

HANDBOOK

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY



Providence Presbytery
Spring Stated Meeting
May 5, 2024

Registration: 1:30 pm
Call To Order: 2:30 p.m.

Questions - Contact the
Providence Presbytery
Office at 803-328-6269

Providence Presbytery
Meeting Handbook Link
Can Be Found at
www.providencepres.org

Click the following tabs:
Calendar
2024 Presbytery Meetings
May 5, 2024

Direct Link:
[May 5, 2024 Handbook](#)

Spring Stated Meeting Douglas Presbyterian Church Sunday, May 5, 2024

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Ministers, please make sure that your Ruling Elder Commissioner(s) to the Presbytery meeting has a copy of the Handbook prior to the meeting. Handbooks are being sent by email. We are not mailing them because of the cost of postage. We will have 15 printed copies available at the meeting. If you want a printed copy, please call the Presbytery office at 803-328-6269 or email lemmonsberry@providencepres.org to request a copy.



2325 Sunday Place
Lancaster SC, 29720

Come to Learn; Leave to Serve



Welcome to Douglas Presbyterian Church!
(We extend a warm and heartfelt greeting to you.)

Douglas Presbyterian Church has been a place of worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth for residents in and around the area since 1856. Our church holds a long-standing history as a pillar of faith, dedicated to serving the needs of the congregation and reaching out to the broader community. With a commitment to the principles and values of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Douglas offers a welcoming and inclusive environment for individuals from all walks of life. As we gather together in worship, we celebrate the diversity of our congregation, embracing the unique gifts and perspectives each person brings to worship.

Douglas Presbyterian Church understands the importance of serving others and making a positive impact on the world around us. We actively engage in outreach efforts, seeking to offer compassion, love, and assistance to those in need within our local and global communities. One of our most successful local endeavors has been an after-school Bible study at Brooklyn Springs Elementary (two miles from the church), where this spring, we led nineteen children to Christ through stories, songs, and one-on-one counseling. Through our worship and our work, we strive to live by our simple mission statement—Come to Learn; Leave to Serve

We invite you to visit us online at www.douglaspc.org and search for us on social media (Instagram—@DPCMEDIA and facebook.com/dpcmedia). We are incredibly excited to host Providence Presbytery and hope you will make yourselves at home here.

Peace,
Rev. Rob Jones

Directions:
For GPS users – 2325 Sunday Place, Lancaster SC, 29720

From York and Rock Hill, I-77 South, take Exit 77 (South Anderson Rd) to US-21 South towards Lancaster (a left turn). Continue on US21-S to Lancaster for 4.5 miles and merge onto SC-5 S. Then, continue straight onto US-521 S. Continue on US-521 S for 18 miles (going through downtown Lancaster). Merge to the right off US-521 S to SC-200 W (Great Falls HWY) (just past the fairgrounds). Go 4.1 miles on SC-200 W and turn left onto Sunday Place. The church will be on the left.

From Fort Mill – Indian Land area - US-521 S for 18 miles (going through downtown Lancaster). Merge to the right off US-521 S to SC-200 W (Great Falls HWY) (just past the fairgrounds). Go 4.1 miles on SC-200 W and turn left onto Sunday Place. The church will be on the left.

From the Camden area, take HWY 97 N to SC-200 East. Go 6.5 miles and turn Right onto Sunday Place. The church is on the left.

Greetings Friends,

Since our last Presbytery meeting, we have walked with Jesus through the serious time of Holy week to the somber reality of the crucifixion to the celebratory time of the resurrection. It is that Jesus event - all of the Jesus event - that calls us into our shared ministry. It is the truth and the hope of that resurrection which beckons us every week and, in some ways, every day to worship and celebrate.

As we come to our May 5th meeting, we share many opportunities to continue to celebrate that Jesus event. In this meeting, we will celebrate by welcoming friends from some of the agencies with which we have relationships - the Presbyterian Communities, the Board of Pensions, and the SC Inn at Montreat. We will have the opportunity to commission and pray over our General Assembly (GA) commissioners and delegate. We will have the honor of worship and of breaking bread with one another in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

We will also celebrate some of the ways that we answer God's call to minister in our churches, communities, and the world. We will enjoy the privilege of participating in the life of a child of this Presbytery who is taking a significant step towards God's call to ministry. We will hear and receive reports about churches who are engaging in ministries that will mark a transitional time in their history. We will acknowledge some of the special ways that we remain connected as Presbyterian siblings. We will act to support our churches and their ministries.

After the meeting, folks are invited to stay for an important workshop. Elizabeth Little, our Board of Pensions Regional Representative, will give a more detailed presentation on the big changes regarding the pricing of health coverage, and she will answer your questions.

Blessings on you all!

Peace,

David

Rev. Dr. David M. Bender
Stated Clerk

Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery DOCKET

Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.

Douglas Presbyterian Church
Lancaster, SC

Guided by the Holy Spirit, the mission of Providence Presbytery is to equip, support, and connect our congregations as they faithfully serve Jesus Christ in a changing world

2:30 pm **Call to Order and Opening Prayer** Moderator, Rev. Marty Simmons
Grace (L) Presbyterian

Land Acknowledgement of Providence Presbytery

"We are gathered on the land of the Cherokee and Catawba Nations. The congregations of Providence Presbytery inhabit the ancestral homes of the Catawba, Cherokee, Congaree, Wateree, Lumbee, Waxhaw, Cheraw, and Sugaree. I ask you to join me in acknowledging these first nations, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. Providence Presbytery also acknowledges that its existence resulted in the exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous peoples. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to the ministry of reconciliation made possible through Jesus Christ. We hold in prayer the indigenous peoples in our community and, through prayer and discernment, seek ways to mend, repair, and renew a relationship with these peoples."

2:35 pm **Welcome From Douglas Presbyterian Church** Rev. Rob Jones
Pastor Douglas Presbyterian

2:40 pm **Adoption of the Docket** Moderator, Rev. Marty Simmons
Pages A: 1 - 3

2:45 pm **Worship & Communion** (Dr. Eric Robinson Preaching) **The Worship Team**
Rev. Rob Jones
Dr. Eric Robinson
Rev. Latershia Robinson
Rev. Paul Smith

3:30 pm **Commissioning of 226th General Assembly (2024)** Moderator, Rev. Marty Simmons
Providence Presbytery Commissioners & Youth Advocate Delegate
Teaching Elder: Rev. Steve Austin
Ruling Elder: Gwen Cunningham
Youth Adult Advisory Delegate: Meredith Welfare

3:35 pm **Stated Clerk's Report** Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Bender

- A. Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum
- B. Recognition of New Ruling Elder Commissioners
- C. Recognition of Corresponding Members & Guests
- D. Joys and Concerns

E. Consent Agenda **Pages B: 1 - 3**

F. 2023 Presbytery Statistical Report &
Providence Presbytery Membership 2019 - 2023 **Pages C: 1 - 3**

3:40 pm Reports From Agencies

A. Board of Pensions Elizabeth Little
BOP Regional Representative

B. Presbyterian Communities Bill McConnell
Presbyterian Communities
Director of Foundation Services & Church Relations

C. South Carolina Inn at Montreat Emily Cameron
SC Inn at Montreat Inn Keeper

4:10 pm FIVE MINUTE BREAK

Ministries of Communities of Care

4:15 pm A. Community of Witness – COM Rev. Paul Smith
Co - Moderator
Old Waxhaw & Wade Presbyterian

Ruling Elder Susan Bullard
Co - Moderator
Unity Presbyterian
Pages D: 1 - 8

1. The Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Edgar McCall Moderator Marty Simmons
Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery
Unity Presbyterian
Pages D: 3 - 4

B. Community of Witness – CPM Rev. John White
Moderator Committee on
Preparation For Ministry
Beth Shiloh Presbyterian
Pages D: 5 – 8

1. Examination of Inquirer Jackson Rigley For Candidacy **Pages D: 6 – 8**

4:45 pm C. Community of Love Ruling Elder Mike Conn
Moderator
Tirzah Presbyterian
Pages E: 1 – 23

1. Oakdale Presbyterian Church Covenant of Terms of Transfer of Membership to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians and Dismissal From the PCUSA
Rev. Steve Austin
Moderator
Oakdale Administrative Commission
Doby's Bridge Church
Pages E: 4 – 5
2. Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church Mortgage Approval
Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan
Minister
Oakland Avenue Presbyterian
Pages E: 8 - 14
3. Providence Presbytery Bills & Overtures Committee Report
Rev. Rob Jones
Douglas Presbyterian
Page E: 15 - 23

5:15 pm D. Community of Faith

Ruling Elder Dr. Eric Robinson
Moderator
Oakland Avenue Presbyterian
Pages F: 1 - 6

1. Presbyterian Disaster Commission & Presbytery Team Coordinator

Ruling Elder Lee Ann Barnwell
Co-Moderator Presbyterian Women
Beth Shiloh Presbyterian
Pages F: 3 - 6

5:25 pm E. Community of Hope

Ruling Elder Hope Moore
Co-Moderator
Tirzah (Y) Presbyterian
Appendix 2

1. Bethelwoods

Stephen McDonald
Director
Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center
Appendix 2 – Page 4

5:35 pm F. Community of Witness – Mission & Advocacy

Ruling Elder Dr. Dave Keely
Moderator
Rock Hill First Presbyterian
Appendix 3

5:45 pm Attendance Report

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Bender

5:50 pm Thanks to Host Church & Adjourn With Prayer

Moderator Marty Simmons

For All Those Interested, Elizabeth Little, Board of Pensions Regional Representative Will Be Doing a Workshop on the 2025 BOP Changes & Financial Implications For Churches - Immediately Following The Meeting

2024 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:

Type of Meeting

Stated: Sunday, May 5, 2024

2:30 pm

Douglas Presbyterian Church

Stated: Sunday, August 11, 2024

1:30 pm

Virtual

Stated: Sunday, November 10, 2024

2:30 pm

Lancaster First Presbyterian Church

CONSENT AGENDA (OMNIBUS MOTION)
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 5, 2024

For Information:

1. That the Helpful Hints for Presbytery Commissioners and Providence Presbytery Meeting Policies be received as information. **(See Appendix 1: Pages 1 - 2)**
2. That the following Community of Hope Report be received as information:

Community of Hope (Administration & Support) Report **(See Appendix 2: Page 1)**
2024 Church Mission Partnership Fair Share Acceptance Giving **(See Appendix 2: Pages 2 - 3)**

Bethelwoods Pancake Brunch Fundraiser Flyer**(See Appendix 2: Page 4)**

Nominations Committee Report UPDATE NOTES **(See Appendix 2: Pages 5 - 12)**
3. That the Community of Witness: Mission & Advocacy Report be received as information, which includes the Mission Neighborhoods updates for: Children of Abraham, Central America Task Force, Hunger Action Team, Living Waters, Committee on Racial and Religious Reconciliation (Anti-Racism Team), Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network, and the 2023 Dimes For Hunger Distribution Report. **(See Appendix 3: Page 1 - 5)**
4. That the Synod of South Atlantic minutes of April, 6, 2024 Assembly Minutes and Highlights be received as information. **(See Appendix 4: Pages 1 - 9)**
5. That the South Carolina Inn at Montreat Report be received as information. **(See Appendix 5: Page 1)**
6. That the Presbyterian Communities “A Trusted Partner in Your Journey” flyer be received as information. **(See Appendix 6: Pages 1 - 2)**
7. That the 2024 – 2025 Presbyterian Calendar Order Form, which includes: Planning Calendars, Book of Confessions, and Book of Orders be received as information. **Deadline to place an order with the Presbytery office is July 22, 2024. (See Appendix 7: Page 1)**

For Action:

1. That excused absences for those requesting to be excused from this Presbytery meeting be granted.
2. That the following agency representatives be “granted privilege of the floor” to address the Presbytery to bring greetings and give agency updates from their respective agencies at the appropriate time on the docket.

Elizabeth Little
Board of Pensions Regional Representative

Bill McConnell
Presbyterian Communities
Director of Foundation Services & Church Relations

Emily Cameron
South Carolina Inn at Montreat
Inn Keeper

3. That the minutes of the Providence Presbytery Winter Stated Meeting held in person on February 11, 2024 hosted by Tirzah Presbyterian Church, York, South Carolina be approved by the Presbytery. **(See Appendix 8: Pages 1 – 9)**
4. That the minutes of the Administrative Commission elected to Ordain the Rev. Paul Smith on Sunday, March 3, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church be approved as presented and the Administrative Commission be dismissed with thanks.

**Ordination Service for Paul E. Smith, Jr.
Commission Meeting Minutes**

The Commission appointed by Providence Presbytery at its February 11, 2024 meeting to ordain Paul Smith, a Candidate for Ministry and Certified Ruling Elder, met at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church on March 3, 2024. Marty Simmons presided and called the meeting to order. David Bender led the opening prayer and served as clerk for the meeting. A quorum was present, including the following Ruling Elders: Shirnetha Belk, Teresa Johnson and Vernie Plyler, and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament: Rev. Marty Simmons, Rev. Carson Montgomery, Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller, Rev. Dr. David Bender, Rev. Edgar McCall, and Rev. Robert Jones.

All the commissioners participated in the worship service, with Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller providing the welcome, statement of purpose and call to worship. Rev. Marty Simmons preached the Word. The constitutional questions were posed to Paul Smith by Rev. Edgar McCall, all of which were answered in the affirmative. Constitutional questions were also posed to the congregations of Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church and Wade Memorial Presbyterian Church, the congregations with which Paul Smith has been serving and continues to serve as Stated Supply pastor, by Elders Teresa Johnson and Vernie Plyler, all of which were answered affirmatively. As Ruling Elders and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament laid on hands, Rev. Carson Montgomery offered the Prayer of Ordination and made the declaration that Paul E. Smith, Jr. is now ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Said declaration was met with rousing approval of those in attendance. Rev. Edgar McCall then offered a charge to the Pastor, and Elders Teresa Johnson and Vernie Plyler offered a charge to the congregations.

The service and this meeting were concluded with the Benediction pronounced by the Rev. Paul E. Smith, Jr.

The minutes were approved by the Commission.

This the 3rd day of March, 2024

Rev. Marty Simmons – Chairperson
Rev. Dr. David M. Bender – Stated Clerk

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY ORDINATION COMMISSION for Paul Smith:

Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller, Bridge Executive Presbyter, Providence Presbytery

Rev. Dr. David Bender, Stated Clerk, Providence Presbytery

Rev. Robert Jones, Douglas Presbyterian Church

Rev. Edgar McCall, Honorably Retired

Rev. Carson Montgomery, Van Wyck Presbyterian Church

Rev Marty Simmons, Grace Presbyterian Church Lancaster

Elder Shirenta Belk, First Presbyterian Church Lancaster

Elder Teresa Johnson, Wade Memorial Presbyterian Church

Elder Vernie Plyler, Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church

2023 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Providence
Address 515 Oakland Ave, Rock Hill, SC 29730
Phone 803-328-6269 **Fax** 803-328-8701
Email lemmonsberry@providencepres.org
Web Site www.providencepres.org



Membership

Prior Active Members	5546	Adjusted membership	5548
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Gains		Losses	
Certificate	82	Certificate	61
Youth Professions	46	Deaths	101
Professions & Reaffirmations	81	Deleted for any Other Reason	259
Total Gains	209	Total Losses	421
Total Ending Active Members	5336		

Baptisms		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	2013
Presented by Others	42	Friends of the Congregation	359
At Confirmation	4	Ruling Elders on Session	294
All Other	8	Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	8 / 29

Age Distribution of Active Members

17 & Under	270
18 - 25	360
26 - 40	647
41 - 55	871
56 - 70	1115
Over 70	1455
Total Age Distribution	4718

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	161
Sight impairment	30
Mobility impairment	135
Other impairment	120

Gender Distribution

Women	2629
Men	1993
Non-Binary	4

Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under	168	Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	203
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	325	High School (9th – 12th grade)	204
		Total Youth	900

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	9	Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	1
Black/African American/African	198	White	3337
Middle Eastern/North African	1	Multiracial	77
Hispanic/Latino-a	12		
		Total Racial Ethnic	3635

Budgeted Income	8,092,895
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Budgeted Expense	8,133,697
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Receipts

Regular Contributions	7,964,239	Bequests	196,303
Capital Building Fund	1,068,010	Other Income	368,524
Investment Income	676,386	Subsidy or Aid	45,101

Expenditures

Local Program	6,866,073	Investment Expenditures	415,151
Local Mission	464,090	Per Capital Apprt	147,633
Capital Expenditures	1,105,360	Other Mission	177,799

Providence Presbytery Membership 2019 - 2023

CHURCHES	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2021 Membership	2022 Membership	2023 Membership	Membership Difference 2022 - vs - 2023
Allison Creek	135	137	140	120	117	-3
Beaver Creek	15	19	18	18	10	-8
Beersheba	28	27	26	25	15	-10
Beth Shiloh	122	118	121	127	127	0
Bethesda-K	378	367	357	309	254	-55
Bethesda-Y	168	161	159	145	149	4
Bethlehem First	30	25	25	25	25	0
Bethune	16	15	15	15	11	-4
Blackstock	2	2	2	2	2	0
Bowling Green	79	77	77	83	87	4
Camden Second	12	11	10	9	9	0
Carmel	13	9	9	8	7	-1
Catholic	14	13	9	8	8	0
Cedar Shoals	2	2	2	0	0	0
Clover	156	156	154	150	148	-2
Community	23	23	23	23	23	0
Cornwell	49	49	49	49	49	0
Covenant	90	86	85	83	85	2
Doby's Bridge	116	118	115	115	109	-6
Douglas	75	74	73	74	74	0
Faith	178	178	168	203	222	19
Fishing Creek	59	56	55	55	56	1
Fort Lawn	3	3	2	2	2	0
Grace-L	72	68	73	75	69	-6
Grace-Y	281	284	270	276	285	9
Great Falls	44	42	42	37	31	-6
Hebron	19	16	14	14	14	0
Hermon	50	52	53	56	55	-1
Hopewell	40	40	40	40	40	0
Lancaster First	110	110	107	91	85	-6
Liberty Hill	93	75	60	57	45	-12
Lockhart	15	15	15	15	15	0
Messiah	10	3	3	2	2	0
Morningside	7	7	7	6	6	0
Mt. Pleasant	36	33	32	32	32	0
Mt. Tabor (U)	13	14	14	14	14	0
Oakdale	158	146	147	146	146	0
Oakland Avenue	737	719	722	720	659	-61
Old Waxhaw	23	24	22	27	27	0
Pleasant Grove-C	47	36	35	39	39	0
Pleasant Grove-Y	31	30	29	29	29	0
Pleasant Ridge	27	24	26	21	21	0

Providence Presbytery Membership 2019 - 2023

CHURCHES	2019 Membership	2020 Membership	2021 Membership	2022 Membership	2023 Membership	Membership Difference 2021 - vs - 2022
Purity	84	78	78	61	52	-9
Ramah	27	27	26	25	11	-14
Riverview	72	67	61	54	51	-3
Rock Hill First	365	366	366	378	314	-64
St. Paul's	18	18	16	17	17	0
Tirzah-L	24	27	29	29	31	2
Tirzah-Y	93	92	93	92	92	0
Union First	15	14	11	11	11	0
Unity	1,296	1,073	1,088	1119	1148	29
Uriel	25	22	21	21	24	3
Van Wyck	92	91	89	92	92	0
Wade Memorial	17	17	19	18	16	-2
Woodlawn	122	117	76	73	70	-3
York First	207	208	207	211	204	-7
TOTAL	6,033	5,681	5,585	5,546	5,336	-210

Community of Witness – Ministerial

Committee on Ministry Report Report to Providence Presbytery May 5, 2024

Items for Information:

1. Approved the following covenants/contracts:

- Rev. Donnell White at Hopewell Presbyterian Church to serve as Stated Supply Pastor. Covenant dates: 01/01/2024-12/31/2024
Terms of Annual Contract

Salary	\$375.00 per week
Mileage and expenses	per IRS rate
Vacation	four days per quarter
Continuing education	one week every six months

- Rev. Michael Kelly at Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden/Kershaw County to serve as Interim Minister. Covenant dates: 05/01/2024-08/01/2024
Terms of Annual Contract

Salary	\$44,765.00 annually (salary is \$34,400.00 with housing, social security, pension, car allowance, and per diem totaling \$44,765.00)
Mileage and expenses	none noted
Vacation	per Bethesda's Paid Time Off Policy
Continuing education	none noted

- Rev. Tom Sherer at Riverview Presbyterian Church to serve as Stated Supply Pastor. Covenant dates: 03/01/2024-03/01/2025
Terms of Annual Contract

Salary	\$40,000.00 per contract period
Mileage and expenses	none
Vacation	two weeks per contract period
Continuing education	\$1,500.00

- Rev. David Leininger at Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church to serve as Temporary Stated Supply Pastor. Covenant dates: 03/01/2024-02/28/2025
Terms of Annual Contract

Salary	\$0.00 per month
Housing	\$3,100.00/month
Mileage and expenses	per IRS rate
Vacation	one week per quarter
Continuing education	one week every six months

- CRE Tim McCullough at Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church to serve as Stated Supply Pastor. Covenant dates: 04/28/2024-12/31/2024

Terms of Annual Contract

Salary	\$15,300.00 per term of contract
Housing	\$0.00/month
Mileage and expenses	per IRS rate
Vacation	one week per quarter
Continuing education	one week every six months

2. Items of Discussion:

Validated Ministry - We received a request from Rev. Jason Myers to approve his employment with a non-profit organization in Chester County as a validated ministry. The team is in conversation with Jason.

Serving Communion - We began discussions regarding how to interpret and implement W.3-0410, which allows Ruling Elders to administer the sacrament of Communion.

Board of Pensions - We discussed the big Board of Pensions changes that have just been announced. These changes will have an impact on many of our churches. The COM will meet with Elizabeth Little on May 9, 2024, to further discuss.

Boundary Training - The team is receiving an updated list regarding boundary training will and notify folks whose training needs to be renewed.

3. Transitions:

No transitions noted.

However, the Committee on Ministry would like to state its gratitude for the grace of Faith Presbyterian Church in granting sabbatical to Rev. David Bender. Traveling mercies to David, Edye, James, and Caroline.

Items for Action:

1. That the Reverend Edgar N. McCall be granted the status of Honorably Retired, effective February 11, 2024. (See Pages D: 3 - 4)

Report prayerfully submitted,

Rev. Paul Smith and Susan Bullard, COM Co-Chairs

***Recognition of
HONORABLE RETIREMENT
From
The Order of Teaching Elder
For
Rev. Edgar McCall
May 5, 2024
(Edgar Retired February 11, 2024)***

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

(Ps. 90:1-2)

**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

(Ps. 103:1-5)

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all God's benefits,**

who forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;

**who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;**

who satisfies you with good things,

and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

(The moderator addresses Reverend Edgar McCall)

Edgar, you have completed your active service as a minister of the Word and Sacrament. Your sisters and brothers in Providence Presbytery rejoice with you in the evidence of the Holy Spirit in your work. We thank God for your dedicated ministry in the church of Jesus Christ, and we praise God for the grace that has allowed your ministry to touch many lives.

Now we come to mark with you the fulfillment of your calling, as Providence Presbytery confers upon you the status, Honorably Retired. While we know this begins a time of rest and the enjoyment of other callings, we value the experience you have gained and the skills you have acquired throughout your years of ministry. Therefore, we welcome your continued participation in the life of the church, using your gifts in meaningful ways. You remain a colleague in ministry, and we will continue to seek your wisdom and your fellowship.

Together with the whole church, you will find new opportunities to fulfill your baptismal calling, as one marked by the Holy Spirit, a disciple of Jesus Christ. May God continue to bring joy and peace to your life, just as you have blessed the Presbyterian Church with your ministry and the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, through all the years of our lives your love protects and guides us. By your Spirit you call us to varied ministries in the service of Jesus Christ. We praise you for your gifts to your servant, Edgar, for his faithful proclamation of your Word, his administration of the holy sacraments of Jesus Christ, and his pastoral care and leadership in the church.

Grant to Edgar time for refreshment and rest, reflection and rejoicing, and the fullness of your peace. Through your Holy Spirit bless each of us that we may remember the love of Jesus Christ which unites us in the service of our Lord. In the name of Christ we pray.

AMEN.

**Community of Witness – Ministerial Services
Committee On Preparation For Ministry
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 5, 2024**

For Information:

The Committee on Preparation For Ministry meet on Monday, April 22, 2024 to examine Inquirer Jackson Ringley from Unity Presbyterian Church be Zoom. He is a rising Senior at Yale Divinity School. Jackson is an outstanding young man and was approved unanimously by the committee to move into this next phase of exploration called Candidacy.

For Action:

The Committee on Preparation For Ministry moves the Candidacy of Jackson Ringley of the Unity Presbyterian Church, Fort Mill, SC. Jackson's biography and Statement of Faith can be found on **Pages D: 6 – 8.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Dr. John D. White
Moderator

Inquirer Jackson Ringley Statement of Faith

I believe in God the Father, the one who never ceases to create.ⁱ Having drawn all things from no-thing, God breathes life into all that is, from person to plankton to molecule, animating the world with God's own wonder, curiosity, creativity, and joy.ⁱⁱ Like an artist, God made humankind out of God's own playful desire to create, and God continues to desire a relationship with the creation, even though we humans fail to live up to God's call for love, peace, faithfulness, and justice.ⁱⁱⁱ God asks that all people live out this relationship in word and in deed, inviting each believer to proclaim the faith with one's very life.^{iv} We do so imperfectly, but God chooses us anyway.^v Even amid our inevitable shortcomings, God is ever faithful, for this is the God who *never lets go*.^{vi} God is moving, dreaming, and hoping alongside us in every moment of every day, striving with us for the new creation, when every tear shall be wiped from our eyes.^{vii}

I believe in Jesus the Christ, God-incarnate, the Son of the Father, the Messiah, the Savior.^{viii} God freely enfleshed Godself within God's own creation, living and dying as humans do, seeking to teach us new ways to live out faith.^{ix} Jesus, the master storyteller, revealed to his disciples with illustrative flair what the world *could* be, even when that world seemed impossible.^x

Jesus saves humankind from itself, calling us away from the forces of death and despair, of greed and destruction, temptations to which all humans are susceptible.^{xi} Jesus seeks to liberate the creation from all that drains life, inviting us to imagine how to do the impossible: to forgive in a world that thirsts for vengeance, to share in a world that takes and takes, to love in a world that insists on cruelty, to commune in a world that keeps us apart.^{xii} These are dangerous visions for human power. Seeing this threat, the Roman Empire sought to destroy the Jesus movement, crucifying God's very self.^{xiii} Resurrecting three days later, Jesus proved that no violence, no death, no tools of oppression could ever stop the freeing and redemptive power of God.^{xiv} We live in the aftermath of Resurrection, knowing that more life is always possible, and waiting for Christ, the anointed one, to come again.^{xv}

I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the one who stirs our hearts and minds, inviting us to witness for ourselves the work of the divine.^{xvi} The Spirit animates the Holy Scriptures of the Bible, drawing us into the ongoing revelation of God in every age through the sharing of stories, letters, songs, Gospels, prophecies, and more.^{xvii} At his baptism, the Spirit descended on Jesus like a dove, blessing him with the promise of life.^{xviii} The Spirit unites all believers in that promise still, for Christians in every time and place have been moved by the Spirit who brings the love, hope, and wisdom of God throughout the world.^{xix} As in ancient times and modern ones, the Spirit stirs the souls of prophets, apostles, preachers, and parishioners, providing gifts for the service of God's dominion here on earth.^{xx} The Spirit compels us to be change-makers for God's vision of peace, joy, and justice, supplying strength for life with God and with one another in a broken world.^{xxi}

I believe in these three persons, the manifestations of the God "who was and is and is yet to come, "my God forevermore."^{xxii} Amen.

i Ps. 104, Mark 14, Gal 4, 2 Cor. 5, Rev. 21-22
ii Gen. 1, Ezek. 37, John 1
iii Jer. 18, Ps. 51, John 14, Rom. 3
iv Lk. 9, James 1-2
v Jnh. 4, Rom. 3
vi Gen. 15, Is. 43, Ruth 1, Ps. 23; 89
vii Is. 40, Mic. 2, Matt. 25, 2 Cor. 5, Rev. 21-22
viii Matt. 27, Lk. 11, John 5, Heb. 1, 1 John 2
ix Lk. 1-2, John 1; 20
x Mk. 13; 18; 22; 25, Lk. 15-18
xi Matt. 4, Eph. 2, Col. 2-3
xii Matt, Mk, Lk, John
xiii Matt. 26-28, Mk. 14-15, Lk. 22-23, John 18-19.
xiv Lk. 24, John 20, 1 Cor. 15
xv Matt. 25, 1 Thess. 4, Rev. 1
xvi Gen. 1, Ezek. 37, Acts 2
xvii Is. 61, Lk. 4, 1 Tim. 3
xviii Matt. 3, Mk. 1, Lk. 3
xix John 16, Acts 8, 1 Cor. 12, Eph. 4
xx Is. 61, 1 Cor 12, Gal.5
xxi Ezek. 37, Lk. 4, Acts 2
xxii Rev. 1

Inquirer Jackson Ringley Biographical Information

Jackson Ringley is a second year Master of Divinity candidate at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Connecticut. While attending seminary, Jackson also serves as the Director of Young Adult Ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Stamford, CT and the Director of Digital Ministries at Youth Mission Co. Previously, Jackson received a Bachelor of Arts in English and Global Studies from the University of South Carolina. While obtaining this degree, Jackson worked as the Educational Ministries Assistant at Shandon Presbyterian Church and as an Intern for Asheville Youth Mission. This summer, Jackson will complete Clinical Pastoral Education at Duke University Hospital in Durham, NC.

Jackson grew up attending Unity Presbyterian Church in his hometown of Fort Mill, SC, where he sensed a call to ministry from a young age. He likes to say he grew up with two playgrounds: the church and the earth. Jackson's calling to ministry is rooted deeply in lifelong commitment to both of these things, for he feels a profound obligation to the work of uniting Christians with the whole of creation. Within this commitment, Jackson feels a strong sense of call toward liturgical and educational ministry, particularly with college-aged students and young adults. He believes these are the spaces in which the Word of God becomes most alive in his life, and he loves meeting young people where they are along their faith journey. If you give him the chance, he might just talk your ear off about the wonders of God's world and the importance of taking young people seriously.

In his free time, Jackson is an avid sitcom watcher, a devout reader, and an active theatre practitioner, for he loves creating, encountering, and telling new stories. If you can't find Jackson on the weekend, there's a good chance he's buried deep in stories. Jackson finds great joy in listening to and learning about the world, and he loves to try new recipes, new languages, and all forms of cultural encounter. He delights in travelling – whether 30 minutes down the road or many hours on a plane – all so that new collisions might take place. In the day-to-day, Jackson enjoys cycling, writing, and spending time with his friends. Jackson looks forward to the life of ministry and is grateful to be in conversation with you all.

**Community of Love
Coordinating Team Report
May 5, 2024**

Items for Information:

1. Administrative Commissions (AC)

- a. **Mt. Tabor (U) Presbyterian Church** - This AC has remained in diligent communication with the church session. The Mt. Tabor (U) session indicates that they have contacted and applied to another denomination for membership, though correspondence with that denomination does not agree with that assertion. The session's contact with the AC has waned. The AC sent a letter indicating that the session needs to send evidence that they have at least applied for membership to the other denomination by August 31, 2024 or the AC would take actions towards the termination of this separation process.
- b. **Oakdale Presbyterian Church** - A covenant was reached between the AC and the Oakdale session regarding terms for transferring their membership. **See action item #1 below. (See Pages E: 4 - 5).**
- c. **Cedar Shoals Presbyterian Church and Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church** - The ministry of these two congregations is complete, and the AC continues to work with them to close their respective churches.
- d. **Bethesda (K) Presbyterian Church** - The AC has met for training and has had several communications with the Discernment Team who is leading Bethesda (K) through this process. Progress is being made.

2. Session Minutes Review and Evaluation

We approved the following motion regarding Clerk of Session records: (1) that John Nettles, Ronnie Bailes and Cathy Phillips serve as moderators of that team and that (2) we approve the plan and schedule as provided. **(See Pages E: 6 - 7)**

3. Presbytery Fellowship Events

In past years, Presbytery staff has served as the organizing force for several important events for the Presbytery, including the Legacy of Faith Awards Luncheon, Pastors Appreciation Luncheon, and Administrative Assistant Luncheon. With the transition in Presbytery staffing leading to reduced working hours for almost every staff position, the Presbytery staff can no longer do so. After discussing possibilities, the idea arose to introduce these events to Presbytery as an opportunity for a neighborhood of interested and dedicated folks to arise to organize these events. Eric Robinson agreed to broach this idea at the May 5, 2024 Presbytery meeting.

4. Executive Presbyter Search Team

It has been announced that, due to health concerns and through circumstances beyond anyone's control, the team searching for the next installed EP was disbanded without being able to bring a name to place in nomination. This team worked well together and are to be commended. Discussions began about forming another EP search team, and names for folks to serve were discussed and some phone calls are being made. In the meantime, with Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller having stepped down from the bridge EP role to accept a call in Gastonia, the Administrative Team has offered, and the Community of Love has approved, a bridge EP search team of Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan, Linda Kennedy and Rev. Edgar McCall.

5. Churches Selling Property

The Great Falls Presbyterian Church and the Covenant Presbyterian Church are in the process of selling a portion of their church properties. In the 1980's, each congregation signed a property exemption document that includes this language: "Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a particular church to seek or obtain the consent or approval of any church court above the level of the particular church in order to buy, sell or mortgage property of that particular church in the conduct of its affairs as a church in the PCUS." Therefore, approval from Presbytery is not required for these transactions.

6. General Assembly (GA) Young Adult Advisory Delegate

Because of an unforeseen scheduling conflict, Will Shillington will be unable to serve as Providence Presbytery's Young Adult Advisory Delegate at the 2024 meeting of the General Assembly. The Nominations and Representation team reports that Meredith Welfare of the Unity Presbyterian Church will serve in that capacity.

Items for Action:

1. Administrative Commission for Oakdale Presbyterian Church

"The Administrative Commission for Oakdale Presbyterian Church moves that Providence Presbytery transfer the membership of the Oakdale Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians according to the terms of the attached Covenant agreement, said agreement having been unanimously approved by the Oakdale congregation at an April 14, 2024 congregational meeting." (See Pages E: 4 - 5)

2. Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church Mortgage

The Community of Love moves that Presbytery:

(1) approve the request of the Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church to mortgage their property at 421 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC according to the terms of the loan application. **(See Pages E: 8 - 14)**

(2) that, as required for loans from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP), Providence Presbytery approve and authorize the Stated Clerk to sign all documents necessary for the Presbytery to act as a guarantor of this loan.

3. Bills and Overtures

The Presbytery received three overtures to the General Assembly in time for the Providence Presbytery Bills and Overtures team, created by the Coordinating team for this purpose, to meet and consider whether to concur with the overtures offered and approved by three different Presbyteries. **(See Pages E: 15 - 23)**

The team recommends Presbytery to non-concur with the following overture:

- A. Overture to Require that Administrative Leave under D-7.0902 be Paid Leave. **(See Pages E: 17 - 19 of the Bills & Overtures Committee Report)**

The team recommends Presbytery concurs with the following overtures:

- B. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta overtures the 226th General Assembly **(See Page E: 20 of the Bills & Overtures Committee Report)**
- C. Overture to the 226th General Assembly (2024) On the development of educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church **(See Pages E: 21 - 23 of the Bills & Overtures Committee Report)**

Covenant Agreement between Oakdale Presbyterian Church
and
Providence Presbytery
regarding
Terms of Dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA)
to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

1. Providence Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (which may be referred to hereinafter as "Presbytery") recognizes the desire of the Oakdale Presbyterian Church (which may be referred to hereinafter as "Oakdale") to be dismissed to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. Providence Presbytery is represented in this matter by an Administrative Commission duly elected by Providence Presbytery.

2. The Administrative Commission recommends that the congregation be dismissed to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians with the Church property pending the vote of the Oakdale congregation and the vote of Presbytery at duly called meetings (both votes to be taken in accordance with the provisions of the PC(USA) Book of Order and their respective by-laws and/or manuals of operation) once the following conditions have been met:

- a. Providence Presbytery and Oakdale agree through these terms to support the continued ministry of one another. Oakdale agrees to support the ministry of Providence Presbytery with a ministry support contribution of \$73,000, which represents the following:
 - i. \$68,000 to support the Presbytery's future ministries.
 - ii. \$5,000 for per capita giving.
 - iii. Total support: \$73,000 (determined by adding the two items above)
 - i. This amount to be paid in full upon the entering of this covenant and approval by the Oakdale congregation and Presbytery.
 - ii. All of Oakdale's obligations, including financial obligations, will be met before Presbytery dismisses them to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians and before Presbytery executes the quit claim deed referenced in section c below.
- b. After the financial terms are met and, by its favorable vote, Presbytery formally dismisses Oakdale Presbyterian Church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, neither the church nor the Presbytery will have any legal or ecclesiastical responsibilities or obligations to one another. Providence Presbytery will cease to have any claim to (other than as otherwise set out in this document) or responsibility for the use, maintenance and ownership of the Oakdale church property, which includes all land, improvements, buildings and cemetery holdings located at 12585 West Hwy. 55, Clover, SC 29710.
- c. After the financial terms are met and the congregation has been received into the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians and established as Oakdale Presbyterian Church (ECO), Providence Presbytery will support the continuing mission of Oakdale by executing a quit claim (non-warranty) deed to Oakdale Presbyterian Church (ECO)

establishing that the Presbytery no longer has any trusteeship over, ownership of or legal or ecclesiastical responsibility related to the property referred to in paragraph 2b above and the use thereof.

- d. Oakdale will pay all the legal fees and filing fees to their choice of a competent real estate attorney licensed in South Carolina in connection with the creation of the quit claim (non-warranty) deed referred to in section 2c above and, after the execution of said document by the Presbytery, filing it with the York County Register of Deeds. Oakdale shall mail to the Executive Presbyter or Stated Clerk of Providence Presbytery a copy of said deed after it is filed with the York County Register of Deeds.
- e. Oakdale covenants its intent to continue to use the property conveyed in the deed referred to above in sections 2c and 2d for church and/or other Christian related purposes.
- f. Upon approval of these terms of dismissal by Oakdale and Providence Presbytery, Providence Presbytery will no longer list Oakdale as one of her member churches for any purposes. Oakdale will no longer use, utilize or display the denominational name "Presbyterian Church (USA)" or the acronyms "PCUSA" and "PC(USA)," nor will it include or display "USA" or "(USA)" as a part of its church name, nor will it use, utilize or display the name "Providence Presbytery." Oakdale will also no longer use, utilize or display the seal of the Presbyterian Church (USA), sometimes called her logo.
- g. If either Oakdale or Presbytery fails to approve this covenant and accept its terms, then negotiations will resume about terms of dismissal.

Steve Black
Steve Black, Clerk of Session
Oakdale Presbyterian Church

4-14-24
Date

David Bender, Stated Clerk
Providence Presbytery

Date

Approved on 2/17/2024 at a joint Oakdale Administrative Commission and Session of Oakdale PC by ZOOM at 7pm.

Review and Evaluation Team: Report to Providence Presbytery May 5, 2024

The Review and Evaluation Team has scheduled the examination of the 2023 Session minutes of each congregation as follows: **Sunday June 23, 2024 at 2:00 PM**
Sunday June 30, 2024 has been reserved as an alternate date.

Chester Cluster:

Reviewer- John Nettles

To meet at Purity Presbyterian Church, 135 Wylie Street, Chester, SC

Bethlehem First	Lockhart
Blackstock	Mt. Pleasant
Carmel	Mt. Tabor
Catholic	Pleasant Grove (C)
Cedar Shoals	Purity
Cornwell	St. Paul's
Fishing Creek	First Presbyterian Union
Great Falls	Uriel
Hebron	

Fort Mill/Rock Hill Cluster:

Reviewer - Cathy Phillips

To meet at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, 421 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC

Bethesda (Y)	Hermon
Community	Oakland Avenue
Covenant	Riverview
Doby's Bridge	Rock Hill First
Grace (Y)	Unity

Lancaster Cluster:

Reviewer – Dannie Vaughn

To meet at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1026 Grace Avenue, Lancaster, SC

Douglas	Old Waxhaw
Faith	Pleasant Ridge
Fort Lawn	Tirzah (L)
Grace (L)	Van Wyck
Lancaster First	Wade

Kershaw/Camden Cluster: **Reviewer – Robert Folks**

To meet at Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, 20 Meeting Lane, Liberty Hill, SC

Beaver Creek	Liberty Hill
Bethesda (K)	Messiah
Bethune	Morningside
Camden Second	

York Cluster: **Reviewer - Ronnie Bailes**

To meet at First Presbyterian Church, 10 West Liberty Street, York, SC

Allison Creek	Oakdale
Beersheba	Pleasant Grove (Y)
Beth Shiloh	Ramah
Bowling Green	Tirzah (Y)
Clover	Woodlawn
Hopewell	York First

Prior to these meetings, each church and each Clerk of Session will be notified and will receive an examination form and a list of records needed to conduct the review.

Submitted by:
John Nettles
Review and Evaluation Team of Providence Presbytery



**Investment &
Loan
Program Inc.**

PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM

100 Witherspoon Street * Louisville KY 40202-1396

(800) 903-7457 * website: pilp.pcusa.org

email: loan.help@pcusa.org

LOAN APPLICATION

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY) 3/28/2024

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT BORROWER

Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church

BORROWER'S NAME AS LISTED ON ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OR LATEST AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

421 Oakland Avenue Rock Hill SC 29730
STREET ADDRESS CITY ST ZIP

MAILING ADDRESS IF DIFFERENT THAN STREET ADDRESS CITY ST ZIP

(803) 327-2006 York 01/1915
PHONE FAX COUNTY CHARTER DATE (MM/YYYY)

\$1,000,000
LOAN AMOUNT REQUESTED LOAN TERM (YEARS) DESIRED CLOSING DATE CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FUNDS NEEDED BY

If church, whose name is on the title to the church property? CHURCH PRESBYTERY

If church, will church property serve as collateral for the loan? YES NO

Estimated value of land and buildings \$15,328,000 Number of acres

PURPOSE OF LOAN (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

NEW CONSTRUCTION

- SANCTUARY
- CHRISTIAN ED SPACE
- MULTI-PURPOSE BLDG
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- ACCESSIBILITY

RENOVATIONS/REPAIRS

- SANCTUARY
- CHRISTIAN ED SPACE
- MULTI-PURPOSE BLDG
- ENERGY EFFICIENCY
- ACCESSIBILITY
- SAFETY & TECHNOLOGY
- DISASTER RELIEF

PURCHASE

- EXISTING BLDG
- LAND/SITE
- NCD SITE

REFINANCE

- EXISTING MORTGAGE
- BOND ISSUE
- CONSTRUCTION LOAN

OTHER PURPOSE OF LOAN Demolition of existing Christian Ed Wing

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

4/8/2024 22250 554-Providence 315-S Atlantic
DATE RECEIVED PIN NUMBER PRESBYTERY NAME SYNOD NAME

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

Head Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan

PASTOR/LEADERSHIP _____ START DATE _____

(803) 327-2006 _____ jbryan@oapc.us _____
PHONE EMAIL

How many head pastors have served this church (exclude interims and associates)? 11

If current tenure less than 5 years, list previous call:

CHURCH, CITY, ST FROM (YYYY) TO (YYYY)

CHURCH, CITY, ST FROM (YYYY) TO (YYYY)

CONTACT FOR LOAN APPLICATION

Griffin Nicholson _____ Finance Committe Chairman _____
NAME TITLE

(803) 367-2354 _____ griffin.nicholson.gn@gmail.com _____
PHONE EMAIL

CLERK OF SESSION

Richards McCrae _____
NAME

(803) 366-4044 _____ richards.mccrae@mortongettys.com _____
PHONE EMAIL

APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY INFORMATION

Johnston Allison & Hord (Jeanne A. Pearson) _____
APPLICANT'S ATTORNEY

1065 East Morehead Street _____ Charlotte _____ NC _____ 28204
MAILING ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP

(704) 998-2229 _____ (704) 376-1628 _____ jpearson@jahlaw.com _____
PHONE FAX EMAIL

CHECK HERE IF YOU WOULD LIKE COPIES OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS SENT TO YOUR ATTORNEY FOR REVIEW.

BORROWER'S INSURANCE INFORMATION

People's First Insurance _____ Zander Galloway _____
AGENCY NAME AGENT'S NAME

(803) 324-5262 _____ (803) 329-5301 _____ agalloway@peoplesfirstinsurance.com _____
PHONE FAX EMAIL

SECTION B: COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Factors expected to contribute to the growth or decline of your parish/community's population and economy.

Latest census data shows that York County, SC was growing 3% year over year and ~24% over the last decade. The influx of people to the area is expected to continue, which will likely bring along increasing revenues to the local economy.

CHURCH DEMOGRAPHICS - CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT <10 YEARS OLD
- SUBURBAN
- URBAN
- RURAL/SMALL TOWN
- FEDERATED/UNION CHURCH

PREDOMINANT ETHNICITY OF MEMBERS - STATISTICAL PURPOSES ONLY

- AFRICAN-AMERICAN
- CAUCASIAN
- HISPANIC/LATINO
- MIDDLE EASTERN
- NATIVE AMERICAN
- MULTI-CULTURAL
- KOREAN-AMERICAN
- OTHER ASIAN _____
- OTHER _____

SECTION C: CHURCH STATISTICAL INFORMATION

If your church participates in the General Assembly's Annual Statistical Report each year, the historical data for membership and average weekly attendance may be found on line at <https://church-trends.pcusa.org/church/search/>. From this page you can find your congregation. On subsequent page you have an option to view statistical information about your church if it has been submitted.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP	AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	ESTIMATED MEMBERSHIP BY AGE CATEGORIES
2017 _____	2017 _____	% UNDER 45 _____
2018 <u>805</u>	2018 _____	% 45 TO 65 _____
2019 <u>737</u>	2019 _____	% OVER 65 _____
2020 <u>719</u>	2020 <u>256</u>	
2021 <u>721</u>	2021 <u>192</u>	

What year was the membership roll last purged? _____

PLEDGE INFORMATION - OPERATING BUDGET

	2 YEARS AGO	LAST YEAR	CURRENT YEAR
Number of potential pledging units in church	_____	_____	_____
Number that actually pledge	<u>221</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>198</u>

SECTION D: SOURCES OF REPAYMENT AND OTHER DEBT

BUILDING FUND CAMPAIGN

1. Total pledged to capital campaign \$2,088,735 over 3 years. Number of pledges 150
2. Pledges will be paid over what period? from 11/2021 to 11/2024
3. Was your capital campaign directed by a professional campaign service? YES NO
4. If yes, what campaign service was used? Horizons Stewardship
5. Are future building fund campaigns planned? YES NO
6. If yes, what are the dates? from 11/2024 to 11/2027
7. In prior capital campaigns, what percent of money pledged was actually received? _____
8. If you have not had a campaign recently, please check this box.

PROJECTED NEW LOANS TO FUND THIS PROJECT (If exact information is not known, use anticipated information.)

LENDER	AMOUNT	LOAN RATE	TERM OF LOAN (years)	MONTHLY PAYMENT
_____	_____	_____	5	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS:	<u>\$0</u>			<u>\$0</u>

CURRENT DEBT - LIST ALL CURRENT LOANS (Check any loans to be paid by new ILP loan.)

LENDER	ORIGINAL AMOUNT	CURRENT BALANCE	MONTHLY PAYMENT	MATURITY DATE	LOAN RATE
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS:	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>		

SECTION E: SITE LOAN DATA (fill in only if loan request is for land purchase)

SELECT ONE:

- NEW CHURCH DEVELOPEMENT SITE
 RELOCATION SITE (ATTACH EXPLANATION REGARDING DISPOSITION OF CURRENT PROPERTY)
 ADDITION TO CURRENT SITE

HOW WILL SITE BE USED?

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS - SITE LOAN ONLY

1. SOIL TEST RESULTS FOR COMPACTION AND PERCOLATION
2. CONTRACT OF SALE (IF AVAILABLE)
3. REAL ESTATE CLOSING DOCUMENTS (IF PURCHASE HAS BEEN COMPLETED, FORWARD CLOSING STATEMENT, DEED)
4. PROOF OF ZONING COMPLIANCE
5. APPRAISAL WILL BE REQUIRED BEFORE LOAN CAN BE CLOSED

SECTION F: FINANCIAL PLAN - PROJECT COSTS & SOURCES

FOR PURCHASE OF A SITE OR EXISTING BUILDING

- 1. PURCHASE PRICE OF BUILDING/SITE 1. _____
- a. AMOUNT OF SQUARE FOOTAGE IN BUILDING a. _____
- b. NUMBER OF ACRES OF SQUARE FOOTAGE OF LAND b. _____
- c. APPRAISED VALUE - ATTACH COPY OF APPRAISAL c. _____

FOR CONSTRUCTION, RENOVATIONS OR REPAIRS

SIZE - IN SQ. FT. 7560 COST PER SQ. FT. \$380

- 1. CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT PRICE ESTIMATED FIRM 1. \$2,750,000
- 2. ARCHITECT'S FEES 2. \$141,000
- 3. FURNISHINGS, EQUIPMENT, PARKING, PAYMENT & PERFORMANCE BONDS, INSURANCE - 10% OF CONTRACT PRICE SUGGESTED 3. \$270,000
- 4. CONTINGENCIES - 15% OF CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT PRICE SUGGESTED 4. \$300,000
- 5. OTHER ANTICIPATED EXPENSES Third party inspection costs 5. \$18,000
- 6. TOTAL PROJECT COST 6. \$3,479,000

RESOURCES TO FUND PROJECT

CHURCH'S CASH & PLEDGE RESOURCES

- 1. CASH ON HAND FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGES 1. \$1,313,702
- 2. CASH ON HAND FROM OTHER SOURCES - SPECIFY SOURCE Sale of Property 2. \$784,505
- 3. CASH ALREADY EXPENDED ON THE PROJECT
 - a. FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROCEEDS 3a. \$0
 - b. FROM OTHER RESOURCES 3b. \$214,317
- 4. ADDITIONAL FUNDS FROM CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO BE SPENT DURING CONSTRUCTION 4. _____

GIFTS & GRANTS

- 5. PRESBYTERY GIFTS & GRANTS 5. _____
- 6. SYNOD GIFTS & GRANTS 6. _____
- 7. OTHER GIFTS & GRANTS _____ 7. _____

OTHER LOANS TO FUND THIS PROJECT

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-----------|
| 8. PRESBYTERY LOAN | _____ YEARS @ | _____ INTEREST | _____ MO/PMT | 8. _____ |
| 9. SYNOD LOAN | _____ | _____ | _____ | 9. _____ |
| 10. BANK (COMMERCIAL) MORTGAGE | _____ | _____ | _____ | 10. _____ |
| 11. OTHER LOANS | _____ | _____ | _____ | 11. _____ |
| SPECIFY LENDER _____ | | | | |
- 12. TOTAL RESOURCES - TOTAL ITEMS 1 - 11 12. \$2,312,524
 - 13. LOAN AMOUNT NEEDED (TOTAL PROJECT - TOTAL RESOURCES) 13. _____
 - 14. GRAND TOTAL RESOURCES (LINE 12 PLUS 13 - SHOULD EQUAL PROJECT COST LINE 6) 14. \$2,312,524

SECTION G: AUTHORIZATION

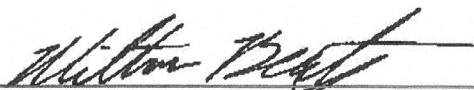
CHURCH/BORROWER

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that all statements made herein, are applicable to the organization for which we are signing and are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief. We further certify that this application is submitted with the full knowledge and approval of the official governing board we represent.

We also grant permission to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program, Inc., if the loan is funded in whole or in part by investor funds, to use our name and loan information in the production of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program's informational brochures and promotions, including but not limited to, interviews with the press and list sent to the investors or potential investors.

We also agree to periodically place in the congregation (or governing body) newsletters, bulletin inserts and other communication vehicles material promoting the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program that will include information provided by or preapproved by the Program.


IT IS REQUIRED THAT A COPY OF THIS LOAN APPLICATION BE FORWARDED TO YOUR PRESBYTERY AND SYNOD, WHEN APPLICABLE.



AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
Milton Beaty / Treasurer / 03/28/2024

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

DATE



CLERK OF SESSION OR AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
J. Richards McCrae III

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME AND TITLE
4/8/2024

DATE
Clark of Session

PRESBYTERY

RE: LOAN APPLICATION FOR _____

ON _____ (DATE) THE PRESBYTERY OF _____ IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICIES OF THE INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM AND ITS OWN PROCEDURES:

- * REVIEWED AND APPROVED THIS PROJECT AS TO ITS MISSION FOR THE BORROWER AND/OR THE GOVERNING BODY
- * REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE FINANCIAL PLAN AS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE:
- * AGREED TO MONITOR THE APPLICATION OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY POLICY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS APPROPRIATE TO THIS PROJECT:
- * HAS/WILL AGREE (D) AT ITS LAST/NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING HELD ON/TO BE HELD ON _____ (DATE) TO GUARANTEE/CO-SIGN THE LOAN (S) AND TO ASSUME REPAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY IN THE EVENT OF LOAN DEFAULT.

PRESBYTERY EXECUTIVE/STATED CLERK

DATE

SYNOD - Not required in Synods of Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, South Atlantic, or Trinity

ON _____ (DATE) THE SYNOD OF _____ ENDORSED THIS APPLICATION FOR FUNDING AS REQUESTED (SYNOD ENDORSEMENT IS REQUIRED FOR ALL LOAN APPLICATIONS INCLUDING LOANS TO PRESBYTERIES, EXCEPT AS STATED ABOVE).

SYNOD EXECUTIVE/STATED CLERK

DATE

APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

BORROWER WILL PROVIDE THESE ITEMS WITH THE COMPLETED APPLICATION:

- Financial statements for last 3 years (balance sheet, income & expenses) signed by treasurer/bookkeeper
- List of cash or liquid assets not disclosed in financial statements
- Most recent financial statement for current year
- Current year annual budget
- Proposed budget for next year, if available
- Proposed repayment plan
- Brief description of project scope & objectives
 1. How will project help the borrower accomplish its mission goals & objectives?
 2. Does the project include plans to improve accessibility (physical, auditory, visual)?
 3. Does the project include plans to improve the energy efficiency of your facilities?
- If available at time of submission (required to close loan)
 - Copy of bylaws plus any amendments certified by borrower's secretary
 - Copy of articles of incorporation plus any amendments certified by borrower's secretary
- If construction loan, include architect's drawings showing floor plan and elevations (file size)
- If construction loan, a copy of construction contract when available. Signed contract required before closing.

AFTER LOAN APPROVAL - REQUIREMENTS FOR CLOSING THE LOAN

PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT & LOAN (ILP) WILL PREPARE THESE ITEMS (AFTER LOAN APPROVAL):

- Commitment letter - provided for your signature after loan approval
- All title work & title commitment
- Mortgage/deed of trust
- Promissory note
- Presbytery guaranty agreement - this document will be sent to your presbytery
- Presbytery approval resolutions - this form will be sent to your presbytery by ILP
- Affidavit & certificate of incumbency

BORROWER WILL PROVIDE TO ILP (AFTER LOAN APPROVAL):

- If not already submitted
 - Copy of bylaws plus any amendments certified by borrower's secretary
 - Copy of articles of incorporation plus any amendments certified by borrower's secretary
- Certified congregation & corporation resolutions to approve borrowing
- Evidence that lender has been added as additional insured, loss payee & mortgagee to insurance policy
- Appraisal (required for purchase contracts) or appraisal checklist
- Evidence of zoning compliance
- State certificate of good standing/certificate of existences
- Environmental assessment checklist or phase 1 environmental audit

IF THIS IS A CONSTRUCTION LOAN, THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL ITEMS ARE REQUIRED:

- Payment & performance bonds – ordinarily for projects over \$1 million
- Property survey – if required to lift exceptions to title insurance
- Copy of signed construction contract – must have prior to closing
- Builder's risk insurance

Clare Lewis
Vice President, Sales & Marketing
800.903.7457 ext 5865
clare.lewis@pcusa.org

Judy Walton
Director of Credit Operations
800.903.7457 ext 5231
judy.walton@pcusa.org

Jason Peterson
Director of Loan Operations
800.903.7457 ext 5890
jason.peterson@pcusa.org

SUBMIT SIGNED APPLICATION ALONG WITH DOCUMENTS FROM APPLICATION SUBMISSION CHECKLIST:

**PRESBYTERIAN INVESTMENT & LOAN PROGRAM
100 WITHERSPOON ST
LOUISVILLE KY 40202-1396**

Bills and Overtures Committee of Providence Presbytery
Recommendations for Overtures
to the 226th General Assembly (2024)
To Providence Presbytery
May 5, 2024

The Bills and Overtures Committee of Providence Presbytery met to discuss three overtures being presented to the GA from neighboring presbyteries—our recommendations of Concurrence or Non-Concurrence for Providence Presbytery with short explanations to follow:

A. Overture to Require that Administrative Leave under D-7.0902 be Paid Leave
(See Pages E: 17 - 19)

The Presbytery of Charleston Atlantic overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the Presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote.

1. Shall Section D-7.0902.b., regarding administrative leave, be amended as follows: [Text to be added is shown in bold italics.]

Regardless of the employment status of the Minister of Word and Sacrament, the members designated in accordance with D-3.0102, shall determine as quickly as possible, after receiving the written allegations and providing the accused an opportunity to be heard, whether the risk to a congregation and/or to other potential victims of abuse requires **paid** administrative leave or other restrictions upon the minister's service when considered in light of the nature and probable truth of the allegations. Such **paid** administrative leave or restrictions will continue until either the matter is resolved in one of the ways prescribed in the disciplinary process or until the leave or restrictions are altered or removed by members of the commission. **The cost shall be borne by the employing entity whenever possible or be shared by the presbytery as necessary.**

Recommendation from the B&O Committee: Non-Concurrence

Rationale: The committee reached out to the chair of the original GA committee to inquire why the language did not mandate paid leave. According to the response received, the committee believed that each Presbytery should determine what would work best for their member churches. Keeping this in mind, the B&O committee agrees that many of our member churches would not be able to afford pulpit supplies while a pastor is on paid administrative leave. Furthermore, the presbytery would need to have funds available to cover the cost.

B. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes: (See Pages E: 20)

1. Shall G-2.0610 be amended as follows: (text to be deleted is struck through)
When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths

~~vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.~~

Recommendation from the B&O Committee: Concurrence

Rationale: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) of Providence Presbytery is well-equipped to guide and evaluate candidates for ministry. As such, the presbytery should trust the CPM's assessment and recommendation of a candidate, regardless of whether the candidate is neurodivergent or has other abilities. Other Presbyteries should also trust their CPM in all matters concerning candidates. Therefore, including a "full account of the reasons" for a candidate's faith journey in the minutes of the examining presbytery may cause unnecessary distress when the candidate's achievements should be celebrated, not stigmatized.

C. OVERTURE TO THE 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2024) On [the] development of educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church. (See Pages E: 21 - 23)

1. The Presbytery of Riverside overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Christian Formation (and/or their successor entities) and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, in collaboration with Research Services, to study and formulate a plan for the future development of educational resources for faith formation and nurture especially for congregational use. Research should be qualitative, including methods such as focus groups and interviews with practitioners. Relying on this and pertinent prior research, collaborators shall pay particular attention to affordability and the needs of the small church. The Office of Christian Formation and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation shall bring a concrete proposal regarding funding, staffing, and implementation to the [GA] (2026).

Recommendation from the B&O Committee: Concurrence

Rationale: The committee firmly believes that education forms the bedrock of our spiritual path. As Presbyterians, we have always been committed to education, especially for our younger generation. It's not a secret that most of the churches in PC(USA) are smaller in size. Therefore, this proposal aims to provide affordable educational resources that will help us preserve and promote our reformed traditions.

These are the recommendations humbly submitted after prayerful and studied consideration to Providence Presbytery by the Bills and Overtures committee. Thank you, and may the Spirit continue to bless the Church in the world by the work of God's hands.

Bills and Overtures Committee is Rev. Rob Jones (Chair), Rev. Dr.. David Bender, Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller, Gwen Cunningham, Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery, Rev. Steve Austin, and Will Shillington.

The Presbytery of Charleston Atlantic Overture to the 226th General Assembly (2024)

Overture to Require that Administrative Leave under D-7.0902 be Paid Leave

The Presbytery of Charleston Atlantic overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote.

1. Shall Section D-7.0902.b., regarding administrative leave, be amended as follows:
[Text to be added is shown in bold italics.]

Regardless of the employment status of the Minister of Word and Sacrament, the members designated in accordance with D-3.0102, shall determine as quickly as possible, after receiving the written allegations and providing the accused an opportunity to be heard, whether the risk to a congregation and/or to other potential victims of abuse requires paid administrative leave or other restrictions upon the minister's service when considered in light of the nature and probable truth of the allegations. Such paid administrative leave or restrictions will continue until either the matter is resolved in one of the ways prescribed in the disciplinary process or until the leave or restrictions are altered or removed by members of the commission. The cost shall be borne by the employing entity whenever possible or be shared by the presbytery as necessary.

Rationale:

This amendment would preserve the due process rights of all ministers of the Word and Sacrament accused of sexual misconduct without diminishing the protections afforded to the alleged or potential victims of that misconduct.

Since the imposition of administrative leave was first authorized on July 3, 2005, until the adoption of Church Discipline on July 9, 2023, all ministers and presbyteries throughout the denomination were subject to a single, standard process when allegations of sexual misconduct were received. That process — standard throughout the denomination — provided presbyteries the necessary mechanism for imposing administrative leave while requiring that the leave be paid.

The imprecision and ambiguity of the current language in D-7.0902 fails to provide a standard process applicable throughout the denomination. The text of D-7.0902 fails to define the administrative leave as either paid or unpaid. The conspicuous omission or deletion of "paid administrative leave" from the text of D-10.0106 in the Rules of Discipline, and the substitution of simply "administrative leave" in D-7.0902 in Church Discipline lead to at least two plausible interpretations: first, that all administrative leave is to be unpaid, and second, that each presbytery can set its own policy as to whether the leave is to be paid or unpaid. Such imprecision

and ambiguity do not provide an acceptable constitutional standard to be applied equally to all ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

I. Unpaid Administrative Leave is Improper. If the drafters' intent was that all administrative leave is to be unpaid, that result unfairly and improperly deprives ministers of the Word and Sacrament of vital due process protections.

A. Unpaid Leave Undercuts the Presumption of Innocence. The imposition of unpaid administrative leave within days of receipt of allegations, before even an investigative committee has been appointed, is completely inconsistent with and dramatically undercuts the presumption of innocence set forth in D-8.0201.c. Not only is a minister stripped of all ecclesiastical authority, but the presbytery immediately deprives the minister of any right to compensation as set forth in the terms of call to which the minister and congregation have agreed and which the presbytery approved.

B. Diminished Standard of Proof. The current language in D-7.0902.b. allows the forfeiture of all compensation based upon a demonstrably lower standard of proof than that required for an ultimate finding of guilt. D-7.0902.b. allows the imposition of administrative leave based on the "probable truth of the allegations." D-8.0902 allows a finding of guilt only "when a comparison and consideration of all the evidence compels an abiding conviction that the material facts necessary to prove the charge are true." Relying on phraseology from the Rules of Discipline, those standards of proof would have been probable cause and beyond reasonable doubt. Regardless of the phraseology incorporated into Church Discipline, the quantum of proof required under D-7.0902.b. is dramatically less than that in D-8.0902.

C. Pretrial Forfeiture of Compensation is Punitive. "[T]he exercise of church discipline is one for building up the body of Christ, not for destroying it, for redeeming, not for punishing." D-1.01 (Emphasis added). The forfeiture of all compensation within days of receipt of allegations, before an investigation or trial, is tantamount to punishment before an adjudication of guilt and is contrary to the constitutional objectives.

II. Constitutional Due Process Must Have Consistent Application.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has long been committed to equal protection of all persons. The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity proclaim that commitment: "The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership." F-1.0403. The 225th General Assembly implemented that guarantee when it chose to require the inclusion of a specified amount of family leave for all installed pastors rather than allowing each presbytery to adopt its own policy. G-2.0804. The 226th General Assembly should provide a similar denomination-wide requirement for administrative leave.

The provisions of Church Discipline apply throughout the denomination to afford all involved equal protection and equal access. "The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is infused with principles and standards to which all active members of congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament voluntarily submit." D-1.0201 (Emphasis added).

Individual presbyteries cannot establish their own quorum requirements for their permanent judicial commissions. D-3.0602. Individual presbyteries cannot establish their own time periods for filing a notice of appeal. D-10.0201. Individual presbyteries cannot establish their own criteria for the composition of the special committee authorized to determine the necessity of administrative leave. D-3.0102. Each of these and other judicial processes have been established by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for equal application throughout the denomination. Why then should the issue of compensation during administrative leave be left to individual presbyteries to determine?

The right of a minister of the Word and Sacrament to be informed of a pending disciplinary process does not depend on the rules of the presbytery to which the minister belongs. D-7.0501. The right of a minister of the Word and Sacrament to be presumed innocent does not depend on the rules of the presbytery to which the minister belongs. D-8.0201.c. The right of a minister of the Word and Sacrament to be represented by counsel does not depend on the rules of the presbytery to which the minister belongs. D-7.1003.c. and D-8.0103.d.(2). Each of these and other rights have been established by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for equal application throughout the denomination. Why then should the entitlement of a minister of the Word and Sacrament to compensation while on administrative leave depend on the rules of the presbytery of the minister's membership?

The full participation in the governance of our church, guaranteed in F-1.0403, demands that the provisions of Church Discipline be enforced and implemented equally throughout the denomination. The current text of D-7.0902 does not meet that constitutional guarantee.

Conclusion:

For the foregoing reasons, the provisions of D-7.0902 should be amended to require paid administrative leave as set forth in the proposed overture.

Approved by COM November 7, 2023

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta Overture to the 226th General Assembly (2024)

I attest that the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta approved the following overture at its Fall Stated Meeting on November 4, 2023.

Rev. C. Anderson James
Stated Clerk

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0610 be amended as follows: (text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~)

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. ~~A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.~~

Rationale

Those persons who respond to the call to serve as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the church have embarked on a sacred journey, accompanied by their home congregation and presbytery of care. Along the way, the presbytery and the inquirer or candidate develop a relationship of accountability and trust that enables and empowers the whole church to be a part of this journey of faithful response to God's call. Placing a detailed record of a potentially traumatic encounter in the permanent records of the presbytery does little to further this relationship of accountability and trust and only provides an opportunity to increase and intensify harm.

Removing this requirement for this full account of the reasons for a waiver of examination requirements for those under the care of a presbytery clarifies that the detailed record of a person's preparation for ministry process is independent from the long-term story of that person's faithful service as a minister. This amendment simplifies the text of the Constitution by making it less of a manual of operations and gives voice to emerging understandings of learning differences, cultural competency, and neurodivergence that are increasingly common within and beyond the church. The proposed amendment allows for greater pastoral sensitivity by presbyteries in their care of those preparing for ministry and encourages presbyteries to trust one another in their work with those preparing for this sacred calling.

The Presbytery of Riverside

OVERTURE TO THE 226TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2024)

On development of educational resources for faith formation for congregational use and to meet the needs of the small church

Recommendation

The Presbytery of Riverside overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Christian Formation (and/or their successor entities) and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, in collaboration with Research Services, to study and formulate a plan for the future development of educational resources for faith formation and nurture especially for congregational use. Research should be qualitative, including methods such as focus groups and interviews with practitioners. Relying on this and pertinent prior research, collaborators shall pay particular attention to affordability and the needs of the small church. The Office of Christian Formation and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation shall bring a concrete proposal regarding funding, staffing, and implementation to the 227th General Assembly (2026).

Rationale

On March 1, 2018, the responsibility for the publication of educational curricula was moved from the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC), a separate business. In the fall of 2023, the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation announced that it would pause the creation of new English-language all-age curriculum products, due to the great cost of developing and publishing these materials. We understand that many denominational publishing houses are challenged by the cost of producing congregational resources. We are delighted that Korean and Spanish resources will continue to be newly published thanks to funding from the denomination. Current English-language curriculum materials will cover the next three years, but no new materials are in development.

The Presbyterian Church has a proud heritage of producing outstanding educational resources and is still continuing that tradition with a robust emphasis on materials for home and family life. However, a gap is developing in materials for use by congregations – a gap that will become too large if not addressed in a timely manner. The future of this denomination rests on raising children and nurturing adults rooted in the richness of the Reformed understanding of the Christian faith. Addressing this problem will require conversations and joint planning between the Office of Faith Formation and the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation.

Reformed theology mandates providing for faith formation, nurture, and education of church members, grounded in the Reformed understanding of the sacrament of baptism:

- W-3.0403: "The congregation as a whole, on behalf of the universal Church, is responsible for nurturing baptized persons in Christian life."
- W-4.0201: "It is the responsibility of the whole congregation, particularly exercised through the Session, to nurture those who are baptized as they grow in faith and seek to respond to Christ's call to discipleship."

- W-5.0203 “God calls the Church to continue the teaching ministry of Jesus Christ, guiding and nurturing one another through all the seasons and transitions of life. In particular, the church offers opportunities for education and formation as members enter the community of faith, discover Christian vocation, and assume responsibility in the world.”
- W-5.01 W-5.0203-W-5.0204: “The educational ministries of the church are rooted in the promises of Baptism, in which the congregation pledges responsibility for Christian nurture.”

A Reformed theology of the mission of Christ’s church also guides us:

- F-1.0304: “The great ends of the Church are:
... the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God....; the preservation of the truth....”
- G-1.0101: “In the life of the congregation, individual believers are equipped for the ministry of witness to the love and grace of God in and for the world.”
- G-3.0201: “.... the Session has responsibility and power to:
a. *provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard.* This responsibility shall include providing a place where the congregation may regularly gather for worship, education, and spiritual nurture....” The same responsibilities are given to presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly (G-3.0301a; G.0401; G-3.0501a)

Actions of past General Assemblies confirm the need for continuing the development of educational resources for congregations, based in the Reformed tradition.

- Final Report of the Workgroup on the Role and Status of Christian Educators in the PC(USA): GA Minutes 2000, Part 1. P.199.
“The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) emphasizes the education of the people of God as a primary task of the church. Through dynamic inter-action persons and communities are challenged to form a faith perspective through which they view the world and acknowledge the active presence of God. Intentional Christian education provides a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to explore the elements of the Christian story, reflect on their experiences in the light of Scripture, and respond through action in the world.”
- GA 2018: “The General Assembly’s Special Committee to Study the Reformed Perspective of Christian Education in the 21st Century recommends that the 223rd General Assembly (2018) do the following:
 - “1. Encourage the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to adjust to a shift in Christian education paradigms and practices over the last several decades and therefore
 - “a. support the restructuring, resourcing, and staffing of the ministry area of Christian formation, working to—continue resourcing age and stage Christian education, while transitioning to an emphasis on lifelong Christian education and faith formation, especially intergenerational ministry;

“b. encourage the newly structured ministry area of Christian Formation to dedicate resources to be focused on supporting local congregations (facilitating the networking, coaching, and training of local leaders).

“2. Direct that curriculum and/or resources produced by the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation and Geneva Press [*now Westminster John Knox Press*] shall be in consultation and collaboration with the ministry area[s] of Christian Formation [and Racial Ethnic and Women’s Ministries] of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.”

- GA 2018: The Matthew 25 Initiative: The first mark of Congregational Vitality is “A commitment to forming disciples over every member’s lifetime. This leads first to personal transformation, as people put on the heart of Christ, and then to social transformation, as people joyfully go forth into the community and tackle the issues facing today’s culture. “

- GA 2022:

“1. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) to create a PMA associate position (1.0 FTE) to equip and connect Christian formation practitioners across the denomination (professional educators, pastors, volunteers, commissioned ruling elders [CREs], etc.). Responsibilities will initially include... identifying gaps in resources available and finding ways to help fill them; assisting those involved in planning of Christian education with suggestions, resources, and training for ministry; making connections between Christian formation leaders across the denomination.

“2. Direct Research Services, in the Administrative Services Group, to conduct a qualitative research study exploring the particularities and differences of Christian education and faith formation ministries and practices in racial ethnic minority congregations, for the purpose of informing the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) offices related to Christian formation, as well as the cultural sensitivity and relevance for Presbyterian Publishing Corporation (PPC) publications. These offices should report back to the 226th General Assembly (2024) as to how this information was disseminated and implemented.”

In his provocative book, *Will Our Children Have Faith?* John Westerhoff stated that it only takes one generation for the world to lose the Christian faith. As members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) we are committed to ensuring that the richness of our branch of the Christian faith continues for the next generation. We believe that this overture creates a step in that direction.

**Community of Faith
Report To Presbytery
May 5, 2024**

For Information:

The SC-5 Leader of Leaders Event will be held on Tuesday, April 30 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. Rev. Dr. Becky Davis will keynote a workshop entitled “Imaginable: Christian Education in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous World.” Please follow this link to learn more and to register:

<https://foothillspresbytery.org/event/imaginable-sc-5-leader-of-leaders-event/>

We have a New Mission Statement! The working mission statement of the Community of Faith is to offer appropriate education, training, and resources for the churches of Providence Presbytery, with an emphasis on encouraging collaboration among congregations.

The 2024 Confirmation cluster will be hosted by Bethelwoods beginning in August, 2024, including a gathering in December for all Youth in the Presbytery who have taken part in Confirmation in 2024. If your church has youth – 8th grade and above – that are interested in going through the confirmation process, please reach out to Parker Lucas at parker@bethelwoods.org. More details will be forthcoming.

Leadership Development Scholarships are available to support continuing education and training for **ALL** members in our presbytery and churches (lay and clergy). Scholarship recipients are just asked to share the knowledge gained with others in the presbytery in some way. The Application Form is available online at <https://form.jotform.co/73313868774872> or at the QR code to the right.

Educator Gatherings are coordinated by Edye Bender each quarter. They met recently to debrief and share what was earned from APCE. The next two meetings will be in May and September. If you, your educator, or anyone in your church leading education ministries would like to receive updates on these gatherings, please email Edye at dcedye@aol.com.

Resource consultants listed below are available if you are looking for guidance on curriculum or Christian Education materials. Contact:

Edye Bender, Faith Presbyterian (dcedye@aol.com),
Sarah Childers, Bethesda (Y) Presbyterian (schilders@comporium.net),
and Kathryn McGregor, Unity Presbyterian (KmcGregor@UnityFortMill.org)

Resource Center resources: The following resources from the Resource Center are still available to be borrowed from these churches:

Grace (Fort Mill): Sarah Childers

- Youth Curriculum: Echo, Reform, & Faith Questions
- Children Curriculum: Godly Play
- Grief books for Children
- Things to Make & Do at Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter

Unity (Fort Mill): Kathryn McGregor

- Recreation Resources
- What Will You See Children's Series of 3 books
- Adult: Lent for Everyone Series by N.T. Wright
- Commentaries:
 - Feasting on Worship Companion Series,
 - Feasting on the Word Gospel Companion Series
 -

Rock Hill-First: Kara Wheeler

- Adult Curriculum: Being Reformed Series, Companions in Christ, Animate Series, Various DVD Studies
- Officer Training Materials
- Two Different Hunger Curriculum for Children, Youth, and Adults
- Adult Women's Bible Study: Namesake by Jessica LaGrone

Faith (Indian Land): Edye Bender

- Adult Series: Various Video Series by Adam Hamilton, A Bird's Eye View of the Bible study
- Children: Flyaway Books, What's in the Bible DVD

Oakland Avenue: Lisa Gallagher

- Various children's books

For Action:

1. The Community of Faith, acting through the Presbyterian Women (having been tasked to create a Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission and description of the Presbytery Team Coordinator), moves the approval of the creation of the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission and the position of Presbytery Team Coordinator (**See Pages F: 3 - 6**). Said Commission and document was approved by the Providence Presbyterian Women on April 13, 2024 and by the Community of Faith on April 16, 2024.

Presbytery Team Coordinator (PTC)

PURPOSE: The Presbytery Team Coordinator (PTC) shall serve as a primary resource at the Presbytery level, under the supervision of the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission (PDAC), for the purpose of assisting the PDAC in communicating with the congregations through the church's Disaster Preparedness Contact (DPC). They shall communicate information relevant to the organization of congregational preparation, mitigating response and recovery before, during, and after a disaster, whether naturally or humanly caused. In coordination with the PDAC, the PTC will also develop relationships with neighboring presbyteries and support them when possible in times of disaster.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The Presbytery Team Coordinator (PTC) shall be accountable to the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission (PDAC). The PDAC shall be accountable to the Presbytery through the Council.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Coordinate with the PDAC to seek a Disaster Preparedness Contact (DPC) for each church.
2. Have current knowledge of the congregations within the Presbytery, their leadership, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers.
3. Be thoroughly familiar with the infrastructure of the Presbytery, including roads, emergency shelters, emergency management contact information, etc.
4. Be knowledgeable to the roles and responsibilities of local organizations active in disaster (local government, Salvation Army, local Emergency Management, and VOADs).
5. Participate in disaster response training provided by PDA or the Synod and be prepared to share that training with the PDAC and the churches DPC.
6. Disseminate information from the PDAC about disaster preparedness resources from the Synod, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), and other agencies with the church DPC, as appropriate.
7. When assigned by the PDAC, work in partnership with local and denominational agencies.
8. Assist the PDAC in preparing and sending quarterly Public Service Announcements (PSA) to churches.
9. Be a member of the PDAC.
10. Be a member of the South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (SC PDAT).

TERM: The Presbytery Team Coordinator (PTC) is appointed by the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission (PDAC) and will serve on a yearly basis, . There will be no specific limitations on renewals.

The PTC is to work in concert within the governance of the Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission of the Presbytery.

DPC – Disaster Preparedness Contact for churches
PTC – Presbytery Team Coordinator
PDAC – Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission
VOAD – Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters

Approved by Presbyterian Women: April, 13, 2024
Approved by Community of Faith: April 16, 2024

PRESBYTERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Purpose: The purpose of the **Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission** (PDAC) is to direct and oversee the preparation for and response to a disaster on behalf of Providence Presbytery in order to focus, align, and coordinate resources toward areas of need.

Accountability: The PDAC shall be accountable to Providence Presbytery through the Community of Love (CT).

Authority: The PDAC may act in times of disaster on behalf of and with the full authority of Providence Presbytery between meetings of Providence Presbytery, in any and all matters, except those responsibilities given to the Constitutional committees (Committee on Ministry, Preparation for Ministry, Committee on Representation and Nominations, and Permanent Judicial Commission) and any other special Providence Presbytery commissions.

Membership: The PDAC shall consist of Thirteen (13) members:

- Providence Presbytery Moderator, General Presbyter, Presbyterian Women Moderator/Co Moderator, and Stated Clerk (4).
- Nine (9) at-large members nominated by the Coordinating Team and elected by Providence Presbytery who have experience/knowledge in the area of disaster preparedness, relief and assistance, emergency management, construction and/or emergency medical response.

The commission shall select one of its own to moderate/co-moderate the PDAC and a Clerk shall record and distribute minutes. In the absence of the selected moderator, the Providence Presbytery Moderator/Co Moderator will moderate.

Overall composition shall strive to conform to principles of inclusiveness, representation and participation for race and gender, as well as the following principles:

- No more than one member shall be a member of or serving a particular congregation unless needed for a particular reason.

Quorum: A quorum of the PDAC shall consist of a majority of its membership and shall be required for business to be conducted and action taken.

Meetings: As needed, but at least quarterly for organizing, preparedness work and coordination.

Responsibilities:

1. Assist congregations of Providence Presbytery and their members with disaster preparedness and in times of disaster, including by not limited to authorizing grants and disbursements of appropriate funds.
2. Coordinate all communication between the Providence Presbytery congregations, Providence Presbytery, Synod of South Atlantic, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), as well as any other appropriate agencies.

3. Assign a member of the commission to represent Providence Presbytery on the SC VOAD (South Carolina Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster).
4. Assess the damage and evaluate the needs of Providence Presbytery congregations and their members.
5. Acquire and coordinate, as appropriate, resources from the Synod of South Atlantic and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as well as any other appropriate agencies.
6. Work in partnership with local and denominational agencies when appropriate.
7. Communicate with the Providence Presbytery Community of Love (CT) and Providence Presbytery all work and action taken, providing an annual written report to both.
8. Communicate to the Community of Love (CT) when a member of the PDAC needs to be replaced.
9. Team will evaluate each year who needs to be replaced.

Approved by Presbyterian Women: April 13, 2024

Approved by Community of Faith: April 16, 2024

Appendix

Providence Presbytery

May 5, 2024

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HELPFUL HINTS FOR PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONERS

Congratulations on being chosen to be a commissioner to this Presbytery meeting from your congregation! Below are some thoughts and observations that you may find helpful as you prayerfully prepare to fulfill your responsibility.

- Our Presbyterian system is a very simple system: It assumes that Christians meeting in representative bodies, which we now call **councils**, can seek, and know the will of God and that, through these councils, the whole church can be governed in ways that are just, decent, and orderly.
- Officers elected to serve as commissioners to a meeting of the Presbytery cannot be told how to vote. Our Book of Order reminds us that “Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills.” (F-1.0202)
- Officers must be free to listen for the word of Christ to his church. As commissioners you are independent decision makers and cannot be bound to vote according to the wishes of those who elected you. Again, our Book of Order reminds us that “Presbyters are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ.” (F-3.0204)
- A meeting of Presbytery is a deliberative body open to the give-and-take of discussion and to the free working of the Holy Spirit.

Providence Presbytery Meeting Policies

Persons who have the privilege of the floor are:

- Teaching Elder members of Providence Presbytery
- Commissioned Ruling Elders
- Ruling Elder Commissioner(s) of each church
- All Moderators of the five Communities of Care:
 - Community of Love (Coordinating Team)
 - Community of Faith (Faith Formation and Christian Education)
 - Community of Hope (Administration and Support)
 - Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)
 - Community of Witness (Mission and Advocacy)
- Presbytery PW provided they are ordained as either a ruling elder or a teaching elder
- All members of the Community of Love
- Certified Christian Educators (G-2.1103b)
- All Candidates under care of Providence Presbytery not otherwise enrolled in the Presbytery
- Persons certified in church service (Certified Church Service, G-2.11)

Persons who are eligible to vote are:

- Teaching Elder members of Providence Presbytery
- Commissioned Ruling Elders
- Ruling Elder Commissioner(s) of each church
- All Moderators of the five Communities of Care:
 - Community of Love (Coordinating Team)
 - Community of Faith (Faith Formation and Christian Education)
 - Community of Hope (Administration and Support)
 - Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)
 - Community of Witness (Mission and Advocacy)
- Presbytery PW provided they are ordained as either a ruling elder or a teaching elder
- Certified Christian Educators who are ordained as a ruling elder or a teaching elder (G-2.1103b)

Membership and Representation:

Presbytery is a cooperate expression of the church consisting of all churches and teaching elder members within its bounds. When Providence Presbytery meets, each church shall be represented by ruling elders commissioned by the session as follows:

0 – 125 members	1 ruling elder
126 – 300 members	2 ruling elders
301 – 750 members	3 ruling elders
751+ members	4 ruling elders

From *Providence Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations*, Pages 1 -2, Approved 3-26-23.

Community of Hope (Administration & Support)
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 5, 2024

FOR YOUR INFORMATION
From Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team

1. Financial Update as of 3/31/24:

- Total 2024 Pledges from Churches: \$313,170 (**-\$21,654** less than 2023)
(See Appendix 2: Page 2 - 3)
- As of March 31, 2024 - Net Income to Expense: \$37,084.30 (Presbytery & Bethelwoods combined)
- Bethelwoods is running at a deficit of **-\$1,160.91** as of 3/31/24

- 2. Bethelwoods Update:** Bethelwoods is almost completely booked for week-end retreats though the beginning of summer camp. The Girl and Boy Scouts Day Camps return in June for week-long rentals. Summer camp registrations are trending slightly up as of 3/16/24. Summer staffing as almost completed as of 3/16. **There is a Pancake Brunch Fundraiser on Saturday May 11th at Unity PC in Fort Mill (See Appendix 2: Page 4).**

Personnel Committee
For Your Information

Bridge Interim Stated Clerk Search Committee has been approved by both Community of Hope and Community of Love, members are: Jeff Bryan, Edgar McCall and Linda Kennedy.

The Providence Presbytery Personal Policy Manual has been updated. There was a team consisting of Steve Simon, Jeff Bryan and Hope Moore that reviewed the existing manual and updated based on new committee structures and staffing model. The policy manual has been approved by both the Committee of Hope and Community of Love and will become effective May 1, 2024.

Toby Muller completed her service to Providence Presbytery as the Bridge Interim EP on March 22, 2024 an exit interview was conducted on March 20th and we thank Toby for her time and service to our Presbytery.

Skeet Dawkins, Bethelwoods Maintenance Director resigned in April to focus on his health. Bethelwoods and Presbytery greatly appreciate the many years of dedication Skeet has given camp and its mission.

Nominations & Representation Committee

The Nominations committee will begin seeking volunteers to fill the Class of 2027 in the coming months. If you are anyone you know who has a willingness to serve please contact the Rev. Rob Jones. (See Appendix 2: Pages 5 - 12)

Permanent Judicial Commission

No report

Trustees

No report

Hope Moore & Iris Rose:
Community of Love - Co-Moderators

Providence Presbytery									
2024 Mission Partnership Giving Y-T-D									
01/01/24 to 3/31/2024									
Church	2024 Assessment	2024 Assessment PD Y-T-D	2024 Pledge	2024 Pledge Received	2024 Budget	Non- Y-T-D	2024 Total Received	Over or Under Pledge	% Given on Pledge
Allison Creek	\$1,512.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$2,000.00)	0.00%
Beaver Creek	\$226.80	\$226.80	\$5,200.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00		\$1,226.80	(\$4,200.00)	19.23%
Beersheba	\$315.00	\$315.00	\$700.00	\$1,400.00	\$0.00		\$1,715.00	\$700.00	200.00%
Beth Shiloh	\$1,600.20	\$0.00	\$4,500.00	\$745.00	\$0.00		\$745.00	(\$3,755.00)	16.56%
Bethesda (K)	\$3,893.40	\$825.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$825.00	\$0.00	
Bethesda (Y)	\$1,827.00	\$456.75	\$6,175.00	\$1,543.78	\$0.00		\$2,000.53	(\$4,631.22)	25.00%
Bethlehem First	\$315.00	\$0.00	\$1,734.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$1,734.00)	0.00%
Bethune	\$189.00	\$178.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00		\$2,178.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Blackstock	\$25.20	\$25.20	\$893.00	\$893.00	\$18.80		\$937.00	\$0.00	100.00%
Bowling Green	\$1,045.80	\$1,045.80	\$2,000.00	\$500.00	\$0.00		\$1,545.80	(\$1,500.00)	25.00%
Camden Second	\$113.40	\$126.26	\$250.00	\$250.00	\$0.00		\$376.26	\$0.00	100.00%
Carmel	\$100.80	\$100.80	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$120.00		\$520.80	\$0.00	100.00%
Catholic	\$100.80	\$100.80	\$900.00	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$300.80	(\$700.00)	22.22%
Cedar Shoals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Clover	\$1,890.00	\$1,890.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$1,890.00	(\$1,000.00)	0.00%
Community	\$289.80	\$0.00	\$1,320.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$1,320.00)	0.00%
Cornwell	\$617.40	\$575.75	\$2,800.00	\$468.00	\$80.00		\$1,123.75	(\$2,332.00)	16.71%
Covenant	\$1,045.80	\$1,045.80	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.03	\$0.00		\$2,045.83	(\$2,999.97)	25.00%
Doby's Bridge	\$1,449.00	\$136.60	\$7,000.00	\$565.00	\$43.49		\$745.09	(\$6,435.00)	8.07%
Douglas	\$932.40	\$932.40	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$272.75		\$8,705.15	\$0.00	100.00%
Faith	\$2,557.80	\$2,557.80	\$20,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00		\$7,557.80	(\$15,000.00)	25.00%
Fishing Creek	\$693.00	\$0.00	\$7,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$7,000.00)	0.00%
Fort Lawn	\$25.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Grace (L)	\$945.00	\$945.00	\$15,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$950.00		\$5,645.00	(\$11,250.00)	25.00%
Grace (Y)	\$3,477.60	\$3,477.60	\$10,008.00	\$2,502.00	\$0.00		\$5,979.60	(\$7,506.00)	25.00%
Great Falls	\$466.20	\$466.20	\$4,000.00	\$1,000.03	\$0.00		\$1,466.23	(\$2,999.97)	25.00%
Hebron	\$176.40	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$1,000.00)	0.00%
Hermon	\$705.60	\$0.00	\$5,900.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$5,900.00)	0.00%
Hopewell	\$504.00	\$504.00	\$1,275.00	\$200.00	\$0.00		\$704.00	(\$1,075.00)	15.69%
Lancaster First	\$1,146.60	\$1,146.60	\$16,000.00	\$4,005.00	\$0.00		\$5,151.60	(\$11,995.00)	25.03%
Liberty Hill	\$718.20	\$718.20	\$11,000.00	\$2,933.32	\$200.00		\$3,851.52	(\$8,066.68)	26.67%
Lockhart	\$189.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Messiah	\$25.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Morningside	\$75.60	\$75.60	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$75.60	(\$1,000.00)	0.00%
Mt. Pleasant	\$403.20	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Mt. Tabor (U)	\$176.40	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Oakdale	\$1,839.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	
Oakland Avenue	\$9,072.00	\$9,072.00	\$36,500.00	\$9,124.50	\$1,656.00		\$19,852.50	(\$27,375.50)	25.00%
Old Waxhaw	\$340.20	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$300.00		\$300.00	(\$1,200.00)	0.00%
Pleasant Grove (C)	\$491.40	\$491.40	\$3,400.00	\$853.00	\$0.00		\$1,344.40	(\$2,547.00)	25.09%
Pleasant Grove (Y)	\$365.40	\$0.00	\$535.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00	(\$535.00)	0.00%
Pleasant Ridge	\$264.60	\$264.60	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00		\$1,764.60	\$0.00	100.00%
Purity	\$768.60	\$192.15	\$2,500.00	\$624.99	\$0.00		\$817.14	(\$1,875.01)	25.00%

BETHELWOODS

PANCAKE BRUNCH

**PAY WHAT YOU
CAN!**

Saturday May 11th from 9-11 A.M.

**AT UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
303 TOM HALL ST, FORT MILL**

**All are invited to attend brunch to support the
Bethelwoods Ministry! Register by clicking the link
below.**

**All proceeds will go to the Bethelwoods Annual
Fund to help improve camp for all guests and
campers!**



Call to Find Out More
(803) 366-3722

Visit our Website

Bethelwoods.org



Nominations Committee Report UPDATE NOTES

MODERATORS OF PRESBYTERY MEETINGS: 2024

2024 Presbytery Moderator	2024 Presbytery Vice Moderator
Rev. Marty Simmons (Grace-L)	Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta

2024 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:

Month / Type	Date:	Method	Location	Time:
February/Stated	Sunday, February 11, 2024	In-Person	Tirzah (Y) Church	2:30 PM
May/Stated	Sunday, May 5, 2024	In-Person	Douglas	2:30 PM
August/Stated	Sunday, August 11, 2024	Virtual	Virtual	1:30 PM
November/Stated	Sunday, November 10, 2024	In-Person	Lancaster First Church	2:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS TO or MEMBERS OF PC(USA) HIGHER COUNCILS

Commissioners to Synod of South Atlantic (Class of 2024)

Teaching Elder Commissioner	Ruling Elder Commissioner
Carson Montgomery (Van Wyck)	Tim Cureton (Pleasant Ridge)

2024 General Assembly Commissioners

June 25 – July 4, 2024 - Salt Lake City, Utah

Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder	Young Adult Advisory Delegate
Steve Austin (Doby's Bridge)	Gwen Cunningham (Messiah)	Meredith Welfare (Unity)

Synod Permanent Judicial Commission

Classes rotate between the Presbyteries of Synod of South Atlantic.
(Providence Presbytery's next rotation class is in 2030)

**COMMUNITY OF LOVE
(Coordinating Team)**

12 members plus two staff members, as noted below.

Mike Conn – Chair

Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta – Co-Chair

Members:	Position
Mike Conn	Moderator of Community of Love
Eric Robinson	Moderator of Community of Faith
Hope Moore	Co-Moderator of Community of Hope
Paul Smith / Susan Bullard	Moderator of Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)
Dr. Dave Keely	Moderator of Community of Witness (Mission & Advocacy)
Rev. Marty Simmons	2024 Moderator of Presbytery
Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta	2024 Vice-Moderator of Presbytery
Carson Montgomery	Synod Commissioner. TE
Tim Cureton	Synod Commissioner. RE
Gwen Cunningham	General Assembly Commissioner
Rev. Steve Austin	General Assembly Commissioner
Lee Barnwell	Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women
Vacant	Executive Presbyter – Voice but No Vote (Staff)
Rev. Dr. David Bender	Stated Clerk - Voice but No Vote (Staff)

**COMMUNITY OF FAITH
Eric Robinson, Moderator**

(Faith Formation, Technology, and Communication)

Moderator and at least 9 other members divided into two sub-committees.

Faith Formation Team (Community of Faith Sub-Committee)

6 members

Eric Robinson, Moderator

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term
Lisa Johnson (CRE--Bowling Green)		Jennifer Ancrum (Hermon)			
Edye Bender (Faith)		Kathy Blackwelder (First—Rock Hill)			
Holly Hartsoe Frisk Shames (Clover)		Eric Robinson (Allison Creek)	1		

Staff: Rev. Dr. David Bender, Stated Clerk & Stephen McDonald, Bethelwoods Director

Technology and Communications Team – (Community of Faith Sub Committee) (new for 2024)
3 Members

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term
Rhett Eckhardt (Grace – Y)	1	John Baker, RE (Old Waxhaw)	1	Rev. Rob Jones (Douglas)	1

COMMUNITY OF HOPE
(ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT)

Moderator and a representative from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team, Personnel Ministry Team, Nominating and Representation Committee, the Permanent Judicial Commission, and the Trustees of the Presbytery.

Hope Moore & Iris Rose – Co-Moderators, Community of Hope

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM – (Community of Hope)
6 members

Hope Moore – Moderator

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term
Clarke Moore (Budget) (Unity)		Rev. Beth Hutton-Muse (New Harmony Pres-Ruby)		Hope Moore (Budget) (Tirzah-Y)	2
Eddie Lee (Budget) (First-York)		Rev. Steve Simon (Honorably Retired)		Tim Cureton (Pleasant Ridge)	2

Staff: Presbytery Executive
Rev. Dr. David Bender
Business Administrator/Treasurer

PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM – (Community of Hope)
3 members

Iris Rose – Moderator

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	2026	Term
Iris Rose (First-Rock Hill)		Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan (Oakland Avenue)		Joanne Sizoo (Grace-Y)	1

Staff: Presbytery Executive
Rev. Dr. David Bender

NOMINATING and REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE (Community of Hope)

6 Members

Rev. Rob Jones, Moderator

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term
Doug Macdonald (Liberty Hill)	1	Rev. Rob Jones (Douglas)	2	Vacancy	
Leland Summers (Grace – L)		Rev. Letarshia Robinson (Member-At-Large)	1		
		Karen Holt (First-Rock Hill)			

Staff: Presbytery Executive
Rev. Dr. David Bender

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION – (Community of Hope)

9 Members

Tyre Lee, Moderator

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2028	Term
Iris Rose (First – Rock Hill)		Brian Wilson (Grace – Y)		Kay Nivens (First - York)	
Ann White (Member-At-Large)		Clarkson McDow (Oakland Avenue)		Adrienna Witherspoon (Douglas)	2nd
Tyre Lee (Purity)		Freddy Faircloth (First—Rock Hill)		Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo (Grace - Y)	2nd

Staff: Presbytery Executive
Rev. Dr. David Bender

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY TRUSTEES - (Community of Hope)

3 Members

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term
Tyre Lee (Purity)		Spratt White (Unity)		Robert Folks (Lancaster--First)	2

**COMMUNITY OF WITNESS
(MINISTERIAL SERVICES)**

Moderator and twenty members who are divided as needed into two sub-committees.

Paul Smith/Susan Bullard – Co-Moderators
Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY – (Community of Witness – Ministerial Services Subcommittee)
15 Members

Rev. Paul Smith/Susan Bullard – Co-Moderators

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	2026	Term
Shirnetha Belk (First- Lancaster)		Paul Horne (First – Rock Hill)		Rev. Paul Smith (Wade-Old Waxhaw)	1
Rev. Christina Trimble (Member-at-Large)	1	Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta (Bethesda-Y)		Spratt White (Unity)	2
Rev. Jason Davenport (Member-at-Large)		Keith McGuire (Oakland Avenue)		Carson Montgomery (Van Wyck)	
Rev. James Platt (Honorably Retired)		Susan Bullard (Unity)	1	Vacancy	
Karen Bonds (Unity)		Vacancy			
Rev. Marty Simmons (Grace-L)					

Staff: Presbytery Executive
Rev. Dr. David Bender

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
(Community of Witness – Ministerial Services Subcommittee)
6 Members

Rev. Dr. John White – Moderator

Class of 2024	Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term
Mica Jones (Liberty Hill)	1	Rev. Letarshia Robinson (Member-At-Large)	1	Robbin Ingram (Douglas)	1
Rev. Dr. John White (Beth-Shiloh)	1	Sue Williams (Oakland Avenue)	1	Rev. Nick Setzer (First – York)	1

COMMUNITY OF WITNESS (MISSION AND ADVOCACY)

Dave Keely – Moderator

Moderator and the Chair or Coordinator of each Mission Neighborhood

Leadership and Membership of Mission Neighborhoods

(chosen by the Mission Neighborhoods and not by the Presbytery)

Committee on Racial & Religious Reconciliation (CRRR)

Linda Kennedy – Moderator

Jessalyn Anderson (Community Member)	Linda Kennedy (Hermon)	Diane Schultz (Allison Creek)
Jackie Orr Anthony (Bethlehem First)	Anna Melvin (Nazareth Baptist)	Rev. Dr. Tom Sherer (Riverview & Community)
Jennifer Bryan (First--Lancaster)	Rev. Jane Summey-Mullennix (Honorably Retired)	Gay Tanis (Covenant)
		Fred Smith (Oakland Avenue)

Central America Task Force

Geoff Dunn - Moderator

Dr. Jason Prescott (Unity)	Sarah Childers (Grace – Y)
Jimmy Jurado (First – Rock Hill)	Geoff Dunn (Purity)
Dr. Susan Collins (Allison Creek)	Dr. George Hook (Oakland Avenue)

Staff: Eric Robinson

Hunger Action Team (HAT)

Arlene Harder (Ramah)
Kathryne “Tat” Perrill (Bethune)

Staff: Eric Robinson

Living Waters Committee

Dan Rogers - Moderator

Sarah Childers (Bethesda-Y)	Rev. Carson Overstreet (Van Wyck)
Ed Fritz (Community Member)	Tom Robinson (Honorably Retired)
Garland Hart (Member at Large)	Dan Rogers (Unity)
Joe-Ken Hill (Unity)	Rev. Marty Simmons (Grace-L)
Jimmy Jurado (First-Rock Hill)	Fred Smith (Oakland Ave)
Barbara Kurz (Rock Hill First)	Rev. Jane Summey Mullennix (Honorably Retired)
Kathryn McGregor (Unity)	Mark Verdery (Unity)
Cathy Miller (Unity)	Ann White (Member-At-Large)

ADDITIONAL TEAMS of PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY

**Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team
Ellen Mays, Lee Barnwell – Co-Moderators**

2023 – 2024 Officers	
Ellen Mays	Co-Moderator
Lee Barnwell	Co-Moderator / Historian
Debbie Lowe	Treasurer
Kay Nivens	Secretary
Pat Ancrum	Member-at-Large
Shirnetha Belk	Member-at-Large
Trici Davis	Member-at-Large
Arlene Harder	Member-at-Large
Pat Oglesby	Member-at-Large
Arlene Harder	Member-at-Large
Elizabeth Schrum	Member-at-Large

TRANSITION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TEAM – Tim Cureton & Edye Bender, Co-Moderators

Edye Bender , Certified Educator	(Faith), Co-Moderator
Tim Cureton , Ruling Elder	(Pleasant Ridge), Co-Moderator
Rev. Steve Austin	(Doby’s Bridge)
Ann Barnwell , Ruling Elder	(Beth Shiloh)
Rev. Dr. Matt Rich	(Unity)
Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo	(Grace-Y)
Ann White , Ruling Elder	(First, Union)
Patrick White , Ruling Elder	(Unity)
Ad Hoc Transition Team Members:	
Shirnetha Belk , Ruling Elder	(First, Lancaster)
Rev. Jason Myers	(Purity)

Staff: Presbytery Executive
 Rev. Dr. David Bender

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Bethelwoods Board of Directors

Members of the Bethelwoods Board of Directors who are members of Providence Presbytery or Churches in Providence Presbytery will be submitted by Bethelwoods to the Presbytery for approval at the time of each Director's election. The Bethelwoods Board of Directors may request assistance from the Presbytery's Nominating and Representation Committee in finding suitable Presbytery members to serve as Directors. Those serving in 2024 from Providence Presbytery include:

Nate Mallard (First-Rock Hill)
Bobby Williams (First-Rock Hill)
Mark Nichols (First – York)
Stephen McDonald (Bethelwoods Director)

Thornwell Home for Children Board of Trustees

Providence Presbytery Appointed Member	
Holly Furr	(First - Lancaster)

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Board of Directors

To be selected by Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

South Carolina Inn at Montreat Board

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	2026
Rev. Sam McGregor (Lancaster First)	Barbara Kurz (First—Rock Hill)	John Thompson (Liberty Hill)

South Carolina Lay School of Theology Committee

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Max Russell (Woodlawn)	(ineligible)	

Community of Witness Mission and Advocacy Report to Providence Presbytery May 5, 2024

Dave Keely–Moderator (dfkeely3@gmail.com)

Eric Robinson–Mission Coordinator (eric@providencepres.org)

Our Community of Witness team met virtually on March 5, 2024 to discuss plans for this year and the direction of our work in mission and advocacy. Also, Edgar McCall will be visiting our Community of Witness - Mission & Advocacy meeting in May to discuss opportunities for growing our Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network neighborhood, both as individual participation and ongoing congregational support in our Presbytery.

It is also important to note that many of our Mission Neighborhoods have met this year. In addition, in his role as Mission Coordinator, Eric has been working on continuing to strengthen the mission outreach of the Presbytery. Below are some highlights of the work we are doing.

Website

- Eric has worked with Katie Rutland to re-envision the Mission page for the Presbytery. You can find our new Mission page here: <https://providencepres.org/community-of-witness/>
- Eric has worked on a series of videos, which will be ongoing, called “A Minute for Mission Education.” You can find these videos here: <https://providencepres.org/missions/a-minute-for-mission-education/>
- Our goal is to have an individual page for each of our Mission Neighborhoods

Matthew 25

- We are beginning work towards encouraging our churches to learn more about Matthew 25. Please check out our updated Matthew 25 page with videos and important information! <https://providencepres.org/matthew-25/>

Book Talk / Workshop at Oakland Avenue

Eric will be doing a book talk/workshop titled “The Called Church: A New Vision for Congregational Ministry in Light of God’s Mission.” Please join us at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church on May 19th at 4:00 PM!

Mission Neighborhoods

An important focus of our Mission and Advocacy team is developing and supporting our Mission Neighborhoods. Mission Neighborhoods are groups of Christians within Providence Presbytery who have a passion and heart for a particular work of mission,

who come together to collaborate, grow together, and take part in a mission project together. The needs in our community and world are often greater than we as individuals or single congregations can meet. Mission Neighborhoods allow us to pull together our collective gifts and talents as the wider body of Christ.

Do you feel called? There is an open invitation to join a Mission Neighborhood or start a new one!

Please see below a description and some updates on the work being done by our Mission Neighborhoods:

Children of Abraham

- Due to a variety of factors, the Children of Abraham has disbanded. Thank you to everyone who has served and contributed to this great organization over the years.
- On the bright side: The Community of Witness intends to connect to/update with/ collaborate with The Children of Abraham active group in Charlotte. This ecumenical organization represents an important voice for spiritual discernment and mutual understanding in today's world.

Central America Task Force

- The Central America Task Force continues their great mission work in several Central American countries.

Hunger Action Team

- HAT runs the Dimes for Hunger program, which supports organizations locally and globally that feed those who are hungry. Please see the attached document for information about the organizations Dimes for Hunger support. Half of the funds go to global outreach and half to local. **(See Appendix 3: Page 5).**
- We would also like to celebrate that we have raised 2 million dollars since the start of Dimes for Hunger!
- Our Hunger Action Team is adding an additional emphasis this year, where, in line with the Matthew 25 vision, we will work on building understanding around the root causes of hunger.

Living Waters

- "Living Waters for the World Mission teams empower their partners to provide clean, sustainable water and health education for their communities. Living Waters for the World allows the churches and organizations to be directly involved in people's lives in a tangible way; children are being saved from certain illness and deadly complications that come from dirty water. Living Waters for the World and its partners are sharing the water of life and sowing God's word to

those who thirst. Volunteers are needed to pray for this ministry, and support future mission trips.”

- Please visit the Living Waters website to learn more: <https://www.livingwatersfortheworld.org/>
- Our current project is working to build a water filtration system in Guatemala. Our team has met on several occasions and is working towards the site approval stage of the process.
- Do you have skills in engineering, finance, or education? Or do you simply have a heart for people to have clean drinking water? We would love for you to join us! Please reach out to Eric (eric@providencepres.org) or Dan Rogers (rogersd@comporium.net)

Committee on Racial and Religious Reconciliation (Anti-Racism Team)

- The Anti-Racism Team works towards dismantling structural racism in our community and world.
- Their team organized and hosted the anti-racism training early this year.
- Want to join? Please reach out to Linda Kennedy (kennedy6@comporium.net)
- Jane Summey (jsummey236@gmail.com)

Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network

- “The Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network of the PC(USA) brings together Presbyterians from around the United States to facilitate partnerships with churches and church-related ministries in Syria and Lebanon. The network also provides a place for US Presbyterians to share information and coordinate their efforts. Priorities of the network include supporting the capacity of the church in Syria and Lebanon, supporting leadership development and theological education, and working towards God's just peace in the region.”
- You can visit their website here: <https://www.syriaLebanonpn.org/>
- Edgar McCall (Mccalledgar1@gmail.com) is on the steering committee for the Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network. Please email him if you'd like to get involved.
- The Presbytery also has a fund set up called the Middle Eastern Education Fund. Edgar McCall says, “The funds for the Middle Eastern Education are used to support the 4 schools set up by the Presbyterian Church in Syria-Lebanon, in order to provide education for Syrian refugee kids. These children live in refugee camps, which I have visited, and would have no access to school except for these Presbyterian-sponsored schools.”

- They are also in need of donations. Also from Edgar McCall: “Our Presbytery continues to keep ties to the Presbyterian Churches in Lebanon and Syria. Several folks in our Presbytery have traveled to the region and have seen first-hand the dire economic situation of our brothers and sisters in Lebanon and Syria. Some of our churches have made generous contributions to the Education Centers for Syrian refugee children. Our gifts help refugee children receive the only education they can have, and our gifts alleviate food insecurity in Syria. 100% of any contributions given will go towards these two important appeals.” You can find the donation page here: <https://www.syrialebanonpn.org/donate>

A Call for New Mission Neighborhoods

Is there a need in our community or world that you feel where you are passionate about making a difference, and would benefit from coming together with like-minded Christians? Please consider starting a new Mission Neighborhood. Please reach out to Dave Keely (dfkeely3@gmail.com) or Eric Robinson (eric@providencepres.org).

Let’s work together to be the hands and feet of Jesus locally and globally!

Respectfully Submitted,
David F. Keely, Moderator
Eric Robinson, Mission Coordinator

DISTRIBUTION OF 2023 Dimes For Hunger Funds -- \$55,754.11

<u>County</u>	<u>Local Gifts [5 counties of Providence Presbytery]</u>	<u>2023 DFH</u>
	half of total dimes offering	\$ 27,877.06
	<u>FEEDING SITES</u>	
York	Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen	\$ 2,050.00
Lancaster	Greater New Hope Soup Kitchen	\$ 2,050.00
York	Plentiful Harvest Kitchen [at Covenant Pres., RH]	\$ 750.00
	<u>HOME DELIVERED MEALS</u>	
All 5 Counties	Catawba Area Agency on Aging	\$ 6,000.00
Union	Union Meals on Wheels	\$ 1,050.00
	<u>FOOD PANTRIES</u>	
Chester	Chester Community Food Pantry	\$ 1,300.00
Kershaw	Christian Community Ministry	\$ 1,300.00
York	Clover Area Assistance Center	\$ 1,300.00
Chester	Fort Lawn Community Center Food Pantry	\$ 1,300.00
York	Fort Mill Care Center	\$ 1,300.00
Chester	Great Falls GRASP	\$ 1,300.00
Lancaster	HOPE in Lancaster	\$ 2,100.00
York	HOPE in Rock Hill	\$ 2,100.00
Lancaster	KARE - Kershaw Area Resources Exchange.	\$ 1,300.00
York	York PATH	\$ 2,100.00
	<u>GLEANNING</u>	
All 5 Counties	Society of St. Andrew	\$ 577.06
	<u>TOTAL FOR LOCAL AGENCIES</u>	\$ 27,877.06
<u>Country</u>	<u>International Gifts (Half of Total DFH Offering)</u>	<u>2023 DFH</u>
		\$ 27,877.05
	<u>INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:</u>	
<u>Honduras</u>		
	Heifer Project International -- didn't return survey	none
	Project Alternatives / Marketplace Ministry	\$ 6,600.00
	Diamante [Boys Home]	\$ 4,877.05
<u>Guatemala</u>		
	Heifer Project International	\$ 2,000.00
	Fudacion La Mision [Tito's work]	\$ 7,200.00
<u>Malawi</u>		
	Ministry of Hope	\$ 7,200.00
	<u>TOTAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES</u>	\$ 27,877.05
	TOTAL FOR LOCAL AGENCIES	\$ 27,877.06
	TOTAL FOR INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES	\$ 27,877.05
		\$ 55,754.11

Synod of South Atlantic Assembly

1 pm, Saturday, April 6 via Zoom

Call to Order – Moderator, Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. noting that this meeting serves both as a meeting of the ecclesiastical governing body of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a meeting of the Synod of South Atlantic, Inc., a non-profit corporation of the State of Florida.

Acknowledgement of Land & People – Moderator Henderson reminded participants that they were asked to visit the link <https://native-land.ca/> and learn about the indigenous peoples who were once living on the land. Participants were then asked to enter those tribes/communities of people into the chat, and they were all recognized by the Assembly.

Moderator Henderson opened the meeting with prayer.

Declaration of Quorum – Moderator, Henderson called on Stated Clerk, Valerie Young who declared a quorum with 21 Commissioner present, 11 Ruling Elders and 10 Ministers of the Word and Sacrament of the 31 elected Commissioners, representing at least one-third of the constituent presbyteries of the synod.

Commissioners Present			
First Name	Last Name	Presbytery	Ordination
Dawn	Neff	Central Florida	Ruling Elder
Bobby	Byrd	Charleston-Atlantic	Ruling Elder
Billie	Sutter	Cherokee	Ruling Elder
Karen	Jones	Flint River	Ruling Elder
Donald	Mowat	Florida	Ruling Elder
Kenneth	Whitehurst	Greater Atlanta	Ruling Elder
Jacquelyn	Rembert	New Harmony	Ruling Elder
Jan	Lewis	Northeast GA	Ruling Elder
Lois	McGill	Peace River	Ruling Elder
Tim	Cureton	Providence	Ruling Elder
Karla	Dias	Tropical Florida	Ruling Elder
Christina	Greenawalt	Central Florida	Teaching Elder
Brian	Henderson	Charleston-Atlantic	Teaching Elder
Sommer	Bower	Flint River	Teaching Elder
Lisa	Martin	Florida	Teaching Elder
Beth	Hoskins	Foothills	Teaching Elder
Travis	Adams	Northeast GA	Teaching Elder
Jamil	el-Shair	Savannah	Teaching Elder
Sarah	Bishop	Tampa Bay	Teaching Elder
Croskeys	Royall	Trinity	Teaching Elder
David	Grove	Cherokee	Teaching Elder

Excused Absences			
First Name	Last Name	Presbytery	Ordination
Karen	Wisner	Peace River	Teaching Elder
Margaret	Brooks	Savannah	Ruling Elder
Hansler	Bealyer	St. Augustine	Ruling Elder
Sonya	Dawson	Foothills	Ruling Elder
jeanne	simpson	Greater Atlanta	Teaching Elder

Welcome to New Commissioners – Moderator Henderson asked that any new commissioners identify and introduce themselves to the Assembly. We are grateful for their service.

Seating of Corresponding Members – Moderator Henderson recognized all Corresponding Members present and, with a **motion by Lisa Martin seconded and approved by unanimous consent, they were granted the privilege of voice in this Assembly.**

Corresponding Members Present			
First Name	Last Name	Presbytery	Role
Rebecca	Albright	Charleston-Atlantic	Executive/General Presbyter
Luis	Boada Davila	Central Florida	REM Consultant
Andy	Casto-Waters	Cherokee	Executive/General Presbyter
caroline	dennis	Trinity	Association of Smaller Congregations
Holly	Dillon	Tampa Bay	Executive/General Presbyter
Randy	Moody	Peace River	Stated Clerk
Olivia	Haney	Central Florida	Co-Transitional Executive
Jeannie	Dixon	Florida	Stated Clerk
Jodi	Dodge	St. Augustine	Synod Treasurer
Therese	Howell	Cherokee	Stated Clerk
Andy	James	Greater Atlanta	Stated Clerk
Gavin	Meek	New Harmony	Executive/ Stated Clerk
Danny	Murphy	Trinity	Executive/General Presbyter
Deanie	Strength	Savannah	Stated Clerk
William	Wildhack	Tampa Bay	Stated Clerk
Becky	Willis	Flint River	Stated Clerk
Alan	Rousseau	Charleston Atlantic	Guest
Valerie	Young	St. Augustine	Synod Exec/Stated Clerk
Annel	Belmont	Tampa Bay	Synod Administrative Asst

Adoption of the Docket (Attachment Docket)– Moderator Henderson presented the docket and, with no changes necessary. **Motion to approve by Lisa Martin, was seconded and approved by unanimous consent.**

OPENING WORSHIP

Call to Worship – *Moderator, Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson*

¹How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

²It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

³It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Prayer – *Travis Adams*

Opening Hymn – *He Lives*

The Promise of Easter Hope Reflection and Instructions for Small Groups – *Brian Henderson*

After a brief introduction offered by Moderator, Rev. Brian Henderson, worshipers were sent into small groups and asked to reflect on 4 questions:

- *What does the Easter hope promise to our families?*
- *What does the Easter hope promise to our churches?*
- *How can we bring Easter hope to our places of employment or service outside of the church?*
- *What does Easter hope promise mean to my life?*

Closing reflection – *Brian Henderson*

Reciting of the Apostle's Creed - *Brian Henderson*

I BELIEVE in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Closing Blessing – *Jamil el-Shair*

COMMITTEE UPDATES & ACTIONS

Report of the Executive Administrative Commission (Attachment A) – In the absence of a Moderator-Elect at this time, Rev. Christina Greenawalt, BFC chair, brought the EAC report.

On behalf of the EAC, it was moved that the Synod Assembly concur with GA Ovt-024 On Creating a General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid Councils. The motion was **APPROVED.**

Administration & Relationships – *Jeanne Simpson/Bobby Byrd*

Bobby Byrd brought a verbal report of the ARC work related to Villa International. He explained that Villa International is an ecumenical mission assisting with housing for employees, students and others working with the CDC and Emory University in Atlanta. In the previous meeting it was stated that the synod holds title to the property and Villa had asked for a transfer of title to them.

The last assembly gave the ARC authority to contact an attorney regarding the synod's responsibilities in this matter. The ARC consulted with an attorney in the Atlanta area and were advised that Villa likely has no argument, and this is not a situation of adverse possession. Villa was contacted by the chair of ARC at the time to convey the response.

Committee on Representation (Attachment B) – *Rev. Lisa Martin*

The COR moves the election of RE Commissioner, Jacquelyn Rembert from New Harmony Presbytery as Synod Moderator-Elect (2024-2025). Moderator Henderson invited nominations from the floor. Seeing none, the Assembly elected Ms. Rembert unanimously.

The Assembly immediately moved to the Installation of Jacquelyn Rembert as Moderator-Elect.

Ministry Support Committee (Attachment C) – *Ken Whitehurst*

Ken Whitehurst gave a brief verbal report of the work of MSC regarding grants and a task force working to consolidate and align grants and application deadlines. He then invited *Rev. Caroline Dennis* to bring the report of the Association of Smaller Congregations.

Rev. Dennis, President of the Association of Smaller Congregations referred to the report in the packet. And offered a time of questions and thanked the synod for their support and prayers.

Budget & Finance Committee (Attachment D) – *Rev. Christina Greenawalt*

Rev. Greenawalt gave a brief report of the work of the BFC in the first quarter.

One behalf of the BFC the motion was made that the Assembly approve the Adjusted 2024 Budget with the changes outlined in the attachment, allowing for the salary adjustments approved previously by the EAC. The motion was APPROVED.

Synod Visioning Task Force Report (Attachment E)

Task Force Members: *RE Commissioner, Jacquelyn Rembert (New Harmony Presbytery); Stated Clerk, Rev. Andy James (Greater Atlanta Presbytery); Stated Clerk/TE Commissioner, Rev. Christina Greenawalt (Central Florida Presbytery); General Presbyter, Rev. Danny Murphy (Trinity Presbytery); General Presbyter, Rev. Holly Dillon (Presbytery of Tampa Bay); TE Commissioner, Rev. Jamil El Shair (Savannah Presbytery)*

The Visioning Task Force, led by Jacquelyn Rembert and Rev. Andy James, brought a report and presentation of their work together thus far. They explained their next steps for discerning ways in which

the synod can live into the new “Journey Statement” and their hopes and expectations for deep and meaningful conversations with all of those involved with the ministries of the synod.

On behalf of the Visioning Task Force, Jacquelyn Rembert moved that the Synod of South Atlantic approve the attached journey statement, guiding values, and logo as a replacement to the current mission statement and logo and direct the Synod Visioning Task Force to build its continuing work around this document:



Much discussion about the logo happened. Moderator Henderson called for a vote and the motion was APPROVED.

Rev. Andy James, co-chair of the Visioning Task Force, spoke about the next steps and courageous conversations in their work to come.

Motion by Jan Lewis that the synod’s Committee on Representation nominate 3 additional Ruling Elders, second, discussion was met with an amendment to the motion by Billie Sutter. Amended motion: that the moderator appoint additional Ruling Elders, accepted by Jan Lewis. Moderator called for unanimous consent to the amendment. The motion was APPROVED.

Treasurer’s Report (Attachment F) – Jodi Dodge

Treasurer Dodge spoke about the transition to the accounting firm of Sommerville & Associates, Inc. It has been a little bit of a bumpy start, but staff is working together to establish the best processes for efficiently handling funds disbursements and deposits. Having Annel Belmont as administrative assistant and shared staff with Presbytery of Tampa Bay, has been a real asset to establishing proper accountability processes.

The 2023 audit is complete and provided as an attachment in the packet. There were no issues found.

Moderator Henderson called for a motion to receive the audit. Motion by Christina, second and the motion was APPROVED.

Financial reporting will look different with the transition to new accounting software. Dodge explained some differences in reporting from the old system.

Moderator Henderson called for a motion to receive the financial reports. Motion by Christina Greenawalt, second and the motion was APPROVED.

Christina Greenawalt moved to receive January financial statement. The motion was APPROVED.

Report of the Executive & Stated Clerk (Attachment G) – Valerie Young

The denomination has been undergoing major transition over the last decade or so. Even more so lately with the announced changes in the Board of Pensions medical plans and the impacts it is likely to have on congregations and their pastors. It will also have an impact on your mid-council leaders and their benefits, not to mention the presbytery's work to aid their congregations through this transition. This is a stressful time for many. I hope you will be in continued prayer for the leaders and the congregations that they so faithfully serve.

You can read about my travels and ways that I've represented the synod since we last met in November. I have let Presbytery Stated Clerks know that I am available for their pulpit supply lists, subject to the appropriate approval of course. I will be preaching in four places in the coming months and am available, should I be called upon for additional dates. Any honorarium received comes back to the synod and will be reflected on our income statement.

Most importantly, thanks to the excellent work of presbytery stated clerks and PJCs, there has been no business for the synod PJC.

I am elated to be able to report that the reading of the 2022 presbytery minutes is caught up with the completion of Providence Presbytery's contained in your packet. Stated Clerks will be gathering in July for reading of 2023 minutes.

There is quite a bit on the horizon for the synod in addition to the work of the Visioning Task Force:

The first 1st Wednesday, SACK Lunch conversation took place a few days ago and there were about 12 folks from 7 different presbyteries who attended to discuss Youth Ministry in our churches and presbyteries.

There is a SACK Lunch conversation scheduled with a different topic for each of the months remaining in 2024. May 1's conversation is for and about Presbytery Leadership. There is not a week that goes by when I'm not asked, "How do other presbyteries do this?" Now is your chance to ask! How do other presbyteries recruit volunteers? How do other presbyteries design their COM/CPM processes? AND opportunities to share the cool and innovative things that your presbytery is doing. The hope is that we will be able to connect and support each other in our efforts to support our churches.

I have been working with Mark McCain of the SC PDAT (SC PDA) and Kathy Broyard from FLAPDAN (Florida PDA Network) to bring together a series of short webinars on disaster preparation and disaster assistance. Details are still to come – but please be on the lookout!

The synod is preparing for the 226th General Assembly and, with the help of presbytery clerks, will be facilitating GA commissioner training for our presbyteries as well as partnering with presbyteries to hold a lunch in Salt Lake City for commissioners and leaders.

I am proud to be part of a synod where the presbyteries provide such wonderful training and educational opportunities for their members and congregations. The leadership of all 16 presbyteries is strong. . . even and especially where there is no paid leadership. It is an honor to serve in this place and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the Synod of South Atlantic.

The following overtures were presented to the assembly with explanation that the two involving Flint River need to be considered before the synod overture to GA as amendments may be required otherwise.

Moderator Henderson called for a motion to approve the overture from Flint River Presbytery and Presbytery of Greater Atlanta on Lamar County, GA as presented. Motion by Lisa Martin, seconded, and the motion was APPROVED.

Moderator Henderson called for a motion to approve the overture from Flint River Presbytery on Russel County, AL as presented. Motion by Sommer Bowers, second, question was asked about the church and original presbytery having agreed and how the church came to request the move. Becky Willis, Stated Clerk of Flint River Presbytery was present to answer questions. The motion was APPROVED.

Moderator Henderson called for a motion to approve the Synod of South Atlantic Overture to the 226th General Assembly as presented. Motion by Travis Adams, second and the motion was APPROVED.

Moderator Henderson thanked the Commissioners and Corresponding members for their participation today and directed them to the additional written reports provided in the packet.

Additional Written Reports provided by (Attachment H):

- **African American Ministries – Rev. Cecelia Armstrong**
- **Synod Presbyterian Women - Shelagh Wirth, Moderator**
- **Westminster Communities Foundation**

Moderator Henderson called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Travis Adams, second and APPROVED

Moderator-Elect Jacquelyn Rembert was called upon to close the Assembly in prayer.

Next Synod Meeting: Saturday, October 12 via Zoom



Highlights of the April Assembly of the Synod

- Ruling Elder Commissioner, Jacquelyn Rembert of New Harmony Presbytery was elected and installed as synod Moderator-Elect for 2024-2025!
- Concurred with General Assembly OVT-024 On Creating a General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid Councils.
- Financial Reports, including the 2023 audit, were received, and the 2024 budget was adjusted.
- Learned about grants awarded in 2023.

A report from the Synod Visioning Task Force report was received and the recommended "Journey Statement and Guiding Values" and new logo were adopted by the Assembly! [Read more here.](#)

Our Journey

*The Synod of South Atlantic, PC(U.S.A.) **embodies** the grace and love of Jesus Christ, **cultivates** authentic community within and across presbyteries, and **inspires** impactful ministry, developing leaders so that the Church becomes united in faith, hope, love, witness, and service.*

Guiding Values

Grace: We embody Jesus Christ's teachings by making grace the foundation of the Synod's work and interactions with others.

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" - Ephesians 2:8-9

Love: We reflect Christ's love in our lives and work by listening deeply to one another and acting to build up the whole family of God.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs" - 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

Authenticity: We welcome the full selves of all who gather at our table, respecting one another and seeking to be open with each other, so that our relationships and interactions are sincere and true to the Christian faith.

"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good" - Romans 12:9

Transparency: We seek to practice openness in the systems and structures of the Synod so that nothing need be hidden from one another.

"O God, you know my folly; the wrongs I have done are not hidden from you." - Psalm 69:5

Unity: We work to unite the presbyteries and their congregations in faith, hope, love, witness, and service, emphasizing the importance of togetherness and collective purpose within the Synod.

"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace" - Ephesians 4:3

Hope: We welcome the Spirit's presence that keeps us moving forward in hope, becoming the community God intends.

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer" - Romans 12:12

Faithfulness: In our faithfulness, we reflect a commitment and devotion to seeing tomorrow today and seek to make that desired future real throughout the Synod.

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see" - Hebrews 11:1

Reforming: As we are open to God's reforming work, we develop presbytery and congregational leaders who share their faith and disciple others, using the patterns of the past to help us discern where God is guiding the church for the future.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" - Matthew 28:19-20

Additional Ruling Elders are to be appointed to the Task Force.

-
- Two separate overtures from Flint River Presbytery to welcome Lamar Co, Georgia and Russel County, Alabama into their bounds.
 - An Overture On Clarifying the Boundaries within the Synod of South Atlantic was approved to go to the 226th General Assembly.



SC Inn at Montreat
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 5, 2024

Do you know that as a Presbyterian in South Carolina that you have a “Home in the Mountains?” Your home in the mountains is a place where you can spend time alone, with your family, with friends whom you haven’t seen in years, or with a group from your church.

The South Carolina Inn includes a beautiful lodge built over 100 years ago that overlooks the valley below of Montreat. The campus also includes 8 individual apartments that are available year-round. In addition, attached to the lodge is Suite Carolina which provides a private one-bedroom suite with private bath and kitchen which rivals any Airbnb option in the Asheville area.

The rates at the SC Inn are very inexpensive compared to comparable facilities in the Asheville area. And when you book at the SC Inn you are supporting a ministry of the 5 presbyteries in South Carolina! The ministry provides respite for pastors, church leaders, and anyone seeking spiritual renewal.

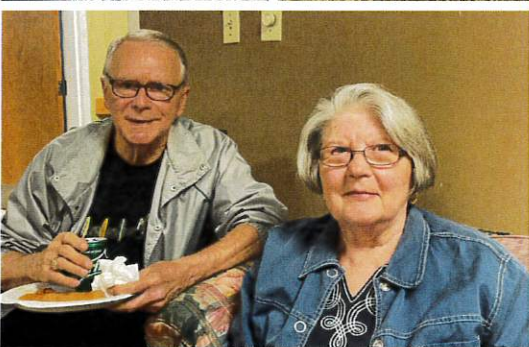
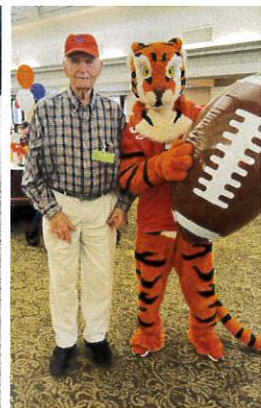
If your church group is looking for a retreat option we invite you to look to the SC Inn. Each October our church reserves the entire facility for the weekend and it has become vital in helping to build relationships and extend our community to newcomers.

Contact information for the Inn is:

Emily Cameron, Inn Keeper
828-669-7460
scinnmontreat@gmail.com
400 South Carolina Terrace, Montreat, NC 28757

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Sam McGregor, Jr.
Lancaster First Presbyterian Church
SC Inn Board of Trustees



A Trusted Partner in Your Journey

As you journey toward the next phase of retirement, you'll find many others have traveled this same path and determined that Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina (PCSC) is the optimal choice for quality retirement living.

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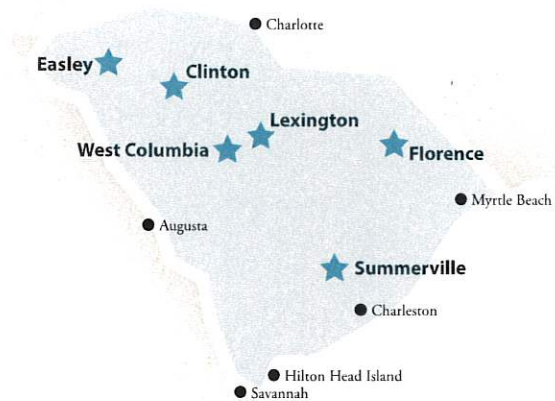


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It's Time to Order Your 2024-2025 Presbyterian Planning Calendar

The 2024–2025 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is an invaluable resource for the whole church that includes photographs of Presbyterians living out their faith across the country and around the world. This 19-month calendar contains planning aids for pastors and other church leaders, including:

- Monthly calendar pages starting with September 2024 and ending with December 2025
- Lectionary for Sundays, special liturgical days, colors for liturgical seasons
- Resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases
- Updated synod, presbytery, and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories
- Color foldout synod/presbytery and world maps

Churches and individuals may order planning calendars, the Book of Confessions (2016), and the Book of Order (2023-2025) through the office of Providence Presbytery to take advantage of bulk pricing. **Calendars and books are \$10.50 each, which includes shipping to the Presbytery office. You will be notified when your calendar/book order is available for pick-up in August.** Please note: If it is necessary to ship your order to you from the Presbytery office, you will be invoiced for the additional shipping charges.

Questions? Please call the Presbytery office at 803-328-6269

Order form for Planning Calendars, Books of Order, Books of Confession

Enter the number of calendars/books needed, calculate the total for each line and enclose payment for the total of all three lines.

_____ 2024-2025 Presbyterian Planning Calendar(s) @ \$10.50 = \$ _____

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Total enclosed: \$ _____

Church Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

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**Mail form and payment to:
Providence Presbytery, P. O. Box 2601, Rock Hill, SC 29732**

Orders and payment must be received in the Presbytery office by July 22, 2024.

Providence Presbytery Meeting Minutes
Covenant Presbyterian Church
February 11, 2024 at 2:30 P.M.

The Winter Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery met in person at Tirzah Presbyterian Church, York, SC on **February 11, 2024 at 2:30 p.m.** Registration opened at 1:30pm.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was Called to Order by the Moderator, **Elder Mike Conn** at 2:30 p.m. with an opening prayer, and he shared the Land Acknowledgement.

Welcome

Moderator called welcomed Carrie Blanchard to the microphone. The body was welcomed by Tirzah Presbyterian Church pastor CRE Carrie Blanchard. Mike Conn received joys and concerns and offered a prayer.

ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

Elder Mike Conn, Presbytery Moderator, placed the name of Rev. Marty Simmons, pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, to serve as Presbytery Moderator. Said motion was seconded, and Rev. Simmons was elected unanimously. After the election, Mike Conn conducted the installation of the **Rev. Marty Simmons** as Moderator for Providence Presbytery.

INSTALLATION OF STATED CLERK

Moderator Marty Simmons conducted the installation of the Rev. Dr. David Bender, who was elected to the position at the January 11, 2024 called meeting of Providence Presbytery, as Stated Clerk for Providence Presbytery.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Establishment of a Quorum The Stated Clerk, David Bender, declared that there was a quorum for the meeting, stating that the Presbytery requirement of three teaching elders who are members of the presbytery and three ruling elder commissioners from three different churches. **Changes to Temporary Pastoral Relationship Report** The Stated Clerk announced these changes: the Bethesda Church in Camden has been served by interim pastor Mike Kelly; the First church in Lancaster has entered a covenant with Sam McGregor to serve as interim pastor; the Mt. Pleasant church is now without a pastor, as is the St. Paul church; Paul Smith will have the designation of Stated Supply, rather than CRE, of the Wade and Old Waxhaw churches. **Welcome First-Time Elders and Guests**—Pastors and/or elders introduced first-time elders who were welcomed, as were all guests.

The following were enrolled:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Minister</u>	<u>Elder Commissioner</u>
Allison Creek	Vacant	Unexcused
Beaver Creek	(Rodney Foster) Excused	Excused
Beersheba	Phillip Wright CRE	Unexcused
Beth Shiloh	John White	Lee Barnwell
		Unexcused
Bethesda (K)	(Mike Kelly) Unexcused	John Stephenson
		Art Maxwell
		Unexcused
Bethesda (Y)	Derek Marotta	Alberta Anthony
		Stacy Russell
Bethlehem First	Vacant	Unexcused
Bethune	Guy Oliver Unexcused	Unexcused
Blackstock	Vacant	Unexcused
Bowling Green	Lisa K. Johnson, CRE-Excused	Joel Jones
Camden Second	Vacant	Unexcused
Carmel	Vacant	Unexcused
Catholic	Wayne Pruitt, CRE Unexcused	Unexcused
Cedar Shoals	Vacant	Unexcused
Clover	John Muse Unexcused	Unexcused
		Unexcused
Community	Tom Sherer*	Unexcused
Cornwell	Tim Foster, CRE--Unexcused	Unexcused
Covenant	John Nowaczewski	Susan Sistar
Doby's Bridge	Steve Austin	Unexcused
Douglas	Rob Jones	Malcolm Barton
Faith	David Bender	Rick Lambert
		Greg Hammill
Fishing Creek	Vacant	Millen Hamilton
Fort Lawn	Vacant	Unexcused
Grace (L)	Marty Simmons	Barbara Allen
Grace (Y)	Joanne Sizoo	Pat Banki
		Scott Kendall
Great Falls	(James M. Williams*) Unexcused	Unexcused
Hebron	(James M. Williams*) Unexcused	Unexcused
Hermon	(Jonathan Davis) Unexcused	Unexcused
Hopewell	(Donnell White) Unexcused	Unexcused
Lancaster First	Edgar McCall Excused	Vickie Jewell
Liberty Hill	David Leininger	Doug Macdonald
Lockhart	(Jonathan Cantrell)* Unexcused	Unexcused
Messiah	Vacant	Gwen Cunningham
Morningside	Vacant	Unexcused
Mt. Pleasant	Vacant	Unexcused
Mt. Tabor	(Jonathan Cantrell)* Excused	Unexcused
Oakdale	(Den Parker) Unexcused	Unexcused
		Unexcused

Oakland Avenue	Jeff Bryan	David Hyatt Sue Williams Unexcused
Old Waxhaw	Paul Smith*, CRE	Excused
Pleasant Grove (C)	Vacant	Unexcused
Pleasant Grove (Y)	Vacant	Unexcused
Pleasant Ridge	Vacant	Michelle McCullough
Purity	Jason Myers	Melissa Lifsey
Ramah	Vacant	Excused
Riverview	Tom Sherer*	Unexcused
Rock Hill First	Lee Zehmer	Susan Roberson James Campbell Unexcused
St. Paul's	Vacant	Unexcused
Tirzah (L)	(John Gerstenmier) Unexcused	Unexcused
Tirzah (Y)	Carrie Blanchard CRE	David Allrod
Unity	Matt Rich	Ronnie Glenn
	Molly Spangler	Carol Simon
	Mark Verdery-Excused	Unexcused
Uriel	Vacant	Unexcused
Van Wyck	Carson Montgomery	Laura Clark
Wade Memorial	Paul Smith* CRE	Excused
Woodlawn	Max Russell, CRE Unexcused	Unexcused
York First	Nick Setzer	Debbie Lowe Unexcused

*Serves more than one church

() Not a member of Providence Presbytery

CRE—Commissioned Ruling Elder

Corresponding Members:

Rev. Shavon Sterling-Louis Co-moderator, General Assembly

Rev. Valerie Young, Executive Presbyter, Synod of South Atlantic

Other Ministers:

The Reverends Sam McGregor, Tom Robinson, David Leininger, Jane Summey Mullenix, Letarshia Robinson, Parker Lucas, Tom Sherer were present.

Presbytery CRE:

Timothy B. McCullough, Pleasant Ridge

Guests:

The Reverends Jeannie Bickett, Jason Davenport, Harold Eller, James Gable, John Hallman, Jesse W. Hegler, R. Dan Holloway, DC Horne, Stephen Kisslinger, Barry Lambert, James H. McGill, Tom McPhail, Bob

Moss, James Platt, Larry Richards, Winifred Rinehart, Eugene Rollins, Betty Salmond, Steve Simon, Don C. Simpson, Martin Stokes, and Christina Trimble were excused.

The Reverends Janet Alford, Ronald A. Bradley, Craig Butler Richard Carr, James Davis, John Gerstenmier, Beth Hutton-Muse, Holly Hartsoe Frisk Shames, Charles F. Jones, Mia Levetan, Mike Shaffer, and Megan G. Watson were unexcused.

Coordinating Team and Ministry Team Moderators:

Mike Conn, Moderator of Community of Love; Hope Moore, Co-moderator Community of Hope, Iris Rose, Co-moderator Community of Hope; Tim Cureton, Implementation Team; Dave Keely, Mission and Outreach Team; Linda Kennedy, Committee on Racial & Religious Reconciliation Hope Moore, Moderator for Community of Hope, Susan Bullard. Co-moderator Community of Love, Keith McGuire, Community of Witness

Staff: Rose Lemmons-Berry, Stephen McDonald, Toby Mueller, Eric Robinson, Katie Rutland,

Educators: Edye Bender (Certified) Faith; Eric Robinson, Oakland Ave.

Seminary Graduates:

Representatives of Institutions and Agencies:

Guest from Churches: Bethesda (Y) (1), Hermon (1), Old Waxhaw (1), Pleasant Ridge (1), First York (1), Tirzah (Y) (11)

Adoption of the Docket and Consent Agenda

Moderator Marty Simmons presented the docket with three amendments: adding greetings from Valerie Young and adding her as a corresponding member, Executive Presbyter of the Synod of the Southeast; adding a report from the Presbytery Executive Search Team; removing the retirement of Rev. Edgar McCall because he was unable to attend due to illness. With those amendments, the docket was approved. Moderator Simmons then placed the Consent Agenda, including the items for action, on the floor. The consent agenda, including items for action 1-6, was approved.

Worship

Moderator Simmons recessed the body for worship. Worship was led by the Worship Team of Rev. Letarshia Robinson, Rev. Rob Jones, Candidate and CRE Paul Smith, and Larry and Jean Rollins. Candidate and CRE Paul Smith led the body with a sermon titled "Hope in a Changing World," Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. At the conclusion of worship, Letarshia Robinson and Marty Simmons lifted in prayer the In Memoriam report of Presbytery elders and pastors who died in 2023 were read. Elders remembered were Lula Covington, Patrick Ussery, James Roqumore, Betty N. Coombs, Dorothy "Dot" Berry, Phillip Griffith, Edward "Ed" Kelly, Buddy Bryant, Jane Watkins, Jane Fredericks, Rachel Tripp, Jon Miller, Helen Grace McCuen Bennett, David (Davd) Emerson Cowan, Mary Marshall (Mim) Whitfield Armour, , Peggy Casey, John Granacher, Margaret Ann Tice, Manly Storme Young III, Zeta Gardner Sistare. Charles Marion

Bullard, Charles August Addison and Josephine Baker. We also remembered CRE William Gaither, Rev. Harold Eller and Rev. Dr. W. T. Holmes.

Bridge Executive Presbyter Report

The Moderator called on the Bridge General Presbyter Toby Mueller. She brought greetings to the body and outlined many of the ways she has been serving. She reported about the recent hiring of Eric Robinson and Katie Rutland and the re-hiring of Rose Lemmons-Berry. She reported that, pending a vote by a church congregation, she will be stepping back from her Bridge Executive Presbyter duties on March 1, though she is available to provide limited service for another few weeks.

Presentation from Implementation Team

The Moderator called on Elder Tim Cureton, chair of the Implementation Team. Tim introduced the Implementation Team and expounded upon the promise that the new Presbytery structure offers. He reported that 515 Oakland Ave. was sold for around \$575,000 (actual price was \$526,852.50). Jason Myers then reported on the process used by the team. They interviewed many people, churches, pastors and committees. Their goal was to create a more agile Presbytery without one designated meeting place. The new structure encourages churches to partner to create and engage new types of ministries. Matt Rich then reported on the structure of the Communities of Care: The Community of Love oversees and implements the ministry strategies of the Presbytery and has the authority to act for the Presbytery between meetings. The Community of Faith offers educational opportunities and resources. It also offers technical resources. The Community of Hope oversees the business and personnel ministries of the Presbytery. The Community of Witness (ministers) resources needs dealing with pastors—those discerning God’s call to become pastors, those churches seeking pastors, those congregations having conflicts with pastors, those congregations with more temporary relationships with pastors. The Community of Witness (advocacy) seeks to take the love of God into the community and the world. This community includes existing neighborhoods of ministries which have become important to the ministry of the Presbytery, with more come.

ORDER OF THE DAY

Rev. Shavon Sterling-Louis, Co-moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) brought greetings to the body. She and Bridge Executive Presbyter Toby Mueller engaged in public conversation, through which the body learned more about the state of the PC(USA) and examples of God’s throughout the country. Questions to which she responded included: (1) In traveling the country, what has she learned about the Presbyterian Church? (2) With dwindling numbers in the PC(USA), where to you find hope? (3) What troubles you about what you’ve seen? (4) What is the next big thing in the Presbyterian Church? (5) What issues are we afraid to address? (6) What unique do we have to offer? (7) How are we sometimes complicit in the problem? (8) Where have you seen God’s presence on the southern border? (9) What resources are available for small congregations? (10) How does the church engage folks in the 30-40 age range? (11) Is there talk about Youth Advocate Delegates having vote at the GA?

Following the Order of the Day, the body enjoyed a 5-minute break.

Greetings from Rev. Valerie Young

Rev. Valerie Young, Executive Presbyter of the Synod of South Atlantic, brought greetings. She highlighted 3 upcoming events: (1) First Wednesday SACK lunch (2) Sabbath by the pool for women in ministry and (3) a meeting of the Association for Smaller Churches.

Community of Love Report

The Moderator called upon CRE Mike Conn, chair of the Community of Love, for a report. CRE Conn brought attention to the Presbytery e-mail voting policy that was adopted for use by the Community of Love, and he offered it to the other communities and ministry teams for their adoption and use, if so desired. He brought our attention to a document setting out the names to which each community and ministry team will be referred in the new Presbytery structure.

Administrative Commission for the Bethesda (K) church

CRE Conn brought to the floor a motion to approve the following to serve on an Administrative Commission to work with Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden regarding their desire to disaffiliate with the PC(USA) and Providence Presbytery: Joanne Sizoo (TE Grace Y), Hope Moore (RE Tirzah Y), Tim McCullough (CRE) Pleasant Ridge, Tom Robinson (retired TE member of Presbytery) and Dannie Vaughn (RE Unity). The motion included authorizing the Administrative Team as follows:

This commission is entrusted with the following authority: (1) to enter conversation with the Bethesda (K) session to determine their reasons for seeking disaffiliation (2) to determine whether the denomination with which the church seeks to affiliate meets the Book of Order criteria for transferring membership (3) to determine whether the church congregation membership supports the desire to disaffiliate from the PC(USA) (as determined by a vote of their active membership of 75% or higher) (4) to determine whether any church members desire to remain members of the PC(USA) and, if so, to work with them to allow them to do so (5) to determine whether there is a schism within the membership of the church congregation and, if so, to take action as set out in G-4.0207 (Book of Order) (6) to inquire into the value of the Church property and assets in order that we do due diligence in our fiduciary responsibility to the PC(USA) (7) to negotiate terms of dismissal with the church session which will be included in a Covenant agreement between Providence Presbytery and Bethesda (K) Presbyterian Church (8) to determine whether the Bethesda congregation accepts the terms of the Covenant agreement (as determined by a vote by their active membership of 75% or higher) (9) if the terms are approved by the congregation, to bring said terms before the body of the Presbytery for vote (10) to take original jurisdiction only if it is determined that the "session of the congregation is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs."

Moderator Simmons opened the floor for questions and discussion. She then asked for the vote, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Presbytery Executive Presbyter Search team

The Moderator called upon Derek Marotta, chair of the Presbytery Executive Presbyter Search team, reported that the team continues their work. Their team has persevered and continued to move forward even through the changes in the direction of their search. They might have a recommendation very soon.

Community of Faith

The moderator called upon Eric Robinson for a report. He reported on four items: (1) partnering with Bethelwoods, confirmation clusters will be available (2) money for scholarships to leadership events are available (3) gatherings for Presbytery educators are upcoming and (4) the Leaderfest event on Mental Health First Aid.

Community of Hope

The moderator called on Hope Moore. Hope thanked Barbara Kurz for her long-time dedication and service to Providence Presbytery. She introduced new Presbytery staff Eric Robinson (Missions Coordinator) and Katie Rutland (Technology and Communications). She reported that Rose Lemmons-Berry was hired for a similar though more limited position as Business Administrator/Treasurer. She referred to and recapped the 2023 finances for the Presbytery and for Bethelwoods, including a deficit in Bethelwoods' budget.

Community of Witness—Ministerial

Retirement of Jane Summey Mullinex

The Moderator called Jane Summey Mullinex forward for her service of retirement. Sarah Davis appeared by Zoom, and she spoke about the meritorious ministry of Jane. Moderator Simmons then led the body on a service of retirement, and she was honorably retired.

Examination of Paul Smith for Ordination

Moderator Simmons invited COM Co-Moderator Susan Bullard continued the team's report. She proceeded with the examination of Paul Smith for ordination as a Minister of the Word and sacrament in the PC(USA). He graduated of Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, passed his ordination exams and received a glowing recommendation from the CPM and COM. The body received his statement of faith and biography. He was then questioned him in four areas: worship and sacraments, led by Keith McGuire, Reformed Theology led by Susan Bullard, Presbyterian Polity, led by Carson Montgomery and Leadership/Self Care led by Derek Marotta Following our conversation, the team excused Paul and discussed his examination. Upon motion and second, the body approved the examination in each part and in the whole and approved him for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PCUSA. CRE Smith was welcomed back into the body with a rousing round of applause. The body also approved his ordination commission as follows:

The Service of Ordination for Paul E. Smith, Jr. will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church, 2814 Old Hickory Road, Lancaster, SC with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY ORDINATION COMMISSION for Paul Smith:

Rev. Dr. Toby Mueller, Bridge Executive Presbyter, Providence Presbytery
Rev. Dr. David Bender, Stated Clerk, Providence Presbytery
Rev. Robert Jones, Douglas Presbyterian Church
Rev. Edgar McCall, Honorably Retired
Rev. Carson Montgomery, Van Wyck Presbyterian Church
Rev Marty Simmons, Grace Presbyterian Church Lancaster
Elder Shirenta Belk, First Presbyterian Church Lancaster
Elder Teresa Johnson, Wade Memorial Presbyterian Church
Elder Vernie Plyler, Old Waxhaw Presbyterian Church

David Bender closed the examination with prayer.

Paul Smith then continued the team's report by calling attention to the 2024 Temporary Pastoral Relationships report and the 2024 Salary and Benefits Packages, which, upon motion, were approved.

Community of Witness—CPM

The moderator then called on John White, who gave the report for this community. Rev. White brought to the floor the document "Following your Call: Coming Under the Care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of Providence Presbytery" for a second read, and he moved its approval. The moderator opened the floor for questions or comments. She then called for the vote, and the document was approved without dissent.

Committee of Witness—Witness and Advocacy

The moderator then called on David Keely, moderator of the Committee of Witness—Witness and Advocacy. He turned the body's attention to a handout regarding ministry in Trinidad. He thanked Barbara Kurz for her many years of ministry with this team. He presented the McSpadden A wards to the following churches: Beaver Creek, Beersheba, Bethlehem, Bethesda (Y), Bethune, Blackstock, Bowling Green, Second Camden, Carmel, Catholic, Community, Cornwell, Fishing Creek, Fort Lawn, Grace (L), Grace (Y), Great Falls, Hebron, Hermon, Hopewell, First Lancaster, Liberty Hill, Morningside, Pleasant Grove (L), Pleasant Ridge, Purity, Tirzah (L), Tirzah (Y), First Union, Uriel, Van Wyck, Wade Memorial.

Bethelwoods

The moderator then called on Stephen McDonald, Executive Director of Bethelwoods. He brought greetings and then called upon Parker Lucas, Program Director. Rev. Lucas reminded the body of some Bethelwoods programs, and they seek counselors and campers for their summer camps.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Moderator called on Stated Clerk David Bender for the day's attendance report.

27 Teaching Elders

27 Ruling Elders

0 Seminary Graduates, Candidates, Inquirers

5 Coordinating Team/Ministry Team/ Committee Moderators

3 Church Educators

4 Staff

0 Institutions/Agencies Representatives

11 Church guests (various Congregations)

85 Total Attendees

Moderator Simmons called on the Resolutions Team for the Resolution of the Day.

RESOLUTION TEAM

Steve Austin made the following resolution:

“Whereas Tirzah Presbyterian Church graciously opened its doors in hosting the meeting of Providence Presbytery on this 11th day of February, 2024, be it resolved that we give thanks to Tirzah and to God for a place of comfort and meaning as we carry out our Work. Whereas we have benefited from the work and humor of Moderator Mike Conn, be it resolved we give thanks as we remember these words, “Well done thy good and faithful servant.” Whereas we have been joined by the faces of new servants, Marty Simmons, David Bender, Toby Mueller and others, be it resolved that we celebrate their faithful commitment to leadership. Whereas we have joined together in worship as well as work, being led in song, scripture and sermon, be it resolved that we rejoice in meaningful unit in the midst of diversity. Whereas Providence Presbytery has engaged in inconvenient changes and promising transitions, be it resolved that we are grateful for the reports of people and ministry teams who have sought to transform ministry into the active will of God. Whereas we were blessed with Synod and GA leaders Valerie Young and Shavon Sterling-Louis and their guidance and encouraging witness, be it resolved that Providence Presbytery stands confirmed and convicted in our call to be a viable part of the PC(USA) and the Holy Catholic Church. Whereas we have honorably retired Jane Mullinex, for years of dedicated ministry and to, in and through the body of Christ, be it resolved that we sincerely honor her and wish her the very best in her retirement for many years to come. And whereas we have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit and seen the witness of the body of Christ whom we are all called to follow, be it resolved that we give all glory praise and honor to God almighty as we end our meeting of words to go forth and put them into practice. So be it. Amen!”

With no further business, a motion was made and approved and approved to adjourn, and Moderator Simmons closed with prayer at 5:50 pm.

Submitted by,
David M. Bender
Stated Clerk