

127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Virtual - ZOOM

PAGES ARE ARRANGED IN PACKET ORDER

Docket Ref	Format	Description	Pages #
	PDF	Contents (2)	1-2
	PDF	Docket and Calendar of Events (5)	3-7
	PDF	Letter from the Stated Clerk (1)	8
	PDF	Order of Worship (2)	9-10
A	PDF	Consent Agenda (2)	11-12
B	PDF	Stated Clerk's Report (4) -Stated Clerk Attachment 1 – Administrative Commission Reports for First Presbyterian Swannanoa, West Avenue Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Lincolnton, and Churches Concluding Their Ministry	13-16
C	PDF	General Council (1)	17
D	PDF	Committee on Ministry (4) -COM Attachment 1 – Statement of Faith and Bio for Margaret (Vickie) Burgess	18-21
I	PDF	Nominating/Representation Committee (1)	22
K	PDF	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (1)	23
O	PDF	Congregation Formation and Transformation (2)	24-25
P	PDF	Outreach/Mission Division (17) -Mission Outreach Division Report (Hunger; Peace & Justice; Self-Development of People; Malawi; Guatemala Partnership; Mission; Campus Ministry) -Mission Committee Flyer -Young Adult Volunteers -Guatemala Microloan Update -Men in Mirror Ministries	26-42
Y	PDF	Youth Committee (3)	43-45
BB	PDF	Finance Committee (2)	46-47
BH	PDF	Building Hope Financial Report (1)	48
GP	PDF	General Presbyter Report (2)	49-50
	PDF	Information Document - Hands and Feet of Asheville	51
		<i>Total Pages Included In This Packet</i>	51

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Presbytery office will be closed to visitors until further notice.

Please contact us via phone or email if we can be of assistance during this time.

Name	Email	Phone/Text
Byron Wade	bwade@presbyterywnc.org	828/430-1515 (phone/text)
Cam Murchison	cmurch1@gmail.com	404/556-8041 (phone/text)
Billy Robinson	brobinson@presbyterywnc.org	828/448-2153 (phone/text)
Beth Gunn*	beth.gunn@gmail.com	828/329-9209 (phone/text)
Marie Palacios*	pwncguatemala@gmail.com	828/838-4245 (phone/text)
Charles Davenport*	cdavenport953@gmail.com	704/689-0296 (phone/text)
Barbara Ross*	bross@presbyterywnc.org	828/387-6332 (phone)
Bob Ayala*	bayalusa@msn.com	828/284-6628 (phone)
Lisa Pressley	lpresley@presbyterywnc.org	828/438-4217 (phone)
Tonya Williams	twilliams@presbyterywnc.org	828/438-4217 (phone)
Robbin Buchanan*	rbuchanan@presbyterywnc.org	828/438-4217 (phone)
Marcia Puckett*	mpuckett@presbyterywnc.org	828/438-4217 (phone)

*Denotes part-time

If you have an emergency after hours and need to speak with a staff person, please contact Byron Wade, General Presbyter, at 828/430-1515 or Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk, at 404/556-8041.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding.

PRESBYTERY OF WNC HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSURES

January 1, 2021	New Year's Day	September 6, 2021	Labor Day
January 18, 2021	Martin Luther King	November 25-26, 2021	Thanksgiving
February 15, 2021	President's Day	December 24-31, 2021	Christmas
April 2, 2021	Good Friday	January 1-3, 2022	New Year's
May 31, 2021	Memorial Day		
July 5, 2021	Independence Day		

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN
NORTH CAROLINA**

GUIDE TO WORSHIP AND WORK



**ONE-HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH
STATED MEETING
April 27, 2021**

VIRTUAL MEETING

127th STATED MEETING
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
April 27, 2021
DOCKET

Registration should happen no later than 24 hours prior to meeting, via response to Zoom invitation if possible, otherwise by telephone.

9:00 Call to Order **Hal Bennett, Moderator**

Convene with Prayer of Invocation **Hal Bennett, Moderator**

Appointment of Host, Co-Host & Standing Committees **Hal Bennett**

Recognition of Elders Attending for First Time and Corresponding Members

Orientation

Certification of Quorum **Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk**

Action to approve virtual meeting

Approval of Docket

Consent Agenda **A**

(Consent Agenda is a consent motion. Any commissioner may pull any item from the Consent Agenda for any reason. Simply state the item to be removed from the Consent Agenda and it will be dealt with as part of the committee report from which it was drawn.)

Stated Clerk's Report **Cam Murchison** **B**

(Work of the Clerk, Presbytery Meeting Dates, Administrative Commission Reports)

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

Nominating Committee	I
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	K
Congregational Development	O
Outreach/Mission Division	P
Youth Committee	Y
Finance	BB
Building Hope	BH

9:15 Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Worship leaders: Hal Bennett, Pastor, Dulatown Presbyterian Church
Tamika Garrison & Rick Leissner, Co-Commissioned Pastors,
Quaker Meadows Presbyterian Church

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

10:05 Board of Pensions Update *(10 minutes)*

Elizabeth Little

10:15 General Council *(5 minutes)*

Dick Larson **C**

(Work of the committee)

Youth Ministry *(7 minutes)*

Sarah Grace Montgomery **Y**

Committee on Ministry *(15 minutes)*

Whit Malone **D**

(Work of the committee, Commissioning of Ruling Elder)

- Presentation of Vickie Burgess for Commissioning
- Questions from members; vote
- Charge and Prayer of Commissioning

Earth Care Congregations in PWNC *(3 minutes)*

Jane Laping

Matthew 25 *(5 minutes)*

Helen Hall, Dulatown Presbyterian Church

Report of the General Presbyter *(5 minutes)*

Byron Wade **GP**

Life Together Through a Year of Covid-19, Break Out Rooms *(30 minutes)*

Our General Presbyter will invite members to join in conversations about our experiences of trauma and grief during the past year of pandemic. Following the break-out rooms Byron will lead us in prayer, with opportunities for all to contribute petitions and intercessions through the chat.

Prayers of the People

Byron Wade and the People

Benediction and Adjournment

Hal Bennett

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 2021 year, churches O through Z are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2019 Statistical Report as figures are not available for 2020.*):

- 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, Committee on Ministry, and Committee on Ministry Advocates 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 Pastors shall have voice and vote.
4. All Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators, and, in addition, other Christian Educators who have
 - earned at least a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent)
 - served in one or more educational ministries under the jurisdiction of a Presbytery (or one of its Sessions) for a minimum of two (2) years, and
 - been examined and recommended to Presbytery by the 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.

DATE	LOCATION	PACKET DEADLINE	POWERPOINT DEADLINE	OVERTURE DEADLINE
2021 Presbytery Meeting Dates and Deadlines				
Tuesday, April 27	Virtual - ZOOM	Thursday, April 1	Thursday, April 8	Monday, March 29
Saturday, July 31	Virtual - ZOOM	Thursday, July 8	Thursday, July 15	Thursday, July 1
Tuesday, October 26	Unity Presbyterian Church	Thursday, October 7	Thursday, October 14	Thursday, September 30
2022 Presbytery Meeting Dates				
Saturday, January 29	<i>Seeking Host Location</i>	Thursday, January 6	Thursday, January 13	
Tuesday, April 26	Mont Conf. Center	Thursday, April 7	Thursday, April 14	
Saturday, July 30	<i>Seeking Host Location</i>	Thursday, July 7	Thursday, July 14	
Tuesday, October 25	<i>Seeking Host Location</i>	Thursday, October 6	Thursday, October 13	

Calendar of Events

**DUE TO COVID-19,
ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD BY ZOOM
FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.**

APRIL

8	Powerpoint Deadline for April Presbytery Meeting	
12	Examinations	
13	Committee on Ministry	
14	General Council	
20	Personnel Committee	
24	Youth Adventure Day	Camp Grier
	CLS	
27	127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of WNC	VIRTUAL - ZOOM
29	Youth Committee	

MAY

1	CLS	
3	Examinations	
4	Committee on Ministry	
11	Guatemala Education Committee	
12	General Council	
13	Christian Education Committee	
	Youth Coffee Check-In	
15	Nominating/Representation Committee	
	CLS	
19	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	
20	Christian Education Committee	
22	CLS Graduation	
24	Examinations	
	Guatemala Microloan	
27	Youth Committee	
31	<i>Presbytery Office Closed – Observance of Memorial Day</i>	

JUNE

1	Committee on Ministry	
9	General Council	
10	Validated Ministries Sub-Committee	
	Youth Coffee Check-In	
21	Mission Committee	
24	Youth Committee	
28	Examinations	

JULY

5	<i>Presbytery Office Closed – Observance of Independence Day</i>	
6	Committee on Ministry	
8	Presbytery Packet Deadline for 128 th Stated Meeting	
	Youth Coffee Check-In	
14	General Council	
22	Youth Committee	
26	Guatemala Microloan	
31	128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of WNC	



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: April 16, 2021
Re: One-Hundred Twenty-Seventh Stated Meeting of Presbytery

The quarterly meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina is fast approaching! The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021. Our upcoming meeting will be conducted by electronic means, using the ZOOM platform. This results in some significant changes in the way we will do our work. Some of these are noted below and others are highlighted in a separate communication you should have received from me earlier.

REGISTRATION will happen electronically and in advance in order for you to have remote access to the meeting. By the time you see this letter, you should have received a separate communication about the process for registration. If you have not, please contact the presbytery office by telephone right away (828-438-4217).

ORIENTATION will be necessary for everyone because of our virtual format. So please plan to join the meeting no later than 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 27th.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER requests should be communicated to the Stated Clerk by Friday, April 23rd by email (cmurc1@gmail.com) for inclusion in the meeting

ELDER REPRESENTATION - For the 2021 year, the following churches (O through Z) are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the **2019** Annual Statistical Report.

0 - 250 members – 1	751 - 1250 members - 3	
251 - 750 members – 2	1251 - 1750 members – 4	
Oak Forest	Ryburn Memorial	Tryon
Oakwood	Saluda	Union
Old Fort	Shelby	Union Mills
Olney	Sherrill’s Ford	United
Pine Street	Shiloh, Grover	Unity
Pineola	Southminster	Vians Valley
Quaker Meadows	Spruce Pine, First	Waldensian
Reems Creek-Beech	Sweetwater	Walnut
Ridgeview	Sylva, First	Warren Wilson
Robinson Memorial	Third Street	Waynesville, First
Rutherfordton	Trinity	West Asheville

FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE, e-mail rbuchanan@presbyterywnc.org, fax (828/437-8655) or phone (828/438-4217) the Presbytery Office by Friday, April 23, 2021.

Please join us via ZOOM on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 for the 127th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meeting.

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
WORSHIP SERVICE
April 27, 2021**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

SCRIPTURE

MICAH 6:8

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-14

LUKE 24:13-35

PRAYER

SERMON

LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION

GREAT PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. ...Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

You are holy, O God of majesty...Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith.

***People:* Christ has died,**

Christ is risen,

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine ... Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As Christ our Savior taught us, we are bold to pray:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD – Words of Institution

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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 4 FROM THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT

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

- CA 1. **THAT Hal Bennett, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the July 31, 2021 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. **THAT the minutes of the January 30, 2021 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. **THAT the April 2021 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1)**
 Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Lincolnnton
 Administrative Commission for West Avenue
 Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 4. **THAT the minutes of the ordination/installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
 Leah Elizabeth Epps

**RECOMMENDATIONS II. A thru D
FROM THE FIRST SECTION OF THE
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT.**

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

II. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:

- A. Allen Proctor, as Director of the Haden Institute, through April 27, 2022.
- B. Carol Steele, as Vice-President for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April, 27, 2022.
- C. Evelyn Coleman, as Director for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April 27, 2022
- D. Dennis Stamper, as Chaplain at Carolinas Healthcare System, Blue Ridge, through April 27, 2022.

**RECOMMENDATIONS 1- 4 FROM THE
NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

CA	1.	<u>Peace and Justice Committee</u>		
		Ms. Wanda Woodby (Buladean)	(F)	Class of 2023
		Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt (Warren Wilson)	(B)	Class of 2023
CA	2.	<u>Campus Ministry</u>		
		Rev. Pat Reid (Third Street)	(D)	Class of 2022
CA	3.	<u>Christian Education</u>		
		Rev. Thomas Phillips	(B)	Class of 2022
CA	4.	<u>Evangelism</u>		
		Rev. Leah Epps (Fairview/United)	(E)	Class of 2023
CA	5.	<u>Committee on Ministry</u>		
		Rev. Elizabeth Newman (Bryson City)	(B)	Class of 2023

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA STATED CLERK'S REPORT

D. Cameron (Cam) Murchison, Jr., Stated Clerk

April 27, 2021

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

- CA 1. THAT Hal Bennett, Cam Murchison and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the July 31, 2021 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the January 30, 2021 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the April 2021 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1)**
Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian, Lincolnton
Administrative Commission for West Avenue
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
- CA 4. THAT the minutes of the ordination/installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Leah Elizabeth Epps

FOR INFORMATION:

- 5. THAT the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, July 30, 2021, virtually via ZOOM. THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, July 8, 2021. THAT the deadline for an overture is Thursday, July 1, 2021.**
- 6. THAT due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following procedure for reviewing sessions records for 2021 will be as follows:**
1. Each clerk will gather the 2020 Session minutes for her/his congregation.
 2. No later than September 15, 2021, use the standard checklist to review your records as follows:
 - a. Write the name of your church at the top, indicating “2020” as the year.
 - b. For each item on the list, check “yes” or “no.”
 - c. If “yes,” in the column labeled “comment,” indicate one instance where the item can be found in your minutes.
 - i. If your minutes are numbered with consecutive pages, just indicate a page number.
 - ii. If your minutes are not numbered consecutively through the year, indicate the date of the meeting where an instance of the item is found.

- d. If “no,” provide any explanation you may want to share in the column labeled “comment.”
- e. In the same column labeled “comment,” add any comments you would like to make regarding any item.
3. On the reverse side of the checklist—or on another sheet of paper if you prefer—make a note of any issues you have encountered with any items on the checklist. Especially if some are not clear and the parenthetical references to the *Book of Order* do not clarify them, please let us know what may need more explanation.
4. If specific questions arise as you work on the checklist, feel free to call Cam Murchison on his cell number (404-556-8041). He will be happy to help, or to find the help needed.

So that we can certify 100% compliance with the review of Session Records at the October 2021 meeting of Presbytery of Western North Carolina, please complete the checklist and return it to the Stated Clerk **by September 15, 2021**, either by

1. Email to (cmurc1@gmail.com), or
2. Regular mail: 114 Silver Creek Road, Morganton, NC 28655

7. **THAT the dates for virtual Sacred Trust-Relational Boundaries Training for 2021 will be announced at this meeting.**

The criteria for those who should attend is listed below.

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 “not opted in,” 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 requested.
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	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. Transitional Pastors/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

Administrative Commission for West Avenue Presbyterian Church, Gastonia, NC

Under the provisions of the lease/purchase agreement between PWNC and Revolution Church, the church continues with its impressive renovations that include major changes to the gymnasium/fellowship hall, transforming the administrative area into a social gathering space, reworking the sanctuary for its new and exciting ministries. The AC continues to facilitate membership transfers and oversee the maintenance of the roof. A meeting with Revolution Church and the AC is planned for April 13, 2021 at which time the readiness of the church to exercise its purchase option will be explored.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Brittain, chair

Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church of Lincolnton

The Administrative Commission continues its focus on providing congregational care for the membership, though plans for a service celebrating the 205-year history of ministry at FPC Lincolnton have been delayed by the pandemic. Efforts to resolve the issues resulting from local flooding that occurred in June 2019 resulting in significant damage to church property are ongoing. Though not directly part of the work of the AC, plans for the development of a New Worshipping Community in Lincolnton are in process with the support of General Council and leadership from members of the Church Formation and Transformation Committee and the Session of Unity Presbyterian Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Russ Reighley, chair

Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding their Ministries

There have been no new developments in the work of this Administrative Commission since the last full report to PWNC. A summary of the work it has overseen includes the disposition of the following properties: Ellenboro Presbyterian Church; Glen Alpine Presbyterian Church; Machpelah Presbyterian Church and Cemetery; Spindale Presbyterian Church; and Bethel Presbyterian Church. No other congregations are currently under its oversight.

Respectfully submitted,
Cam Murchison, Stated Clerk

GENERAL COUNCIL
Dick Larson, Chair
April 27, 2021

The General Council of the Presbytery presents the following as information:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- 1. THAT a list of upcoming events of the Presbytery can be found on the back of the Presbytery Docket.**
- 2. THAT the General Council will welcome invitations from churches or institutions willing to host Presbytery meetings in 2021 and 2022.**
- 3. THAT the General Council approved seeking forgiveness of the 2020 PPP Loan in the amount of \$91,467. The funds from the loan were used to pay payroll and expenses as required.**
- 4. THAT the General Council will be entertaining the possibility, post pandemic, of continuing to have some Presbytery meetings and committee meetings in part via ZOOM. The General Council will be reviewing the Presbytery Standing Rules and revising as needed.**
- 5. THAT the General Council and the Finance Committee, following a period of study, approved the funding of the Lincolnton New Worshipping Community. The General Council approved funding in the amount of \$32,500 for the current budget year and a five (5) year commitment of Presbytery funding totaling \$165,000. A Steering and Accountability Committee consisting of representation from COM, Unity Presbyterian Church Session, the Committee on Church Formation and Transformation was formed. Membership includes:**
 - Rev. David Bonnema, Chair of Church Formation & Transformation**
 - Rev. Dan Oedy, Member of COM**
 - Two Elders from Unity Presbyterian Church**
 - Rev. James Holeman, Pastor, Union Presbyterian Church**
 - Rev. Billy Robinson, Associate Presbyter**
 - New Worshipping Community Coach from General Assembly**
- 6. THAT the General Council continues to work on clarifying the Building Hope funds available to the various ministries designated in the campaign. Particular attention is being devoted to establishing a committee and process to oversee funds designated to the Vital Churches component.**

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
REV. DR. WHIT MALONE, CHAIR
APRIL 27, 2021**

FIRST SECTION

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

A. MARGARET (VICKIE) BURGESS

From: Elder, Steele Creek Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC

As: Commissioned Pastor, Dallas First Presbyterian Church

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

Effective: April 27, 2021

(See COM Attachment 1 for Bio Credo)

CA II. RECOMMEND TO PRESBYTERY THE VALIDATION OF MINISTRY FOR:

A. Allen Proctor, as Director of the Haden Institute, through April 27, 2022.

B. Carol Steele, as Vice-President for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April, 27, 2022.

C. Evelyn Coleman, as Director for Programs at Montreat Conference Center, through April 27, 2022

D. Dennis Stamper, as Chaplain at Carolinas Healthcare System, Blue Ridge, through April 27, 2022.

SECOND SECTION

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

I. APPROVED TRANSITIONAL PASTOR RELATIONSHIP:

A. Jason Davenport and Long Creek Presbyterian Church

Extended: January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021

II. APPROVED STATED PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:

A. Becky Stanley and Etowah Presbyterian Church

Extended: January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

B. Garland Honeycutt and Green Mountain Presbyterian Church

Effective: December 1, 2020 - November 30, 2021

- C. Caitlin Johnson and Oak Forest Presbyterian Church
Effective: April 5, 2021 - July 31, 2021

III. APPROVED AS MODERATOR:

- A. Bryon Wade and West Asheville Presbyterian Church

IV. APPROVED COMMISSIONED PASTOR RELATIONSHIPS:

- A. Robin Honeycutt and Sweetwater Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021
- B. Lynn Honeycutt and Sweetwater Presbyterian Church
Effective: January 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021
- C. Randy Patterson and Dixon Presbyterian Church
Extended: September 20, 2020 - September 19, 2021
- D. Margaret Victoria Burgess and Dallas First Presbyterian Church
Effective: April 17, 2021 - April 16, 2022

V. APPROVED THE MINISTRY INFORMATION FORM:

- A. Lincolnton New Worshipping Community

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

- A. Pete Peery
In: Foothills Presbytery
As: Transitional Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greer, SC
Extended: to April 4, 2021

VII. APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Jean Goodwin
To: Presbytery of St. Augustine
As: Chaplain at Westminster St. Augustine
Effective: February 15, 2021
- B. Joanne Glaser
To: Salem Presbytery
As: Honorably Retired
Effective: December 3, 2020

VIII. APPROVED THE REQUEST FOR HONORABLE RETIREMENT:

- A. Kathryn Johnson Cameron
Effective: April 1, 2021
- B. Cynthia Benz
Effective: May 1, 2021

IX. APPROVED ELECTION OF AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- A. Asheville First Presbyterian Church

X. APPROVED THE MISSION STUDY AND PERMISSION TO ELECT A PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- A. Mills River Presbyterian Church

Biographical Sketch of Margaret V Burgess

My parents believed that it was very important for my brother & I to be brought up grounded in the Scriptures while learning to live our faith every day. My father was in the Army so we moved around a lot but one of the first things my parents did was find a Presbyterian church for us to attend. Both of my parents sang in the choir, taught Sunday School and at one point were youth leaders. This was the example that they set for my brother and I that has made a lasting impression on my life.

As we grew older, our parents introduced us to nightly Bible reading and family prayer time. I found at an early age to look forward to these family times but also how to be in communion with God. The communion with God evolved over the years. As a child I found myself saying my bedtime prayers but as I grew older, I found that I wanted to open up more in my prayers and God became my sounding board.

Sadly, as I became an adult, my prayers became mostly intercessions or 'need list' and the openness began to close some. By now I was in junior high, helping with vacation bible school, singing in the choir and enjoying youth group. It was during this time that I found Billy Graham; anytime he was on TV, I could be found with my bible & glued to every word. I use that same Bible in high school during my Bible classes where I was able to share the word with fellow classmates.

Once again, I felt connected to God & God has blessed me with many spiritual mentors in my life. I have always believed that God puts the right people in our lives so that they can be here when we need them most.

As an adult I found a renewed joy for singing to God, I taught the youth in Sunday School, was a youth leader and became both a deacon and later an elder of Steele Creek Presbyterian Church. It was at this time that I was asked to lead the Disciple Bible studies and I found that I had a love for digging deeper & sharing God, Christ & the Scriptures.

I found myself taking part in a summer youth conference entitled "What will you do with the rest of your life?" at Montreat. During that week, I felt a tug on my heart that God had more in mind for my life. I went to college & got my BA in Christian/Biblical Studies with an emphasis in Pastoral Ministry.

But God was still not finished with me. I was asked to lead children's sermons, was a lay reader and then felt another tug at my heart. I spoke with my husband & my pastors about attending seminary and to my surprise none of them were surprised at my thoughts of entering the seminary. I attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and a wave of peace & comfort washed over me.

I have been a supply pastor the last couple of years and by God's grace was led to First Presbyterian-Dallas where I find fulfillment every Sunday as I worship, pray and share God's words with this special group of Christians.

Vickie Burgess Statement of Faith

I believe in the Trinity. I believe that God is a fellowship of three eternal, infinite persons that we call the Trinity. Through the work of each person of the Trinity humanity has been created in the image of God, offered salvation through Christ and given the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for guidance throughout the trials and triumphs of our life here on earth. The Second Helvetic Confession defines Trinity as “three persons, cosubstantial, coeternal, and coequal; distinct with respect to hypostases and with respect to order, the one preceding the other yet without an inequality” (p.7). I have been blessed by God through my creation, saved by Christ through his death and resurrection and given daily guidance from the Holy Spirit as I live my Christian faith.

I believe in the one triune God. I believe that God is the one true God sustainer of life, the great physician and healer/comforter for those in need. Every morning and evening when I see the sunrise and sunset, I am reminded of God’s greatness displayed for all the world to see. Each time I am blessed to behold these I am reminded of his love for me and my faith is strengthened. (Apostles’ Creed 2.1)

I believe in Jesus Christ. I stand firmly grounded in my belief that Christ is the only begotten Son of God, the Father Almighty and is the second person of the Trinity. I believe that it is through Christ’s incarnation, his life of ministry, his death and resurrection and final ascension back to God that we are able to receive atonement. I believe that it is by the reading and hearing of God’s word that I am drawn closer to Christ and can feel his presence each time I partake of the Communion. (Apostles’ Creed 2.2)

I believe in the Holy Spirit. I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity and thus is made equal with God, the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son. I believe that the Holy Spirit has been present from eternity and that God shares himself with humanity through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at the time a person becomes a Christian. I feel that the Holy Spirit began his work in and through me by bringing about a change from my sinful self to my faith driven walk. The Holy Spirit daily gives me guidance, comfort and strength to face lives challenges. (Apostles’ Creed 2.3)

I believe that the Sacraments are Holy signs & seals of God’s Covenant, instituted by God. Baptism is a sign and seal of the covenant of grace made by God through Jesus and extended to us. I believe that the presence of Jesus Christ is very real in Holy Communion through the bread and wine.

I believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. I believe that God’s love for humanity can be seen throughout the Scriptures. I believe that God used man to record his truth for mankind and that he expects us to share his message with others. (Westminster Confession of Faith 6.004)

I believe that the Church is a continuation of Christ’s ministry here on earth to those lost and in need of rescuing from the temptations of Satan and the world. The church is also a place of fellowship, prayer and support between members of the faith community. (2nd Helvetic Confession 5.125)

NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE

Charles Kincaid, Chair

April 27, 2021

The Nominating/Representation Committee presents the following nominations to fill the class of 2023 and other class vacancies. The next meeting of the committee will be May 15, 2021.

The Nominating/Representation Committee is responsible for filling the slate for each committee throughout the year and for creating the new Class of 2023, to begin serving a three-year term in January of 2021. 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.”

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.	<u>Peace and Justice Committee</u>		
		Ms. Wanda Woodby (Buladean)	(F)	Class of 2023
		Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt (Warren Wilson)	(B)	Class of 2023
CA	2.	<u>Campus Ministry</u>		
		Rev. Pat Reid (Third Street)	(D)	Class of 2022
CA	3.	<u>Christian Education</u>		
		Rev. Thomas Phillips	(B)	Class of 2022
CA	4.	<u>Evangelism</u>		
		Rev. Leah Epps (Fairview/United)	(E)	Class of 2023
CA	5.	<u>Committee on Ministry</u>		
		Rev. Elizabeth Newman (Bryson City)	(B)	Class of 2023

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
THE REV. DWIGHT CHRISTENBURY, CHAIR
APRIL 27, 2021**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shares the following information with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina:

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

- Brandon Davis, a member of the Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church in Banner Elk, was enrolled as an Inquirer on January 20, 2021.
- Matthew Wiedle, a member of the Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church in Asheville, was enrolled as an Inquirer on January 20, 2021.
- Caitlin Johnson, a member of the Asheville First Presbyterian Church, was certified ready to receive a call on March 17, 2021.

Congregation Development Presbytery Packet Report April, 2021

Congregational Division:

- **Congregational Formation & Transformation:**

Rev. David Bonnema (chairperson); Rev. Dr. Thom Lewis; Rev. Janet DeWater; Rev. Michael McKee; Russ Reighley, CRE.

- During the January, 2021 meeting of the presbytery, the Committee presented its congregational revitalization assistance program. This programmatic offering addresses seven processes: discussion about demographic data; assessment of pastoral leadership and development; assessment of the physical space and congregational campus; analysis of worship attendance trends; assessing a congregation's mission, discipleship, evangelism, and outreach; assessment of a congregation's digital presence in the community; and analysis and discussion of a congregation's financial sustainability.

In an effort to resource the Committee's programming, we received a presentation from Dr. George Thompson of Thompson Coaches. He emphasized his coaching experience in assisting congregations to become "vibrant" and also helped the Committee understand the "natural resistance" to change that accompanies congregational growth, vitality, and vibrancy.

- **Lincolnton New Worshipping Community**

Doug (1001NWC coach); Rev. David Bonnema; Rev. James Holeman; and Rev. Dan Oedy;

After the Council endorsed a five-year commitment to initiate a New Worshipping Community in Lincolnton, an initial steering committee was established. This committee met in March, reviewed the demographic data for Lincolnton, discussed the partnering relationship with the Presbytery and Unity Presbyterian Church, and produced a Ministry Information Form for the purpose of calling pastoral leadership.

- **Evangelism Committee:**

Rev. Stephen Elderbrock (chairperson); Rev. Melissa Upchurch; Rev. James Holeman; Mr. Don Wauchope; Ms. Jeralaine Truesdale; Rev. Leah Epps.

The Committee met in February to discuss goals and objectives for the year and reaffirmed its mission per the Presbytery's standing rules.

The Evangelism Committee shall:

1. Work with congregations of the Presbytery to assist them in the implementation of effective strategies and methods of evangelism;
2. Keep the Presbytery aware of Christ's two-fold commission to be disciples and to make disciples;
3. Make available to congregations of the Presbytery various resources for evangelism and identify trained persons able to assist congregations to carry out effective evangelism in their communities.

The Committee noted that it held similar goals with the Small Church Committee and questioned whether a joint-meeting of the Congregational Division Committees could be established to coordinate efforts.

- **Small Church:**

Rev. Christopher Vogado (chairperson); Mr. Robert Dula; Mr. John Hall, CRE; Ms. Peggy Ferguson; Rev. Ike Kennerly; Rev. Daniel Tipton; Mr. Robin Honeycutt, CRE; Rev. Dr. Becky Stanley; Mr. Keith Ward; Ms. Mary Gahagan; Ms. Renee Warthen.

The Committee met in February to discuss goals and objectives for the year and reaffirmed its mission per the Presbytery's Standing Rules.

The Smaller Membership Churches Committee shall:

1. Help smaller membership churches to network, share concerns, and develop common ministries.
2. Help Presbytery, clusters, or other combinations of churches build up the ministry of our smaller membership churches.
3. Develop and implement plans to train leaders in our smaller membership churches, especially those without a pastor.
4. Develop and implement a process to help smaller membership churches determine their mission and financial needs, particularly those that receive financial aid from Presbytery.
5. Enlist the expertise and services of other committees for smaller membership churches.
6. Assist the pastors of smaller membership churches in their ministry with small town, rural, retirement and mountain communities.

In an effort to foster congeniality among small church pastors, the Committee hosted an online meet-up to share at least three ideas and resources for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday. This "Meet-and-Three" was a welcome respite from the trials of pastoral leadership in the midst of a pandemic.

OUTREACH/MISSION DIVISION
Presbytery Packet Report
April, 2021

Mission & Outreach Division:

- **Hunger:**

Ginny Bradford (chairperson); Reid Duncan; Rev. Jamie Lloyd; Rev. Dr. Bob McCully; Rev. Dr. Riley Covin; Rev. Tempe Fussell; Rev. Carolyn Myles; Ms. Ann Kieffer.

The Hunger Committee shall:

1. Promote within Presbytery and its churches prayer, study, experience, and action in the five areas of the Presbyterian Hunger Program: education, direct aid, development assistance, lifestyle integrity, and advocacy.
2. Interpret, promote and administer the Nickel a Meal Program.
3. Interpret and promote the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
4. Interpret, promote and administer the “Reclaiming Christmas” emphasis.
5. Identify, train and resource congregational contacts on hunger issues.
6. Evaluate and make recommendations to the Coordinating Council on projects requesting funds from the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

As of this writing, the Hunger Committee was awaiting grant-requests for the spring Hunger Grant cycle. The Committee will meet in the coming weeks to evaluate the requests and make appropriate distributions to as many requesting agencies as our funding will permit.

Please, continue to participate in our Five-Cents-A-Meal program so we may have funds to share with as many requesting agencies as possible. Many of our congregations partner with wonderful food assistance ministries that eagerly request the Presbytery’s financial assistance. If your congregation would like more information about the Five-Cents-A-Meal program, please contact Billy Robinson at the Presbytery office.

- **Peace & Justice:**

Rev. Jill Isola; Rev. Dr. Priscilla Durkin; Ms. Jane Laping; Rev. Dr. Allan Purtill; Rev. Steve Runholt; Mr. John VanOsdall.

The Peace and Justice Committee is responsible for:

Identifying issue(s) under the rubric of peace and justice for a one or two year focus. Past areas of focus have included Care of Creation and South Sudan.

- Developing displays for each Presbytery Meeting, workshops following Presbytery Meetings, and supplying educational materials, etc. around the chosen focus
- When appropriate requesting and itinerating a visiting Peacemaker through the Mission Division in Louisville
- Administering the allocation of funds from the Peacemaking Offering through grant requests submitted to this committee by churches within the Presbytery.
- Staying in contact with the work of the Self-Development of People by a face-to-face meeting once a year and seeking avenues for their work.
- Presented displays at each Presbytery Meeting of the Peace and Justice activities being done by one small and one large congregation within the Presbytery.
- Working toward identifying and establishing relationships with contacts within clusters and congregations in order that ideas and efforts can be shared.

Last year, the Council asked the Peace and Justice Committee to address Dismantling Structural Racism, as part of the presbytery's commitment to being a "Matthew 25" mid-council.

- **Racial Justice Sub-Committee:**

Last year the committee provided scholarships for pastors to attend the Crossroads AntiRacism training event at Montreat. During the 2021 season of Lent, the Committee provided a Lenten anti-racism devotional created and compiled by Rev. Allan Purtill. We continue to seek ways to encourage and support congregations and pastors engaged in the work of anti-racism.

- **Criminal Justice:**

Priscilla Durkin and John VanOsdall continue to keep us apprised of their work with prison ministry. If you are involved in, or would like to be involved in, prison ministry, please inform Billy Robinson at the presbytery office.

- **Earth Care Sub-Committee:**

The Presbytery's Earth Care Team invited the nine Earth Care Congregations to a ZOOM meeting on April 20 to tell stories, share ideas, and talk about challenges as we came up with ideas to help our congregations and presbytery grow as stewards of the Earth. If you would like to be part of that ongoing conversation, contact wncearthcareteam@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

A special shout out goes to Northminster Presbyterian for being certified for the first time! Earth Care congregations affirm an Earth Care Pledge and integrate environmental practices in four areas of church life: worship, education, facilities and outreach.

If you are interested in learning how your church can become an Earth Care Congregation, you can find more information at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/environment/earth-care-congregations/>

PWNC Earth Care Congregations

Black Mountain Presbyterian, Black Mountain, NC
Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian, Brevard, NC
First Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Grace Covenant Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Montreat Presbyterian, Montreat, NC
New Hope Presbyterian, Asheville, NC
Northminster Presbyterian, Hickory, NC
Unity Presbyterian, Denver, NC
Warren Wilson Presbyterian, Swannanoa, NC

- **Self-Development of People:**

The Committee shall consist of nine members, a majority of whom shall be representatives of racial/ethnic minority groups, as required. At least seventy-five percent, including the moderator, shall be members of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Members should have skills/experience, understanding of and sensitivity to people in need, and /or previous experience with efforts of self-development.

- need to follow-up with ROAR in Marshall and BeLoved in Asheville.

The Self-Development of People Committee shall interpret and promote support for the Self-Development of People Program within Presbytery. It is also authorized by Presbytery to deal directly with the National Self-Development of People Program, and to review projects being considered for funding by the national program, and to validate and fund projects within the bounds of Presbytery, abiding by the General Assembly Mandate. Funds available to this committee to support validated projects include a portion of One Great Hour of Sharing offerings raised within Presbytery.

- **Malawi Team:**

In 2020, the Malawi Leadership Team and Education Team met and agreed to combine into a single committee with appropriate sub-committees/Task Groups as needed. In the Fall of 2020 the Team voted to invest the “GAP Scholarship Funds” with the Presbyterian Foundation; the return on those funds are now available to fund scholarships this year.

- **Guatemala Partnership:**

- 1. Updates from Guatemala:**

- Sur

- a. Coatepeque is experiencing a new wave of COVID and is on lock down again. Most other regions within the Presbytery have limited or no restrictions in place and few cases among church members are being reported.
 - b. Sur hosted a “condensed/Covid compliant” Presbytery meeting in March. The next meeting is in November with final meeting dates TBD.
 - c. Pastor Wilfrido López (Trinity’s sister church), passed away on 2/23/21 due to chronic illness.
 - d. Sur successfully distributed scholarship funds to churches

- Suchi:

- a. Pastor Alfonso Calderon was hospitalized for bronchitis and a GI infection and was diagnosed with Covid-10 along with several family members. All are recovering at home.
 - b. Suchi continues to host music classes for children and youth-10 in Santo Domingo, 5 in Coyolate, 7 in Cuyotenango, and 6 in San Felipe. The teacher rotates instead of the children. Suchi recently purchased 12 guitars/organettes.
 - c. There are currently 6 students in the school of socio-theology

- 2. Upcoming Trips to Guatemala**

- a. The PWNC summer youth trip to Guatemala cancelled due to ongoing COVID concerns.
 - b. A small delegation from the PWNC Guatemala Partnership committee intend to travel to Guatemala at the end of June 2021 (pending health guidelines/restrictions). During this trip, Kevin Frederick, Marie Palacios, and Ellen Dozier look forward to engaging in partnership conversations with members from the national church and our sister Presbyteries.
 - c. The fall delegation trip is scheduled for November 11th-18th, 2021

***We encourage PWNC churches to write letters to sister churches and submit them in a manila envelope to the PWNC office 4 weeks prior to each trip so they can be hand delivered!*

Stay Tuned: Spring Virtual Guatemala Partnership Gathering!

The PWNC Guatemala Partnership Committee invites YOU to attend a virtual gathering in May 2021! Join via ZOOM to see our brothers and sisters from Guatemala, hear important updates, and engage in a lively Q&A! Full event details will be shared via email. If you would like to be added to the Guatemala Partnership email list, simply contact Marie Palacios: pwnCGuatemala@gmail.com

• Mission Committee:

Mrs. Jamie Brady (Chairperson); Rev. Dr. Robert Abel; Rev. Dr. Stephen Aschmann; Rev. Blake J. Daniel; Mr. Ben Hill; Ms. Gail Lehman; Rev. Ellen Dozier; Rev. Meagan Findeiss; Ms. Joanne Mitchell

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

1. Encourage and promote support for local, national, and global mission.
2. Provide congregations with resources to support their mission endeavors while promoting participation in the presbytery's and denomination's mission activity. (education, knowledge, communication)
3. Create and supervise various working groups and task forces as needed.

In January, Billy Robinson and Jamie Brady (Chair, Mission Committee), Ginny Bradford (Chair, Hunger Committee) and Sue Johnson (Mission General Council liaison) met to discuss the Eradicating Systemic Poverty tenant of the Matthew 25 commitment of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. During the meeting there was agreement among the group that affordable housing, affordable health care, early childhood education/childcare and making a living wage were all issues of great importance to people facing poverty in Western North Carolina. Through all of our various experiences in working with our churches in our missional work, these issues have brought to light systemic issues and how they affect those we serve.

The Mission Committee of the Presbytery met in March 2021. Jamie Brady, Billy Robinson and Sue Johnson discussed the issues previously mentioned with the Mission Committee and we wholeheartedly agreed and therefore recommend to the Presbytery of North Carolina that issues of affordable housing, affordable healthcare, and also early childhood education/childcare and supporting living wage advocacy should be at the forefront of the Presbytery's work to eradicate systemic poverty. We were also in agreement that we felt most churches in the Presbytery would be equipped to focus specifically on affordable housing and affordable healthcare.

The Mission Committee has been tasked with discerning the work ahead for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with the Matthew 25 initiative of Eradicating Systemic Poverty. The Mission Committee has identified Affordable Housing, Affordable Health Care, Early Childhood Education/Childcare and Living Wage advocacy as issues specific to impoverished communities in Western North Carolina.

We feel that deeply affordable housing and affordable health care are the larger issues we see in our local communities.

The Mission Committee believes the Matthew 25 initiative is not only a call to share our resources but also is a deep call to become advocates for our neighbors in need.

In the coming months we will make recommendations of how the Presbytery can engage in small and large ways in this intensive call to not only offer resources to combat the systemic issues of poverty, but also advocate for our vulnerable populations.

- **Disaster Relief Sub-Committee:**

It has been so long since we have been together engaged in disaster relief projects. I pray all you are doing well and have been able to stay healthy this past year during the pandemic.

In response to the pandemic, PDA stopped sending/hosting teams until after June of 2021. But with June quickly approaching, and with many of us becoming fully vaccinated, it now seems within the realm of possibility that a Fall disaster assistance trip is a possibility.

The Presbytery Mission Committee is planning a PDA Mission Trip to Wilmington, NC on Sun Oct 10 – Sat Oct 16. Check your calendar & mark the dates. More information this summer!

If you're interested, please be on the lookout for future developments, or email Billy Robinson stating your interest and he'll make sure you're on our mailing list.

In Christ's Service,
Bob Abel

- **Disaster Assistance Shower Trailer**

Were you aware that our Presbytery built and deployed a "shower trailer" for use in disaster assistance? It's been in the field and in service ever since Billy Wilson and friends of Union Presbyterian Church built the trailer more than 15 years ago.

With a little luck and helping of grace, our Shower Trailer will soon return from its long deployment in Charleston, SC. We're hoping to spruce it up before putting it to use again and we're looking for some knowledgeable assistance. Please email Billy Robinson if you're willing to help.

Also, in attempt to celebrate this unique ministry, we're trying to collect photos of the shower trailer being built and deployed; if you have any photos of the trailer in use, please pass them along to Billy Robinson. Who knows, the trailer may end up with its own Instagram account?

- **Mission Co-Worker Sub-Committee:**

The Sub-Committee promotes sponsoring and partnering with Mission Co-Workers serving in mission fields outside the United States. Many of our Co-Workers returned to the United States during the pandemic and are eagerly awaiting a return to their call.

Below is a list of the coworkers known by the presbytery to have received support from

congregations within Western North Carolina. Those names with an asterisk are from our presbytery. If you would like more information about sponsoring a Mission Co-Worker, please contact Billy Robinson at the presbytery office.

Mark Hare - Haiti
Jo Ella Holman – Caribbean
Karla Koll – Costa Rica
Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez - Philippines
Victor and Sara Makari - Palestine
John McCall* - Taipei, Taiwan
James and Jodi McGill – South Sudan
Eliane Menezes – Guatemala

Bill and Ann Moore - Japan
Elmarie & Scott Parker – Lebanon
Larry and Inge Sthreshley - Congo
Douglas Tilton - Cape Town, South Africa
Daniel and Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar, Africa
Gary and Marlene Van Brocklin*
Leslie Vogel - Guatemala

• Campus Ministry

Committee is: Rev. Dr. Richard R. Coble (chairperson); Rev. Thomas Brown; Dr. Cindy Combs; Rev. Keith Freeman; Rev. Lisle Garrity; Mr. Ken Murchison; and Mr. Renie Stewart.

The Campus Mission Committee seeks to support ministry on the campuses within the bounds of the Presbytery, by:

1. Acting as a network for sharing ideas, resources, and professional development opportunities among the students, faculty, and staff serving at these institutions;
2. Offer shared Christian experiences to students, such as retreats, work camps, and mission trips;
3. Connect the campuses with the Presbytery so they may support one another in nurture and Christian mission;
4. Be a catalyst for the establishment of new campus ministries;
5. Evaluate the effectiveness of Presbyterian ministry on these campuses.

In 2021, the Campus Ministry Committee continues its work of encouraging and supporting ministry to the students, faculty, and staff of the institutions of higher learning within the bounds of our presbytery Presbyterian Campus Ministries of North Carolina:

- [Western Carolina University](#)
- [University of North Carolina -Asheville](#)
- [Belmont Abbey College](#)
- [Brevard College](#)
- [Lees-McRae College](#)
- [Lenoir–Rhyne University](#)
- [Mars Hill University](#)
- [Montreat College](#)
- [North Carolina Wesleyan College](#)
- [Warren Wilson College](#)
- [Gardner–Webb University](#)
- [Lees–McRae College](#)
- [Lenoir–Rhyne University](#)
- [Warren Wilson College](#)
- [Asheville–Buncombe Technical Community College](#)
- [Blue Ridge Community College](#)
- [Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute](#)
- [Catawba Valley Community College](#)
- [Cleveland Community College](#)
- [Gaston College](#)
- [Haywood Community College](#)
- [Isothermal Community College](#)
- [Mayland Community College^{\[citation needed\]}](#)
- [McDowell Technical Community College^{\[citation needed\]}](#)
- [Southwestern Community College](#)
- [Tri-County Community College](#)
- [Western Piedmont Community College](#)

- UKirk@WCU- The Presbytery's campus ministry at Western Carolina University offers the following report:

Differences not Division

All through the Fall and Spring semesters this year, [UKirk WCU](#) has been holding a weekly Bible Study which has been looking at Racial Justice through the lens of Scripture.

Resources on racial justice have exploded in frequency and variety, but students still want to know: "***What does the Bible say about this?***" So we've been looking at that exact question.

This last week, in preparation for Palm Sunday, we talked about the radiating nature of God's covenant with Abraham ("*I will make you a father of many nations...in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed*"), the diverse group present at the Triumphal entry ("*some Greeks said, 'We wish to see Jesus'*"), the diversity of the crowd at Pentecost ("*there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout people from every nation under heaven*") and for our last reading we looked to the throne room of heaven where "*a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, was standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands...*"

Most of the students have been taught some level of colorblindness which has made them anxious or unprepared to have conversations about race. Our conversations from Scripture are helping us to see differences and to celebrate how those differences are woven into God's plan. We're trying to find ways to see and celebrate those differences even as we push back against division and discrimination.

At UKirk WCU, our coffeehouse ministry is having honest conversations about Scripture and racial justice. We are grateful to be able to do this work and we are grateful for [your support](#) as we do it.

Noah McIntee

[UKirk WCU](#) & [Hillside Grind Coffeehouse](#)

Presbyterian Campus Ministry at Western Carolina University

- A new organization has formed over the past two years, Presbyterian Campus Ministry of North Carolina. This newly formed organization is working with our Presbytery to fill its board with two representatives from every presbytery within the state. If you are interested in serving, please contact Billy Robinson.

Mission Committee of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina Mission Report March 2021

Matthew 25:35

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.



The Mission Committee has been tasked with discerning the work ahead for the Presbytery of Western North Carolina with the Matthew 25 initiative of Eradicating Systemic Poverty.

The Mission Committee has identified Affordable Housing, Affordable Health Care, Early Childhood Education/Childcare and Living Wage advocacy as issues specific to impoverished communities in Western North Carolina.

We feel that deeply affordable housing and affordable health care are the larger issues we see in our local communities.

The Mission Committee believes the Matthew 25 initiative is not only a call to share our resources but also is a deep call to become advocates for our neighbors in need.

In the coming months we will make recommendations of how the Presbytery can engage in small and large ways in this intensive call to not only offer resources to combat the systemic issues of poverty, but also advocate for our vulnerable populations.

[Photo courtesy of Beloved Asheville.](#)



November 12, 2020

Dear Presbytery of Western North Carolina;

Deep thankfulness for your support of Hands and Feet of Asheville, a Young Adult Volunteer site of the Presbyterian Church, USA. We have just received your donation of \$1,000 and it could not come at a better time! As you might have guessed, we are not physically hosting Young Adult Volunteers this year because of the pandemic and therefore have very little incoming donations. But we are engaged with the ongoing virtual YAV year as well as a host of other site enrichment and professional development work that will revive our program and our commitments to social justice education and the dismantling of white supremacy. We have long been grateful for your support and partnership throughout the years, and continue to be deeply grateful this fall to be reminded that we are not alone in this very distanced time.

While it currently feels like there is little we can change in the world, we continue to believe the best way to create long term and meaningful change is by investing in our collective future by educating young adults to be more compassionate and empowered leaders. We do plan on hosting volunteers for the 21-22 program year and are excited to keep in touch in the coming months about those plans.

Thank you for believing in this work and thank you for walking alongside us during these uncertain times. Hands and Feet of Asheville is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax deductible.

To learn more about our site, the work of our volunteers, or our partner agencies, please visit us at www.handsandfeetavl.org.

Many thanks,

Selena Hilemon
handsandfeetavl@gmail.com



Guatemala Microloan Update

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

John 13: 34-35



“Fraternal greetings to all of you from ADEHGUA! I wish the best for everyone this year, and I hope that the political transition that the United States is facing can bring more positive changes for all of you and the world. It is undoubtedly a difficult time for all of us. The women, their families and the community faced challenges, difficulties, and obstacles that prevented the constant work they are used to. The good news is that we closed a year with more unity, with more maturity on their part, creativity and ingenuity and desire to achieve. They continued to support their families, worked for their sons and daughters, each one from their reality searched and found the best ways to excel, and today we are here stronger, more united, more aware, more human. And with great joy, I also manifest that I see more strengthened and consolidated families because they stayed side by side.

I want to express the gratitude that the women and their families feel towards you, towards us, because we did not leave them alone, they always felt accompanied and strengthened by all the support received.”

Mildre



Crop growing as micro enterprise



Corn has long been a staple of the Guatemalan diet — both people and *livestock*. **Marfina’s** story illustrates the challenges that many small farmers face. When **Marfina**, who has a seven-year-old daughter, entered the microloan project, she and her partner used their small loan to raise Creole chickens and broilers. They have done quite well, but as farmers, the planting of corn is vital to survival. This year they received a larger ‘entrepreneur’ loan in order to plant corn for their livestock.

Growing corn is difficult in Guatemala due to the conditions under which corn is planted and there are few other resources that can be allocated to it. *Campeños*, or ‘peasant’ farmers, do not have the capacity to buy the agricultural supplies needed (such as fertilizers) because these products are so expensive. This makes their corn yield low. Bugs and insects prevent the corn cobs from growing very large or in some cases they ruin a large part of the crop. While there is little profit, the benefit of growing their corn is that they will not have to buy corn from middle men, which is expensive.

Marfina and her partner also planted sesame seeds. The profit margin for sesame seeds is but once again, not all the necessary resources are affordable, so the quality of the seed was acceptable, but not excellent. However, **Marfina** and her partner are very happy for the harvest, and grateful for the blessing of these two products that they were able to grow in order to support the family.



Education is ‘priceless’ for microloan mom of two



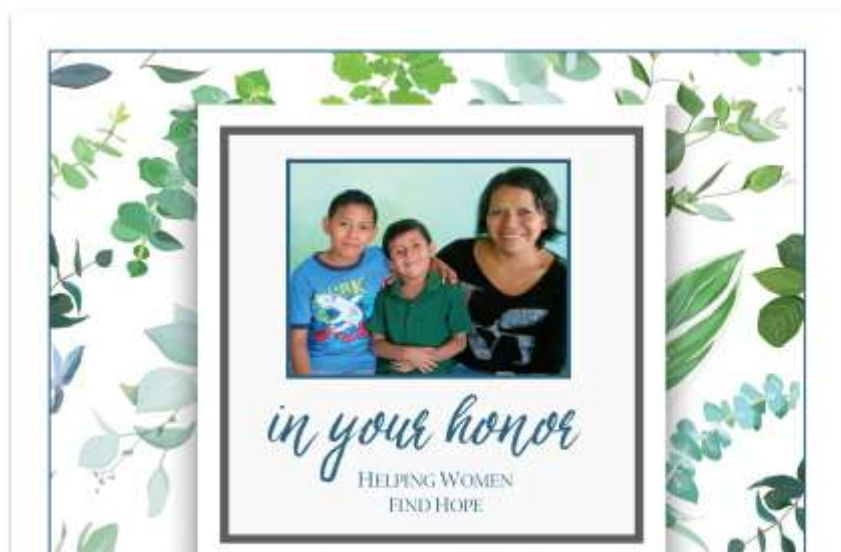
You may have read previously about Lety, a very successful microloan participant. She is a single mother of two children, ages 11 and 16, seeking to change the course of their futures. She started the microloan program by selling used clothing, bananas, and cheese. With her success in this area, she progressed to the ‘entrepreneur’ level of the program and was able to get a larger loan and began selling silver jewelry. In addition, Lety took a course on perfumery and makes perfumes based on orders from her regular customers. But the pandemic hit her businesses hard. She became quite concerned about the lack of work because she could not go out to sell her wares. When she could go out, she didn’t have many ‘sales’. How would she pay her household expenses? But Lety did not get discouraged; but continued to work towards her dreams of self-sufficiency!

Having earlier in her adult life completed her high school equivalency degree, she entered a school for auxiliary nurses in Guatemala. She took this pandemic ‘down-time’ to complete the course, is now an auxiliary nurse, authorized to work as a nursing assistant! Not only that, but she hopes to soon have a steady job in nursing that will support her family and plans to continue studying and complete the course in specialized patient care.

See, it is not just about a ‘loan’, but about changing lives of two generations, Lety and her children. Taking them from subsistence to *independence*; from just surviving, to *thriving*—that’s what the Guatemala Microloan Program is all about! Congrats to Lety! We’re proud of you!

Looking for a PW Project?

Why not purchase Alternative Giving Cards and raise money for the Guatemala Microloan Program?



These cards, on sale for \$10 each, are perfect for ***Mother’s Day or Easter Greetings!***

Want to remember those ‘special women’ in your life or the life of the church during this Pandemic?

Why not buy a bunch of cards and mail to them all?

To order, contact Mimi Michael
mimimichael@charter.net

Men in the Mirror Ministries of Central America A Ministry of Discipleship and Transformation

Strategic Plan

Summary Statement:

Based on curriculum by the title, “Men in the Mirror,” (in Spanish: “Hombres en El Espejo”), written by the Reverend Dr. Kevin E. Frederick, translated by biblical Theologians at the ISEDET Seminary in Buenos Aires Argentina, and by South American PCUSA Mission Coordinator- Dennis Smith. Hombres en El Espejo was further adapted by Rev. Mateo Gonzales for use with Central American men.

Program Leaders:

Brian Thompson-Royer -Retired PCUSA mission worker- Guatemala.
Rev. Mateo Gonzales Curriculum Coordinator and Central American Facilitator
Rev. Dr. Kevin E Frederick Retired PCUSA Pastor of 35 years.

Vision Statement:

A Theological and Biblical Basis for this work

Men in the Mirror Ministries seeks to further the following vision.:

At the beginning of his ministry in the Gospel of John, Jesus extended the invitation to his disciples to “Follow Me.” (John 1:43.) This curriculum is designed to acknowledge the epidemic of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse that exists in cultures around the world and particularly in the Latin American Communities where the learned behaviors of male dominance and control (Machismo) have impacted countless families for generations. Left unexamined, male behaviors and attitudes of dominance, control and neglect that impact virtually all families.

By identifying and exploring different facets of a relational ethic at work in the life of Jesus, as articulated in the New Testament Gospel narratives, this curriculum offers Christian men the opportunity to evaluate their own unquestioned damaging attitudes, perceptions and behaviors that have been applied to their relationships with their spouses and children. This destructive persona often results in physical, sexual, economic, and psychological trauma and damage to members of one’s family. It also contributes to a very conflicted and spiritually destructive sense-of-self within men. Biblical Scriptures communicate that God’s will for families is revealed within human interactions, experiences and values of love, compassion, mutuality, and joy. This curriculum provides critical resources necessary for men to learn to reorient themselves as fathers and husbands, around these core values. In addition, the interactive dynamics applied in studying this curriculum in small groups, teaches men to relate to each other, not as competitors, but as collaborators and brothers in Christ, partnering together in discipleship growth.

The Mission Statement:

The mission of Men in the Mirror is to provide teenage boys and men of Guatemalan Presbyterian communities with critical tools to assess their own self concept of masculinity and to critique the predominant allegiance of men to machismo masculinity. The curriculum encourages an examination of both the strengths and weaknesses in their own persona and behaviors as men. The curriculum provides course participants with the skills to articulate and apply a biblically based Christ-centered relational ethic to their own identity and to their interpersonal relationships. The

effectiveness of the program is realized in a greater degree of mutuality and trust between spouses, and harmonious relationships and constructive parenting offered by fathers to their children. Within families guided by these principles there will be a sharp reduction in tendencies towards enacting male dominance, control and violence within their own family life.

Business and Team Summary:

Our primary business in Men in the Mirror is to facilitate the expansion of educational opportunities through faith communities and organizations in Guatemala where men gather and can feel safe in addressing these issues together. Through the efforts of our Central American Course Facilitator, Reverend Mateo Gonzales and with the supportive assistance and participation of Kevin Frederick and Brian Thompson-Royer, small groups of male pastors, chaplains, youth leaders, and other educators will be exposed to the content of the curriculum, and taught how to teach it to groups of men in their own communities.

Men in the Mirror will promote the course principles, the objectives and advocate for its adoption within local communities across Guatemalan Presbyterian communities. The Program Facilitator will set up meetings both in person and on Zoom, will provide the training in the use of the curriculum, will help the local course leaders to address their challenges in implementing the program and addressing the responses to it. The Facilitator will also follow through with each local group by assessing the impact of the course on the course participants as they articulate how the course has impacted their own families.

The Core Team Members are:

Reverend Mateo Gonzales-

Course Facilitator and Regional Coordinator.

As a Pastor and educated sociologist, Reverend Gonzales has worked extensively through ICHTHUS Ministries in equipping young people in Central America and parts of South America to become servant leaders in various Christian communities. He has served as a pastor/educator for more than two decades and is an ordained minister of the Guatemalan Presbyterian Denomination. (IENPG) He has been an adjunct seminary professor in Sociology at the Presbyterian Seminary in San Felipe, Guatemala, and has developed extensive networking contacts throughout Central America.

Mr. Brian Thompson Royer-

North American Team Leader, Program Coordinator, Promoter and Translator:

Retired community organizer of forty years of service, five years of which included serving with his wife as Mission Coordinators for the PCUSA in Guatemala working in developing Women's Empowerment ministries and with male and female church leaders across the nation. Brian has well developed Spanish/English translation skills and extensive experience in working with Non-Governmental Agencies in North and Central America. He has worked for several years fundraising for Men in the Mirror and promoting it within PCUSA congregations.

Reverend Dr. Kevin E Frederick-

Course designer, educator, Team coordinator:

PCUSA pastor serving local congregations for 35 years. Doctor of Ministry degree in biblical studies and relational ethics, with a second masters in Christian Education. Member and moderator of the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network of the PCUSA for 11 years. Written extensively on

issues related to Domestic Violence for publication. Currently the chair of the Western North Carolina Guatemala Partnership committee. Course Advisor, and will play a primary role in Grant writing and coordination through the PCUSA.

Structure of Leadership Model.

Although there are particular assignments for each of the three leaders identified above, the method of leadership is collaborative and with mutuality established between each member of the leadership team. Any decision to be made, or challenge faced by the organization will be addressed by the three leaders addressing each issue together and coming to consensus as to how to proceed. This will require a high degree of trust between the leaders and regular and consistent communication between all three of the team leaders working together. Because of the distance and the cultural differences between the three leaders, team meetings between the three will need to occur on average twice a month during regularly scheduled Zoom or phone/video conferencing. Only one of the three team leaders is conversant in both languages, which will require adequate time for communication and clarification during each meeting, lasting at least an hour in length. All proposed changes in direction or implementation of the program shall be discussed in advance of making such decisions or changes. The three leaders agree to be transparent regarding feelings or perceptions that are held regarding the direction, implementation, or obstacles facing the operations and program content. Trust and open transparency are essential to the operations and success of this program.

Action Steps to the Model

- Written covenantal agreement signed by three team leaders of the principles of team operations identified above under structure of leadership.
- Development of a Strategic Plan and budget for the remainder of 2021.
- Teaching the course on line utilizing Zoom until Covid threat is contained regionally,
- Creation of a longer range strategic plan and budget for program expansion.
- Exploration of possible NGO's/agencies, support groups who might serve as a regional support team for Mateo Gonzales. Once identified, establish a covenant relationship between Men in the Mirror, Mateo Gonzales, and the regional agency.
- Establishment of a partnering relationship with the Presbytery of Western North Carolina and its Guatemala Partnership Committee, through which grant monies and church financial support could be channeled, and through which communication within the Presbyterian Church USA could be routed. This plan was endorsed by the Guatemala Partnership Committee of PWNC and seeks approval of General Council of PWNC.
- Exploration of possible funding sources through Grant sources and expansion of funding dollars and program to provide further educational opportunities in Guatemala.
- Development of specific Grant Applications and shepherding of the grant application process with approval by the leadership team, and the Presbytery of Western NC.
- Management of existing "Men In the Mirror" groups, facilitating those groups and evaluation of the effectiveness of the curriculum in the lives and families of course participants
- Ongoing evaluation of the program operations and plans for expansion.

Analysis of Strengths and Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Strengths:

- After an international search from 2009 to 2012 for biblically based curriculum and resources designed to challenge men in general, and male perpetrators of domestic and family violence in particular, researching the Faith Trust Institute, the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches and other agencies, and finding little to no educational materials of that nature, Rev. Dr. Kevin Frederick developed a thirteen session course entitled Men in the Mirror, translated into Spanish as Hombres en El Espejo, to address the unchecked epidemic of domestic and family violence in the USA and Guatemala and other Latin American countries. This is the only known curriculum of its kind in existence.
- The curriculum was translated in 2013, the course has been adapted by Rev. Mateo Gonzales for use with Guatemalan communities.
- Rev. Dr. Frederick has taught and introduced this curriculum and earlier versions of it since 2005 through Presbyterian congregations in the USA, through CEDEPCA Seminary of Guatemala in two dozen workshops and presentations across Guatemala, through the sister Presbyteries of the Presbytery of Western NC -Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez, and through individual Presbyterian Churches in Guatemala and in Argentina and Uruguay. Follow up conversations and testimonies in subsequent years with course participants has demonstrated the transformational nature of this curriculum on themselves as men and their families.
- The Guatemala Partnership Committee of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina has had an active partnership with Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez Presbyteries in Guatemala since 1995. The partnership has focused its collaboration on health care initiatives, microloans for women, congregational partnerships, and education on an elementary, secondary, and college levels for Presbyterians in sister Guatemalan Presbyterian churches. The Men in the Mirror curriculum was added and funded for implementation in both Presbyteries since 2017; and has been adopted for use by several local churches in both Guatemalan Presbyteries.
- Through CEDEPCA and the PCUSA mission efforts in South America, this course has been introduced to several Christian denominations in Central and South America.
- The course has been adopted, studied and applied by more than fifty members of the National Police Force Chaplains of Guatemala in their work addressing perpetrators of crimes of family and domestic violence in every province of the nation of Guatemala.

Opportunities

- According to the American Medical Association, in the United States crimes of domestic violence are one of the greatest causes of injury and death of American women. During the Vietnam War Era there were more women who died from Domestic Violence in the United States than men who died in battle in Vietnam. The AMA has identified Domestic Violence in the United States as occurring annually at epidemic proportions. According to a 2009 report on National Public Radio, Domestic Violence in the nation of Guatemala is eight times greater than in the USA, with a conviction rate of perpetrators at less than three percent of all reported cases. Femicide in Guatemala is greater than most any other nation in the Western Hemisphere with many other Latin American Countries facing similar statistics.
- There are few, if any, programs designed to address this wide-spread tragedy in Latin America.

- Teenage males and young adults who have attended these workshops over the years have been most receptive to the premise of the curriculum than are older men. Frequently they recognize more quickly the need for change in their society.
- Women's organizations in Churches, government agencies and in Guatemalan communities have been energetic proponents of this curriculum when they have learned about it and been introduced to the basic concepts.
- This course has an established track record of effectiveness from course participants who have participated in it and applied the basic principles to their own lives.
- A sample of Testimonies shared by course participants:
Ronnie: "I grew up in a family where my mother, my siblings and I were abused by my father. I first participated in your class when I was 17 ,and I vowed that I would relate differently to my wife and my children when I married. Seven years later, I am married and the father of two children and my family life is much healthier and happier than the one I grew up in. "
Pastor Jose: "I taught this course in my home church and one of the men in attendance is an Elder in the church, his daughter became pregnant out of wedlock and he banished her from the house but after taking this course and studying the love of the father in the story of the prodigal son, his heart softened, and he allowed his daughter back home and now he has a healthy relationship with us daughter and his grandchild."
Pastor Hector: "I was married for forty two years and was abusive to my wife throughout the marriage. Last year she died. We had raised five sons. After taking this course last year, I repented of my behavior, I live with regrets but I sat down with my sons and urged them to take this course and not to treat their wives the same way that I had treated their mother."
- Men in the Mirror is a transformational educational course, allowing the learner to open their lives to the convicting truth of scripture and the love of Christ which Jesus modeled in his relationships. This is a far stronger model of change for men, rather than from words of condemnation by a faith leader.

Weaknesses and Threats:

- Other than the marginal support of one presbytery and a few congregations there is no funding base for this program. The program's potential far exceeds the financial resources in hand to operate it. The needs include a stipend to the Guatemalan facilitator(s), transportation, establishment of a web page, promotional costs, publication costs for the curriculum, communication costs and others.
- The pandemic has curtailed the gatherings of course participants in local churches and the mobility of the course facilitator.
- When this course was introduced to leaders and members of nine Presbyteries in the Guatemalan Presbyterian Church IENPG in 2017 there was a high degree of mistrust by a number of Presbyteries and their leaders and many undermined the credibility of this work by spreading the rumor that the curriculum was trying to demasculinize men and advocate for homosexuality. This has created a high degree of suspicion and ias against the course in the IENPG.
- The cultural and physical distances between Guatemala and the USA have limited the level of support of the team leaders to offer to each other, especially for Reverend Gonzales in

Guatemala as he faces opposition within his denomination and resistance from many church leaders on a local level.

- Reverend Gonzales needs specific allies and supportive agencies within Guatemala and Central America to collaborate with, and work through. Possibilities of allies and advocates include local NGO's CEDEPCA Seminary in Guatemala City, CEPAD in Nicaragua, Women's Ministry organizations, groups addressing Domestic Violence, and other agencies who might endorse the mission and ministry of this program.
- Without a website and organized methods of communication this program is limited to word of mouth and the personal networks of the three leaders of *Men in the Mirror*.

Immediate Strategic Goals for the next eighteen months:

- Creation of a Covenant of Accountability and Trust, between the three team leaders which is developed, agreed upon, and signed by all three leaders.
- Exploration of regional supportive networks and partnerships with other Central American agencies including the Association of National Police Chaplains in Guatemala and others, and the creation of supportive relationships and an advisory team for Reverend Gonzales and Men in the Mirror.
- Creation of a bilingual web page which promotes Men in the Mirror throughout the region and encourages funding from the USA.
- Creation of a working budget which assures adequate monthly compensation (a stipend) to Reverend Gonzales for his work, financial support of administrative costs from transportation to communication and other expenses.
- Establishing funding sources for operational expenses and stipend, also including printing costs of the curriculum, and operational expenses for hosting workshops, Internet Fees and webinar costs for classes on the internet.
- The creation of a written evaluation form for Team leaders, local church leaders and course participants to evaluate the material content, the teaching styles, Including the opportunity for course participants to offer personal testimonies about the impact of the course on their lives and the lives of their family members. Invite responses from the wives of course participants to reflect on how the course has impacted their family life and relationships.



Upcoming Youth Events for PWNC



June 21-25, 2021

**Mission Trip for BOTH middle and high school youth
Christmount, Black Mountain, NC**

Limited to 40

Sign Up now!!

Cost: \$150-190 per participant (depends on housing option)



October 3, 2021

Youth Rally for BOTH middle and high school youth

Keynote Speaker: TBD

Montreat - Upper Anderson

NO registration needed

2:45 - 6:00 pm

Cost: Free!!



November 5-7, 2021

Middle School Retreat

Keynote Speaker: TBD

Camp Grier, Old Fort, NC

Begins on Friday night with dinner and ends after worship on Sunday (this will be reassessed closer to time in regards to Covid.)

Cost: ~\$100 per person



February 26, 2022

Faith and Sexuality Retreat

Allen Bldg, Montreat, NC

For 5th-8th graders and their parents/guardians

Programming for families, parents and age groups for youth

Cost: \$10 per person (includes lunch)

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

YOUTH COUNCIL

ALWAYS FUN

ALWAYS CHALLENGING



why should **YOU** apply?

I would encourage youth to apply to PYC because it is wonderful to get to know other people your age outside of your home church that share your beliefs, as well while working towards a common goal to put on an event. The events themselves are also so fun and it is very rewarding to see the participants enjoy their day. PYC events are so good at bringing people together to share in the love of Jesus Christ, and I'm so happy I got the chance to help make those events a reality. When I joined PYC, I had no idea how long I would continue to do it or how impactful it would be, and three years later I'm so sad to be leaving it and all the wonderful memories. Enjoy your time on PYC, every day of the events and planning meetings is so awesome and fun!
Gabby Putt

The year I joined the Presbyterian Youth Council, I was a completely different person than I am now. I remember being quite shy and often felt nervous about leading or speaking in front of groups of people. PYC gave me the opportunity to push myself to do things I never imagined I could do, whether that was writing prayers and liturgy for the worship team, speaking in front of crowds, and even leading small groups at the middle school retreat. This is what I know to be true: PYC has changed me for the better, and this is why I want to encourage **you** to join! The warm welcome you will receive during orientation and every meeting from then on out, the friendships you will make, and the guidance of Beth and all of the team members will stick with you forever. PYC is fun, but it is every bit as rewarding. You will get to oversee service projects, watch connections happen among people who had not known each other the day before, and you will get to watch yourself go through a tremendous amount of growth. Samantha Crabtree

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

**Applications
available on
website**

(www.presbytery

wnc.org)

**Due June
10th**

Questions?

Email Beth

beth.gunn@gmail.com

**SIGN UP
NOW!**



YOUTH MISSION TRIP! JUNE 21-25, 2021

Cost: \$150 - \$190 depending on housing (camping or cabins) Includes all meals, housing and program fees. Variety of outdoor, Covid safe projects and programming planned.

Christmount, Black Mountain, NC **Registration Open. Details on PWNC website**

Why Mission?:

- Hands-on engagement with local gardens, food insecurity, and ecologically sustainable and sound farming practices.
- What does this have to do with the environment, the economy, our values, our lifestyles and our faith?
- We do this in a community of collaboration, respect, prayer, worship and recreation.

Finance Committee
Charles Sellers - Chair
April 27, 2021

For information only the Finance Committee presents:

- ◆ The 'Operating Budget Summary' of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of March 31, 2021, BB-2.

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

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
OPERATING BUDGET SUMMARY
AS OF MARCH 31, 2021**

ACCOUNT	2021 ANNUAL BUDGET	2021 YTD BUDGET	2021 YTD ACTUAL	% OF Annual Budget	2020 YTD ACTUAL	2019 YTD ACTUAL	2018 YTD ACTUAL	2017 YTD ACTUAL	2016 YTD ACTUAL
INCOME:									
Unified Giving from churches	\$738,306	\$184,577	205,577	27.8%	149,827	220,274	\$159,632	\$190,646	\$193,040
Work of Presbytery only-churches	2,500	625	0	0.0%	0	0	1,000	0	1,500
Other income	35,300	8,825	4,455	12.6%	5,250	10,061	6,500	10,000	7,500
Anticipated Grants/Income	5,000	1,250	5,000	0.0%	5,000	0	0	0	4,996
Designated Proceeds for NWC	32,500	8,125	0	0.0%	0	4,880	9,840	7,732	8,015
Income from Investment(5%)	161,876	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Recovery-Admin Commission/Legal	10,000	2,500	1,791	0.0%	2,900	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	\$985,482	\$205,902	\$216,823	22.0%	\$162,977	\$235,215	\$176,972	\$208,378	\$215,052
EXPENSES:									
General Assembly Per Capita/Unified Giving	\$165,000	\$41,250	45,943	27.8%	32,959	47,734	\$34,953	\$42,280	\$42,862
Synod Per Capita	16,077	4,019	4,477	27.8%	3,193	3,441	2,499	3,005	3,130
Institutions & Agencies	5,000	1,250	1,392	27.8%	999	1,447	1,028	1,450	1,470
Outreach/Mission Development	\$37,250	9,313	2,250	6.0%	4,446	6,599	900	2,761	2,746
Congregational Development	65,279	16,320	4,867	7.5%	5,445	11,350	13,366	12,876	15,019
Leadership Development	2,300	575	19	0.8%	(382)	1,269	450	(1,701)	(2,313)
Youth Ministries	18,600	4,650	1,411	7.6%	7,608	10,787	7,704	(1,491)	3,236
Committee on Ministry	6,950	1,738	217	3.1%	727	655	1,011	1,045	396
Preparation for Ministry	5,500	1,375	677	12.3%	804	904	210	858	701
General Council	11,395	2,849	750	6.6%	798	4,478	840	1,055	761
Nominating/Representation	700	175	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0
Finance	59,950	14,988	12,908	21.5%	14,428	15,193	14,713	18,638	12,701
Personnel	515,982	128,995	111,030	21.5%	97,461	112,825	122,877	126,438	99,337
Joint Outdoor Ministries	17,000	4,250	8,500	50.0%	8,500	5,000	5,750	12,500	6,250
Permanent Judicial	250	63	0	0.0%	3	0	3	0	0
Supplies, Equip,Serv/Comm	31,900	7,975	7,150	22.4%	8,374	9,183	7,086	9,720	8,951
Stated Clerk	14,350	3,588	988	6.9%	1,981	737	730	296	509
Administrative Commissions	2,000	500	0	0.0%	(1,569)	5,082	504	227	4,803
Legal Fees	10,000	2,500	1,791	0.0%	2,900	0	866	11,627	11,392
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$985,482	\$246,371	\$204,369	20.7%	\$188,676	\$236,685	\$215,490	\$241,583	\$211,949
NET INCOME/(LOSS)		(\$40,469)	12,454		(\$25,699)	(\$1,470)	(\$38,518)	(\$33,205)	\$3,102

Building H.O.P.E. Financial Statement

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

As of 03/31/2021

Campaign Totals		Ministry details			
		Malawi	Camp Grier	Vital Churches	Guatemala
Collected	\$1,913,931.29	\$864,736.42	\$372,700.72	\$371,116.73	\$305,377.42
Gain/Loss (subject to market fluctuations)	\$340,419.93	\$158,152.22	\$77.47	\$81,936.78	\$100,253.46
Campaign Expenses	\$107,145.81	\$48,409.73	\$20,864.55	\$20,775.88	\$17,095.65
Utilized	\$678,050.25	\$245,343.00	\$311,400.00	\$39,086.25	\$82,221.00
Available for Requests	\$1,469,155.16	\$729,135.91	\$40,513.64	\$393,191.38	\$306,314.23

Malawi (Health Care & Education)	
Projects	Utilized
Rural Health Clinics	\$62,211.22
Rural Health Clinic Housing	\$39,019.78
Research Accountability	\$0.00
Mobile Health Unit	\$34,796.00
Medicines Fund	\$95,200.00
Ebenezer Institute Endowment Fund	\$14,116.00

Camp Grier (Outdoor Adventures)	
Projects	Utilized
Adventure Program Equipment *	\$93,500.00
Lake Front Upgrades *	\$0.00
Trail Development	\$70,000.00
Lodge Renovations	\$147,900.00
* The camp received funds from other sources to help with these projects, Building HOPE funds reallocated to the other project needs	

Vital Churches (Partnered Growth)	
Projects	Utilized
<i>Worship Initiatives & Congregational Development</i>	
Assessment tools	\$15,499.75
Water to Wine	\$7,000.00
New Worshipping Communities	\$0.00
<i>Leadership Development & Pastoral Revitalization</i>	
Church Leadership Workshops	\$7,241.00
Pastoral Initiatives	\$9,345.50
Supplement Leadership Support	\$0.00
Supplement Pastoral Support	\$0.00
Pastoral Education	\$0.00
<i>Consultants, Seminars & Upgrades in Technology</i>	
Hardware & Software	\$0.00
Websites	\$0.00
Consultants & Seminars	\$0.00

Guatemala (Education)	
Projects	Utilized
Higher Education Endowment	\$27,000.00
Fund for Theological Education of Pastors	\$39,000.00
Libraries/Teacher/Parent Formation Programs	\$11,271.00
Dream Goals	\$4,950.00

Building HOPE Campaign website:

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

Report of the General Presbyter
Byron Wade
April 27, 2021

“Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming . . .”

- *Dory, the fish character in the animated movie “Nemo”*

Some years ago, when the animated Disney movie *Nemo* came out, I watched it with my (then younger) son, Andrew. While we watched, I became fascinated by the character, Dory, as she kept repeating the saying, *“Just keep swimming. Just keep swimming . . .”* As we continue to navigate ministry and mission during the pandemic, this saying definitely rings true in my work of serving the Presbytery of Western North Carolina (PWNC).

Since our January Presbytery meeting, I continue to spend time getting to know and build relationships with people, mostly by Zoom. The “Virtual Lunch(es) with the General Presbyter” continue to be very popular. I have learned that Kitty Tompkins from the Forest City church has written at least one book; listened to Leah Epps from the Fairview/United churches talk about her experiences as a newly ordained minister serving two congregations; learned from honorably retired minister Thomas Lewis’s ministry and work in spirituality; caught up on old times with Merri Alexander at Mills River; and learned from honorably retired minister Alexandra Lusak her work in previous churches with people of color and the LGBTQ+ community. All of these lunches are really enriching and I love hearing how God continues to lead people through their personal experiences. I do have more slots for the next two months (April and May) and would love to have lunch with you!

I am also “swimming” with the Presbytery’s General Council in leading two important tasks. One is with the ad hoc committee to examine the process of nominations and structure. There has been a lot of talk of how the Presbytery’s Nominating Committee has difficulty in identifying people to serve on standing committees. There are eight people serving on this ad hoc committee and each were asked a series of questions that I composed and sent out in late January. I have interviewed either by Zoom or in-person every person with these questions provided and hope to compile the answers. Then, I will share with the committee what they said and see where God leads from there. The second body is the Task Force for Re-gathering, who, in addition to providing guidance for churches during the pandemic, have been given the added responsibility of recommending guidance to the Presbytery in regards to the use of technology for future Presbytery and standing committee meetings. If the pandemic brought any positive awareness, it is the fact that the use of some form of technology will play a necessary and vital role in future ministry. The Task Force members have also received a set of questions that I have composed to stimulate our thinking. By the time you have read this, the Task Force will have met to discuss and hopefully will form some recommendations for the General Council and possibly the next Presbytery meeting.

I have to various extents been involved in the many new developments that are currently happening here in PWNC. I am excited about the formation of a new worshipping community that is going to be in the Lincolnton area. The Church Formation and Transformation Committee, under the leadership of David Bonnema, are doing a great work in helping this come to fruition. Praise be to God! I am also excited to work with our Presbytery Associate, Barbara Ross, as she is in the process of developing plans for an annual Committee/Division leadership training course, training for the Advocate program, and developing an ongoing orientation session for new commissioned and ordained ministers who are entering the Presbytery. I am finding ways for our churches and Presbytery in its entirety to live into the PCUSA's Matthew 25 Initiative and you will hear more regarding this in the future. In addition, I am working with a mission study team at First PC, Hickory, and am impressed with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) and Examination Subcommittee in their work to prepare our inquirers, candidates, and commissioned/ordained ministers.

Of course, it goes without saying that we are blessed to have a talented and wonderful Presbytery staff. The administrative staff (Tonya, Lisa, Marcia, and Robbin) continue to keep us afloat with our heads above water in keeping the Presbytery running. Billy and Cam are well and providing us wonderful support in interpreting polity issues (Cam) and work with our smaller churches and committees (Billy). Our Presbytery Associates (Barbara, Bob, and Charles) keeps us abreast of church developments in their respective areas. Marie (Guatemala Partnership) and Beth (Youth Ministry) have planned well for their respective contingent in spite of the challenges of the pandemic. All in all, I have to say I am fortunate, blessed, and "highly favored" to work alongside them in PWNC.

As we live out the promises of the resurrected Christ as a "resurrection people", I hope you can see the light at the end of the tunnel as our nation (and world) begins to have a sense of optimism of the number of people who are being vaccinated against COVID and viewing "the light at the end of the tunnel." We still have a way to go, but I am confident that as the people of God, we can continue to *"just keep swimming. Just keep swimming . . ."* in our lives and ministries with God's leading. May it be so.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Byron".

Byron



**Asheville Host Program for the
Presbyterian (USA) Mission Agency's:**



- **Selena Hilemon**, B.A. Mars Hill College,
M.T.S. Vanderbilt University

-Tyronne Greenlee, Christians for a United Community, Circle of Mercy Congregation and New Mt. Olive Baptist Congregation
-Lisle Gwynn Garrity, M.Div., Sanctified Art Founder and Director

- Katherine DuBose Johnson, M.Div.,

- **C. Earl Leininger**, Professor Emeritus,

- Kathy Meacham (Chair), GCPC

- **Andrea Rosal (Interim Treasurer), GCPC**

[illegible]

789 Merrimon Avenue

handsandfeetavl@gmail.com

(828) 773-8880

www.handsandfeetavl.org

www.facebook.com/HandsandFeetAVL

Hands and Feet of Asheville UPDATE for the Presbytery of WNC

GOOD NEWS!

- After a sabbatical year during pandemic, we and all functioning YAV sites across the nation and the world will be hosting volunteers again for the August 2021-July 2022 year! If there are young people in your lives or your congregations, please have them contact : <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav/apply/>
- We at the Asheville site need housing for our volunteers for the coming year. We are open to finding an affordable and suitable housing OUTSIDE of Asheville, where rents are more affordable. If you know of an unused manse, a house that could house four or five young adults, please contact us at handsandfeetavl@gmail.com.
- Our YAV Alumna from the Asheville site (aka Hands and Feet of Asheville) have gone on to graduate school, work in nonprofits, divinity school, and they stay in touch with us, letting us know how their year with this program has helped them discern who they are and how they are called to serve in the world. We can send you a video of stories from YAV Alumnae.

- We are deeply grateful to the Mission Committee of the Presbytery of WNC for their financial and prayerful support of this program.

PLEASE PRAY for the future of the YAV program, as in Louisville at the national level, there are three positions in the YAV office that are currently vacant, including the director. Thank you.

For more information, please contact:

Selena Hilemon (handsandfeetavl@gmail.com) or

Kathy Meacham (KRMeacham@gmail.com) and

Visit our website: www.handsandfeetavl.org & our facebook page:
www.facebook.com/handsandFeetAVL