the laws of the State of North Carolina.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused the Agreement to be duly executed under seal, the day and year first above written.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGS  
MOUNTAIN

By:

---

Clerk of Session

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH  
CAROLINA, INC.,

By:

---

D. CAMERON MURCHISON  
Stated Clerk

EXHIBIT A

QUITCLAIM DEED

Excise Tax: \$\_\_\_\_\_

-

Parcel Identifier No. \_\_\_\_\_

-

Mail/Box to: Wm. Michael Begley, Begley Law Firm, 103 Richardson Blvd., Black Mountain, NC 28711

Instrument prepared by: Wm. Michael Begley, Begley Law Firm, 103 Richardson Blvd., Black Mountain, NC 28711

Brief description for the Index: \_\_\_\_\_

-

THIS DEED made this \_\_\_\_day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, by and between

-

GRANTOR

GRANTEE

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH  
CAROLINA, INC., a North Carolina non-profit  
corporation,

114 Silver Creek Road  
Morganton, NC 28655

-

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGS  
MOUNTAIN, a North Carolina non-profit corporation

111 East King Street  
P. O. Box 1188  
Kings Mountain, NC 28086

The designation Grantor and Grantee as used herein shall include said parties, their heirs, successors, and assigns.

WITNESSETH, that the Grantor, for a valuable consideration paid by the Grantee, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, has and by these presents does grant, bargain, sell, convey, and quitclaim unto the Grantee in fee simple any right, title or interest, whether real, express, implied, imagined, vested, or inchoate, which the Grantor may have in those certain lots or parcels of land situated in the City of Kings Mountain, Cleveland County, North Carolina (collectively sometimes referred to herein as the "Real Property") and more particularly described as follows:

Being all of the real property held by or for FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGS MOUNTAIN, NORTH CAROLINA, a North Carolina non-profit corporation, including but not limited to the property which is located at the street address of 111 East King Street, Kings Mountain, North Carolina, and which property was acquired by First Presbyterian Church Kings Mountain by deed granted on November 19, 1984, recorded at Book 18-5, Page 119, and to which additional parcels were added to expand the lot and secure an easement, the same being recorded at Book 1127, Page 0346-0347, and Book 1094, Page 0073. TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the aforesaid lot or parcel of land and all privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging to the Grantee in fee simple.

The Grantor makes no warranty, express or implied, as to title to the Real Property. The Property interest of Grantor is being conveyed free and clear, to release any and all claims of the Grantors and the Presbyterian Church, USA, including, but not limited to, any and all claims arising from or under 1) the trust clause (G-4.0203) of the Presbyterian Church USA Book of Order and the trust clause (Section 6-3) of its predecessor by merger, the Presbyterian Church in the United States, 2) that instrument captioned "Notice of PCUSA Property Governance" recorded in Book 1720, Page 1790, Cleveland County Registry, and 3) that instrument captioned "Notice of Actions Contrary to PCUSA Property Governance and Property Reversion" recorded in Book 1720, Page 1805, Cleveland County Registry. The Grantors, for themselves and on behalf of the PCUSA, convey their interests in the Real Property to FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, KINGS MOUNTAIN, as Grantee.

The Grantee shall hold the Real Property, free of any claim of trust or other claim on the part of the Presbytery or PCUSA.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantor has duly executed the foregoing as of the day and year first above written.

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, INC.,  
a North Carolina non-profit corporation

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_

D. CAMERON MURCHISON, Stated Clerk

Melvin Mears, Vice Moderator

The Stated Clerk of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc. hereby (i) confirms that Melvin Mears, Vice Moderator, has the authority to execute this Deed on behalf of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc., and (ii) attests to the signature of Melvin Mears on behalf of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA - COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

I, W. Michael Begley, the undersigned Notary Public of the County and State aforesaid, certify that MELVIN MEARS, who is known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person described, personally came before me this day and acknowledged that he is the Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc., a North Carolina non-profit corporation, and acknowledged that he duly executed the foregoing instrument on behalf of said entity for the purposes therein expressed. Witness my hand and Notarial stamp or seal this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

(NOTARY SEAL)

W. Michael Begley, Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: December 2, 2020

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA - COUNTY OF BUNCOMBE

I, W. Michael Begley, the undersigned Notary Public of the County and State aforesaid, certify that D. CAMERON MURCHISON, who is known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person described, personally came before me this day and acknowledged that he is the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc., a North Carolina non-profit corporation, and that by authority duly given and as the act of the corporation, the Moderator, Barbara McLean, signed the foregoing instrument in its name on its behalf as its act and deed. Witness my hand and Notarial stamp or seal this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

(NOTARY SEAL)

W. Michael Begley, Notary Public  
My Commission Expires: December 2, 2020





## Presbyterian Historical Society Deposit Agreement

I, D. Cameron Murchison, Stated Clerk, on behalf of

***The Presbytery of Western North Carolina, Inc.,***

warrant and guarantee that we possess free and clear title to the documents here and after set forth and hereby convey to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), through its Presbyterian Historical Society, the following:

***First Presbyterian Church, Kings Mountain, NC: session minutes, rolls, and registers from formation of the church through and including June 5, 2016***

on a deposit basis to the Presbyterian Historical Society. The Presbytery retains ownership and may request the records' return with written authorization of the Stated Clerk.

I understand that researchers who want to use any records less than 50 years old will need the written permission of our stated clerk.

The Presbytery of Western North Carolina grants the Clerk of Session of First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain, NC, a congregation that is now a member of A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO) (hereinafter The Church) standing permission to read, review, and request reproduction of those records, including but not limited to those from the last 50 years. This permission cannot be revoked.

I understand and agree that The Presbytery will not hold the Presbyterian Historical Society liable for any destruction of the documents while in the possession of the Presbyterian Historical Society due to circumstances beyond its control.

■

Signature of Stated Clerk/date:

Address of Presbytery: **114 Silver Creek Rd., Morganton, NC 28655**

The Presbyterian Historical Society staff will review all materials for their historical value and if we find items which do not fit our collection policy, we will offer to return them to The Presbytery. We agree to receive these records, to house them in secure and environmentally sound conditions, and to arrange for their processing and conservation according to accepted archival practice.

■

For the Presbyterian Historical Society/date:

EXHIBIT C

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
CLEVELAND COUNTY

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE  
SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION  
FILE NO. 16-CVS-1215

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, )  
KINGS MOUNTAIN, a North )  
Carolina Non-Profit Corporation, )

Plaintiff, )

v. )

SUSAN DENNE and PRESBYTERY )  
OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, )  
INC. )

Defendants )

CONSENT ORDER

**THIS MATTER** is before the Court upon the parties' joint request that the Court enter an order vacating certain documents that appear of public record and that gave rise to this litigation.

It appearing to the Court, as evidence by the signatures of counsel below, that the parties have now settled and resolved all matters in controversy between them, and have stipulated to a dismissal with prejudice of all claims and counterclaims;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BY AND WITH THE CONSENT OF THE PARTIES, IT IS ORDERED:**

1. That this action be, and the same is hereby, DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE. Each party shall bear its own costs;
2. The "Notice of PCUSA Property Governance" and the "Notice of Actions Contrary to PCUSA Property Governance and Property Reversion," both filed June 15, 2016, in the office of the Register of Deeds of Cleveland County, are hereby VACATED and are of no further force and effect.

This the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

WE CONSENT:

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Joseph L. Nelson, Esq.  
Dickie McCamey & Chilcote, P.C.  
2115 Rexford Road, Suite 210  
Charlotte, NC 28211-5453

Attorney for Plaintiffs

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C. FRANK GOLDSMITH, JR.  
Goldsmith, Goldsmith & Dews, P.A.  
57 South Main Street  
Post Office Box 1107  
Marion, NC 28752

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DAVID W. SMITH, III  
Gray, Layton, Kersh, Solomon,  
Furr & Smith, P.A.  
516 South New Hope Road  
P.O. Box 2636  
Gastonia, NC 28053

Attorneys for Defendants

**GENERAL COUNCIL**  
**Barbara McLean, Chair**  
**October 24, 2017**

The General Council of the Presbytery makes the following recommendation:

- CA 1. THAT the Presbytery elect the following person(s) to serve on the Nominating and Representation Committees:**

Nominating:

Mr. John Bates (Hickory, First)	(E)	Class of 2020
Ms. Barbara Ross (Crossnore)	(F)	Class of 2020
Ms. Alli Costner (Youth-Lowell)	(D)	Class of 2020

- 2. THAT the General Council has reviewed the Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and presents a copy of the revised Standing Rules for approval. (General Council Attachment 1)**

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- 3. THAT the General Council approved selecting and funding participation in the PneuMatrix Adaptive Change Program. The Presbytery's portion of the funding fits under the goals of the Vital Churches ministry of the Building HOPE. (*This program is in partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation*) (General Council Attachment 2)**
- 4. THAT the General Council approved the bid of \$196,102 from Asheville Contractors to repair the dam and standpipe at Camp Woodson.**
- 5. THAT the General Council approved authorizing the Administrative Commission for the Spindale Presbyterian Church to pursue selling the property for \$40,000.**
- 6. THAT the General Council approved the Calvary Presbyterian Church to pursue a long term lease agreement with LEAF.**
- 7. THAT the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic awarded the following grant at their 240<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting held September 11-12, 2017:**
- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Dulatown Presbyterian Church    | \$3,8000. |
| (for renovation of food pantry) |           |
- 8. THAT the General Council approved Presbyterian Hunger Program US Grant Applications for:**
- Camp Grier Farm Program  
Community of the Beloved
- 9. THAT the General Council approved Black Mountain to submit a restoring creation loan application to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program in the amount of \$60,000.**

10. **THAT the General Council approved taking an offering during worship at the October 24, 2017 Presbytery meeting. The offering will be designated for the PC(USA) Presbyterian Disaster Relief Fund.**
11. **THAT the General Council reviewed and approved updated descriptions of the work of the committees of Presbytery.**
12. **THAT the General Council approved a Doctor of Ministry Survey to be distributed to Ministers of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.** *(This survey seeks to assess participant responses of the PWNC to PCUSA's efforts to helpfully address: (A) the public issue of race relations in society today; and (B) the potential of preaching during worship as a means to help our congregations better provide healing witness to the Gospel, concerning this difficult challenge of equality for all human beings, since we were all created in the image of God.)*
13. **THAT the General Council approved distribution of \$25,000 to the First Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, in support of the congregation, from a portion of funds received from the settlement with Lenoir Presbyterian Church.**
14. **THAT the General Council approved distribution of up to \$12,000 from funds received from the settlement of Lenoir Presbyterian Church for the four churches in the Lenoir area to participate in the PneuMatrix Adaptive Change Program and for demographics of the Lenoir churches.**
15. **THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
16. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2018 and 2019 Presbytery Meetings:**

2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018 – Lowell Presbyterian Church (Co-Host, Union Presbyterian Church)  
 Tuesday, April 24, 2018 – Montreat Conference Center (Co-Host, Montreat Presbyterian Church)  
 Tuesday, July 31, 2018 – Banner Elk Presbyterian Church (Lees-McRae College)  
 Saturday, October 27, 2018 – First Presbyterian Church, Hickory

2019

Saturday, January 26, 2019 – *Need Host Location*  
 Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Montreat Conference Center (Co-Host - Montreat Presbyterian Church)  
 Tuesday, July 30, 2019 – *Need Host Location*  
 Saturday, October 26, 2019 – *Need Host Location*

**GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1  
STANDING RULES  
OF THE  
PRESBYTERY OF  
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**



**Revised by Presbytery of WNC  
*Draft July 2017***

# GENERAL COUNCIL 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, 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~~ *Teaching Elders* (also known as ~~Ministers of Word and Sacrament~~ *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 of Presbytery shall present a nomination 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*.

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

- 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.
- 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. He or she shall annually arrange for the records of all Sessions to be reviewed. Subject to the approval of the General Council, 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 and the ~~Support Division~~ *Committee 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* ~~receive~~ *receipt* and ~~disburse~~ *disbursement* of the funds of Presbytery as authorized, keep detailed account of all receipts and disbursements and report them to the General Council 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 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. 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.
- 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. Copies of the proposed docket shall be sent



# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

electronically or be mailed to all teaching elders, clerks of sessions, and others as requested at least ten days before 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. The preacher may be but is not necessarily the pastor of the host church.* ~~If circumstances permit,~~ ordinarily, the pastor and session of the host church shall 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, 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.
- 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 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:
  - 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 *and Committee on Ministry* shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
2. All division, committee and sub-committee chairs shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
3. All Commissioned Lay 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)

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

- served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and
- been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the Christian Education Committee

shall have voice and (if ruling elders) vote, provided that these privileges shall end, pursuant to BO: G-2.1103, when such persons are no longer serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery (or one of its Sessions).

5. All ruling elder commissioners to the Synod Assembly and 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 shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
  8. Only teaching elders who are active members (including honorably retired teaching elders) or members-at-large of Presbytery, as defined by the *Book of Order*, shall have voice and vote.
- I. The quorum for stated meetings of Presbytery shall be at least fifty commissioners including twenty 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 not 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 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

- A. Purpose. The General Council shall ensure that the priorities of Presbytery are carried out by the Divisions, committees, and other units, 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 is the servant of Presbytery and has only those powers provided by these Standing Rules or authorized by Presbytery.
- B. Membership. The General Council shall be composed as follows:
1. Voting Members
    - Immediate Past Moderator of Presbytery, who shall serve as chair for one year.
    - Moderator of Presbytery, who shall serve as vice-chair for one year.
    - Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect) of Presbytery, who may serve as secretary

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

- Treasurer
  - Chair (or his or her designee) from each Division.
  - Moderator or her designee of the Presbyterian Women of Presbytery.
  - Six at-large Members, ~~selected~~ *nominated* by the Nominating and Representation Committees (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 ~~board~~ *General Council* for at least one year before being eligible again.
2. Non-Voting Members\*
- General Presbyter
  - Stated Clerk
  - Any staff of Presbytery chosen by the General Presbyter
- C. Leadership Team. The chair (*Moderator of General Council*), vice-chair (*Moderator of Presbytery*), *Vice-Moderator of Presbytery*, secretary of General Council, two at-large members elected from the ~~Board~~ *General Council*, the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk shall form a leadership team for the General Council, whose duties shall be to
- Make preparations for each meeting of the *General Council*
  - Submit recommendations to the *General Council*
  - Carry out assignments given by the *General Council*
  - Take appropriate action on urgent matters that cannot wait for the next *General Council* meeting, such action to be reported at the next meeting
- D. Functions: The General Council 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 of Presbytery, offering helpful advice as warranted.
  4. To approve the proposed annual budget prepared by the Administration Division 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 next meeting of Presbytery.
  5. To refer work to, and to hear recommendations from, the Divisions, committees and other units 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.
  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 and Representation Committees of Presbytery, and for the offices of Vice-Moderator (Moderator-elect) and if

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

necessary, Moderator.

10. To approve the appointment of persons by the Nominating and Representation Committees 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.
12. To refer actions of the General Assembly and Synod to Divisions and committees 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

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

1. ~~Support (Equipping Congregation):~~  
all matters relating to congregational life, teaching elders, pastoral relations, educators, and church transformation, including churches with smaller membership.
2. ~~Witness (Sharing God's Love):~~  
local and global missions, new church development, and evangelism.
3. ~~Discipleship (Making Disciples):~~  
spiritual development, education, youth, higher education, and camping.
4. ~~Leadership (Developing Leaders):~~  
officer training, development of leaders, school for the laity, stewardship, worship, and nominations/representation.
5. ~~Operations (Building Relationships):~~  
finance, property, personnel, budget, planning, and judicial matters.

**SEE**, We Are The Body Of Christ

We Covenant to...

**S**trengthen Congregations

**E**quip Disciples

**E**ngage in Mission

1. **Ministry** (Equipping Congregations and Leaders)
2. **Administration**
3. **Congregational Development Division** (Equipping and Strengthening Congregations, and Developing Leaders,)

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

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*)

## B. General Regulations:

1. Subject to the approval of Presbytery, the General Council shall determine the general responsibilities and the number of members of each Division.
2. Working with the General Council, each Division shall determine the committees/sub-committees it deems necessary, as well as the number of members and the duties of each.
3. Members of the Divisions and committees shall be ~~selected~~ *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.
4. Normally, members of the Divisions and committees 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 should report to Presbytery through the General Council to enable it to coordinate activities in Presbytery. The ~~Board~~ *General Council* may not alter any Division or committee report, but may offer advice to Presbytery concerning Division or committee recommendations.
6. Divisions and committees 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. ~~Many~~ *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 may also meet by telephone conference, emails, or other suitable methods.
7. Divisions and committees shall be encouraged to be creative and to explore new avenues of ministry with accountability to Presbytery through the General Council.
8. Divisions and committees shall annually submit their budget requests to the Administration Division. They shall carry out their responsibilities within the approved budgets, unless an overrun is approved in advance by the General Council.
9. Ordinarily, a person may serve on only one Presbytery Division or committee at the same time. Normally, there should not be more than one representative of any one church on the same Presbytery Division or committee 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 chairs will contact any committee member after three meetings in a year have been missed (without a reasonable excuse approved by the committee) 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

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 1

removal from the committee. It will be the responsibility of the committee chair to inform the Nominating/Representation Committee when members have missed half of the committee meetings; and the Nominating/Representation Committee 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 committee chair shall be nominated specifically for that position by the Nominating/Representation Committee, but still be ~~one of~~ *from* the total membership of the committee. In extenuating circumstances, ~~a third~~ *an additional* year as chair may be recommended to ~~Presbytery~~ *General Council*.
12. Each committee may co-opt additional members as desired, who shall have voice but no vote in the committee deliberations.
13. Divisions and committees are encouraged to suggest to the Nominating/Representation Committee suitable persons for new members and new chairs.
14. Each committee may, on its own initiative, create one or more on-going working groups 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 has completed its assignment, it shall cease to exist. The membership and a statement of purpose of all working groups or task forces shall be reported to the General Council within a month after their formation.
15. Each Division and committee shall keep accurate minutes, ~~and~~ *copies* of all minutes, ~~and reports~~ should be submitted to the ~~Stated Clerk~~ *General Council on a regular basis*.
16. The quorum for each Division and committee 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. 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, and not be responsible to a single Division or committee or sub-committee. All Divisions, committees, and sub-committees shall have support and resourcing. 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. AMENDMENT

These Standing Rules for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina shall be periodically reviewed by the General Council, 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.

Submitted to Presbytery of WNC for Review  
July 29, 2017



# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 2

## SIGN UP FOR AN EXCITING ADVENTURE

*"Perhaps the most serious mistake leaders can make is to throw technical solutions at an adaptive challenge."* Ron Heifetz, Leadership Without Easy Answers

**We have an exciting opportunity for our churches**. In today's world, we must reach out, share the gospel, and be the church in new ways. In a pilot project, our Presbytery is partnering with the Presbyterian Foundation and PneuMatrix, with Lilly Endowment support. The Revs. Jim Kitchens and Deborah Wright of PneuMatrix will lead us in a 12-month adventure ***to take on Adaptive Change challenges facing our congregations.***

What is Adaptive Change? It is opposite of a technical problem, which is one we know how to fix and where to find the answer. We know the expert to call, the steps to take, the plan to put into action. Even if the problem is new to us, others have been there and done that – we can find the answers from them. Adaptive challenges, however, are when we haven't got a clue. We are steeped in the unknown – the old fixes have been tried and failed. It's not that we need to *do* differently, we need to *think* differently. A popular analogy is that while breaking an ankle requires technical changes, losing a leg is an adaptive challenge. It requires learning a whole different way of living.

Specifically, eight congregations will work with PneuMatrix to identify the critical ways the churches can discern a faithful way forward in a time when old models are breaking down. This will be 'roll-up-your-sleeves-and-get-down-to-business' work. We will work together -

- to gain an honest assessment of each congregation's spiritual, financial, and energetic health.
- to frame the essential Adaptive Challenges they face, and begin to discover ways to address them.
- to articulate the several options for that congregation's future moving forward.

Our work is less about strategic planning (though there are elements of that), and more about learning to change the lens through which we see the church family's faithful future moving forward.

Although we are starting with only eight congregations, we will be training eight (or more) volunteer Adaptive Change Apprentices (ACAs). These Apprentices will be learning the process and will be ready to guide a new set of congregations on their own similar journeys. Would you like to be an Apprentice?

As churches and people, we are in the middle of a deep post-Christendom decline. At the congregational level, the default to technical solutions is so strong, it's hard to switch off. A better preacher, a youth leader with charisma, a slick fundraising plan, big overhead screens and modern music. Technical responses may work briefly, but none of them are warding off the trend of decline. A consultant friend said, "You know, if the 1950s come back again, boy are we ready!" We know how to do *that* version of church! But people aren't church shopping much anymore. The children we raised in the church are no longer part of church, and often they're raising our grandchildren without the church. Fewer and fewer are looking to affiliate with a religious institution of *any* kind.

Instead of "Decently and in Order," we need to go forward with "Reformed and Always Being Reformed." A hallmark of Adaptive Leadership is chaos, aka 'Creative Disruption'. We in the PCUSA can rename, restructure, redesign better than most. Technical changes, all. What is far scarier is the free-wheeling work of the Spirit, that third partner of the Trinity that is, messy, unpredictable, and essentially ADAPTIVE! It requires dwelling in the pit of the unknown – the darkest hours of Holy Saturday – and having faith that serving God and the people with 'energy, intelligence, imagination and love' will get us where we need to be.

**Would your church or you want to learn more and/or be part of this journey in faith? If so, stay for lunch at the presbytery meeting and talk with Pneumatrix or PWNC staff.**

# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 2



*PneuMatrix Jim Kitchens & Deborah Wright, Principals*

## **Program Overview and Outcomes**

Across America, churches are increasingly becoming aware that we live in a post-Christendom context where there is very little cultural support for our churches' ministries. Many of us are facing a continuing decline in membership and financial resources. The challenges we face are deeper and messier than we initially understood. Adaptive Change theory helps us grasp the difference between technical (surface) and adaptive (deeper) challenges. We at PneuMatrix have developed a model that helps pastors and congregational leaders learn about Adaptive Change theory and practice. A special focus will be placed on the financial fragility congregations and their pastoral leaders face.

### **Program overview**

- An assessment of each congregation that chooses to participate, including a review of its financial, facilities, spiritual depth, and personal energy resources
- Examination of the faithful options each congregation has, based on those resources, and discernment about the option to which the Spirit is leading them
- Three on-site visits with congregations and their pastors
- Monthly training with a group of Adaptive Change Apprentices, each of whom will work with a particular congregation
- Monthly Zoom videoconference calls with leadership teams, including the pastoral leader, selected by each congregation to lead them through a discernment process

### **Outcomes**

- A clearer understanding of the adaptive challenges that face all of our churches
- A deeper sense of intention and missional purpose for each church, whatever faithful choice it makes about its future (including, for a few, the decision to close)
- Developing a deeper sense of connection and shared vision between churches in the region
- A deeper understanding of adaptive management, effective missional stewardship, financial literacy, financial discipleship, and developing a culture of generosity and vibrancy in the congregation.
- Creating new models for pastoral care as for smaller congregations or congregations who decide to close, e.g. finding new church homes for members, developing multiple-point parishes, inviting church planters to start a NWC in a closed church
- Developing a bench of adaptive change leaders who will work with additional groups of congregations after PneuMatrix's engagement is ended

### **Next Steps**

Would your congregation or you (as an apprentices) want to learn more about this and/or be part of this journey in faith? If so, stay for lunch at the presbytery meeting and talk with PneuMatrix. If you cannot talk with PneuMatrix consultants at the Presbytery meeting, then call the Presbytery (828-438-4217) and talk with Billy Robinson or Bobbi White.

Applications for congregational participation or for apprentice's participation can be found on the presbytery web-site.





# GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 2

## What can my Congregation Expect?

### ADAPTIVE CHANGE ROAD MAP

PneuMatrix is honored to begin working with Western North Carolina Presbytery to discern adaptive challenges facing their congregations. Over a 12-month period we will be working with eight congregations, first through a brief assessment process, followed by a time of framing the primary adaptive issues, then through a focused discernment process. Each of the eight congregations will be matched individually with eight Adaptive Change Apprentices (members of your Presbytery), who, together with PneuMatrix Principals the Revs. Deborah Wright and Jim Kitchens will work as teams to take this adaptive journey together. The Apprentices will be studying Adaptive Change Leadership while gaining case-in-point learning throughout the journey. At each phase it will be important to bring along the Session, and eventually the congregation.

Your church will be responsible for naming an **Adaptive Change Transformation Team**—your pastor(s), together with six to eight leaders from your congregation. While you may have a session member or two, the team should be a broad band of folks reflecting the diversity of your church family. Adaptive Change work is non-linear, sometimes chaotic, and can be difficult for folks who have a hard time dwelling for a while in the unknown. “Creative Disruption” is a key element of Adaptive work. The team will pick a time to meet each month, and can expect some homework/exercises to complete between meetings. Deborah or Jim will be a call-in or skype participant in the monthly team meetings, and your Apprentice will be with you at your meetings, often facilitating our exercises. On average, the team should expect to spend 2-4 hours per month total in meetings or on ‘homework exercises’.

#### **Assessment Phase – Collecting the data, learning the context**

- Mission Incite report (provided by the presbytery)
- Completion of the Presbyterian Foundation Financial Health Assessment (online, free)
- Proof of Insurance of all property
- Ten-year trend report of your congregation – online at pcusa.org
- Any recent reports from past assessments like New Beginnings or Holy Cow, bring them to the table

#### **Framing the Primary Adaptive Challenges – Peeling down the layers of the onion**

Through a series of exercises, short readings, deep team discussions and practical homework, we will articulate the primary adaptive challenges facing the congregation. We will learn how NOT to default to technical solutions. We will dwell in the unknown, open to the ‘Creative Disruption’ period necessary to get to the heart of our issues. Eventually, ‘Aha moments’ will emerge! This phase can be messy and uncomfortable and chaotic, but oh, so worth it! Because Adaptive change work is so radically contextual, this phase can’t be described in a linear fashion. TRUST is the key element.

#### **Discerning the Way Forward – Options and Actions**

Focus in this phase is on engaging the Session and the congregation in the process. Some of the exercises we did as a team can be used with these two groups as well. Eventually a series of options for concrete adaptive changes will emerge. Using an Energetics Tool, we will define the options, then measure the congregation’s readiness for change regarding each option. We will measure the options on 3 scales: **Spiritual Depth, Financial Capacity, and Commitment Energy.**



## GENERAL COUNCIL ATTACHMENT 2

### *PneuMatrix* *Jim Kitchens & Deborah Wright, Principals*

In 2011, Jim Kitchens and Deborah Wright formed PneuMatrix as a vehicle to build Adaptive Change Leadership capacity to Presbyteries and congregations as they face the challenges of post-Christendom. PneuMatrix Principals have been featured as the keynote speakers at the national NEXT Church Conference (2014) and were chosen to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation on a multi-year National Initiative Lilly Endowment Grant beginning in 2016.



**JAMES M. KITCHENS, Principal, PneuMatrix** Ordained by the PC(USA) in 1979, Jim Kitchens served congregations in Oakland and Davis, California, and Nashville, Tennessee, before turning his energy to working with congregations in transition. He has served as interim pastor at Calvary Presbyterian in San Francisco and Woodland Presbyterian Church in California and currently is the interim director of the Cal Aggie Christian Associate, an ecumenical campus ministry at University of California – Davis. Jim is one of four program mentors directing the Company of New Pastors, the denomination's support program for first-call pastors. A native of Mississippi, he holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Ole Miss and an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion. Jim played a major role in the development of the Bread of Life Center for Christian Formation in

Davis, served a term as moderator of the Presbytery of Sacramento, was selected to be Pastor-Theologian in Residence at the Center of Theological Inquiry (Princeton, NJ), and served on and chaired the PC(USA)'s Committee on Theological Education. Jim's book, **The Postmodern Parish: New Ministry for a New Era** (Alban Institute), focuses on creative ways congregations can engage changing cultural trends in the light of the Gospel. He recently completed a Coolidge fellowship at Auburn Seminary researching the application of Positive Deviance Theory in congregations and judicatories and was trained as a consultant by the Center for Healthy Churches in North Carolina. Contact info: [jkitch3@comcast.net](mailto:jkitch3@comcast.net)

C: 415-385-6162

3343 Lynne Way Sacramento, CA 95821

Twitter: @revjimk



**DEBORAH LONDON WRIGHT, Principal, PneuMatrix** Ordained by the PC(USA) in 1978, Deborah London Wright has specialized in adaptive change management, strategic planning, program development, and Positive Deviance implementation as a Corporate Chaplain. With degrees from Duke University and San Francisco Theological Seminary, she served as Associate Pastor of Calvary SF, was appointed to the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness, Trustee of the Presbyterian Foundation, adjunct faculty at SFTS, host of the KPIX-TV talk show Mosaic, and Director of Major Gifts at SFTS. Following Ph.D. studies at the GTU, she formed **Avalon Enterprises**, a consultancy practice in funds development, corporate chaplaincy, strategic planning, and project management for NGOs in religion, education, healthcare, and film. She has been

a grant administrator and grant evaluator and has taught Adaptive Change Leadership, applying Positive Deviance Theory in her practice. Clients have included The George Lucas Educational Foundation, Google, Kaiser Permanente, the PC(USA), the Murphy Cancer Foundation, Callaway Leadership Institute, and Kairos USA. Innovative business models for entrepreneurial non-profits has been the hallmark of Ms. Wright's career.

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**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY  
REV. WHIT MALONE, CHAIR  
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

**FIRST SECTION**

***RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, AN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, OR A TASK FORCE THAT REQUIRE ACTION BY PRESBYTERY:***

- I.** A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits . . . a teaching elder employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting. (G-2.0504.c)
- A.** The Committee on Ministry recommends that Tricia Lytle become the installed associate pastor, with a limited term of two years (designated), of the Unity Presbyterian Church, effective October 24, 2017. (At the end of two years, it would be possible for the church to call Tricia Lytle as an installed associate pastor for an indefinite period.)

**II. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY FOR COMMISSIONING BY THE PRESBYTERY AS COMMISSIONED PASTOR:**

- A. MILDRED (Millie) L. BRUNS**  
From: Elder, Kenilworth Presbyterian Church  
Commissioned Pastor Graduate  
As: Chaplain, The Lodge at Mills River Nursing and Rehab Facility  
Effective: October 24, 2017  
(The commissioning is to include permission to celebrate the Sacraments.)  
(See COM Attachment 1 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

**CA III. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:**

- A.** Millie Bruns as Chaplain, The Lodge at Mills River Rehab Facility, through October 24, 2018.
- B.** William Buchanan, as Executive Director of Asheville Youth Mission, through October 24, 2018.
- C.** Lisle Garrity as Creative Director, A Sanctified Art, LLC, through October 24, 2018.
- D.** Joan Martin, as Chaplain at Covenant Village, Inc., through October 24, 2018.
- E.** Cynthia Strickler, as Director and Head of Staff, Presbyterian Reformed Ministries, Int., through October 24, 2018.

**SECOND SECTION**

***The Book of Order provides that the Committee on Ministry may be given authority by the Presbytery to find in order calls issued by churches, to approve and present calls for service of ministers, to approve the examination of ministers transferring from other Presbyteries, required by G-11.0402 and G11.0502g, 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. (G-11.0502h) This permission was granted to our Committee on Ministry; therefore, the***

*following actions are to be simply admitted to the record.*

## I. APPROVED FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

### A. JILL V. ISOLA

From: New Harmony Presbytery

As: Pastor, Northminster Presbyterian Church

Effective: November 1, 2017

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

### B. PRISCILLA B. DURKIN

From: Charlotte Presbytery

As: Member-at-Large

Effective: September 12, 2017

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

### C. WILLIAM O. LOWREY

From: National Capital Presbytery

As: Honorably Retired

Effective: September 12, 2017

(See COM Attachment 4 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

### D. MARGARET TORRENCE

From: Peace River Presbytery

As: Active

Effective: July 11, 2017

(See COM Attachment 5 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

### E. JEFFERSON K. AIKEN, JR.

From: Lehigh Presbytery

As: Honorably Retired

Effective: October 3, 2017

(See COM Attachment 6 for Biography and Statement of Faith.)

## II. APPROVED PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP AND TERMS OF CALL:

### A. JILL V. ISOLA

Salary	\$46,000
Housing Allowance	4,000
Social Security	3,825
Auto Allowance	3,300
Professional Dev.	1,150
TOTAL	\$58,275

Pension/Medical	Yes
Four Weeks Vacation	Yes
Two Weeks Study Leave	Yes
Sabbatical Leave	Yes

### B. TRICIA LYTL

Salary	\$42,800
Housing Allowance	25,680
Professional Expenses	4,000 (up to)
Cell Phone Reimbursement	1,020

Social Security	Yes
Auto Allowance	Reimbursed
TOTAL	\$73,500

Pension/Medical	Yes
Four Weeks Vacation	Yes
Two Weeks Study Leave	Yes

## III. APPROVED TRANSITIONAL PASTOR RELATIONSHIP:

- A. Constance Button and Newton First Presbyterian Church  
Extended: October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

## IV. APPROVED STATED PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:

- A. Jay Rabuck and Brittain's Cove Presbyterian Church  
Effective: July 15, 2017 - January 13, 2018
- B. Christopher Taylor and Saluda Presbyterian Church  
Extended: July 23, 2017 - July 22, 2018
- C. Terry Cline and Pine Street Presbyterian Church  
Extended: July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018
- D. Bill Whiteside and Vians Valley Presbyterian Church  
Extended: October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

## V. APPROVED COMMISSIONED PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:

- A. Wanda Woodby and Buladean Presbyterian Church  
Extended: May 21, 2017 - May 20, 2018
- B. Russell Reighley and Sherrill's Ford Presbyterian Church  
Extended: August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018
- C. Marcia Reighley and Sherrill's Ford Presbyterian Church  
Extended: August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018
- D. Roger Wise and Fletcher Presbyterian Church  
Extended: August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018
- E. Mark Osborne and New Vision New Church Development  
Extended: August 1, 2017 - July 31, 2018
- F. Kenneth Humphreys and Siloam Presbyterian Church  
Extended: October 1, 2017 - September 30, 2018

## VI. APPROVED AS MODERATORS:

- A. Wallace Johnson and Northminster Presbyterian Church
- B. Billy Robinson and Forest City First Presbyterian Church

## VII. APPROVED MOVING TO MEMBER-AT-LARGE:

- A. Katherine Blankenship

## VIII. APPROVED THE DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP:

- A. Stephen M. Austin and United Presbyterian Church  
Effective: October 15, 2017
- B. Dent C. Davis and Tryon Presbyterian Church  
Effective: December 31, 2017

**IX. APPROVED TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:**

- A. William P. Campbell  
To: PM-EPC (Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, Evangelical Presbyterian Church)  
Effective: September 29, 2017
- B. Barrett Payne  
To: Coastal Carolina Presbytery  
As: Pastor, Lillington Presbyterian Church, Lillington, NC  
Effective: July 30, 2017
- C. Beverly Brock  
To: Minnesota Valley Presbytery  
As: Interim Pastor, Foley First Presbyterian Church, Foley, MN  
Effective: September 17, 2017
- D. Stephen M. Austin  
To: Providence Presbytery  
As: Pastor, Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill, South Carolina  
Effective: October 16, 2017
- E. Karol Farris  
To: Whitewater Valley Presbytery  
As: Pastor, Bluffton Presbyterian Church  
Effective: September 1, 2017

**X. APPROVED PERMISSION TO LABOR OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS OF THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA:**

- A. Becky Stanley  
In: Coastal Carolina Presbytery  
As: Transitional Pastor, Red Springs Presbyterian Church  
Effective: September 10, 2017
- B. Margaret LaMotte Torrence  
In: New Hope Presbytery  
As: Transitional Pastor, University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill  
Effective: September 1, 2017
- C. J. William Lindeman  
In: Presbytery of Maumee Valley  
As: Transitional Pastor, Findlay First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, OH  
Effective: October 1, 2017

**XI. APPROVED THE REQUEST FOR HONORABLE RETIREMENT:**

- A. Thomas G. Nelson  
Effective: January 31, 2017
- B. Dent C. Davis  
Effective: December 31, 2017

**XII. APPROVED ELECTION OF PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- A. Morganton First Presbyterian Church

**XIII. APPROVED ORDINATION/INSTALLATION COMMISSIONS:**

- A. Approve the Administrative Commission for the Ordination of Barrett A. Payne on Sunday, July 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, Asheville, North Carolina.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility on Commission</u>	<u>Minister/Elder</u>	<u>Church</u>
Marcia Mount Shoop	Moderator/Preside	Minister	Grace Covenant
Susan Denne	Propound the Constitutional Questions	Minister	Honorably Retired
Heath Rada	Charge the Congregation	Elder	Grace Covenant
Lisle Garrity	Lead in Worship	Minister	A Sanctified Art
Louden Young	Lead in Worship	Elder	New Hope, Asheville
<u>Guests</u>			
William Yoo	Preach the Sermon	Minister	Columbia Seminary
Erskine Clarke	Charge the Minister	Minister	Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery
Heather Gast	Lead in Worship		Grace Covenant
Gwynn Prince	Scripture	Elder	Coastal Carolina Presbytery
Sam Kim	Prayer	Seminary Student	Greater Atlanta Presbytery
Rachel Matthews	Prayer	Seminary Student	Alabama Presbytery

- B. Approve the Administrative Commission for the Ordination of Matthew D. Conner on Sunday, August 13, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, North Carolina.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility on Commission</u>	<u>Minister/Elder</u>	<u>Church</u>
John Frye	Moderator/Preside	Minister	Gastonia First
Susan Denne	Propound the Constitutional Questions	Minister	Honorably Retired
Sylvia Sellers	Propound Questions to Congregation	Elder	West Avenue
Lauren Vanacore	Charge the Congregation	Minister	Gastonia First
John Pea	Lead in Worship	Elder	Robinson Memorial
Strawberry Dixon	Lead in Worship	Elder	Southminster
Charles Davenport	Lead in Worship	Minister	Long Creek
<u>Guests</u>			
John Rogers	Preach the Sermon	Minister	New Hope Presbytery
Lucy Strong	Charge the Minister	Minister	Greater Atlanta Presbytery
Bryan Williams	Lead in Worship		AME Zion
Roger Carithers	Lead in Worship	Elder	West Avenue
Rosy Robson	Lead in Worship	Seminary Student	Union Presbyterian Seminary

- C. Approve the Administrative Commission for the Installation of Janet B. DeWater on Sunday, July 9, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Holly, North Carolina.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility on Commission</u>	<u>Min/Eld.</u>	<u>Church</u>
Bobbi White	Moderator/Preside	Minister	PWNC
Susan Denne	Propound Constitutional Questions	Minister	Honorably Retired
John Pea	Preach the Sermon	Elder	Robinson Memorial
Brenda McKinney	Propound Questions to Congregation	Elder	Mount Holly
Barbara Ross	Charge the Minister	Elder	Crossnore
Joan Martin	Charge the Congregation	Minister	Covenant Village
Eddie Deas	Lead in Worship	Minister	Third Street

- D. Approve the Administrative Commission for the Installation of Richard R. Coble on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. at the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church of Asheville, North Carolina.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Responsibility on Commission</u>	<u>Min/Eld.</u>	<u>Church</u>
Bobbi White	Moderator/Preside	Minister	PWNC
Melvin Meares	Propound Constitutional Questions	Elder	Hickory First
Marcia Mount Shoop	Preach the Sermon	Minister	Grace Covenant
Anne Morgan	Propound Questions to Congregation	Minister	Honorably Retired
Cameron Murchison	Charge the Minister	Minister	PWNC
Grace Hall	Charge the Congregation	Elder	Grace Covenant
Jim Henderson	Lead in Worship	Elder	Montreat
Tina Joyner	Lead in Worship	Elder	Calvary



# COM ATTACHMENT 1

## MY FAITH JOURNEY

Millie Bruns

I started my faith journey at a Quaker Church. I will never forget my minister; his name was Billy Lewis and his wife was "Mrs. Lewis." The children in the church called our minister Billy and his wife Mrs. Lewis. Why, well to be honest I don't know we called her Mrs. Lewis and the minister Billy. They were both great for us and to us. She taught Sunday school for the children. Billy would have fun activities on every Sunday for all his kids, as he called us.

Going to a Quaker Church was fun but the rules were strict. No talking in church, passing of notes. We were to sit and listen to Billy's sermons. Which was like going to adult Sunday school. He didn't preach the Bible he taught it in a way that everyone could understand even his kids. He was talking up to the parents and down to our level. He was amazing. This church and wonderful minister gave me a solid base for life's journey and spiritual journey.

At age 13 I stopped going to the Quaker church. I wanted to listen rock and roll music, wear the tiny bit of makeup that I was allowed and I loved to dance. Since my mom was raised in a Methodist church and my dad was raised in the Church of Christ they allowed me to leave if I could find another church to go to. I would go to church with some of my friends but never really was part of a church for a long time. I would visit my home church occasionally. Billy and his wife were always happy to see me. My heart broke when he left Dayton, Ohio for a Quaker church in Californian.

When I was in high school I transferred to one of the nation's first vocational schools. There I met the person who would become my best friend and still is today. She went to a Lutheran Church and I started going with her. It felt good to go to church again. After graduation, I was married and two weeks later so was she.

When my sons were in kindergarten and third grade we started to attend the United Brother Church. It was a non-denominational church. I was Baptized in this church.

After 20 years my marriage fell apart. I was devastated. The only thing I knew to do was pray. I wasn't attending any church, at this time; but I have always read my bible. Two years later I met Tom. He was a kind, gentle, and understanding man. My boys loved him as their stepfather. He did not attend his church which was a Catholic church. He had an unbelievable faith in the Trinity. He was indeed a deeply spiritual man. We would have long conversations about our Christian beliefs.

Then the unbelievable happened, Sept 11, 2001. That weekend Tom was going out of town. I couldn't go with him, I had to stay in Dayton. Sunday morning rolled around and I knew I had to go to church. We had a Baptist church that was next door to the back half of our acre lot. I had heard all the negative stories about the Baptists. I decided I was going there anyway. I was glad I did! They welcomed me and that was the church I attended until I move to Asheville. I was active in this church and was a deaconess. Tom also joined this church with me. Life was good again. Rev. Courlas reminded me of a younger version of Billy Lewis!

Then tragedy hit again in February 2005. Tom had terminal cancer and lived 17 months. Alone again, both of my sons lived in Asheville and my Aunt and Uncle lived in Steubenville, Ohio. Asheville was a 7-

# COM ATTACHMENT 1

hour drive and Steubenville was a 4-hour drive. Mom was in a Nursing Faculty and not doing well. Two years later my mom passed away. God stepped in and my family rescued me by insisting that I move to Asheville. I didn't want to leave my church but I wanted to be with my family.

January 1, 2010 my two dogs, Montana and Ginger and I arrived in Asheville to start a new life. I went to several churches and just wasn't happy in any of them. My oldest son told me to try the church on Kenilworth Rd. He said they were very active in the neighborhood. So, I did. Again, life was good.

Katie Adams had attended the CLS classes and we would talk about the class. I wanted to go but wasn't sure about going. Then Allen talked to me about it and off I went to school! I graduated May 27, 2017. I was blessed that God guided me to this church and group of people. Going to the CLS classes made me realize how God had been grooming me to tell the Gospels to the senior population that are now living in facilities.

Now you may wonder why I want to be commissioned to be a minister and why at a rehabilitation/nursing facility. The answer starts when I was 6 or 7 years old. I spent my summers with my aunt and my grandma. They lived 4 houses apart. I would walk back and forth between the two homes. Mrs. Dimmit lived between the two houses. She was my grandma's best friend. If she was out sitting on her porch swing I would go and sit with her. We would talk and talk and talk. The stories she told me absolutely fascinated me. When we would visit my grandma during the school year I would head for Mrs. Dimmit and we would talk for hours. She passed away when I was a teenager and I miss this truly sweet woman that started my love for the elderly along with my grandma. Growing up in Dayton, Ohio we had three neighbors that were elderly. I would visit them every chance I could. One was next door, one behind my house and the other was across the street. The other kids would ask why I wasted my time visiting with them. I always gave the same answer. I learn from and about them and their stories are interesting to me and I love them and being with them. They tell how it was when they were growing up and how things changed. Then with all seriousness I would invite them to go visit with me. Seniors have a vast historical view that the younger generation can learn from, still today. If the we would just listen to the senior's life lessons we might be able to avoid a few mistakes in our life walk.

# COM ATTACHMENT 1

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

MILLIE BRUNS

I have faith in the Holy Trinity and all that it stands for. **Yes**, my father in heaven is God, who is Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. God, Christ and the Holy Spirit work in unison to help guide, protect, teach us the Gospels, and all things that are necessary for God's glory, our salvation, faith in Jesus Christ/Messiah and show us love by God's grace and mercy. Old and New Testaments are originally given and inspired by God. I believe that God is the creator of **all** things. I believe he created the heavens and the earth and all the oceans, rivers, lakes and streams. I believe out of his love he created man in his own image from the dust of the land then took a rib from man and proceeded to create woman from Adam's rib and the dust of the earth. He breathed life into both Adam and Eve. God created the creatures of the sea, land and the air. He entrusted the humans (Adam and Eve) with the welfare of the land and the animals that he created. God gave Adam and Eve each a soul and spirit that has been passed to all generations and will be to all generations to come.

God created two trees in the Garden of Eden. One was the tree of life and the other the tree of knowledge. They were instructed by God **not** to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge but to only eat the fruit of the tree of life. They disobeyed God and ate of the fruit from the tree of knowledge and instantly knew they were naked and were aware of sin and so would all future generations. God made them leave the Garden of Eden. This event is called the "The Fall." We still battle Satan today. I believe that through the strength of our faith in the Trinity those who are Christians will prevail over Satan.

We have two sacraments, Baptism is one of them. I believe in Baptism as the symbolic act representing the washing away of sins. I was Baptized showing my faith in Jesus Christ and self-dedication to him. This symbolic gesture tells the world that I walk in faith of the Holy Trinity. At the same time, I realize that it is by Faith in all aspects of Jesus Christ from birth to death and the resurrection that I am saved.

I believe that God sent Jesus in human form to save us from sin, He is the true Saviour/Messiah. I believe that Jesus was born by the virgin Mary, walked the land to teach his people and disciples the word of God the Father. I believe He used parables and miracles to help us learn the ways of God and to show us the way to our salvation. I believe in the resurrection of Christ the son of God. Jesus had to feel the deprivation of the divine presence of his "God; His heavenly Father." Jesus had to feel God's wrath and sustain it for his people to show how much we are loved by Jesus/God. I find comfort and love from Jesus Christ because he was willing to suffer and die for my sins and salvation so that I may enter heaven and be with God, the Son of God and the Holy Spirit, which are as one. I have a strong faith, believe and trust in the words he said in Matthew to Thomas **"Blessed are they that have not seen and yet believe."** Simply put; I believe in the resurrection of Christ and that he died for the atonement of our sins. I also believe the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent, and will come in God's given time.

The Holy Spirit dwells within us as God's gift to comfort us during times of stress and heartache. The Holy Spirit opens our minds and hearts to the desire, to learn and teach the Gospels (the word of God.) The scriptures are the ultimate guide to how we are to conduct our lives according to the word of God. God's words known as the scriptures can't be changed, ignored, or any other authority may take its place. I am thankful for this gift of guidance from God.

Communion is the second sacrament. Before Christ was judged guilty by the Jews he had his last supper with his disciples. Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke the bread and gave each disciple a piece. He instructed them to "take, eat, this is my body. Then he took the cup of wine and blessed it and passed it around instructing them to "drink, ye all of it; for this is my blood. This is a time-honored sacrament in which we still honor today. For me it is an important sacrament in my Christian life. It reminds me that Jesus gave his blood and life for the remission of my sins. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for me because His love is unending.

# COM ATTACHMENT 1

I believe in the Catholic Church to spread the truth of the Gospel's Good News throughout the world. I believe as a member of the church I should witness the Kingdom of God to those close to me and the world. I believe that Christ is the head of the church and will give me what I need to use the gift(s) that I have been given to teach his word to others. When I move from Ohio to Asheville I found the Presbyterian Church met my needs of what I was looking for in a new church.

The Book of Confessions is our guide how to go about teaching the word of God. One example of this is, The Westminster Confession, teaches the sovereignty of God. Through the Large and Small Catechisms, we learn about God's Word. Large Catechism was created for teaching the adults and the Small Catechism for teaching children.

# COM ATTACHMENT 2

## Jill V. Isola: Journey of Faith

From an early age, I was encouraged to work out my faith and questions as the Philippians are encouraged to work out their own salvation and recognize God at work in their lives. Inquisitive, curious and enthusiastic from the start, I was born and raised just outside of New York City, the youngest of three girls to two amazing parents. The influence of my parents and sisters, together with the nurture of Camp Brookwoods and Deer Run, and the family of the Wyckoff Reformed Church shaped and molded my faith, encouraged my questions and challenged me to be about the work of God in the world in a variety of ways. These groups truly fulfilled their baptismal promises with every effort. As my family has grown through marriage and the addition of nieces and nephews, my parents and sisters remain a constant source of encouragement, support and challenge as I grow in faith and seek to honor God's call on my life.

I earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Theatre and met my husband and best friend, Andrew at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. It was in an introductory religion course held on a Tuesday night in the middle of winter when I first felt God's not-so-subtle tug on my heart into ministry. That tug has never let up. Continuing to ask questions about the history of God's covenant people, seeking wisdom wherever I could, I absorbed opportunities as often as possible. I served as a Children's Ministry intern with a Pentecostal church in rural southwest Michigan, studied and participated in mission efforts in Appalachia, the Gulf Coast, Costa Rica, Belize, Cuba, and local mission in New York City, Northern New Jersey and in Michigan. In these experiences, the tug on my life kept me asking questions and seeking the specifics of God's call on my life: where is God calling me to serve and how do my gifts and talents help to fulfill God's mission in the world?

After college, these questions brought me to Memorial Presbyterian Church of Midland, Michigan, where I became the Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries. My involvement at Memorial deepened my sense of call to ministry, the tugging increased and my desire to keep asking questions and seek knowledge led me to pursue a theological education. With my partner in life, love and ministry beside me, supporting me, Andrew and I relocated to Richmond Virginia. With a deep love of learning and a thirst for knowledge and wisdom, I pursued my call to ministry through three incredible years at Union Presbyterian Seminary. This time was spent exploring the specifics of my vocational ministry through internships with Montreat Conference Center, volunteering with local non-profits, moderating Presbytery purpose groups focusing on growth and evangelism, and sharing in genuinely wonderful fellowship and community. My years in Richmond have served to expand my worldview and nourish my hunger and thirst for knowledge and wisdom. I learned new and innovative forms of ministry. Empowered to use my gifts of empathy and hospitality, I sought a place where I could serve God's children: those who love the Church and those asking questions, those with a hunger for wisdom and those not sure how to quench their thirst.

After finishing my degree, I continued to serve a community where I began as a seminary parish intern. The Gayton Kirk Presbyterian Church has nurtured me in my call to ministry and helped to put specifics to my vocational calling. Through my service here and the mentoring of Reverend Janet James, I was finally able to label the tug at my heart and life as a call to parish ministry. I have a deep love and desire to serve God's children. I am amazed by the hospitality God offers through worship and community. I have spent the last three years serving as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Hartsville, South Carolina. I have grown through opportunities in mission, Presbytery involvement and a chance to deepen my role in the larger church, such as observation of the 222nd General Assembly and service in leadership at Montreat Conference Center. My time in Hartsville has heightened my sense of call to a Ministry of Word and Sacrament. My love of Scripture grows ever stronger with each opportunity to study, question, struggle with and find treasure in God's Word. I look forward to opportunities to share that treasure with others through preaching, teaching, and serving in ministry alongside the incredible congregation of Northminster Presbyterian Church and the community of Hickory, North Carolina. I look forward to sharing the ministry of hospitality with the Northminster family. I believe that God has called me to the ministry context of Northminster Presbyterian Church: a place I believe God will work through me to help others live into their calling: vocationally, personally and faithfully. God calls me to a ministry of welcome and inclusion, to seek wisdom and knowledge, to work, grow, serve, love and pursue justice, all with reckless abandon.

# COM ATTACHMENT 2

## Statement of Faith Reverend Jill V. Isola

I believe in the Triune God, Parent, Son, Spirit: who creates, redeems, sustains and reigns over all of creation. God created the earth and all creation, calling it good. Created in God's image, humanity was made to know God. Though given the capacity for good, we strayed from God in sin, separating ourselves from God.

I believe in Jesus Christ. As a grace-filled expression of God's love for us, Jesus Christ, God's Son, fully human, fully divine, came to experience life on earth and to reconcile the broken communion created by human sin. In his earthly ministry, Jesus taught, preached, proclaimed the truth of God's kingdom, loved all, served all and called all who followed him to do the same. Jesus sets the example for all humanity: welcoming the stranger, advocating for the vulnerable, sharing good news with the oppressed, offering grace, love and acceptance to all.

I believe in the forgiveness of sins. Sent to earth because of God's great love for us, Christ's death on the cross provided justification so that we might be reconciled with God. Through his death after persecution, and resurrection, Christ atoned for the sins of the entire world, providing salvation for all. God raised Jesus Christ, conquering death and sin, revealing the great hope and transformative power of God's love.

I believe that The Holy Spirit, which moved over the waters at creation, led God's people out of bondage into the promised land, descended on Jesus at his baptism, is the same Spirit at work, inspiring all people yesterday, today, tomorrow- empowering those sealed in baptism. Through the work of the Spirit, God's people are called to be the Church, furthering the ministry of Jesus and going about the work of proclaiming and revealing God's glory on this earth, in our time.

I believe in the authority of Scripture. God's love and purpose for those who belong to God are made known to us through Scripture, the divinely inspired Word of God. Guided and inspired by the work of the Holy Spirit, written by human hand, it is the story of God and God's people: a teacher and resource of knowledge of God and God's activity in the world.

I believe in the communion of saints. The Church is the primary means of furthering God's mission in the world: in community, the Church is called by God to do justice, love mercy, and pursue peace with God, one another and all of creation. Through worship in community, the sacraments serve as reminders of Jesus' life and call us into further communion with God. These acts, celebrated throughout the ages, are physical reminders of the undeserved grace which God gives us, nourishment for body and soul. The waters of Baptism make us one with Christ, cleanse us from our sin, and join us together with a great cloud of witnesses. As we share the Bread and Wine, we remember Christ's life, death and resurrection and experience Christ's presence and power in our world today. In this, the Spirit's work empowers us to be filled by this good news and to share it with the world.

# COM ATTACHMENT 3

## Brief Biography/Faith Journey

Priscilla Bingham Durkin

My work in the church began in North Carolina as a child, the daughter of a United Methodist minister and a public school teacher. I sang from the pulpit before I could see over it, and attended multiple church services on Sunday and throughout the week. I helped mimeograph and fold bulletins on Saturday nights and was actively involved in all aspects of church life.

My call to ordained ministry began to become obvious to me during the year in which I celebrated my 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. Several events, though not directly related, contributed to my sense that God was calling me in a new direction. On January 1 of that year, I entered a period of deep reflection after the death of my father. I traveled to China, and witnessed the oppression that an entire culture has experienced for centuries. I officially began my term as an elder in Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland. I expected that being on Session would give me an opportunity for renewed intensive spiritual growth. I found instead that the Session-related activities were far more organizational and administrative in nature. I longed for more spiritual nurturing. I formed a covenant group for Session members and spouses, to encourage family relationships in combination with individual spiritual growth. I was Chair of the Congregational Care Ministry and Clerk of Session during my three-year tenure on Session.

I tentatively enrolled in Wesley Theological seminary in 1989, wondering where all this was leading. I was a candidate far longer than the Committee on Preparation for Ministry was happy about (it took me 8 years to complete seminary). I was a single mother of two teen agers and never felt relieved of the financial obligation to help them get through high school and college.

While in seminary, I did a two year internship in Bethesda Presbyterian Church. I had an opportunity to preach, teach, and nurture members and visitors. At the end of my first year of internship, the senior pastor accepted a call to a different church. I worked with an interim pastor for the last year of my internship. This time and set of circumstances gave me the chance to participate in all aspects of the church program.

When I graduated from seminary, I accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church in Wadesboro, N.C. I was a solo pastor there. On arrival in Wadesboro, I was asked to assume preaching responsibilities at an additional rural Presbyterian church in Morven. Though I was a bit apprehensive since this was my first call, I accepted, asking for their spiritual support and promising to do my best.

I was very active in the community life in Anson County, and found myself drawn to the plight of the marginalized. After nine years of being a Minister of Word and Sacrament, I sensed that my call there was complete. I accepted a position as Chaplain at Southern Correctional Institution, which the Presbytery of Charlotte deemed a validated ministry. I managed the religious programs and provided pastoral care for the 500 women and 200 men there for 10 years. I retired from that position on April 30, 2017, and am looking forward to the next chapter of service to which I am called.

# COM ATTACHMENT 3

## Statement of Faith

Priscilla Bingham Durkin

I believe that God, the creator of all, **was**, and **is**, and **always shall be**. There was not a time when God was not. God exists as a Trinity in three persons. This Triune God is the only God we worship. God is sovereign and almighty. God is merciful and just. God's providence is reality.

God created humanity to be in covenant relationship with God. We were lovingly created, not to subdue the rest of creation selfishly, but to care for it wisely. We were created in the image of God, promised provision of all our needs, and asked only to be obedient. We separated ourselves from God (we sinned) when we grasped for more than we needed. We cannot restore a right relationship with God (attain salvation) by our own efforts. Salvation is a gift of grace, made possible through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit.

I believe in Jesus Christ as a person of particular history and a divine member of the Trinity of universal history. Jesus was and is a challenge to the orthodox way of secular and religious living and practice. He completed and fulfilled the meaning of baptism and the Passover meal. Baptism became more than a symbol of the forgiveness of sins. Baptism symbolizes God's initiative in extending unmerited grace to include us in God's family. The sacrament of baptism is done once and once only and does not depend on belief or declaration by the baptized. The Lord's Supper is a sign, not just of deliverance from human bondage, but a deliverance from death and a celebration of life. The sacrament represents the complete giving of God to us – God's outpouring of life, through willing brokenness, sacrifice, and sharing.

Jesus came into the world not to judge, but to save the world. Jesus was revolutionary, and often behaved in ways that were not understood. He expanded the traditional understanding of right and wrong into an inclusive foundational gospel of compassion, love, forgiveness, servanthood, and liberation. He demonstrated how we are to relate to God, to ourselves, and to the rest of creation. He died on the cross for the sin of humankind. The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is a sign for all time that even the powers of death and the rejections of humankind cannot thwart the plans of God for creation.

Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come to comfort and inform us – to be our advocate. We have been given the Holy Spirit to guide us in this life, as we respond in affirmation of faith and obedience. We are also to be guided by the Bible and by our creeds and confessions. The Bible is the unique and authoritative story of the plans of God and God's faithfulness to creation. The Bible's truth is a living truth – revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. The Church exists, with Jesus Christ as Head, as both a representative of, and a beacon to, the Realm of God. This Realm is not simply of the world to come, but for us today. "We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord: To care for all, without reserve, and spread Christ's liberating word." (5<sup>th</sup> verse – "The Church of Christ in Every Age").



# COM ATTACHMENT 4

## Statement of Faith – William O. Lowrey

Before I was born, the sovereignty of God was displayed in God's choice to place me in the arms of a loving family that was deeply committed to following Jesus as Lord. They sought to love God as Triune, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, faithfully engage in the life of the church, and were diligent in seeking to understand and be faithful to the Scriptures. That sovereign placement also meant that I inherited white privilege, cultural privilege in a heritage that had valued education for generations, and global privilege in being born as an American citizen in an age of American dominance in the global community. I believe that the Lordship of Christ, the power of the Spirit, the values of the Kingdom of God and the guidance of the Scriptures and our confessions must all exert powerful transformational work on my life for me to be liberated from a life of privilege and be faithful as a servant follower of Jesus in a suffering world. **The Nicene Creed, The Theological Declaration of Barmen 8.04**

I grew up as a student of the Bible. I accept its authority in my life. That which I understand, through contextual study, guidance from the confessions and the life of the church through history, with the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom of others, I seek to practice in every area of my life. This is what biblical authority means to me. **The Scots Confession 3.19, The Second Helvetic Confession 5.003**

I love the church universal, both Presbyterian and all others who seek to worship the triune God and follow Jesus as Lord. I grieve at the unnecessary divisions in both the church universal and in the Presbyterian and Reformed bodies. I was first born into Presbyterianism but then I came to love its commitments to both unity and diversity, to both distribution of power and rule by elders, to both worship and proclamation of Word and Sacraments, to both tough minded theological debates and courageous actions for justice, mercy and peace as the gospel is applied to all aspects of life. From the time of my ordination in 1976 I have been a loyal and committed member of first the PCUS and then the PCUSA. It was a time of great joy for me to be a Commissioner at the Reuniting Assembly in 1983 in Atlanta and see a divided church become one again. The church in which I was born will lay me to rest in my death, and then I will be transferred to the church victorious where unity will be a full reality. **The Confession of Belhar, The Heidelberg Catechism 4.001**

I embrace, love and celebrate our two sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper. These outward signs of inward realities nourish our faith as the grace of God flows into the community as they are celebrated. In infant baptism, parents and the community pledge faithfulness and acknowledge that God's promises will be realized. I rejoice in confirmations when young people embrace the promise and grace as their own experience. In adult baptism, I see the fulfillment of the Great Commission as new disciples follow Jesus and take on the cleansing sign of salvation and commit to the new community. In the Lord's Supper, grace flows into the community, both in remembrance of the work of Christ and in the practice of our faith and the promise of Christ's return. My soul is refreshed with joy in partaking within the community. **The Westminster Confession of Faith 6.151**

Finally, although WNC Presbytery does not require its inclusion in this statement, I must address mission. I believe reconciliation is the mission of God in the world. It is the believer's calling to be instruments of reconciliation in a broken world. It is an inclusive reconciliation, reconciling all things to God, all peoples to one another, humanity and creation as mutual caregivers, healing within each person for all aspects of brokenness, and even a reconciliation of systems and governance, cultures and economies so systemic oppression may end and life may be enjoyed in its fullness. We are all God's ambassadors for the work of reconciliation as new creations, sent into the world, empowered by the Spirit, and working for the values of the Kingdom of God, until Christ returns again. Even so, Come Lord Jesus! **Confession of 1967 9.07, 9.31**

# COM ATTACHMENT 4

## My Faith Journey – William O. Lowrey

I was born into a Christian family in which my father was a Presbyterian elder and both parents were Sunday School teachers. My baptism reflected deep parental commitments for me to be raised as a child of the covenant, along with my four siblings. However, I was also raised as an active member of a Presbyterian Church in Hattiesburg, MS that was segregated and took white privilege as a divine right. My mother disciplined me in the scriptures and introduced me to Calvin's Commentaries by age twelve and soon thereafter to Calvin's Institutes. That caused me to develop a more reformed approach to life, skipping over the historical battle between fundamentalism and liberalism. As a result I later was able to critique my own home church.

As I review my 70 years of life, I recognize that one of my Ordination Questions captures my life faith journey. That question asked: *Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?* My personal call to follow Jesus began in early childhood. I was disciplined and confirmed into the faith. In junior high, high school and college I started student groups that helped nurture my faith, build supportive community, and strengthen efforts to apply faith to life. As a young college student, when my university was first integrated in 1966, my calling to the ministry of reconciliation became clear. The first two black students at the University of Southern Mississippi became members of our Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship chapter, making us the first integrated group on campus. However, when I tried to take my friends with me to church, that was rejected. This catalyzed a vision and call in me to someday be a part of a church which held to "the racial integrity of the gospel." What began, as a simple following of Jesus and love of near neighbors eventually became a life mission of working for the reconciliation of the world.

My ministry experiences have included:

- Six years of campus ministry with Inter-Varsity, including starting groups on campuses of historically black colleges in Georgia and Mississippi. 1969-75
- Planting a church in Clinton, MS on behalf of Central Mississippi Presbytery, which was racially integrated from the beginning. Pastoring that church for ten years. 1976-85
- Serving as Minister of Mission in a large church in Cincinnati, OH, focused on inter-city, community and global mission. 1985-90
- Mission Co-Worker for Sudan, working in the rebel sections of southern Sudan for relief and rehabilitation and becoming active in inter-tribal peacemaking. Completed a PhD in Intercultural Organizational Development with a dissertation on indigenous methods of peacemaking among the Nuer of Sudan. 1991-98
- Independent Peacemaker, developing the People-to-People Peace process that ended an eight war between the Dinka and Nuer peoples of southern Sudan. 1998-2000.
- Director of Peacebuilding and Reconciliation for World Vision International. 2000-2010
- Honorably Retired within PCUSA with membership in National Capital Presbytery. 2010
- Part-time consultant, coaching peacemakers and consulting with the Great Lakes Initiative in the seven countries surrounding Lake Victoria in East Africa. 2010-Present

My personal and family life has been the richest nurture of my faith and resilience. My first wife developed Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease at 54 and died at age 62. Later I married Rev. Dr. Alice Petersen, the closest friend of our family during the previous 25 years. Alice and I are making our retirement home at Givens Estates Retirement Community in Asheville and participating actively in First Presbyterian Church – Asheville. We have three children and eight grandchildren.

# COM ATTACHMENT 5

Margaret Torrence  
Biography

It may seem odd to be returning my membership to the presbytery of Western North Carolina just as I am beginning interim ministry in Chapel Hill, but I did not see this move coming, and expect to be returning to the mountains in two years or less. Perhaps, then, it is appropriate to begin this biographical summary by saying that often I am surprised by the way God moves in our lives!

I grew up in the church (almost literally), living across the street from the congregation my father served in Sarasota, Florida. For me, the boundary between church and home has been happily permeable. Through the years I have been blessed with opportunities to serve that also have allowed me to honor my calls as wife, mother, daughter, and sister.

I met my husband, Lee, in the fall of our first year at Davidson. After we married, we spent eight years in southern California, where I was ordained a ruling elder. While in California, our children Nate (now 27) and Hanna (now 24) were born. I did not sense a call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament until I was in my early 30s. By the time we moved to Princeton in 1995, Nate was ready for kindergarten and Hanna for preschool.

Immediately following seminary, I served as an interim pastor (solo) for a church I had served as a student. Again, I did not see the call coming. I had not prepared my paperwork, but God provided an opportunity to live in a lovely old manse on the same block as the church I would serve and the elementary school Hanna would attend. The congregation already knew me (and knew that I was green!); we all brought our gifts to the table and did the work together. They nurtured me and I loved them in return.

When we moved to the mountains of western North Carolina in 2002, it was not long before new opportunities to serve opened at First Presbyterian Church in Asheville. After serving in temporary capacities there, I was installed as Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care in 2006, serving there until 2012. Always I will be grateful for my time with that congregation.

Since leaving FPCA, I have resumed interim ministry. I was grateful to serve the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church as Interim Pastor in 2014-2015 and then to return to the church of my childhood in 2016 to meet a brief need for an interim associate pastor. My time in Sarasota also allowed me to reconnect with an older brother who has remained there since our childhood.

In the late spring of this year I was contacted by the Transition Committee of University Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill; they were looking for an Interim Pastor to provide transition following Bob Dunham's long and fruitful ministry. I came to Chapel Hill in late August to begin ministry here. I have joined a remarkable staff and dedicated congregation during a season in which the church's witness feels critical.

I left a significant chunk of my heart in Western North Carolina, and you will remain in my prayers, as I hope to be in yours. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve in Chapel Hill, but I also will be glad when the time comes to return home.

Margaret LaMotte Torrence  
October, 2017

# COM ATTACHMENT 5

Margaret Torrence  
Statement of Faith

I trust that the same God who called to the child Samuel, provided for the stranger Ruth, brought life from aged Sarah, and knit once hapless disciples into the body of Christ, continues to seek, nourish, and send the Church today. By the stirring of the Holy Spirit, God comes to us in the most ordinary circumstances: in the wonder of creation, in the “otherness” of strangers, in the friction and ease of life together. As we wrestle with scripture, are washed at the font and fed at the table, and then loose our peculiar offerings in the world, God makes more of us than we ever imagined we might be.

We recognize the love of our maker most clearly in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In an overlooked place, God came to us as a child, willing to know what we know. Facing our fear, Jesus welcomed outcasts, healed the suffering, and fed all who were hungry for a piece of bread and a word from God. He was never what we expected. Even when we demanded his death, God was not done with us. God brought life from his grave that we might know that nothing can separate us from the love Jesus carried in his flesh.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God continues to breathe among us the animating grace of Jesus’ passion: binding disparate believers into one unlikely body, offering both the strength and the weakness of that body for the sake of the world.

The scriptures ground our life together. By the movement of the Spirit, they become God’s living word to us today, even as they bear the marks of the times and the cultures from which they emerged. I believe that faithful Biblical interpretation always involves risk. It requires that we come before the living God with a willingness to be changed and an awareness that any truth we discern will be partial. The Reformed tradition affirms, and I believe, that our best hope of faithful interpretation, of discerning the leading of the Spirit, is to do our wrestling together. I am committed to life in community: praying with and for each other, sharing differences openly, working together for the sake of the world God loves, and keeping watch with our neighbors when the hours are long.

The sacraments of the church are mysteries that we enter in faith, which point to the faithful presence and holy expectation of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. In the water of baptism, our identity as children of God is revealed, and we are seen to stand in new relationship as brothers and sisters, entrusted to each other’s care. Water, which has the capacity to cleanse and destroy as well as to nourish and create, witnesses to the inseparable nature of God’s judgment and life-giving grace. We spend our whole lives growing into the gift of baptism.

When we come to the table, we come as guests of the one who poured out his life for the sake of our broken but beloved world. We come to *re-member*, in the sense of letting the truth of this meal live again, even now, in our bodies. In each of the sacraments, time collapses as the truth of the past and the promised fulfillment of the future find purchase in the present.

The Presbyterian Church is home to me; it is the family that loved me into life. Though we can be a fractious and distracted community, I am convinced that God wastes no offering we bring in trust. When we are most faithful, we come expectantly to scripture, hoping to encounter the Living Word in ancient words. We remember that discernment and the exercise of power are shared responsibilities, and that the Spirit’s leading often comes from beyond comfortable centers of power. We are engaged in the world in solidarity with all who suffer, and we challenge each other to be faithful stewards of all that God has

Statement of Faith, Margaret LaMotte Torrence, 2017

# COM ATTACHMENT 5

entrusted to our care. I am grateful for the witness and the love I have known in this corner of Christ's church.

# COM ATTACHMENT 6

## Brief Biography and Faith Journey — Jefferson K. Aiken, Jr.

I was fortunate to grow up in Baton Rouge LA in a Christian home with a father who was a Presbyterian pastor and a mother who was a Presbyterian DCE. The church was always a part of my life, and although it may seem strange, I was never forced to go to church. I always loved the church and the activities of the congregation and participated by my own choice. When I was seven years old, I made a profession of faith in Christ — back in the days before confirmation classes.

Twice in my youth — once in high school and another time in college — my dad asked if I'd ever considered the ministry as a vocation. Twice I responded with an emphatic NO, and the second time I added, "Please don't ever ask me that again," a request which he heeded.

Actually my sights were set on the business world as I had been Mr. FBLA (Future Business Leader of America) for my school's region and finished as a top three finalist for the state of Louisiana, which led to enrolling in the College of Business Administration at LSU. The first semester of accounting was very difficult (a very low C), and with three more semesters yet waiting, I switched my major to speech communication and broadcasting. I finally discovered something in which I excelled and was fortunate to serve as president of the LSU radio and television guild, to win the Golden Mike award, and to become a disc jockey at a local radio station during my last two years in college. I felt I'd found my life's vocation. Upon graduation I went to work at the NBC television affiliate in Alexandria LA with the responsibilities of anchoring news and sports, a job which I found very fulfilling and rewarding.

In that day all healthy young men were required to perform military service. I was inducted into the Army where I was able to continue my broadcast career, spending the longest portion in Seoul, Korea, as a television newscaster and sports director with the American Forces Korea Network. During my service time I continued to worship at the base chapel and read my Bible. The more I read the scriptures, an intuitive perception entered my thinking, leading me to wonder if perhaps the Holy Spirit was working in my life calling me to the ministry. Upon returning from overseas, I asked my father, "How does one know and understand a call to the ministry?" Dad, of course, was very surprised to hear this and replied, "Do you think you're being called?" I answered, "I don't know, but would like to find out." My father did not think he could be entirely objective so he sent me to two of his pastor friends for counseling, and the consensus was: give seminary a try and see if that call would be confirmed.

Somewhat hesitantly and reluctantly, I entered Columbia Seminary and received my M.Div.(and later a D.Min. from McCormick Seminary). In January of 1969 I told my wife, Libby, if the Lord and I could not agree on a call to a church by mid-April I would place my resume before television stations again. As providence would have it, in April of that year I accepted a call to become pastor of FPC Dallas, NC upon graduation in June.

Although I was recruited by TV stations twice during the first five years in the pastorate, I resisted those temptations and stayed in the ministry through four congregations—a small church, a mid-sized church, a large center city church, and a 2600 member suburban congregation. While all congregations have some type of conflict, things never became schismatic in any of these churches, each of which had an overall sense of togetherness. I'm pleased that every one of these congregations is still in the PCUSA.

Each church provided me the opportunity to serve its members while also being visible in the community and the denomination. I was able to carry out leadership roles in a number of venues, including serving as chair of the trustee's board of the PCUSA Board of Pensions, board chair of a system of 20 Presbyterian retirement communities located in four states, and chair of the trustee's board of a multi campus hospital network. All of these served to enrich my ministry. In so many ways I've been blessed by each congregation as my call to serve Christ as a pastor has been confirmed and strengthened more in every setting. I have learned much from the wonderful people with whom I have served.

Preaching is something which I enjoy very much; however, I would be less than candid if I did not admit the preacher's task is frightening and sometimes lonely. To be charged with the responsibility of rightly handling the word of God is a sobering experience. Having completed my active service at FPC Allentown PA in 2007, I am an honorably retired member of Lehigh Presbytery, . Before concluding, I must say without equivocation that I could not have done any of the above without my wonderful supporting wife, Libby, two outstanding sons, and more recently a daughter in law and granddaughter.

Through it all, I concur with the Psalmist, "the boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage." (Psalm 16:6). I look forward to serving again in the Presbytery of Western NC-- the presbytery (as restructured) where my ministry began.

# COM ATTACHMENT 6

## Faith Statement-Jeff Aiken

The older I become, the more I realize how little I know.

The Greek philosopher Socrates was once considered the wisest person in the world. Before he died, Socrates declared that he knew nothing. About the same time, Pythia, the Oracle at Delphi was asked "Who is the wisest person in the world?" She replied "Socrates." The word was relayed to Socrates who said "When I was young, I knew everything but now I know nothing." The Oracle, who was never wrong, was asked "How can Socrates be the wisest person in the world when he knows nothing?" She replied "Only the wisest realize they know nothing and have the courage and humility to admit it." I claim to be neither wise nor courageous; however, there is so much of life and faith that is a mystery to me.

Paul, writing to the Corinthians, was trying very hard to describe in human terms the resurrection of Christ and said, "Listen—I will tell you a mystery." (1 Cor.15:51) While the journey of faith is mystery, often beyond our grasp or comprehension, there are numerous things about our Christian assurance which I can affirm with certainty.

I can affirm the Bible is the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the church universal and God's word to us. (BOO ordination question) I cannot think of any place in the Bible which indicates that the scriptures are to be taken literally, but the Bible should rather be considered: "for reproof, correction, and for training in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16. The Bible should be taken as the authoritative source of wisdom for all of life.

My theology is basically reformed. By that I mean it is centered on the nature and work of Jesus, including such matters as the incarnation, the resurrection, and the human and divine natures of Jesus. Reformed theology also teaches us to follow the Great Commandment — to love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind; and our neighbor as our self. In that regard we affirm the primacy of mission and become actively involved in helping our neighbors, both locally and globally.

The sovereignty of God has been a cornerstone of reformed theology since the time of John Calvin. Presbyterians have proclaimed God as Lord and King of the universe and a deity who reigns supreme. This is one of those tenants of our faith that is a mystery and can also be problematic. While I believe in the sovereignty of God, I do not claim to comprehend it — another one of those things that is beyond my complete understanding. This doctrine can be a stumbling block for believers and unbelievers alike (i.e. if God is in control of everything, why can't God eliminate evil and suffering in the world). I suppose the pat answer is that the human mind cannot understand all of God's ways: ("for my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" Isaiah 55:8). Actually, because of sin we humans deserve nothing from a holy God. It is only through God's grace that we are bountifully gifted with so many undeserved favors from that sovereign God . . . God gives everyone the freedom to accept or reject God's love.

I appreciate the confessions of the church and am particularly guided by the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Brief Statement of Faith. In keeping with those affirmations, the Trinity is another of those historic declarations (also a mystery and a paradox) which I affirm. Through the Trinity we acknowledge the gifts to humankind of our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

The sacraments of the church are outward and visible signs of God's grace and Christ's work in the church. Through Baptism the Holy Spirit confirms God's promise to grant us renewal of life. In the Lord's Supper that same Holy Spirit makes Christ known to us in the breaking of bread and drinking of the cup.

The polity of the PCUSA has always framed my ministry in a positive way. I am completely in harmony with the ordination vows and am grateful for the Great Ends of the Church as the foundational principals of church order.

Having been a pastor for over four decades, there is still so much that I do not know or understand about our faith. However, through it all, my life and ministry has always been filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. My devotional times begin and end with thanksgiving and praise to the God who made us and loves us even beyond the bounds of our earthly vision. That grace and love of our sovereign God has always sustained me.

## NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE

**Jane Hansel, Chair**

**October 24, 2017**

The Nominating/Representation Committee presents the following nominations to fill the year of 2020 and other class vacancies. The next meeting of the committee will be November 18, 2017.

The Nominating/Representation Committee is responsible for filling the slate for each committee throughout the year and for creating the new Class of 2020, to begin serving a three year term in January of 2018. To this end, we are asking you to discern your wishes in regard to a Presbytery committee on which you would like to serve or suggest someone for a committee of Presbytery.

It is important to note Presbytery by-laws which state, "Terms of committee members shall be for three (3) years in equal classes and no committee member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Ordinarily, a person may serve on only one Presbytery committee at any time."

The Nominating/Representation Committee invites you to take a moment to fill out the attached form and return the form to the Stated Clerk's Table prior to leaving the meeting today. We hope that you will seriously consider serving on a committee in which you are interested or recommending others for committees. To all of you, we give praise to God and our heartfelt thanks for your faithful service.

CA	1.	<b><u>General Council</u></b>		
		Mr. Jay Crane (Hickory, First)	(E)	Class of 2018
		Rev. Keith Grogg (Montreat)	(B)	Class of 2020
CA	2.	<b><u>Committee on Ministry</u></b>		
		Mr. John Pea (Robinson Memorial)	(D)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Esta Jarrett (Canton)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Roger Rizk (Gastonia, First)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Keith Thompson (Brevard-Davidson)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Kathryn Cameron (Hendersonville, 1 <sup>st</sup> )	(C)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Wanda Neely (Morganton, First)	(E)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Jim Taylor (Grassy Creek/Newdale)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Becky Stevens (Lenoir, 1 <sup>st</sup> )	(E)	Class of 2020
CA	3.	<b><u>Examinations Committee</u></b>		
		Mr. Robert Forsythe (Trinity)	(C)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Lauren Vanacore (Gastonia, First)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Mrs. Beth Hall (Grassy Creek-Micaville)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Dr. Wallace Johnson (Retired)	(E)	Class of 2020
CA	4.	<b><u>Preparation for Ministry</u></b>		
		Rev. Dana Vaughn (Reems Creek-Beech)	(B)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Emily Wilmarth (Highlands, First)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Michael Lamm (Retired)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Keith Morrison (Retired)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Charlie Snead (Hendersonville, 1 <sup>st</sup> )	(C)	Class of 2020



CA	5.	<b><u>Peace &amp; Justice Committee</u></b>		
		Rev. Anne Morgan (Retired)	(B)	Chair for 2018
		Rev. Dr. Priscilla Durkin (Retired)	(B)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Christopher Vogado (New Hope, Gast)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Joseph Pritchard (Morganton, First)	(E)	Ad-Hoc
		Ms. Sandra Strickland	(B)	Ad-Hoc
CA	6.	<b><u>Hunger Committee</u></b>		
		Rev. Bill Heck (Retired-Warren Wilson)	(B)	Co-Chair 2018
		Rev. Riley Covin (Retired)	(A)	Co-Chair 2018
		Mrs. Gayle Deas (Third Street)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Virginia Bradford (Brevard-Davidson)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Katie Adams (Kenilworth)	(B)	Ad-Hoc
CA	7.	<b><u>Missions Committee</u></b>		
		Rev. Robert “Bob” Abel (Hayesville)	(A)	Chair 2018
		Rev. Ellen Dozier (Retired)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Joanne Mitchell (Southminster)	(D)	Class of 2020
CA	8.	<b><u>Campus Ministry</u></b>		
		Mr. Mark Hanna (Bryson City)	(A)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Allen Proctor	(B)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Gary Greene (Brevard-Davidson)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Ms. Kathy Meacham (Grace Covenant)	(B)	Class of 2018
CA	9.	<b><u>Smaller Membership Churches</u></b>		
		Rev. Tempe Fussell (Franklin, First)	(A)	Co-Chair 2018
		Rev. Libby Sigmon (Olney)	(D)	Co-Chair 2018
		Rev. Kitty Rankin	(D)	Class of 2019
		Rev. Margaret “Maggie” Lauterer	(F)	Class of 2019
		Mr. Robert Dula (Dulatown)	(E)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Kyle Segars (Etowah)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Mr. Don Widmayer (Trinity)	(C)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Kimberleigh Wells (New Hope, Ashe)	(B)	Class of 2020
CA	10.	<b><u>Youth Ministries</u></b>		
		Rev. Joseph Taber (Lowell)	(D)	Class of 2019
		Mr. Steven Keen (Southminster)	(D)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Carol Steele (Montreat Conf.)	(B)	Class of 2020
CA	11.	<b><u>Christian Education</u></b>		
		Rev. Adam Bowling (Morganton, First)	(E)	Chair for 2018
		Mrs. Leila Bruder (Quaker Meadows)	(E)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Chris Taylor	(A)	Class of 2020
		Mrs. Peggy Ferguson (Pineola)	(F)	Class of 2020
		Mrs. Mary Lou Nash (Grace Covenant)	(B)	Class of 2020
		Rev. Dwight Christenbury (Trinity)	(C)	Class of 2019

CA	12.	<b><u>Finance Committee</u></b>	Mr. Charles Sellers (West Avenue) (D)	Class of 2020	Chair for 2018
			Mr. Rodney Lytle (Warren Wilson) (B)	Class of 2020	
			Ms. Nancy Thompson (Waynesville) (A)	Class of 2020	
CA	13.	<b><u>Personnel Committee</u></b>	Rev. Dr. Luke Harkey (Shelby) (C)		Chair for 2018
			Rev. Terry Hanna (Bryson City) (A)	Class of 2019	
			Mr. John Stanley (Gastonia, First) (D)	Class of 2020	
CA	14.	<b><u>Administration Division Chair for 2018</u></b>	Mr. Charles Sellers (West Avenue) (D)		
CA	15.	<b><u>Outreach/Mission Division Chair for 2018</u></b>	Rev. Harold “Hal” Bennett (Dulatown) (E)		
CA	16.	<b><u>Leadership Development Chair for 2018</u></b>	Mr. Fred Van Itallie (Trinity) (C)		
CA	17.	<b><u>Congregational Development Chair for 2018</u></b>	Rev. James Holeman (Union) (D)		
CA	18.	<b><u>Guatemala Partnership Leadership Team</u></b>	Rev. Randall Boggs (Mills River) (B)		Co-Chair 2018
			Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick (Waldensian) (E)		Co-Chair 2018
			Mrs. Susan Maveety (New Hope, Asheville) (B)	Class of 2020	
			Mrs. Beth Bolin (Gastonia, First) (D)	Class of 2020	
			Rev. Samantha Gonzalez-Block (Grace Covenant) (B)	Class of 2020	

**19. The Nominating/Representation Committee places the following teaching elder commissioner nomination to serve as a delegate for a three year term (2018) for the Stated Meetings of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic:**

Rev. Dr. Charles W. Davenport  
Long Creek, Transitional Pastor  
PWNC, Presbytery Associate  
1861 Lookout Lane  
Gastonia, NC 28052

**20. The Nominating/Representation Committee places the following ruling elder commissioner nomination to serve as a delegate for a three year term (2018-2020) for the Stated Meetings of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic:**

Mrs. Dorothy Descieux  
Kenilworth Presbyterian Church  
145 Governor’s View Road  
Asheville, NC 28805

- 21. The Nominating Committee places the following minister nomination recommendations to serve as teaching elder (minister) commissioners for 2018 at the 223rd General Assembly, to be held June 16 - June 22, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.**

**A. Rev. Harold (Hal) Bennett (E) - Dulatown Presbyterian Church**

P. O. Box 982, Lenoir, NC 28645

(828) 572-0992

(301) 599-0062 (Cell)

halnupe2u@verizon.net

Harold (aka Hal) was the first born of two surviving children to the awesome parents of Harold and Dr. Nancy Bennett, Sr., Baltimore, MD. He was educated in the Baltimore public school system. He is a graduate of Morgan State University, BS. Chemistry; Georgia State University, M.Ed. Counseling and Psychological Services; Associates Degree in Computer Science, Prince George's Community College; graduate of U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; a graduate of Samuel Dewitt Proctor School of Theology, MTh., Virginia Union University and currently enrolled as a Doctoral student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Studying Theology and Urban Cross Cultures). He is a retired member of the U.S. Army Reserves, COL/06; and a retired federal government employee, Central Intelligence Agency, Senior Security Intelligence Officer. (Needless to say, he has been around the world a few times and been involved in several fighting conflicts).

He is married to Etta B. Holloway of Bowie, MD and he has three children (Traci Williams, Lee Bennett III, and Camron Bennett) through a former marriage. He has three grandchildren by Traci; Shane, Syera, and Savoy.

He currently serving at the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as a member of General Council, and on the Presbytery Mission Committee, and is a member of the African American Advisory Forum for the Presbytery. He currently serves as the Pastor, at Dulatown Presbyterian Church, Lenoir, NC. He serves at the WPNC on the Mission Committee (leadership Team of the Malawi and Costa Rica Partnership), Small-Membership Church Forum, and Cluster E Minister Alliance for Hickory, Lenoir and Morganton Region. In the community of Lenoir, he has become an active participant in local politics (city of Lenoir) and a member of the Lenoir Ministerial Coalition.

He is a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and a life member of the NAACP. He is very active in his community.

**B. Rev. Samantha González-Block (B) – Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church**

789 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, NC 28804

(828) 254-3274

(973)986-7282

[sgblock@gcpcusa.org](mailto:sgblock@gcpcusa.org)

Reverend Samantha González-Block has joyfully served as Associate Pastor at Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville since July 2015. A graduate of Barnard College and Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, much of Samantha's work in the United States and abroad has focused on interreligious engagement and women's rights. Samantha served as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly and was recently an adult chaperon for the 2017 Presbytery Youth Delegation to Guatemala. Samantha has a passion for utilizing Latin dance as a medium to bring people from all walks of life together.

- 22. The Nominating Committee places the following elder nomination recommendations to serve as ruling elder commissioners for 2018 at the 223rd General Assembly, to be held June 16 - June 22, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.**

**A. Mrs. Mimi Michael (E) - First Presbyterian Church, Newton**

711 5th Avenue, NE, Conover, NC 28613

(828) 465-0335 (828) 234-0176 (cell) [mimimichael@charter.net](mailto:mimimichael@charter.net)

Mimi Michael has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Newton for 33 years.

On Presbytery level, Mimi is a member of Guatemala Partnership Committee, member of Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, chair of Guatemala Microloan Task Force, past member of Global Missions Committee.

In local church, Mimi has served as elder, on the Missions Committee as both a member and chair, as a Logos Bible teacher and director, and as a coordinator and teacher of Newcomer classes.

In community, she has served as a member and president of the Board of Directors for Habitat for Humanity of Catawba Valley, and a former Volunteer Coordinator at The Corner Table soup kitchen.

Mimi is married to Doug Michael with 4 grown children.

**B. Mr. Roger Rizk (D) – First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia**

1105 Dumbarton Road, Gastonia, NC 28054

(704) 854-2614 [bethandroger@yahoo.com](mailto:bethandroger@yahoo.com)

BA, History, Emory University. Juris Doctor, Walter F. George School of Law, Mercer University. 1971-1994. Member, The Florida Bar, 1996 to present. Member, North Carolina State Bar, Civil Trial Lawyer, Mediator. North Carolina Chief Justice Lawyer Assistance Program Award, 2015.

Member, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, Florida, 1971-1994. Deacon, Elder, Moderator of Deacons. Treasurer. Stewardship Chairman. Chairman, Board of Trustees, Riverside Presbyterian Day School.

Member, First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, North Carolina, 1997 to present. Moderator, Board of Deacons. Elder, Clerk of Session. Sunday School teacher. Adult Boy Scout leader, 1997-2017. Pastoral Care Committee. Membership Development Committee. Community Issues Small Group facilitator.

Committee on Ministry, Presbytery of Western North Carolina, 2014-2017. Steering Committee, Building Hope Campaign. (Alternate Delegate, General Assembly, PCUSA, 2016.) Church Leadership School, 2017.

- 23. The Nominating Committee places the following teaching elder nomination recommendation to serve as alternate teaching elder commissioner for 2018 at the 223rd General Assembly, to be held June 16 - June 22, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.**

**A. Rev. Grace Boyer (B) Minister Member-at-Large**  
 116 Providence Road, Asheville, NC 28806  
 (828) 713-1491 GraceEBoyer@gmail.com

Grace spent her childhood in South Korea as the child and grandchild of Presbyterian Missionaries. As an adult she served as a yearlong volunteer in mission in Costa Rica and a human rights volunteer in Israel/Palestine and Colombia. Her ministry has also taken her to Mexico, Jamaica, Guatemala, and Malawi, and in 2013 she lived a year in South Korea while her husband taught at a university in Seoul.

She has degrees from the College of William and Mary, Presbyterian School of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary, and Princeton Theological Seminary.

She began her ministry as an un-ordained Campus Minister at UT Knoxville and then served as a generalist Associate Pastor in Danville/KY, an Associate College Chaplain at Centre College in Danville/KY, an Associate for Congregational Care in Jacksonville/FL, an Associate Presbyterian for Mission for the Presbytery of Western NC, and an Interim Solo Pastor for First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA Continuing) in Hendersonville/NC. She will soon begin as an Associate in Ministry at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. Her ministry interests are in congregational care, spiritual formation, and mission. She has served in churches of under 50 members and over 1300 members and membership sizes in between, and through her time on presbytery staff had the opportunity to visit most of the congregations in this presbytery.

- 24. The Nominating Committee places the following ruling elder nomination recommendation to serve as alternate ruling elder commissioner for 2018 at the 223rd General Assembly, to be held June 16 - June 22, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.**

**A. Mrs. Beth Hall (F) Commissioned Pastor**  
 206 Annie's Cove  
 Bakersville, NC 28705  
 (828) 688-3042

I grew up in Reidsville, North Carolina and graduated from Reidsville Senior High School in 1973 and Appalachian State University in 1977 with a BS degree in Early Childhood Education. My 30 year career in education included teaching grades 1-3. I was a National Board Certified Early Childhood Generalist and Mitchell County Teacher of the Year for 2001. My husband and I graduated from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina School of the Laity in 2014. Even before I retired from the school system in 2015, John and I became Commissioned Lay Pastors serving Micaville Presbyterian Church near Burnsville, North Carolina.

I became a member of Grassy Creek Presbyterian Church in Spruce Pine, North Carolina in 1976 where I have served as Sunday School teacher, choir member, and ruling elder. I currently serve on the Exams Committee of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and as Co-President of Mayland Presbyterian Fellowship.

John and I have been married for 42 years and have been blessed with two children and six grandchildren. I am a fulltime grandmother and part-time potter. We live on a (hobby) farm in Bakersville, North Carolina with four horses, three goats, two dogs, and nineteen chickens.

- 25. The Nominating Committee places the following youth nomination recommendation to serve as a Youth Advisory Delegate (YAD) for 2018 at the 223rd General Assembly, to be held June 16 - June 22, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.**

(Information was not available at time of publication and will be presented at the Presbytery Meeting)

- 26. The Nominating Committee requests authority from the Presbytery, and with the approval of the Moderator of Presbytery and the chair of the Committee on Ministry, to replace a commissioner to General Assembly should a commissioner(s) and/or alternate(s) be unable to attend.**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY  
THE REVEREND DANA VAUGHN, CHAIR  
OCTOBER 24, 2017**

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

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- I. THAT** Louden A. Young, a member of New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville and a student at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, be enrolled as a Candidate following the required examination by Presbytery.

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

**Louden A. Young** comes with the support of his congregation and the recommendation of the Session of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville. His written call to ministry/faith statement is contained in this packet (See CPM Attachment 1).

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

- William M. Upchurch, a member of the Cherryville First Presbyterian Church, was enrolled as an Inquirer on August 16, 2016.
- Katheryn McGinnis, a member of the Hickory First Presbyterian Church, was enrolled as an Inquirer on September 20, 2017.
- William Wilson, a Candidate from the Asheville First Presbyterian Church, was certified ready to receive a call on September 20, 2017.

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

“It is important that those who are to be ordained as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament receive full preparation for their task under the direction of the presbytery. For this purpose, a presbytery shall enter into covenant relationship with those preparing to become Ministers of the Word and Sacrament 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:**

“To be enrolled as an inquirer, the applicant shall 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 the session of the sponsoring congregation. The inquiry and candidacy phases shall continue for a period of no less than two years, including at least one year as a candidate.”

(*Book of Order G-2.0602*) This person is then examined by CPM, and if approved, is enrolled as an Inquirer.

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

## **Candidacy Stage:**

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

"The purpose of the candidacy phase, then, is to provide for the full preparation of persons to serve the church as Ministers of the Word and Sacrament." (*G-2.0604*)

## **Preparation for a Call:**

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

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

## **Must be Approved by CPM to Receive a Call:**

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

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



# CPM ATTACHMENT 1

Louden Young  
Statement on Call  
Preparation for Ministry 2017

When I became an inquirer, my image of calling had little clarity. Thinking back now, I cannot help but think of Robert Frost's yellow woods and the two roads diverging in them. Down one road, my life in dedicated service to the Lord and to the Church, and all of the fruits of the Spirit that may come from such work. Down the other road lies a life that is anything else. Since I was a small child, and had first heard of the story of Moses, I had hoped at some point in my life to encounter the very voice of God instructing me on what my life was to be, where I was to go, what I was to do. But there is no burning bush at this fork in the road.

It would be trivial to speak only of the way forward without an acknowledgement of the path that brought me to it. For every fork in the road, there is the road that leads to it. My first interactions with the Gospel came, as it did for many, at the behest of my parents, Lynn and Maria. It was through their uncompromising hands that I was shepherded to church on Sundays. Whereas had I been left to my own devices, I would have found little difficulty filling the several hours our family spent at church on Sunday mornings in the many worlds of my imagination and play. But attendance was not optional in my mother's household, and thus, there I was, each and every Sunday morning. My family attended a small, relatively new church in South Asheville, appropriately named New Hope Presbyterian. Though I have few memories of my early childhood that I can recollect with any detail, my exploits have been documented thoroughly by our de facto church historian and photographer, Pam. I was the child that always had something to say during the children's sermon and was the first to raise my hand when questions were asked, whether I had an answer or not. Jesus Christ was a character I knew well from the stories I was told, and I found more joy in the sandbox used to depict the landscape of the road to Jerusalem, than from the words of Scripture those props were presenting. Even in my youth, I was a very social being, and Church provided an outlet for that energy.

My parents were very active in the Church, particularly my mother. She had the vision, passion, and faith to be an integral part of the ministries as New Hope. As a nurse who spoke Spanish, my mother immediately felt the Spirit moving in her toward a new ministry the Presbytery was developing in Guatemala. As a member of the Presbytery's medical team, my mother spent two weeks every 6-8 months for a few years going to Guatemala. There she would teach basic hygiene and first aid in the villages where the Presbytery was establishing sister churches. Our sister church El Divino Salvador carved out a special place in my mother's heart. My four older sisters had mixed reviews on life in the Church at New Hope, though this was not apparent until we had grown up. My sisters all participated in church. Jessica and Tracey found a primary friend group. Beth and Alexis were firmly encouraged to participate in all the activities New Hope had to offer. My sisters' involvement with the church poked at my sense of competition, setting a bar that I could not help but try and exceed. Tracey and Jessica served as youth elders, so I became the youth elder my senior year of high school. Jessica joined the presbytery's youth council, so I joined the youth council. In the footsteps of my parents and my sisters, I too travelled to many places to do mission work: Ft. Meyers, FL, Gautier, MS, Diamondhead, LA, and Taxco, Mexico.

That is not so say I did any of those things without thought or concern. I had my own faith and my own beliefs. But I was still waiting for that burning bush moment. So until that moment came, I imitated those who I felt best exemplified what it meant to be a good Christian. When my family was confronted with course-altering change in the form of my mother diagnosis of epilepsy and multiple Sclerosis, church became an escape. I was drawn to the consistency of my church life, when life at home felt like it was going all over the place. When my family was no longer doing the things I imitated earlier in my life, I turned to my church family for guidance, which they were more than happy to provide. What started as imitation became habit. And habit provided comfort for me.

# CPM ATTACHMENT 1

When I started college at Maryville, I came to the realization that the habits and support I came to rely on were not immediately available. I was in a new place, and this place did not have the church I was familiar with, nor did it have the people I had always imitated. The uncompromising shepherds responsible for my Sunday morning attendance were two hours away, and the choice was now mine and mine entirely. Do I continue to live out my faith in the way I had learned to, or do I let that part of myself be shed for all the newness of this experience? It became apparent early on that it would end up being a little bit of both. I was no longer attending church every Sunday, or taking part in a youth group, or singing in a choir. I was, however, attending meetings of the progressive Christian community, attending Chapel on Tuesdays, and getting involved as a Church relations intern. I was living my faith in a new way. Imitation and habit gave way to myriad of different perspectives and experiences of God and the Spirit at work in the world. I was opened to new spiritual practices, such as extended periods of silence and prayer, fasting, and reading the scriptures with a more academic lens. What I knew of the Bible was put under the microscope of my new education, and not all aspects of what I believed made it out of college. A certain aspect of mysticism departed from my beliefs, and was replaced by a deeper understanding of my relationship with God. It was also during this time that I met the woman, whom in a year, I will have the privilege to marry. My relationship with her continues to inform my understanding of love and sacrifice.

After I graduated, I returned home, to the familiar, because I had not felt like I knew what the next step would be. I found a job with a durable medical supply company in their inside sales department. I moved into a house with my best friend and my sister. I was comfortable, independent, and ultimately, incomplete. I did not immediately return to the church I grew up in. I was afraid to be in the church with the legacy of my family around every corner, a reminder of all the changes that had happened with my mother's illness. I was tired of answering the questions about how my mother was, or how my family was. I started volunteering at First Presbyterian since it was there that I had attended youth group. I became an adviser, and found sustaining joy in my work with those youth. Though I was not particularly fond of my 9 to 5 job, it provided me with an opportunity to do this ministry. My involvement with the youth group led to my involvement as an adviser with the presbytery's youth council. Each Sunday evening with the youth at First Presbyterian, each youth retreat and rally spent with the youth council, each committee meeting and week at Montreat, served as a jumpstart for my soul. I could no longer pretend that God was not moving me toward a life in ministry. The day I decide to attend seminary, a relief set over my body that was unlike anything I had experienced before. It was a puzzle piece fitting exactly where it is suppose to.

Since arriving at Columbia, I have felt nothing but affirmed in pursuing the education and work that God is bidding me toward. I have been encouraged by my peers and professors, inspired by family and friends, and sustained by Jesus Christ and the words found in the scriptures. So again I consider my image of calling and I realize that the answer is much clearer now. I have been waiting for a burning bush, all the while not realizing that my life, up until this point, has been just that. As I was preoccupied with "knowing" exactly how I thought God might speak to me, God has been calling me at every moment. In every fruit of the Spirit, God has been at work in my life, leading me here. I have known Christ in the work ethic of my father and the passion of my mother. I have experienced the grace of God in the many gifts of my sisters: Beth's strength, Tracey's compassion, Jessica's tireless caregiving, Alexis' creativity. I have felt the Spirit in the loyalty of friends, the encouragement and support of my church family, and the unconditional love of my partner, Elizabeth. The Word has been manifested through Jesus Christ in the many acquaintances I have made, in the relationships the Spirit has provided growth to, throughout my life, at every stage. And in this life, I have come to know the truth, that God is the one God, father and mother of all creation, the giver of life. Jesus Christ is my Lord, and mediator of my salvation, through his life, death, and resurrection, to whom I turn when there is none to comfort. The Spirit is at work in my life, so that God's will may be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven.

It is in this truth, that God is above me, in Christ, God is for me, and in the Spirit, God works through me, that I realized there is, but one response. Where I always imagined there would be a fork in

# CPM ATTACHMENT 1

the road, I now understand there is but one path. And the decision I must make is not between one life or another, but rather if I am prepared to take that first step toward Christ. I fully understand the magnitude of that step. It is a step away from my worldly ambitions, from the "dream" jobs I once thought I wanted, from the possessions I always wanted to own, from the very depths of my own self-interest. It is a step toward discipline and faithfulness. It is a step toward the vulnerable, the least of us. It is step toward conflict with worldly powers that seek to solidify injustice, a step toward the hoses, and the dogs, and the tear gas. It is a step toward each and every one of you. It is a step toward the Cross. When I was younger, I imitated good Christians. I am now ready, in as much as my human-ness allows, to be an imitator of Christ, to love as he loves me. And in this first step forward and all the steps of my life to come, I know that the grace of God, the Love of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the community of the Spirit are with me, always.

**Report to Presbytery  
October, 2017  
Missions Committee  
Ed Forsyth, Chair**

The Missions Committee met on Monday, September 25, 2017, at Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Highlights of that meeting include:

- Final plans for the PWNC Mission Trip to Kinston, NC, October 8-13, to help folks rebuild after the hurricane there. The trip was organized with the help of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program and First Presbyterian Church of Kinston. Folks from various churches throughout PWNC participated in this trip.
- We look forward to offering 3 Mission Trips in 2018, due to the extreme number of disasters which have occurred over the past few months.
- We are increasing our support for Hands and Feet, the Asheville site for PCUSA Young Adult Volunteers, working out of Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church.
- We are looking forward to developing a Disaster Relief Team for PWNC. This would be a team that could respond to disasters should they occur in our area.
- We will be emphasizing getting out more information and interpretation of the work of our mission co-workers as well as other mission opportunities in 2018.

## PWNC Guatemala Partnership Update October 2017

The PWNC Guatemala partnership committee continues to work with our brothers and sisters in both of our sister Presbyteries to build healthier and stronger communities. Primary focus areas continue to include: health, women's microloans, strengthening sister church relationships and education initiatives (see attached education report.)

**Prayer Requests:** Recent earthquakes in Guatemala damaged several of our sister churches and church members' homes in the presbytery of Sur Occidente. Please lift up the secretary of Sur Occidente's presbytery in prayers. Pastor Enrique Lopez and his family were in an automobile accident which resulted in injuries for both the parents and children. Pastor Enrique's wife, suffered at least 2 broken bones in her hand/arm. Their family is now coping with legal and medical fees. Also, severe flooding has destroyed major roadways and damaged churches and communities in Suchitepéquez.

### Recent Trips:

- **Asheville PC-** Traveled July 19-25; 14 participants (youth and adults)
- **Shelby PC-** Traveled July 22-31, 2017; 22 participants (youth and adults)
- **Youth Trip-** July 11-19, 2017
- **PWNC microloan committee-** September 6-13, 2017
- **PWNC leadership representatives/admin trip-** September 21-26, 2017

In September, representatives from the PWNC microloan committee traveled to Guatemala to visit microloan project sites and encourage program growth. The PWNC partnership committee also sent our board chair and partnership coordinator on a relationship/partnership building trip to address specific areas for growth in our sister Presbytery of Sur Occidente and train interpreters for delegation visits. Conversations with Sur Occidente's executive committee, partnership committee, and coordinator were very productive and resulted in action plans that will be addressed in January 2018. A joint partnership committee meeting with leaders from PWNC, Sur Occidente, and Suchitepéquez is scheduled for January 31-February 2, 2018. Key agenda items include: modifying/updating our 10-year covenant, implementation of new fiscal policies, and increasing communication and cultural awareness within the partnership.

### Upcoming Delegation Trips

**November 9-16, 2017-** We are excited to have a full delegation group with representatives from the following churches: Banner Elk PC, Tryon PC, Franklin PC, New Hope PC, and Waldensian PC.

**May 24-30, 2018-** Deadline for registration is December 15, 2017.

**November 8-15, 2018-** Deadline for registration is April 30, 2018.

Registration forms for these upcoming trips will be posted on the PWNC website by October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

*\*If you are interested in participating in a delegation trip or if your church is planning a trip in the upcoming year, please contact Marie Palacios, PWNC Guatemala Partnership Coordinator: Email: [pwncguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:pwncguatemala@gmail.com) Cell: 828-838-4245*

## Education Committee Overview Guatemala Partnership September, 2017

The Joint Partnership Committee of the Guatemala Partnership approved the creation of an Education Committee and the proposed Action Plans on October 30, 2013. The Education Committee is to be composed of members from all three presbyteries (2 from Suchitepequez, 2 from Sur Occidente, and 4 from Western North Carolina). With the official signing of a new presbytery covenant 1/13/16, the Partnership between PWNC, Suchi, and Sur agreed to establish a holistic education committee to reflect needs for theological, Christian and secular education.

The Education Committee is focused on working on the Action Plans established by the committee in 2013 and is now being financed through the WNC Presbyteries “Building Hope Fund”. In 2017 the PWNC Education committee has been working to create an online **Building Hope: Request for Funds Forms** in both Spanish and English.

The Education Committees major areas of focus are:

- Higher Education (Six scholarships at \$1000 each/year)
- Support of theological education
- Teacher/Parent Formation --Begin pilot programs in the following areas:
  - Create libraries with a teacher/parent training programs for love of reading
  - Fund Pre-School programs for children and parents, including school readiness
  - After School programs for children and parents, including homework/projects

### Successes

- **Higher Education** (6 university scholarships)
  - In 2015, **Evelyn Yesenia Hernandez Juarez**, was the first scholarship recipient. Degree in Profesorado en Enseñanza Media en Educacion
  - 2016 added 4 students: **Jorge Leonardo Asención**, studying social work; **Berta Colindres**, studying law; **Margoth Vela**, studying education; **Ester Josefa**, studying law.
  - 2017 added 1 student: **Ivin Mendes**

- **Theological Education**

An important component of Project HOPE is to support Theological Education and Seminaries. An initial investment of thirty-two thousand dollars will be made on behalf of each of the two Presbyteries, (Sur and Suchi Presbyteries). As much as five thousand dollars may be withdrawn from each fund each year by each Presbytery. Funds are helping prepare students to serve as pastors and leaders, not only in their congregations but also in their communities.

- On 1/24/17, the Joint Education Committee approved the Seminary Proposal from Suchi. At this meeting, a seminary proposal from Sur Occidente was received.
- Upon approval by the Joint Education Committee and Project Hope Committee, 5000 dollars in funds from WNC was sent to the Suchi Presbytery to support the ministry for the creation of a socio-theological school starting in 2017.
- The Seminary in Suchi is currently training approximately 20 new ministers to provide new leadership at the local churches spread out throughout the Presbytery.
- The seminary proposal from Sur Occidente is under review, pending further clarification and discussions with the Executive Committee of the Sur Occidente Presbytery.
- **Teacher/Parent Formation**
  - Create libraries with a teacher/parent training programs for love of reading  
**Reading is Key** or ‘La Lectura es Clave’ is also being funded through Building Hope funds to provide books and workshops for teachers as they help students develop a love of reading.

- La Lectura es Clave has been an overwhelming success in both Santo Domingo and Santa Lucia Schools as evidenced by the feedback from the principals, teachers, parents and students.
- Teachers are now modeling silent reading, providing 30 minutes of reading each day for their students, new non-fiction/fiction books are in the classrooms and staff are exploring ways to expand the program.
- The number of participating schools will be six for 2017 as excitement and vested interest deepens within the communities.

**Reading Corners** is another pilot program requesting funds from Building Hope.

- At a January 2017 Group Meeting a proposal was presented from 4 churches in Sur Presbytery to establish “Reading Corners” that would start in the churches and at a later time continue into communities.
- It must now be approved by Sessions of the four churches who have agreed to participate, and by the Presbytery of Sur.
- Following this approval and the receipt of a request and approval of funds from Project Hope this program is hoped to quickly begin.
- Program funds will provide facilitator training and books for the program.
- Presently 2 of the 4 churches have begun training and are about to receive books.
- Providing continuing education workshops for teachers

## ***A Proposal for formation of teachers in Sur Occidente Presbytery of Guatemala, 2017***

### ***➤ Purpose of the project***

To provide formation for a group of 20-25 elementary teachers in critical pedagogy which they will implement in their classrooms and share with their colleagues. On completion of the formation process in September/October 2017, it is expected that teachers will know how to:

- \*facilitate the learning of reading and writing of students in a manner that corresponds to their individual development
- \*integrate reading and writing across the curriculum.
- \*incorporate the arts in all of the curriculum.
- \*plan curriculum in an integrated manner.
- \*encourage students to use reading, writing, and the arts to read and write their world.
- \*implement alternative ways of evaluating of students’ learning.

## **• Church to Church Scholarship Programs (Not funded through Hope Campaign)**

- One of the greatest areas of success is the Church to Church Scholarship program.
- The program to provide scholarships for children to attend primary and secondary school is active in almost all the church to church partnerships, and is overseen by an Education Committee, composed of members from all three presbyteries.
- The focus is to provide greater emphasis of scholarships to Basico and Diversificado students.
- In Suchitepequez, 252 students received educational scholarships from 10 churches. There were 13 alumnos at the pre-primaria level, 114 at the primaria, 82 at basico, 37 at Carrera, and 6 at the University.
- In Sur Occidente, the final report is being evaluated. (Sur estimate total of scholarships 550) Over \$100,000, was sent for scholarships for the 2016 and 2017 school years.
- **WNC churches are to send scholarship funds to the PWNC office by October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year.**

**In the past 4 years the Education Program in Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez Presbyteries has grown exceedingly fast. It is hoped that the work being done will be of great benefit to the students, churches, and communities of these presbyteries. All glory be to God.**



## MALAWI MISSION REPORT

### “GOOD NEWS”

October 24, 2017

**Dr. Martha Sommers will be going to work at Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi as a Mission Co-Worker from the PCUSA.** Since Barbara Nagy has returned to live in Morganton, we have been praying that another PCUSA doctor would be going to Nkhoma. This is a double blessing because Dr. Sommers previously served at two other hospitals in Malawi. She is a good friend of Dr. Nagy, who is excited that Martha will be working at the hospital in Nkhoma.

Martha's ministry will include teaching as well as working in the hospital. In Malawi, Dr. Sommers will serve as a family practice physician and as a lecturer and family medicine practitioner at Nkhoma Hospital, the only mission hospital in Malawi offering postgraduate training in family medicine. She will assist with the hospital's development of the family medicine training program and trains experienced district hospital doctors to teach students the basics of family medicine.

If your church supported Dr. Barbara Nagy in the past and would like to continue supporting someone at Nkhoma, please consider supporting Dr. Martha Sommer. We are hoping she may be able to attend our January presbytery meeting so you can meet her in person.

Our prayers are with Martha as she begins in this new position at Nkhoma Hospital. For more information about supporting Martha or another PCUSA missionary, contact Billy Robinson, Associate Presbyter at 828/448-2153 or email [brobinson@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:brobinson@presbyterywnc.org).





# Reclaiming Christmas

## Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway?

The day after Christmas many of us vow that “next Christmas is going to be different!” We think that we will slow things down, not get trapped into racing from store to store, not wear ourselves out physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually trying to be in so many places, do so many things, and be in the “holiday spirit”. (This can be true for individuals with their families, or for church staffs planning the church’s calendar.) How do we savor the expectant “waiting” of Advent? How do we live out Christmas as Jesus’ birthday, instead of as a commercial holiday?

Well, Christmas is coming again. Why not make plans to refocus on the true meaning of the season? Discern what it means to you to live out the Advent and Christmas season with integrity in your home or in your church. You don’t have to do everything listed below, but try at least the first step.

**First, go to God in prayer.** Give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus. Acknowledge to God how difficult it can be to keep the focus on the “reason for the season.” Ask for God’s guidance. Reflect in God’s presence on what is important to you about the season. Pray for those for whom this may be a difficult time of year. And then give this year’s season into God’s hands.

**Second, get together with your family** (or a friend, or if you work in a church have a staff meeting) and talk over what is good about your holiday traditions and what is not as good. Decide what really honors God’s great gift of Jesus Christ to us, and what does not. Don’t be surprised if you have different ideas about what belongs in each of these categories. Where there is common agreement that something needs to be changed or eliminated, make plans on how this is going to be accomplished. For example: Too many nights out? Agree to some criteria for making decisions on whether to go or not to go. Consider the following to get your focus:

- How does what we are doing square with our values and the fact that it is Jesus’ Birthday we would like to be celebrating?
- Evaluate past practices in light of these values.
- Make specific plans to redirect your practices to reflect these values.

**And what about gifts?** Here are guidelines that you might find helpful:

1. **GIVE TO THOSE JESUS CAME TO SERVE:** Jesus was quite clear that he had a special concern for those who lived on the edges of society and acceptability. So one way we might honor his gift to us is by diverting some of our Christmas dollars to help those in need. There is no lack of possibilities here. The Presbytery has some suggestions about supporting mission in Guatemala, Malawi, and within Western NC. You will also have ideas about gifts for those in your own community and neighborhood who are in need.

2. **GIVE YOURSELF:** This might be the most precious and difficult gift to give to someone you love. Giving your presence instead of presents. Giving time instead of trinkets. What could this look like? Spending additional time with God in prayer or worship this season as your gift to Christ. Volunteering with a mission in your church or community serving those in need. Really thinking through what your loved one might want, and it might mean that instead of going to a store or shopping online, you give them a coupon for cooking a meal, giving a back rub, providing free babysitting, or writing a poem or letter that tells them what you most appreciate about them. The possibilities are endless!
3. **BUY WITH CONSCIENCE:** Unfortunately we live in a world which can now produce goods that are inexpensive to purchase but which are, in fact, very expensive in terms of human life and environmental health. Many of the clothes we wear and the electronics that we use are made by people in other countries who are paid subsistence wages and work in inhuman conditions (seven days a week in factories where they are locked in, for instance). There are some wonderful gifts that you can buy, knowing that those who produced them are being treated with dignity. Two resources are listed below:
  - Visit shops operated by Ten Thousand Villages, a Christian ministry that works with cooperatives around the world. There are four in our area: Montreat (Montreat Conference Center); Asheville (10 College Street); Hickory (Unique World Gifts, 2751 North Center Street); Charlotte (Cotswold Village Shops, 300 S. Sharon Amity & Randolph).
  - Buy fair trade products, such as coffee, food, clothing, or other gifts via “Enough for Everyone” programs [www.pcusa.org/enough](http://www.pcusa.org/enough), or via one of the twenty global partners which are identified at [www.pcusa.org/globalmarketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/globalmarketplace) (look under “Global Marketplace” and click on “Shop the Global Marketplace” to see the list).

Alternative gift cards for some of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina’s missions are available through the presbytery office. Contact Lisa Pressley at 828-438-4217 ext. 12, or [lpressley@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:lpressley@presbyterywnc.org).

## Other helpful websites:

[www.newdream.org/resources/publications](http://www.newdream.org/resources/publications) Resources

[www.pcusa.org/justliving](http://www.pcusa.org/justliving) Ideas for reclaiming seasons

[www.pcusa.org/enough](http://www.pcusa.org/enough) “Enough for Everyone” resources  
(Presbyterian Coffee Project, Sweat-Free T-Shirts, Oikocredit, Global Marketplace, Electric Stewardship, Eco-palms)

[www.pcusa.org/globalmarketplace](http://www.pcusa.org/globalmarketplace) and under “Global Marketplace” click on “Shop the Global Marketplace” to view the list.

# Reclaiming Christmas

## Whose Birthday Is It, Anyway? Order form for 2017

A while back someone came up with three helpful gift-giving guidelines:

1. **GIVE TO THOSE JESUS CAME TO SERVE:** Although Jesus came for us all, his life and teachings reflect a special concern for those on the margins of society.
2. **GIVE YOURSELF:** This might be the most precious and difficult gift to give to someone you love. Your presence instead of presents. Your time instead of trinkets.
3. **BUY WITH CONSCIENCE:** There are some wonderful fair trade gifts that you can buy, knowing that those who produced them are being treated with dignity.



Each year the Presbytery highlights a few missions around the world where gifts would offer hope and help to those in need. The following pages describe these gifts for 2017.

For a sample packet of gift cards that support some of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina's missions, contact Lisa Pressley (828/438-4217 ext.12; [lpressley@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:lpressley@presbyterywnc.org)).

**Churches can order a sample set and multiple order cards to display. If a church is having an Alternative Gift Fair or an emphasis on "giving gifts that give twice," we can provide cards for display.** We do ask that, as much as possible, you order the number of cards you think your church will need; we will send more if you run out. Or you can take orders and we'll fill the order. Order forms can be used by individuals as well as congregations. **(If you have a color printer, you can also download the cards and inserts yourself from the presbytery website [www.presbyterywnc.org](http://www.presbyterywnc.org) and click on Reclaiming Christmas.)** Also, many of our churches simply print the inserts and use their own cards.

The sample order form below is for reproduction.

Please complete my order for the following Christmas cards  
(\$10 minimum gift for each card)

**For Malawi, Africa:**

\_\_\_\_ Building HOPE-Malawi  
(Supports Ebenezer School & Nkhoma Hospital)

**For Guatemala:**

\_\_\_\_ Microloan Project  
\_\_\_\_ Healthy Communities(water filters/stoves)  
\_\_\_\_ Building HOPE-Guatemala

**For Presbytery of WNC:**

\_\_\_\_ Building HOPE - for Camp Grier  
\_\_\_\_ Building HOPE – for Vital Churches

**For PC(USA):**

\_\_\_\_ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Please send my completed order to:

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of a question regarding your order, please provide a **Contact Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Instructions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Remit order form to:**

Lisa Pressley  
PWNC  
114 Silver Creek Rd  
Morganton, NC 28655  
[lpressley@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:lpressley@presbyterywnc.org)



Every Christmas the Presbytery of Western North Carolina offers “gifts that give twice” that both honor your family members and friends and help those with specific needs.

By supporting the mission programs of our Presbytery, you are, in fact, honoring the birth of Jesus, who came that all may have life, and have it abundantly. The following cards and card inserts supporting the stated ministry are available for 2017.

### Healthy Communities - Guatemala



Health Ministry remains an important part of our Presbytery Partnership with Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez

Presbyteries in Guatemala.

Family-sized water filters can be used for years by Guatemalans to provide pure water for drinking, thus avoiding diarrheal illnesses and nutritional problems that affect growth and school attendance in children.

Fuel-efficient stoves decrease the incidence of asthma and burns caused by cooking on indoor, unvented stoves. At the same time, families save money on fuel, and deforestation is lessened.

### Guatemala - Scholarships - Building HOPE



For 20+ years, churches in PWNC have provided scholarships to students in elementary, middle & high school. The Guatemala Partnership has now identified the importance of providing scholarships that will enable qualified young people to further their education at colleges and seminaries as a proven way to triumph over endemic poverty. The seminary scholarships will also provide new leadership in the churches and communities in Guatemala. This gift, through the Building HOPE Campaign, will make those scholarships possible.

### Vital Churches - Building HOPE

Since the Presbytery was formed, our purpose has been strengthening congregations and pastors to be witnesses to Jesus Christ. Many churches are struggling to address new needs. PWNC wants to be ready to help pastors and leaders make the best decisions possible in following God's will. Your gift will provide the necessary tools for exploring yet unknown areas of ministry, encourage bold thinking, and encourage intentional risk taking.



### Guatemala Microloan Project

The Guatemala Microloan Project is a joint project of Presbyterian Women from the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and Suchitepequez and Sur Occidente Presbyteries.

The goal of the project is to give women opportunities to grow in self-esteem, hope and freedom, and to develop sources of economic income for themselves and their families. Women, who receive training, are given small loans to embark on or expand business ventures.



In a short time, women who had never cashed a check or saved are learning financial and business skills. Women who never saved before are learning they can do this!



Every Christmas the Presbytery of Western North Carolina offers “gifts that give twice” that both honor your family members and friends and help those with specific needs.

By supporting the mission programs of our Presbytery, you are, in fact, honoring the birth of Jesus, who came that all may have life, and have it abundantly. The following cards and card inserts supporting the stated ministry are available for 2017.

### **Ebenezer School ~ Malawi - Building HOPE**



In Malawi, it is customary for a primary school classroom to have over 100 students, but no desks, no books, and no supplies. The Ebenezer School was

founded to offer quality education to children in the Nkhoma community, and the children of the Nkhoma Hospital staff. Ebenezer began with pre-K and has been adding grades yearly. Your gift through the Building HOPE Campaign will provide a reliable revenue stream for annual school operations and improvements.

### **Nkhoma Hospital - Malawi - Building HOPE**

Nkhoma Hospital is a large regional hospital of the Presbyterian Church in Malawi, Africa. Some say Malawi is the poorest country in the world. The hospital provides services in pediatrics, maternity, general medicine, and surgery. The hospital also provides needed care through 9 rural health clinics and a mobile health unit.

This gift through the Building HOPE Campaign will help the hospital continue its much needed ministry both in the hospital itself and out in the rural areas of Malawi.



### **Camp Grier**

At Camp Grier we believe challenge, adventure, and service to others are incredible tools that can help us to understand our faith in Christ, our world, and ourselves. We embrace challenge and adventure as an opportunity to grow closer to God and to our neighbors. Sure, we have a lot of fun along the way too; ask any of our summer campers! Our ultimate goal is to help young people develop those values described in Romans: endurance, character, and hope. Your gift will help a young person experience a life-changing week at Camp Grier.



### **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance enables congregations and mission partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. Through the actions of volunteer work teams, and the ministry of those offering hospitality and helping their communities to recover, we see the love of Christ at work.

Your gift will provide funding for the work of PDA, enabling immediate response to national and international disasters.



# ***Announcing the 2018 CE Spirituality Retreat***



***Lisle Gwynn  
Garrity  
Retreat Leader***

**March 9 & 10, 2018  
Bonclarken Conference Center, Flat Rock NC**

## ***Embodied Lenten Retreat***

*We often describe the season of Lent as a journey, one modeled after Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. During Jesus' time in the wilderness, we see not just a spiritual journey, but one requiring his physical, mental, and emotional strength. As God with us, he fully embodies both his humanity and divinity to counter evil and embark upon his ministry. Just as Jesus needed to fully integrate his humanity and divinity to fulfill his ministry, we, too, are called to integrate our whole selves to embody God's love in the world. Throughout this retreat, we'll explore what it means to embody Lenten themes and practices by engaging all of we are—our fears, hopes, hearts, intellects, bodies, and souls. We'll work toward personal and communal integration through creative exercises and activities you might bring home to enact in your own congregation.*



## About our retreat leader . . .

**Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, MDiv, MAPT**  
(pronounced like "Lyle")

As an artist, retreat leader, and creative entrepreneur, Lisle works with communities of all kinds across the nation. She is the founder and creative director of [A Sanctified Art LLC](#), a collaborative arts ministry providing multimedia resources for churches. As an ordained Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA), she approaches her work as an artist primarily through the lenses of pastor and theologian. Residing in Black Mountain, North Carolina, with her husband and pup, Max, she has a deep love for exploring mountains, creative opportunities of all kinds, and new ways to be church. Her work and writings have been featured in Reformed Worship, Call to Worship, NEXT Church, and Presbyterians Today.

**Watch for more information in the January Presbytery packet!**



**Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> - 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Please join us for a holiday open house and “gifting party” as we celebrate the closing ministry of the Jo Bales Gallagher Resource Center in Montreat. Light refreshments will be served.

***The resource center, located on the lower level of  
Moore Center at Montreat Conference Center,  
WILL CLOSE effective DECEMBER 31, 2017.***

As a parting gift to the wonderful patrons served since the center’s inception, and in an effort to be good stewards of the many valuable resources on hand, the center is **gifting** its books and media to members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please bring a tote or bag with you to expand your personal or church collection.

Contact Beverly Highland, Director, at 828/669-3600 with questions.





# **Upcoming Youth Events for PWNC**

## **November 10-12, 2017**

**Middle School Retreat**

**Camp Grier**

**Keynoter: Rev. Jason Myers, Chesnee, SC**

**Cost: \$90 per person (youth and adults)**

**Registration Form available [www.presbyterywnc.org](http://www.presbyterywnc.org)**

## **February 17th, 2018**

**Faith and Sexuality Retreat**

**Open to all 5th through 8th graders and their parents**

**Montreat, NC**

**Cost: \$10 per person**

## **March 16-17, 2018**

**High School Service Retreat**

**4H Camp at Black Mountain Home for Children**

**Led by the PYC and BMHC**

**Cost: \$25 per person**

## **April 28, 2018**

**Adventure Day!**

**Bring your middle and high school youth!**

**Camp Grier - Old Fort, NC**

**Cost: \$20 per person**

## **Summer 2018 (likely in July)**

**Mission Trip for BOTH middle and high school youth**

**Details to follow but the trip will be “local”**

**Somewhere in the southeastern USA**

**Cost: TBD**

# Middle School Retreat

## Nov. 10-12, 2017



**Registration deadline Nov. 3rd**  
**\$90/person (\$100 after Nov. 3rd)**

**Check-in begins at 6:00pm Friday**  
**in the dining hall. Dinner will begin**  
**at 6:30pm. The retreat concludes**  
**with Sunday morning worship. No**  
**lunch will be served on Sunday.**



**What to Bring:** Sleeping bag or bed  
 linens and pillow, towel and toiletries,  
 any medications, comfortable shoes  
 and clothes, Bible, flashlight, rain  
 gear, and offering for Sunday worship.

## Meet Jason Myers, Keynote Speaker

I am a beloved child of God who has been transformed by the Grace of God. An invitation for me to lead a youth mission trip in 2007 forever changed my life. As I repaired homes in Petersburg, VA, God was working on healing some of my own disrepair. I became fully convinced that God wanted me to be a leader in the church, and I stepped out in faith to answer the call to become a Minister in the PC(USA). I now serve as the pastor of Purity Presbyterian Church in Chester, South Carolina. I am deeply passionate about our need to act on the behalf of the "least of these," and I seek to empower others as they put their faith into action. My wife, Martha, and I have three children: Andrew (12), Chloe (11), and Benjamin (7). Our home is fiercely protected by Sasha, our adopted German Shepherd!



985 Camp Grier Rd, Old Fort, NC

Phone: (828) 668-7793.

**Directions:** From I-40, take Exit 73 to Old Fort. Head north and turn left onto Main Street (Hwy 70). Turn right onto Orchard Street then right onto Camp Grier Rd.

**Register**  
**By**  
**November 3**

Exodus 3: 1-16

Psalms 148: 1-14

**Picture This!**  
**Fun - Service - Music - Worship**

**Please complete form &  
mail with payment by  
November 3rd to:**

**Lisa Pressley  
PWNC  
114 Silver Creek Road  
Morganton, NC 28655**

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Females:

Youth #: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Adult #: \_\_\_\_\_

Males:

Youth #: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Adult #: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Adult-Youth ratio for each gender is 1:6. Smaller churches may partner to meet this requirement. Contact Beth Gunn (beth.gunn@gmail.com) for assistance.*

**Group leaders should collect & maintain any permission forms (medical release, etc.) required by your home church.**

## PWNC Middle School Retreat Registration Form

For each participant please list **name** and indicate **gender** and **age group** followed by any **dietary restrictions** including allergies. Please attach additional sheets for larger groups.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Y / A

Dietary: \_\_\_\_\_



***Created by MinistrytoYouth.com***

## **Youth Group Lesson on Growing Your Relationship with God**

**Bible Passage: Luke 10:38-42**

### **Activity: What's Your Schedule?**

Divide students into groups of 3-5.

Give each small group a large sheet of butcher paper.

Ask leaders to write the days of the week (Sunday-Saturday) along the top of the butcher paper.

Instruct the small groups to talk about their weekly "schedule."

Have students write their daily chores and activities on the schedule under the particular day.

Encourage them to think of things like school, sports, homework, chores, family time, getting ready, etc.

*The point of the activity is to get a visual representation of the extremely busy schedules we all have.*

After the activities have been listed on the butcher paper, allow groups to share some of the activities with the entire youth group.

**After the activity, say:**

We all have some really busy schedules.

From the time we wake up to the time we go to bed, we have to go-go-go to get it all done.

Do you ever feel like you're going to forget to do something you're supposed to do or be somewhere that you're supposed to be? Do you ever get tired?

All of these things are good things.

We have to do chores around the house, go to school, eat, and shower (hopefully)....right?

And it's a great thing to be able to play sports, play an instrument, spend time with friends, and all those things, right?

These are all good things, but sometimes we get so busy with good things that we miss out on some great things.

Let's read the story of 2 sisters, Mary and Martha.

**Read Luke 10:38-40**

While Jesus and his followers were traveling, Jesus went into a town. A woman named Martha let Jesus stay at her house. Martha had a sister named Mary, who was sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to him teach. But Martha was busy with all the work to be done. She went in and said, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me alone to do all the work? Tell her to help me."

**Say:**

Jesus was very close to Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. Jesus loved them enough to decide to come to their home and spend time with them.

Can you imagine if Jesus was coming over to your house? Do you think your parents would make you clean up if Jesus were coming over?

Probably so, and this is exactly what Martha was doing. She wanted everything to be just right for such a special guest.

Martha was very busy playing hostess. She had to cook. She had to clean. She had to make sure everyone had a place to sit down and relax.

She had to make sure that there was water and towels to wash everyone's feet. The list went on and on.

There was just so much to do!

Meanwhile, her sister Mary is not doing anything to help her!

She's just sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him talk and teach.

You can imagine how this made Martha feel. She was MAD! In fact, she's so mad that she goes to Jesus and tattles on Mary.

She says, "Make her help me!" Now, listen to how Jesus responds to Martha.

## **Read Luke 10:41-42**

**But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and upset about many things. Only one thing is important. Mary has chosen the better thing, and it will never be taken away from her."**

## **Say:**

Jesus understood why Martha was so upset. He understood why she was working so hard to make everything right.

But Jesus wanted Martha to see that there was something more important. She was doing good things, but she had missed out on the most important thing.

The most important thing is spending time with Jesus. Just like Martha, we can get so busy with other things that we miss out on the most important thing, spending time with Jesus.

In our busy lives, we need to focus on spending some time with Jesus.

You still need to do those other things, especially the things you're asked to do by parents or teachers.

However, we need to be sure that we make time in our schedule to meet with God.

He loves us and wants to speak to us, so we need to take the time to listen.

Jesus told Martha that Mary had "chosen what was better."

Mary has chosen to spend time with Jesus so that she could learn and grow closer to Him.

Jesus wants us to choose time with Him over anything else. This is the most important thing.

We can get busy doing lots of important things, but we need to make sure that we remember the main thing.

The main thing is spending time with Him and growing in our relationship with Him.

Spending time with God is a choice.

Just like we put all our other activities on the calendar, we need to set a time to meet with God.

Whether it is in the morning or evening, in the car or in our room, with our parents or by ourselves, find time to spend with God and grow in your relationship with Him.

**Discuss the following questions in small groups:**

- Was the work Martha was doing a “bad thing”? How did Jesus respond to her work and her complaining?
- What was the “one thing” that Mary did? How did Jesus respond to Mary?
- How does spending time with someone (God) show your love for them?
- Which personality are you more like: the to-do list Martha or the laid-back Mary?
- If Jesus spent a day at your house, what would be some things He might say are distracting you from spending time with God?
- What are some ways or activities you can do to spend time with God?

**Optional Activity: Make Time for God**

Take another look at the schedule created in the opening activity.

Give students time to think about the places in their schedule that they would make time for God.

Encourage them to think hard about a consistent time that they could spend with Him.

It may mean they wake up 10 minutes earlier or spend less time on fun things, but encourage them to make time for God.

At the end of the discussion, give each student an index card and have them write down their chosen time.

Ask them to place the card in a visible place to remind them of their commitment to spending time with God this week.

If students have a smartphone (who doesn't these days), lead them to set a calendar reminder on their phones.

This is a great way to help them remember the main thing!

Finance Committee  
Charles Sellers - Chair  
October 24, 2017

For information only the Finance Committee presents:

- ◆ The ‘Operating Budget Summary’ of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of September 30, 2017, BB-2.

For the complete financial statements contact the Presbytery office at 828/438-4217 or [lpresley@presbyterywnc.org](mailto:lpresley@presbyterywnc.org)



**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY  
AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2017**

ACCOUNT	2017 ANNUAL BUDGET	2017 YTD BUDGET	2017 YTD ACTUAL	% OF Annual Budget	2016 YTD ACTUAL	2015 YTD ACTUAL	2014 YTD ACTUAL	2013 YTD ACTUAL	2012 YTD ACTUAL
<b>INCOME:</b>									
Unified Giving from churches	\$789,099	\$591,824	<b>\$534,984</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>\$576,450</b>	\$492,745	\$524,582	\$518,067	\$510,927
Work of Presbytery only-churches	3,750	2,813	<b>3,000</b>	<b>80.0%</b>	<b>3,750</b>	1,500	1,100	11,883	18,958
Other income	48,250	36,188	<b>20,350</b>	<b>42.2%</b>	<b>27,300</b>	12,500	42,479	12,500	11,333
Anticipated Grants/Income	1,500	1,125	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>17,489</b>	14,417	4,187	5,239	0
Designated NCD Income	15,000	11,250	<b>26,632</b>	<b>177.5%</b>	<b>24,065</b>	13,101	32,090	37,330	63,149
Other NCD Income	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	0	33,385	25,249	23,036
Income from Building HOPE	20,500	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
Income from Investment(3%)	72,324	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
Add'l I/C from Investment	48,216	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0
Recovery-Admin Commission/Legal	50,000	37,500	<b>43,680</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	<b>0</b>	0	25,415	0	8,768
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$1,048,639</u></b>	<b><u>\$680,699</u></b>	<b><u>\$628,646</u></b>	<b><u>59.9%</u></b>	<b><u>\$649,054</u></b>	<b><u>\$534,262</u></b>	<b><u>\$663,238</u></b>	<b><u>\$610,268</u></b>	<b><u>\$636,170</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>									
General Assembly Per Capita/Unified Giving	\$175,000	\$131,250	<b>\$118,644</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>\$127,992</b>	\$109,780	\$113,739	\$113,402	\$105,185
Synod Per Capita	12,438	9,329	<b>8,433</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>9,346</b>	7,692	8,149	7,806	8,439
Institutions & Agencies	6,000	4,500	<b>4,068</b>	<b>67.8%</b>	<b>4,388</b>	3,659	3,791	3,780	5,259
Outreach/Mission Development	\$28,250	21,188	<b>9,493</b>	<b>33.6%</b>	<b>9,568</b>	13,393	15,723	16,870	16,974
Congregational Development	39,012	29,259	<b>24,074</b>	<b>61.7%</b>	<b>23,997</b>	30,553	31,063	28,406	45,585
Conover NCD	15,000	11,250	<b>19,687</b>	<b>131.2%</b>	<b>23,192</b>	13,059	72,989	75,829	77,066
Leadership Development	21,700	16,275	<b>966</b>	<b>4.5%</b>	<b>(677)</b>	3,221	5,505	3,426	6,463
Youth Ministries	18,400	13,800	<b>11,436</b>	<b>62.2%</b>	<b>17,181</b>	361	4,961	9,467	4,505
Committee on Ministry	4,400	3,300	<b>3,681</b>	<b>83.7%</b>	<b>2,868</b>	2,945	4,479	5,661	6,710
Preparation for Ministry	5,500	4,125	<b>1,908</b>	<b>34.7%</b>	<b>2,165</b>	3,529	3,381	2,962	2,693
General Council	5,717	4,288	<b>2,989</b>	<b>52.3%</b>	<b>2,839</b>	29,314	25,612	2,591	2,724
Nominating/Representation	700	525	<b>230</b>	<b>32.9%</b>	<b>238</b>	267	87	83	485
Finance	53,750	40,313	<b>48,450</b>	<b>90.1%</b>	<b>44,358</b>	34,783	29,875	26,368	28,985
Personnel	528,472	396,354	<b>366,541</b>	<b>69.4%</b>	<b>348,057</b>	319,867	321,831	312,646	329,047
Search	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>296</b>	96	0	33	0
Joint Outdoor Ministries	25,000	18,750	<b>18,750</b>	<b>75.0%</b>	<b>18,750</b>	35,000	30,000	40,000	30,000
Permanent Judicial	500	375	<b>0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>213</b>	1,298	0	0	0
Supplies, Equip, Serv/Comm	41,300	30,975	<b>25,928</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>27,091</b>	27,288	29,822	28,344	28,127
Stated Clerk	14,000	10,500	<b>8,495</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>5,692</b>	8,410	4,585	4,306	6,231
Administrative Commissions	3,500	2,625	<b>904</b>	<b>25.8%</b>	<b>5,339</b>	5,513	15,619	9,381	792
Legal Fees	50,000	37,500	<b>43,680</b>	<b>87.4%</b>	<b>54,925</b>	22,043	62,120	9,585	18,596
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>\$1,048,639</u></b>	<b><u>\$786,479</u></b>	<b><u>\$718,358</u></b>	<b><u>68.5%</u></b>	<b><u>\$727,817</u></b>	<b><u>\$672,074</u></b>	<b><u>\$783,332</u></b>	<b><u>\$700,946</u></b>	<b><u>\$723,864</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>		<b><u>(\$105,780)</u></b>	<b><u>(89,711)</u></b>		<b><u>(\$78,763)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$137,812)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$120,094)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$90,678)</u></b>	<b><u>(\$87,695)</u></b>



BH-1

# BUILDING H.O.P.E.

## *Making a Difference Now and in the Future*

**Thank you for your contributions to the Building HOPE Ministry Campaign! We believe that this was God's call for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and continue to see signs of that as we are already making a difference.**



We celebrate that Camp Grier is thriving and we have been able to support them in that effort. They have grown by 30% in campers in the last three year, 10% a year! Thanks to Building HOPE, they now have canoes and equipment, new trails for bikes and horses, trail creating equipment, updated lodges, and program support. Their vision is to be a premier Christian Adventure Camp, with a service component. This last quarter, we have contributed money for canoes, equipment, and lodge renovation.



In Malawi, the Building HOPE Mobile Health Unit is having a significant impact on the health of people in rural areas. For many, it is too far to walk to come to the hospital, or because of the distance and cost people wait until a child or adult is too sick, and sometimes they die as a result. The Mobile Health Unit goes to the people. It provides vaccines, medicine, baby well-checks, prenatal guidance, preventive care, early Malaria medicine, etc. If a patient needs to go to the hospital, it will also provide transportation.



To further help those who are in rural areas, two rural health clinics have been updated by the mission team and Malawi workers. These two clinics, in addition to seven others, serve about 300,000 people. In the last quarter, the hospital desperately needed medicines. PWNC was able to send \$27,000 for medicine, \$20,000 of which was from Building Hope. Now that Barbara Nagy has returned to

Morganton, we are excited to announce that another very capable doctor, Dr. Martha Sommers, will be going to Nkhoma Hospital.



We are beginning to explore ways to support the Ebenezer School in Nkhoma. This school, which we were instrumental in starting, now has 340 children! Next Spring, Chrissie Mbewe, the principal of the school, will be coming to our Presbytery to speak to us about the wonderful things they are doing at Ebenezer. Chrissie has good English and we are looking forward to you meeting her.





Since our partnership began with Guatemala, our churches have been sending down about \$100,000 annually to fund elementary and secondary scholarships and expenses. Several years ago, a team of educators developed a plan for education in these presbyteries. They had no hope of funding it. With the Building HOPE Ministry Campaign, we now have six college scholarships to help those who graduate. We are also funding seminaries, so there will be enough pastors to serve all the churches. Recently, we received plans from the seminaries in our two presbyteries. Suchitepequez is focusing on both the theological/Biblical seminary subjects and community development curriculum. Sur Occidente is focusing more on the typical seminary subjects, as well as continuing education. Both are actively teaching new pastors.

Also in Guatemala, books are being put in the schools and communities. Teachers and other adults are taught about reading to kids and how to use the libraries. Exciting things are happening! This last quarter, we were able to send Amanda Flayer, Director of The Open Door (a library for children) and an education specialist, into the schools in Guatemala to help teachers and administrators learn new educational models. She led workshops on creative literacy activities which can be used in the classrooms.



The Vital Church funds are just beginning to be utilized. A small amount of scholarship money was used to subsidize pastors attending the Pastor's Retreat in Montreat, held late September for renewal and rest. Plans are underway to assist churches moving into the future using Adaptive Change, and training pastors/elders to work with church renewal through a partnership with PneuMatrix and the Presbyterian Foundation.



***We are excited about the things that are happening in PWNC. We may never hear about the child's life that was saved because of medicine received at Nkhoma. We might not know that a future leader in Guatemala had a college scholarship from Western North Carolina. We may never hear about the person that was called into ministry at Camp Grier or the pastor that got a chance to talk to colleague at a retreat and decided to stay in the ministry as a result. What we do is in God's hands. In all of this, we do give thanks that we can see many other ways the Spirit is working because there are Building HOPE funds available. Thanks be to God, and you!***



## Building H.O.P.E. Financial Statement

**H** Health Care (Malawi) - **O** Outdoor Adventures (Camp Grier) - **P** Partnered Growth (Vital Churches) - **E** Education (Guatemala)  
As of September 30, 2017

Campaign Totals	Ministry details			
	Malawi	Camp Grier	Vital Churches	Guatemala
<b>Pledged</b>				
Campaign Target	<b>\$1,843,121.06</b>	<b>\$369,486.65</b>	<b>\$356,381.23</b>	<b>\$290,991.68</b>
% of Target	\$2,250,000.00 81.9%	\$500,500.00 73.8%	\$509,500.00 69.9%	\$240,000.00 121.2%
<b>Collected Pledges</b>	<b>\$1,475,065.39</b>	<b>\$284,127.40</b>	<b>\$281,383.63</b>	<b>\$275,320.90</b>
<b>Uncollected Pledges</b>	<b>\$368,055.67</b>	<b>\$85,359.25</b>	<b>\$74,997.60</b>	<b>\$15,670.78</b>
Campaign Expenses	\$104,485.44	\$20,126.01	\$19,931.65	\$19,502.20
<b>Ministry Utilization To Date</b>				
Camp Grier (trail development) 2015	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00		
Camp Grier (equipment) 2016	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00		
Camp Grier (equip/lodge/reno/pgrm) 2016	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00		
Camp Grier (trails/lodge reno/pgrm) 2016	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00		
Camp Grier (cabin reno) 2017	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00		
Camp Grier (canoes) 2017	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00		
Sur Occidente (Theological Education) 2016	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
Suchitepequez (Theological Education) 2016	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00
Sur Occidente (University Scholarships) 2016	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
Suchitepequez (University Scholarships) 2016	\$3,000.00			\$3,000.00
Suchitepequez (Theological Education) 2017	\$5,000.00			\$5,000.00
A Flayer (Teacher/Parent Formation) 2017	\$1,503.00			\$1,503.00
WEM-Hamburg (mobile health unit purchase) 2016	\$30,696.00			
Nkhoma Hospital (mobile health unit upkeep) 2016	\$4,100.00			
Nkhoma Hospital (medicine) 2016	\$10,000.00			
Nkhoma Hospital (rural health clinic) 2017	\$25,100.00			
Nkhoma Hospital (medicine) 2017	\$20,000.00			
<b>Total Ministry Utilization</b>	<b>\$242,899.00</b>	<b>\$137,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$15,503.00</b>
<b>Balance Available for Requests</b>	<b>\$1,127,680.95</b>	<b>\$126,501.39</b>	<b>\$261,451.97</b>	<b>\$240,315.69</b>

## **General Presbyter Report**

### **Bobbi White, General Presbyter**

*Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he said this, he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22*

**Being "sent" means we go with God's love and the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Spirit is often working ahead of us.** Jesus breathed on the disciples and said receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus gave the Holy Spirit to us like he did to the disciples. He does not send us out alone. The Holy Spirit is at work - sometimes in "Holy Coincidences." Thanksgiving is coming soon, and it is good for us to reflect on and give thanks for the way the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst.

Ask the four Pastor Nominating Committees who recently called new pastors if they felt the Holy Spirit at work in their search process. They would answer with a resounding yes. Serving on a Pastor Nominating Committee can be a very spiritual experience when you sense the Spirit's guidance. Also, ask the new pastors (Richard Coble to Grace Covenant, Janet DeWater to Mount Holly, Chris Vogado to New Hope (Gastonia) and Jill Isola to Northminster). We welcome these wonderful new pastors to our presbytery!

Montreat Presbyterian Church could see the Spirit at work in their lives as they celebrated their 10 year anniversary of rebirth and commitment to the PCUSA. They have felt the Spirit's guidance, even in the beginning, when they had to worship in a different place every Sunday with a different preacher. One Sunday in cold November, they worshiped in the Montreat barn, which had no heat. They were wrapped in blankets to keep warm. During their first years, they were called the tailgate church, because everything needed for Sunday was kept in the trunks of various people's cars. I am sure some wondered about what the future would bring. Last Wednesday evening, the church had a wonderful anniversary celebration with food, great fun and fellowship. They shared what was and the future they were anticipating. They now worship every Sunday in the renovated Upper Anderson building. Their ministry is both local and global. They gave \$10,000 to a Black Mountain day care in thanks to God for their 10 years. They were thankful for the many ways that God has blessed them over the last ten years, and they look forward to where the Spirit will lead them in the coming years.

This month has been one of several anniversaries. Clinchfield Presbyterian Church in Marion celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on October 1. Melvin Mears, presbytery moderator-elect, presented them with a certificate and thanked them for the ministry that the church has provided. Growing spiritually is important and they share a weekly Bible study. This summer, Clinchfield served as one of the sites where children were given food so they would not go hungry over the summer.

Newland celebrated their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a Saturday evening picnic on the greens and Sunday worship. The church was full of wonderful pictures telling the church history. It started with a pastor that walked or rode horseback over the mountain from Banner Elk and purchased the land for \$40. The church has been reaching out in the community and growing in faith and new membership. There was a great spirit in the church and renewed energy to share the gospel of Christ to their community.

Sometimes the Spirit is ahead of us suggesting future things and new ways to reach out. At Sherrill's Ford, they did not have many children. In spite of that, one of the pastors said they wanted to start a children's program during church. They were ready. One Sunday, a family with five children attended. The choir members welcomed them back to the children's program. Another person came to work in the nursery. Now they have that program ready for young families and can visit those that have attended and invite them to come back.

I attended the middle school/high school youth rally at Montreat. There were about 170 youth present. Energizers, music, recreation, and small groups were led by the Presbyterian Youth Council (PYC) made up of youth from all over the Presbytery. Lisle Gwynn gave a wonderful keynote address and then led us in creating an art piece together as we reflected on Christ's love for us. PWNC combined the middle school and high school so churches without many youth could combine their groups. This opened the rally to more small youth groups. I give thanks for Beth Gunn, our Associate for Youth, the Presbytery Youth Committee, the adults that work with the PYC, and the PYC group. Bring your youth to the Middle School Retreat in November at Camp Grier. If you have not been to a Presbytery-sponsored youth event, you are missing out!

The Mayland Fellowship (Mitchell, Avery, and Yancey counties) churches met to hear music of Maggie Lauterer and Zack Allen. They gave scholarships of \$700 each to five students. In addition, they had several churches tell of their ministry. Micaville, Grassy Creek, and Newdale described how their original ministry of taking food to the elderly on weekends had also turned into providing food to 70 to 100 families on Fridays. What excited them most was that members from all three churches work together along with people from the community. This adventure started through a Small Church grant called "Water to Wine," which is available for new ideas of how to reach out in your community.

I also give thanks for our partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation. Several years ago, they sponsored two years of quarterly forums for our small membership churches. Recently, Olanda Carr and Paul Grier led a forum on "who is your neighbor and how do you reach out," "what is the state of the church today?" and "how to foster a culture of generosity." One participant said this was one of most valuable things he had attended.

We also give thanks to the Foundation for partnering with us on a pilot project with PneuMatrix to work with eight of our churches. This will give eight churches a chance to look at their gifts and to reflect on where God is leading them in the future. This will focus on spiritual, financial, energy capabilities and strengthening. Come find out more at lunch at the presbytery meeting. Perhaps your church will be interested. A second opportunity is for people to serve as apprentices and walk alongside a church. You can also find out more about that at the presbytery meeting.

Several weeks ago, we celebrated World Communion Sunday. I give thanks for the ministry God has called us to do and the impact that it is having in the world. God calls us to be involved in the world and the Spirit goes before us.

In Malawi, the Holy Spirit has expanded our ministry such that when Barbara Nagy came back to the states, our relationship continued to be strong with the school, hospital and its rural clinics. This past two



years, we have sent a vehicle to be used as a mobile health clinic and helped to update two rural clinics. We have also added other ministries, like the seminary.

In Malawi, we are making a difference in the lives of children and adults through our work at the hospital and school. If we doubt our call there, the Spirit continues to speak through Holy coincidence. Last year on a Friday, we got a panic email from the hospital. The government check for \$60,000 had bounced and the hospital did not have money to pay its staff for the next month, beginning that Monday. They would need \$25,000. Thanks to the gifts from the churches, we were able to wire \$17,000 that day. On Monday, we received \$5,000 from an estate designated for Malawi. We also got \$3,000 from a couple in Montreat that said God had told them to send the money to the Presbytery for Malawi. The remaining money sent totaled \$25,000. A Holy coincidence.

Something similar also happened last month. Between Building HOPE and money from churches, we were able to send down the \$27,000 needed. We don't know the number of lives saved or children that were able to regain their health because of the medicine, the updated rural clinics, and the mobile health unit. God knows and God cares, and we are privileged to be a part of God's work.

The Spirit continues to work among us. We thought there was no doctor to replace Dr. Barbara Nagy, and now, Dr. Martha Sommers, an experienced doctor who had earlier worked at the other Presbyterian hospitals in Malawi, will be going to Nkhoma Hospital in early 2018. Another answered prayer!

In Guatemala, we see the Spirit working in many places. Each year, this Presbytery sends about \$100,000 to Guatemala for elementary and secondary scholarships. Now, thanks to you and gifts to Building HOPE, we have college scholarships and support for seminarians and books in the schools. Also as a part of Presbyterian Women, there are women getting loans and learning about their self-worth. Imagine the difference it makes in a woman's life when she can earn enough money to send her children to school and have food for them to eat. The Spirit is making a difference and allowing us to participate. You are reaching out from your church as a part of our work together in Guatemala.

Several months ago, I was in Taiwan with John McCall a mission coworker from this presbytery, traveling with pastors and elders, including some from Shelby and Newton. In Taiwan, only about 4% are Christian and about a third of those are Presbyterian. Over and over again, we were thanked for how the Presbyterians had supported the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan and for the positive impact the PCUSA is having now. Until you are traveling through the world, you do not realize the positive impact of our denomination.

John McCall is working with the pastors for spiritual development across Taiwan. He is teaching in the seminaries, speaking at youth events, and creating support groups for pastors. He is even teaching in mainland China at a seminary several weeks a year.

We met Libunu, an openly Christian aboriginal principal of a large elementary school in Taipei. Having a Christian principal is rare. He is a witness to his faith in Christ at his school, and he is bringing the values of God's love for all people into the school. He was emphasizing that each child was precious and no child is to be put aside. The teachers and head of the PTA spoke of how he has changed the atmosphere of the school. Another Christian principal of a high school of several thousand students told

how the pastors in her neighborhood had walked the streets around the school and prayed that a Christian principal would be hired for that school.

Being sent means that we trust and give thanks that the Holy Spirit is leading us, even when we cannot know the outcome. We might not know about your church's witness and the difference it makes in the life of a child or adult, or the difference a youth rally may make. We might not hear about the pastor, who committed her life to Christ at Camp Grier. We will never hear the stories about children that survived and grew to become adults because of the Nkhoma Hospital or the updated rural clinics. We might not know that a future leader will come from the Ebenezer School that we started in Malawi or from a child with a scholarship in Guatemala. We won't know about the parents or teachers that became Christian because of Libunu's witness in Taiwan. We may also not tell the story of how we were changed because of the people we meet and the work the Spirit calls us to do. We might not know about this church's witness and the difference it make in the life or a child or youth. The Holy Spirit goes ahead of us. Sometimes we can see the result, and at others times, we are called to simply follow and only God will know the results or see the harvest.

We give thanks that God sends each of us, our churches, and this Presbytery to our unique ministries with our unique gifts for God's work and that the Spirit goes with us each day. Christ calls each of us and this church, and sends us out to do ministry and witness in his name.

Peace,

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



# 240<sup>th</sup> SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 240<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY

### SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2017

While Commissioners were departing their homes destined for Synod Assembly, Caribbean Islands had been devastated by Hurricane Irma. So we prayed before we left, we prayed as we traveled, and we prayed as the Assembly convened. Friday prior to the hurricane, Mid-Atlantic leadership talked with leadership in the Synod of the South Atlantic to offer our prayers and support.



**Attacking Critical Issues** - The traditional large rectangle table setting was replaced with single tables in order to create small groups so that dialogue would be optimized. Urgent issues to be addressed included White Privilege, Racism and Hate Groups. Presentations by four individuals whose feet were on the ground during the August 12, 2017 rally where White Supremacist, Neo-Nazis, and Hate Groups marched in Charlottesville, VA, gave substance to the critical conversations. In addition, the Assembly resumed responding to the 239<sup>th</sup> Assembly Ted Talks and engaged in discussions to further “Brand” the synod with a compelling vision.

These courageous exchanges prepared commissioners to experiment with imagining a synod mission that exudes energy and vision. Presbyterians ended two days of very heavy lifting by participating in the Washington Office Press Conference via Facebook live to advocate for a fair and just 2018 Federal Budget. The synod’s statement was presented by the Rev. Kevin Powell.

**And Then There Was Charlottesville** – Moderator Alice Tewell reminded commissioners of their Christian responsibility to stand together, advocate and take risks for the vulnerable. She introduced guests who were each given 10-minutes to share their August 12, 2017 Charlottesville encounter. Rev. Ken Henry, Pastor Westminster Presbyterian Church Charlottesville, shared that the city has become a symbol of racism. Residents feel badly about this stigma. Leading up to the Charlottesville Rally was a July 8<sup>th</sup> event where the KKK marched in the city parks. Ken witnessed Neo Nazis, KKK and other hate groups; people beating each other and bleeding; looks of hate on people’s faces. What he thought to be the National Guard instead were Neo-Nazis in military gear. Young sons marching alongside their fathers appeared to be primed and ready to escalate violence. The decisive message from Ken is we must educate our children at an early age about the effects of hatred and violence so not to encourage future events such as Charlottesville. Ken said, *“Whenever you push this kind of hatred and violence out into the street, someone is bound to die.”*



Rev. Elaine Ellis Thomas is Associate Rector at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church and is also Co-convenor of the Charlottesville Clergy Collective, a group started by an African American clergy to meet with other pastors for mutual support. On August 11<sup>th</sup>, a mass prayer meeting was hosted where 700 people attended including Cornell West, Tracy Blackman, students and rabbis. Attendees at the prayer meeting feared violence as hate groups congregated outside of the church. The day of the KKK rally, the Clergy Collective gathered and marched to Justice Park. Elaine realized the need to be available to people who were physically and emotionally attacked. People were being traumatized. City council has since voted to take

down the civil war memorial. Elaine's hope is that Charlottesville will be known as the place where change came. As hundreds of young persons approached a group she was leading and as the young persons recognized the clergy by their dress, Elaine said that the young people shouted, "*The Clergy are here, the Clergy are here.*" They were excited to see the clergy and the church present in the midst of this real life struggle.



Mrs. Lana Heath de Martinez is the Welcoming All Coordinator and Mrs. Kim Bobo is Executive Director of the VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy. While attending a service on August 11, 2017 in Charlottesville, worshippers were alerted that there were people

outside with Tiki Torches threatening violence. Hate groups are slated to come to Richmond September 16, 2017. De Martinez has been doing outreach to churches in the area to become a safe place for water, mental health care, spiritual care etc. There will be a peace rally at Maggie Walker Monument and then a march to announce that RVA is united against hate and will have a call to action to be distributed. She asked Commissioners to become activists. She challenged churches to provide fellowship and purpose to the youth in order to see a positive cultural shift. This will help prevent our youth from joining these terrorists groups. Kim Bobo stated, "*I was unprepared for Charlottesville.*" She had never seen this level of hatred and violence. She commended the faithfulness of the religious community as amazing. She suggested the next steps for her organization might include Passing Legislations for immigrants – give them driver's license; Instate Tuition for Dreamers; Forming a commission on racial justice, truth and reconciliation (like in Greensboro); Criminal Justice reform; Wage theft reform-getting rid of Jim Crow language in major labor laws and Push the VA Delegate commissioner for a new dream act.

**Stated Clerk/Executive** reported that the Synod Stated Clerk drafted a statement condemning White Supremacist, Neo-Nazis and all hate groups in response to Charlottesville, VA on August 11-12, 2017. The statement was sent to presbytery stated clerks/executives, synod commissioners and across the denomination. Silence should never be the response of Presbyterians in matters of this nature. He led the Assembly in recalling September 11, 2001. Additional matters addressed in his report included four complaints of The Permanent Judicial Commission has four complaints and the Hurricanes Harvey & Irma, the Mexico City Earthquake and the Peace and Global Witness Offerings related to the Freedom Rising Initiative. Warren is an elected member of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. Many presbyteries are experiencing staff transitions. NC Presbyteries are hosting the GA Stated Clerk for worship, lunch and conversations. He introduced three resources being used across the church to address White Privilege, Race and Reconciliation. They include *Tears We Cannot Stop – Michael Eric Dyson*, *Waking Up White – Debby Irving* and *30 Days with the Belhar Confession*.



## GRANTS AWARDED

**Grants and Awards Committee** approved six requests totaling \$22,827.00 to the following church bodies. Covenant PC, (BAL) for handicap bathroom amounting \$3,800.00; Dulatown PC, (WNC) for renovation of food pantry amounting \$3,800.00; Ginter Park PC, (JAM) for kitchen ADA Compliance amounting \$3,800.00; Milner Memorial PC, (NHO) for replacing Church doors amounting \$3,800.00; Ninevah PC (SHE) for replacing roof and manse repairs amounting \$3,800.00; St Paul PC (SAL) for a new roof amounting \$3,800.00; and a Peacemaking Grant awarded to the Synod to form a Special Administrative Review Commission to address the conflict in AKAP in the amount of \$25,000.00.










**Kate Bitting Reynolds Trust Fund Committee** awarded 438 Honorable Retired Teaching Elders a total of \$574,575.00. Each certified minister received a distribution of \$1,311.82.

**Jubilee Grant Fund Committee** approved seven applications totaling \$17,500.00. The awardees included Cameron PC Summer Camp (SAL), \$2,500; Carver Memorial PC (EVA), African American Leadership Development to Address Hunger, \$2,500; Community PC (NEW), The Journey-A Path of Discipleship, \$2,500; Faith Point Fellowship, (SAL) Faith Point Fellowship Internship, \$2,500; Presbyterian Campus Ministry at NCCU, \$2,500.00; Silver Hill PC (CCC), Youth Evangelism Project, \$2,500; and The Fellowship Place (CHA) Real Talk, \$2,500.

**Presbytery Initiatives Committee** approved four grants totaling \$12,312.00. The applications include Authentic Parenting Retreat from James and New Hope Presbyteries \$2,156.00; Charlotte Youth Ministry Consortium from Charlotte and New Hope Presbyteries, \$2,156.00; Mid-Atlantic Black Caucus Youth Retreat, \$4,000.00; and Synod Presbyterian Men's Council Mission Trip to Kenya, \$4,000.00.

## **COMMITTEES REPORTING**

**Nominations Committee** asks for presbytery's assistance in filling the following vacancies.

-  Abingdon Vacancies: Nominating, Jubilee and Speer Trust
-  AKAP Vacancies: Jubilee, Representation and Speer Trust
-  Baltimore Vacancies: Nominating and Speer Trust
-  Coastal Carolina Vacancies: Representation and Jubilee
-  Eastern Virginia Vacancies: Representation, Speer Trust, Nomination and Jubilee
-  James Vacancies: Jubilee Fund
-  National Capital Vacancies: Representation
-  Peaks Vacancies: Representation
-  Salem Vacancies: Speer Trust

**Committee on Representation** reported that the synod is reviewing the practices of several presbyteries that have chosen to consolidate the duties of Representation with the duties of the Nominations Committee. It urges presbyteries to provide training opportunities to equip persons to serve as committee leaders. Funding was provided in the 2018 budget to allow the COR to meet for two days in order to complete its work.

**Finance Committee** reported that the Cherry Bekaert Firm stated favorable findings of the synod audit ending December 31, 2016. Presbyteries are to be commended for submitting per capita consistently. The 2018 Operating Budget was approved totaling \$261,171.32. Using a percentage from the synod board designated funds capital gains and interest income; the 2017 and 2018 operating budgets were balanced without drawing down synod reserves. Baltimore COLA, chaired by Rev. Carrie Finch Burriss, presented a financial request to help host the 2020 General Assembly. This item was tabled until the March Assembly.

**Administration Committee** reported that the Presbytery Minutes Review for 2017 is complete. Presbytery minutes were not received from AKAP and most presbyteries do not have in place a Child Protection Policy which was mandated by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly of the PCUSA. The By-Laws of Westminster Presbyterian Homes, Inc. were approved along with Rev. H. Carson Rhyne, Jr., to serve on its board. The Annual Review of the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk was conducted. The committee recommended that the Synod Moderator appoint a committee to oversee a comprehensive review of the synod and its bylaws and to hire a consultant to assist. The dates for 2018 Assemblies are March 12-13, 2018 and September 10-11, 2018. Beginning 2019, one assembly will be held Mon-Tue and the other will be held Fri-Sat.

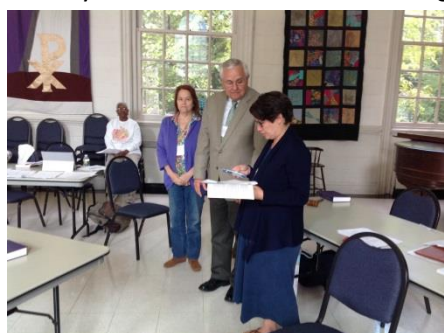
**Appreciation Expressed** – Nearly one-half of commissioners will end service to the synod in 2017. The synod is grateful to commissioners and committee moderators who served unselfishly in promoting the mission and ministry throughout the region. Moderator Tewell presented certificates to those whose terms will end. Vice Moderator Richard Claterbaugh presented the Moderator with a gift and certificate of service from the synod for her leadership for the past year.

**A Compelling Vision** - Rev. Jim Moseley challenged commissioners to reimagine the synod. What is God calling the synod to be at this time and who is it that the synod is called to serve? He challenged the assembly to be creative and imaginative in their thinking. What are our Ted Talk take-a-ways? He pointed out reoccurring themes from past assemblies and the current one which include immigrant communities, advocacy, and engagement of young adults, intercultural ministry networks, racial ethnic ministry and African American churches in critical need of “next generation” pastors. Using two existing synod models that have clear and defining missions (Branding), Jim again urged commissioners to THINK BIG! Synod of the Living Waters is known for “Living Waters for the World.” Synod of the Sun is known for “Solar Panels for Third-World Countries.” Might we IMAGINE that the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic be known for *Recruiting, Nurturing and Developing the Next Generation of African American Leadership (Pastors) who will serve the congregations and councils?* Partnerships for this initiative can be built with existing ministries and missions of our denomination that might include Johnson C. Smith Seminary, Union Presbyterian Seminary, Existing associations of African American Leadership within the PCUSA, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Office of the General Assembly, etc. This initiative can be complemented by the resources and talents of the Mid-Atlantic, resonates with our legacy and purposes and suggests to us a defining mission around which we can focus our energies, rally our resources and make a significant contribution to the larger church. Jim will assist the synod with next steps.



**Press Conference** - The assembly attended the live stream Office of Public Witness Press Conference outside of our Nation’s Capital. The conference advocated a fair and faithful 2018 federal budget. TE Kevin Powell (NAT) and past synod commissioner read the synod prepared statement. The statement was built on the Great Ends of the Church. Commissioners and guests looked on with pride as Kevin spoke firmly that, “We lift up the shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the Children of God”.

**Worship and Installation** - Commissioner Dale Brown, preaching from Romans 12:9-21, threaded together the key elements considered during the Assembly. The final worship experience sermon was entitled, “*Living our Faith*” and it stressed the importance and power of Love. Dale expounded that “*We must overcome evil with good and hate with love.*” In the face of Charlottesville, his words were convicting. This service provided a time for commissioners to reflect on their work, to celebrate God’s Redemptive love and goodness and prepare them to transfer this experience to their presbyteries, churches and homes. Thank you for reminding us of our biblical mandate to love. After the preaching, Moderator Alice Tewell led the assembly in prayer as she installed Richard Claterbaugh as Moderator and Susanne Taylor as Vice Moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Moderator Claterbaugh received the gavel by giving thanks to the past moderator for her work and mentorship. Moderator Claterbaugh adjourned the assembly with prayer and all were invited to gather for the Moderator’s reception with cake.



**Assembly Dates:** 241<sup>th</sup> Assembly is March 12-13, 2018 and the 242<sup>st</sup> Assembly is September 10-11, 2018.



**Presbyterian Women of the  
Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
October 11, 2017**

The 2017 Fall Gatherings of the Presbyterian Women of Western North Carolina were held Saturday, September 23, 2017, and Saturday, September 30, 2017, at Bryson City Presbyterian Church in Bryson City and Green Street Presbyterian Church in Morganton, respectively. The gathering at Bryson City had 47 in attendance representing 13 churches in the western part of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. The gathering at Green Street included 52 in attendance representing 15 churches in the eastern part of the Presbytery.

The workshops at both gatherings included an overview of the 2017-2018 *Horizons Bible* study, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*, by Melissa Baner Sevier; Leadership in the PW Community; Community in the World; and Community-Building in our Local Areas.

**Bryson City**

The pastor of Franklin First Presbyterian, Reverend Tempe Fussell led the *Bible* study overview. *Leadership in the PW Community* was a discussion on PW leadership through the lens of community among women, led by Michele Simmons. *Community in the World* was led by Peggy Rada, the wife of the Moderator of the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly. Peggy shared some of their experiences of community in the 38 states and several countries traveled during that two-year period. *Community-building in our Local Areas* was led by Rev. Shannon Spencer, the Executive Director of Asheville Poverty Initiative. During the workshop Rev. Spencer described her work toward building bridges between communities by connecting groups with folks living in poverty.

The mission offering in the amount of \$1,438 was given to the Swain County Caring Corner. Their mission is to provide a medical home to the undeserved in the community. The Caring Corner serves as a primary care organization which provides preventative care, regular checkups and sick care for patients, and coordinates patient's care with other local organizations.

**Green Street**

The pastor of Sweetwater Presbyterian, Reverend Joanne Glaser, led the *Bible* study overview. *Leadership in the PW Community* was led by Patricia Clark; Peggy Rada and Rev. Shannon Spencer presented the same workshops given in Bryson City. The mission offering in the amount of \$758 was given to Options, Inc., a domestic violence, rape and sexual assault shelter, education and advocacy center in Morganton. Their mission is to inform and educate the citizens of Burke County, while offering support to victims of violent crimes.

**2018 Spring Gathering**

Plans are underway for the celebration of Presbyterian Women's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The celebration will take place at our Spring Gathering scheduled for April 14, 2018. It will be held at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church which is the location of our first PW Gathering 30 years ago.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tina Joyner  
PW PWNC Moderator



Dear Member:

As you are most likely aware from local media reports, Mission Health and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) have not been able to reach an agreement on a contract. Their current agreement officially expired at 12:01 a.m. October 5, 2017.

Since the active Medical Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), administered by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, depends on the local Blue Cross Blue Shield networks, this contractual impasse may directly affect you. **This network change does not affect members enrolled in the Board of Pensions Medicare Supplement Plan.**

This letter written by an officer of BCBSNC provides you with the Blue Cross perspective on the impasse and includes a list of facilities that you might consider using for in-network care.

For those who are currently in treatment with a Mission Health provider, there are continuity of care provisions that may apply to you. (Call Highmark at 888-835-2959 for continuity of care questions.) For now, if you continue to use Mission Health, your out-of-network deductible and copayment maximum, which are higher, will apply.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact member services at Highmark at 888-835-2959 or the Board of Pensions at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Haines".

Patricia M. Haines  
EVP, Chief Benefits Officer



An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Dear Blue Cross NC Member,

We are writing to let you know that Mission Health (Mission) has chosen to leave the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (Blue Cross NC) network on October 5, 2017. This includes Mission Health:

- Hospitals
- Outpatient facilities
- Most healthcare providers

Mission is the only North Carolina health system leaving the Blue Cross NC network. Here are some things you need to know about this change.

#### **When is Mission leaving the Blue Cross NC network?**

All Mission hospitals, outpatient facilities, and most healthcare providers will be out-of-network, beginning October 5, 2017. Some Mission healthcare providers – mostly therapists – may stay in-network until March 2, 2018. You should contact Mission to see when your healthcare provider is leaving the Blue Cross NC network.

#### **Why is Mission leaving the Blue Cross NC network?**

Mission Health demanded increases in the fees we pay them. This makes premiums and out-of-pocket costs higher for our customers. We work hard to keep health care and health insurance costs as low as possible, and most of the hospitals in our state share this goal. We're disappointed Mission is cancelling their contract instead of working with us to keep things as affordable as possible for our customers.

#### **Where can I go for in-network care?**

*Please note: In an emergency, Blue Cross NC customers should always go to the nearest hospital. Emergency care is always covered as an in-network benefit. Prior authorization is never required for emergency care.*

Blue Cross NC customers in western North Carolina should go to these hospitals for **in-network care**:

Location	Hospital(s)
Sylva (Jackson County)	• Harris Regional Hospital
Clyde (Haywood County)	• Haywood Regional Medical Center
Hickory (Catawba County)	• Frye Regional Hospital • Catawba Valley Medical Center
Hendersonville (Henderson County)	• Pardee Hospital • Park Ridge Health

Location	Hospital(s)
Morganton (Burke County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge-Morganton</li> </ul>
Valdese (Burke County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carolinas HealthCare System Blue Ridge-Valdese</li> </ul>
Boone (Watauga County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watauga Medical Center</li> </ul>

There is an exception. Customers already in a treatment plan for certain conditions at a Mission facility may be able to keep receiving treatments as part of our Continuity of Care program.

Our customers can also go to urgent care facilities for urgent, **non-emergency care**. To find an urgency care or primary care provider near you, go to [bcbsnc.com](http://bcbsnc.com).

### Can I keep using Mission Health facilities?

If you have a plan with out-of-network benefits, you can receive benefits for services at a Mission healthcare provider for non-emergency care (not part of a Continuity of Care plan), **but**:

- You will pay more money for that care. And usually, the price is much higher than you would pay at an in-network facility.
- Blue Cross NC will pay you for the allowed amount of your care, and you will be responsible for paying the healthcare provider.

### Questions?

When we all work together to fight rising health care costs, our families, local economies, and communities benefit. We're willing to work with Mission on an agreement that's fair to our customers. Thank you for trusting us to be your health insurer. We're working hard to earn that trust every day.

If you have questions about this change, go to [bcbsnc.com](http://bcbsnc.com). You can also call the customer service number on the back of your health insurance ID card.

Sincerely,



Tarsha Rowland  
Vice President Customer Service Operations  
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina

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### **Board of Pensions Issues Statement on Housing Allowance Ruling**

PHILADELPHIA (October 11, 2017) — On Friday, October 6, Judge Barbara Crabb, a federal district court judge in the Western District of Wisconsin, found Section 107(2) of the Internal Revenue Code (the subsection dealing with housing allowances) to be unconstitutional based on the establishment clause of the First Amendment. Section 107(1), relating to the exclusion of the value of manse housing, was not the subject of the lawsuit and remains unaffected.

The Board of Pensions is deeply concerned by this ruling. If upheld on appeal, it would substantially impact the congregations and ministers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Board believes that it is inconsistent to exclude manse housing from income and not treat a comparable cash allowance in the same manner.

“Our concern is that ministers could face a substantial and unfair tax burden should the housing allowance in lieu of manse housing be deemed income,” said the Reverend Frank C. Spencer, President of the Board of Pensions. “Our defined benefit pension plan likewise depends on the same treatment to provide adequate income replacement to retired ministers.”

Through the Church Alliance, the Board has been monitoring this lawsuit, brought by the Freedom From Religion Foundation against the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The Church Alliance had previously filed briefs with the court in this matter and expects to file an amicus brief upon appeal.

The Church Alliance is a coalition of the CEOs from 38 denominational church plans who work to preserve the legal rights of churches and their employees and clergy in the realm of benefits and compensation. Rev. Spencer represents the PC(USA) on the steering committee of the Church Alliance and Board Counsel Jean Hemphill serves as a member of the Church Alliance Core Lawyer Working Group.

The Church Alliance follows issues in the legislative, regulatory, and judicial branches of government. It has engaged the firm of K&L Gates as its Washington, D.C., counsel. Members of the Church Alliance routinely engage with members of Congress and the staff of federal agencies. The Core Lawyer Working Group often develops and files amici briefs in important judicial cases.

Judge Crabb has given the parties until October 30, 2017, to submit briefs concerning possible remedies, after which she will make a final ruling. Judge Crabb heard an earlier case brought by the same parties in 2013 and made the same ruling but stayed any action pending appeal. The 2013 ruling was overturned by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, which found the Freedom From Religion Foundation plaintiffs lacked standing to bring action. This suit seems to have corrected the issue of standing and, if appealed as expected, the Court of Appeals would presumably consider the constitutional issue itself.

“We will keep working diligently to protect our ministers,” said Rev. Spencer, “and we expect this to be a short-term setback and not the end of the story.”

**About the Board of Pensions**

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a connectional church. The Board of Pensions, one of six agencies of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), fulfills a unique role in the community by upholding the commitment made by congregations to care for installed pastors and by providing ways for churches and other Presbyterian-affiliated employers to care for other teaching elders and other employees. The Board administers the church Benefits Plan, serving about 20,200 pensioners and survivors, 13,600 active plan members, 20,900 dependents, and 8,500 inactive members (those with vested pension credits who are not actively participating in the plan).