

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
STATED CLERK'S REPORT****D. Cameron (Cam) Murchison, Jr., Stated Clerk****April 25, 2023**

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

- CA 1. **THAT Mark Stanley, Cam Murchison, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the July 29, 2023 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. **THAT the minutes of the January 28, 2023 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. **THAT the April 2023 report of the following Administrative Commissions be received and entered into the permanent record of Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1)**
Administrative Commission for West Asheville
Administrative Commission for Churches Concluding Ministry
Administrative Commission for Oak Forest
- CA 4. **THAT the minutes of the ordination of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Maxwell Michaels
- CA 5. **THAT the minutes of the installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:**
Elizabeth Newman
6. **THAT a designated spokesperson be allowed to speak succinctly pro or con on each of the nine proposed amendments as they are presented in various reports on the docket. Thereafter, an opportunity will be given for one person to speak succinctly on the opposite side. Unless additional members or commissioners ask to speak to the amendment at that point, the moderator will put the question on the amendment to a vote following these two statements. If it appears that more time is needed on a particular amendment, the moderator may determine that action on such an amendment will be docketed for a subsequent called meeting of Presbytery, to be held virtually prior to the deadline of July 9, 2023.**

FOR INFORMATION:

7. **THAT the 136th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, July 29, 2023, virtually. THAT the deadline for written reports for this meeting is Thursday, July 6, 2023. THAT the deadline for an overture is Monday, June 26, 2023.**
8. **THAT meetings for Clerks of Session who wish to do the review in-person with fellow clerks have been scheduled for May 13, 2023, at Reems Creek-Beech Presbyterian**

Church and May 20, 2023, at the Presbytery Office in Morganton. Both sessions are scheduled from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

- 9. THAT persons who are due for Sacred Boundaries Training in 2023 will soon receive a reminder and notice of online opportunities to complete that training.**

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

West Asheville Presbyterian Church: As previously reported, the AC authorized use of the fellowship hall as an emergency shelter in conjunction with Counterflow and three other churches (Trinity United Methodist, Grace Covenant Presbyterian, and Grace Episcopal) from mid-December 2022 through March 2023. In the meantime, the AC has received a contracted report from the Wesley Community Development Corporation assessing the physical condition of the property. The AC endorsed the report's findings that "Given the age of the building, deferred maintenance, and investment within the district, it is very likely the cost of any meaningful rehabilitation of the property will outweigh the market value of the building."

Accordingly, the AC has determined to begin preparing for the eventual demolition of the facility, restricting any maintenance or upkeep expenses to the bare minimum required for safety and liability. With this change of direction, Don Hawkins has indicated that he will step back from participation on the AC. Thus, the AC is asking the General Council to reorganize it to include at least one or two members who may be well suited to the next phase of its work as it continues to seek a shared lens around racial equity, exploring inviting community partners into the decision-making process for the property's future use. Arrangements continue with daily presence of caretaker at the building to ensure its well-being.

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

Churches concluding their Ministry: This AC currently has oversight of the properties of the former John Knox Presbyterian Church in Shelby and the former Conley Memorial Presbyterian Church in Marion. An Option Agreement has been made with Preservation North Carolina (PNC) for the disposition of the John Knox property in a manner that preserves its historical integrity. In the meantime, a leasing arrangement with a local congregation has been arranged while a buyer for the property is sought. At Conley Memorial, conversations are continuing with a congregation that may have an interest in the property for its ministry in the area.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Brittain, Chair

Oak Forest Presbyterian Church: This AC has had two meetings since the previous presbytery meeting, at the first of which James Aydelotte was elected as chair. The AC has also organized two meetings led by some of the AC members with persons who have an interest in helping to form a cemetery association for perpetual care of the cemetery on the church property. The AC has voted that the church's trust funds that are being liquidated will be transferred to such a cemetery association for its long-term maintenance. In addition, the AC is recommending to the presbytery that the portion of the church property that comprises the cemetery be conveyed without cost to the cemetery association once it is properly established. The AC has also asked the General Council to consider (within the next 6 months) whether it believes developing a new ministry on this site is viable. At the same time, the AC is proceeding with getting estimates regarding what the property might sell for as is, as well as estimates of what the cost of demolition and creation of several housing lots for sale might be.

Respectfully submitted,
James Aydelotte, Chair