

NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION TEAM

October 28, 2025

The Nominating/Representation Team presents the following nominations to fill vacancies within the Class of 2027 and other open positions. The next team meeting will take place on November 8, 2025.

The Nominating/Representation Committee is responsible for filling the slate for each team throughout the year and for creating the new Class of 2028, to begin serving a three-year term in January of 2026. To this end, we ask you to discern your wishes regarding a Presbytery team on which you would like to serve, or suggest someone for a Presbytery team.

Please be mindful of the Presbytery by-laws, which state: “Team members shall serve a term of three (3) years, divided into equal classes. No team member shall serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Ordinarily, an individual may serve on only one Presbytery team at a time.”

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

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| CA | 1. | <u>Finance Team</u>
Rev. Dr. Don Scofield (Rutherfordton) | | Chair for 2026 |
| CA | 2. | <u>Personnel Team</u>
Mr. Linda Roston (Waldensian)
Mr. Robert “Bob” Ayala (Newdale) | | Class of 2028
Class of 2028 |
| CA | 3. | <u>Property Team</u>
Mr. Mike Begley (Black Mountain)
Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison (Retired)
Ms. Susie Lewis (Cherryville) | | Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2027 |
| CA | 4. | <u>Coordinating Ministry</u>
Rev. Lindsay Jacaruso | | Class of 2028 |
| CA | 5. | <u>Commission on Ministry</u>
Rev. Michael J. Poulos
Rev. Dr. Keith Thompson (Brevard-Davidson)
Rev. Pat Reid (Third Street) | | Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2028 |
| CA | 6. | <u>Examinations Team</u>
Mr. Roger Burns (Newdale)
Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce (Retired)
Rev. Margaret Torrence | | Class of 2028
Class of 2028
Class of 2026 |
| CA | 7. | <u>Preparation for Ministry Team</u>
Rev. Kelly Connelly (Highlands, First)
Mrs. Vickie Burgess (Dallas)
Mrs. Lynn Honeycutt (Sweetwater)
Rev. Caroline Sells | | Chair for 2026
Class of 2026
Class of 2027
Class of 2027 |

- CA 8. **Validated Ministry**
 Rev. Lynn Webber Class of 2027
 Rev. Lynn Bledsoe Class of 2028
 Rev. Megan McMillan (Mills River) Class of 2028
- CA 9. **Commissioned Pastors**
 Mr. Robin Honeycutt (Sweetwater) Class of 2026
 Rev. William Upchurch (Long Creek/Lowell) Class of 2027
 Mr. Wayne Drummond Class of 2027
 Rev. David Hosick (Retired) Class of 2028
- CA 10. **Equipping Disciples Ministry**
- CA 11. **Strengthening Congregations Ministry**
 Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery Class of 2028
- CA 12. **Engaging in Mission Ministry**
 Ms. Martha Campbell (Montreat) Class of 2028

13. **The Nominating/Representation Team places the following minister nomination recommendations to serve as teaching elder (minister) commissioners for 2026 at the 227th General Assembly, to be held June 22 – July 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.**

- A. **Leah Epps** **Greenway Presbyterian, Central Neighborhood**
 Rev. Leah Epps is the pastor of Greenway Presbyterian Church in Lenoir, NC and the current moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Leah is a 2016 graduate of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, VA. Her first call was to the yoked churches of Fairview Presbyterian and United Presbyterian, both in Lenoir. Leah was ordained and installed for these churches in December of 2020. It was not long after taking the call, both churches independently began talking about merging. It was a long process, and the result was Greenway Presbyterian which began January 1, 2023. Leah enjoys traveling, games, puzzles, and being in the outdoors; whether mountains or oceans, she embraces the joys found in God's creation.
- B. **Michael Poulos** **Spruce Pine, First, Mayland Neighborhood**
 Michael has been a member of the presbytery since 2002. A 1992 graduate of Columbia Theological Seminary, he has served churches in Greensboro (NC), Atlanta, and Asheville. In September of 2020, Michael was installed as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Spruce Pine. Before his call to Spruce Pine, he served as an Associate Pastor at FPC-Asheville and then as the Director of Asheville Youth Mission. Michael has served on our presbytery's Preparation for Ministry Committee; he was part of the team that put together and implemented our Sexual Misconduct Policy and Healthy Boundary trainings; he has attended Triennium twice with our presbytery's delegation; he currently serves as the chair of the Commission on Ministry. He is married to Julie Lehman and they have two sons who live in Asheville.

C. Dan Commerford First Presbyterian, Gastonia

- 14. The Nominating/Representation Team places the following elder nomination recommendations to serve as ruling elder commissioners for 2026 at the 227th General Assembly, to be held June 22 – July 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.**

A. Barbara Massey Arnold Third Street, Eastern Neighborhood

Elder Barbara Massey Arnold is a native of Gastonia, North Carolina and a 1975 Graduate of Ashbrook Senior High School. In 1981, she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Johnson C Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina.

A lifelong member of Third Street Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC. She is an Ordained Ruling Elder; Chairmen of The Nominating Committee; Teaches Bible Study; and serves as a Liturgist. She also orders and decorates the church for Special Occasions.

Within The Western Presbytery of North Carolina, she is a volunteer member of The Faith Formation Team and The Jubilee Fund Committee. Elder Massey Arnold has also been and currently is an Educator Cohort Participant.

B. Barbara Nagy Waldensian, Central Neighborhood

I am Barbara Nagy, a retired physician and PCUSA Mission Coworker to Malawi and Democratic Republic of Congo, heavily supported by the Presbytery of WESTERN North Carolina for years. I grew up in the Reformed Church in America but became part of First Presbyterian Church in Morganton when our family moved here in 1995, later to Waldensian Presbyterian Church in 2022 where I am currently serving as an elder, choir member and worker bee. I think we need to dedicate ourselves to and teach ourselves more about prayer, and I have worked on a retreat to that end, which is yet to take place. I continue to be active on the Presbytery's Malawi steering committee and with the Men in the Mirror steering committee, and I am in frequent contact with partner churches. I have been working locally with Habitat for Humanity and food assistance ministries. I am a beekeeper. I have three adult children, a son-in-law and two grandchildren who have recalibrated my definition of wonderful.

I am deeply troubled by the actions taken by PCUSA in the past year to end World Missions and would like to work with others to introduce overtures to GA to reconsider that decision. My concern for the future direction of the church is part of my motivation to offer myself as a GA commissioner.

C. Bob Forsythe Trinity, Western Neighborhood

Bob Forsythe grew up in New York City, graduated from Georgia Tech, and worked in various engineering and supervisory roles. He retired in 2006. Bob is married to Mary Louise and has two daughters and three grandchildren

Bob, a lifelong Presbyterian, has been a member of Presbyterian churches in Manhattan, NY; Decatur, GA; Decatur, AL; Cherry Hill, NJ; Barberton, OH and Hendersonville, NC.

He has served as a Deacon, a Ruling Elder, on numerous Presbytery committees, Presbytery and Synod PJs, and as a commissioner to the 215th GA, where he served as moderator of the Mission Coordination & Budgets Committee

15. **The Nominating/Representation Team places the following youth nomination recommendation to serve as a Young Adult Delegate for 2026 at 227th General Assembly, to be held June 22 – July 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.**
 - A. **Marcus Sigmon** **First Presbyterian Church, Newton**
My name is Marcus Sigmon, and I am a 20-year-old member of First Presbyterian Church in Newton. I am a college student at Catawba Valley Community College studying mechatronics engineering technology, and I plan to transfer to UNC Charlotte to pursue a master's in electromechanical engineering. I was raised Baptist and later became Presbyterian, joining FPC Newton in December 2024. Since joining the church, I have been involved in the youth group and I recently joined the Pastoral Nominating Committee. I am very passionate about theology and the mainline Protestant church, specifically the PCUSA. It is a beautiful Christian tradition, and I want to see a resurgence in participation among people my age, and the unity of all its members.
16. **The Nominating/Representation Team places the following teaching elder nomination recommendation to serve as alternate teaching elder commissioner for 227th General Assembly, to be held June 22 – July 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.**
 - A. **Pat Reid** **Third Street, Eastern Neighborhood**
17. **The Nominating/Representation Team places the following ruling elder nomination recommendation to serve as alternate ruling elder commissioner for the 227th General Assembly to be held June 22 – July 2, 2026, in Milwaukee, WI.**
 - A. **Renee Warthen** **Ryburn Memorial, Western Neighborhood**
18. **The Nominating/Representation Team requests authority from the Presbytery, and with the approval of the Moderator of Presbytery and the chair of the Commission on Ministry, to replace a commissioner to General Assembly should a commissioner(s) and/or alternate(s) be unable to attend.**