

147th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Saturday July 25, 2026

Neighborhoods (Greenway, Artisan, Mills River, and Crossnore)

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GUIDE TO WORSHIP AND WORK

ONE-HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING

Saturday, July 25, 2026

Neighborhood Host Locations

Central: Greenway Eastern: Artisan

Western: Mills River Mayland: Crossnore

**147th STATED MEETING
PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
July 25, 2026
DOCKET**

9:00	Call to Order	Neighborhood Moderator*
	Convene with Prayer of Invocation	Neighborhood Moderator*
	Land Acknowledgment	Neighborhood Moderator*
	Welcome	Host Pastor
	Appointment of Standing Committees	Neighborhood Moderator*
	Resolution of Thanks	
	Tellers	
	Presbytery in Brief	
	Recognition of Elders Attending for First Time, Visitors, and Corresponding Members	
	Orientation	
	Certification of Quorum	Clerk**
	Approval of Docket	
	Consent Agenda	A
	<i>(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 team report from which it was drawn.)</i>	
9:30	Service of Worship, including Celebration of the Lord's Supper	
	Worship Leader(s): Central: Rev. Kevyn Amos, Rev. Leah Epps, and Rev. Julie Hester	
	Eastern: Reed Conley and Leary Davis	
	Mayland: Rev. Maggie Lauterer	
	Western: Rev. Megan McMillan and Rev. Dwight Christenbury	
10:30	Commission on Ministry (30 minutes)	D
	<i>(Introduce new ministers and work of the commission)</i>	
	Commissioning of Jim Taylor (Mayland Neighborhood)	
	Presentation of Marti Hazelrigg (Central Neighborhood)	
	Presentation of Karen Akin (Central Neighborhood)	
	Presentation of Bill Garrison (Western Neighborhood)	
	Presentation of Jim Moseley (Western Neighborhood)	
	Youth Ministry (5 minutes)	Y
	<i>(Work of the Team)</i>	

Report of Disaster Recovery *(15 minutes)*

X

Guatemala Ministry Team *(5 minutes)*

Q

Malawi Ministry Team *(5 minutes)*

P

Presbyterian Historical Society
(Presented in Central)

David Staniunas

Mayland Fellowship
(Presented in Mayland)

Garland Honeycutt

Presentation of Scholarship Recipients

Report of the General Presbyter *(5 minutes)*
(Presented in Mayland, written report included in packet)

Byron Wade GP

Celebration of Neighborhoods

Prayers of Intercession

Benediction and Adjournment

***Central Moderator: Becky Stevens**
Eastern Moderator: Laurey Harrell
Mayland Moderator: Karl Campbell
Western Moderator: Emily Wilmarth

**** Central Clerk: Helen Hall**
Eastern Clerk: Julia Rush
Mayland Clerk: Dennis Howell
Western Clerk: Ron Tingle

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 2026 year, churches G through N are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2024 Statistical Report as figures are not available for 2025.*):

- 0 - 250 members - 1
- 251 - 750 members - 2
- 751 - 1250 members - 3
- 1251 - 1750 members - 4

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 Coordinating Ministry, and Commission on Ministry Team shall have voice and vote (if ruling elders).
2. All division, team and sub-team 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 Faith Formation Team 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 Coordinating Ministry shall elect an additional ruling elder commissioner.
8. Only teaching elders who are active members (including 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
2026 Presbytery Meeting Dates				
Saturday, July 25	Neighborhood Meetings • Artisan – Eastern • Greenway – Central • Mills River – Western • Crossnore- Mayland	July 2, 2026	July 9, 2026	June 30, 2026
Tuesday, October 27	First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia	October 1, 2026	October 8, 2026	September 29, 2026
2027 Presbytery Meeting Dates				
Saturday, January 30	Virtual - ZOOM	January 4, 2027	January 11, 2027	December 29, 2026
Tuesday, April 27	Montreat Conference Center	April 1, 2027	April 8, 2027	March 30, 2027
Saturday, July 31	Neighborhoods (TBD)	July 1, 2027	July 8, 2027	June 29, 2027
Tuesday, October 26	TBD	October 1, 2027	October 7, 2027	September 28, 2027

Calendar of Events

MEETINGS HELD BY ZOOM UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

JULY

27 PHS/ PHC Records Workshop (Montreat)

AUGUST

3 Examinations Team
 4 Commission on Ministry
 Peace and Justice Team
 10 Disability Inclusion Team
 12 Coordinating Ministry
 18-21 Malawi Mission Network Conference (Montreat)
 19 Preparation for Ministry Team
 20 Malawi Leadership Team (TBC)
 27 Youth Ministry Team
 Board of Pensions Retirees Luncheon
 31 Examinations Team

SEPTEMBER

1 Peace and Justice Team
 Commission on Ministry
 7 **Labor Day-PWNC offices closed**
 9 Coordinating Ministry
 Validated Ministry Task Force
 16 Preparation for Ministry Team
 17 Malawi Leadership Team
 Personnel Team
 19 Nominating/Representation Team
 24 Faith Formation Team
 Youth Ministry Team
 29 Overture Deadline for Presbytery Meeting

OCTOBER

1 Presbytery Packet Deadline
 5 Examinations Team
 6 Commission on Ministry
 Peace and Justice Team
 8 Power Point Deadline for October Presbytery Meeting
 12 Disability Inclusion Team
 14 Coordinating Ministry
 15 Malawi Leadership Team
 21 Preparation for Ministry Team
 22 Youth Ministry Team
 24 Guatemala Gathering (Trinity, Hendersonville)
 27 148th Stated Presbytery Meeting (1st Presbyterian of Gastonia)



To: Members of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina
From: Ann Philbrick, Stated Clerk
Date: July 7, 2026
Re: One-Hundred Forty Seventh Stated Meeting of Presbytery

The neighborhood meetings of Presbytery are quickly approaching! They will be held Saturday, July 25, in each individual neighborhood. While each church has a specified number of voting elders, all are welcome to attend. It is our hopes that these meetings will truly be a celebration of each neighborhood's unique differences.

REGISTRATION Each neighborhood will conduct its own registration and have its own lunch option. For more information or driving directions, please contact your neighborhood associate or host church. (See next page for more details)

OFFERING Each neighborhood will decide independently where their offering will be given.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER All requests should be placed on the Neighborhood Clerk's table before 11:00 a.m.

ELDER REPRESENTATION For the 2026 year, the following churches (G through N) are entitled to an additional elder. Please note that commissioner representation is based on active membership figures taken from the 2024 Annual Statistical Report.

0 - 250 members – 1
251 - 750 members – 2

751 - 1250 members - 3
1251 - 1750 members – 4

Gastonia, First
Green Mountain
Hendersonville, First
Jacks Creek
Love's Chapel
Micaville
Morrison
Newdale

Good Hope
Green Street
Hickory, First
Kenilworth
Lowell
Mills River
Mount Holly, First
Newland

Grace Covenant
Greenway
Highlands, First
Lenoir, First
Marion, First
Montreat
New Hope, Asheville
Newton, First

Grassy Creek
Hayesville
Ironton
Long Creek
Marshall
Morganton, First
New Hope, Gastonia
Northminster

FOR AN EXCUSED ABSENCE, e-mail Katie at kquinn@presbyterywnc.org or call the Presbytery Office at 828-438-4217 by Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

Western Neighborhood

Presbytery Associate

Rev. Tom Phillips
tphillips@presbyterywnc.org
423-335-1105

Host Church

MILLS RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Presbyterian Church Rd.
Mills River, NC 28759
828-891-7101
mrpc10@att.net

Offering:

Circles Ministry

Eastern Neighborhood

Presbytery Co-Associates

Rev. Dr. George Thompson
Rev. Dr. Beverly Thompson
gbthompson@presbyterywnc.org
404-444-8091 (George)
404-731-3281 (Beverly)

Host Church

ARTISAN CHURCH
235 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092
813-817-0728
reedconley79@gmail.com

Offering:

Lincolnton Youth Neighborhood Community

Central Neighborhood

Presbytery Associate

Rev. Schaap Freeman
sfreeman@presbyterywnc.org
404-451-4677

Host Church

GREENWAY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
415 Pennell Street, NE
Lenoir, NC 28645
828-758-4694
pastor_leah.epps@yahoo.com

Offering:

Davenport Elementary

Mayland Neighborhood

Presbytery Associate

Jim Taylor
jtaylor@presbyterywnc.org
828-963-0349

Host Church

CROSSNORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
200 Chapel Drive
Crossnore, NC 28616
828-733-1939
cpcpcusa@gmail.com

Offering:

N/A

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 3 FROM THE STATED CLERK'S REPORT

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

- CA 1. THAT Ann Philbrick, Katie Quinn, and all four clerks working each neighborhood meeting be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the October 25, 2026 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the April 28, 2026 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.**
- CA 3. THAT the Presbytery accept the report of membership and worship statistics as submitted by the Sessions on the Annual Statistical Report. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1 – Membership Statistics and Stated Clerk Attachment 2 – Worship Statistics)**

RECOMMENDATION 1 FROM THE PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY TEAM

(See Preparation for Ministry Team Report (K) for contents of
recommendations.)

- CA 1. **THAT Roger Rizk, a candidate under care from First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC, be removed from the Preparation for Ministry process, per his request, effective May 20, 2026.**

RECOMMENDATIONS 1 thru 4 FROM THE NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION TEAM

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

- CA 1. **Coordinating Ministry**
Rev. Jim Ewing, Newton First
- CA 2. **Preparation for Ministry**
Rev. Betsy Stow, Franklin First
- CA 3. **Commission on Ministry**
Rev. Mike McCracken, Banner Elk
- CA. 4. **Personnel Team**
Rev. Sam Warner, Belmont First – Chair

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**STATED CLERK'S REPORT****Ann Philbrick, Stated Clerk****July 25, 2026**

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

CA 1. THAT Ann Philbrick, Katie Quinn, and all four clerks working each neighborhood meeting be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the October 25, 2026 Presbytery meeting.

CA 2. THAT the minutes of the April 28, 2026 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted.

CA 3. THAT the Presbytery accept the report of membership and worship statistics as submitted by the Sessions on the Annual Statistical Report. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1 – Membership Statistics and Stated Clerk Attachment 2 – Worship Statistics)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

4. THAT the 148th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia.

THAT the deadline for written reports is Thursday, October 1, 2026.

5. THAT TERMS OF CALL for 2026 have been received at the Presbytery office and are included in the packet for this meeting. (Commission on Ministry Attachment 5)

Stated Clerk Attachment 1

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

CHURCH NAME	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ARBOR DALE	91	73	72	72	86	86	89	98	96	97	87
ASHEVILLE FIRST	778	812	741	766	785	793	791	565	575	600	641
BANNER ELK	188	195	198	196	196	193	184	182	185	183	196
BELMONT FIRST	790	819	851	872	899	873	907	946	980	1009	1016
BLACK MOUNTAIN	610	521	546	554	564	564	572	595	624	647	669
BREVARD DAVIDSON RIVER	464	430	402	412	410	378	372	343	304	306	296
BRIDGEWATER	45	45	44	43	43	43	41	41	16	17	16
BRITTAIN	48	50	48	45	32	32	31	34	36	26	24
BRITTAINS COVE	42	36	36	34	33	29	29	29	29	28	28
BRYSON CITY	88	80	82	93	104	107	107	111	109	109	95
BULADEAN	12	15	17	18	19	14	15	15	15	15	15
BURNSVILLE FIRST	133	138	140	139	142	143	139	133	38	39	39
CALVARY	63	63	50	50	56	56	57	59	60	63	61
CANTON	44	45	49	56	54	52	51	51	51	51	51
CHERRYVILLE FIRST	278	268	239	239	219	213	196	181	206	182	174
COLUMBUS	150	86	86	90	93	93	92	92	92	92	91
CROSSNORE	76	77	79	79	81	77	84	85	90	95	100
DALLAS FIRST	69	69	63	58	58	55	57	54	53	53	49
DIXON	70	70	64	62	62	62	64	62	66	70	70
DORLAND MEMORIAL	24	24	24	31	37	31	29	29	25	25	22
DULATOWN	123	66	65	61	60	59	59	56	62	60	55
ETOWAH	51	50	50	48	46	33	29	27	28	28	28
FLETCHER	70	72	73	71	69	67	67	65	66	65	63
FOREST CITY FIRST	81	81	81	31	36	32	22	21	24	23	23
FRANKLIN FIRST	128	132	140	100	95	92	84	84	84	84	74
GASTONIA FIRST	1035	922	932	924	925	855	846	844	848	841	824
GOOD HOPE	21	22	21	20	16	16	11	11	11	11	11
GRACE COVENANT	699	654	674	698	722	741	740	733	735	731	709
GRASSY CREEK	28	27	26	25	19	19	19	18	13	8	8
GREEN MOUNTAIN	10	15	15	19	19	18	18	18	18	18	18
GREEN STREET	48	47	41	43	48	42	40	38	38	36	35
GREENWAY									91	63	57
HAYESVILLE	36	33	34	33	32	24	24	18	18	15	16
HENDERSONVILLE	39	44	47	44	45	44	45	43	41	43	41
HICKORY FIRST	796	783	781	801	835	842	591	625	646	685	698
HIGHLANDS FIRST	180	171	168	185	187	176	177	137	138	145	144
IRONTON	12	11	10	9	9	9	9	9	9	8	7
JACK'S CREEK	21	24	20	26	18	20	20	20	15	8	9
KENILWORTH	67	73	64	70	72	66	58	56	55	62	71
LENOIR FIRST	309	24	31	31	32	29	33	33	28	27	26
LONG CREEK	73	74	71	71	71	66	61	63	63	63	67

Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
(10)	1	(4)
41	(152)	(137)
13	3	8
7	143	226
22	105	59
(10)	(82)	(168)
(1)	(27)	(29)
(2)	(8)	(24)
0	(1)	(14)
(14)	(12)	7
0	1	3
0	(104)	(94)
(2)	5	(2)
0	(1)	7
(8)	(39)	(104)
(1)	(2)	(59)
5	23	24
(4)	(6)	(20)
0	8	0
(3)	(9)	(2)
(5)	(4)	(68)
0	(5)	(23)
(2)	(4)	(7)
0	(9)	(58)
(10)	(18)	(54)
(17)	(31)	(211)
0	(5)	(10)
(22)	(32)	10
0	(11)	(20)
0	0	8
(1)	(7)	(13)
(6)	57	57
1	(8)	(20)
(2)	(3)	2
13	(144)	(98)
(1)	(32)	(36)
(1)	(2)	(5)
1	(11)	(12)
9	5	4
(1)	(3)	(283)
4	1	(6)

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

CHURCH NAME	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
LOVE'S CHAPEL	14	13	13	13	13	13	13	11	11	11	11
LOWELL	101	105	106	104	108	104	104	105	104	59	59
MARION FIRST	157	158	157	153	157	154	150	154	152	150	149
MARSHALL	70	65	40	36	34	35	33	34	33	33	33
MICAVILLE	30	28	25	27	27	25	28	29	29	30	20
MILLS RIVER	112	117	127	149	148	112	91	95	96	100	103
MONTREAT	92	103	109	107	117	130	136	141	151	145	149
MORGANTON FIRST	478	492	499	488	427	413	407	403	403	306	306
MORRISON	82	73	71	66	59	58	59	58	55	59	58
MT. HOLLY FIRST	142	139	128	119	119	111	108	110	110	101	100
NEW HOPE (GASTONIA)	160	157	162	166	173	157	156	161	156	112	112
NEW HOPE (SKYLAND)	113	95	89	85	95	101	101	104	108	112	106
NEWDALE	49	50	41	40	21	20	16	18	19	21	20
NEWLAND	59	63	63	68	77	79	82	94	108	116	132
NEWTON FIRST	412	357	352	329	326	325	308	295	293	289	278
NORTHMINSTER	247	167	152	149	154	153	153	147	132	132	122
OAKWOOD	54	59	60	63	63	68	67	67	71	75	57
OLD FORT	9	8	8	8	7	6	6	6	5	5	7
OLNEY	76	67	66	63	59	54	49	47	46	44	23
PINE STREET	30	30	30	32	32	32	37	37	36	35	35
PINEOLA	42	45	44	44	43	44	35	34	35	35	34
QUAKER MEADOWS	86	85	85	84	84	78	77	50	57	43	42
REEMS CREEK	100	102	102	108	107	104	79	82	83	85	91
RIDGEVIEW	15	16	10	10	10	9	9	9	8	10	10
ROBINSON MEMORIAL	45	46	48	48	47	49	49	46	44	42	38
RUTHERFORDTON	340	339	340	338	347	344	344	345	347	347	355
RYBURN MEMORIAL	37	38	37	35	36	20	20	20	21	14	13
SHELBY	493	490	469	472	465	463	427	418	404	415	410
SHERRILL'S FORD	80	77	80	93	106	118	114	126	126	128	122
SHILOH	28	28	27	27	20	19	18	18	18	18	16
SILOAM	6	6	6	5	5	5	4	4	4	5	5
SOUTHMINSTER	329	324	332	354	362	359	366	366	385	396	392
SPRUCE PINE FIRST	111	115	103	107	87	84	81	88	92	83	82
SWEETWATER	50	50	48	51	51	51	43	43	45	45	45
SYLVA FIRST	160	162	171	108	109	108	106	110	109	124	119
THIRD STREET	72	45	45	45	41	39	39	28	27	25	25
TRINITY	331	322	308	305	285	282	297	293	298	296	234
TRYON	328	322	322	249	251	258	258	260	260	256	249
UNION MILLS	27	27	25	24	29	29	30	30	30	29	28
UNITY	684	516	509	531	577	582	573	596	611	639	587
VIANS VALLEY	29	29	27	27	27	26	26	14	14	14	13

Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
0	(2)	(3)
0	(45)	(42)
(1)	(5)	(8)
0	(2)	(37)
(10)	(5)	(10)
3	(9)	(9)
4	19	57
0	(107)	(172)
(1)	0	(24)
(1)	(11)	(42)
0	(45)	(48)
(6)	5	(7)
(1)	0	(29)
16	53	73
(11)	(47)	(134)
(10)	(31)	(125)
(18)	(11)	3
2	1	(2)
(21)	(31)	(53)
0	3	5
(1)	(10)	(8)
(1)	(36)	(44)
6	(13)	(9)
0	1	(5)
(4)	(11)	(7)
8	11	15
(1)	(7)	(24)
(5)	(53)	(83)
(6)	4	42
(2)	(3)	(12)
0	0	(1)
(4)	33	63
(1)	(2)	(29)
0	(6)	(5)
(5)	11	(41)
0	(14)	(47)
(62)	(48)	(97)
(7)	(9)	(79)
(1)	(1)	1
(52)	5	(97)
(1)	(13)	(16)

**PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

CHURCH NAME	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
WALDENSIAN	391	386	378	375	370	319	315	315	319	320	324
WALNUT	28	28	27	25	25	24	24	20	17	10	9
WARREN WILSON	170	169	151	144	140	134	135	136	129	129	98
WAYNESVILLE FIRST	133	126	129	146	151	146	143	140	142	149	148
ELLENBORO (Members Awaiting Transfer)				7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
WEST AVENUE (Members Awaiting Transfer)				76	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
LINCOLNTON FIRST (Members Awaiting Transfer)						81	81	81	72	72	72
BESSEMER CITY (Dissolved 2025)	32	32	32	32	32	31	31	13	8	8	8
KOREAN OF ASHEVILLE (Dissolved 2025)	14	14	18	18	18	18	18	20	20	20	20
SALUDA (Dissolved 2025)	42	30	30	31	21	21	18	20	20	12	12
UNION (Members Pending Dismissal 2025)	179	178	178	172	172	162	160	162	164	97	97
TOTALS	15,974	14,878	14,077	13,984	13,980	13,614	13,076	12,798	12,735	12,559	12,329

Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
4	5	(67)
(1)	(15)	(19)
(31)	(36)	(72)
(1)	2	15
0	0	7
0	0	20
0	(9)	72
0	(23)	(24)
0	2	6
0	(9)	(30)
0	(65)	(82)
(230)	(1,285)	(3,645)

Stated Clerk Attachment 2

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

CHURCH NAME	2015 Worship Attendance	2016 Worship Attendance	2017 Worship Attendance	2018 Worship Attendance	2019 Worship Attendance	2020 Worship Attendance	2021 Worship Attendance	2022 Worship Attendance	2023 Worship Attendance	2024 Worship Attendance	2025 Worship Attendance	Increase/ (Decrease) in 1 YEAR	Increase/ (Decrease) in 5 YEARS	Increase/ (Decrease) in 10 YEARS
ARBOR DALE	87	78	89	94	90	60	95	81	80	87	71	(16)	11	(16)
ASHEVILLE FIRST	325	286	285	283	282	340	268	300	321	321	401	80	61	76
BANNER ELK	195	197	198	164	162	158	134	146	212	177	190	13	32	(5)
BELMONT FIRST	213	188	260	170	250	100	150	200	250	250	275	25	175	62
BLACK MOUNTAIN	329	320	320	325	288	288	325	350	372	409	471	62	183	142
BREVARD DAVIDSON RIVER	300	300	202	204	201	192	105	121	143	143	144	1	(48)	(156)
BRIDGEWATER	24	24	24	30	32	32	20	20	25	25	24	(1)	(8)	0
BRITTAIN	29	29	30	27	27	18	17	19	21	21	21	0	3	(8)
BRITTAIN COVE	23	23	23	20	18	15	12	12	12	12	13	1	(2)	(10)
BRYSON CITY	72	75	72	44	74	100	56	60	55	52	46	(6)	(54)	(26)
BULADEAN	18	18	18	15	15	7	7	7	8	8	8	0	1	(10)
BURNSVILLE FIRST	70	73	67	61	57	50	50	49	30	26	28	2	(22)	(42)
CALVARY	29	26	28	25	27	20	15	25	29	31	27	(4)	7	(2)
CANTON	18	17	17	19	19	19	15	15	18	20	21	1	2	3
CHERRYVILLE FIRST	107	150	141	140	138	52	79	90	103	100	90	(10)	38	(17)
COLUMBUS	57	52	53	57	57	18	30	31	31	21	21	0	3	(36)
CROSSNORE	60	60	60	62	68	45	54	80	65	65	75	10	30	15
DALLAS FIRST	45	40	35	30	25	23	25	25	25	25	22	(3)	(1)	(23)
DIXON	55	50	50	46	46	46	40	40	40	45	40	(5)	(6)	(15)
DORLAND MEMORIAL	15	20	20	20	25	20	18	15	15	15	12	(3)	(8)	(3)
DULATOWN	35	35	30	57	63	35	30	25	38	45	45	0	10	10
ETOWAH	48	50	41	41	30	10	20	18	18	18	20	2	10	(28)
FLETCHER	31	28	29	27	29	25	24	25	24	26	28	2	3	(3)
FOREST CITY FIRST	30	24	20	20	15	7	10	10	12	15	15	0	8	(15)
FRANKLIN FIRST	76	81	76	81	77	50	50	50	50	60	65	5	15	(11)
GASTONIA FIRST	270	254	230	228	229	210	123	142	162	170	182	12	(28)	(88)
GOOD HOPE	15	12	11	10	10	8	8	8	8	8	8	0	0	(7)
GRACE COVENANT	298	300	300	278	284	550	450	300	300	300	300	0	(250)	2
GRASSY CREEK	22	22	21	15	14	12	15	14	12	13	15	2	3	(7)
GREEN MOUNTAIN	13	15	25	18	19	16	20	20	20	25	25	0	9	12
GREEN STREET	33	30	32	30	35	20	20	22	25	24	20	(4)	0	(13)
GREENWAY									30	28	28	0	28	28
HAYESVILLE	28	28	30	27	25	15	12	14	14	18	12	(6)	(3)	(16)
HENDERSONVILLE	36	41	38	25	25	25	22	18	15	18	15	(3)	(10)	(21)
HICKORY FIRST	269	238	237	239	234	241	275	325	430	490	492	2	251	223
HIGHLANDS FIRST	151	145	145	140	141	74	114	140	166	181	156	(25)	82	5
IRONTON	14	13	13	12	11	11	6	6	6	5	6	1	(5)	(8)
JACK'S CREEK	18	18	18	18	15	11	11	6	5	9	10	1	(1)	(8)
KENILWORTH	52	50	45	43	45	40	40	40	46	49	56	7	16	4
LENOIR FIRST	275	24	25	25	25	50	50	35	50	50	50	0	0	(225)
LONG CREEK	45	45	45	40	42	20	25	27	31	31	43	12	23	(2)
LOVE'S CHAPEL	12	15	11	10	10	10	10	11	11	11	8	(3)	(2)	(4)
LOWELL	60	61	56	51	50	34	34	38	35	25	25	0	(9)	(35)
MARION FIRST	100	98	97	52	85	83	65	55	57	59	58	(1)	(25)	(42)
MARSHALL	20	20	18	18	18	12	13	12	14	16	18	2	6	(2)
MICAVILLE	23	18	22	23	18	15	18	21	21	17	18	1	3	(5)
MILLS RIVER	52	53	60	70	70	50	34	63	51	58	59	1	9	7
MONTREAT	90	100	100	100	111	140	160	160	91	90	90	0	(50)	0

PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Increase/ (Decrease) in	Increase/ (Decrease) in	Increase/ (Decrease) in
CHURCH NAME	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	Worship Attendance	1 YEAR	5 YEARS	10 YEARS
MORGANTON FIRST	186	184	177	169	163	150	150	150	150	125	125	0	(25)	(61)
MORRISON	62	45	38	33	35	30	30	25	35	35	35	0	5	(27)
MT. HOLLY FIRST	63	56	53	57	56	60	46	47	49	47	45	(2)	(15)	(18)
NEW HOPE (GASTONIA)	80	80	80	77	80	80	75	55	56	55	48	(7)	(32)	(32)
NEW HOPE (SKYLAND)	53	59	57	62	72	81	69	58	67	95	103	8	22	50
NEWDALÉ	45	40	29	15	20	10	12	15	15	12	12	0	2	(33)
NEWLAND	55	64	63	74	87	75	81	83	91	102	104	2	29	49
NEWTON FIRST	167	151	136	148	143	65	87	70	85	91	85	(6)	20	(82)
NORTHMINSTER	88	71	70	69	69	78	74	60	60	60	70	10	(8)	(18)
OAKWOOD	32	32	34	35	37	30	30	45	45	60	45	(15)	15	13
OLD FORT	5	5	8	9	10	10	6	6	5	5	7	2	(3)	2
OLNEY	29	22	20	17	15	12	10	10	9	7	5	(2)	(7)	(24)
PINE STREET	22	25	25	20	25	25	25	25	18	18	18	0	(7)	(4)
PINEOLA	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	0	0	0
QUAKER MEADOWS	46	43	38	31	30	25	28	45	45	38	30	(8)	5	(16)
REEMS CREEK	72	68	60	56	48	45	45	50	50	57	60	3	15	(12)
RIDGEVIEW	30	35	40	33	30	30	25	18	18	18	18	0	(12)	(12)
ROBINSON MEMORIAL	30	35	35	35	35	53	42	30	30	25	18	(7)	(35)	(12)
RUTHERFORDTON	115	115	115	110	112	110	100	100	100	100	100	0	(10)	(15)
RYBURN MEMORIAL	17	17	17	20	20	15	16	12	12	12	12	0	(3)	(5)
SHELBY	172	163	155	147	133	162	159	119	137	140	150	10	(12)	(22)
SHERRILL'S FORD	55	57	56	60	75	150	150	150	150	150	150	0	0	95
SHILOH	12	12	12	7	7	7	20	9	9	9	9	0	2	(3)
SILQAM	6	5	5	7	5	5	7	6	5	7	8	1	3	2
SOUTHMINISTER	164	154	162	164	158	175	234	234	254	225	226	1	51	62
SPRUCE PINE FIRST	94	90	80	73	65	40	50	55	40	40	45	5	5	(49)
SWEETWATER	42	42	42	40	40	35	35	35	30	30	30	0	(5)	(12)
SYLVA FIRST	100	110	98	106	98	53	80	75	91	102	81	(21)	28	(19)
THIRD STREET	35	30	28	26	25	20	22	20	17	17	17	0	(3)	(18)
TRINITY	193	191	175	170	173	43	77	129	133	140	150	10	107	(43)
TRYON	180	122	129	104	106	107	100	120	130	140	142	2	35	(38)
UNION MILLS	25	20	20	20	20	18	17	17	16	15	18	3	0	(7)
UNITY	330	302	276	304	353	344	393	369	418	448	269	(179)	(75)	(61)
VIANS VALLEY	16	16	16	14	14	15	15	12	18	14	11	(3)	(4)	(5)
WALDENSIAN	158	149	145	135	132	131	86	100	95	120	120	0	(11)	(38)
WALNUT	32	28	24	23	23	17	17	9	9	10	9	(1)	(8)	(23)
WARREN WILSON	90	86	83	76	76	82	44	57	50	51	54	3	(28)	(36)
WAYNESVILLE FIRST	104	95	93	92	97	87	57	66	73	74	71	(3)	(16)	(33)
TOTALS	7,840	7,138	6,918	6,554	6,682	6,132	5,872	5,957	6,333	6,496	6,397	(99)	265	(1,443)
Gray indicates no reporting from church. Assumes previous yr total carries forward.														

COORDINATING MINISTRY

Ken Murchison, Chair

July 25, 2026

SECTION ONE

The Coordinating Ministry has no RECOMMENDATIONS to Presbytery for action at the Neighborhood Meetings.

SECTION TWO

The Coordinating Ministry informs Presbytery regarding the following matters:

- 1. That the Presbytery docket includes a list of upcoming events.**
- 2. That the Coordinating Ministry approved two Hunger grants for \$10,000 each. Greenway Presbyterian Church sponsored the first, which went to the Pay It Forward Food Pantry. Montreat Presbyterian Church sponsored the second, which went to the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus-Development and Social Services Commission.**
- 3. That the Coordinating Ministry amended and approved a recommendation from the Property Team responding to a request from the Macpelah Church Foundation to change the restrictions in the deed transferring the property of the former Macpelah Presbyterian Church to the foundation.**
- 4. That the Coordinating Ministry approved two new members for the Commission on Churches Concluding Their Ministry: Tom Eford and Roger Holland. Both are Ruling Elders. Anyone who has suggestions for other individuals who might be willing to join this important body should contact Milt Morgan, the chair of the commission.**
- 5. That the Coordinating Ministry approved the Presbytery hosting a records keeping meeting at the Presbyterian Heritage Center in Montreat. The meeting will include presentations by representatives of the Heritage Center and the Presbyterian Historical Society.**
- 6. That the Coordinating Ministry received notice that Black Mountain Presbyterian Church had paid in full the loan guaranteed by the Presbytery.**
- 7. That the Coordinating Ministry approved a recommendation from the Personnel Team that the Presbytery add a part-time Presbytery Associate for Ministry Development**

and referred the matter to the Finance Team for a recommendation regarding how the position should be funded.

8. That the Coordinating Ministry approved the compensation package for the Interim Associate for Youth Ministry.
9. That the Coordinating Ministry approved the dissolution of Brittain's Cove Presbyterian Church with thanks for the congregation's many years of ministry and referred the matter to the Commission on Churches Concluding Their Ministries.
10. That the Coordinating Ministry approved Church Vitality's request for a Hospitality Grant Project. This pilot project will offer grants of up to \$5,000 for each approved church application in its first year. Coordinating Ministry has approved \$100,000 from Presbytery's Sell of Church Properties for funding the Church Vitality Hospitality Grants.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
REV. KEITH GROGG, CHAIR
July 25, 2026**

FIRST SECTION

There are no items for action at this meeting.

SECOND SECTION

The Book of Order provides (G-3.0307) that the Commission 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 Commission on Ministry; therefore, the following actions are hereby reported and are to be admitted to the record.

I. APPROVED ANTI-RACISM POLICY AND REFERRED IT TO COORDINATING MINISTRY

II. APPROVED FOR TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP:

- A. Marti Hazelrigg – Member at Large (See COM attachment 1 for Bio and Statement of Faith)
From: Presbytery of Salem
- B. William Garrison - Member at Large (See COM attachment 2 for Bio and Statement of Faith)
From: Presbytery of Donegal
- C. Jim Moseley – Retired (See COM attachment 3 for Bio and Statement of Faith)
From: Presbytery of the James
- D. Karen Akin –Retired (See COM attachment 4 for Bio and Statement of Faith)
From: Presbytery of Arkansas
- E. Lyndsay Haislip – Member at Large
To: Presbytery of Western Kentucky

III. APPROVED TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS - TRANSITIONAL PASTOR:

- A. Jim Moseley and First PC, Waynesville
Effective: 6/18/26-6/17/27
- B. Paul Smith and Arbor Dale PC
Effective: 5/7/26 to 5/6/27

IV. APPROVED TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS – STATED PASTOR:

- A. Betsy Ray and Old Fort Church
Effective: 1/1 26-12/31/26
- B. Julie Hester and First PC, Lenoir
Effective: 6/14/26 to 6/13/29

V. APPROVED COMMISSIONED PASTOR AGREEMENTS:

- A. Margaret Victoria Burgess and First PC, Dallas
Effective: 5/18/26-5/17/27
- B. James Koone and Union Mills PC, Rutherford County
Effective: 5/1/26 to 4/30/27
- C. Peggy Koone and Union Mills PC, Rutherford County
Effective: 5/1/26 to 4/30/27
- D. John Pea and Robinson Memorial PC, Gastonia
Effective: 8/1/26 to 7/31/29

VI. APPROVED CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP STATUS

- A. Jill Isola from Active to Member-at-Large
Effective: 5/5/26
- B. Steve Runholt to Retired
Effective Retroactively: 11/29/25
- C. Janet DeWater to Retired
Effective: 7/31/26
- D. Susan Verbugge from Active to Member-at-Large
Effective: 6/15/26

VII. APPROVED INSTALLATION COMMISSION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF SARAH DIANNE JONES ON AUGUST 2, 2026, AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HENDERSONVILLE.

Name	Responsibility on Commission	Min/Eld	Presbytery
Bill Buchanan	Moderator/Preside	MWS	Presbytery of WNC
Byron Wade	Propound Constitutional Questions	MWS	General Presbyter Presbytery of WNC
Anne Apple	Preach the Sermon	MWS	Presbytery of WNC
Hunter Marks	Propound Questions to Congregation	RE	Presbytery of WNC
Janice Kominski	Lead in Worship	RE	Presbytery of WNC
Richard Boyce	Lead in Worship	MWS	Presbytery of WNC
Sarah Grace Montgomery	Lead in Worship	MWS	Presbytery of WNC
Noland Ramsy	Charge the Congregation	MWS	Presbytery of WNC
<u>Guests:</u>			
Lisa McLennan	Prayer of Ordination	MWS	Charlotte Presbytery
Ashley-Anne Masters	Constitutional Questions for the Ordained	MWS	New Hop Presbytery
Katherine Randall	Charge the Minister	MWS	Lake Erie Presbytery

VIII. APPROVED DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIP:

- A. First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Holly and Janet DeWater
Effective: 7/31/2026

IX. RECEIVED COVENANT OF CLOSURE:

- A. Toby Mueller and New Hope PC, Gastonia

X. APPROVED MISSION STUDY:

- A. First Presbyterian Church, Cherryville

XI. APPROVED MODERATORS:

- A. Northminster PC, Hickory – George Thompson in April, Laurey Harrell in May
- B. New Hope PC, Gastonia – Billy Lowe in May, Richard Boyce in June
- C. Tryon PC – Dave Hosick 6/28-26-9/27/26
- D. Greenway PC, Lenoir – Schaap Freeman on 5/17/26

XII. AUTHORIZED TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER:

- A. Commissioned Pastor Tim Parker (Salem Presbytery) – at CLS Graduation

XIII. AUTHORIZED TO OFFICIATE AT A WEDDING:

- A. Commissioned Pastor John Hall – at granddaughter's wedding at Roaring Mountain Baptist Church in Bakersville, NC

XIV. RECEIVED AND APPROVED TERMS OF CALL for 2026 (COM Attachment 5)

Commission on Ministry Attachment - 1

Marti Reed Hazelrigg

Statement of Faith May 2026

I enthusiastically embrace the tenets of the Christian faith and the Reformed Tradition, including:

- The sovereignty of God.¹
- The full humanity, divinity, and centrality of Jesus Christ.²
- The movement of the Holy Spirit.³
- The authority of scripture as witness to God's word.⁴
- The gift of creation.⁵
- The reality of sin and the promise of redemption.⁶
- The calling of the church where the word is proclaimed, the sacraments are administered, and faith is formed.⁷

I am comforted by the Reformed emphasis that we are saved by God's grace through faith, which is a gift from God. The gift of grace and my understanding of the gospel prompt me to respond to God's grace through the power of the Holy Spirit by working to serve others with compassion and peace. I am instructed and led by the church's confessions, and I am grateful for the polity of the Presbyterian Church USA, with its emphasis on the Lordship of Jesus Christ and that God alone is the Lord of conscience.

I am grateful for a seminary education grounded in Scripture and in theological discourse spanning Augustine to Calvin, Barth to Bonhoeffer, Sojourner Truth to Thurman, and Moltmann to Miroslav Volf. I continue to seek growth and understanding by listening to Christian preachers, contemporary theologians, and writers, including Henri Nouwen, Eugene Peterson, Marilyn Robinson, and Rachel Held Evans. I appreciate the Presbyterian Church's focus on education, including not only its responsibility for discernment and growth, but also my own responsibility to read, study, and grow in Christian faith.

In a broken and fearful world, I believe the church is called to witness to Jesus Christ by demonstrating love and compassion through hope, hospitality, and joy. We are enriched and challenged by theological diversity. God continues to speak in a changing world as the church is reformed and always reforming. When the church lives out our call to care for one another, work for justice, teach the faith, proclaim the good news, share one hope, and bear one another's burdens, we serve God in the world and fulfill the love of Christ Jesus.⁸

¹ BOC, 5.015, 6.112, 10.3

² BOC, 2.2, 7.023, 8.11

³ BOC, 4.021, 11.4

⁴ BOC, 3.19, 10.4

⁵ BOC, 5.032, 10.3, line 38

⁶ BOC, 3.03, 4.008, 7.196, 9.55

⁷ BOC, 7.275, 7.278, 8.26, 9.34, 10.4

⁸ BOC, 10.3

Marti Reed Hazelrigg, Journey of Faith

I have always felt God's presence in my life, even as a small child. We attended a United Methodist church growing up. My grandparents' faith was transformational for me. When visiting my paternal grandmother, I have vivid memories of watching her read scripture at the kitchen table after breakfast and sharing nuggets of faith with me. When my parents divorced while I was in high school, I found peace in worship at a small Methodist church. God spoke to me through the church's kind members. During a turbulent time, I felt God's grace steady me.

After college, as I tried to discern my future, I took a job as a youth director at a Presbyterian Church in Mississippi, expecting to stay for a year. I grew to love the Presbyterians and to appreciate the church's polity. The church supported me in powerful ways. My call to ministry was affirmed by others even as I ran from it. After five precious years at the church, I felt God calling me to ordained ministry. As someone who has stuttered her whole life, I assumed God would give me the words to preach.

I began a four-year dual-degree program at Princeton Theological Seminary, a big leap for a Mississippi girl. I thrived in the academic setting and was grateful for the challenge. I was shaped by a community that offered both theological depth and practical application. I met my husband, Peter, at the start of my last year at PTS on September 12, 2001. Life felt fragile and hopeful at the same time.

I was called to Nassau Presbyterian Church for my first call after seminary. I learned a great deal from a historic church where preaching excellence, theological debate, and a life of service to others were shared not only by the staff but also by the congregation. After five grace-filled years, my husband Peter and I moved to North Carolina to begin our family.

We welcomed our twins, Jackson and Maggie, on an Easter morning in 2008. To balance work and family life, I worked part-time for a few years at Ministry Architects and churches in Greensboro. My faith in Christ sustained me during those years.

In January 2014, I was called to Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church, where I served as pastor for 12 years. God worked through the people at Oak Ridge as the church grew its membership and budget, weathered the pandemic, and achieved the long-term goal of building a new fellowship hall. It was a partnership grounded in love and grace.

In January 2026, I was called to a new role as Vice President of Development at Montreat Conference Center, a place where God had been speaking to me since I first entered the Montreat gate in the summer of 1993. Grounded in God's grace and leaning on the strength of the Holy Spirit, I am grateful for this next opportunity. I look forward to serving in the Western North Carolina Presbytery.

Commission on Ministry Attachment -2

William Garrison

STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Three Persons, one Substance (1.1-1.3, 2.1-2.3, 3.01).

I believe in a sovereign God of creation, resurrection and re-creation; a God Who alone is God, and is not manipulated nor controlled by anyone or anything. God's Word is true. God's Law is just. God's Love is bottomless. God's Kingdom is unshakable. (11.3, lines 27-31,40-41)

At the same time, I believe that, through God's choice, God became vulnerable to humanity in the Person of Jesus Christ. This Jesus was born to the virgin Mary, lived and was crucified on the cross for our sins. This is, by far, the truest act of Love in all of human history. I believe that Jesus was raised from the dead and will one day come again.

I believe that the Holy Spirit breathes God's law into our hearts. Through the Spirit of God, we learn to love God and others more fully, establishing God's Kingdom around us.

I believe that the Holy Scripture is the Word of God and it is a true and reliable witness to God's working within the world. I believe that the Church is the Body of Christ and is called to be a faithful witness to the Love, Power, Kingdom and Glory of God.

I believe that God is present in the Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper. They are more than just symbolic. They are an 'outward sign of an inward Grace'. It is in Baptism that we find our true identities as children of God. In the Lord's Supper, we remember and again encounter, the limitless Grace, unequivocal Power, and awesome Love of our God (3.21).

BIO – William Garrison

I was born in Ankara, Turkey in 1970. My father was an Air Force officer at the time and stationed in Izmir. Six months after I was born, the church my family was a part of went on a retreat to Ephesus. On that retreat, I was baptized on Easter morning in the amphitheater where the silversmiths met to plot against the apostle Paul. Growing up, I was never quite sure whether or not the venue for my baptism was good or bad. As I've matured in my faith, I've realized more and more that the venue doesn't matter. Even though I can't remember my baptism, it was the point where the community of faith gathered in prayer and love and confirmed that I too was called to be a Child of God. The choice was not mine.

My father's family has always been strong in the Presbyterian Church. My mother was adopted by the Presbyterian pastor of the church she and her father attended. It would seem that the choice to be Presbyterian was not mine either, but that was not the case. Growing up in the military meant changing churches every few years, and, it seemed, we would go back and forth between non-denominational chapels on post and Presbyterian churches. And my family has always been big on the freedom of individual conscience and emphasized that God is much bigger than denominations. As such, I spent much more time reading Scriptures than I did reading reformed theology texts. I must admit I still do that today.

Still, I embraced the Reformed Theology more and more as I grew older. It just makes sense and gives me an incredible sense of comfort to know that God is bigger than anything else... and that God chose me first. It is a thought that feels too big and too wonderful to fully comprehend. Also, the Reformed theology of the 'priesthood of all believers' has been at the core my ministry from the pulpit and at-large. God has created us to be faithful and minister in our own unique ways. The question of who God has called you (and me) to be is a fundamental question in life and a life long journey of discovery.

It has been quite a journey. I graduated from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) in 1993 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a realization that I did not want to be an engineer. The year after graduation, I worked for the VMI chaplain for a year when I discerned my call for the ordained ministry. I have always maintained a sense of peace about my call, but it too has, and continues to be a journey of discovery. As I joked in my early days, I was called to ministry, but it may have been a wrong number.

I began my first year of seminary at the University of Aberdeen in 1994 and, after a year, switched to Columbia Theological Seminary completing my M. Div. degree and 1 year of CPE. I accepted my first and only 'call' as solo pastor of a small, 150 member congregation in Waxhaw, NC where I served for 5 years. During this 5 years, a new path for my life began to emerge. I spent the next 7 years preparing for, then completing my Doctor of Optometry degree at Pennsylvania College of Optometry in Philadelphia.

I graduated in May of 2011 and have served as an Army Optometrist ever since. As my Army Optometry career may be winding down, I find myself reflective of the ways that God continues to call me to the ordained ministry. As I discover more and more of who it is that God has made me to be, I become more confident that the call was not a wrong number. I long to be a part of a Presbytery family and look forward to serving and worshiping with you.

Which brings me back to the start. I was baptized in an amphitheater in Ephesus on Easter morning in 1971. The choice was not mine and the path was not straight. But it has been my choice to accept my Baptism and pursue the path God set before me. Sometimes I do accept. Sometimes I do pursue. Sometimes I don't. But I take comfort in knowing that God's Love and Mercy are much bigger than my stubbornness. Because of that Easter morning in 1971, my life has become a unique and (at least to me) really fascinating journey to discover who it is that God has called me to be.

I look forward to this new stage of my journey, and I thank you for taking time to listen and offer guidance along the way. God is indeed great... and good.

Commission on Ministry Attachment -3

A Statement of Faith

James L. Moseley, June, 2026

jmoseley105@gmail.com

I believe all that is, is of God and belongs to God.

In creation God brings order out of chaos providing a place and a purpose for humankind to exercise stewardship of the earth.

In discovering our freedom, humanity rejected God's covenant of caring for self-adulation.

Our pride has offended God and wounded the world.

I believe it is God alone who defines our redemption, who can heal us and without whom we miss life's meaning.

I believe God was in Christ, making peace with the human family.

Through his life, death and resurrection, Christ Jesus befriended sinners.

He revealed God's loving presence, which seeks us out when we have lost our way and teaches us again how to live in obedience to God.

I believe when we look to Christ in faith, God's spirit awakens within us, strengthening us to live as followers of Jesus, calling us into a fellowship of servanthood, reminding us that we are made in God's image, filling us with the peace that only God can give.

I believe that God is at work in the world, inspiring love where there is hatred, creating justice where there is oppression.

I believe that God's purpose is guiding history, that it is undefeated by evil and not detoured by human folly.

I believe that suffering and death will be conquered by the power of divine love and that beyond the grave we share in God's eternity. Until that day should appear, Christ is ever present with us, re-memorizing us at the table, naming us at the font, and sending us into the world by the power of the Holy Spirit.

A BRIEF FAITH JOURNEY

By The Rev James L. Moseley

My faith did not begin with me. The beliefs and traditions into which I was born were passed down by the generations of Presbyterians who came before me. Somehow, the substance of being Christian as forged by the Reformers, the deep South, and the early space race, settled into my spirit long before I could understand "limited atonement" or predestination.

Growing up near the Kennedy Space Center, I knew by the age of ten that the rockets which propelled astronauts into orbit could also send nuclear warheads halfway around the world. That early awareness presented me with my first theological conundrum. My faith, even as a youngster, was sober and almost stoic. In a world filled with paradox and trepidation, I already understood that to live a good life would require self-discipline, deep compassion and allegiance to a transcendent Wisdom.

I was studious enough and determined enough to pursue a college education, though I had no clear vocational goals. Yet, Sundays always found me in church, and as a junior in college, I was offered a job serving as a Youth Director for a Presbyterian congregation. For the first time, in a long time, I felt the joy of belonging, acceptance, and purpose. That experience would ultimately be translated into an authentic "call" to the ministry.

With the encouragement of many, I enrolled at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia. The PSCE experience of community has remained a spiritual grounding for me as a church professional. Following PSCE and a year of CPE, I was accepted at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and completed my M.Div. in 1981. From my first church position as a 21 year old student until today at age 72, I have had an amazing life serving as a pastor. I am grateful for every moment.

Over these many years, the church and I have both changed. We are each older and experiencing limitations to meeting challenges we once believed we could fix or overcome. A younger, more circumspect generation is stepping into pulpits and presbyteries today. It is now time for me to assist and encourage, as I can, and not so much to lead.

These days, my spirit needs more room and less structure. Yet, the Church, the Body of Christ, will always need care and order and hope for its mission in a contentious world. I am happy and grateful to be able to serve as called upon, and as I am able, with energy, intelligence, imagination and love.

Commission on Ministry Attachment -4

Statement of Faith

Karen Kokles Akin

God's sovereignty is a source of deep assurance as God is ultimately in control. God's sovereignty is characterized by fidelity, compassion, and generosity and is a more reliable source of life than any other alternative. Because our sovereign God is loving and faithful, we have hope that we are eternally secure.¹ This sovereign God comes to God's people to provide for them, to outmaneuver grief and fear, in an ongoing process of generating newness and life.

As Creator of all that is ², God is continually at work enacting new possibilities and miracles in the world. This continuous gift demands human stewardship, care for creation rather than exploitation, and calls for a worshipful attitude of thankfulness to God. God's creation pushes back against ruin and injustice and is an ongoing invitation to humans toward justice, flourishing, and stewardship.

Humans are created in God's image: in being made in God's image we inherit God's characteristics such as compassion, creativity, covenantal partnering, steadfast love, transformative power and radical generosity. We fall short or "miss the mark" in living into this image of God and in how we view others.³ The fullness of human life is embodied in the person of Jesus, the incarnate One who is both human and divine.⁴ Central to the work of Jesus, is God's desire to forgive us and be reconciled to us and all of creation. Christ died for us. In his death and resurrection, power over sin is restored ⁵, and we are assured of eternal life with God. These acts of forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration are because of the boundless grace of God.⁶ We do not earn God's grace. It is freely given and our response to this gift is to live a life in thankful gratitude.

The Holy Spirit helps us in our endeavor to live thankful lives, to be God's life-giving presence in the world, uniting us with Christ, to transform our lives into Christ's likeness ⁷, and to live lives of service and praise. The Spirit helps us as we engage and dwell in the texts of Scripture. These imaginative writings are meant to shape us into being God's people, giving us images, stories, words, metaphors, and symbols to contemplate as we figure out together how to live and bring life to others. The Spirit helps us utter words of life against voices in our world that promote chaos and death ⁸.

In this world often characterized by chaos and death, I look to the Church catholic, which exists throughout the world, and in all times and places ⁹ to help guide faithful living in these days, seeking with the help of the Spirit, the will of God. In particular, I am bound to the Presbyterian church because of its steadfast polity that claims all members are responsible for ministry, and is aware that reformation may be needed for all parts of church order and life¹⁰. Belief in the sovereignty of God, salvation as an unearned gift of God's grace alone, justification through faith in Jesus Christ, taking seriously the study of scripture: are all significant in Reformed theology and all are foundational to my faith.

In the Presbyterian church's preaching and teaching, prayer and praise, and in the Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper I receive instruction, blessing, joy, sustenance and companionship for the journey, reminders of who and whose I am, promises and hope for the future, reminders of all that God, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit have done and are doing in the world. Thanks be to God!

¹ BOC, 4.028

² BOC, 1.1

³ BOC, 11.3

⁴ BOC, 5.066

⁵ BOC, 11.2

⁶ BOC, 6.070

⁷ BOC, 7.265

⁸ BOC, 11.4

⁹ BOC, 5.125-5.126

¹⁰ BOC, 9.40

Karen Akin - Biography

My mother was raised a Baptist; my father's parents were Catholic and Greek Orthodox - so our family attended a diverse group of congregations. We had a rule in our home: if you spent the night with someone on Saturday night, you attended church with their family on Sunday morning. I liked spending Saturday nights at a Presbyterian friend's home as I enjoyed worshipping at her church, Preston Hollow Presbyterian in Dallas, Texas. I felt welcomed there, along with my questions about faith. I loved the order of worship whose outline of adoration, confession, illumination and dedication made sense to me.

In the third grade I declared Preston Hollow as my church. My parents joined me! I was very active in worship, music, youth group, Sunday School, camps and retreats, and sports teams. When I was in the sixth grade, the pastor, Harry Moffett, came to check on the youth group, and asked me to stop by before I left the church. In his office, Dr. Moffett asked, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" My answer? "I want to work in the church and help people feel at home in the church." My pastor planted the seed as he responded, "You should be ordained as a pastor." His words as well as my response to his question have been significant in answering the call to ministry.

Benefits from being connected to the Presbyterian Church continued, at the local level, as well as through institutions of the larger church, including camps and conference centers, Synod, Presbytery and General Assembly Youth events, and my alma mater: Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas. During these years I continued to hear God's call to ministry, both within myself, and alongside the words and prayers of those who mentored me.

I graduated from Louisville Seminary and began ordained ministry by serving four small churches in Northern Kansas Presbytery. Youth ministry was a focus in that first call, and also in my second call to Grace-First Presbyterian Church in Weatherford, Texas.

I met my husband, Doug, a many-generation Presbyterian, at Youth Triennium. We married and moved to Colorado where Doug completed his degree in forestry at Colorado State University. Until his graduation, I served two different churches as an interim, at Longmont and LaPorte, Colorado. We moved to Arkansas where Doug began his work with the Arkansas Forestry Commission. I served as interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Camden until I began 25 years of joyful service at 2nd Presbyterian Church in Little Rock as associate in the area of Pastoral Care.

When I turned 60, Doug and I attended a Board of Pensions retirement seminar. Along with receiving solid financial advice, a question was asked that changed the course of my last years before retirement. "What do you want to do in your last years in ministry?" The answer for me was: preach. That led to an incredible experience as pastor of a small church in Little Rock, preaching most Sundays, and being involved in illuminating partnerships in mission.

Ministry has also included active involvement as a member of many different committees, councils, and task forces at Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels. Two of the most challenging and rewarding positions held were as the chair of the Peacemaking Committee of the PCUSA, and as Moderator of the Church Orders Committee at the 217th General Assembly (Birmingham, AL). I have greatly enjoyed supporting Camp and Conference ministry through serving on the boards of Montreat and Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Arkansas.

Doug and I have two adult daughters. Sarah works at Montreat Conference Center and will be married this fall. Jordan, an ordained PCUSA minister, will move to Los Angeles, California with her husband later this summer. She hopes to serve either as a chaplain in a hospital setting or work in a non-profit serving those experiencing homelessness. Both Sarah and Jordan have served as Young Adult Volunteers through the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. Our family enjoys spending time together, particularly in Montreat, North Carolina. I enjoy gardening, hiking, reading and writing.

I give thanks to God for all these parts of the church that have shaped our lives and faith.

Commission on Ministry Attachment - 4

TERMS OF CALL 2026

	Church/Org	Mbrshp	Base	Def Comp	Utilities	Housing	Manse	SS	Prof. Exp	Prof Dev	Other	Total	2025 Total
Bacon, Patricia	Calvary	61	26,520		1,200	6,600		2,665	3,146	1,097		41,228	41,228
Bennett, Joe	Burnsville, First	39	25,500			25,500		3,902	3,625	1,275		59,802	58,655
Bonnema, David	Unity	587	68,400	2,000		45,000		8,675			1,719	125,794	123,408
Campbell, Kathy	Crossnore	100	51,800			31,621		6,382	3,625	1,275		94,703	91,972
Christenbury, Dwight	Trinity	234	58,288			15,000		5,606				78,894	76,596
Commerford, Daniel	Gastonia, First	824	60,000			50,000		8,415	3,525	2,000	1,275	125,215	117,920
Connelly, Kelley	Highlands, First	144	40,119	2,230		28,506		5,416	3,625	1,275		81,171	79,244
Davis, Heather Wood	Hickory, First	698	37,627			26,202		5,257		1,400		70,486	67,511
DeWater, Janet	Mount Holly, First	100	29,801	1,200		27,000		4,345	3,580	1,250		67,176	66,570
Epps, Leah	Greenway	57	20,736			19,998		3,117	4,038	1,416		49,305	48,492
Ewing, James	Newton, First	278	35,000			40,000		5,477	3,700	1,300		85,477	
Florence, David C.	Black Mountain	669	33,270			36,000		5,299		1,500	2,500	78,569	76,397
Floyd, Richard	Hickory, First	698	81,983			44,145		10,387		1,650	1,000	139,165	133,287
Germer, David	Asheville, First	641	43,348			32,000		5,764	4,900	2,000	300	88,312	85,950
Grogg, Keith	Montreat	149	55,500			40,000			3,800	5,600		104,900	101,500
Gurney, Rebecca	Reems Creek-Beech	91	18,000			47,000		4,973	4,000	1,250		75,223	69,840
Jarrett, Esta	Canton	51	30,528		2,050	8,134		3,044	3,580	1,475		48,811	47,896
Johnson, Patrick	Asheville, First	641	91,691			60,000		11,604	10,540	2,000	300	176,135	167,794
Jones, Sarah Diane	Hendersonville First	41	31,016	930		31,000		4,815	3,625	1,275		72,662	
Jordan, Shannon	Asheville, First	641	41,182			35,000		5,876	5,900	2,000	300	90,258	87,950
Mangione, Drew	Shelby	410	50,525			36,415		6,650	3,600	2,900		100,090	98,255
Matthews, Matt	Waldensian	324	28,892			21,012		3,818	2,500		980	57,202	53,634
Matthews, Rachel	Waldensian	324	28,892			21,012		3,818	2,500		980	57,202	53,634
McCracken, Mike	Banner Elk	196	58,000			46,500		7,994	6,000	3,000	2,572	124,067	121,150
McKee, Michael	Newland	132	44,950			49,220		6,650	3,500	1,500	3,000	108,820	101,732
McMillan, Megan	Mills River	103	34,952	2,345		28,000		4,995	5,680	1,250		77,222	73,889
Newman, Beth	Bryson City	95	32,550					2,490			1,750	36,790	35,122
Oedy, Dan	Southminster	392	71,356			42,000		8,576	3,625	1,275	1,800	128,632	122,508
Peggs, Bonnie	Morrison	58	18,800			7,200					300	26,300	18,400
Poulos, Michael	Spruce Pine	82	36,723	1,000		18,000		4,186	2,000	800	1,084	63,793	62,709
Purtill, Allan	Tryon	249	59,694	5,000	5,500		21,808	6,865	2,500	2,000	2,500	105,867	100,002
Ragan, Daria	Belmont, First	1016	24,163			45,000		5,291	309	1,916		76,679	77,329
Rigel, Jessica	Waren Wilson	98	43,072			26,928		5,355	3,580	3,000		81,935	
Robinson, Mary K.	Black Mountain	669	66,803			35,000		7,788		1,500	5,000	116,091	112,899
Scofield, Donald	Rutherfordton	355	78,350			35,000		8,671	4,000	2,200	5,200	133,421	127,779
Seiler, Dana V.	Unity	587	30,500	2,000		45,000		5,776			2,390	85,666	86,547
Shoop, Marcia M.	Grace Covenant	709	110,766			36,000		11,228	3,600	4,200		165,793	165,793
Smith, Allen	Kenilworth	71	25,000			20,000		3,443	60	3,942	4,115	56,560	52,253
Smith, Lance	Forest City, First	23	42,000			8,000		3,825	4,830	1,250	3,580	63,485	63,485
Stowe, Betsy	Franklin, First	74	40,840			11,895		4,034	3,580	1,250		61,599	60,318
Thompson, Keith	Brevard-Davidson River	296	54,390			34,092		6,769	5,000			100,251	100,251
Upchurch, Will	Long Creek	67	22,500			10,000		1,300	1,900		1,000	36,700	24,833
Wade, Byron	PWNC		39,329	12,125		39,329		6,945	6,000	3,500		107,227	104,843

TERMS OF CALL 2026

	Church/Org	Mbrshp	Base	Def Comp	Utilities	Housing	Manse	SS	Prof. Exp	Prof Dev	Other	Total	2025 Total
Warner, Samuel	Belmont, First	1016	74,047			45,000		9,107	7,000	1,800		136,954	136,954
Warren, Rob	Marion, First	149	35,801	2,000	5,000		12,840	4,257			6,000	65,898	63,971
Wells, Kimberleigh	New Hope, Asheville	106	42,160			30,000		6,450	3,000			81,610	76,556
Wilmarth, Emily	Highlands, First	144	74,133	3,774		42,000		9,166	3,625	1,627		134,325	131,138

NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION TEAM

July 25, 2026

Dwight Christenbury, Chair

The Nominating/Representation Team presents the following nominations to fill vacancies within the Class of 2028 and other open positions. The next team meeting will take place on August 15, 2026.

The Nominating/Representation Team is tasked with filling team positions throughout the year. To assist in this process, we encourage you to reflect on your interest in serving on a Presbytery team or to suggest someone who may be well-suited for service.

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.

- CA 1. **Coordinating Ministry**
Rev. Jim Ewing, Newton First

- CA 2. **Preparation for Ministry**
Rev. Betsy Stow, Franklin First

- CA 3. **Commission on Ministry**
Rev. Mike McCracken, Banner Elk

- CA. 4. **Personnel Team**
Rev. Sam Warner, Belmont First – Chair

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA
PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY TEAM**

Kelley Connelly, Chair

July 25, 2026

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

RECOMMENDATION:

CA

- I. THAT Roger Rizk, a candidate under care from First Presbyterian Church in Gastonia, NC, be removed from the Preparation for Ministry process, per his request, effective May 20, 2026.

The Preparation for Ministry Team welcomes his re-application if circumstances change.

JULY 2026 MALAWI MISSION LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Come to the Malawi Mission Network Meeting/Conference in Montreat in Upper Anderson from August 18-21, 2026. People doing missions in Malawi will come together from all over the United States to share and learn from each other.



Stay for the entire conference or just to visit, see the exhibits and learn more about Malawi. There will be many options to choose from in the registration details, including joining us for a meal (please indicate on your registration). More information and registration details are on the Presbytery website.

The Malawi Mission Team had a great trip in April. Plan to join us in May of 2027!

Hygiene kits: The girls at the village high school screamed and jumped up and down when they received the hygiene kits with underwear and the sanitary pads. It was like they had won the lottery! They broke into singing. They felt free and able to come to school and were so grateful because they



were not used to people giving them anything. Thanks to the churches for making these kits. The team went to several schools often crowded with the girls sitting on the floor.

Every school the team visited, the girls were grateful and happy to receive the kits because they could continue to attend school when they could not before. This was life changing for them!





Ebenezer Institute of Learning: One of the seventh-grade girls at Ebenezer, the school which we support, walks two hours every day barefooted to come to school and then walks two hours home. She told Dana, who interviewed her, that she was working as hard as possible to pass the test needed to go to high school. There are other students who also walk an hour or more from the villages. Other students, children of the medical staff at the hospital, and the Synod's ministries, walk a few minutes.

Ebenezer is special with a maximum class of thirty students. They have books, a computer lab, and begin learning in English in kindergarten. The school has an expectation that their students will pass the test needed to go to high school. Other schools may have a hundred students, no books, no desks, and

limited education. Education is critical and important. We support scholarships of \$300 per year and many other projects at the school.

On May 28, 2026, the seventh grade "learners" (students are called learners at Ebenezer) graduated from Ebenezer. Several of the teachers interviewed by Dana have kept in touch and sent pictures and videos of the exciting day. The learners performed a dance and a skit, and the crowd was full of teachers and family members. On June 8-10, the seventh-grade learners took their district and national examinations to determine if they will continue to secondary (high) school. The Dean of Students reported to Dana that the student she interviewed who walks 2 hours to school and 2 hours back home, and another who does the same, after taking the examinations, "They felt well. They were showing happiness." The school is now awaiting the results from the National Examination Board.



The Dorm: Several girls explained how safe they felt being able to stay in a dorm, which they call a hostel. Last year, two girls described staying in the village with no electricity, having to walk to the well to get water, use the outhouse, and not feel safe in the dark. This year, with the help of a PWNC donor and the Presbytery, a new dorm with electricity, water, and inside plumbing was finished, so another 24 plus young women will have a wonderful place to stay and study while at the university or seminary!

During school break, it can also be used for pastors to come for continuing education and maybe even "Men in the Mirror" participants.



Josphat Mwale Theological Institute (JMTI): The 18 seminary graduates were grateful to get clerical shirts and bicycles. Their churches will be in extremely rural areas, which is most of Malawi. Most new pastors will have a large church with more than 1,000 members and eight to twelve prayer houses/churches of more than two hundred

members. Without the bicycles, the pastors, and often their wives, would have to walk many miles over dirt roads or paths to pastor those prayer houses. The Study Bibles from this Presbytery, which they received as students, will be one of their key resources. (The Synod has large churches without pastors but does not have finances for the \$1,300 annual cost for additional students. They have only ten graduates next year.)



The New “Youth in the Mirror Program:” Malawi is a country with a majority of young people.

At the request of the Synod, Rev. Kevin Frederick, theoretically retired, was asked to design a program called “Youth in Mirror.” It is Biblical based and uses Jesus as a model of relationships and how to grow and live into a full life. In May, our team was able to learn with the pastors how to facilitate this exciting program with youth. It has the potential to positively change relationships in Malawi, challenge the patriarchal paradigm, and to empower youth to grow in exciting ways.



PWNC began our partnership in Malawi with the Nkhoma Hospital. This rural hospital is rated 4 stars, making it one of the top 4 rated hospitals. This year, a year of severe famine, PWNC sent money to the hospital to help feed patients and to the Synod to help feed people in the villages. The hospital cannot send someone home to take medicine with food when there is no

food. Your money also purchased critical medicines.

PWNC supports the mobile health unit that travels to several rural communities to serve patients, mostly pregnant women, or mothers and their children ages 0-5, that have walked miles to get there. Vaccinations for babies are administered there. One mother brought her two-year-old to the Malindi Mobile Clinic with her cousin’s infant on her back. She did not know exactly how far, but she pointed to the mountains in the distance and through an interpreter stated that she walked over many of the mountains to





get to the clinic. It was important to get there for her cousin's baby to receive immunizations and her son to get checked as well. Her family depends on the mobile clinic.

There are eleven health centers. The last couple of years, PWNC's Malawi Mission Teams worked at Malingunde, which serves almost 100,000 people. The Presbytery's support helped them prepare all the plumbing so they could hook up to potable water and have adequate water storage and helped them rebuild an Ante-natal building. We

are not big, but we can help with critical bite size projects.

Our Partnership is 22 years old. PWNC has been blessed to work together with our friends and colleagues in Malawi, to learn from them more about discipleship and how to be faithful when you are not in control, and to be blessed to worship and pray together.

Join us in May of 2027 to go to Nkhoma, Malawi!

Join us August 18-21, 2026 at the Malawi Mission Network in Montreat, to see the many other ways that churches, presbyteries, and NGOs are working in Malawi and to learn ways we may be able to change and grow.

Presbytery of Western NC Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery.

Almost Two Years of Recovery.

By the time we meet again in October, we will have passed the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Helene.

Throughout the last two years, tens of thousands of people have received financial, physical, and emotional and spiritual support from a wide variety of agencies and organizations. The progress has been remarkable, the partnerships inspiring, and the generosity, volunteerism, and energy humbling.

Your churches have and are continuing to walk alongside survivors, and fund rebuilding and recovery in all kinds of ways – PLEASE SHARE THESE STORIES! We would love to pull them together and share a compendium of how we have collectively engaged in this recovery. (awaple@presbyterywnc.org).

AND...

30,000 volunteer hours

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance volunteer teams have traveled here from around the country and this year we will reach around 30,000 hours of volunteer time spent rebuilding WNC. This is remarkable and is only possible because of our three amazing volunteer host sites: Canton PC, New Hope PC (AVL), and FP Spruce Pine.



Almost \$400,000, 45 grants

At the Presbytery, we have also received donations totaling around \$650,000. Almost \$400,000¹ in about 45 grants has been spent to date to help damaged churches, neighbors in need, and for host sites to continue their volunteer hosting ministry.

More Recovery and Renewal to Come:

Despite all the progress, there are thousands of neighbors still waiting on assistance and after almost two years, hope is sometimes in short supply.

¹ The latest budget numbers may not quite reflect the most recent distribution of grants. Some are in progress.

For those who have been on the front lines of case management or direct support of survivors, the work can also feel never ending. The cases are also getting harder to solve and resources are stretched thinner as some agencies begin to step back or funding runs out. This is a critical and difficult part of the recovery.

So, our work in the Presbytery continues, but is beginning to change shape just a little to accommodate the needs at this stage of the recovery. The focus over the next year is expected to include:

- **Emotional and Spiritual Care:** for case workers and disaster staff at various levels.
 - We will be working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assess funding options to support ongoing mental health, counseling, and emotional/spiritual care needs for those on the front lines.
- **Working with the Long-Term Recovery Groups:** in under-served counties.
 - With partners, we aim to be a place of last resort for funding cases that are proving difficult to solve. We are still looking for some volunteers willing to sit on some LTRG 'unmet needs' committees. We're hoping that PWNC churches can be part of getting to know about and helping to request Presbytery funding for these cases.
- **Continued Hosting/Coordination of Volunteers and Rebuilding Efforts.**
 - This now also involves getting creative with how to rebuild where land or property is unbuildable/condemned. We're working with partners on several volunteer-friendly building options for long-term housing solutions.
- **Preparedness and Disaster Readiness:**
 - Together with our faith-based partners, we are embarking on a program to continue to build resilient, climate-adaptive, disaster-ready communities and churches in WNC. We are co-designing a system to offer education, training, and potential recognition for congregations that have been and/or want to be part of a crisis-ready network with various skills and capacities.
- **FUNDING!**
 - We will continue to work with PDA (and other grantors) to drive funding to our region and continue to offer grants from the remaining Presbytery funds.
Later this year, we may also need your help in doing some targeted additional fundraising so that we can keep supporting the recovery of our neighbors.

DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR GRANTS for the next Presbytery funding round! July 31.
<https://www.pwnc-recovery.org/grants>.

Again, thank you ALL for your tireless love and faith, and your care for our region and its people.

Youth Leaders

Save These Dates!
2026-2027

Sept 26

Pathways Fall Event
Come to Montreat
for a day of mission,
fun and finding God in
our midst
Middle & High School

Nov 14-15

Fall Youth Retreat
Camp Grier, Small Groups,
Fellowship and More!!
Middle & High School

Ongoing!

Youth Council for
PWNC Forms
Available NOW! Find
them [HERE](#)

March 5-6

or 12-13

MISSION RETREAT
Overnight Retreat
High School Youth

May 1

Adventure Day
Bring your youth for a
day of recreation,
worship and outdoor
adventures

Put these dates on your youth group calendar NOW!

PWNC Youth Delegation Trip to Guatemala

Reflections from the team

Y-2



The gathering of youth from PWNC, Sur Occidente and Suchitepequez was a highlight for our group.

"One of the greatest gifts of this week has been watching our youth step outside their comfort zones. They have tried new foods, spoken new words, embraced unfamiliar experiences, and built friendships that crossed language barriers. It has been a beautiful reminder that God often does some of God's best work when we are willing to step into the unknown with open hearts and trusting spirits. So thankful for a great week."

Carol Ann Hoard, Minister for CE&Families Shelby Presbyterian

"I thought it was very eye opening to someone like me who has traveled around the world. I felt like the culture was very rich sometimes and at other times I felt like I blended in seamlessly. That surprised me."

Cadence Cowal, Youth Warren Wilson Presbyterian



One of the activities during the youth retreat was creative bible story telling! Noah's Ark never looked better than with these paper bag puppets this group created!

"There's much to love about Guatemala: for starters, the landscape is starkly beautiful and dramatic, and the cuisine is healthy and delicious. But above all there's the warm welcome you find everywhere you go: among friends but also from strangers, in worship services but also on the street."

In Matthew 10, Jesus reminds his disciples: "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, . . . and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones . . . —truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward." From the moment our group of fourteen from Carolina del Norte touched down in Guatemala City, the people we encountered never stopped offering us cups of cold water—both literal water for quenching our thirst and the living water of hospitality and friendship."

Rev. Dwight Christenbury, Trinity Presbyterian



Sarah Robinson - Guatemala Partnership Coordinator - made sure that once we arrived in Guatemala City we took the time to understand the history of the people of Guatemala. It was an outstanding VERY full day.

"As a person who has only stayed on one side of the United States, going to Guatemala was a whole new experience for me. I was told stories of what it would be like, and the main traits were, dangerous, poor, loving, nice people. Highly different perspectives, so I tried walking into this open minded, but what I learned and saw made me think of Guatemala differently. My favorite parts had to be walking into the museum and learning of their history. Learning how similar the treatment of darker skinned people and slavery is even there. To learn history from the Guatemalan perspective changes what I thought I knew because school never taught me any of it. Then to enter a school, full of happy spirited kids, running around, learning in classrooms, and seeing the difference and yet the similarities. To realize we aren't very different from one another, we just grew up with different experiences and privileges. Most don't realize how bad they have it, when that's all they've known, but you didn't see that at the school. Having no running water at a school, yet these children still learned and played with us. It was honestly so fun, the language barrier didn't mean anything because play is universal, having fun has no barriers. I would love to go to Guatemala again and bring others with me to experience it."

Khia Hickman, Youth Shelby Presbyterian



"The kindness and respect shown to me by everyone I met turned strangers into lifelong friends and made me feel completely at home. Equally captivating were the children, who radiated an infectious joy and brought so much pure happiness to my July 26th, 2026

Martha Taylor, Youth FPC Belmont



"There are a few moments from the trip that will forever be etched into my heart as most holy. One was the experience of singing during worship with the youth from WNC and our sister Presbyteries - the joined voices in both Spanish and English to a familiar worship song was truly transformative.

The other moment came when playing with students at Escuela David Lamotte. The laughter joy of God's people playing together is truly universal.

Thanks be to God for the opportunity to engage in partnerships such as this!"

Rev. Sarah Grace Montgomery, Interim Associate for Youth Ministry PWNC



Hand making corn tortillas is a lot harder than it looks!!

This was our favorite mode of transportation!



Escuela David Lamotte filled our day with joy, laughter, sweat, cooking and building community. What a gift!

"I saw God everywhere I went in Guatemala, but especially through the people we met. Even when I wasn't directly talking to someone, I could still see the love and hear the laughter all around me. Even in the bustling city streets, you could tell the culture in Guatemala was different, in a really beautiful way.

When we went to meet with the youth in Retalhuleu, we were welcomed with open arms and so much love. During our first full day there, I laughed more than I had in a long time. Something about it felt different, and I wish I could fully explain it. The best way I can describe it is that it felt like God was moving and working all around us.

When we visited the elementary school near Lake Atitlan, the joy on the kids faces as we played games with them was unforgettable. Their happiness could have filled the hearts of an entire state. That was definitely my favorite part of the trip. Even in a random coffee shop, we ended up talking with the owner for nearly 30 minutes. Despite the language barrier, it didn't matter. Love and laughter are universal, and that was something I saw everywhere. No matter where we were or who we met, God's love was present through every interaction."

River Harrill, Youth Shelby Presbyterian

Lake Atitlan surrounded us with its beauty giving us much needed time to reflect and share our hearts with each other.



"The genuine warmth and the smiles of the people of Guatemala was a sudden and dynamic embrace. The 7th State Meeting of PWNC my own faith, reminding me that the simplest thing is the most important thing.... Faith Hope and Love."

Jon Taylor, Adult FPC Belmont

July 25th 2026
Page 42 of 58

Churches—Please Pass the Word!

Encourage your 9th-12th graders to plug in and make a difference.

Be part of the team

pwnc youth council

Why You'll Love It

- **Develop Leadership Skills**

Plan events, lead missions, and serve alongside peers.

- **Deepen Your Faith**

Engage in Bible studies, discipleship groups, and one-on-one mentoring.

- **Build Lifelong Friendships**

Connect with other Christ-centered teens from across the PWNC.

Who: 9th-12th Graders (Entering Fall 2026)

What: PWNC PYC Youth Council – where faith and leadership grow together!

When: 2026-2027 school year

"PYC is a wonderful experience to connect with other youth and strengthen your relationship with God. On the team, I have learned new leadership skills and developed lifelong friendships. The team provides a positive environment and I am always excited to spend time with the group and feel God's presence."

Lauren Monnat -Bryson City Presbyterian Church



**For more information about PYC
scan the QR code.**

Youth Council Description and Expectations Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Youth participants in PYC will spend the program year learning and growing as leaders in worship, recreation and music ministries with their peers in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. This includes planning, leading and implementing several events throughout the year. Worship leadership includes planning the order of worship, writing prayers and other liturgy and leading/facilitating these parts of worship at various events. Recreation leadership includes planning both large and small group activities that enhance the events with group building, playful exploration of scripture and more. Both worship and recreation leadership includes being prepared, finding your voice in front of a large group, and working together as a team, all of which will be part of the Youth Participants training throughout the year. Additionally, youth participants are asked to lead small groups of Middle School and High School youth in Bible Study, Recreation and creative exploration of the Biblical theme for the year. Throughout their time on PYC, Youth will have an opportunity to learn, grow and practice these vital leadership skills at the same time as growing in their own faith and relationship with God.

Please carefully look over the calendar of dates/fees and the time commitment that is a part of being on PYC. It is important that all participants are present for MOST of the meetings and events, though we understand that young people have a lot of commitments. We ask that you commit to missing no more than THREE meetings or events for the year. If this is not a time commitment you think you are able to make at this time, we encourage you to join PYC when you are able to make a full commitment to the Covenant of Participation.

PYC PLANNING AND EVENT DATES 2026-2027

Event	Date	Location	Cost
Orientation Event Attendance Required	August 7-8, 2026 Hold these dates for now!	Montreat, NC	\$10
Planning Meeting	10 am – 2 pm September 12th, 2026	TBD	none
Pathways Youth Event	September 25-26, 2026	Montreat, NC	none
Planning Meeting	10 am – 2 pm October 17, 2026	TBD	none
Youth Retreat (middle and high)	November 13-15, 2026	Camp Grier, NC	\$10
Planning Meeting	10 am – 2 pm February 6, 2027	TBD	none
High School Mission Retreat	March 5-6 OR 12-13 , 2027	TBD	\$10
Planning Meeting	10 am – 2 pm April 10, 2027	TBD	none
Youth Adventure Day	April 30- May 1, 2027	Camp Grier, NC	\$10
Mission Trip	Summer 2027	Stateside	TBA

Finance Team
Don Scofield – Chair
July 25, 2026

For information only the Finance Team presents:

- ◆ The ‘Operating Budget Summary’ of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of June 30, 2026, BB-2.
- ◆ The ‘Balance Sheet’ of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of June 30, 2026 compared to December 31, 2025, BB-3.
- ◆ The ‘Hurricane Helene Fund Financial Statement’ of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina as of June 30, 2026, BB-4.
- ◆ A portion of the 2025 audited financial statements, BB-5 thru BB-9.

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 JUNE 30, 2026**

ACCOUNT	2026 ANNUAL BUDGET	2026 YTD BUDGET	2026 YTD ACTUAL	% OF ANNUAL BUDGET	2025 YTD ACTUAL
INCOME:					
Unified Giving from Churches	\$ 694,190	\$ 347,095	\$ 301,419	43.4%	\$ 305,959
Other Income	23,500	\$ 11,750	9,861	42.0%	11,646
Anticipated Grants/Income	6,000	\$ 3,000	6,000	100.0%	6,500
Transfer From Existing Funds-NWC	30,000	\$ 15,000	15,000	50.0%	17,500
Transfer From Existing Funds-Disaster Recovery	100,000	\$ 50,000	31,980	32.0%	31,200
Transfer From Existing Funds-Legal Work	10,000	\$ 5,000	17,911	179.1%	1,411
Income From Investment	257,854	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$ 1,121,544</u>	\$ 431,845	\$ 382,170	34.1%	\$ 374,216
EXPENSES:					
General Assembly Per Capita/Unified Giving	\$ 165,000	\$ 82,500	\$ 71,643	43.4%	\$ 74,879
Synod Per Capita	18,731	\$ 9,365	8,133	43.4%	6,609
Institutions & Agencies	4,000	\$ 2,000	1,737	43.4%	1,815
Strengthening Congregations Ministry					
Church Vibrancy Team	11,946	\$ 5,973	5,973	50.0%	5,973
Youth Ministry Team / Council	20,450	\$ 10,225	12,317	60.2%	5,527
Faith Formation Team	4,700	\$ 2,350	100	2.1%	-
Campus Ministry Team	9,000	\$ 4,500	4,500	50.0%	4,500
Equipping Disciples Ministry					
New Worship Community Team	30,000	\$ 15,000	15,000	50.0%	17,500
Digital Church Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Community Outreach Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Peace and Justice Team	2,200	\$ 1,100	1,000	45.5%	126
Disability Inclusion Team	200	\$ 100	-	0.0%	-
Engaging in Mission Ministry					
Hunger Programs Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Self-Development of People Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Disaster Assistance Team	103,000	\$ 51,500	31,810	30.9%	30,920
Housing Team	3,000	\$ 1,500	-	0.0%	-
Guatemala Leadership Team	27,000	\$ 13,500	2,318	8.6%	1,699
Malawi Leadership Team	4,000	\$ 2,000	-	0.0%	-
Supporting Leadership Ministry					
Commission on Ministry	2,925	\$ 1,463	1,344	46.0%	561
Examinations Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Validated Ministry Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Preparation for Ministry Team	5,400	\$ 2,700	652	12.1%	63
Commissioned Pastors Team	-	\$ -	-	0.0%	-
Church Leadership School Team	1,000	\$ 500	(883)	-88.3%	(635)
Coordinating Ministry					
Coordinating Ministry	20,434	\$ 10,217	1,500	7.3%	1,500
Permanent Judicial Commission	500	\$ 250	-	0.0%	-
Nominating / Representation Team	500	\$ 250	-	0.0%	-
Personnel Team	579,818	\$ 289,909	270,051	46.6%	248,677
Finance Team	82,040	\$ 41,020	36,745	44.8%	32,241
Stated Clerk Expenses					
Stated Clerk	25,700	\$ 12,850	20,302	79.0%	8,977
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$ 1,121,544</u>	\$ 560,772	\$ 484,242	43.2%	\$ 440,934
NET INCOME/(LOSS)		<u>(128,927)</u>	<u>(102,071)</u>		<u>(66,718)</u>

Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Balance Sheet
As of June 30, 2026

BB-3

	June-26	Dec-25
ASSETS		
Cash (checking and on hand)	\$ 363,680	\$ 950,719
Money Market	\$ 257,281	\$ 257,217
Certificates of Deposit	\$ 216,293	\$ 216,293
Investments (Presbyterian Foundation) ¹		
Presbytery of WNC	\$ 6,113,169	\$ 5,615,999
Building HOPE ³	\$ 1,709,979	\$ 1,731,822
Malawi-GAP Ebenezer School Scholarships ³	\$ 212,420	\$ 199,514
Treasury Fund	\$ 590,470	\$ 100,218
Receivables (Sales tax refunds due)	\$ 378	\$ 443
Notes Receivables - Property ²	\$ 1,403,105	\$ 1,439,714
TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS	\$ 10,866,774	\$ 10,511,939
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
LIABILITIES		
Payables (within the next twelve months)(FICA/State W/H)	\$ -	\$ 1,505
Payables (beyond next twelve months)	\$ -	\$ -
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ -	\$ 1,505
NET ASSETS (Defined as assets less liabilities)		
Undesignated Funds		
Funds available for general purposes	\$ 3,405,580	\$ 3,140,481
Sale of Church Property	\$ 2,174,980	\$ 2,243,884
Subtotal	\$ 5,580,560	\$ 5,384,366
Designated by Coordinating Ministry		
Sale of Church Property (Notes Receivable) ²	\$ 1,403,105	\$ 1,439,714
New Church Development	\$ 183,013	\$ 198,013
Physical Plant Needs	\$ 54,196	\$ 53,652
Community Outreach Grant Fund	\$ -	\$ 8,670
Hospitality Grant Fund	\$ 100,000	\$ -
Korean Church Mission Gift	\$ 70,379	\$ 100,000
Subtotal	\$ 1,810,693	\$ 1,800,049
Donor Restricted		
General Assembly/Synod/ Mission Co-Workers/Crisis Relief/Special Offerings	\$ 85,777	\$ 58,698
Building HOPE ³	\$ 1,648,756	\$ 1,621,652
Hurricane Helene Relief Fund	\$ 265,832	\$ 280,558
Daily Change	\$ 74,572	\$ 55,707
Men in the Mirror	\$ 23,648	\$ 28,453
Malawi-Nkhoma Hospital	\$ 121,831	\$ 115,357
Malawi-Ebenezer School	\$ 101,290	\$ 100,486
Malawi-GAP Ebenezer School Scholarships ³	\$ 212,420	\$ 199,514
Malawi-Mission Trips	\$ 12,940	\$ 30,019
Guatemala Scholarship/Partnership Needs/Projects/Jubilee Fund	\$ 204,856	\$ 166,727
Guatemala Health/Nutrition	\$ 53,934	\$ 32,317
Guatemala Microloans	\$ 34,912	\$ 8,954
Guatemala Mission Trips	\$ 16,326	\$ 17,194
Taiwan Mission Support	\$ 59,646	\$ 43,924
Disaster Relief Coordinator Fund	\$ 92,170	\$ 124,150
Passthru Funds and Other Activities	\$ 466,611	\$ 442,310
Subtotal	\$ 3,475,521	\$ 3,326,019
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 10,866,774	\$ 10,510,434
TOTAL LIABILITES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 10,866,774	\$ 10,511,939

Notes:

- 1: Invested 60% Stocks 40% Bonds through the Presbyterian Foundation
2: Mortgages held by the Presbytery on Swannanoa/Westminster/W Avenue/John Knox properties
3: Any difference is due to some of the asset residing in Cash, Checking or Money Market accounts

Hurricane Helene Fund Financial Statement
As of 6/30/26

Donations

2024	478,994.43
2025	170,539.14
2026	16,460.79

Passthru Funds (not included in Donations)

PC(USA)PDA Host Site Grant
New Hope Presbyterian Church, Asheville
\$5,000 received by PWNC Apr 2025/remitted May 2025

PC(USA)PDA Host Site Grant
Spruce Pine Presbyterian Church

Designated Funds

\$1,460 designated to purchase
Tools for Tool Trailer

\$2,000 designated to be used for
needs in the Asheville area

Total Donations \$ 665,994.36

Expensed

Nov-24	(1,500.00)	\$500 Pmts to Micaville PC, Marshall PC & Green Mtn PC (FPC Napa gift)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Dorland Memorial PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Green Mtn PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Green Street PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Jack's Creek PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Micaville PC (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to New Hope PC (Asheville) (GC approved for damages)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Black Mtn PC (GC approved for direct assistance)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to Grace Covenant PC (GC approved for direct assistance)
Dec-24	(2,500.00)	Grant to FPC Marion (GC approved for direct assistance)
Mar-25	(1,000.00)	Grant to Green Mtn PC - Community Healing (Lenten video Project)
Mar-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC - Church Repair
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Tryon PC - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Grace Covenant PC - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to FPC, Marion - Direct Relief to Community
Mar-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Warren-Wilson PC - Direct Relief to Community
Jun-25	(125.30)	Reimbursement for supplies-PWNC PDA Team - 25 trip-Canton, NC
Jun-25	(10,000.00)	Host Site Expense Fund - New Hope Presbyterian Church
Jun-25	(10,000.00)	Host Site Expense Fund - FPC Spruce Pine
Jun-25	(1,050.00)	Funds to Cover Per Diem Shortfall from 2 Volunteer Groups-FPC Spruce Pine
Aug-25	(3,999.00)	Gilreath Auto Sales LLC (Purchase of Tool Trailer)
Oct-25	(200.28)	Brotherhood Mutual (Insurance Policy for Tool Trailer)
Nov-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (grant for damages)
Nov-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Green Mountain PC (grant for damages)
Nov-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for damages)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (Old Fort Strong_Edwards House) (direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Reems Creek-Beech PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(10,000.00)	Grant to Waldensian PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Nov-25	(2,500.00)	Grant to Warren Wilson PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(30,000.00)	Grant to WNC Conf of United Methodist Church (Direct Relief to Neighbors)
Dec-25	(6,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (Old Fort Strong_Edwards House) (direct relief to neighbors)
Dec-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Camp Grier (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(2,000.00)	Grant to Green Street PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(13,459.00)	Grant to Jack's Creek PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(25,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for damages)
Dec-25	(22,141.84)	Grant to Newdale PC (grant for damages)
Mar-26	(2,203.20)	Payment to Divine Disaster Relief for month's hotel costs for displaced homeowner
Jun-26	(7,144.00)	Grant to Arbor Dale PC (grant for damages)
Jun-26	(1,000.00)	Grant to Canton PC (grant for hosting PDA teams)
Jun-26	(10,000.00)	Grant to Dulatown PC (grant for damages)
Jun-26	(10,000.00)	Grant to Marshall PC (grant for direct relief to neighbors)
Jun-26	(840.00)	Grant to FPC Spruce Pine (grant for hosting PDA teams)

Total Expensed \$ (400,162.62)

Current Balance \$ 265,831.74

2026 Donations include Union
Community Church 2025 & 2026
payments to PWNC as part of
their property settlement
agreement (\$6,000)

**Hurricane Helene Relief Grants
Application Deadline Dates**

July 31, 2026
October 31, 2026

Lowdermilk Church & Co., L.L.P.
Certified Public Accountants

121 North Sterling Street
Morganton, North Carolina
Phone: (828) 433-1226
Fax: (828) 433-1230

To the General Council of
The Presbytery of Western North Carolina
Morganton, North Carolina

We have audited the financial statements of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina for the year ended December 31, 2025, and we will issue our report thereon dated June 16, 2026. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards (and, if applicable, *Government Auditing Standards* and the Uniform Guidance), as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our engagement letter to you dated December 1, 2025. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Matters

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by The Presbytery of Western North Carolina are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted, and the application of existing policies was not changed during year ended December 31, 2025. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. There are no sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, a disagreement with management is a disagreement on a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditors' report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated June 16, 2026.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a "second opinion" on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to the Organization's financial statements or a determination of the type of auditors' opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as the Organization's auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles; the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the General Council and management of The Presbytery of Western North Carolina and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Very truly yours,

Lowdermilk Church & Co., L.L.P.

Morganton, North Carolina
June 16, 2026

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

BB-7

Schedule of Financial Position
December 31, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions					With Donor Restrictions	
	General Fund	Restricted Fund	Loan & Grant Fund	Plant Fund	Total	Conley And Reid	Total All Funds
Assets:							
Cash	\$ 364,207	\$ 606,228	\$ 237,500	\$ -	\$ 1,207,935	\$ 5,346	\$ 1,213,281
Receivables	443	-	-	-	443	-	443
Loans receivable	-	1,439,714	-	-	1,439,714	-	1,439,714
Investments	107,938	7,750,563	-	-	7,858,501	-	7,858,501
Property, plant and equipment at cost-net	-	-	-	17,385	17,385	-	17,385
Total assets	<u>\$ 472,588</u>	<u>\$ 9,796,505</u>	<u>\$ 237,500</u>	<u>\$ 17,385</u>	<u>\$ 10,523,978</u>	<u>\$ 5,346</u>	<u>\$ 10,529,324</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets:							
Benevolences payable	\$ -	\$ 6,233,761	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,233,761	\$ -	\$ 6,233,761
Accounts payable and payroll withholdings	1,505	-	-	-	1,505	-	1,505
Total liabilities	<u>1,505</u>	<u>6,233,761</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,235,266</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>6,235,266</u>
Net assets							
Without donor restrictions:							
Undesignated	459,283	3,518,246	-	17,385	3,994,914	-	3,994,914
Board designated	11,800	44,498	237,500	-	293,798	-	293,798
With donor restrictions	-	-	-	-	-	5,346	5,346
Total net assets	<u>471,083</u>	<u>3,562,744</u>	<u>237,500</u>	<u>17,385</u>	<u>4,288,712</u>	<u>5,346</u>	<u>4,294,058</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$ 472,588</u>	<u>\$ 9,796,505</u>	<u>\$ 237,500</u>	<u>\$ 17,385</u>	<u>\$ 10,523,978</u>	<u>\$ 5,346</u>	<u>\$ 10,529,324</u>

THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Schedule of Revenue and Expenses Compared to Budget - General Fund For the Year Ended December 31, 2025 (With Comparative Totals for the Year Ended December 31, 2024)

	2025		Over (Under)	2024
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Revenue</u>				
Presbytery support:				
Unified giving	\$ 490,632	\$ 482,110	\$ (8,522)	\$ 513,118
Total (page 16)	<u>490,632</u>	<u>482,110</u>	<u>(8,522)</u>	<u>513,118</u>
Program receipts and other income:				
Receipts to support legal fund	10,000	5,893	(4,107)	21,890
Synod support for HAE	6,500	6,500	-	6,000
Designated proceeds	49,000	57,292	8,292	51,600
Designated proceeds-disaster	100,000	70,577	(29,423)	5,273
Church receipts PWNC only	-	-	-	250
PWNC only individuals	8,000	7,700	(300)	10,000
Interest	-	2,723	2,723	2,969
Transfer from other funds	<u>237,318</u>	<u>202,082</u>	<u>(35,236)</u>	<u>142,044</u>
Total	<u>410,818</u>	<u>352,767</u>	<u>(58,051)</u>	<u>240,026</u>
Total revenue	<u>\$ 901,450</u>	<u>834,877</u>	<u>(66,573)</u>	<u>753,144</u>
<u>Expenses</u>				
Congregational development division	\$ 55,196	54,446	\$ 750	55,946
Outreach division	148,850	111,147	37,703	51,350
Leadership development division	4,750	1,233	3,517	2,523
Youth ministries	21,450	18,943	2,507	12,433
Administration division	584,447	583,373	1,074	549,236
Special division	500	-	500	170

Schedule of Revenue and Expenses Compared to Budget-
General Fund (continued)

	2025			2024
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	Over (Under) <u>Budget</u>	<u>Total</u>
Book of order division	\$ 20,007	\$ 18,403	\$ 1,604	\$ 14,690
Ministry division	8,150	2,415	5,735	3,826
Office support division	<u>58,100</u>	<u>44,917</u>	<u>13,183</u>	<u>62,970</u>
Total expenses (page 24)	<u>\$ 901,450</u>	<u>834,877</u>	<u>66,573</u>	<u>753,144</u>
Excess revenue over (under) expenses per budget		<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

Building H.O.P.E. Financial Statement

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

As of 6/30/26

Campaign Totals		Ministry details			
		Malawi	Camp Grier	Vital Churches	Guatemala
Collected	\$1,990,358.09	\$910,518.70	\$374,170.91	\$385,356.42	\$320,312.06
Gain/Loss (subject to market fluctuations)	\$859,923.70	\$418,757.29	\$77.47	\$216,832.55	\$224,256.39
Campaign Expenses	\$107,334.43	\$49,076.83	\$20,225.83	\$20,767.00	\$17,264.77
Utilized	\$1,164,245.68	\$552,809.32	\$354,022.55	\$85,970.81	\$171,443.00
Available for Requests	\$1,578,701.68	\$727,389.84	\$0.00	\$495,451.16	\$355,860.68

Malawi (Health Care & Education)	
Projects	Utilized
Rural Health Clinics*	\$64,587.54
Rural Health Clinic Housing*	\$149,019.78
Research Accountability	\$6,600.00
Mobile Health Unit	\$91,786.00
Medicines Fund	\$189,200.00
Ebenezer Institute Endowment Fund	\$51,616.00
* Per General Council approval, Aug 2024, requests for Rural Health Clinics and or Clinic Housing can come from either line item	

Camp Grier (Outdoor Adventures)	
Projects	Utilized
Adventure Program Equipment *	\$93,500.00
Lake Front Upgrades *	\$0.00
Trail Development	\$70,000.00
Lodge Renovations	\$190,522.55
* 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	\$16,699.75
Water to Wine	\$9,200.00
New Worshipping Communities	\$0.00
<i>Leadership Development & Pastoral Revitalization</i>	
Church Leadership Workshops	\$8,636.25
Pastoral Initiatives	\$10,999.81
Supplement Leadership Support	\$12,000.00
Supplement Pastoral Support	\$0.00
Pastoral Education	\$2,535.00
<i>Consultants, Seminars & Upgrades in Technology</i>	
Hardware & Software	\$17,500.00
Websites	\$0.00
Consultants & Seminars	\$8,400.00

Guatemala (Education)	
Projects	Utilized
Higher Education Endowment	\$68,800.00
Fund for Theological Education of Pastors	\$70,500.00
Libraries/Teacher/Parent Formation Programs	\$27,193.00
Dream Goals	\$4,950.00

Building HOPE Campaign website:

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

REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER

JULY 2, 2026

Hello everyone!

I hope you are doing well and enjoying the summer season. As I write this, I am in the final night of plenaries here in Milwaukee, WI at the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I do want to let you know our PWNC elected commissioners are doing a great job!

Since the April presbytery meeting in Montreat, a lot of things have been happening. As you may know, I was unable to be with you because I was a member of our Presbytery's delegation trip to Malawi to spend time with our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Nkhoma Synod. In our 10 day visit, we had the opportunity to meet the new General Secretary, Rev. Brian Kamwendo, and the Synod leadership. We toured the Nkhoma hospital, university, seminary, and rural health centers. In addition, we were involved in worship services at the Synod church and the hospital chapel. The funds we send to the Nkhoma Synod helps in a variety of ways – medicines and supplies at the hospital, books and bicycles for the graduating theological students, housing for women at the university, and so much more. This was my third trip to Malawi and every time I feel very blessed that we are in this partnership!



We are continuing to live into this year's theme of "Building and Sustaining Relationships." One of the things we have done is host an event for our newer pastors to orient them to the PWNC. This event happened on May 12 at the Presbytery office. We began with a walk-through of the office to meet staff and presbytery leaders. Then, we had lunch and more formal introductions and presented information about the Presbytery. We had 12 new ministers and the event was a real success. I give thanks to our new Welcoming Team for hosting and look forward to doing this on a regular basis!



As you are reading this, we are making the final preparations for our initial July in-person neighborhood Presbytery meetings! These will be held on Saturday, July 25 at Mills River (Western), Greenway Presbyterian in Lenoir (Central), Artisan Church in Lincolnton (Eastern), and Crossnore (Mayland). Each neighborhood will have its own leadership and worship, and will consider the normal agenda of business that is typical at a regular stated meeting. In addition, each neighborhood will hear/share stories of congregations who are engaged in mission in their particular contexts. I am thankful to the Presbytery Associates and Presbytery leaders for their diligence in planning these meetings.

I continue with my visits to our churches. I have visited First Morganton and Tryon Presbyterian as of late. Transitional Pastor, Rev. Lance Perry, is working with FPC Morganton's Transition Team. They are in conversation with the congregation to gather input to develop their Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) in preparation for the search for a new minister. At Tryon, the congregation celebrated the commissioning of Rev. Allan Purtil as he begins his sabbatical leave for the next three months. I look forward to visiting our other congregations soon!

In regards to our staff, we recently celebrated the retirement of Beth Gunn, our Associate for Youth Ministry. Beth has served in this position for over 20 years and has really influenced our young people through her leadership. The celebration itself was great and wonderful words of appreciation were shared. We will definitely miss her!!



One of my great joys is attending the Church Leadership School (CLS) graduation ceremony. I am always heartened to witness those persons who have dedicated a few years of their lives (and Saturdays!) to learn more about discipleship and their own development as leaders in the church. We had six graduates this year, including one from a neighboring presbytery. After lunch, we entered the chapel at First, Morganton for a worship service led by the CLS students. The graduating students preached wonderful messages. I am so glad that we continue to have people who are called to serve the church in this particular way!

Friends, there is a lot going on here in the PWNC. Most of all, I am thankful for you, your ministries, and your prayers. May God bless you!

Byron A. Wade
General Presbyter



JULY PRESBYTERY PACKET DEADLINE: October 1st

Please Note: Reports not submitted by the team or ministry chair/moderator by the stated deadline will *not* be included in the Presbytery meeting packet. All reports must be written and submitted by the designated chair or moderator. **No deadline extensions will be granted.**