

Called Meeting
 Northeast Georgia Presbytery
 Minutes of Meeting
 March 25, 2023

Meeting held via Zoom

Topic	Discussion	Decision
Call to Order; Opening Prayer; Quorum	The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer at 2:00 p.m. by Moderator Rev. Mary Turner.	Zoom format was chosen for the meeting. Voting will be conducted using Zoom polls. Rev. Ed Rees. Stated Clerk, declared that a quorum was present.
Statement of Purpose for Called Meeting and Rules for Speaking Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk	This meeting was called by Moderator Rev. Mari Turner, at the request of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee, for the purpose of voting on the proposed amendments to the Constitution. The proposed amendments were approved by the 222 nd General Assembly and are now recommended to presbyteries for their vote. The Northeast Georgia Presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee, appointed in 2022, has studied the proposed amendments and has prepared a document that is designed to present information and recommendations for consideration by the Presbytery. This document was made available on the Northeast Georgia Presbytery website and in the Handbook of the February Stated Presbytery meeting. Members of the Presbytery were encouraged to review the document in preparation for voting.	
Call to Worship; Prayer of Confession and Pardon; Scripture; Pastoral Prayer; The Lord's Prayer Moderator Mari Turner	Prior to the business portion of the meeting, presbyters were led in worship and prayer for wisdom, peace, and discernment.	
Report of the Bills and Overtures Committee Rev. Jacob Douylliez	Members of the Bills and Overtures Committee: Rev. Jacob Douylliez; Rev. Burnetta Armour; Elder Faye Aker; Elder John Stork. Rev. Jacob Douylliez gave a brief general overview of the proposed amendments and the voting process. Moderator Turner gave clear instructions regarding the voting process.	
Omnibus Motion #1 Amendments 22C, 22M, 22N	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief description of the three proposed amendments. A motion to approve amendments 22C, 22M, 22N and a second to the motion was received.	Via Zoom poll: 99% yes, 1% no. Amendments 22C, 22M, and 22N were approved.
Omnibus Motion #2 Amendments 22G, 22H, 22K, 22L, 22O	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief description of the 5 proposed amendments. A motion to approve amendments 22G, 22H, 22K, 22L, 22O along with a second to the motion was received.	Via Zoom poll: 99% yes, 1% no. Amendments 22G, 22H, 22K, 22L, 22O were approved.

Omnibus Motion #3 Amendments 22T, 22U, 22V,22W, 22X, 22Y, 22Z, 22AA, 22BB	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief description of the 9 proposed amendments. A motion to approve amendments 22T, 22U, 22V, 22W, 22X, 22Y, 22Z, 22AA, 22BB along with a second was received.	Via Zoom poll: 99% yes, 1% no. Amendments 22T, 22U, 22V, 22W, 22X, 22Y, 22Z, 22AA, 22BB were approved.
Omnibus Motion #4 Amendments 22CC, 22DD, 22EE, 22FF	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief description of the 4 proposed amendments. A motion to approve amendments 22CC, 22DD, 22EE, 22FF along with a second was received.	Via Zoom poll: 99% yes, 1% no. Amendments 22CC, 22D, 22EE, 22FF were approved.
Individual Amendments 22A	Rev. Douylliez gave an overview of proposed amendment 22A. A motion to approve amendment 22A along with a second was received. There was a lengthy time of discussion with ample opportunity given for those in support to speak and for those in opposition to speak.	Vis Zoom poll: 75% yes, 25% no. Amendment 22A was approved.
22B	Rev. Douylliez briefly described proposed amendment 22B. A motion to approve amendment 22B along with a second was received. Discussion in support and discussion in opposition followed.	Via Zoom poll: 76% yes, 24% no. Amendment 22B was approved.
22D	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief description of proposed amendment 22D. A motion to approve amendment 22D along with a second was received. There was no discussion regarding this proposed amendment.	Via Zoom poll: 96% yes, 4% no. Amendment 22D was approved.
22E	Rev. Douylliez gave an overview of proposed amendment 22E. In addition, in their report, the Bills and Overtures Committee recommended the "the Committee on Ministry formulate a policy for conferring the status of 'Honorably Retired' upon retired members of the presbytery in good standing. This policy should include a mechanism for removal if circumstances arise that bring into question the good standing of the individual." A motion to approve amendment 22E along with a second was received. (The Bills and Overtures Committee recommendation was not included in the motion). Discussion in support and discussion in opposition followed.	Via Zoom poll: 56% yes, 44% no. Amendment 22E was approved.
22F	Following Rev. Douylliez's brief description, a motion to approve amendment 22F along with a second was received. There was no discussion regarding this proposed amendment.	Via Zoom poll: 95% yes, 5% no. Amendment 22F was approved.
22I	Rev, Douylliez gave a brief description of proposed amendment 22I. A motion to approve amendment 22I along with a second was received. A lengthy time of discussion followed. Ample opportunity was provided for those in support and those in opposition to speak.	Via Zoom poll: 41% yes, 59% no. Amendment 22I was not approved.
22J	Rev. Douylliez briefly explained proposed amendment 22J. A motion to approve amendment 22J and a second was received. There was no discussion regarding this proposed amendment.	Via Zoom poll: 99% yes, 1% no. Amendment 22J was approved.

22P	Rev. Douylliez gave an overview of proposed amendment 22P. In addition, in their report, the Bills and Overtures Committee recommended that “the Coordinating Team of the Presbytery formulate a plan for providing educational opportunities and training to aid congregations in creating/developing said policies”. A motion to approve amendment 22P along with a second was received. (The motion did not include the Bills and Overtures Committee recommendation.). A lengthy time of discussion followed with speakers in support and speakers in opposition.	Via Zoom poll: 64% yes, 36% no. Amendment 22P was approved.
22Q	Rev. Douylliez spoke briefly regarding 22Q. A motion to approve amendment 22Q along with a second was received. There was no discussion regarding this amendment.	Via Zoom poll: 94% yes, 6% no. Amendment 22Q was approved.
22R	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief explanation of amendment 22R. A motion to approve amendment 22R along with a second was received. There was no discussion regarding this amendment.	Via Zoom poll: 98% yes, 2% no. Amendment 22R was approved.
22S	Rev. Douylliez gave a brief overview of amendment 22S. A motion to approve amendment 22S along with a second was received. A lengthy discussion followed with ample opportunity given for those in support to speak and those in opposition to speak.	Via Zoom poll: 28% yes, 72% no. Amendment 22S was not approved.
22GG	Rev. Douylliez spoke to amendment 22GG. A motion to approve amendment 22GG along with a second was received. Discussion followed with those in support and those in opposition given opportunity to speak.	Via Zoom pol: 96% yes, 4% no. Amendment 22GG was approved.
Adjourn and Prayer		A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved and the Special Called Meeting of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery was adjourned and closed in prayer by Moderator Rev. Mari Turner at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Sylvia McDonald, recorder

Date Minutes approved: _____

Moderator _____
Rev. Mari Turner

Recorder _____
Sylvia McDonald

AGENDA FOR CALLED MEETING
NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
March 25, 2023 @2PM by ZOOM

Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Rev. Mari Turner, Moderator
Declaration of Quorum	Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk
Statement of Purpose for Called Meeting and Rules for Speaking	Rev. Rees
Call to Worship (<i>from Psalm 85</i>)	Rev. Turner

One: Restore us, O God of our salvation:

Many: Put away your indignation against us.

One: Will you not revive us again, O Lord?

Many: Revive us, so that your people may rejoice in you.

One: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon (*from the Book of Common Worship, pp. 734-737*)

Jesus said: Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For every one who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open our lives to God's healing presence, seeking peace with God and reconciliation with our neighbors.

Let us be mindful not only of personal evil but also of our communal sins of family, class, race, and nation. Let us confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become for each other ministers of God's grace. We'll pray first using the words below and afterward take a moment of silence to invite the Holy Spirit to search our hearts. Let us pray together:

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Romans 12: 9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Let us lift our prayers to God, saying

One: In Your Mercy Lord
Many: Hear our prayer

Loving God,

We come before you today as a community of faith in need of your grace and guidance. As we gather as a Presbytery, we acknowledge that there may be disagreements and conflicts among us. We ask that you would help us to live out the words of Paul, to let love be genuine, to hate what is evil, to hold fast to what is good, and to outdo one another in showing honor.

One: In Your Mercy Lord
Many: Hear our prayer

We pray for mutual affection and harmony among us, that we may be a community that rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep. We ask that you would give us patience in suffering and perseverance in prayer, that we may be steadfast in our commitment to you and to one another.

One: In Your Mercy Lord
Many: Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for humility and a spirit of service, that we may contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers. We ask that you would help us to be agents of peace and reconciliation, even in the midst of disagreement and conflict. May we never repay evil for evil, but always take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

One: In Your Mercy Lord
Many: Hear our prayer

We pray for those who may be experiencing persecution or hardship, that you would bless them and protect them. We ask that you would help us to be a community that overcomes evil with good, that we may be a shining light in the world, reflecting your love and grace to all whom we encounter.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Proposed Amendments (link to document from GA here)
Recommendations from NEGA B&O Committee (link to the spreadsheet here)

Omnibus Motion #1
22C, 22D, and 22N

Omnibus Motion #2
22G, 22H, 22K, 22L, and 22O

Omnibus Motion #3
22T, 22U, 22V, 22W, 22X, 22Y, 22Z, 22AA, and 22BB

Omnibus Motion #4
22CC, 22DD, 22EE, 22FF

Consideration of Individual Amendments (recommendation in parentheses)

Amendment 22A (approve - pulled from omnibus at 2/25 meeting)

Amendment 22B (approve - pulled from omnibus at 2/25 meeting)

Amendment 22E (approve)

Amendment 22F (approve)

Amendment 22I (approve)

Amendment 22J (approve)

Amendment 22M (approve)

Amendment 22N (approve)

Amendment 22P (approve)

Amendment 22Q (approve)

Amendment 22R (approve)

Amendment 22S (no recommendation)

Amendment 22GG (approve)

Adjournment with Prayer

Rev. Turner

REPORT OF ATTENDANCE
March 25, 2023

Minister Members:

Travis	Adams	Timpson	Amy	Hobby Rickard	Validated Ministry
Burnetta	Armour	Cleveland First	Meg	Jackson Clark	Greensboro First
Ryan	Baer	Athens First	Sue	Jacobson	Member at Large
Arch	Baker	Madison	Sun Jae	Jung	Athens Korean
Susan	Balfour	Milledgeville First	Heather	Koontz	Mount Hermon
Don	Barber	Rabun Gap	Lee	Koontz	Gainesville First
Whitney	Booth Lockard	Validated Ministry	John	McCrosky	Monticello
Tom	Buchanan	Friendship	Will	Norman	Presbyterian Campus Min
Jeffrey	Cain	Commerce	Shon	Peppers	Gainesville First
Brandi	Casto-Waters	Reid Memorial	Edward	Rees	Stated Clerk
Andy	Chambers	Cornelia First	Barbara	Rodgers	Honorably Retired
Karla	Conditt Daniels	Covenant Augusta	Decatur	Rodgers	Honorably Retired
Andy	Cooke	Covenant Augusta	Holly	Shoaf-O'Kula	Honorably Retired
Charles	Crane	Winder First	Hilary	Shuford	General Presbyter
Jacob	Douylliez	Eatonton	Otis	Smith	Honorably Retired
Nadine	Ellsworth-Moran	Reid Memorial	Craig	Topple	Pleasant Hill
Paul	Evans	Jefferson	Mari	Turner	Dahlonega
Sid	Gates	Validated Ministry	Haruko	Ward	Validated Ministry
Ron	Gilreath	Honorably Retired	Janet	Williams	Homer
Matt	Henderson	Clarkesville First			

Ruling Elder Commissioners:

Kent	Burel	Athens First	Jan	Reeves	Gainesville First
Chuck	Toney	Athens First	Jim	Robison	Gainesville First
Mark	Hopkins	Athens First	Jack	Spencer	Gainesville First
Brian	Parks	Bath	Patty	Aldrin	Greensboro First
Joyce	Dejoie	Belle Terrace	Marcia	Bryan	Jefferson
Marsha	Moorman	Belle Terrace	Nancy	Miller	Milledgeville First
Carol	Rountree	Belle Terrace	Wesley	Applebury	Milledgeville First
Wanda	Butler	Christ	John	Stork	Monticello
Don	Nix	Clarkesville First	Miriam	Jordan	Monticello
Virginia	Fagen	Clayton	Vickie	Shows	Nacoochee
Phil	Baughman	Cleveland First	Karen	Brown	Nacoochee
Jean	Kelly	Cleveland First	Jennifer	Herrera	Nacoochee
Donny	Whitehead	Covenant Athens	Jennifer	Thomas	Nacoochee
Amy	Horvath	Covenant Athens	John	Gregg	Oconee
Chris	Henry	Covenant Augusta	Bill	Hinesley	Oconee
Aubrey	Moore	Covenant Augusta	John	Miller	Oconee
Judy	Grieve	Covenant Augusta	Anita	York	Oconee
Roy	Martin	Dahlonega	Michael	Ward	Pleasant Hill
Keith	Potter	Eatonton	Ben	Kay	Reid Memorial
Charlotte	Higginbotham	Elberton First	George	McCall	Reid Memorial
Peter	Vaeth	Friendship	Joyce	Heffner	Union Point First
Andrea	Jones	Gainesville First	Pam	Powell	Winder First
Lori	McBride	Gainesville First			

Other Ruling Elders with Vote:

Gloria	Burns	Milledgeville First	Sylvia	McDonald	CT Chair
Joel	Burns	Milledgeville First	Elaine	Wiegert	PW Moderator
Marc	Galvin	Oconee			