

One Hundred and Thirteenth Stated Meeting
Northeast Georgia Presbytery
Minutes of Meeting
May 14, 2022

Meeting held at Unicoi Lodge, Helen, GA. Hosted by First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland and Dahlonega Presbyterian Church. Also live-streamed via the Dahlonega PC Youtube channel.

| Topic | Discussion | Decision |
|---|--|---|
| Call to Order and Opening Prayer, Welcome | The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and opened with the Doxology and a prayer by Moderator Elder Sylvia McDonald. Rev. Burnetta Arnold of First PC Cleveland welcomed the attendees. | |
| Seating of first time commissioners, corresponding members and visitors | First time commissioners and corresponding members were acknowledged, and visitors were welcomed. | |
| Declaration of Quorum | | Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk, declared that a quorum was present. |
| Adoption of Docket Handbook, pages 3-7 | After asking for any amendments, Moderator McDonald moved the Docket be adopted. | The Docket as printed in the Handbook was adopted. |
| Consent Agenda | <p>Moderator McDonald presented the Consent Agenda and explained the guidelines. Rev. Rees asked that recommendation #6 from the COM be removed from the consent agenda due to inaccuracies in the report. Moderator McDonald presented the following motions for the Consent Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the 112th Stated Meeting Minutes, February 22, 2022 as distributed • Committee on Ministry recommendation: dismissal of Rev. Tom Coop to New Covenant Presbytery, effective November 2020 • Nominating Committee recommendation: election of Anita York as the Congregational Connections Committee representative to the Coordinating Team for the remainder of 2022 • Acceptance of Written Reports from Black Presbyterian Caucus; Church Property Commission; Committee on Preparation for Ministry; General Presbyter; Presbyterian Women; and the Financial Reports. | The Consent Agenda as amended was adopted. |
| Stated Clerk's Report Handbook, page 27-29 | Rev. Rees provided a rationale for the proposed Electronic Meeting Policy printed on page 27 of the Handbook. He asked that item #4 be amended, then moved that the amended policy be adopted: | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Rev. Rees advised clerks of session to watch for information regarding Session Records Review. He then presented anniversary certificates to Westminster PC (100 years), Nacoochee PC (150 years), and Hebron PC (225 years). | |
| Presbyterian Student Center | Rev. Will Norman gave a report on current activities at the Presbyterian Student Center @ UGA, along with information regarding its Capital Campaign. | |
| Call to Worship Hymn Call to Confession Prayer of Confession Assurance of Pardon Handbook, pages 3-4 | Moderator McDonald led the assembly in a time of preparation for worship. | |
| Scripture Reading Special Music | Guest Preacher Rev. Joel Alvis of Cherokee Presbytery read from Jeremiah 32:1-16 and Galatians 5:22-23, and the First Presbyterian Church of Cleveland's choir sang a hymn. | |
| Message | Rev. Alvis delivered a sermon entitled "R Words" and then led the body in a Litany of the Rs. | |
| Communion | Rev. Alvis was joined by Rev. Mari Turner of Dahlonega Presbyterian Church to offer Communion to the assembly. | |
| Committee on Ministry Handbook, pages 8-14 | <p>On behalf of the Committee on Ministry, Rev. Tom Buchanan made the following motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Honorable Retirement status be granted to Rev. Robert Prim, effective May 14, 2022. • Dissolve the call of the Rev. Carol Strickland to the First Presbyterian Church of Athens, effective May 31, 2022, and grant her the status of Honorably Retired effective June 1, 2022. • Receive the Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters, transferring from Peace River Presbytery, into the membership of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, and approve his position of Connector for Columbia Theological Seminary as a Validated Ministry. Elder | <p>The motion to grant Honorable Retirement status to Rev. Robert Prim was adopted. The motion to dissolve the call of Rev. Carol Strickland and grant her Honorably Retired status was adopted.</p> <p>A motion to close the examination was adopted. The motion to receive Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters into membership and approve his position as a Validated Ministry was adopted.</p> |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | <p>Marc Galvin led a time of examination. Rev. Casto-Waters was excused for a time of discussion and debate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the way be clear, elect Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters as a member of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Brandi Casto-Waters on June 5 at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church. (He was previously elected a guest of the Commission.) • Approve the amended 2022 Annual Salary Standards Review for pastors. (Revisions were orally reported.) <p>A prayer was offered by Rev. Paul Evans for retirees Bob Prim and Carol Strickland.</p> | <p>The motion to elect Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters to the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Brandi Casto-Waters was adopted.</p> <p>The motion to approve the 2022 Annual Salary Standards Review as amended was adopted.</p> |
| General Presbyter Report Handbook page 25 | Rev. Hilary Shuford gave a report. She was presented a gift in honor of her upcoming sabbatical, and the assembly sang “Auld Lang Syne”. | |
| Coordinating Team Handbook, page 30 | On behalf of the Coordinating Team, Rev. Frank Colladay moved that Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk, be appointed as Acting General Presbyter during the three months that Rev. Hilary Shuford is on sabbatical, and that he be compensated an additional \$1,500 during that time. | The motion to appoint Rev. Rees as Acting General Presbyter was adopted. |
| Service of Commissioning for General Assembly Commissioners | Moderator McDonald reported that Young Adult Advisory Delegate Jonathan Jones resigned as a commissioner to the General Assembly, and that an alternate is needed as soon as possible. She then led a service to Commission Rev. Dr. Melvin Lowry and Ruling Elder Betty Jean Jordan as Presbytery’s Commissioners to the 225 th General Assembly of the PC(USA). | |
| Administrative Commission for Ficklen PC | <p>Rev. Rees gave a report on the work to date of the Administrative Commission for Ficklen PC. On behalf of the commission, he moved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the congregation of the Ficklen Presbyterian Church be dissolved, in accordance with G.4.0205; 2. That the Ficklen church property be sold to Angel Band Ministries, Inc., for \$25,000.00; 3. That the proceeds of the sale be first utilized to reimburse unpaid per capita (\$151.08), and that the remainder be directed for purposes such as providing program assistance to smaller congregations, or supporting the work of creating new worshiping communities; 4. That the Commission be dismissed upon completion of final administrative tasks related to the dissolution of the Ficklen | <p>The motion to dissolve the congregation of Ficklen Presbyterian Church was adopted.</p> <p>The motion to sell the church property to Angel Band Ministries, Inc. was adopted.</p> <p>The motion regarding disbursements of the proceeds from the sale was tabled.</p> <p>The motion to dismiss the Commission was adopted.</p> |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | Church, including the gathering of church records and consultation with Mr. Nunn regarding the disposition of other items of interest, as well as any procedural steps to accomplish the final sale and transfer of property. | |
| Administrative Commission for Carnesville PC | Rev. Alex Stevens gave a report on the work to date of the Administrative Commission for Carnesville PC. On behalf of the commission, he moved that the Carnesville Presbyterian Church be dissolved by an action of Presbytery. Following the vote, a prayer for the Ficklen and Carnesville congregations was given by Rev. Rees. | The motion to dissolve the Carnesville Presbyterian Church was adopted. |
| Clergy Care Committee | Rev. Mike Williams gave a report on behalf of the Committee. | |
| Other Announcements | Rev. Matt Henderson gave a report on an upcoming youth mission trip, and offered for giveaway 13 choir vestments that had belonged to the former First Presbyterian Church of Toccoa. | |
| Prayer and Adjournment | Following a blessing for lunch, Moderator McDonald declared the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m. | |

Date Minutes approved:_____

Moderator _____
Elder Sylvia McDonald

Recorder_____ Anita Green

PROPOSED DOCKET AND HANDBOOK

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH STATED MEETING

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

MAY 14, 2022

**HELD AT UNICOI LODGE
HELEN, GA**

**HOSTED BY
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLEVELAND
AND
DAHLONEGA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Dear Siblings in our Lord Jesus Christ,

First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland and Dahlonega Presbyterian Church are excited to welcome you to Unicoi State Park and the beautiful mountains of Northeast Georgia for our first in-person Presbytery meeting since 2020. It has been a long time since we have seen each other face-to-face, and this will stir in us a mixture of emotions. There will be joy in reconnecting with one another and seeing the friends we have missed in our days of isolation and in meeting new colleagues who joined the Presbytery while the world shut down. There will be joy in the simple act of breaking bread and sharing the cup together. Yet, there will be the things that bring with them tinges of sorrow and loss. There will be those faces that we long to see, but are not present: those who have accepted new calls in other presbyteries; those who have retired; and those who have gone on to glory.

This weekend will be a time to reconnect with friends old and new; to reflect on the past few years: the toil, the loss, and the blessing in them; to refresh our souls in the beauty of God's creation; and to rejoice in our God who has seen us through the days of isolation and fear and continues to walk with us into this new world in which we find ourselves. We have lost so much these past two years, but even in the loss, there is hope to be found if we have eyes to see and ears to hear.

May God bless our time together this weekend. May it be for us a time of reconnecting, rejoicing, refreshing, and reinvigorating ourselves for the work of ministry in this time.

Peace in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Rev. Burnetta Armour
Pastor
First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland

Rev. Mari Turner
Pastor
Dahlonega Presbyterian Church

Guest Preacher
Rev. Joel Alvis
Honorable Retired Member of Cherokee Presbytery



A few Things to know about Joel Alvis:

I . . .

- . . . was born in the largest city in Mississippi: Memphis, Tennessee.
- . . . *No hablo espanol. Mi esposa habla espanol.*
- . . . want to be a philanthropist when I grow up.
- . . . Met Hilary Shuford and Stu Ritter at a training event in 2015.
- . . . Like to go for walks.
- . . . am blessed to have a child who has lived in very interesting and beautiful places that are great to visit - Jackson, Wyoming and Monterrey, California
- . . . can say War Eagle! and Hoddy Toddy!
- . . . is an author, historian and speaker.
- . . . served as a pastor in roles of solo, associate or interim in 13 churches.
- . . . have been a GP twice – As General Presbyter for Cherokee Presbytery and as a GrandParent [Papa] for two wonderful granddaughters!

Northeast Georgia Presbytery

113th Stated Meeting

May 14, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
at Unicoi Lodge, Helen GA

Call to Order and Opening Prayer Elder Sylvia McDonald, Moderator

Welcome Rev. Burnetta Armour

Seating of First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members,
and Introduction of Visitors Moderator McDonald

Declaration of Quorum Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk

Adoption of Docket Moderator McDonald

Approval of Consent Agenda Moderator McDonald

Minutes of 112th Stated Meeting of Presbytery, February 22, 2022

pp. 8-14 Committee on Ministry:
Recommendation #1: Dismissal of Rev. Tom Coop to New Covenant Presbytery, effective November 2020
Recommendation #6: Approval of the 2022 Annual Salary Standards Review for pastors as listed in the report

pg. 15 Nominating Committee:
Recommendation: Election of Anita York as the Congregational Connections Committee representative to the Coordinating Team for the remainder of 2022

pp. 16-26 Acceptance of Written Reports for the Record:
Black Presbyterian Caucus Report
Church Property Report
Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report
Financial Report
General Presbyter Report
Presbyterian Women Report

pp. 27-29 Stated Clerk Report Rev. Rees

Policy for electronic meetings

Ratification of actions of prior Presbytery meetings conducted electronically

Parity report

Presbyterian Student Center Rev. Will Norman

Call to Worship Moderator McDonald

The Good News of the Gospel is that the Triune God – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – creates, redeems, sustains, rules, and transforms all things and all people. The mission of God in Christ gives shape and substance to the life and work of the Church.

Praise be to God!

In our time and place, may we

**Respond to the promise of God's new creation in Christ, and
Invite all people to participate in that new creation.**

In our time and place, may we

**Welcome those who are being engrafted into Christ,
Bear witness to Christ's saving death and resurrection,
Anticipate the heavenly banquet that is to come, and
Commit ourselves in the present to solidarity with the marginalized and the hungry.**

In our time and place, may we

**Live in the strength of God's promise, and
Give ourselves in services to God's mission.**

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

BUNNESON

Call to Confession

Moderator McDonald

God, we hear your invitation of us:

"Come to me, you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens. I will give you rest."

Trusting in God who offers us refreshment and longs to mend our broken places, let us confess our sins, first together with our responsive prayer, and then from the silence of our hearts.

Prayer of Confession

Moderator McDonald

Renewing God, we confess our tendency to overlook rest as a necessary part of soul and self-care. We confess our pride in thinking that our work is so important that we may not set it down. We confess our tendency to cling to worn out routines and systems of judgment that sort your people into groups we deem worthy or unworthy of our time, resources, and welcome.

Hear our confessions, forgive our sins, and fill us with a renewed sense of your Spirit...

Where we have overspent ourselves,

Refresh us.

Where we have neglected relationships and time with you,

Re-connect us.

Where we have misplaced our priorities,

Re-focus us.

Where we have let our weary, divided world limit our love and witness,

Re-ignite us.

Silent Prayer—People of God, what do you need to confess this day?

Assurance of Pardon

Moderator McDonald

Our God of resurrection power called our Lord out of the tomb
and in so doing, called the whole creation into new life.

**In Christ, every day is a day to be renewed...
to become the people God created us to be.**

Thanks be to God, we are forgiven!

Alleluia! Amen.

Scripture

Jeremiah 32:1-16; Galatians 5:22-23

Rev. Joel Alvis

Special Music

First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland Choir

Message

"R" Words

Rev. Joel Alvis

Litany of the R's

Rev. Alvis

O God, from the void of nothingness that was before anything that was,
You rendered creation. We call out to You in our time of turmoil and anguish.

Refresh us in this time together.

By the wonder of your presence, renew us for opportunities we cannot imagine.

Refresh us in this time together.

By the power of your care, tend us so that we are regenerated to share fruits of the Spirit.

Refresh us in this time together.

Wonderful Lord, may we relive our past so that we can confront what is needed;

Reconnect us in the body of Christ.

May we repent of wayward paths;

Reconnect us in the body of Christ.

May we be reconciled from trails that are not fruitful and follow Your path of new life;

Reconnect us in the body of Christ.

Holy One, You provide new life through the resurrection.

Let us rejoice in what You have made possible.

Make us resilient for the challenge required of being faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Let us rejoice in what You have made possible.

May we dwell in your presence so we can retell Your story of faith.

Let us rejoice in what You have made possible.

Lord God, You have called us into being as Your body in the world.

Refresh us in this time together,

Reconnect us in the body of Christ,

Let us rejoice in what You have made possible!

Communion

Rev. Alvis and Rev. Mari Turner

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Communion of the People

Prayer following Communion

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and all this is within me,

bless God's holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

and forget not all God's benefits.

Benediction

Rev. Turner

pp. 8-14 Committee on Ministry

Rev. Tom Buchanan

Recommendations #2 – 5

General Presbyter

Rev. Hilary Shuford

pg. 30 Coordinating Team

Rev. Frank Colladay

Recommendation #1

Brief Gathering of Presbytery Committees

Rev. Shuford

12:30 SPECIAL ORDER OF THE DAY: Blessing and Lunch

A SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

**Rev. Dr. Melvin Lowry and Ruling Elder Betty Jean Jordan;
Youth Advisory Delegate: Jonathan Jones**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Moderator McDonald

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

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 maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the kingdom of Heaven to the world.

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. The grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service.

Show your purpose by answering these questions:

Who is your Lord and Savior?

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

I will, with God's help.

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

I do.

Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

I will, with God's help.

Do we, as members of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, accept these siblings in Christ as commissioners and advisory delegates to the 225th General Assembly, chosen by God through the voice of the church, to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples, and by the Holy Spirit, make them one church to serve you. Be with members of the General Assembly. Help them to welcome new things you are doing in the world and to respect old things you keep and use. In their deliberation, bring about what is best for us and for all people. As they meet, let your Holy Spirit guide so that the whole church may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.

CHARGE

You are commissioned to service as commissioners and advisory delegate to the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Whatever you do, in word and deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. -- Colossians 3:17

pg. 31 Administrative Commission for Ficklen Church Rev. Ed Rees

Recommendations #1 - 4

pg. 32 Administrative Commission for Carnesville Church Rev. Teresa Franklin

Recommendation #1

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Ryan Baer

Clergy Care Committee

Rev. Mike Williams

Announcements

Prayer and Adjournment

NEXT STATED MEETING:

Saturday, August 20 at First Presbyterian Church, Athens

Committee on Ministry
Rev. Tom Buchanan, Chair

Meetings: March 10, 2022; April 14, 2022

For Information:

1. Heard liaison reports from the following churches: Trinity, Carnesville, Hopewell, Oconee, Sardis, Belle Terrace, Milledgeville, Mountain, Wiley, and Athens First.
2. Tom Buchanan met with the PNC at Oconee on March 9, 2022 to assist in preparing their Ministry Information Form.
3. A Northeast Georgia Presbytery book study is planned for the third Thursday of each month starting in April from 11:00 – 12:00 PM, via Zoom.
4. The revision of the COM's Manual of Operations is almost complete. A first reading of the draft was presented at the March COM meeting. A second reading will be presented in June.
5. The Examinations Action Team meeting schedule has been changed to ensure that it always precedes a COM meeting by at least a week.
6. Procedures for presenting, examining, and receiving new members into Presbytery were reviewed.

Actions:

1. Appointed Ryan Baer to serve on the COM's Examination Action Team.
2. Approved the Ministry Information Form for Oconee PC.
3. Appointed Bruce Lancaster as Moderator of Session at Oconee PC from April 24 to May 29, 2022.

Recommendations:

1. Dismiss the Rev. Tom Coop from Northeast Georgia Presbytery (having been received by New Covenant Presbytery in November 2020).*
2. Grant the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Robert Prim, effective May 14, 2022.
3. Dissolve the call of the Rev. Carol Strickland to the First Presbyterian Church of Athens, effective May 31, 2022, and grant her the status of Honorably Retired, effective June 1, 2022.
4. Receive the Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters, transferring from Peace River Presbytery, into the membership of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, and approve his position of Connector for Columbia Theological Seminary as a Validated Ministry.
5. If the way be clear, elect Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters as a member of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Brandi Casto-Waters on June 5 at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church. (He was previously elected a guest of the Commission.)
6. Approve the 2022 Annual Salary Standards Review for pastors listed in the following report.*

* Recommendations # 1 and #6 are included in the Consent Agenda.

Andrew Casto-Waters
Statement of Faith

I believe in one eternal, triune God who is manifest as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In divine wisdom, God created the world and everything in it, declaring that creation was good. As part of God's good creation, God made humanity in God's own image, blessing humankind and charging them to be good stewards of all that God has made. Sin and pride have tainted humanity, yet throughout the ages God has elected to redeem humanity. Because of God's grace, God established a covenant with our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah, led us out from slavery in Egypt, and sent us prophets and priests to call us back into relationship with God.

The bonds of sinfulness and slavery were broken forever when God became human and dwelt among us in Jesus Christ. Jesus modeled for his disciples the life of faithfulness by preaching the Good News of God's love, teaching by word and deed, welcoming sinners and outcasts to the table, living in faithful, committed community with his disciples, and calling all to repent and believe that the Kingdom of God was near. Jesus was betrayed by one closest to him, unfairly prosecuted, tried, and convicted, and sentenced to die for our sins. For three days Jesus was in the tomb. Early on the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead, where he appeared first to the women, and then to the disciples, and then to the crowds. His resurrection breaks the bonds of sin and death, and assures us of life eternal. Jesus ascended into heaven, is seated with God the Father to serve as our advocate and witness, and serves as the Head of the Church. His resurrection is our assurance that he will gather his followers unto himself. Jesus will return to earth one day at God's own choosing in order to not only judge the world, but to serve as the final redemption for all of creation.

God sent the Holy Spirit to be an advocate and comforter to Christ's followers. This same Holy Spirit brooded over the waters of creation and descended on those gathered at Pentecost, gifting them with the ability to speak in tongues. The Holy Spirit justifies us by our faith in Jesus, and empowers us with God's good gifts to serve God and neighbor. The Spirit guides our prayer, casts bold visions of what God is doing in the world, equips us to speak truth to powers and principalities, comforts us in times of trial, and sustains the life of the church.

The church is called into being by God, nourished by the Spirit, and led by Jesus Christ. Through its prayers, teaching, worship, and outreach, the church proclaims God's faithfulness to us in Jesus Christ. Through Word and Sacrament, the church is renewed to be God's people in the world. Claimed in the baptismal waters and nourished at Christ's table, the church is gathered in to be sent out to proclaim God's justice, love, mercy, and grace. The Church is an abiding witness to God's fidelity, reformed and always being reformed by God.

There is nothing that can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God.

Andrew Casto-Waters
Statement of Faith Journey

I was born in Atlanta and grew up in Athens, GA. I was baptized in the Methodist Church, but we never found a place to worship that met the needs of my 3 siblings and me, as well as my mother. In middle school, my brother was invited to Youth Group by one of his friends, and he told me that some of my good friends also attended church there. I soon began spending my Sundays at Covenant Presbyterian. One Sunday while filling out the visitor's card in the pews, I checked that I "requested a call from the pastor" on a dare. That led to a phone call from the minister, Jim Bowden, and finding himself in Confirmation Class, assisting in worship at various times throughout the year, serving on several committees, and even my first church job as the part time janitor. After graduating from Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC, I served as a Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) in Cuffley, Hertfordshire, England, just north of London. It was there that I sensed a call to ordained ministry, and earned degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and Union Presbyterian Seminary.

I have served in a number of ministry settings, including youth and education roles, campus ministry, on the staff of big churches and as a part-time supply pastor. Most recently, I have served churches that have been in various states of transition, providing stable leadership while helping those churches explore what God is doing in their midst and how God is calling them to minister faithfully in the future. Continued learning is very important to me, and I try to find a balance of opportunities to strengthen my ministry. Lately, I have focused on Bowen Family Systems Theory and its applications to congregational life. These learnings have taken place at Columbia Theological Seminary as part of the Leadership in Ministry programs, as well as various events with the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Learning more about who I am and how I function has given me a greater appreciation of how God has knit me together and equipped me to serve.

I love to serve the larger church. Currently I am Co-Chair of the Mision Peniel Team in Peace River, an organization that seeks to serve the farmworker community in Immokalee, FL. I also serve as a Synod Commissioner. I learned early at Covenant, Athens that one of our greatest strengths as Presbyterians is our connectional nature. Whether being supported by the Committee on Preparation through my inquiry and candidacy phases in Northeast Georgia, as a Volunteer in Mission in England or Alaska, or in covenant partnerships throughout the Synod, I have seen the varied ways that God has created us to be in community with God and each other. I have sought these connections throughout my ministry, and am grateful for all of the ways that God has guided my feet as I have run this race.

I am married to the Rev. Dr. Brandi Casto-Waters, who has recently been called to Reid Memorial Presbyterian in Augusta as their next Senior Pastor/Head of Staff. We have two daughters - Ella who is a freshman at Presbyterian College, and Lucy who is a graduating senior and going to Wofford College in the Fall. I am very excited to be back home in Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2022 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

| Pastor/Church | Service Status | Hours per Week | Total Effective Salary | Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b) | Social Security Allowance * | Board of Pensions Dues | Continuing Education | Professional Expenses | Other Vouchered Expenses | Vacation Time | Study Leave | Other Time Off | Notes |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|--|
| ARMOUR Cleveland First | Installed | 40 | 58,157 | | 4,449 | 21,519 | 2,000 | 1,000 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| BAER Athens First | Installed | 45 | 118,545 | | 9,069 | 43,862 | 4,000 | 4,800 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| BAKER Madison | Interim | 40 | 79,500 | | 6,082 | 9,540 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 4 wks | 2 wks | | | |
| BALFOUR Milledgeville | Installed | 40 | 53,742 | | 4,112 | 19,885 | 1,000 | 2,300 | 1,200 | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| BARBER Rabun Gap | Installed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BARNES Oconee | Interim | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BILLINGSLEA Hebron | CRE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| BUCHANAN Friendship | Installed | 40 | 49,266 | | 3,769 | 18,229 | 500 | 1,500 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| CAIN Commerce | Installed | 40 | 47,728 | | 3,651 | 17,420 | 600 | 2,100 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| CASTO-WATERS Reid Memorial | Installed | 40 | 104,327 | | 7,981 | 38,601 | 0 | 7,500 | 0 | 4 wks | 2 wks | 2 wks | |
| CHAMBERS Cornelia First | Installed | 40 | 65,212 | | 4,989 | 24,128 | 0 | 5,000 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| CHILTON Mountain | Interim | 30 | 32,704 | | 2,502 | | | | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | does NOT meet minimum salary standards |

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2022 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

| Pastor/Church | Service Status | Hours per Week | Total Effective Salary | Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b) | Social Security Allowance * | Board of Pensions Dues | Continuing Education | Professional Expenses | Other Vouchered Expenses | Vacation Time | Study Leave | Other Time Off | Notes |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| COOKE Covenant Augusta | Installed | 30 | 54,954 | | 4202 | 5,493 | 1,800 | 3,600 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| CRANE Winder First | Covenant | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| DIMAIO Clayton | CRE | 20 | 31,016 | | 0 | 0 | 350 | 200 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| DOUYLLIEZ Eatonton | Covenant | 20 | 25,920 | | 1,983 | 2,592 | | | | | | | |
| ELLSWORTH-MORAN Reid Memorial | Installed | 40 | 58,271 | | 4,458 | 21,560 | | 5,500 | | 30 days | 2 wks | | |
| EVANS Jefferson | Covenant | 30 | 36,000 | | 2,754 | | 1,800 | 6,046 | 3,400 | | | | |
| FRANKLIN Nacoochee | Interim | 40 | 68,000 | | 5,202 | 6,800 | 2,000 | 1,000 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| GORDON COOKE Covenant Augusta | Installed | 30 | 54,927 | | 4202 | 20,323 | 1,800 | 3,600 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| HENDERSON Clarksville First | Installed | 40 | 73,386 | | 0 | 27,153 | 0 | 10,000 | 2,500 | 4 wks | 2 wks | | opted out of Social Security |
| HORTON Lavonia | Covenant | 30 | 38,744 | | 2,964 | | | 4,000 | | 6 wks | 2 wks | | |
| JACKSON CLARK Greensboro First | Installed | 40 | 58,180 | | 4,820 | 22,913 | 1,350 | 750 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| JOHNSON Sardis | Covenant | | | | | | | | | | | | |

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2022 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

| Pastor/Church | Service Status | Hours per Week | Total Effective Salary | Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b) | Social Security Allowance * | Board of Pensions Dues | Continuing Education | Professional Expenses | Other Vouchered Expenses | Vacation Time | Study Leave | Other Time Off | Notes |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|------------------------------|
| JUNG Athens Korean | Installed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KIM Augusta Korean | Installed | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| KOONTZ Gainesville First | Installed | 40 | 91,789 | | 7,022 | 33,962 | 1,500 | 5,000 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| MOON Westside | Covenant | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| PEPPERS Gainesville First | Installed | 40 | 58,433 | | 4,470 | 21,620 | 1,000 | 4,500 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| PETTIGREW Madison | Installed | 40 | 48,416 | | 0 | 17,672 | 3,000 | 1,000 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | 2 wks | |
| REES Saint Andrew | Installed | 40 | 59,609 | | 0 | 22,055 | 300 | 150 | 3,000 | 4 wks | 2 wks | | opted out of Social Security |
| REES NEGAPBY | Elected | 18 | 28,593 | | 0 | | 650 | 1,400 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | opted out of Social Security |
| SHUFORD NEGAPBY | Installed | 40 | 84,942 | | 6,498 | 31,428 | 1,500 | 5,500 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | 1 wk | |
| STRICKLAND Athens First | Installed | 45 | 82,299 | | 6,296 | 30,451 | 2,400 | 2,400 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| TOPPLE Pleasant Hill | Covenant | 10 | 18,000 | | | | | | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| TURNER Dahlonega | Installed | 20 | 21,990 | | 0 | 13,199 | 400 | 100 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2022 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

| Pastor/Church | Service Status | Hours per Week | Total Effective Salary | Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b) | Social Security Allowance * | Board of Pensions Dues | Continuing Education | Professional Expenses | Other Vouchered Expenses | Vacation Time | Study Leave | Other Time Off | Notes |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------|
| VAN DEVENTER Monticello | Installed | 40 | 70,372 | | 5,383 | 28,077 | 2,000 | 3,000 | 500 | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| WATERS Covenant Athens | Interim | 40 | 81,383 | | 6,226 | 30,111 | 1,000 | 2,000 | | 4 wks | 2 wks | | |
| WILLIAMS Homer | Covenant | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WILLIAMS Bath | Covenant | | | | | | | | | | | | |

**SOCIAL SECURITY ALLOWANCE: In October 2021, presbytery adopted a policy that Terms of Call for all pastors shall include 50% of the pastor's self-employment tax (SECA) unless the pastor has opted out of Social Security. Please note those highlighted have NOT been confirmed to have opted out of Social Security.*



Report of the Nominating Committee

Ruling Elder Joel Burns, Chair

The Nominating Committee met on April 20th via ZOOM. The committee discussed the numerous positions which will need to be filled in the course of the year, but the committee has one action item for the Presbytery in May. The current representative of the Congregational Connections Committee to the Coordinating Team has been unable to continue in that post. In consultation with the Congregational Connections Committee, the Nominating Committee asked Anita York to assume that role and she has agreed to serve if the Presbytery should elect her.

Recommendation: That the Presbytery elect Anita York as the Congregational Connections Committee representative to the Coordinating Team for the remainder of 2022.*

*Recommendation included in the Consent Agenda.



Northeast Georgia Chapter, National Black Presbyterian Caucus

Rev. Otis A. Smith, President

The Black Presbyterian Caucus met on April 7, 2022 via Zoom. They discussed the following questions:

1. Why are the Black Churches in the NEGA Presbytery getting smaller and smaller?
2. Why, if the Presbyterian Church is a teaching church, why are there no Teaching Elders in the local Black Churches?
3. Why, are there no fully qualified Black Presbyterian Pastors in the NEGA Presbytery?

The Zoom meeting was hosted by the Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church of Augusta. There were representatives from Westside, Westminster, Belle Terrace Churches and NEGA Presbytery. Otis A. Smith, President of the caucus, facilitated the meeting.

FINDINGS:

#1. The lack of growth in the Black Presbyterian Church in NEGA is consistent with the lack of growth in the smaller white churches in the NEGA Presbytery. Often the neighborhood surrounding the Black Church changes to a lower socioeconomic group. The new neighbors don't readily embrace the Presbyterian Faith and the Black Presbyterian Church has not made itself relevant to the new neighbors in its "order of worship." Plus, the BLACK Presbyterian Church is not dealing with the hard issues facing the Black Community, such as poverty and racism.

#2. The problem of "No Teaching Elders" is shared by all small churches in the NEGA Presbytery. But is acute in the Black Churches. Each church when it becomes vacant received only the standard help from the committees of Presbytery. It is suggested that the Presbytery could be more intentional by inviting ministers who are seeking to meet the church who are searching.

#3. The lack of having fully qualified Black Presbyterian Pastors is simply the lack of recruitment at all levels of the church. It was suggested that local Black Churches should offer applicants the opportunity to engage in a "Tent Making Ministry"

CONCLUSION:

The Black Presbyterian Churches in the NEGA Presbytery are located in economically challenged communities and people are leaving such communities, their leaving causes the Black Presbyterian church to struggle economically.

NOTICE: The South Region National Black Presbyterian Caucus Conference - will meet July 15-17, 2022 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Jacksonville, FL. We are awaiting further details.

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

Report from the Church Property Commission: April 20, 2022

On March 29, 2022, the Property Commission received a request from the Administrative Commission for Ficklen Church to review its recommendation to sell the church property. Upon review, the Property Commission agrees with the Administrative Commission and by unanimous vote approves the sale of the property, hereby recommending the Presbytery approve the sale.

Ficklen Presbyterian Church is located in Washington, GA. Over the years membership has declined to the point where there is only one remaining member, Mr. Carlton Nunn. Also, the church building is in need of repairs (a new roof and several other items) and there are no funds. Ed Rees, Ford G'Segner (the pastor of record), and Mr. Nunn met and concluded that the best and really only viable option is to sell the property. The Administrative Commission for Ficklen Church agrees.

There is an offer on the table made by Angel Band Christian Ministries, Rev. Glenn Hendley, to purchase the church for twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00). The Administrative Commission believes this is a fair price considering the state of repairs, the location, and the fact that there is essentially no congregation to support and use the building.

Also to consider is that under the Trust Clause of the Constitution, the property will eventually become the responsibility of the Presbytery and therefore a liability requiring adequate property and casualty insurance at the expense of the Presbytery.

For these reasons, the Property Commission approves the sale of the church property.

Peace -

Gordon Fowler, Chair

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Nadine Ellsworth Moran, Chair

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on March 28, 2022 via Zoom. Jonathan Freeman and John McCrosky both met with the committee for their individual final assessment. We are happy to report that both John McCrosky and Jonathan Freeman's final assessments were approved and each was certified ready to receive a call.

The CPM will now have two people remaining under care and a potential new inquirer coming on board in the summer. The Committee encourages all pastors/elders to direct potential inquirers to the CPM as we are ready and eager to journey alongside those seeking ordained ministry.

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET
MARCH 2022**

| | JAN-MAR 2022 | BUDGET | OVER (UNDER) BUDGET | % OF BUDGET |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| INCOME | | | | |
| SHARED MISSION - CURRENT YEAR | 66,702.86 | 242,850 | -176,147.14 | 27.47% |
| PER CAPITA | 37,803.45 | 121,206 | -83,402.55 | 31.19% |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | 105.91 | 1,700 | -1,594.09 | 6.23% |
| TRANSFER FROM UNDESIGNATED RESERVES | | 32,334 | | 0.0% |
| TOTAL INCOME | 104,612.22 | 398,090 | -293,477.78 | 26.28% |
| EXPENSES | | | | |
| BACKYARD MINISTRY | 1,500.00 | 1,500 | 0.00 | 100.0% |
| BILLS & OVERTURES | | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| CAMPUS MINISTRY AT UGA - Annual Support | 4,999.89 | 20,000 | -15,000.11 | 25.0% |
| Campus Ministry - Montreat College Conference | | 2,600 | -2,600.00 | 0.0% |
| CLERGY CARE | | 12,000 | -12,000.00 | 0.0% |
| COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY | 94.50 | 2,050 | -1,955.50 | 4.61% |
| COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY | 375.00 | 8,030 | -7,655.00 | 4.67% |
| COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION | | 100 | -100.00 | 0.0% |
| CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS | 86.00 | 5,000 | -4,914.00 | 1.72% |
| COORDINATING TEAM | 12,026.83 | 29,375 | -17,348.17 | 40.94% |
| GENERAL ASSEMBLY PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT | 14,397.21 | 57,589 | -43,191.79 | 25.0% |
| GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHARED MISSION | 1,625.01 | 6,500 | -4,874.99 | 25.0% |
| GEORGIA LODGE AT MONTREAT | | 100 | -100.00 | 0.0% |
| MISSIONARY - CHERYL BARNES | 500.00 | 2,000 | -1,500.00 | 25.0% |
| PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION | | 1,400 | -1,400.00 | 0.0% |
| NOMINATING COMMITTEE | | 325 | -325.00 | 0.0% |
| PROPERTY COMMISSION | | 100 | -100.00 | 0.0% |
| SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PASTORAL RESPONSE | | 1,000 | -1,000.00 | 0.0% |
| STAFF SALARIES | 57,570.77 | 234,801 | -177,230.23 | 24.52% |
| SYNOD PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT | 2,404.89 | 9,620 | -7,215.11 | 25.0% |
| SYNOD SHARED MISSION | 999.99 | 4,000 | -3,000.01 | 25.0% |
| TOTAL PRESBYTERY EXPENSES | 96,580.09 | 398,090 | -301,509.91 | 24.26% |
| BALANCE | 8,032.13 | 0 | 8,032.13 | |

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
CLERGY CARE
March 2022

| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Budget | Over (Under) Budget | % of Budget |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Pby Support, \$500 per participant | | 10,000 | (10,000.00) | 0.0% |
| Scholarships - cohort participants | | 1,500 | (1,500.00) | 0.0% |
| Supplies & miscellaneous | | 500 | (500.00) | 0.0% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 0.00 | 12,000 | (12,000.00) | 0.0% |

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
Mar 2022

| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Budget | Over (Under) Budget | % of Budget |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Background Checks | 94.50 | 300 | (205.50) | 31.5% |
| Committee Meeting Expense | | 1,550 | (1,550.00) | 0.0% |
| A/C & Other Expense | | 200 | (200.00) | 0.0% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 94.50 | 2,050 | (1,955.50) | 4.61% |

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
Mar 2022

| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Budget | Over (Under) Budget | % of Budget |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Aid to Candidates | 375.00 | 6,000 | (5,625.00) | 6.25% |
| Career Assessment | | 1,280 | (1,280.00) | 0.00% |
| Committee Meeting Expense | | 750 | (750.00) | 0.00% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 375.00 | 8,030 | (7,655.00) | 4.67% |

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 2022

| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Budget | Over (Under) Budget | % of Budget |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Technology/Training | 86.00 | 2,000 | (1,914.00) | 4.30% |
| Triennium | | 3,000 | (3,000.00) | 0.00% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 86.00 | 5,000 | (4,914.00) | 1.72% |

Northeast Georgia Presbytery
Coordinating Team
March 2022

| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Budget | Over/(Under) Budget | % of Budget |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Banking Expenses | | 100 | -100.00 | 0.00% |
| Committee Meeting Expenses | | 1,200 | -1,200.00 | 0.00% |
| Copier Support | 139.48 | 625 | -485.52 | 22.32% |
| Financial Review (CPA) | 6,390.00 | 7,000 | -610.00 | 91.29% |
| GA/Synod Commissioners' Expense | 38.85 | 1,200 | -1,161.15 | 3.24% |
| GP Discretionary Fund | | 1,000 | -1,000.00 | 0.00% |
| Insurance | 1,782.50 | 3,400 | -1,617.50 | 52.43% |
| IT Support/Software | 771.86 | 4,200 | -3,428.14 | 18.38% |
| Miscellaneous | 30.00 | 500 | -470.00 | 6.00% |
| Moderator Expenses | | 1,000 | -1,000.00 | 0.00% |
| Office Equipment | 959.09 | 2,500 | -1,540.91 | 38.36% |
| Office Supplies | 296.74 | 1,000 | -703.26 | 29.67% |
| Postage | 128.00 | 275 | -147.00 | 46.55% |
| Presbytery Meeting Expenses | 200.00 | 1,000 | -800.00 | 20.00% |
| Recording Clerk Stipend | | 900 | -900.00 | 0.00% |
| Recording Clerk Expense | | 300 | -300.00 | 0.00% |
| Telephone | 393.31 | 2,050 | -1,656.69 | 19.19% |
| Workers' Compensation Insurance | 897.00 | 1,125 | -228.00 | 79.73% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 12,026.83 | 29,375 | -17,348.17 | 40.94% |

Staff Salaries

| | Jan-Mar 2022 | Budget | Over/(Under) Budget | % of Budget |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Medicare-Employer Portion | 159.67 | 615 | -455.33 | 25.96% |
| Social Security-Employer Portion | 682.71 | 2,617 | -1,934.29 | 26.09% |
| Stated Clerk | | | | |
| Travel/Professional Expenses | 92.11 | 1,400 | -1,307.89 | 6.58% |
| Continuing Education | | 650 | -650.00 | 0.0% |
| Salary | 7,148.28 | 28,593 | -21,444.72 | 25.0% |
| Total Stated Clerk | 7,240.39 | 30,643 | -23,402.61 | 23.63% |
| General Presbyter | | | | |
| Travel/Professional Expenses | 636.27 | 5,500 | -4,863.73 | 11.57% |
| Pension, Health, D&D | 8,272.17 | 33,089 | -24,816.83 | 25.0% |
| Continuing Education | | 1,500 | -1,500.00 | 0.0% |
| Social Security & Medicare | 1,712.28 | 6,849 | -5,136.72 | 25.0% |
| Salary | 14,857.26 | 59,429 | -44,571.74 | 25.0% |
| Housing Allowance | 7,500.00 | 30,000 | -22,500.00 | 25.0% |
| Total General Presbyter | 32,977.98 | 136,367 | -103,389.02 | 24.18% |
| Business Administrator | | | | |
| Travel/Professional Expenses | 238.96 | 1,875 | -1,636.04 | 12.75% |
| Continuing Education | 100.00 | 1,000 | -900.00 | 10.0% |
| Pension, Health, D&D | 3,447.06 | 13,788 | -10,340.94 | 25.0% |
| Matching Contribution to RSP | 1,000.00 | 1,000 | 0.00 | 100.0% |
| Gross Wages | 11,724.00 | 46,896 | -35,172.00 | 25.0% |
| Total Business Administrator | 16,510.02 | 64,559 | -48,048.98 | 25.57% |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 57,570.77 | 234,801 | -177,230.23 | 24.52% |

Northeast Georgia Presbytery

Balance Sheet

As of March 31, 2022

ASSETS

Current Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Cash-Synovus Checking | 167,816.58 |
| First American Money Market Checking | 250,385.63 |
| New Covenant Balanced Income Fund | 132,093.93 |
| Notes Receivable - Short Term (GDMS) | <u>1,129.34</u> |

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Current Assets | 551,425.48 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|

Fixed Assets

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Land (1250 Lumpkin St.) | 71,492.66 |
| Student Center Building | 191,199.41 |
| Computer Equipment | 9,440.76 |
| Other Fixed Assets | 3,868.61 |
| Accumulated Depreciation | <u>-68,228.99</u> |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Fixed Assets | 207,772.45 |
|---------------------------|-------------------|

Other Assets

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Notes Receivable - Long Term (GDMS) | <u>5,838.79</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Total Other Assets | |
|---------------------------|---------|

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| TOTAL ASSETS | <u><u>765,036.72</u></u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Credit Cards | 259.61 |
| Payroll Liabilities | <u>922.50</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Liabilities | 1,182.11 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|

Equity

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Assistance Superfund | 20,827.69 |
| Beth Duncan Fund (PW) | 43,253.75 |
| Clergy Care Fund | 21,752.29 |
| Connectional Events Superfund | 14,612.52 ¹ |
| Georgia Domestic Missionary Society Fund | 89,095.86 |
| GP Continuing Ed Carryover | 4,931.50 |
| Justice & Peacemaking Fund | 5,307.85 |
| Overnight Retreat (May 2022) | 600.00 |
| Property Protection & Defense Fund | <u>83,565.38</u> |

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | 283,946.84 |
|--|-------------------|

Unrestricted Net Assets

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Undesignated Reserves | 207,192.85 ² |
| Other Unrestricted Net Assets | <u>271,932.21</u> |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Total Unrestricted Net Assets | 479,125.06 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Net Ordinary Income | 8,032.13 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Unrealized Gains/Losses | <u>-7,249.42</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Total Equity | <u>763,854.61</u> |
|---------------------|--------------------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | <u><u>765,036.72</u></u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

¹ \$4,000 earmarked for transportation costs for Triennium 2022 (which has been cancelled)

² up to \$30,000 earmarked for Overnight Retreat (May 2022)

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
CHURCH GIVING
MARCH 2022

| CHURCH | MEMBERS 12/31/2020 | SHARED MISSION COMMITMENT | SHARED MISSION RECEIPTS | REMAINING BALANCE | GENERAL ASSEMBLY BENEVOLENCES | PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT | PER CAPITA RECEIPTS | REMAINING BALANCE | TOTAL RECEIPTS |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| ATHENS FIRST | 962 | 73,000.00 | 18,250.00 | \$ 54,750.00 | | \$ 18,181.80 | \$ 4,475.00 | \$ 13,706.80 | \$ 22,725.00 |
| ATHENS KOREAN | 80 | | | \$ - | | 1,512.00 | | \$ 1,512.00 | \$ - |
| AUGUSTA KOREAN | 60 | | | \$ - | | 1,134.00 | 1,100.00 | \$ 34.00 | \$ 1,100.00 |
| BATH | 44 | | | \$ - | 859.00 | 831.60 | 831.60 | \$ - | \$ 1,690.60 |
| BELLE TERRACE | 94 | 800.00 | 800.40 | \$ (0.40) | | 1,776.60 | 1,776.60 | \$ - | \$ 2,577.00 |
| CALVARY | 24 | 1,750.00 | 412.50 | \$ 1,337.50 | | 453.60 | 453.60 | \$ - | \$ 866.10 |
| CARNESVILLE | 9 | | | \$ - | | 170.10 | | \$ 170.10 | \$ - |
| CHRIST | 30 | 1,350.00 | 337.50 | \$ 1,012.50 | | 567.00 | 141.75 | \$ 425.25 | \$ 479.25 |
| CLARKESVILLE FIRST | 126 | | | \$ - | | 2,381.40 | 1,190.70 | \$ 1,190.70 | \$ 1,190.70 |
| CLAYTON | 43 | 500.00 | | \$ 500.00 | | 812.70 | | \$ 812.70 | \$ - |
| CLEVELAND FIRST | 94 | 1,776.00 | 444.15 | \$ 1,331.85 | | 1,776.60 | 444.15 | \$ 1,332.45 | \$ 888.30 |
| CLIFFORD MEMORIAL | 40 | | | \$ - | | 756.00 | | \$ 756.00 | \$ - |
| COMMERCE | 65 | 1,100.00 | 275.00 | \$ 825.00 | | 1,228.50 | 307.25 | \$ 921.25 | \$ 582.25 |
| CORNELIA FIRST | 145 | 0.00 | | \$ - | | 2,740.50 | | \$ 2,740.50 | \$ - |
| COVENANT, ATHENS | 341 | 38,000.00 | 10,750.01 | \$ 27,249.99 | 475.00 | 6,444.90 | 1,419.90 | \$ 5,025.00 | \$ 12,644.91 |
| COVENANT, AUGUSTA | 252 | 15,000.00 | 2,500.00 | \$ 12,500.00 | 829.00 | 4,762.80 | 793.80 | \$ 3,969.00 | \$ 4,122.80 |
| DAHLONEGA | 33 | | | \$ - | | 623.70 | | \$ 623.70 | \$ - |
| EATONTON | 47 | 0.00 | | \$ - | 823.00 | 888.30 | 888.30 | \$ - | \$ 1,711.30 |
| ELBERTON FIRST | 11 | 600.00 | 150.00 | \$ 450.00 | 95.00 | 207.90 | 207.90 | \$ - | \$ 452.90 |
| FICKLEN | 2 | | | \$ - | | 37.80 | | \$ 37.80 | \$ - |
| FRIENDSHIP | 82 | 1,800.00 | 450.00 | \$ 1,350.00 | | 1,549.80 | 4,869.92 | \$ (3,320.12) | \$ 5,319.92 |
| GAINESVILLE FIRST | 773 | 21,112.00 | 7,130.12 | \$ 13,981.88 | | 14,609.70 | | \$ 14,609.70 | \$ 7,130.12 |
| GREENSBORO FIRST | 54 | 1,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | | 1,020.60 | | \$ 1,020.60 | \$ - |
| HARTWELL FIRST | 36 | | | \$ - | | 680.40 | 472.50 | \$ 207.90 | \$ 472.50 |
| HEBRON | 17 | | | \$ - | | 321.30 | | \$ 321.30 | \$ - |
| HELEN | 40 | 500.00 | 500.00 | \$ - | | 756.00 | 756.00 | \$ - | \$ 1,256.00 |
| HOMER | 32 | 529.20 | 529.20 | \$ - | | 604.80 | | \$ 604.80 | \$ 529.20 |
| HOPEWELL | 13 | | | \$ - | | 245.70 | | \$ 245.70 | \$ - |
| JEFFERSON | 46 | 0.00 | | \$ - | | 869.40 | | \$ 869.40 | \$ - |
| LAVONIA | 16 | 400.00 | | \$ 400.00 | | 302.40 | | \$ 302.40 | \$ - |
| MADISON | 350 | 3,000.00 | | \$ 3,000.00 | | 6,615.00 | | \$ 6,615.00 | \$ - |
| MILLEDGEVILLE FIRST | 143 | 4,000.00 | 994.30 | \$ 3,005.70 | 405.00 | 2,702.70 | 2,702.70 | \$ - | \$ 4,102.00 |
| MONTICELLO | 218 | 15,000.00 | 3,750.00 | \$ 11,250.00 | | 4,120.20 | 4,120.20 | \$ - | \$ 7,870.20 |
| MOUNT HERMON | 62 | | 1,327.20 | \$ (1,327.20) | 285.00 | 1,171.80 | 1,171.80 | \$ - | \$ 2,784.00 |
| MOUNTAIN | 45 | 1,200.00 | 1,200.00 | \$ - | 1,393.00 | 850.50 | 850.50 | \$ - | \$ 3,443.50 |

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
CHURCH GIVING
MARCH 2022

| CHURCH | MEMBERS 12/31/2020 | SHARED MISSION COMMITMENT | SHARED MISSION RECEIPTS | REMAINING BALANCE | GENERAL ASSEMBLY BENEVOLENCES | PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT | PER CAPITA RECEIPTS | REMAINING BALANCE | TOTAL RECEIPTS |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| NACOOCHEE | 271 | 17,000.00 | 2,834.00 | \$ 14,166.00 | | 5,121.90 | 853.66 | \$ 4,268.24 | \$ 3,687.66 |
| NEW HOPE | 20 | | | \$ - | | 378.00 | | \$ 378.00 | \$ - |
| OCONEE | 262 | 2,200.00 | 550.00 | \$ 1,650.00 | | 4,951.80 | 1,240.00 | \$ 3,711.80 | \$ 1,790.00 |
| PLEASANT HILL | 30 | 1,000.00 | | \$ 1,000.00 | | 567.00 | | \$ 567.00 | \$ - |
| RABUN GAP | 206 | | | \$ - | | 3,893.40 | 1,751.00 | \$ 2,142.40 | \$ 1,751.00 |
| REID MEMORIAL | 721 | 47,779.00 | 11,968.51 | \$ 35,810.49 | 999.99 | 13,626.90 | 3,406.49 | \$ 10,220.41 | \$ 16,374.99 |
| SAINT ANDREW | 118 | 2,000.00 | 499.97 | \$ 1,500.03 | | 2,230.20 | 557.53 | \$ 1,672.67 | \$ 1,057.50 |
| SARDIS | 102 | 300.00 | | \$ 300.00 | | 1,927.80 | | \$ 1,927.80 | \$ - |
| TIMPSON | 22 | | | \$ - | | 415.80 | | \$ 415.80 | \$ - |
| TRINITY | 28 | 0.00 | | \$ - | | 529.20 | 529.20 | \$ - | \$ 529.20 |
| UNION POINT FIRST | 26 | 3,000.00 | 750.00 | \$ 2,250.00 | 175.00 | 491.40 | 491.40 | \$ - | \$ 1,416.40 |
| WESTMINSTER | 42 | 1,000.00 | 300.00 | \$ 700.00 | | 793.80 | | \$ 793.80 | \$ 300.00 |
| WESTSIDE | 45 | | | \$ - | | 850.50 | | \$ 850.50 | \$ - |
| WILEY | 36 | | | \$ - | | 680.40 | | \$ 680.40 | \$ - |
| WINDER FIRST | 55 | | | \$ - | | 1,039.50 | | \$ 1,039.50 | \$ - |
| TOTAL: | 6,413 | 256,696.20 | \$ 66,702.86 | \$ 189,993.34 | \$ 6,338.99 | \$ 121,205.70 | \$ 37,803.45 | \$ 83,402.25 | \$ 110,845.30 |

General Presbyter Report
Rev. Hilary Shuford

With great gratitude, I thank you Northeast Georgia Presbytery for granting me a 3-month Sabbatical, beginning June 1. I will be away June, July, and August, returning September 1. I reported to 'The Coordinating Team' (CT) how the work of the General Presbyter (GP) will be cared for during this time.

The CT is recommending to Presbytery that it appoint Stated Clerk Ed Rees as the Acting General Presbyter from June 1 until September 1.

Ed and I have been working together diligently since the February Presbytery meeting to ensure he's up to speed with the ongoing work of the GP. Ed will be answering questions and resourcing the CT, the Presbytery's committees and teams, as well as resourcing sessions and pastor nominating committees of congregations as needed. Ed will make connections and referrals as requested and will be offering pastoral care to pastors and to congregations in crisis. Ed will be responsible for all executive reference checks as pastor candidates are considered for membership in the Presbytery. Because Ed serves as pastor at St. Andrew in Augusta, he will not be available to visit congregations on Sunday mornings. Ed will maintain our connection with other presbyteries and with the Synod of South Atlantic. Ed, with the assistance of Andy Cooke, will support the work of our commissioners and delegate to the 225th General Assembly during the assembly and through their reporting to the Presbytery in August.

I have absolute confidence in the abilities, guidance, and wisdom of Ed Rees as Acting General Presbyter. Also I am confident in the elected leaders of Presbytery, Sylvia McDonald, Mari Turner, Frank Colladay, and all the chairs of the various committees. And I have no question in that Anita Green, the Business Administrator, and Treasurer Andy Cooke will continue their work in a highly competent and professional manner. I thank God for blessing us with such fine and capable leaders in this Presbytery.

My Sabbatical plans are to take 3 separate trips. In June I will travel to Scotland for 2 1/2 weeks, including a wildlife week at the Iona Abbey to "learn about the ecosystem using nature to understand ourselves and our world." In July I will spend 2 weeks in Nova Scotia, including a week at a hermitage on a lake in quiet reflection with God in God's creation. In August I hope to travel to California to spend a week at a retreat in Marin County and visit my sister who I haven't seen since before the pandemic. If that trip doesn't work out, in the alternative, I will spend a week at the John C. Campbell Folk School in North Carolina. In between those travels I will spend time in the mountains and along the coast with my family.

My stated intention for Sabbatical is to observe an extended Sabbath, to rest with God, to be renewed and refreshed in continued growth in my relationship with God, the Creator, God, the Redeemer, and God, the Sustainer, and to be open to God for re-creation in God's creation. Know that I will miss you and that I will be praying for God to bless you.

Presbyterian Women Northeast Georgia Presbytery

Elaine Wiegert, Moderator

It is my pleasure to report that Presbyterian Women of Northeast Georgia held its 34th Annual Gathering, in person, masks optional, at Monticello Presbyterian Church on March 19, 2022. The ladies from Monticello welcomed PW from across our Presbytery. It was indeed a pleasure to worship and fellowship with both old friends and new. For me personally, the Gathering was an opportunity to connect faces with e-mail addresses, because this was our first in-person only Gathering since 2019 when I became Moderator. At the Gathering, it was our pleasure to welcome Rev. Burnetta Armour, First Presbyterian Church Cleveland, who led the worship service, our General Presbyter, Hilary Shuford, who installed the PW NEGA officers for 2022-2023, as well as representatives from Presbyterian Homes, the Presbyterian Student Center at UGA, and Thornwell. The Presbyterian Student Center was the beneficiary of the offering from the worship service. An offering for Presbyterian Hunger Program's Centsability was collected at lunch.

Daily Lenten Devotionals, authored by Rev. Jo Nygard Owens were distributed to all PW on our e-mail distribution list. The devotionals, *Return to Me*, were well received.

Planning for the PW NEGA spiritual retreat continues. The retreat will be held at the Presbyterian Village in Athens. Rev. Nadine Ellsworth-Moran, Reid Memorial Presbyterian, will lead us in spiritual renewal.

The 35th Annual Gathering of PW NEGA is planned for First Presbyterian Church Athens. The Presbyterian Women at First Athens and Covenant Athens will co-host the event.

Information and registration materials for the 12th Triennial Gathering of Presbyterian Women Synod of South Atlantic, PW in PC(USA), Inc, October 21-23, 2022, at Epworth by the Sea have been distributed. The theme of the gathering is *Plug In and Recharge*. Rev. Cecelia (CeCe) Armstrong, formerly a Deacon and Elder at Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church and currently Associate Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church on James Island, Charleston, SC, will be provide the Keynote Address. Rev. Dr. Carol M. Bechtel, author of the 2022-2023 Horizons Bible Study and currently Professor of Old Testament at Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan, will be the Bible Study Leader. More information about the Gathering can be found on the PW NEGA Facebook page. The PW NEGA voted to offer scholarships to women who attend the conference. Details regarding the scholarships will be forthcoming.

Through challenging times Presbyterian Women in NEGA continued to stay connected using teleconference, Zoom, Livestreaming, and electronic newsletters. We will continue to use these tools as appropriate in the future.



Stated Clerk's Report
Rev. Ed Rees

As we gather together in person (at last!) we need to address the means by which we conducted our business during the previous two years. Of necessity, we pivoted to online meetings, and were able to carry out the work of the Presbytery, albeit in a new and challenging way. However, to ensure that things are carried out “decently and in order,” we need to bring our operating policies in line with our actual practice so there are no discrepancies. Accordingly, our Presbytery needs to update our policies to include provisions for electronic meetings.

Motion #1: To adopt the following policy for electronic meetings.

Electronic Meeting Policy

At the sole determination of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, Presbytery meetings may be conducted via electronic means, using Zoom technology or its equivalent. In such cases, the following special rules will apply:

1. Participants may join the meeting using a desktop or laptop computer, or other device such as a tablet or smart phone. **One device may be utilized by one person only.**
2. Upon entering the meeting, participants will identify themselves by name and by the basis for their participation (if commissioner, by church name; if committee chair or presbytery officer, so indicate; guests should also be clearly identified). All microphones are to be muted unless the participant is addressing the body.
3. Participants who wish to ask questions or address the body must use the “raise hand” feature in order to be recognized by the Moderator.
4. Should a division of the body be required, voting will be conducted by means of the “poll” feature of Zoom, which will be carried out by the host as approved by the Moderator. **Only participants registered as voting members of Presbytery will be allowed to vote.** The vote results will be announced by the Moderator. Other voting methods may be adopted by the Coordinating Team as technological capabilities change or as circumstances require.
5. All other standing rules for Presbytery meetings (necessity of a quorum, rules regarding time limits for speaking, etc.) will remain in effect for electronic meetings.
6. This policy shall also be applicable for the meetings of any committees or teams that carry out the work of the Presbytery.

Secondly, in conjunction with this, we need to ratify the actions of the Presbytery meetings that were conducted using electronic means: 106th, 8/2020; 107th, 10/2020; 108th, 2/2021; 109th, 5/2021; 110th, 8/2021; 111th, 10/2021; 112th, 2/2022. The minutes of those meetings have already been reviewed and approved, but this action will formally approve the decisions made at those meetings.

Motion #2: To ratify the actions of prior Presbytery meetings conducted electronically.

As you know, according to our Reformed understanding of church polity, we are governed by a combination of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders. Neither of these “outrank” the other; rather, they have separate tasks but are colleagues together in leading the church. In light of this understanding, it is our practice to ensure that an equal number of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders are participants in our Presbytery meetings. Each church is allocated a certain number of Ruling Elder commissioners, based on membership; this allocation is updated each year based on membership data submitted by the churches, and is designated as the Parity Report.

Motion #3: To adopt the Parity Report for 2022-2023 as presented.

As a final word, let me remind all Clerks of Session that our time of annual Session record reviews is approaching; you will be advised on how to proceed with the examination and certification of your records.

Proposed Allocation of Ruling Elder Commissioners

August, 2022 – May, 2023

Voting Commissioners at meetings of Northeast Georgia Presbytery include all Minister Members plus:

1. Ruling Elders serving the Presbytery in official capacities (Chairs of Ministry Teams or Commissions, and Presbytery Officers), and
2. Ruling Elders elected by their sessions to serve as Commissioners.

The latest statistics available from the PC(USA) show a total of **126 Minister Members** in Northeast Georgia as of December 31, 2021. Therefore, in order to achieve parity between Minister Members and Ruling Elder Commissioners, the total number of Ruling Elder Commissioners must be at least **126**. There are currently 8 Ruling Elders serving in the categories identified in (1) above. Therefore the number of **Ruling Elder Commissioners representing congregations must be at least 118**.

The chart on the following page shows the number of Ruling Elder Commissioners (REC) to be elected by each congregation, based on the following criteria:

1. Every congregation is entitled to at least **one REC** (shown as the “Base”).
2. In keeping with the policies and historic practices of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, each predominantly racial/ethnic congregation is allocated **one additional REC**.
3. To assure proportional representation of all members, additional RECs are allocated to larger congregations in numbers based on the congregation’s membership. The chart displays congregations in order of size, with the largest receiving the most additional RECs:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 500 members or more: | 5 additional RECs |
| 250-499 members: | 4 |
| 125-249 members: | 3 |
| 100-124 members : | 2 |
| 50-99 members: | 1 |

This brings the total number of Ruling Elder Commissioners (including those serving in official capacities) to **126**.

If this report is approved by the Presbytery, the chart on the following page will be in effect through the Spring (May) meeting in 2023, when an updated proposal will be presented.

Rev. Ed Rees
Stated Clerk

| Church Name | 2021 Membership | Threshold | Base | Racial/Ethnic | Membership Adj. | TOTAL |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|------|---------------|-----------------|-------|
| Athens First | 949 | | 1 | | 5 | 6 |
| Gainesville First | 760 | | 1 | | 5 | 6 |
| Reid Memorial | 715 | 500 | 1 | | 5 | 6 |
| Madison | 349 | | 1 | | 4 | 5 |
| Covenant Athens | 330 | | 1 | | 4 | 5 |
| Nacoochee | 254 | 250 | 1 | | 4 | 5 |
| Oconee | 244 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| Monticello | 219 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| Covenant Augusta | 205 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| Rabun Gap | 205 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| Cornelia First | 145 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| Milledgeville First | 138 | | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| Clarkeville First | 126 | 125 | 1 | | 3 | 4 |
| St Andrew | 118 | | 1 | | 2 | 3 |
| Sardis | 102 | 100 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Belle Terrace | 96 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Cleveland First | 95 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Friendship | 81 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Athens Korean | 80 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Commerce | 64 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Mt Hermon | 62 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Augusta Korean | 60 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Greensboro First | 55 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Winder First | 55 | 50 | 1 | | 1 | 2 |
| Jefferson | 47 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Westside | 45 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Eatonton | 43 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Clayton | 42 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Clifford Memorial | 40 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Helen | 40 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Mountain | 39 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Westminster | 38 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Hartwell First | 36 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Wiley | 36 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Dahlonega | 33 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Bath | 31 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Pleasant Hill | 30 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Homer | 29 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Trinity | 28 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Union Point First | 26 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Christ | 25 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 |
| Calvary | 23 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Timpson | 21 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| New Hope | 20 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hebron | 17 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Lavonia | 16 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Hopewell | 13 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Elberton First | 10 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Carnesville | 9 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Ficklen | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 |
| Totals | 6246 | | 50 | 7 | 61 | 118 |

Report of the Coordinating Team

Frank Colladay, Chair

The Coordinating Team (CT) met on April 19, 2022 via Zoom. They took the following actions and are making the following recommendations to presbytery:

For Information:

1. Conducted a brainstorm session on ideas to better involved youth in Presbytery
2. Heard an update from the Overnight Retreat Planning Task Force
3. Heard reports from the Personnel Action Team and the Budget/Finance Initiative Team
4. Viewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Coordinating Team's mission, roles, and responsibilities presented by Ed Rees, Hilary Shuford, Andy Cooke, and Anita Green.
5. Heard a report from the Stated Clerk that included a proposed docket for the May Presbytery Meeting, a recommended template for handbook reports, updates on work of the Church Property Commission, and plans for a recommendation to Presbytery regarding a policy for electronic meetings
6. Received a financial report from the Treasurer
7. Heard a report from the task force planning the May overnight retreat
8. Heard updates from Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Congregational Connections Committee, Clergy Care Committee, Black Presbyterian Caucus, Presbyterian Women, and Presbyterian Campus Ministry
9. Heard a report from the General Presbyter

Actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the January 25, 2022 meeting
2. Approved a written procedure to be used to conduct an internal audit of financial records every three years, per Presbytery policy. (This is in addition to the annual financial review conducted by a CPA.) The internal audit will be conducted between May and August of this year.
3. Appointed John Wilson (Ruling elder, Athens First and B/FIT chair), Sally Lockwood-Mitchell (Ruling elder, Monticello and B/FIT member), and Mike Williams (Clergy, and CT member) to conduct this year's internal audit
4. Approved a written procedure for the 2023 budgeting process.

Recommendation:

1. That Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk, be appointed as Acting General Presbyter during the three months that Rev. Hilary Shuford is on sabbatical, and that he be compensated an additional \$1,500 during that time.



Ficklen Church Administrative Commission

Rev. Ed Rees, Chair

On April 7, 2019, at a stated meeting of the Session of Ficklen Presbyterian Church, the Session voted unanimously to request that Northeast Georgia Presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission to assist in the process of dissolving the congregation and in determining the best use of its property. The congregation had dwindled to three members, and it was considered doubtful that a viable PCUSA presence could be maintained in this setting.

Accordingly, at the stated meeting of Presbytery held on May 14, 2019, an Administrative Commission was named with the following members: Rev. Ford G'Segner (Moderator of Ficklen Church); Elder Michael Searles; Elder Joyce Heffner; Rev. Decatur Rodgers, and Rev. Ed Rees. At a meeting of the Commission held on 12/9/2019, Rev. Ed Rees was elected as Chair and Joyce Heffner was elected as Secretary.

The Ficklen church was established in the late 1920's, in the aftermath of a tornado that literally blew the town of Ficklen off the map. A small general store was the only building left standing, and the owner donated the property to the Presbyterian Church in the hope that it might become a source of revitalization for the town. Over the years a number of pastors and stated supply preachers filled the pulpit at Ficklen, but the community remained essentially rural, and the hoped-for renewal of the area did not materialize.

Since the Commission was formed, membership at Ficklen declined to one, with Carlton Nunn, Clerk of Session, as the sole remaining member. The Commission met with Mr. Nunn to ascertain his wishes and concerns for the church, and a consensus was reached to look for a buyer for the property.

On March 11, 2022, a local pastor, Glenn Hendley, with Angel Band Christian Ministries, Inc., made an offer of \$25,000.00 for the Ficklen church property. A comparative review of similar properties in Wilkes County indicated that this would be a fair offer, and the Commission voted unanimously to accept this offer. Accordingly, and giving thanks to God for the many years of faithful service and Christian witness of the members of the Ficklen Presbyterian Church, the Commission makes the following recommendations:

- 1. That the congregation of the Ficklen Presbyterian Church be dissolved, in accordance with G.4.0205;**
- 2. That the Ficklen church property be sold to Angel Band Ministries, Inc., for \$25,000.00;**
- 3. That the proceeds of the sale be first utilized to reimburse unpaid per capita (\$151.08), and that the remainder be directed for purposes such as providing program assistance to smaller congregations, or supporting the work of creating new worshiping communities;**
- 4. That the Commission be dismissed upon completion of final administrative tasks related to the dissolution of the Ficklen Church, including the gathering of church records and consultation with Mr. Nunn regarding the disposition of other items of interest, as well as any procedural steps to accomplish the final sale and transfer of property.**



Carnesville Church Administrative Commission

Rev. Teresa Franklin, Chair

At the stated meeting of Presbytery held on February 23, 2019, the Stated Clerk recommended, with the concurrence of the Coordinating Team, that Presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission to discern future possibilities for Carnesville Presbyterian Church and Hopewell Presbyterian Church (located in Carnesville), with authority to oversee the closing of one or both of these congregations if that was found to be the only viable option. An Administrative Commission was named with the following members: Rev. Monty Nelson (Moderator of Carnesville Church); Rev. Alex Stevens; Rev. Teresa Franklin; Elder John Gregg, and Elder Donna Greene.

The Commission makes the following recommendation:

1. That the Carnesville Presbyterian Church be dissolved by an action of Presbytery.

There has been no congregation meeting at the Carnesville property for close to four years. A recommendation to Presbytery regarding disposition of the physical property of the Carnesville Presbyterian Church will be made at a later date.



**POLICY REGARDING
TIME LIMIT FOR PERSONS SPEAKING (Debate) AT PRESBYTERY MEETINGS**

(Approved by Presbytery October 23, 2007)

(Note: Presbytery can set aside such a rule when it deems necessary.)

When speaking at a Presbytery meeting:

1. Individuals are limited to speaking once and for no more than three minutes during discussion of a matter.
2. A bell may be used to signal when the speaker is near and at the end of his/her time.
3. Moderator alternates between “pro” and “con”.
4. No one may speak more than once until every person who wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so.
5. Presbytery may set a maximum time for debating an issue.

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE

Ministers:

| | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------|---------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Burnetta | Armour | Cleveland First | Lee | Koontz | Gainesville First |
| Don | Barber | Rabun Gap | Melvin | Lowry | Honorably Retired |
| Tom | Buchanan | Friendship | Monty | Nelson | Honorably Retired |
| Andy | Casto-Waters | Member at Large | Will | Norman | Presbyterian Student Ctr |
| Brandi | Casto-Waters | Reid Memorial | Shon | Peppers | Gainesville First |
| Andy | Chambers | Cornelia First | Bob | Prim | Honorably Retired |
| Frank | Colladay | Honorably Retired | Joy | Pruett | Member at Large |
| Andy | Cooke | Covenant Augusta | Ed | Rees | Stated Clerk |
| Charles | Crane | Winder First | Hilary | Shuford | General Presbyter |
| Karla | Conditt Daniels | Covenant Augusta | Alex | Stevens | Honorably Retired |
| Jacob | Douylliez | Eatonton | Joan | Stevens | Member at Large |
| Paul | Evans | Jefferson | Carol | Strickland | Honorably Retired |
| Teresa | Franklin | Mount Hermon | Craig | Topple | Pleasant Hill |
| Katelyn | Gordon Cooke | Covenant Augusta | Souvanh | Touralack | The Backyard Ministry |
| Matt | Henderson | Clarksville First | Mari | Turner | Dahlonga |
| Margaret | Jackson Clark | Greensboro First | Jon | Van Deventer | Monticello |
| Sue | Jacobson | Member at Large | Dana | Waters | Covenant Athens |
| Heather | Koontz | Member at Large | Mike | Williams | Bath |

Ruling Elder Commissioners:

| | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|
| Karen | Burg | Athens First | Linda | Spencer | Gainesville First |
| Robyn | McDonald | Athens First | Barbara | Allen | Greensboro First |
| Jan | Lewis | Belle Terrace | Verley | Dotson | Greensboro First |
| Claudia | Jessup | Clarksville First | Kathy | Marquess | Jefferson |
| Darrin | Johnston | Clarksville First | Donna | Holman | Monticello |
| David | Baughman | Clayton | Miriam | Jordan | Monticello |
| Jean | Kelly | Cleveland First | Edith | Brown | Mount Hermon |
| Bruce | Morgan | Cleveland First | Phyllis | McCannon | Mount Hermon |
| Melody | Thomason | Cleveland First | Marilyn | Peters | Mountain |
| Katy | Arora | Covenant Athens | John | Sackett | Mountain |
| Kay | Brooks | Covenant Athens | Gwen | Aumann | Nacoochee |
| Jennifer | Frey | Covenant Athens | Karen | Brown | Nacoochee |
| Valerie | Stone | Covenant Athens | Ashley | Brown-Lemley | Nacoochee |
| Brock | Daniels | Covenant Augusta | Cheryl | Vandiver | Nacoochee |
| Judy | Grieve | Covenant Augusta | Marisue | Hilliard | Oconee |
| Susan | Reese | Dahlonga | Becky | Galvin | Oconee |
| Sallie | Floyd | Eatonton | Sally | Ross | Oconee |
| Lori | McBride | Gainesville First | Anita | York | Oconee |
| Kevin | Price | Gainesville First | Edward | Luke | Pleasant Hill |
| Karen | Schaap | Gainesville First | Cindy | Lesniewski | Saint Andrew |
| Jack | Spencer | Gainesville First | Pamela | Powell | Winder First |

Other Ruling Elders with Vote:

| | | | | | |
|--------|-------|------------------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| Gloria | Burns | Certified Christian Ed | Fred | DiMaio | Clayton |
| Joel | Burns | Nominating Committee | Sylvia | McDonald | Moderator |

Visitors:

| | | | | | |
|---------|-----------|---------------------|---------|----------|-----------------|
| Joel | Alvis | Cherokee Presbytery | Faye | Lowry | Saint Andrew |
| Susan | Biddy | Gainesville First | Nancy | Luke | Pleasant Hill |
| Charlie | Cooke | Covenant Augusta | Harry | Shuford | Athens First |
| Dea | Devereaux | Dahlonga | Austin | Stephens | Oconee |
| Marc | Galvin | Oconee | Kira | Waters | Covenant Athens |
| Kailey | Gray | Oconee | Linda | Williams | Bath |
| Anita | Green | Presbytery Staff | Krystle | Hillery | Thornwell Home |