

COMMISSIONER HANDBOOK
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH GATHERING
OF
THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE

February 28, 2026



Peace Presbyterian Church
301 Guinness Drive
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 355-2273

<http://www.peacepresbyterian.org>

Co-hosted by
Greenville Korean Presbyterian Church
301 Guinness Drive
Winterville, NC 28590

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ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH STATED GATHERING OF PRESBYTERY

Accommodation

- Hilton Hotel (207 Greenville Blvd SE, Greenville, NC 27834)
- Holiday Inn Greenville (203 Greenville Blvd SE, Greenville, NC 27834)
- Holiday Inn Express (909 Moye Blvd, Greenville, NC 27834) -- the farthest option from Peace

Registration

Please register on the presbytery website at the following link: <https://nhpresbytery.org/127th-stated-gathering-registration-form/>. **The deadline for registration is Monday, February 23 by 5:00 p.m.**

Non-Attendance

Minister members (except those who are retired) are expected to present a reason for absence from the meeting, (Presbytery Bylaws Ref. 3.13c). Churches unable to be represented by an elected elder commissioner from the congregation should also submit a request to be excused.

All requests for excused absences should be submitted to the stated clerk through Christine Kelson using the appropriate link on the presbytery website:

ministers: <https://nhpresbytery.org/excused-absence-minister-2/>

churches: <https://nhpresbytery.org/excused-absence-church-2/>

You may also send an email to Christine at ckelson@nhpresbytery.org. Requests for excused absences must be received in advance of the meeting.

Commissioner Handbook/Meeting Materials

The handbook/meeting materials will be emailed to all those who have registered once on-line registration has closed. They can also be downloaded from the following page on the presbytery website: <https://nhpresbytery.org/events/129th-stated-gathering-of-presbytery-929-672-482/>. **Please bring a copy of the handbook with you to the gathering.**

If you are planning to download the handbook to a device, please do this before the meeting to enhance Wi-Fi reception at the church.

Check-In

Check-in opens at 8:00 a.m. Upon arrival, please go directly to the check-in area.

Minister Members of New Hope

There will be a dedicated table for minister members of New Hope – **please check in here.**

Ruling Elder Commissioners and All Other Visitors

Please check in at the appropriate table (set up alphabetically by last name). If you did not pre-register, please sign in at the specially designated registration table.

NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS

Attendees are asked to please bring non-perishable food items, which will be donated to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina in Greenville, which serves five counties (Edgecombe, Greene, Lenoir, Pitt, and Wilson). Plastic bag donations are also requested, which the Food Bank uses for distribution. There will be bins for drop-off in the check-in/registration area and in the narthex.

Worship Offering

Today's offering goes to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina in Greenville, which serves five counties (Edgecombe, Greene, Lenoir, Pitt, and Wilson).

Lunch

Please register your attendance online by the February 23 deadline if you would like lunch, including the vegetarian option. This is helpful to the host church for planning purposes. Lunch tickets may be purchased on the day of the meeting in the registration area and are \$13.00 per person, payable by cash or check made out to Peace Presbyterian Church with "presbytery lunch" on the memo line. Anyone not wanting to eat, but who wishes to contribute to the cost of the meal can do so the day of the meeting by cash or check. Any excess lunches will be shared with Greenville Community Shelter.

Child Care

Childcare reservations may be made when you register online for the gathering. Please prepare lunch for your child. Contact the host church directly if your child has allergies and provide an appropriate lunch/snack. Please inform the host church no later than Wednesday, February 25 by 5:00 p.m. if you reserve childcare, but then do not require it. Contact Rev. Sydne Allen for cancellations or any other questions: pastorsydne@gmail.com.

Wi-Fi Network

Network name: PeaceEero

Password: Godisgreat

The livestream and recording can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1SPLEZll8g>

This is a viewing service only and your attendance at the meeting will not be counted by viewing the broadcast. Voting and participating in the meeting is unavailable through this platform.

Cell Phones

Out of respect for others attending the meeting, all cell phones should be turned off or set to vibrate.

Parliamentary Procedures

Guidelines and a summary to parliamentary procedures of the Presbyterian Church (USA) can be found on pages 100 and 102 of the handbook. Motion forms will be at the stated clerk's table if you need to use one.

Next Stated Gathering

Tuesday, July 28, 2026: Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, Durham

Disclaimer: The displays you see at any given presbytery meeting may or may not be endorsed by the Presbytery of New Hope.

A NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

WELCOME FIRST-TIME COMMISSIONERS

Despite rumors to the contrary, many really do enjoy the time of fellowship and sharing when our presbytery meets. However, if you have not been to such a meeting before, it may seem a little confusing at first. The goal of this guide is to make your participation more meaningful, for at presbytery meetings we have good news to share, successes to celebrate, helpful resources to publicize, important (and some not so important) decisions to make, plans to approve, and a wonderful family of 111 congregations to get to know better.

WHAT IS A PRESBYTERY?

A presbytery is the key governing body (council) in our denomination. There are 172 presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our presbytery includes 111 churches with 22,544 members through the North Carolina Piedmont and coast. The commissioners of a presbytery gathering consist of all the active and retired teaching elders and at least one ruling elder from each congregation. The stated clerk ensures there is an equal number of teaching and ruling elders who gather as commissioners at least three times a year.

WHAT DOES A PRESBYTERY DO?

A presbytery is responsible for the mission and government of the church throughout its area. "In partnership with sessions, the mission of our presbytery is to foster vital and faithful congregations to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ." By combining resources, a presbytery can help each church enhance its ministry by assisting with the calling of pastors, teacher training, grants and loans, officer development, camping programs, conference retreats, mission trips, and many other support ministries.

WHEN DOES PRESBYTERY MEET?

There are three full-day stated (regular) meetings; the February and October meetings are on the 4th Saturday of the month, and the July meeting is on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Special meetings can be called as necessary, and presbytery committees and commissions meet throughout the year.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THIS MEETING?

In advance of the meeting, all commissioners will have access to an electronic handbook of reports, proposed actions, and background information; this is called the *Commissioner Handbook*. The handbook will be emailed to your clerk of session prior to the meeting, who will then share it with you. Please read these documents carefully, and be prepared to discuss and vote if necessary.

In general, you will experience the following:

- **Celebration:** Our day begins with worship. Ordinarily worship is led by the host church though there are exceptions at times. We will also welcome new ministers and give thanks for special achievements and for retirements, and pledge ourselves to better mission and witness as we join in the fellowship of committed Christians who represent our 111 congregations.

- **Information:** You will learn about lots of events and opportunities to share with your session and congregation: new programs, mission plans, available resources, etc. Be a good communicator when you are back home; make sure your session and congregation are kept informed.
- **Presbytery Procedures:** Much is fairly routine: adoption of the docket (order of consideration), approval of minutes, receiving reports, etc. Several routine housekeeping matters are put together in an omnibus motion, which is voted on as a unit (but you can remove any item for later discussion). Though rather unexciting, these matters are necessary.
- **Debate and Action:** At most meetings, there will be a few items that deserve extensive discussion. Though a committee or the Coordinating Body has reviewed each recommendation, it should nevertheless be carefully considered before you decide how to vote. If you do not understand what is happening, please ask the moderator to explain the matter currently before the presbytery. If you want to offer a motion, the stated clerk would be glad to help you draft it. Your role is to listen carefully, share in the debate if you feel led to do so, and then vote as the Holy Spirit leads you to understand what is best for Christ's Church.

As a commissioner, it is a privilege and responsibility to help guide this part of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Be prepared/ listen / pray / take notes / report back home.

Remember that you are helping our presbytery in a much valued and vital way to build up the Body of Christ, here in this part of North Carolina, to the greater glory of our Lord.

DIRECTIONS
PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
301 GUINNESS DRIVE
WINTERVILLE, NC 28590

From the West (Raleigh): Take US-264 E/US-64 E and I-587 to NC-121 N in Greene County. Take exit 42 from I-587 toward Farmville. Continue onto NC-121 N/US-264 E. Turn right on Speight Seed Farm Road. Turn left on Forlines Road. Turn left onto NC-11 N/NC-903 N. Turn right onto Vernon White Road, turning left to stay on Vernon White Road. Turn left onto Old Tar Road. Turn right onto Guinness Drive, arriving at the church.

From the East (Manteo): Take US-64 W to US 264 W. Take US 264 W to US 264 W-Alt & Greenville Blvd. NE in Pitt County. Turn left onto E. 14th Street. Turn right onto E. Firetower Road. Turn left onto Old Tar Road. Turn left onto Guinness Drive, arriving at the church.

From the North (Tarboro): Follow NC-33 and US 264 W. Continue on NC Hwy 11 BYP. Take exit 118 toward Winterville. Turn left onto Forlines Road. Turn left onto NC Hwy 11 N/NC-903 N. Turn right onto Vernon White Road, turning left to stay on Vernon White Road. Turn left onto Old Tar Road. Turn right onto Guinness Drive, arriving at the church.

From the South (Kinston): Take NC Hwy 11 N to Winterville. Turn right onto Vernon White Road. turning left to stay on Vernon White Road. Turn left onto Old Tar Road. Turn right onto Guinness Drive, arriving at the church.

A Brief History of Peace Presbyterian Church

Peace Presbyterian Church began its journey of faith on January 8, 1984 and officially organized on June 17, 1984 in a service held at First Presbyterian Church, Greenville. Reverend Bill Goodnight, the organizing Minister, led Peace Presbyterian Church as a new church development of the Albemarle Presbytery to serve the growing community of Greenville. Until a permanent location was built, worship locations included a bank, the back of the Western Sizzlin, the Ramada Inn (at times in the bar) and the Rotary Building. The church broke ground for a permanent church building located at the corner of Fire Tower Road and Hwy. 11, across from Pitt Community College, in 1987. The building was dedicated on June 12, 1988. On June 11, 2006, the congregation broke ground at the current location of 301 Guinness Road, Winterville, NC.

In April, 1999, Peace entered a covenant with the newly-formed Korean Fellowship, led by Rev. Dr. Gun Ho Lee. Peace committed to sharing the building with the congregation, beginning to develop and encourage a covenant relationship. The congregations established Third Sunday Gatherings to share a meal following worship services once a month. As the Korean Fellowship grew, they welcomed a Spanish-speaking worshipping community, which continues to nest at Peace. In 2022, Greenville Korean Presbyterian Church was chartered by the Presbytery of New Hope. Traditionally, Peace, GKPC, and Una Iglesia Para Todos worship together and seek shared ministry opportunities several times a year.

Peace has long-committed to local mission and outreach, and current mission partners include the Greenville Community Shelter, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC, Grifton School, the Boys & Girls Homes of NC, and Camp Albemarle. Peace has recently welcomed a local Girl Scout Troop, Ripe 4 Revival's Mobile Food Market, and has facilitated community outreach events, like Trunk-or-Treat, Food Truck Fridays, and community Easter and Christmas parties.

The Peace congregation has discerned opportunities to nurture and support one another in our daily living through connection groups, 3rd Sunday Gatherings, and prayer breakfasts. Following pastoral transition and the pandemic, Peace welcomed back VBS ministry in 2024, and has welcomed both public theologian, Rev. Jim Wallis, and Old Testament scholar and professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, Rev. Dr. William Brown, as recent guest speakers. The Spiritual Development team is committed to creatively seeking Christian education and spiritual formation opportunities.

The Playground is the most recent addition to the beauty of Peace's sanctuary, which includes handmade paraments and thoughtful artwork. The stained glass window was carefully moved from the original building and the sanctuary was designed around it. The music ministry of Peace welcomes choral scholars from ECU and participants of all abilities, a reflection of the congregation. Worship at Peace is joyful and inclusive, and reflects the church's mission:

Proclaiming...Celebrating...Sharing...Every member a Minister to
Grow in Grace, Live in Peace, and Serve the Lord!

PROPOSED DOCKET
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVENTH STATED GATHERING
THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE
Peace Presbyterian Church, Winterville, NC
February 28, 2026

8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND FELLOWSHIP	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-Perishable Food Collection • Displays 	
8:15-8:45 a.m.	ORIENTATION OF FIRST-TIME ELDER COMMISSIONERS	Chapel
8:00-8:45 a.m.	SESSIONAL RECORDS REVIEW	Conference Room
9:00 a.m.	CALL TO ORDER	Moderator Rev. Jordan Davis
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declaration of Quorum • Adoption of Docket • Land Acknowledgement • Seating of Corresponding Members • Approval of Consent Agenda • Welcome by Host Church • Welcome to Elder Commissioners Attending Presbytery for the First Time 	
9:15 a.m.	<p>WE APPROACH GOD IN WORSHIP</p> <p>The worship service will include the installation of the moderator, Rev. Sydne Allen, and communion</p> <p>The offering today will go to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, Greenville</p>	
10:25 a.m.	STRETCH AND SET UP FOR BUSINESS MEETING	
	GOD’S WORK IN THE LARGER CHURCH	
10:40 a.m.	EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER’S REPORT (Page 13)	Rev. Dr. Bruce Grady
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Meeting of the Corporation 	
10:50 a.m.	ASSOCIATE PRESBYTER’S REPORT (Page 30)	Rev. Katie Cashwell
10:55 a.m.	TEMPORARY STATED CLERK’S REPORT (Page 33)	Rev. Ed Johnson
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Intern Report 	Elder Joye Douthart, Intern
11:05 a.m.	REPORT OF COORDINATING BODY (Page 39)	Rev. Dr. Katie Crowe
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service of Commissioning for 227th (2026) General Assembly Commissioners and YAAD • Finance and Property Committee • Together Task Force Update 	Elder Sue Regier Rev. Elizabeth Whitmer
11:30 a.m.	BLACK CAUCUS REPORT	Rev. Dr. Antonio Lawrence
11:45 a.m.	A STATEMENT OF PROPHETIC WITNESS	Rev. Mindy Douglas
12:00 p.m.	PRAYER AND LUNCH	
1:05 p.m.	RECONVENE IN THE SANCTUARY	

1:10 p.m.	AFTER LUNCH ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Council Retreat • Presbyterian/Reformed House of Studies • Presbyterian Association of Musicians • Esperanza de Guatemala 	<p>Youth Council Rev. Colin Yuckman Rev. Elizabeth M. Deibert Cert. Christian Educator Medora Hix</p>
1:40 p.m.	NOMINATIONS AND REPRESENTATION (Page 60)	Elder Ray Watson
1:55 p.m.	SELF DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE	Rev. Duane Hix
2:05 p.m.	ROANOKE ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH UPDATE	Rev. Michelle Lewis
2:20 p.m.	COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (Page 68)	Rev. Esther Hethcox
2:35 p.m.	COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (Page 71)	Elder Jerry Slaymaker
2:50 p.m.	EXAMINATIONS AND TRANSFERS SUB-COMMISSION	Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Ordination • For Transfer 	
3:05 p.m.	OTHER BUSINESS	Moderator Rev. Sydne Allen
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unfinished Business • A Word of Gratitude to Our Worship Host • Report of the Stated Clerk: Attendance 	

GOD SENDS US OUT

3:15 p.m. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

**Please complete your stated gathering questionnaire online at the following link:
[127th Presbytery Gathering Questionnaire – Fill out form](#)**

**The next stated gathering is July 28, 2026 at
Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham at 9:00 a.m.**

ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA
February 28, 2026

The presbytery will vote in a single action on everything in the consent agenda (**all items contained within boxes on designated pages and Camp Albemarle Board of Directors on pages 93-94**). However, any member of presbytery may request to have any item lifted from the consent agenda for explanation, debate, or a separate vote.

The following communications will be voted on with this consent agenda:

- Report of Temporary Stated Clerk Page 33
- Report of Nominations and Representation Page 60
- Camp Albemarle Board of Directors 2026 Page 93-94

INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR-ELECT
Rev. Sydne Allen
The Presbytery of New Hope
February 28, 2026

INSTALLATION

Moderator: Rev. Jordan Davis
Sydne, God has called you to particular service as Moderator of the Presbytery of New Hope. Show your purpose by answering these questions. Who is your Lord and Savior?

Moderator-Elect – Sydne: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

Moderator: Will you be Christ’s faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

Moderator-Elect – Sydne: I will.

Moderator: 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?

Moderator-Elect – Sydne: I do.

Moderator: 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?

Moderator-Elect – Sydne: I will.

Moderator: Do you, members of the Presbytery of New Hope, confirm the call of God to our sister Sydne Allen as moderator in the service of Jesus Christ?

Presbytery: We do.

Moderator: Will you support and encourage her in this ministry?

Presbytery: We will.

PRAYER

DECLARATION OF INSTALLATION

Rev. Jordan Davis

Report of the Executive Presbyter

127th Stated Gathering

of

The Presbytery of New Hope

February 28, 2026

Peace Presbyterian Church

301 Guinness Drive, Winterville, NC 28590

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Letter from the Executive Presbyter

Good day and Happy Black History Month, Moderator Sydne Allen, commissioners and guests of the 127th stated gathering of the Presbytery of New Hope. I bring grace and peace in the glorious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior!

It is such a blessing, privilege and honor to be a co-laborer with the Head of the Church and with you. I believe that we are making a positive impact upon the lives of countless communities and individuals from Mebane to the Outer Banks, across the thirty-four (34) counties that we serve. New

Hope is a vital **agent of God's healing, repair**, and salvation. North Carolinians are facing the challenges of rapid growth strain, food security, economic disparities, healthcare access, affordable housing shortages and environmental trauma, hopelessness and existential crises. There has never been a more critical time to unite in the Spirit than now. To amplify the impact of our ministry, the presbytery has begun to implement a plan-
Together in Hope... Together for Christ.

The imperativeness of the Gospel emphasizes our call to proclaim the transformative message of Jesus, rooted in a love for God and neighbor, and Christ's command to make disciples, especially as this fragile world faces hostility, chaos and despair, requiring bold, compassionate action now. This imperative is reflected in our call for shalom and justice, repentance and freedom, care for the most vulnerable and the oppressed, and the urgency of walking together now for substantive change.

Hence, I have an important question:

Can two people walk hand in hand if they aren't going to the same place?
Amos 3:3

Si dos andan juntos, ¿no es porque se han puesto de acuerdo?
Amós 3:3

두 사람이 미리 같이 가기로 약속하지 않았는데
그들이 같이 갈 수 있겠느냐?

이스라엘을 벌하는 까닭

In every language, this rhetorical question reminds us that walking in agreement with the Holy One requires shared purpose, direction, and faithful covenantal relationship with the loving, liberating, life-giving Prince of Peace. **Israel's pattern of disobedience was a serious problem.** But Amos raised a prophetic question. The Old Testament prophet was calling **God's covenant people** to return to the ways of the Lord.

Karl Barth, one of the great reformed theologians of the 20th Century, continued this prophetic tradition when he said that Christians must have the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Followers of Jesus live in the real world and use the lens of scripture to understand the contextual issues that we face- spiritual, political, social and economic. During the rise of Nazism and the Third Reich in Germany, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a classic text entitled *The Cost of Discipleship*. He made a clear **distinction between ‘cheap grace’ and ‘costly grace’**. Cheap grace is forgiveness and salvation without true repentance. But costly grace demands radical obedience to Christ which includes standing in solidarity with the oppressed. Living as disciples who proclaim *Jesus Christ is Lord* involves risks. But that is who we are, what we believe and what we do. According to the Book of Order, **“The church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.”** (BOO; F-1.0301) The eternal reward is worth the risk.

Similarly, Howard Thurman in his epic work, *Jesus and the Disinherited* addressed contextual issues of his day when he asked American churches: **“What is the religion of Jesus to those who stand with their backs against the wall?”** Thurman’s probing question still challenges distorted interpretations of the teachings of Jesus that normalize racism, classism, sexism, xenophobia, homophobia and all forms of hate and dehumanization. According to the New Testament, Jesus of Nazareth was a Palestinian Jew, born in poverty and raised amidst the oppressive regime of Rome. Jesus was a descendant of formerly enslaved people and identified with the outcast, the marginalized. Crossing social boundaries, he fostered relationship with the Samaritans and befriended the lepers. **Thurman’s** work demonstrates how a prophetic question can help the church to understand its witness through the eyes of ‘the least of these’.

When the Lord returns and time ceases to exist, **the church’s response to** the present-day contextual challenges of neighbors, friends, strangers, foreigners and immigrants will matter. In Matthew 25:31-46, Jesus emphasizes **a direct correlation between our care for ‘the least of these’ and** our relationship with Him. My heart longs to hear our Savior say:

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

Matthew 25:35

35 Porque tuve hambre y ustedes me dieron de comer. Tuve sed y me dieron de beber. Fui extranjero y me hospedaron.

Mateo 25:35

35 너희는 내가 배고플 때에 먹을 것을 주었고, 내가 목마를 때에 마실 것을 주었다. 내가 집을 떠나 홀로 있을 때에 너희는 나를 너희 집으로 초대하였다

마태복음 25:35

Today, Jesus continues to call us to follow him. If you have ever responded **‘yes’ in your heart, with your lips, in baptism or in a** manner that I may not have named, then I urge you to pursue radical discipleship- pray and **meditate on God’s word, listen to the Holy Spirit and** seek ways to serve Him through your local congregation and community. To more fully participate in this movement of Jesus Christ, NHP will be inviting you to partner as we build deeper, stronger and more compassionate connections with God, our neighbors and ourselves. Look for announcements via the NHP websites (nhpresbytery.org), **NHP’s e-newsletter**, email and your local session.

If you have never responded ‘yes’ to Jesus’ invitation and you desire to follow him, please contact us via the following email:
pbynewhope@nhpresbytery.org.

Type **“Jesus is Lord” in the subject line and** provide your name with preferred contact number in the body of the email.

Siblings in Christ, I am grateful for the congregations, new worshipping communities, validated ministries, elders, deacons, and ministers who serve with energy, intelligence, creativity, imagination, and love.

I am also thrilled about the progress of the Togetherness Taskforce- Rev. Ben Acton at First Presbyterian Church of Garner; John Winings at White Memorial Presbyterian Church of Raleigh; Roslyn Thomas at St. Paul

Presbyterian Church of Louisburg; Jane King at First Presbyterian Church of Henderson; Rev. Frank Mansell at Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church of Raleigh; Delores Parker at Davie Street of Raleigh; Rev. Elizabeth Whitmer at Bear Grass Presbyterian Church of Williamston; and Phil Parker at Outer Banks Presbyterian Church of Kill Devil Hills.

I concur with Rev. Nancy Dolan in Presbyterian Outlook, ***“I want to see the church be faithful to its call to proclaim the good news of God’s love and to participate in God’s mission for the ‘repair, healing’ and transformation of the world, rather than to find itself paralyzed by the destructive patterns of survival mode”***. (<https://pres-outlook.org/2017/07/even-risk-losing-life-closing-church-not-gods-final-word/>)

Therefore, I urge you to continue to walk in agreement with the Lord and New Hope. **Let’s** meditate on the following passage.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Confía en el SEÑOR totalmente, no en tu propia sabiduría.
Ten en cuenta a Dios en todo lo que hagas, y él te ayudará a vivir rectamente.
Proverbios 3:5-6

너는 마음을 다하여 주님을 믿고 의지하여라.
결코 네 자신의 통찰력에 의존하지 말아라.
6 네가 하는 모든 일을 주께 맡겨라^[a].
그리하면 주께서 네 길을 곧게 해주실 것이다.

잠언 3:5-6

Together in Hope... Together for Christ,

Bruce T. Grady

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Executive Presbyter
2022 McDonald Lane Raleigh, NC 27608
919-348-2918
bgrady@nhpresbytery.org

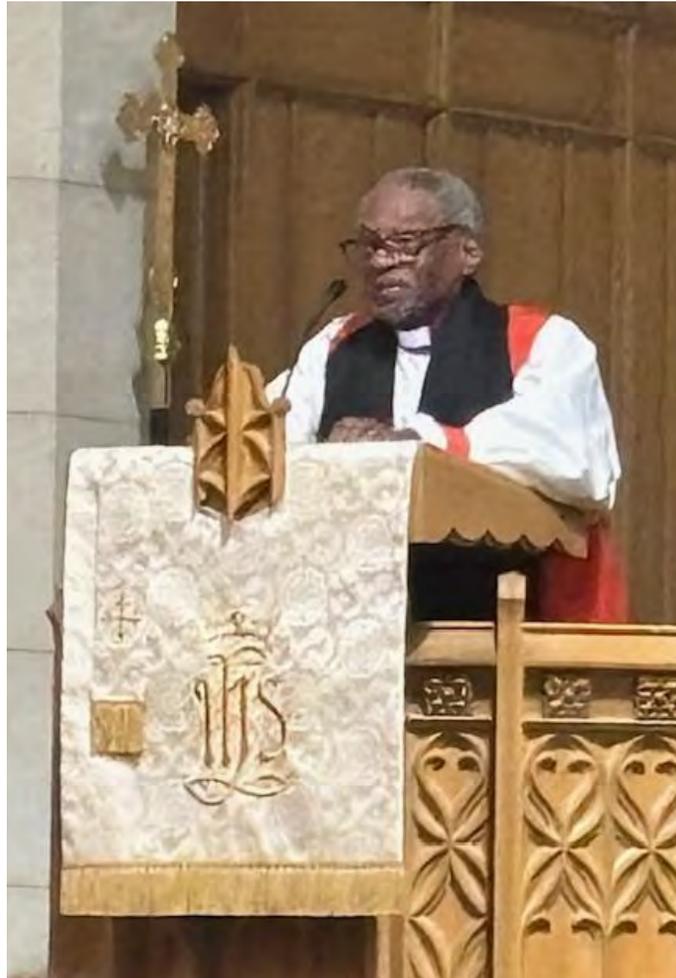
Executive Presbyter's Recent Activities

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, I joined faith leaders across the Tar Heel State to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the NC Council of Churches. This momentous event was held at Edenton Street United Methodist Church in Raleigh, and it was a wonderful opportunity to engage others committed to faith and justice.



In the photo above, I am joined by Dr. Jacqueline E. Lapsley- the President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA and Charlotte, NC.

It was an inspiring worship service with
The Right Reverend Michael B. Curry.



Self-care is a requirement for building healthy ministry. As I serve NHP, I am seeking ways to flourish. The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has resources to help ministers maintain a wholistic approach to wellness. I had an incredible time in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the 2025 Black CREDO Gathering at Ferncliff Conference Center (November 4 - 10, 2025).

“CREDO is an in-person, weeklong conference focused on ministers’ wholeness and well-being. Each CREDO conference is led by a team of experienced faculty who guide participants in a visioning and discernment process through four key areas of well-being: spiritual, vocational, physical and emotional health, and financial.”

-The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website
<https://www.pensions.org/your-path-to-wholeness/credo>



In the photo above, Rev. CeCe Armstrong (co-moderator of the 226th General Assembly and CREDO facilitator), Rev. Dr. Clive Neal (pastor of Bedford Central Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, NY) and I are enjoying games, snacks and music after a long productive day of intensives.

The Black Church Cornerstone Collaborative of Louisville Seminary has partnered with New Hope and Coastal Carolina Presbyteries in commitment to uplift Black churches and to honor the vital role they play as cornerstones of faith, justice and community life. On Saturday, November 22, 2025, BCC members from NHP and CCP gathered at Davie Street Presbyterian Church (Raleigh). Rev. Dr. Vanessa Hawkins and Rev. Dr. Antonio L. Lawrence facilitated insightful workshops. I am grateful for the worship, fellowship, learning, and collaboration.

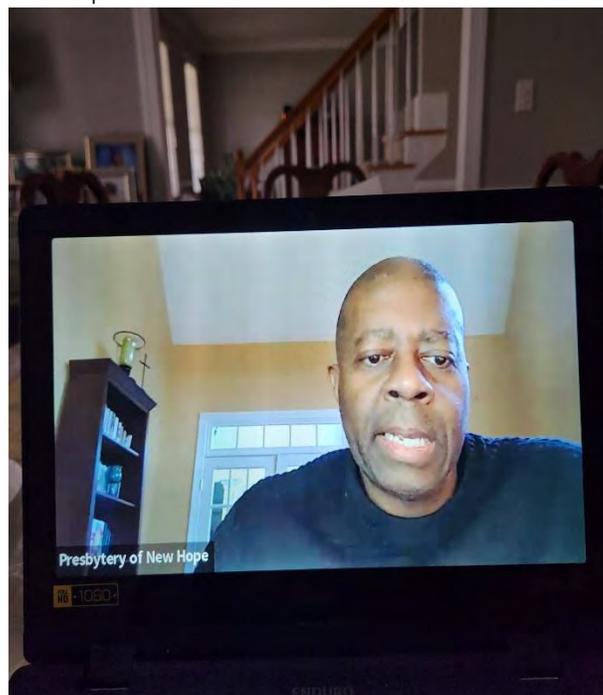


The PC(USA) Presbytery Leaders Formation (PLF) provides a 3-year cohort training and an annual weeklong in-residency retreat. My cohort has just completed our journey. I am excited to now serve on the faculty. The PLF Faculty gathered in Atlanta, GA for orientation and training (December 15 - 1, 2025).

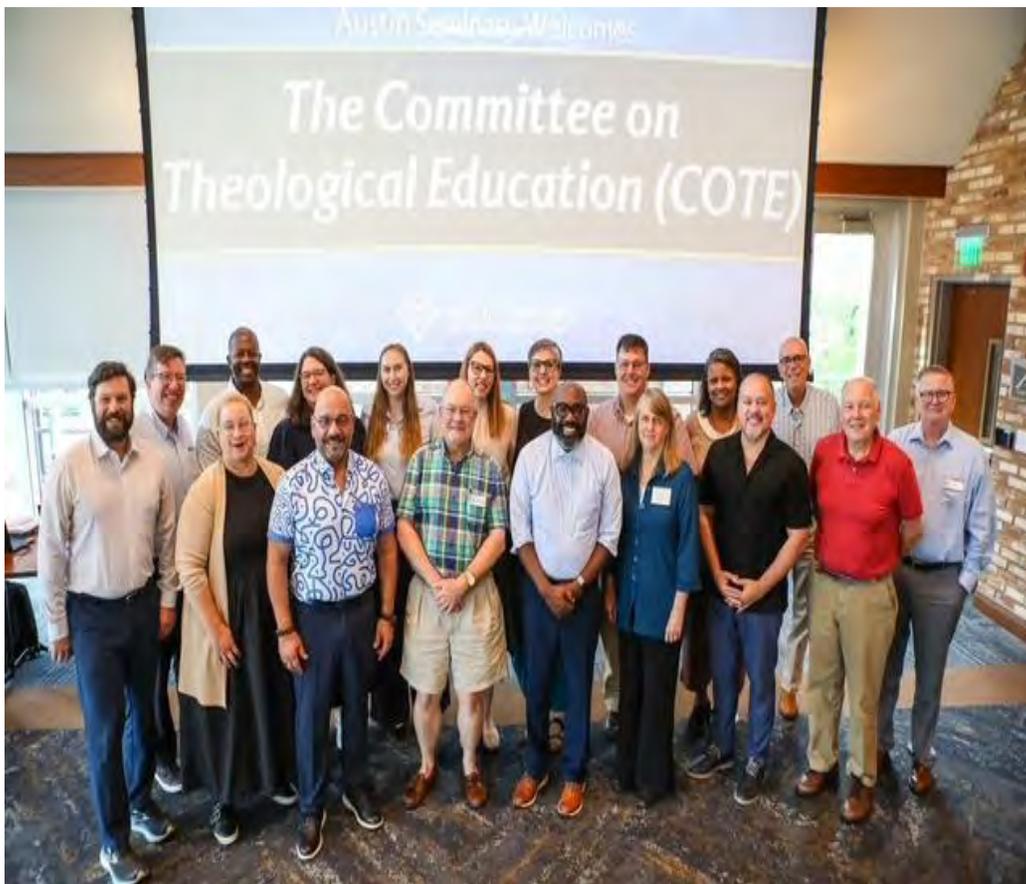


It was a pleasure meeting virtually with Executive Presbyters and Stated Clerks from across the state of North Carolina (December 18, 2025). Rev.

Dr. Byron Wade, General Presbyter of Western Carolina Presbytery, convened us. This activity helped us to deepen vocational connections and to reflect upon the interconnections of our work.



I am grateful and blessed to participate in and contribute to the discernment process of the Committee on Theological Education (COTE). This is a committee of the GA and its members include the six (6) presidents of PC(USA) institutions of theological education. We had our virtual meeting on January 8-9, 2026. The photo below was taken at our face-to-face gathering- Austin Seminary, September 2025.



What a joy and privilege it was for New Hope Presbytery to install our beloved colleague and friend The Rev. Katie Cashwell as the Associate Presbyter of Small Congregations and Technology (January 10, 2026) at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church (Tarboro)! For the past three years, Katie has faithfully served as the Temporary Associate Presbyter. The Rev. Michelle Lewis delivered a beautiful sermon. The commission for installation **and Katie's family** can be seen below.



It was an honor to **deliver the children's message at Rev. Cashwell's service of installation with my friends "Mr. Flamingo and Mr. Owl"**.



On January 20 -22, 2026, CB engaged in a retreat at the Trinity Center in Salter Path. Steve Lindsley of Horizons Stewardship facilitated a workshop using **“The Working Genius”** in which the team was able to identify their gifts and functional roles in leadership. What a blessing it was to fellowship together, worship, lift personal testimonies of our lives and to reflect upon **“New Wine in New Wineskins”**.



Milner Commons Missions Committee (MCMC) continues to build upon their mission to provide affordable housing to senior citizens and to build a vibrant community. Rev. Willie Brazil, chair of MCMC, Honorably Retired Minister of Word and Sacrament and Milner Commons resident, facilitated a robust conversation with multiple stakeholders on Friday, January 23, 2026. The MCMC members are as follows: Aleta Ash (Ex-officio Consultant) Hudson Memorial, Richard Boyette First Presbyterian, Tripp Bradshaw Hudson Memorial Presbyterian, Kathy Huffstetler West Raleigh Presbyterian, Kathy Johnson First Presbyterian, Delores Parker Davie Street Presbyterian, John Ramsay (Ex-officio Consultant) White Memorial and Tom Robinson (Treasurer) White Memorial.





2025 New Hope Presbytery Data

Finally, I would also like to share 2025 NHP-related data. Over the years, we have been and continue to be in the top 20 of the largest presbyteries in the PCUSA. We currently shepherd 19 candidates under care or as inquirers.

NHP is comprised of 111 local congregations. Of those, 64 are 100 members or less. None of the churches were closed, nor did any leave the denomination. There were 309 active teaching elders in 2025 (including those serving a church, validated ministries outside of the congregation, members-at-large and honorably retired). We have 16 racial/ethnic congregations including 1 Latin(x), 4 Korean (DuRaleigh, Goldsboro, Greenville Korean, NC Korean), and 11 African American. Our new worshipping communities/fellowships include: Santuario, Farm Church and Jubilee Fellowship.

In 2025, we ordained the following ministers: Rev. Jooyoung Hong, Rev. Langley Hoyt, and Rev. Meredith Rawls.

The following teaching elders who partnered with us in ministry and have now moved on to a different presbytery:

Rev. Esther Acolatse to Presbytery of Chicago

Rev. Rob Evans (HR) to Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Rev. Jody Moore to Presbytery of Charlotte

Rev. Stephanie Workman to Indian Nations Presbytery

Rev. Mac Schafer to Presbytery of Philadelphia

Rev. Judy Stanley (Ouellette) to Presbytery of Northumberland

Rev. Ginny Taylor-Troutman to Salem Presbytery

Rev. Kim Rubish to Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

The following ministers retired:

Rev. Claire Colcord

Rev. Juliann Gicker-Anderson

Rev. Vanessa Hawkins

Rev. Debbie Kirk

Rev. Charles Link

Rev. Susan Mazzara

Rev. Betsy Undercofler.

Report on the Work of the Associate Presbyter

Rev. Katie Cashwell

October 2025–Present

Since October, the Office of the Associate Presbyter has focused on strengthening connectional relationships across the Presbytery of New Hope, with particular attention to supporting small and rural congregations, nurturing pastoral leaders, and marking significant milestones in the life of the presbytery.

Support and Engagement with Small Churches

A central emphasis of this period has been direct engagement with small congregations and their leaders. In the fall, I led a planning team that convened a **Small Church Gathering** at First Presbyterian Church in Wilson, bringing together leaders from across the presbytery for worship, conversation, and mutual encouragement. The gathering created space for shared learning, storytelling, and relationship-building among churches that often serve in relative isolation. Led by facilitators from Faith in Rural Communities and a variety of small church leaders from across the presbytery, participants reflected on both the challenges and the deep joys of ministry in small-membership contexts and identified areas for ongoing collaboration and support.

In addition, I helped the Church Development and Evangelism Committee plan and support a **Small Church Pastors Gathering**, offering pastors dedicated time for rest, peer connection, and reflection. This gathering took place at Cedar Cross Retreat Center in Louisburg and focused on pastoral well-being, sustainability in ministry, and the unique demands placed on leaders serving small congregations. The event reinforced the presbytery's commitment to caring for those who shepherd its churches and to equipping pastors for faithful, long-term ministry.

Installation of the Associate Presbyter

A significant milestone in the life of the presbytery occurred on **January 10, 2026**, with my Service of Installation to the position of Associate Presbyter. Hosted by Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church, the service was a joyful and meaningful celebration marked by worship, prayer, and broad participation from across the presbytery. The liturgy reflected the presbytery's shared identity and hope, incorporating diverse expressions of worship and symbols of connectional ministry.

The installation formally affirmed my call to this role after several years of faithful service in a temporary capacity. It also provided an opportunity for the presbytery to give thanks for God's ongoing work among its congregations and leaders, and to look ahead with hope to the ministry unfolding in the years to come.

Ongoing Ministry

Throughout this period, I have continued to travel extensively across the presbytery, offering pastoral presence, consultation, and support to sessions, pastors, and congregations—particularly those in rural and under-resourced contexts. These congregational visits are my favorite part of my call.

All of this work is rooted in and guided by the Presbytery of New Hope's strategic plan, **"Together in Hope, Together for Christ."** The ministries of the Office of the Associate Presbyterian during this period have intentionally advanced the plan's goals by strengthening connectional relationships, equipping congregations—especially small and rural churches—for faithful and adaptive ministry, and nurturing leaders for sustainable service. Through gatherings, pastoral care, and shared worship, this work reflects the presbytery's commitment to walking together in hope as we discern God's call and witness to Christ in our communities.

Ongoing

- Staff support to Church Development & Evangelism Committee
- Staff support to Small Church Gathering Planning Team
- Staff support to New Worshipping Communities
- Staff support to Commissioned Ruling Elder Team
- Staff support to Coordinating Body
- Staff support to Commission on Ministry
- Holy Cow Administrator for the presbytery
- Supervision of pulpit supply coordinator
- Facilitating conversations among churches regarding shared ministry, yoking
- Website manager for presbytery's website
- Editor of the presbytery's digital communications
- Strategic planning meetings with the Coordinating Body and executive team

Since the last Stated Gathering

- Visit to Trinity Presbyterian, Raleigh November 2
- Small Church Gathering November 8
- Mid-Council Leaders Gathering In Louisville November 9-12
- Small Church Pastors Gathering November 17-18
- Brought greetings to Covenant Presbyterian Church for their 138th Anniversary, Nov 16
- Session meeting with Ernest Myatt Presbyterian Church, December 16
- Preached and led worship for FPC Washington on January 4
- Led a congregational meeting for West Haven Presbyterian Church January 15
- Organized and supported Coordinating Body Retreat, January 20-22
- Organized and led a gathering of PCUSA small church mid-council leaders with the Town Square Initiative, a project of the University of the Ozarks. February 10-12

Looking Ahead

- Keynote speaker for the New Hope Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Retreat, March 6-8
- Matthew 25 Summit with Coastal Carolina Presbytery March 21
- North Carolina Rural Center Summit March 26-27
- Presbyterian Leader Formation May 3-8
- Presbyterian Women of the Synod the Mid-Atlantic Summer Gathering June 11-14



Report of Temporary Stated Clerk Rev. Ed Johnson

It is recommended that the following be received and become a part of the permanent record of this one hundred and twenty-seventh stated gathering.

INFORMATION

1. Received the minutes of the commission to install Rev. Elizabeth Troyer as pastor of Wake Forest Presbyterian Church on October 19, 2025.
2. Received the minutes of the commission to install Rev. Nicholas Demuynck as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Wilson on October 26, 2025.
3. Received the minutes of the commission to install Rev. Meg Dudley as pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church on November 16, 2025.
4. Received the minutes of the commission to install Rev. Katie Cashwell as associate presbyter for small churches and technology for the Presbytery of New Hope at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church on January 10, 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Addressing imbalance between resident ministers and elders. At the beginning of every year, when the number of ministers residing within the bounds of the presbytery has been established, the clerk shall assign additional elder commissioners in the following way:
 - An additional elder commissioner shall be assigned to each racial ethnic church.
 - Exempt staff members who are elders shall be eligible.
 - All lay members of coordinating body who are elders shall be eligible.
 - All certified educators who are elders shall be eligible.
 - All commissioned ruling elders serving churches shall be eligible.
 - Churches with membership up to 300 will be given one commissioner.
 - Additional elders will be assigned as follows: 301-1,000 = 2 elders; 1,001-1,500 = 3 elders; 1,500-2,000 = 4 elders; 2,001-3,000 = 5 elders. Beyond 3,001 members there shall be an additional elder representative for each 1,000 additional active members or major fraction thereof.
 - Additional assignments of elder commissioners will be given to churches having one elder on an alphabetical rotating basis.

As of December 31, 2025, there were 171 eligible ministers residing within the bounds of the presbytery. Therefore for 2026 we recommend that there be 171 elder commissioners and 171 minister commissioners (see attachment #1, page 35).

CONGRATULATIONS TO

1. Rev. Elizabeth Troyer, installed as pastor of Wake Forest Presbyterian Church on October 19, 2025.
2. Rev. Nicholas Demuynck, installed as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Wilson on October 26, 2025.
3. Rev. Meg Dudley, installed as pastor of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church on November 16, 2025.
4. Rev. Katie Cashwell, installed as associate presbyter for small churches and technology for the Presbytery of New Hope at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church on January 10, 2026.
5. Rev. Anne Galliher and her husband, Aaron, on the birth of their daughter, Margaret Galliher, on February 7, 2026.
6. Rev. Molly Smerko and John Sharp, who were married at White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh on February 21, 2026.

CONDOLENCES TO

1. Rev. Lisa Hebacker on the loss of her father, Charles Cecil Wells, on November 30, 2025.
2. Joye Hodges Douthart (presbytery staff) on the loss of her father, Michael Hodges, on January 18, 2026.
3. Rev. Marily Hein (HR) on the loss of her long-time friend, Lyn DeVane, on February 3, 2026.

Report of Stated Clerk
Number of Church Commissioners for July 2026 through February 2027

Church	City	Active Members	2026 Commissioners
Bear Grass	Williamston	30	1
Berea	Four Oaks	20	1
Bethany	Wilson	19	1
Bethlehem	Mebane	15	1
Bethlehem	Rocky Mount	30	1
Blacknall Memorial	Durham	460	2
Brookston	Henderson	12	1
Butner	Butner	12	1
Calvary	Swan Quarter	32	1
Calvary	Wilson	50	2
Cann Memorial	Elizabeth City	60	1
Cary	Cary	423	2
Center Ridge	Kenly	18	1
Church Of Reconciliation	Chapel Hill	157	1
Cobb Memorial	Tarboro	38	1
Cornerstone	Cary	203	1
Cotton Memorial	Henderson	62	2
Covenant	Durham	216	2
Covenant	Wendell	115	1
Davie Street	Raleigh	149	2
Discovery Church	Clayton	51	1
Duraleigh	Raleigh	276	2
Durham First	Durham	578	2
Durham Pres	Durham	48	1
Ebenezer	New Bern	18	2
Edenton First	Edenton	21	1
Efland	Efland	22	1
Eno	Cedar Grove	23	1
Ernest Myatt	Raleigh	57	1
Fairfield	Efland	7	2
Faith	Goldsboro	106	2
Falkland	Falkland	53	2
Farmville	Farmville	140	1
Fountain	Fountain	11	1
Fuquay-Varina	Fuquay-Varina	154	1
Garner First	Garner	119	1
Geneva	Oxford	37	1
Goldsboro (Korean)	Goldsboro	16	2
Goldsboro First	Goldsboro	350	2
Grace Chapel Community	Pinetops	8	1

Greenville First	Greenville	560	2
Greenville Korean	Winterville	27	2
Hebron	Oxford	7	1
Henderson First	Henderson	114	1
Hillsborough	Hillsborough	131	1
Howard Memorial	Tarboro	280	1
Hudson Memorial	Raleigh	621	2
Iglesia Presbyteriana Emanuel	Durham	73	2
Kenly	Kenly	25	1
Kinston First	Kinston	173	1
Kirk Of Holly Springs	Holly Springs	74	1
Kirk Of Kildaire	Cary	902	2
Little River	Hurdle Mills	107	1
Littleton	Littleton	13	1
Macclesfield	Macclesfield	25	1
Morton Memorial	Rocky Mount	24	1
Mt. Bethel	Durham	127	1
Mt. Olive	Mt Olive	154	1
Mt. Pisgah	Rocky Mount	28	2
Mt. Pleasant, W.S.	Willow Springs	51	1
Nahalah	Scotland Neck	18	1
Neuse Forest	New Bern	20	1
New Bern First	New Bern	811	2
New Hope	Chapel Hill	173	1
North Carolina Korean	Durham	12	2
North Raleigh	Raleigh	257	1
Nutbush	Townsville	38	1
Oak Grove	Middlesex	55	1
Oak Hill	Oxford	8	1
Oakland	Clayton	183	1
Outer Banks	Kill Devil Hills	169	1
Oxford	Oxford	80	1
Peace	Winterville	102	1
Pinetops	Pinetops	23	1
Plainview	Angier	37	1
Raleigh First	Raleigh	900	2
Roanoke Island	Manteo	36	1
Roanoke Rapids First	Roanoke Rapids	81	1
Rocky Mount First	Rocky Mount	281	1
Roxboro	Roxboro	88	1
Saint Andrews, Raleigh	Raleigh	747	2
Smithfield First	Smithfield	162	1
Spring Hill	Lucama	118	1

St. Andrews, Henderson	Henderson	32	1
St. Giles	Raleigh	243	1
St. James	Snow Hill	14	2
St. Paul	Louisburg	26	2
Stanley White	Roanoke Rapids	13	1
Timothy Darling	Oxford	21	2
Trinity	Raleigh	103	1
Trinity Avenue	Durham	426	2
Unity	Newton Grove	118	1
University	Chapel Hill	1212	3
Wake Forest	Wake Forest	430	2
Wanoca	Washington	42	1
Warrenton	Warrenton	8	1
Washington First	Washington	212	1
West Haven	Rocky Mount	49	1
West New Bern	New Bern	39	1
West Raleigh	Raleigh	228	1
Western Boulevard	Raleigh	225	1
Westminster, Durham	Durham	927	2
Westminster, Lucama	Lucama	9	1
Westminster, Raleigh	Raleigh	44	1
White Memorial, Raleigh	Raleigh	4438	6
White Memorial, W.S.	Willow Springs	62	1
White Rock	Kinston	31	2
William And Mary Hart	Tarboro	44	1
Williamston	Williamston	16	1
Wilson First	Wilson	473	2
Young Memorial	Manson	1	1
SUB-TOTAL		21,617	150
Exempt Staff Elders			2
Certified Educators Who Are Elders			5
Elder Members of Coordinating Body			3
Commissioned Ruling Elders			11
Total		21,617	171

Report of Sessional Records February 28, 2026

In reviewing the procedures of the lower council, the higher body shall determine whether the proceedings have been correctly recorded, have been in accordance with this Constitution, have been prudent and equitable, and have been faithful to the mission of the whole church. It shall also determine whether lawful injunctions of a higher body have been obeyed. G-3.0108a

Sessional records (rolls and minutes) have been reviewed and approved with no exceptions for 2023 for the following churches:

Center Ridge
Oak Grove

Sessional records (rolls and minutes) have been reviewed and approved with no exceptions for 2024 for the following churches:

Center Ridge
Mt. Pisgah
Oak Grove
White Memorial – WS

Coordinating Body Report 127th Stated Gathering February 28, 2026

It is with abounding gratitude to God for the Spirit's movement in and through the Presbytery of New Hope, and through the witness of those of you reading this report and beyond, that your Coordinating Body shares these items of activity.

Since last we met, we...

- Celebrated the hope, inspiration, tenacity, and adaptive responsiveness to the Holy Spirit of New Hope's churches and leaders;
- Rejoiced in Katie Cashwell's installation service as Associate Presbyter for Small Churches & Technology on January 10;
- Reflected on feedback from the October stated gathering of presbytery, visioning how the form of our meetings might better strengthen our connectionalism;
- Received reports regarding the Ahoskie Presbyterian/Gathering Place transition, Spring Hill mortgage application, Oak Hill cemetery, and Hunger Grant applications;
- Reviewed the process of distribution of resources from the Milner Commons Fund;
- Moved to pursue clarification on the Stated Clerk's position, hours, and salary;
- Held a 2.5 day retreat at the Trinity Center, with facilitator Steve Lindsley, doing a deep-dive into the needs of the presbytery and the role of the Coordinating Body in addressing them;
- Set intentions regarding reviewing our infrastructure and strengthening our communications within the ecosystem of our staff, committees, commissions, networks, congregations, ministries, and presbyters.

If you have a heart for the scope of work named above (and beyond!) relative to supporting the life, operations, and mission of the presbytery, please raise your hand for service on the Coordinating Body. You will learn even more about the ways God is empowering our presbytery to live into its namesake as people of New Hope.

A Service of Commissioning for Commissioners Attending the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA

Ruling Elder

Madeline Lee, Trinity Avenue Presbyterian
John Etheredge, First Presbyterian Rocky Mount
Alec Peters, West Raleigh Presbyterian
Lisa Lewis Jenkins, Saint Andrews Presbyterian

Teaching Elder

Rev. Jordan Davis, Saint Giles Presbyterian
Rev. Jackie Rodriguez, Duke Presbyterian Campus
Ministry
Rev. Gun Ho Lee, Shalom Ministry
Rev. Vanessa Hawkins, Retired

Young Adult Advisory Delegate - Caroline Garcia, WMPC - Raleigh, student Virginia Tech
Alternate - Rev. Betty Berghaus, Retired

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Moderator: As many of you as were baptized into Christ
Have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Gal 3:27-28

All: **There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

Ephesians 4:4-6

Moderator: 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.

Moderator: Madeline, John, Alec, Lisa, Jordan, Jackie, Gun Ho, Vanessa,
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 serve as Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly.

Please respond to 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 call
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 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.

Moderator: Do we, members of New Hope Presbytery,
accept these Commissioners
chosen by God through the voice of the church,
to guide us in the way of Jesus Christ?

We do.

Do we promise to pray for them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

We do.

Moderator: COMMISSIONING PRAYER

Faithful God,
in baptism you claimed us;
and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives,
empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling.
We thank you for leading them to this time and place.
Establish *them* in your truth,
and guide *them* by your Holy Spirit,
that in your service *they* may grow
in faith, hope and love,
and be faithful disciples of Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit
be honor and glory, now and forever.

CHARGE

You are now commissioned
to service as Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA.
Whatever you do, in word or deed, *Col.3:17*
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

BLESSING

May the God of Peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being,
spirit, soul, and body, free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Alleluia! Amen.



February 2026 Presbytery Stated Gathering

FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORTS

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The Finance & Property Committee is looking for volunteers to join the committee or the to-be-formed subcommittee, Investments and Banking. If you are interested or know of anyone that may be a good fit, please reach out to financecommittee@nhpresbytery.org. Any financial or property knowledge would be beneficial but not required.

WHAT DOES THE PRESBYTERY DO FOR US?

The mission of the Presbytery of New Hope is to build relationships, equip and serve together as the body of Christ with congregations and communities to move all toward God's vision of love, justice, hope and peace.

Our presbytery is more than just the office in Raleigh and staff. The Presbytery of New Hope is composed of 111 churches, three new worshipping communities, and a vast array of other validated ministries in the northeastern and central part of North Carolina. The presbytery encompasses churches from Efland to the Outer Banks. The presbytery is an inclusive and diverse body of Reformed Christians committed to a deepening devotion to Jesus Christ, living in response to the good news of the gospel. We are committed to fostering relationships among individuals and congregations in the presbytery. There are many parts to the presbytery and these parts are expanded in this report.

All committees and commissions of the Presbytery of New Hope are composed of volunteering teaching and ruling elders of the Presbytery that are supported by presbytery staff.

The Coordinating Body functions like a session does for a congregation, with members serving as trustees and legal officers of the presbytery. The Coordinating Body plans, recommends and coordinates the work and programs of the presbytery; sets broad and overall goals and priorities; oversee the personnel functions of the presbytery through the personnel committee; receives and approves the annual mission budget and presents it to the gathering of the presbytery; and brings recommendations for approval of administrative committees to the presbytery.

The Commission on Ministry handles call and vacancies; handles conflict resolution; provides counseling and coaching to teaching elders; provides Healthy Boundary training to teaching and ruling elders; receives candidates for call once they have passed through the Examinations Subcommittee; and oversees congregations without ministers. Member of this commission currently serve as liaisons to five to six churches in the presbytery.

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry provides care, guidance and oversight for all inquirers and candidates for ordained ministry; provides care, guidance, and oversight for all persons seeking certification as church educators; serves as a shepherd to inquirers and candidates; evaluates and assesses candidates' progress during their period of candidacy; organizes and participates in annual consultations; and functions as a bridge between seminaries and candidates when needed.

The Campus Ministry Committee is responsible for supporting the ministers of the five campus ministries in our presbytery. These campus ministries are Duke Campus Ministries, NCCU Campus Ministries, PCM Raleigh (serving NCSU and Meredith College), UKirk of East Carolina Ministries, and UNC Campus Ministries. The budget of New Hope Presbytery provides substantial financial support for these ministries to our young adults.

The Church Development and Evangelism Committee provides opportunities to churches to deepen their commitment to evangelism; supports new church startups; and oversees church development grants. The church development grants are a specific line item in the presbytery mission budget.

The Nominations and Representation Committee, which is selected by the Coordinating Body, is responsible for nominating persons for Presbytery approval for the following positions: Vice-moderator; members of committees and commissions; Commissioner and Youth Advisory Delegates to the General Assembly; Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegates to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic; and presbytery representative to ecumenical boards and agencies.

The Personnel Committee proposes personnel policies for the presbytery and assures compliance with these policies; proposes performance review procedures for presbytery staff; assures reviews are conducted according to established procedure and conducts reviews for specified exempt positions; proposes salary schedules for all presbytery employees; and consults with and advises appropriate entities and staff regarding personnel functions, standard and dealing with sensitive matters.

The Finance and Property Committee is responsible for financial and property matters referred by the Coordinating Body to the committee. In addition, the Finance and Property Committee reviews and advises on matters of encumbrance, purchase, or sale of congregational property; oversees management of presbytery funds, investments, debt retirement, and expenditures; conducts annual budget development process; and submits an annual budget proposal for the Coordinating Body's consideration, review and approval.

Besides the commissions and committees of the presbytery there are multiple **networks and task groups** working to fulfill our mission. These are also led by ruling and teaching elders of the presbytery. These are: the Peacemaking Team; the Black Caucus Ministry; the Older Adult Ministry; the Fiscal Sustainability Task Group; retreat and educational opportunities; Youth Ministries; Outdoors Ministries – Camp Albemarle; emergency response coordination and assistance; support of interfaith prison ministries; Presbyterian Women; and Passion Driven Ministry Grants.

The work of these commissions, committees, networks, and task groups further the mission of the presbytery and is done by many volunteering members of the presbytery along with the presbytery office staff. In summary the mission of the Presbytery of New Hope is supported by the time, talents, and treasures from the congregations of the presbytery.

WHAT DOES OUR MONEY DO IN THE PRESBYTERY?

Every year, each church receives a Commitment Form from the Presbytery of New Hope. There are three main parts to these funds.

The first part on the commitment form is the Presbytery Mission Giving. **The Presbytery Mission Giving is the primary source of income for the presbytery** and supports our local missions and ministries, along with the office of the Presbytery of New Hope:

- Campus Ministries
- Small Church Grants
- New Congregation programs
- Church Development Grants
- Passion Driven Ministries Grants
- Hunger Fund Grants
- Career counseling
- Consulting and assessments for churches
- Exams and transfers
- Older Adult Ministry
- Camp Albemarle
- The Black Caucus Ministry
- Youth Ministries
- Interfaith Prison Ministries
- Administration of the office of the Presbytery of New Hope
- Peacemaking Programs (these funds are shared between PCUSA, Synod, and Presbytery)
- ...and many other programs.

The two additional parts of the commitment form are based on per capita and are passed through the Presbytery to the corresponding agency. The first is the **Synod Per Capita** and is set by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. The other is the **GA per capita** and is set by the PCUSA General Assembly. In 2026, the Synod per capita rate increased to \$1.50 per member and the GA per capita rate increased to \$11.26 per member. The 2026 per capita is calculated using the membership count that was reported by the church as of December 31, 2024. *Neither of these funds financially support the office and missions of the Presbytery of New Hope.*

FINANCE AND PROPERTY REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

Presented by Sue Regier

Finances:

Milner Commons Mission Committee has started to utilize designated funds intended to support the mission of Milner Commons. They approved a \$13,000 payment to Brightspire Foundation to support a Service Coordinator position at Milner Commons.

2025 Hunger Fund Grants approved 11 applications to receive funds for a total disbursement of \$22,000. At the time, the funds had an available balance of \$27,000 to distribute.

Property:

Spring Hill Presbyterian Church in Lucama received approval of their application from Finance & Property Committee for a mortgage to rebuild their sanctuary following a fire.

The property at 701 Church St in Ahoskie, NC, formerly Ahoskie Presbyterian Church, along with \$19,250 in remaining designated funds, was transferred to The Gathering Place.

Committee Needs:

The Finance & Property Committee is looking for volunteers to join the committee or the to-be-formed subcommittee, Investments and Banking. If you are interested or know of anyone that may be a good fit, please reach out to financecommittee@nhpresbytery.org. Any financial or property knowledge would be beneficial but not required.

2026 Presbyterian Church (USA) Special Offerings Changes

A few Special Offerings ended in 2025 and will be rolled into new or other Special Offerings.



World Missions is being reimagined and refocused, now bearing the name ***Global Ecumenical Partnerships***. The role of this mission is still evolving. Currently it bridges between PC(USA) and international/U.S. partners, mid councils, new worshiping and diaspora communities, ethnic caucuses, ecumenical partners and mission networks.

The Pentecost Special Offering ended in 2025. Gifts will be contributed to ***Christmas Joy***. This offering is used to provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families; as well as providing financial assistance to students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

The Peace & Global Witness offering ended in 2025 and will be replaced by the **World Communion Offering**. This offering is used to support racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical & interfaith relations.

2026 Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Special Offerings Changes

The following Special Offerings ended in 2025:

- Mother's/Father's Day Special Offerings
- Thanksgiving Special Offering



Summary of following financial documents

In December, a **letter** was sent to all congregations with statements outlining the funds received by The Presbytery. The letter also highlighted several programs supported by the Unified Presbytery Mission Giving Funds.

Congregations also received **2026 Commitment Forms**, accompanied by a **letter requesting commitments** to support the Presbytery of New Hope's work. The 2026 Asking formula was recalculated to get all congregations closer in line with a more equitable ask. The formula considered *congregation membership* and *reported finances*, with plans to step low-contributing congregations up to full ask amounts by 2027. The 2026 Acceptance Form and **2026 Support Remittance Form** were designed to clarify which funds support the Presbytery, and which are passed on to the Synod and PCUSA General Assembly.

The 2026 Remittance Form can be found online at: <https://nhpresbytery.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-Presbytery-Support-REMITTANCE-FORM-cd02204069d2ec94ce373a56ef7b98f7.pdf>

2025 Before End of Year Letter Mailed to Congregations

October 21, 2025

Dear Churches of the Presbytery of New Hope,

As we approach the end of another year, we want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful and generous support of the Presbytery of New Hope. Your commitment to our shared mission continues to make a meaningful impact, and we are deeply thankful for your partnership in ministry.

Through your contributions to the **Presbytery Unified Mission Giving Fund**, we have been able to accomplish so much together this year, including:

- Visiting and preaching in congregations across the Presbytery
- Launching the 2025–2028 Strategic Plan
- Hosting a Small Church Gathering
- Celebrating our Outstanding Older Adults
- Providing a Clergy Retreat
- Hiring a part-time Youth Council Coordinator
- Providing financial support beyond the Presbytery office:
 - \$174,000 for Campus Ministries
 - \$50,734 for Camp Albemarle
 - \$7,500 for Small Church Grants

The Presbytery of New Hope office remains dedicated to serving alongside our churches and pastors—supporting pastoral transitions, nurturing congregational health, and equipping leaders for ministries of peace, justice, and renewal.

None of this would be possible without your partnership through the Presbytery Unified Mission Giving Fund. To continue this important work, we ask that you consider making an **additional contribution before year-end**. Every gift—large or small—helps us sustain the programs and support that strengthen our congregations and communities.

Enclosed you will find:

- A statement of your **contributions received through September 2025**, and
- A copy of your **2025 Benevolence Acceptance Form** (originally mailed last December).

Katie Cashwell
Associate Presbyter

Bruce Grady
Executive
Presbyter

Ed Johnson
Stated
Clerk

Christine Kelson
Office Manager

Shauna Villela
Office
Administrator

Amber Zapffel
Temporary Finance Administrator

2022 McDonald Lane, Raleigh, NC 27608/(919) 322-0143/nhpresbytery.org



Please review your statement and submit any remaining 2025 contributions as soon as possible. **Contributions received after the second week of January will be applied to your 2026 statement.**

Looking ahead to 2026, we are eager to continue building on this year's momentum. In the coming weeks, you will receive your 2026 Per Capita and Presbytery Unified Mission Giving Acceptance Form.

Thank you again for your generosity, faithfulness, and shared commitment to the ministry of the Presbytery of New Hope. Together, we look forward to making 2025 a year of even greater impact and service.

With gratitude and grace,

Amber Zapffel

Temporary Financial Administrator

finance@nhpresbytery.org

919-436-1262

The Presbytery depends on your continued contributions to the Presbytery Unified Mission Giving fund to support the work of the Presbytery Office.

The Presbytery of New Hope
2022 McDonald Lane
Raleigh, NC 27608-2118

2026 Asking Letter Mailed to Congregations



The Presbytery
OF NEW HOPE

Name
Address1
Address2
CityStateZip

Dear Pastors, Clerks of Session, and Congregational Leaders,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

As we move through this season of ministry, I would like to take a moment to express the Presbytery's deep gratitude for the many ways your congregation shares in our common life—through your leadership, your prayers, your participation, and your faithful support of the Presbytery. Your commitment helps sustain the governance of our denomination at every level, and we are truly thankful.

I'm writing today to invite your congregation to prayerfully consider **increasing your mission giving to the Presbytery** in the coming year. While per capita supports the essential constitutional and administrative work of the synod, and General Assembly, **Presbytery Mission Giving is what directly funds the Presbytery and ministries that touch the lives of our congregations most closely.**

Your support enables the Presbytery to:

- walk with congregations in times of transition and renewal,
- provide care, coaching, and continuing education for pastors and commissioned leaders,
- offer grants and resources for new ministries and community outreach,
- support youth, campus, and immigrant ministries within our region,
- nurture leadership development and elder training,
- and respond swiftly when congregations face crisis or unexpected need.

These are the ministries that strengthen local churches in tangible, everyday ways—the ministries most congregations rely on without always seeing the full story behind them.

Like many of you, the Presbytery is navigating rising costs and increased demands for support. A modest increase in giving from each congregation would enable us to sustain the work we are currently doing and also explore and engage new opportunities for mission and care. Even a small adjustment makes a meaningful difference when we do this together.

We ask that you take time to reflect on your congregation's commitment to **Presbytery Mission Giving** as you plan for the upcoming year. If you have questions about how your gifts are used, would like to learn more about current presbytery initiatives, or want help discerning what level of giving feels faithful for your congregation, please reach out—we would be glad to talk.

Thank you for all the ways you bless the wider church through your ministry. Your generosity strengthens the whole presbytery and helps us continue the work Christ has set before us. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in the gospel.

With gratitude and hope,

The Rev. Dr. Bruce Grady
Executive Presbyter

PS: Online access for your church's annual statistical reporting to the PC(USA) will be open January 2 – February 20, 2026. Watch for information coming soon on how to access the portal. Your reporting helps the Presbytery office understand and plan for the best ways to support you and your congregation more faithfully. Please reach out to us with any questions.

2026 Commitment Form Mailed to Congregations

Name/Location



Support the mission and ministries of our connectional churches in 2026

Commitment Form for 2026 Stewardship Giving to the Presbytery of New Hope and Per Capita Support for the Synod and Denomination

The Presbytery
OF NEW HOPE

Please complete this Commitment Form outlining your church's pledges of support for 2026, and return it to the office of the Presbytery by **December 31, 2025**.

A list of specific support funds is included on the back page. Thank you for your partnership in faith and ministry!

The Presbytery of New Hope

These funds support the mission and ministries of The Presbytery of New Hope.

Our church's 2026 Presbytery Mission Giving commitment \$ _____
Recommended range: 2026 Ask - 2026 Ask Challenge

We pledge to provide additional support to these Presbytery ministries:

_____ \$ _____
\$ _____

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

These funds support the mission and ministries of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

Synod per capita: 2024 Membership: 2024 Active Members x \$1.50 = **2026**
Synod per Capita

We pledge to provide additional support to these Synod ministries:

_____ \$ _____
\$ _____

Presbyterian Church (USA)

These funds support the mission and ministries of the PC(USA).

GA per capita: 2024 Membership: 2024 Active Members x \$11.26 = **2026**
GA per Capita

We pledge to provide additional support to these PC(USA) ministries:

_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____
_____ \$ _____

**Note: Per Capita is calculated based upon the church's reported membership as of December 31, 2024.*

TOTAL 2026 SUPPORT COMMITMENT: \$ _____

Intended Remittance Schedule: () Monthly () Quarterly () Other: _____

(Clerk of Session)

(Date)

Please mail your completed form by December 31, 2025 to: The Presbytery of New Hope,
ATTN: Financial Administrator, 2022 McDonald Lane, Raleigh, NC 27608-2118.

Common Support Funds Grouped by Council

Presbytery of New Hope

Hunger Funds/Pennies for Hunger
Campus Ministries
Ministers' Assistance Fund
Camp Albemarle

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

Presbyterian Homes
Union Seminary Offering
Mother's Day Offering
Thanksgiving Offering

PC(USA)

Theological Education Fund
Presbytery Disaster Assistance
Christmas Joy Offering
Pentecost Sunday Offering
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

The Peacemaking Offering is shared between the church, the Presbytery, the Synod, and PC(USA).



The Presbytery OF NEW HOPE

2026 SUPPORT REMITTANCE FORM

See Instructions on Reverse Side

Amount

The Presbytery of New Hope:

100. Presbytery Mission Giving	\$ _____
101. Hunger Fund/Pennies for Hunger	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____

Total Presbytery Support \$ _____

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic:

200. Synod Per Capita	\$ _____
201. Union Seminary	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____

Total Synod Support \$ _____

PC(USA):

300. General Assembly Per Capita	\$ _____
301. Theological Education Fund	\$ _____
302. One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter)	\$ _____
304. Christmas Joy Offering	\$ _____
306. World Communion Offering	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____
Other: _____	\$ _____

Total PC(USA) Support \$ _____

TOTAL SUPPORT REMITTANCE \$ _____

Church _____

City _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Signature _____

Date _____

EXPLANATION OF PROGRAMS

Presbytery Mission Giving – These funds support the work and missions of the Presbytery of New Hope. Programs supported by our operating budget includes Campus Ministries and Camp Albemarle. Without your continued support, we would not be able to fund these programs.

GA & Synod Per Capita - fund the administrative expenses of the General Assembly and Synod.

Other - Remittances for other items supported through the program budgets of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly should include the name of the program.

Special Offerings - benevolences which are used to support specifically named causes which are over and above the mission budgets of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

Hunger Fund/Pennies for Hunger - Special offering to support local hunger projects.

Union Seminary - This offering is used to provide general financial support to Union Seminary.

Theological Education Fund - This offering is used to provide general financial support to the seminaries.

One Great Hour of Sharing - This offering is used to alleviate hunger and provide emergency aid to those in need around the world.

Pentecost - This offering ended in 2025. Gifts will be contributed to *Christmas Joy*.

Christmas Joy - This offering is used to provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families; as well as providing financial assistance to students attending Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

World Communion Offering - This offering is replacing *Peace & Global Witness offering*. This offering is used to support racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, ecumenical & interfaith relations.

Global Ecumenical Partnerships – Previously *World Missions*. The role of this mission is evolving in 2025. Currently it bridges between PC(USA) and international/U.S. partners, mid councils, new worshipping and diaspora communities, ethnic caucuses, ecumenical partners and mission networks.

Please enter the name of your church, city, contact email and phone, and sign and date the form.

Thank you for your support of the programs of The Presbytery of New Hope, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and the General Assembly.

Questions can be sent to finance@nhpresbytery.org

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: The Presbytery of New Hope
ATTN: Finance Administrator
2022 McDonald Lane
Raleigh, NC 27608-2118

[View this email in your browser](#)



SPECIAL OFFERINGS

226th General Assembly (2024) Approves New Churchwide Special Offerings Menu

Dear friends of the churchwide Special Offerings,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! The 226th General Assembly (2024) approved several changes to the churchwide Special Offerings to take effect January 1, 2026. These changes were recommended by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board through the Special Offerings Review Task Force. Thanks to members of the Task Force for their creative work.

The biggest change you will note is a new lineup of offerings:

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- World Communion Offering
- Christmas Joy Offering

That means:

1. The **Pentecost Offering** will be discontinued after the 2025 Offering. However, all current recipient causes will continue to be funded through the churchwide Special Offerings. Specifically, ministries focused on children-at-risk, youth, and young adults will now be part of the **Christmas Joy Offering**.
2. The **Peace & Global Witness Offering** will transform into the **World Communion Offering** beginning in 2026. Through 2025, congregations and mid councils are invited to retain a percentage of gifts from their Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness Offerings. In 2026, there will be a new grant-making program to support local and regional ministries. Your

congregation or mid council will be able to apply for a grant for your own ministries that align with the causes supported through this new Offering. PMA staff are already working to create an accessible grant process that centers equity, creativity, and flexibility.

3. Overall, **causes**, rather than **programs** will receive funds as determined by leadership of the future unified agency. This **does not mean** currently funded programs will no longer receive funding. Broadening the scope of funding areas will invite more congregations, mid councils, and individuals to support the churchwide Special Offerings while discovering new ways to do God's work in the world.

Over the next year, we will be redefining the Special Offerings experience to encompass this new direction. Be on the lookout for occasional updates on this process while continuing to receive resources, communication, and opportunities for the current schedule of Offerings.

I'm excited that the Holy Spirit led this General Assembly to approve these recommendations. They will bring a renewed spirit of gratitude, compassion, connection and justice-centered giving. It is my prayer that God use these gifts to help us know that We Are the Church...**Together!**

Please reach out to me or anyone on my team with any questions, comments, or just for further conversation. We look forward to speaking with you!

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Wilson Kennedy
Associate Director for Special Offerings and Appeals

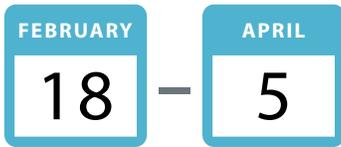




SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The Churchwide Special Offerings — One Great Hour of Sharing, World Communion Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering — are ways Presbyterians collectively participate in ministries of justice, hunger, disaster, Christian formation, education, peacemaking, leadership development and global witness.

Offering Seasons for 2026



One Great Hour of Sharing | Season of Lent

Received during the season of Lent, especially Palm Sunday or Easter

pcusa.org/oghs

Resources distributed in January



World Communion Offering | Season of Preparation

Received during the Season of Preparation, especially World Communion Sunday

pcusa.org/wco

Resources distributed in July



Christmas Joy Offering | Season of Advent and Christmas

Received during the season of Advent, especially the Sunday before Christmas

pcusa.org/christmasjoy

Resources distributed in October

REMITTING FUNDS:

Congregations

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Mid Councils

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643751
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3751

CONTACT:

special.offerings@pcusa.org
800-728-7228, ext. 5047
pcusa.org/specialofferings



ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING



WORLD COMMUNION
OFFERING



CHRISTMAS JOY
OFFERING

How do I start receiving a new Offering?

Contact Special Offerings staff at [800-728-7228](tel:800-728-7228), ext. 5047, with any additional questions or requests.

How do I change my standing order?

To revise your standing order, email customer_service@presbypub.org or call Presbyterian Customer Service at [800-533-4371](tel:800-533-4371).

» Who should I contact with questions?

The Special Offerings staff can be contacted at special.offerings@pcusa.org and [800-728-7228](tel:800-728-7228), ext. 5047.

» What are the best ways for me to stay informed on how gifts to the Offerings are used?

You can sign up for Special Offering emails to receive ongoing information about the work of each supported program. Visit pcusa.org/SOnewsletters.

» How should I promote the Offerings?

Your creativity in promoting the Offerings within your church is invaluable! However, for each Offering, we have provided a thorough guide for promotion in the Leader's Guide included in your standing order and available online at pcusa.org/specialofferings. There are also numerous online resources for use.

» What is the best way to get the children in my congregation involved with giving to the Offerings?

Each Offering includes downloadable curriculum. Additional ideas include asking them to perform a skit about the Offering, passing out bulletins to church members or reading a Minute for Mission during service.

» What is the Presbyterian Giving Catalog?

It is a collection of gifts that exemplify the work carried out by the ministries supported by the Special Offerings. Our online catalog is available at presbyteriangifts.org.

Call [800-728-7228](tel:800-728-7228), ext. 5047, to request your catalogs today.

» Where can I find resources or ideas to promote the Presbyterian Giving Catalog at my church?

Visit presbyteriangifts.org/get-involved to download curriculum activities, bulletin inserts, stories of impact and other resources.

PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog is a growing part of the important work of Special Offerings. Highlighting specific causes — providing clean water, ending hunger, sustaining communities and supporting education — the Giving Catalog offers individuals, small groups and congregations a way to connect to the impact their generosity makes in the world.



Nominations and Representation Committee February 2026

The following nominations are submitted for approval

Campus Ministry	
Rev. Alex Fischer, TE, Hillsborough	Class of 2028
Rev. Noe Juarez, TE, Goldsboro 1 st	Class of 2028
Rev. Carol Gregg, TE, HR	Class of 2027 (class change)
Rev. Andrea Rock, TE, Westminster Raleigh	Class of 2028
Commission on Ministry	
Judy Rogers, RE, Raleigh 1st	Class of 2026
Rev. Haley Stephenson, TE, Duke VA Health Care System	Class of 2027
Patricia Anderson, RE, 1 st Greenville	Class of 2028
Rev. Betty Berghaus, TE, HR	Class of 2028 (class change)
Rev. Matt Bowman, TE, Roxboro	Class of 2028 (class change)
Dana Jenkins, RE, Henderson 1 st	Class of 2028 (class change)
Lori Jones, RE, Calvary Wilson	Class of 2028 (class change)
Rev. Ally Pexa, TE, 1 st Rocky Mount	Class of 2028
Rev. Jonathan Sherrod, TE, Kirk of Holly Springs	Class of 2028 (class change)
Rev. Rocky Stone, TE, Farmville	Class of 2028 (class change)
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	
Rev. Thankam Rangala, TE, Westminster Durham	Class of 2028
Coordinating Body	
Rev. Sydne Allen, TE, Peace Presbyterian	Class of 2027(class change)
Church Development & Evangelism	
Rev. Savannah Demuynck, TE, Wilson 1st	Class of 2028 (class change)
Rev. Katherine Hester-Doehring, TE, Bethlehem Mebane	Class of 2028
Exams and Transfers	
Rev. Frank Mansel, TE, Western Boulevard	Class of 2028
Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt, TE, Oakland Presbyterian	Class of 2028
Personnel	
Amy Kennemur Hall, RE, White Memorial	Class of 2027
Rev. Ernie Thompson, TE, HR	Class of 2028

Current Vacancies

Coordinating Body – 4 for Class of 2028 need 2-3 Ruling Elders and 1-2 Teaching Elders
Meets online on 3rd Wednesday of month from 1pm-3pm, except months with presbytery meeting, February, July, and October

Church Development & Evangelism – need 1 for Class of 2026, 1 for Class of 2027, 2 for Class of 2028. Can be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders
Meets online 2nd Thursday at 10:00 am

Exams and Transfers- need 3 for Class of 2027 and 3 for Class of 2028. Can be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders
Meets at 8:30 am, online the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except Dec) or on the 1st Tuesday of a month that begins on a Wednesday.

Finance and Property – need 2 for Class of 2026 and 3 for Class of 2028. Can be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders
Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month from 10:00-12:00 in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep, and Nov.

Nominations and Representation – Need 1 for Class of 2026 and 2 for Class of 2028. Can be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders
Meets 3-4 times per year, or more if needed online

Personnel – need 1 for Class of 2026, 1 for Class of 2028. Can be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders
Usually meets monthly online but schedule is established each year by the committee, currently 4th Monday at 6:30 pm.

Preparation for Ministry – need 1 for Class of 2026, 1 for Class of 2027, and 5 for Class of 2028. Can be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders
Meets 1st Thursday monthly at 9:30 am White Memorial, Raleigh

Self-Development of People - SDOP meets about 4 times a year, mostly July-Dec when grant requests come in. It is a minority majority committee.

PRESBYTERY REPORT TO SYNOD ON REPRESENTATION

2025 Form for Year 2024

Presbytery New Hope

I a If you have a COR: New Hope has a Nominations and Representation Committee

how often does it meet? As needed during Nominations process as part of Nomination and Representation Committee

does it meet with the Presbytery Nominating Committee? Part of Nominations Committee

how does it report to Presbytery? Presbytery staff member is part of committee and decisions are reported in Presbytery Commissioner packet. Presbytery meets 3 times a year and Annual Report is included for information in the Presbytery packet after report is sent to Synod.

b If you do not have a COR, please state how you handle oversight of appropriate representation?

II What is the size of your presbytery? Churches 111 Members 23,457

What percentage of members are minorities? 3.5%

III. Of the leadership positions with in your presbytery (Leadership includes all Presbytery level committee members) :

How many are filled by women? 7 How many are filled by men? 5

IV. In the past 5 years, have you had a non-majority Moderator?

Yes X No _____

V. What actions or initiatives has your COR taken to try and improve your record of representation on committees?

Nominations and Representation Committee works to have Teaching Elder/Ruling Elder balance, male/female balance and minorities serving on all committees and commissions.

VI. What might the Synod COR do to assist your efforts to be more effective in your work?

Report submitted by Ray Watson Signature *R. Ray Watson*

Phone #919-481-4715 e-mail nrwjr@mindspring.com

This document was/will be part of COR's report to Presbytery on February 28, 2026

Stated Clerk Rev. Ed Johnson

Signature *Ed Johnson*

Date February 12, 2026

Please return this form on or before **(In office Deadline Date of August 12, 2025)**: via email to cmotley@synatlantic.org or to Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, 3601 Seminary Avenue, Richmond, VA 23227.

VI.

2025 COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT

PRESBYTERY NAME: New Hope

	Committee	Total	Male Clergy	Male Laity	Female Clergy	Female Laity	Asian Amer.	African	African Amer.	Hispanic Latino	Native American	Multi-Cultural	Middle Eastern	White	Other Self Ident	Person With Disability	Youth 25/ Under	Young Adult 26-35	Adult 36-64	Senior Adult 65+
1	Budget & Finance	6	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0
2	Church Development	7	1	2	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	7	0
3	Committee on Ministry	24	7	5	6	6	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	2	16	6
4	Presbytery Officers	6	2	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	39	1
5	Presbytery Council (Coordinating Body)	9	0	2	5	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	3	6	0
6	Nominating Committee	3	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
7	Commissioner to 226 GA	8	2	2	2	2	1	0	8	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	2	4	1
8	Commissioners to 253 rd SOMA Assembly	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Committee on Preparation	10	2	1	5	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	3	42	3
10	Campus Ministry	12	4	1	4	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10	2
11																				
12																				
13																				
14																				



Nominations and Representation Committee Members—2026

Ray Watson, Moderator
919-418-4715
nrwjr@mindspring.com
White Memorial, Raleigh

Felecia Hardy
919-264-5367
jamecia333@aol.com
St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Louisburg

Otto White
919-928-0068
oehal@aol.com
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Durham

Ed Johnson, Committee Staff
919-322-0143 ext. 854
ejohnson@nhpresbytery.org
The Presbytery of New Hope

Servant Leadership is defined in ways as unique as we each are. Some Christians will continue to serve in the same capacity, year after year. Other Servant Leaders will be involved in different ministries and in different roles over the course of their walk of faith. As a Ruling Elder or Teaching Elder, we invite you to consider sharing your insights and energies on a New Hope Presbytery Committee or Commission. The groups described within seek to support our member churches. Committee mission and meeting time vary. Most meet several times a year. A term is normally three years. The friendships may last a lifetime. Join us!

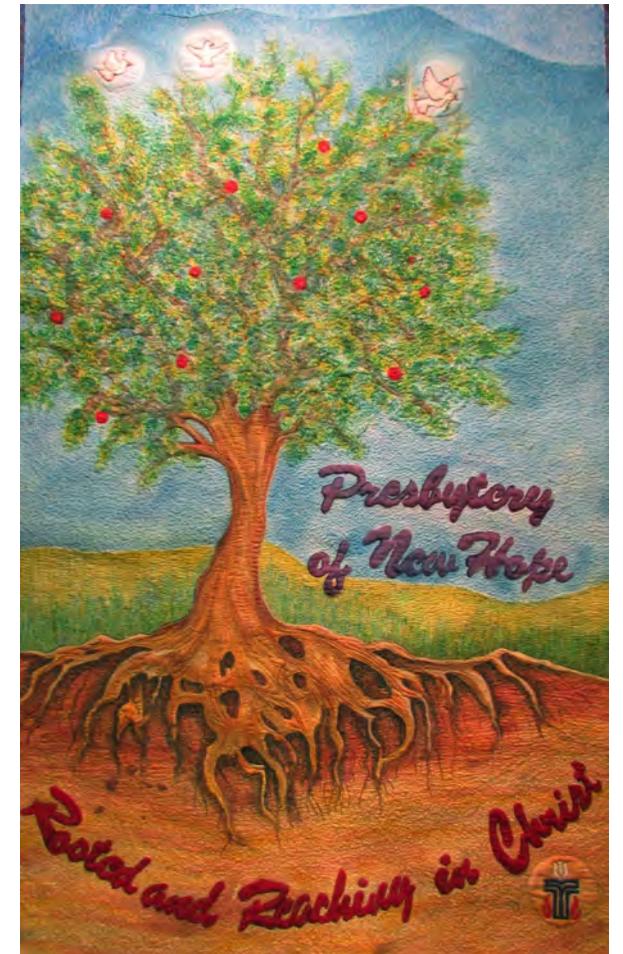
The Presbytery of New Hope

2022 McDonald Lane
Raleigh, NC 27608
Phone: 919-322-0143

<https://nhpresbytery.org/nominations-form/nominations@nhpresbytery.org>

The Presbytery of
New Hope

Committee on
Nominations and
Representation



Commissions and Committees of The Presbytery of New Hope

Campus Ministry Committee (CMC) Responsibilities include allocation and financial oversight of financial resources to the 5 campus ministries connected to the Presbytery, enabling and encouraging the campus ministries to work and to meet together, and promoting and advocating campus ministries in the Presbytery. Meets online 2-4 times per year on a schedule that is established at the beginning of the year by the committee. Useful Skills: love of young people, passion for campus ministries, financial sense, organizational skills, and advocacy skills.

Church Development and Evangelism Committee (CDE) Responsibilities include supporting small churches, new church startups, and providing opportunities for all churches to deepen their commitment to evangelism. Meets monthly at 10AM on the 2nd Thursday. Useful Skills: knowledge of 1001 New Worshiping communities, experience with Holy Cow Congregational Assessment, commitment to supporting small churches, grant writing and grant making, retreat planning, and an openness to new forms of ministry and models of church. It meets online, 2nd Thursday at 10AM. Meets in-person 2-3 times a year, usually at a small church or new worshipping community.

Commission on Ministry (COM) The committee provides the care for clergy, educators, sessions, and congregations. Responsibilities include oversight of Interim, Supply and Temporary relationships, approval of Pastoral calls, oversight of Commissioned Ruling Elders, oversight of congregations without Teaching Elders, visits with Sessions and Pastors. Members serve on one subgroup: Conflict Transformation, Ministers at Large, Interim Ministry, and Transitional Ministry. Meets on 2nd Wednesday monthly except Apr, Aug, and Dec, usually in White Memorial education building. Two meetings annually are held east and north of Raleigh. Useful skills: knowledge of PC(USA) polity, experience with churches in transition.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) The committee guides and supports Presbytery members who feel called to serve as Teaching Elders. The process includes the individual's development from Inquirer to Candidate ready to receive a call by meeting Book of Order and Presbytery requirements. Meets on the 1st Thursday monthly at White Memorial education building and other brief regional meetings, as needed. Useful skills: knowledge of PC(USA) polity, knowledge of CPM manual, being a good listener.

Coordinating Body (CB) Coordinating Body (CB) Responsibilities include coordinating with the Executive Presbyter, the mission and program of the Presbytery, offering guidance by assisting with broad, overall goals, serving as Trustees and Corporation officers of the Presbytery, approving dates and locations for Presbytery Gatherings, providing guidance and feedback through proposals and/or recommendations to the Executive Presbyter. Meets monthly from 1:00-3:00 on the 3rd Wednesday except in the months when a Stated Gathering is held. (Feb, Jul, and Oct) Useful skills: Past experience on Presbytery committees or commissions, commitment to the mission and work of our Presbytery. Meetings are online.

The Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) is focused on Readiness and Recovery. The team advocates advanced planning for member churches for natural and man-made disasters believing that written and

Examinations and Transfers Sub-Committee (ETSC) This is a sub-committee of COM and is charged with examining candidates for ordination and Teaching Elders who are transferring into New Hope Presbytery. Meets at 830am online the 2nd Tuesday of each month (except Dec) or on the 1st Tuesday of a month that begins on a Wednesday. Useful skills: interest in getting to know incoming pastors and candidates for ordination, willingness to engage in in-depth conversations about Reformed Theology, Polity, Worship and Sacraments and Scripture, and willingness to read and reflect on Statements of Faith.

Finance and Property Committee (FPC) Responsibilities include a proposed annual Presbytery budget, oversight of Presbytery funds, investments, debt retirement, and expenditures, and oversight of management of properties under direct control of Presbytery. Meets on the 2nd Monday of the month from 10:00-12:00 in Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Sep, and Nov. Useful skills: financial management, accounting, real estate, legal background, business operations management.

Nominations and Representation Committee (NRC) include identifying individuals to serve on Presbytery committees and filling vacancies as needed. Representation function seeks to intentionally include racial/ethnic minorities in service and leadership roles. Meets 3-4 times per year, or more if needed online Useful skills: knowledge of Presbytery committees and commissions, broad knowledge of Ruling and Teaching Elders in the Presbytery.

Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) include offering guidance for remedial or disciplinary cases that come before the Presbytery. Meets at the call of the Commission Moderator. Useful skills: knowledge of civil and church law, conflict resolution.

Personnel Committee (PC) Responsibilities include annual personnel reviews, proposed salary schedules for Presbytery employees, and compliance with Presbytery personnel policy. Usually meet monthly online but schedule is established each year by the committee, currently 4th Monday at 630pm. Useful skills: personnel or HR experience, knowledge of PC (USA) polity and Presbytery personnel rules.

Self-Development of People (SDOP) Founded as a response to racial and ethnic inequities, the SDOP invests in local communities who develop and administer programs of education and social action. Funded by One Great Hour of Sharing offerings, the committee reviews and approves grants of up to \$5000 and monitors their implementation. SDOP meets about 4 times a year, mostly July-Dec when grant requests come in. It is a minority majority committee.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO ACCESS THE
NOMINATIONS FORM!**



Nominations Form The Presbytery of New Hope

Name of Nominee: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Preferred Phone: _____

Email: _____

Congregation/Church: _____

___ Minister ___ Elder

___ Gender ___ Ethnicity/Race

Committee or Commission for Nomination:
(please see descriptions under Commissions and Committees of The Presbytery of New Hope)

- | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|
| ___ CMC | ___ CB | ___ NRC |
| ___ CDE | ___ DAT | ___ PJC |
| ___ COM | ___ ETSC | ___ PC |
| ___ CPM | ___ FPC | ___ SDOP |

Referred by: _____



The Presbytery
OF NEW HOPE



Scan the QR Code below to access
the Nominations Form!



SCAN ME

REPORT OF COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
Rev. Anne Galliher and Rev. Esther Hethcox
Co-Moderators

The commission took the following actions:

Received as inquirers

Ty Wrage (Blacknall Memorial)

Jeremy Trantham (Westminster, Durham)

Received as candidates

Allie Wrage (Blacknall Memorial)

Maryann Verghese (Durham Presbyterian Church)

Certified as ready to receive a call pending examination for ordination

Allison Buikema (University)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Session of Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church in Durham, NC to recommend that Allie Wrage be advanced as a candidate for ordination. Allie has maintained communication with the Session at Blacknall and we are pleased both with the growth we see in Allie and in the many ways she is serving the Church.

Allie has been a resident pastor at Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC since August 2024. This position has allowed Allie to experience many different areas of ministry and church life. She has written devotionals and liturgies, led in worship services and led morning prayers. She has taken pastoral care calls and visited congregants in the hospital. Allie created a special service before election day and she has done funeral service preparation. Allie has also continued to learn about the functioning of the church through attending Session meetings, staff meetings, and endowment committee meetings. Allie's work at Myers Park has also helped expand her knowledge of pastoring different populations. She has worked in VBS with children and families, led confirmation classes and served as a mentor for college student interns. One of the requirements of this residency is to serve at a rural partner church of 35 people. Allie is preaching there some this summer and leading worship services while the pastor is on sabbatical. She also does pastoral care there.

Allie is attentive to her own spiritual growth as she lives into her calling as a pastor. She has devoted time to considering what it means to pastor and how she can maintain good rhythms and spiritual disciplines. She meets regularly with a pastor at Myers Park for vocational discernment and engages in conversation and study with the other intern at the church.

For all of these reasons, the Session of Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian is delighted to recommend Allie as a candidate. She demonstrated growth and maturity when she was at Blacknall as an intern, and her position at Myers Park has added significantly to her experience. Allie is sincere in her faith and in pursuing her calling. We feel she will be a blessing to the Church and to the kingdom of Jesus Christ wherever she serves.

Sincerely,

Susan Kinghorn

Durham Presbyterian Church

www.durhamchurchnc.org

August 28, 2019

Dear New Hope Presbytery,

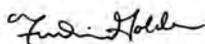
I have been Maryann Verghese's pastor, colleague, and friend for six years. She was an intern for a year at Durham Church. We were calling her "Pastor Maryann" before the ink was dry on her undergraduate (Duke) diploma. Now she's finished up at Union Seminary (NYC) and eager to be a candidate for ministry. Along with Durham Church, I am overjoyed and grateful.

When Maryann worked at Durham Church she effortlessly found herself at the heart of our congregational ministry. She was a valued member of our pastoral team and her insight into all sorts of things seemed beyond what should be possible for someone her age. Maryann is kind and confident, passionate and patient. She's a quick study, a strong preacher, and a sensitive pastor. She seemed to know everything about everyone in our congregation. Her knowledge of people was put to use daily in her pastoral care work, and in helping me and my then co-pastor, Amanda Diekman, do our work. One story: I was trying to streamline the process for having communion bread each week. Maryann interrupted in horror: "But what about Fran!!" Fran is an 87-year-old member of our congregation who, Maryann knew and I didn't, loves to bring the bread.

Maryann went to seminary not knowing whether or not she wanted to pursue ordination. We've stayed in touch for the past three years as she discerned her call. A theme that ran through our conversations is her passion around reforming the criminal justice system. While at seminary she continued to ponder the possibilities of advocacy and working for criminal justice reform. She wondered how that might connect with church work. She was able to spend a year interning at a church that works with current and previously incarcerated people. She did CPE at Bellevue. She even served as president of the student body at Union.

Now Maryann is finished with school and ready to take the next step in our ordination process. She wants to love God and her neighbors through pastoral ministry. It's also her desire that her passion for justice and her heart for the incarcerated inform her future ministry. Maryann is an unlikely New Hope Presbyterian. Not many of our candidates grew up in southern California megachurches. (Before I was her pastor, Rick Warren was!) I think this is a good thing. We could use more "outsiders" who become "insiders." In my experience, they help us see ourselves and the world we are called to love in new, helpful ways. This is a happy day for the presbytery.

Love,



Franklin Golden
Pastor, Durham Church

**REPORT OF COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
AND
EXAMINATIONS AND TRANSFERS SUB-COMMISSION**

**Elder Jerry Slaymaker, COM Coordinating Co-Moderator
Rev. Marie Mickey, COM East Co-Moderator
Elder John Winings, COM West Co-Moderator
Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt, Examinations and Transfers Moderator**

I. INFORMATION

1. Members of the commission to install Rev. Katie Cashwell as associate presbyter for small churches and technology for the Presbytery of New Hope at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church on January 10, 2026. Teaching elders: Rev. Sydne Allen, Rev. Ed Johnson, Rev. Antonio Lawrence, Rev. Elizabeth Whitmer, Rev. Bruce Grady. Ruling elders: Kathy Johnson, Lesley Stanford, Byung Lee. Guests of the commissions: Rev. Michelle Lewis.

II. THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY AND THE EXAMINATIONS AND TRANSFERS SUB-COMMISSION APPROVED THE FOLLOWING ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

A. Temporary Agreements

1. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Cam Coburn (LWB) and Macclesfield Presbyterian Church, effective October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026. Terms: housing allowance \$13,800.00.
2. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Stephen Herring (HR) and Cobb Memorial Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through December 31, 2025. Terms: annual cash salary \$16,020.00.
3. Rev. Carol Fleming (LWB) to serve as stated supply pastor at Outer Banks Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through June 30, 2026. Terms: cash salary \$22,500.00; housing allowance \$22,500.00; other applicable income \$7,000.00; social security offset \$3,978.00; reimbursable expenses \$1,800.00; Board of Pensions dues \$6,240.00. Total compensation package \$64,018.00.
4. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Richard McDuffie (LWB) and Covenant Presbyterian Church, Wendell, effective June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$5,880.00; housing allowance \$30,660.00. Total compensation package \$36,540.00.
5. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Laura Brekke Wagoner and Eno/Fairfield Presbyterian churches, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Terms: annual cash salary \$14,029.00; housing allowance \$45,141.00; social security offset \$4,526.50; reimbursable expenses \$3,090.00; Board of Pensions dues \$5,917.00. Total compensation package \$72,703.50, 4 weeks of vacation, 2 week of continuing education.
6. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Maurice Barnes (LWB) and Calvary Presbyterian Church, Wilson effective November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$14,400.00.
7. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Maurice Barnes (LWB) and White Rock Presbyterian Church, effective November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$9,600.00.

8. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Hadley Kifner (LWB) and University Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through December 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$46,015.00; housing allowance \$35,000.00; social security offset \$6,711.00; reimbursable expenses \$3,900.00; Board of Pensions dues \$32,229.00. Total compensation package \$123,855.00, 6 weeks of vacation.
9. Rev. Deborah McEachran (R) to serve as stated supply pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Wilson, effective November 3, 2025 through March 22, 2026. Terms: monthly cash salary \$4,300.00.
10. Rev. Claire Colcord (R) to serve as stated supply pastor at Mount Olive Presbyterian Church, effective January 11 through December 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$21,598.00; social security offset \$1,652.00; reimbursable expenses \$8,500.00. Total compensation package \$31,750.00.
11. Rev. William Darrell Arnold to serve as stated supply pastor at Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church, effective February 1 through September 1, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$23,000.00; reimbursable expenses \$1,350.00. Total compensation package \$24,350.00.
12. Renewal of interim pastor agreement between Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt (HR) and Oakland Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through June 30, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$30,000.00; housing allowance \$30,000.00; social security offset \$4,590.00; reimbursable expenses \$3,000.00; Board of Pensions dues \$7,200.00. Total compensation package \$74,790.00.
13. Revised interim pastor agreement between Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt (HR) and Oakland Presbyterian Church, effective February 1 through July 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$33,000.00; housing allowance \$33,000.00; social security offset \$5,049.00; reimbursable expenses \$3,000.00; Board of Pensions dues \$7,236.00. Total compensation package \$81,285.00.
14. Rev. Caroline Tuttle to serve as interim pastor at Little River Presbyterian Church, effective January 27 through July 25, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$27,000.00; social security offset \$2,065.50; reimbursable expenses \$1,000.00; Board of Pensions dues \$2,700.00. Total compensation package \$32,765.50, 2 weeks of vacation, 1 week of continuing education.

B. Commissioned Ruling Elders

1. Renewal of commissioned ruling elder agreement between Ross Renfrow and Center Ridge/Oak Grove Presbyterian churches, effective November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$34,000.00; reimbursable expenses \$500.00; employer share of FICA/Medicare \$2,601.00. Total compensation package \$37,101.00.

C. Validated Ministries

1. Mary Dance Berry to serve as assistant professor of Old Testament at Campbell University Divinity School (pending examination for ordination).
2. Ruling Elder Byung Seok Lee to serve as commissioned ruling elder for the Presbytery of New Hope pulpit supply validated ministry (pending examination for commissioning).

D. Dissolutions

1. Rev. Rebecca Gillespie and Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church, effective January 11, 2026.
2. Rev. Tyler Williams and West Haven Presbyterian Church, effective January 8, 2026.
3. Rev. Brandon Melton and North Raleigh Presbyterian Church, effective June 30, 2025.

E. Dismissals

1. Rev. Heidi Biermann to Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, effective December 10, 2025.

F. Term Waivers

1. Cann Memorial Presbyterian Church – waiver of 6-year session term limit. Ruling elder Sam Jones to serve an additional two-year term.

G. Mission Study

1. Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church and request to form a pastor nominating committee.

III. TO BE APPROVED

The Commission on Ministry and the Examinations and Transfers Sub-Commission recommend the following:

A. Ordinands

1. Pending successful examination and signing of the Ministerial Book of Obligations, that the request for Mary Dance Berry to be ordained into validated ministry as assistant professor of Old Testament at Campbell University Divinity School, be approved.

B. Commissioned Ruling Elders

1. Pending successful examination, that Ruling Elder Byung Seok Lee serve as commissioned ruling elder for the Presbytery of New Hope pulpits supply validated ministry, effective March 1, 2026 through February 28, 2027.

IV. TRANSFERS (To Be Welcomed)

Rev. Ausin Vernon (Coastal Carolina), effective January 5, 2026

Approval Authorities Matrix 12-10-25

	Items	Actions			
		Meets	Weekly	Monthly on second Wednesday except Lent & Advent when Exec COM meets	Monthly during Full COM in East or West Team
	COM Tasks/Responsibilities	Co-Moderators	Full COM	COM Advocate	E&T
1	Ad Hoc Members of COM	Approves			
2	Administrative Commission Requests (e.g., Closures)		Recommends to Coordinating Body		
3	Advocates for assigned churches			Contacts churches every 4-6 weeks	
4	All Actions of E&T		Receives		Reports to COM
5	Candidates for Ordination				Approves
6	Changes to COM Manual		Approves		
7	Changes to Terms of Call		Receives		
8	Church Advocates	Assigned by Co-Moderators			
9	Coordinating Co-Moderator		Elects for two year term		
10	Co-Moderators (East and West)			Team Elects for one-year term	
11	COM Agenda	Christine Prepares	Reviews		
12	Compatibility of candidate and church				Conducts
13	Compatibility of CRE and church				Conducts
14	Conflict Resolution Teams		Assigns/Oversight		
15	Contract between minister (installed) and church (Terms of Call or Stated Supply Agreement)				Approves
16	Commissions for Commissioning Ruling Elders or Ordaining/Installing Teaching Elders	EP and one co-moderator approvals			
17	Declaration of Intent (Pastor Separation)		Receives	Reviews	
18	Designated Pastor Positions		Approves		
19	Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship		Receives	Reviews	
20	Election of PNC/APNC		Approves based on approval of Mission Study		
21	Ruling Elder considering call as Commissioned Ruling Elder				Approves
22	Ministers transferring into Presbytery to accept a Call				Approves
23	Ministers requesting to labor within the Bounds				Approves
24	Gracious Separation		Receives and Refers		
25	Interim Ministers		Approves		
26	Inviting Clerks of Session to Church Leadership Connection	Invites through CLC			
27	Long-term visiting moderators of Session		Approves		
28	Major milestones/issues within assigned church			Reports to East or West Team	
29	Minister and Session Exit Interviews		Receives	Conducts	

	Items	Actions			
		Weekly	Monthly on second Wednesday except Lent & Advent when Exec COM meets	Monthly during Full COM in East or West Team	Monthly as Needed
	COM Tasks/Responsibilities	Co-Moderators	Full COM	COM Advocate	E&T
30	Reports from Ministers at Large		Receives		
31	Ministry Discernment Profile (CLC)	Approves		Reviews	
32	Mission Study		Approves		
33	Ordination to a Validated Ministry				Approves
34	Parish Associates		Receives Notification		
35	PNC/APNC Orientation		Provides		
36	PNC/APNC Work		Supports		
37	Policy for COM		Approves		
38	Post-Sabbatical Leave Report		Reviews		
39	Pulpit Supply List Requests	Approves			Approves if non- PCUSA
40	Reports from Designated Pastors (Quarterly)		Reviews	Requests	
41	Reports from Interim Ministers (Semi-annual)		Reviews		
42	Reports from Validated Ministries (Annual)		Reviews		
43	Request to Labor Outside Bounds of NHP		Approves		
44	Ruling Elder Term Limit Waiver		Approves		
45	Sabbatical Leave Plan		Reviews		
46	Session Exit Interview		Receives	Conducts	
47	Stated Supply Ministers		Approves, if less than one year		Approves, one year or longer
48	Stated Supply Renewals		Approves, if original vetted by E&T		Approves, if original not vetted by E&T
49	Teaching Elder Retirement Requests	Approves			
50	Temporary Pastoral Relationships			Reviews Monthly	
51	Transition Orientation	Provides to Session and Staff			
52	Transferring Ministers-at- Large into the Presbytery				Approves
53	Use of abbreviated Mission Study	Approves			
54	Vacancy Counselors	Assigns			
55	Validated Ministries		Approves		
56	Visiting Moderator (TE/RE) of Session/Congregational Meetings	Approves			
57	Visiting Ruling Elder to celebrate Communion	Approves			

MINISTERS' ATTENDANCE 2025						
Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Acton, Ben		P	P	P	3	
Allen, Sydne		P	E	P	2	1
Allen, Travis		P	E	P	2	1
Anderson, James Eade	HR					
Arnold, Darrell			E			1
Ash, Aleta	HR					
Ashfield, Baron	HR	E				1
Ashmore, James						
Austin, Sophie		E	E	E		3
Bancroft, Alan			P	E	1	1
Banner, Mary Holmes	HR					
Bardin, Bob	HR					
Barker, Jonathan	HR					
Barrick, Sheila	HR					
Beason, Thomas	HR					
Beichner, Bob		P	P	E	2	1
Bell, Goodwyn		P	P	E	2	1
Benson, Wayne	HR					
Berghaus, Betty	HR	P	P		2	
Biermann, Heidi		P	E		1	1
Blumhofer, Chris		P	E	E	1	2
Bodisco Massink, Willem	HR		P		1	
Boehne, Elizabeth			E			1
Bowman, Matt			P	E	1	1
Brand, Richard	HR					
Brawley, Robert	HR					
Brazil, Willie	HR					
Brimer, Allen			P	P	2	
Brizendine, Bob	HR					
Brothers, John	HR					
Brown, James	HR					
Brunk, Kevin		E	E	E		3
Bulger, Tara	4.3.25		P	E	1	1
Burgess, Paul		P	E	P	2	1
Cameron, Stuart	HR					
Cashwell, Katie		P	P	P	3	
Cates, Marla		P			1	
Chamblee-Hill, Amanda		P	P	P	3	
Chang, Sunny						
Chappell, William	HR					
Choi, Hyeok-Jin		E	P		1	1
Churn, Moffett	HR					
Churn, Ted	HR					
Clark, Andrew						
Clark, Robert	HR					
Cleveland, Heidi				E		1
Colcord, Claire	R/5.31.25	P			1	
Connette, Betty	HR			P	1	
Crow, David	HR					

Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Crowe, Katie		P	P	P	3	
Davis, John	R					
Davis, Jordan		P	P	P	3	
Demuynck, Nick		P	P	E	2	1
Demuynck, Savannah		E	P	E	1	2
Deppenbrock, Bonnie	HR					
dePrater, Margaret	HR					
Diekman, Amanda						
Doehring, Katherine Hester	9.9.25			P	1	
Douglas, Meri-Li			P	P	2	
Douglas, Mindy		E	P	P	2	1
Dowell, Mona			P		1	
DuCille, Winona	HR					
Dudley, Howard		P	P		2	
Dudley, Meg	7.7.25		P	E	1	1
Dunderdale, David		P	E		1	1
Dunham, Bob	HR					
Dunlap, Susan						
Easter, Lakesha Bradshaw			P		1	
Eddy, Douglas	HR					
Edmonds, Cheryl	HR					
Edmonds, Hart	HR					
Edmonston, Christopher			E			1
Ellis, Robert	HR					
Evans, Charles	HR					
Farmer, Charles	HR		E			1
Fawcett, John		E	P	E	1	2
Fenwick, James						
Ferry, Jim	HR					
Fischer, Alex		P	P	E	2	1
Fisher, Allen	HR/2.11.25	P			1	
Fisler, Alice	HR					
Ford, Graham		E	E	E		3
French, Berry		E	P	E	1	2
Fricks, Susan	HR					
Fuentes, David			P		1	
Fulkerson, Mary M.	HR					
Fulton, Gary	HR					
Galliher, Anne		E	P	P	2	1
Gicker-Anderson, Juliann	R					
Gillespie, Rebecca		E	P	P	2	1
Gillette, Jeffrey				E		1
Gilmer, Ron	7.8.25			P	1	
Golden, Franklin		E		E		2
Grady, Bruce		P	P	P	3	
Grandstaff, Daniel	HR					
Graves, Spottswood	HR					
Greene, David	HR					
Greenwold, Larry	HR					
Gregg, Carol	R	P	P	E	2	1
Gregory, Henry	HR					

Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Griffith, Lloyd	HR					
Grill, Chris	HR	E	E	E		3
Gunn, Wilson	HR					
Hale, Elizabeth	HR					
Hall, Deky				E		1
Harris, Tom		P		P	2	
Harvard, Joe	HR					
Harvey, Thomas						
Hausmann, Margot						
Hausmann, Peter		E	E	E		3
Hawkins, Jimmie		E		E		2
Hawkins, Vanessa	R					
Hawkins, William	HR					
Hayes-Bowman, Amanda			P	E	1	1
Hebacker, Lisa						
Hedgpeth, Ingram	HR					
Hefner, Kerri		P	P	E	2	1
Hein, Marilyn	HR					
Heit, Amy Bowers		E				1
Henry, Cheryl Barton		E	P	P	2	1
Herring, Stephen	HR					
Hester, Joe		E				1
Hethcox, Esther		P	P	P	3	
Higgins, Katherine		E	E	E		3
Hines, Amanda		E	E	E		3
Hix, Duane	HR	P			1	
Hodge, Jim	HR					
Hoffman, David	HR					
Holman, Jo Ella	HR					
Hong, Jooyoung	5.4.25		P	E	1	1
Hoyt, Langley	10.4.25			P	1	
Huffman, David	HR					
Hufham, William	HR					
Hulsey, Jimmy	HR		P		1	
Hunter, Lee		P		E	1	1
Inskeep, Robert	HR					
Jackson, Karen		E	E	E		3
Jackson, Rob			P	P	2	
Jillson, Edward	HR					
Johnson, Ed		P	P	P	3	
Johnson, Erik	HR					
Johnson, Gloria	HR					
Johnson, Robert	HR	P			1	
Johnston, Monte						
Johston-Krase, Ben				E		1
Joines, Vann	HR					
Juarez, Noe		P		P	2	
Kane, Ben						
Kelly, Laura		P	P	E	2	1
Kennedy, Jacob	10.1.25			P	1	
Kidd, John	HR					

Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Kidd, Roberta	HR					
Kincaid, Jacob	HR					
King, Arthur	HR					
King, Melinda Merkley			P	E	1	1
Kirk, Debbie	R					
Kirkpatrick, Bettie	HR					
Kisner, Jeff	HR					
Koeneke, Alan		E		P	1	1
Kort, Phyllis	HR					
Kuiken, Rebecca						
Kussmaul, Katherine			E	E		2
Lanford, Conway	HR					
Lang, Paul		P	E	P	2	1
Lawrence, Antonio		P	P	P	3	
Lee, Gun Ho		E	P	E	1	2
Lee, Sang-Hyun James						
Lester-Bacon, Kathryn				E		1
Lewis, Troy	HR					
Liestman, James	HR					
Link, Charles	R	P			1	
Macon, Alston	HR					
Mansell, Debbie		E		E		2
Mansell, Frank		P	P	P	3	
Martin, Billy Joe	HR					
Masters, Ashley-Anne						
Maul, Rebekah	HR	P			1	
Mazzara, Susan						
McCartney, Carole	HR					
McCracken, Ronn	HR					
McEachran, Deborah	R/1.7.25	P		P	2	
McFayden, Ken		E	E	E		3
McGuire, Elizabeth		E	E			2
McLaughlin, Jarrett		P	P		2	
McLaughlin, Meg Peery		E	P	E	1	2
McLeod, Ed	HR					
Melton, Brandon						
Metzger, Esther						
Mickey, Marie	HR		P		1	
Migliarese, Sam	HR		P		1	
Milholland, John	HR	P	P		2	
Miller, Perry	R					
Mills, Alvin	HR					
Moorhead, James	HR					
Myner, Nancy		E	E	E		3
Myers, John	HR					
Nelson, Patrice	HR					
Nord, Alice	HR					
Nord, Bernard	HR					
Norman, Cate Church				E		1
Nystrom, Richard	HR					
Omokunde, Omotolokun	HR			P	1	

Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Osterhoudt, Debbie	HR					
Parato, LaVera		P	P	P	3	
Park, Changweon						
Parker, Linda	HR					
Peck, William	HR					
Pexa, Ally	10.1.25			P	1	
Pidcock, Judy	R					
Pierce, William Eugene	HR					
Pilutti, John	HR					
Pistor, Lori	HR					
Poole, Allan	HR					
Pope, Chip		E				1
Priest, Thomas		E	E	P	1	2
Ramirez-Eve, Julio			E			1
Rand, Jim	HR					
Rangala, Thankam		E	P	P	2	1
Rawls, Meredith	9.28.25					
Reyes, Rebecca	HR					
Richards, Grier Booker						
Rick-Miller, Katherine		P	P		2	
Rimmer, Charles	HR					
Robinson, John	HR					
Rock, Andrea		P	P	P	3	
Rodriguez, Jackie		E	P	P	2	1
Rodriguez, Zaida			P	E	1	1
Rogers, John		E				1
Rose, Jane	HR					
Ross, Arthur	HR					
Ruth, Andrew						
Ryan, Patrick		P		E	1	1
Sadler, Bill	HR					
Sandoval, Joe		E	P	E	1	2
Sebesan, Dennis	HR					
Sexton, Susan	HR					
Sherrod, Jonathan		P	P	P	3	
Siker, Jeff	HR					
Siker, Judy	HR					
Simes, Amy		P	P	E	2	1
Sirrine, Marguerite Moore		E	E	P	1	2
Slater, Doug			P	E	1	1
Smerko, Molly			P	E	1	1
Smith, Gerald	HR					
Smith, Janise Matyas		E		E		1
Smith, Katherine		P	E	E	1	2
Smith, Preston	HR					
Sockwell, Jeff	R	P	P	E	2	1
Son, Samuel						
Speight, John	HR	E				1
Spransy, George	HR					
Stall, Lynn	HR		P		1	
Stalnaker, Clay	HR					

Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Stayer-Brewington, Alex			P		1	
Steege, Mary	HR					
Stephenson, Haley		P	P	P	3	
Stokes, Jeanette	HR					
Stone, John "Rocky"		P	P	E	2	1
Straight, Anna Pinckney		P	P	E	2	1
Stratton, Brian			E			1
Stubbs, Vincent	HR					
Sturdivant, Robert	HR					
Styers, Barbara		E	P	E	1	2
Suh, Helder Kinam	R					
Thomas, Jacalyn	R					
Thomas, John Maurice	HR					
Thompson, Ernie	R/3.11.25	P			1	
Tisdale, Nora	HR					
Todd, Mary Harris		P	E	P	2	1
Trawick, Hannah		E		P	1	1
Troyer, Elizabeth	7.28.25					
Troxell, Brad						
Tuttle, Carrie		E	E	E		3
Tuttle, Chris			P	P	2	
Undercofler, Betsy	R	E				1
Vellenga, David	HR		P		1	
Verner, David	HR					
Vincent, Clark	HR					
Volkwijn, Kay Robert	HR					
Wagner, Charles Van	HR					
Wagoner, Laura Brekke			E	E		2
Walkup, Robert	HR					
Watkins, Tom			P		1	
Weicher, John			E	E		2
Weicher, Laurie Taylor		E		E		2
Weisz, Kirk						
Wert, Brandon						
Westbrook, Fred	HR					
White, Candice	HR					
White, Paul	HR					
Whitmer, Elizabeth		E		E		2
Wicks, Steven	HR					
Wiley, Clyde	HR					
Wilkes, Emily			P	E	1	1
Williams, Tyler		P	P	P	3	
Williamson, Portia Turner						
Wilson, Gerald	HR					
Wilson, Thomas	HR					
Wilson-Stayton, Claude	HR					
Wilson-Stayton, Margaret	HR					
Wiseman, David	HR					
Wolf, Sarah		E	P	P	2	1
Workman, Jim						
Wyly, David	HR					

Name	Status/Date Ordained or Received	3/29/2025	7/22/2025	10/25/2025	Total Present	Total Excused
Yoon, Seok Hyun						
Yuckman, Colin			E			1
Yuckman, Meredith						

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**

'The status of member-at-large shall be reviewed annually.' G – 2.0503b

The following members-at-large (MALs) made their annual report for 2025:

William Arnold

James Ashmore

Sophie Marian Austin

Amanda Chamblee-Hill

Sunny Chang

Susan Dunlap

James Fenwick

Christopher Graham Ford

Jeff Gillette

Deky Hall

Peter Hausmann

Melinda Merkley King

Gun Ho Lee

LaVera Parato

John Rogers

Brian Stratton

Carrie Tuttle

Kirk Weisz

**PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE
VALIDATED MINISTRIES**

The following ministers serving in validated ministries made their annual report for 2025:

Robert Beichner

Chris Blumhofer

Tom Harris

Amanda Hayes-Bowman

Amanda Hines

Katherine Higgins

Langley Hoyt

Deborah Mansell

Kenneth J. McFayden

Zaida Rodriguez

Katherine Smith

Haley Stephenson

Barbara Styers

James Machado Workman

Colin Yuckman

Meredith Yuckman

Save the Dates!

Systemic Leadership Pilot Seminar

Keynote Leader: Dr. Catherine Carr – MCEC, PCC, RCC

Two Dates: April 7–9, or June 2–4, 2026

Location – Avila Center for Community Leadership – Durham NC

Organizations Face Difficult Issues:

Systemic Team Leadership (STL) Can Resolve

Utilizes/empowers existing teams to accomplish more, faster:

You will be enabled to:

- make your team more productive
- see events and tasks much more broadly
- put your team's work in context
- improve team members' support for one another

Contact John Winings – (jwinings@oxidyn.com) for details.

Statement of Faith Mary Dance Berry

I believe in a sovereign God who is three persons: Parent, Son, and Spirit. I believe relationship is essential to the Trinity and thus to the very nature of God. What is more, I believe that the Trinity reveals the *essential* nature of relationship, with God and with our fellow creatures, for all made in the image of God.

I believe in a personal, relational God whose love overflows and who offers grace. Through the gift of grace, God offers the forgiveness of sins, the chance to be in relationship with God, and eternal life. Through grace, God reveals God's perfect love and desire to be reconciled to God's creation.

I believe in God the Creator who has *always* desired to be in relationship with creation. I believe in God the Parent who has acted throughout history, giving the gift of the law, speaking through the prophets, and graciously sending God's Son and the Holy Spirit. I believe in a loving and just God who has persistently pursued God's creation.

I believe in God the Son who came to earth as a human being. I believe in Jesus who healed, loved, ate with, and shared life with the "wrong" people, who sought out those society cast aside. I believe Jesus went willingly to death on the cross – for those society cast aside and for us all – to conquer sin and death. He died and rose again so He could draw us ever closer to Him.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who empowered the disciples to spread the Word through preaching, teaching, and service and who empowers the Church to do the same now. I believe in the Holy Spirit who continuously breathes into and guides that work and our lives.

I believe God, Parent, Son, and Holy Spirit, has continually acted and continues to act in a manner that upends human expectations and hierarchies. I believe in a God who chose and still chooses the unlikely, from the first prophet who doubted his ability to speak to the women who visited Jesus's tomb and became the first to proclaim the resurrection.

I believe the Church is the Body of Christ. I believe the Church is where the Word of God is rightly preached and heard, the Sacraments are rightly administered, members work to follow the call Christ has placed on their lives, and members are in covenant relationship with God and one another.

I believe, as the Church, we worship God and share in a common life through the Sacraments. I believe, in Baptism, we welcome members of Christ's Body into a community of faith and the way of eternal life. We encounter God's grace and are marked as God's own. I believe, in Communion, we remember Christ's sacrifice and his victory over death. We remember the commitment we have made to Christ and the commitment God has made to us. And in Communion, we encounter the grace of God.

I believe the Bible is the Word of God, written by the Spirit through God's servants. I believe Scripture shows us who we are as a covenant people. I believe, through Scripture, God shows us who God is, teaches us what God has done, and opens our eyes to what God continues to do.

Biographical Sketch Mary Dance Berry

Mary Dance Berry is Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Campbell University Divinity School where she teaches courses on biblical literature, Biblical Hebrew, and the practice of teaching the Bible. In her classroom and scholarship, she advocates for reading the Bible with others from different contexts. Her dissertation placed the ecological hermeneutics of Euro-American evangelical, Euro-American mainline, and African Christian scholars in dialogue and reconsidered nonhuman creation in Joel, Amos, Obadiah, and Jonah in light of that dialogue. Mary is passionate about the importance of the Old Testament for the Church, and she particularly enjoys wrestling with its difficult themes and texts. Mary completed her PhD at Duke University and her MDiv at Duke Divinity School.

Mary has been a member of First Presbyterian Church, Durham since 2015. She serves on the teaching team for FPC's preschool faith formation class and co-leads its not-so-young adults' group. She became an inquirer in 2015 and has been a candidate, certified ready to receive a call, since she began her doctoral work.

Mary, her husband Stephen, their children August (5) and Emilia (3), and their pug Frank (8) reside in Hillsborough.

Statement of Faith

Byung Seok Lee

I, Byung Seok Lee, confess my faith in God the Creator, who made all things and who sovereignly guides the universe and human history.

I believe in the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God created the world, lovingly sustains all life, governs the world with justice and righteousness, and extends compassion toward the weak, the marginalized, and the oppressed.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God—truly God and truly human.

I believe that Jesus Christ offered His own life as an atoning sacrifice to save humanity from sin, and that through His crucifixion and resurrection He has given us new life and enduring hope. Christ is our Savior and the Head of the Church.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Comforter promised by Jesus at His ascension.

The Spirit dwells within all believers, comforting, guiding, strengthening, and enabling us to live faithfully. The Holy Spirit leads my ministry, grants the grace of repentance, and sustains me in all aspects of service.

I believe that Scripture is the Word of God—our guide to salvation and the standard for faithful living. The Bible is the final authority that teaches, corrects, and directs our faith and life. It is the foundation that keeps the Church grounded in truth, and it provides the wisdom believers need to live faithfully before God.

I believe that the Church is the precious community purchased by the blood of Christ—the body of Christ—called to serve the world and to be an agent of reconciliation.

I believe the Church is a place where God's people are gathered in love, where the Word is proclaimed, and where disciples are formed. The Church is called to a ministry of service, reconciliation, justice, and compassion.

I believe that the sacraments were instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ to be remembered and celebrated faithfully.

Through baptism we are received into the covenant community of God, and through the Lord's Supper we experience the grace, renewal, and life that Christ freely gives. The sacraments unite the Church and renew its mission.

I believe that God has called me to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE).

This calling invites me to walk the path of servanthood, to help build up the local church, and to support the congregation in nurturing a right relationship with the Lord. I commit myself to caring for the weak and the wounded, to building up the Church through the ministry of Word and prayer, and to participating in God's work of justice, mercy, and peace.

I confess that nothing in my life has been accomplished apart from the grace of God. God has watched over me and guided me throughout my journey. More than thirty years ago, I had a dream that left a deep imprint on my faith. In the dream, I lay wounded on my chest, stomach, and legs, bleeding with no one coming to my aid. Suddenly a small child approached me—naked and innocent. As He drew near, I instinctively cried out, “Lord Jesus, please help me,” though I did not know why I called this child Jesus. The child touched my chest, and the wound vanished. He touched my stomach, and that wound disappeared as well. When He turned to leave, I cried out, “Lord Jesus, You did not heal my legs!” He looked back at me and spoke, though I could not understand His words. When I awoke, I understood: if I used my legs to serve the Lord, the wounds of my life would be healed. I believe this was the message the Lord spoke to me that night.

Therefore, I desire to use my life, my gifts, and every ability God has given me to serve the Church, its people, and the world God loves.

Biographical Sketch

Byung Seok Lee

I am currently serving as an elder at Greenville Korean Presbyterian Church. For most of my 38 years in the United States, I have served in Korean Presbyterian churches in Greenville and Goldsboro as both a children's ministry teacher and an elder. My fulltime occupation is operating a Taekwondo school as a master instructor, and for as long as I am able, I hope to continue dedicating my gifts to the Lord's work. In the time that I am given, I also enjoy writing poetry and fiction in Korean.

Statement of Faith

Rev. Austin Vernon

I believe in the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who exists as three distinct persons comprised of one essence. I believe this God freely chose to create the universe, not out of need or necessity, but out of an overflow of love and community within God's very being. Through the pages of Holy Scripture, God reveals Godself fully to humankind in the person of Jesus Christ. As such, the Bible is the authoritative source of our knowledge about God, and the basis for Reformed theology and worship.

I believe Jesus Christ is God in human form – the Word made flesh. Jesus came to live among us so that God and humanity could be in right relationship again. Jesus' life and ministry provide a clear picture of the abundant life God desires for us to experience. His life also demonstrates who God identifies with most in the world: the poor, the marginalized, the outcasts, the oppressed. I believe Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead redeemed humanity from sin, which is eternal separation from God. Salvation is not predicated upon any work or decision on our part but rather is a wholly unmerited gift of grace offered to us by God. We can experience eternal life with God because of Jesus' great sacrifice for us.

I believe the Holy Spirit is God's presence with us in the world today. The Holy Spirit empowers and inspires us to worship and serve God. The Holy Spirit continues to reform each of us as we seek to become more like Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit connects us with Christ and serves as our advocate. Ultimately, I believe the Holy Spirit inspires us to live out our Christian faith in the world.

I believe the church is not a building, but rather the universal body of believers who are called and gathered in Christ's name. Just as God sent Godself into the world for the sake of divine love, the church is sent out to be God's incarnate love in the world. The church, therefore, does not have a mission. The church is mission. As the elected vehicle of God's grace and love, the church universal is called to proclaim the good news of the gospel, embody the love of Christ through transformative discipleship, administer the sacraments, and follow the liberating movement of the Holy Spirit.

I believe the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper utilize ordinary items – water, bread, and wine – to serve as visible signs of God's invisible grace. These signs remind us of the power of God's grace in our lives. Baptism is a sign and seal of our adoption as sons and daughters into the family of God. It also represents cleansing, whereby we are washed clean from sin and baptized into new life in Christ. The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ. In the giving of the bread and wine, we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, spiritually nourished by Christ's presence at the table, and sent out by the Holy Spirit to be God's love in the world.

Biographical Sketch Rev. Austin Vernon

Austin Vernon, a native North Carolinian, is a graduate of Davidson College and Princeton Theological Seminary. During his college and seminary years, he served in various youth ministry roles. For the last seven years, he served Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church in Southern Pines, NC; first, as the Director of Discipleship and Missions, and then he was called as the Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Missions. He is now serving at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh as the Associate Pastor for Outreach and Community Engagement.

Austin is passionate about missions, teaching, ecumenical relationships, and worship leadership. He strongly believes in Christ's call to proximity as we serve and work alongside our neighbors, both at home and abroad.

Austin is married to his wife, Abbey, a fellow Davidson College graduate. Abbey works as a human resources professional for a masonry company. They have a toddler son named Wesley, and three beloved dogs.

Camp Albemarle Board of Directors 2026

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Bills and Overtures/Resolutions

Process for Submitting Overtures and Resolutions for Presbytery's Consideration

Overtures: Overtures come from one council (session, presbytery, synod) requesting that a higher council takes an action or approves/endorse a particular statement or resolution.

Resolutions: A resolution for new business comes from a member or committee of a council, asking that the council takes a particular action or approves/endorse a particular statement.

Timetable: Session overtures/resolutions to presbytery for consideration should ordinarily be submitted to the stated clerk at least 60 days prior to a presbytery meeting day. The stated clerk shall forward the overtures/resolutions to the Bills and Overtures Committee for its action. If needed, the Bills and Overtures Committee has the right to meet with the session or presbytery committee to discuss the rationale for the overtures/resolutions prior to the presbytery gathering for consideration.

If at least two members of the Bills and Overtures Committee are not available at the presbytery gathering when overtures/resolutions are to be presented, the moderator may provide for a temporary Bills and Overtures Committee of at least three persons for the duration of the meeting. If any members of the standing Bills and Overtures Committee are present, they shall be included along with the temporary committee.

Coordinating Body shall include overtures and prepared responses of the Bills and Overtures/Resolutions Committee in the presbytery handbook for commissioners.

Concurrences: A concurrence is itself an overture and shall follow all the guidelines mentioned above for the consideration of overtures to presbytery. A concurrence may also happen unintentionally, when the content of an original overture essentially matches that of another presbytery. In that case the stated clerk of the General Assembly may group the similar overtures together as “concurring overtures.”

How to Submit an Overture/Concurrence to General Assembly

A. Overview

The guidelines for presenting overtures are found in the Manual of the General Assembly, Standing Rule A.3. The key provisions are:

- Overtures must be approved by a presbytery or a synod and shall request the General Assembly to take a particular action or approve or endorse a particular statement or resolution.
- Overtures must be timely submitted to the Office of the General Assembly (see G. below).
- The originating presbytery or synod may appoint an overture advocate (see section E. below).

B. Researching the Overture

Standing Rule A.3.b. and A.3.c.(5) require that the stated clerk of a presbytery or synod considering an overture to the General Assembly shall:

- Examine the most recently published *Minutes* of the General Assembly to determine if a similar overture has already been passed;
- Consult with the Office of the General Assembly to determine whether the desired action has been voted on by any previous General Assembly;
- Consult with the Office of the General Assembly to determine whether a similar overture has already been proposed for the current year. If so, the presbytery or synod will be encouraged to concur with that overture.
- Presbyteries or synods submitting overtures with a recommendation(s) that affects the work or budget of a General Assembly entity(ies) shall submit evidence that the affected entity(ies) has (have) been consulted. If such evidence is not submitted, the stated clerk shall recommend that the overture be received and referred to a future session of the General Assembly so that consultation may take place.

These procedures are designed to ensure better communication in conceiving and writing recommendations considered at the assembly. The consultation may take place by fax, phone, mail, or personal conversation.

C. Format of the Overture

Recommendation Section

“The Presbytery [or Synod] of _____ overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) to”

The recommendation section should be worded with specific, concise directives so that the General Assembly can make a clear, informed decision, and so that financial implications, if any, can be accurately assessed.

Rationale Section

The rationale section should be as concise as possible, and provide insight into the reasons for the recommendation. Material included in the rationale is for information only and is not a part of the action of the assembly. Tell the reader, in short paragraphs, what is the problem, what is the harm, why the current rule or program is not adequate, what is needed.

D. Submitting the Overture

The overture may be submitted electronically, preferably in Word, to kay.moore@pcusa.org. Please do not submit PDFs as OGA staff must edit and format the overture. Submitting the overture electronically eliminates the necessity of OGA staff rekeying the overture. If electronic submission is not feasible, a fax copy is acceptable. Please fax to 502-569-8642. Remember that the receipt of all overtures in OGA will be acknowledged by letter. If an acknowledging letter is not received within a few weeks after submission, please check with Kay Moore at kay.moore@pcusa.org or 888-728-7228, extension 5418, to ensure that the overture has been received.

E. Overture Advocate

Each presbytery or synod submitting an overture may name one overture advocate. The overture advocate must be able to be available at the General Assembly to provide information on the background and intent of the overture to the assembly committee to which the overture is referred (Standing Rule A.3.e.; see also Standing Rule E.2.e. “Privilege of the Floor”). Be aware that naming a commissioner as an overture advocate will most certainly require that the commissioner will be taken away from their assigned assembly committee business to go to another assembly committee to advocate for the overture. In the letter acknowledging receipt of the overture, the OGA will request overture advocate information. Please provide the name of an overture advocate as soon as possible. Several weeks before the convening of the General Assembly, the OGA will correspond with all overture advocates. The overture advocates receive information identifying the item number and title of the overture they will be advocating, the assembly committee to which the overture is referred and the location of the meeting room in the convention center, and the names of the leadership of the assembly committee. The OGA provides orientation for overture advocates at the General Assembly before the assembly committees meet.

F. Concurrences

The 220th General Assembly (2012) approved a recommendation from the Committee to Review Biennial Committees (*Minutes*, 2012, 72, 241) that requested amendment to the *Book of Order* (G-3.0302). The amendment required that overtures referred to the General Assembly have a concurrence from at least one other presbytery. Overtures not receiving a timely concurrence will not be referred to the General Assembly.

G. FAQs on Overtures/Concurrences

What do the *Standing Rules* say about concurrences?

Section A.3.c.(6) of the *Standing Rules* defines a concurring overture as one “similar to one already proposed (excluding rationale),” and gives instructions for how the stated clerk is to respond. This section also makes it clear that concurrences must meet **the same deadlines for submission** (120 days before the assembly for constitutional matters, 45 days before the assembly for all other business) that all overtures must meet.

What has changed about concurrences?

The 220th General Assembly (2012) added a requirement that all overtures from presbyteries will require at least one concurrence in order to be considered. The following language was added to the responsibilities of presbyteries in the *Book of Order* “... proposing to General Assembly overtures that have received a concurrence from at least one other presbytery ...” (G-3.0302d).

Must a concurrence have exactly the same words?

For constitutional amendments it is expected that the effected constitutional language be exactly the same. For other business it is encouraged that the language be the same or analogous enough to be judged “similar” by the stated clerk.

Do the rationales have to be the same?

The rationale does not need to be the same, and many presbyteries use a concurrence to offer additional rationale for an item of business. The rationales for all concurrences are included with the overture when presented to the assembly.

Who is responsible for ensuring that an overture has concurrences?

The Office of the General Assembly will not solicit concurrences. Presbyteries are encouraged to contact other presbyteries to consider concurring with their overtures. Also upon receipt of the regular update of overtures from the Office of the General Assembly, presbyteries may identify overtures for possible concurrence.

Why don't overtures from synods need a concurrence?

The rationale for the original action requiring concurrences explained that an overture from a synod contains, by definition, the support of several presbyteries whose commissioners to the synod adopted the overture.

Who brings an overture to a presbytery for concurrence?

Every presbytery has a different process for bringing business before the council. Concurrences would be treated as a normal item of business.

May a presbytery simply vote “to concur” with a particular overture, or must they vote on the overture itself?

A vote to concur is an acceptable way for a presbytery to offer a concurrence and is reported to the stated clerk as “At its (date of meeting) the Presbytery of (blank) voted to concur with overture (number and name of overture).” Any additional rationale may be attached.

If our presbytery concurs with another presbytery's overture, do we name an overture advocate?

A presbytery or synod that concurs with an overture from another presbytery or synod may send one overture advocate to assist in presenting the matter to the assembly committee.

H. Deadlines for General Assemblies

180-day deadline: Names of commissioners and young adult advisory delegates from presbyteries.

120-day deadline: Overtures requesting amendment to or interpretation of the *Book of Order*. These overtures are then automatically referred to the Advisory Committee on the Constitution for advice to the General Assembly (see G-6.04).

60-day deadline: Overtures having financial implications for current or future budgets.

45-day deadline: All other overtures.

Overtures not timely received will be returned to the originating council.

227th General Assembly

The PC(USA) 227th General Assembly will be held June 22 - July 2, 2026 in Milwaukee.

<https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/church-structure/general-assembly>

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE

(This page is intended to provide a common understanding of parliamentary procedures for our presbytery meetings. The same procedures apply to session or congregational meetings.)

Protocol in our presbytery meetings requires that each time a person desires to speak:

- the speaker obtains recognition by the moderator prior to speaking.
- the speaker moves to a microphone to be heard.
- the speaker identifies him/herself by giving his/her name and congregation.
- then, the speaker is able to do one of the following:

Motion:

“Mr./Madam Moderator, I move that...” A motion requires a second unless it comes from a presbytery board or committee.

Amend a Motion:

“Mr./Madam Moderator, I move to amend the main motion by adding (state place in motion); **or** by striking these words in the main motion.”

Table a Motion:

“Mr./Madam Moderator, I move to table the motion under consideration.” The motion requires a second. There can be no debate. The body votes to stop debate on the particular motion. The motion to table may include a date for reconsideration of the motion again.

Refer a Motion:

“Mr./Madam Moderator, I move that the motion be referred to _____ committee.” The motion requires a second. The motion may be debated. The motion is always in order.

Call the Previous Question:

Mr./Madam Moderator, ‘I move the previous question’ **or** ‘I call for the question.’”
Requires a second. Requires moderator’s recognition before it is valid. Is not debatable. It is a way for the body to see whether or not enough debate has occurred and the body is ready to vote. If the motion is approved, then the body votes on the previous motion under discussion. If the motion is defeated, the body returns to continue the debate.

Division of the House:

“Mr./Madam Moderator, I call for a division of the house.” This request does not require a second and is done as a courtesy to ensure that the moderator has heard the voice vote accurately. The moderator may test by show of hands or rising the support for each side of the question. In light of that test, the vote may be counted.

Motion to Reconsider:

“Mr./Madam Moderator: I move that we re-consider the motion about _____.” The motion must be made by a person on the prevailing side. The motion requires a second. It is debatable. If approved, then the body will re-consider a motion which has already been considered and voted on at that meeting.

Desire to Withdraw a Motion:

“Mr./Madam Moderator: I request that my motion be withdrawn.” If the motion has been placed on the floor for consideration and debate, the body must decide whether or not the motion can be withdrawn. A consensus or a vote is required to have the motion withdrawn; it cannot just occur because the maker of the motion desires to withdraw it.

Order of the Day:

An item of business scheduled for a particular time during the meeting. When the appropriate time arrives, the body proceeds to consider the order of the day, returning to the normal business after having had the order of the day.

Nominations:

Nominations may be made from the floor and are always in order for positions within the presbytery. Before a person’s name can be considered, he/she must have given consent.

Point of Order:

“Mr./Madam Moderator, point of order.” Then, ask your question for clarification. Point of order does not debate a motion, but is for clarification.

CHART #1						CHART #2							
RANKING MOTIONS and their five salient parliamentary points. The order in which the thirteen motions are listed.						NON-RANKING MOTIONS- and their five salient parliamentary points. These motions (incidental motions have no rank among themselves) Their being in order depends upon their necessity at the time.							
FIVE PRIVILEGED MOTIONS													
		Must be seconded	May be debated	May be amended	Vote	May be reconsidered		Must be seconded	May be debated	May be amended	Vote	May be reconsidered	
		1	2	3	4	5		1	2	3	4	5	
13.	To Fix the Time to Which to Adjourn	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	Yes		Appeal	Yes	** Yes	No	Maj	Yes
12.	To Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Maj	No		Suspend Rules	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
11.	To Take a Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	No		Point of Order, Call to Order	No	No	No	Mod	No
10.	Question of Privilege	No	No	No	-	No		Objection to Consideration of a Question	No	No	No	2/3	Yes No Vote
9.	Call for Orders of the Day	No	No	No	-	No		Requests	No	No	No	Maj	No
SEVEN SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS													
8.	Lay on Table	Yes	No	No	Maj	No		Division of Assembly	No	No	No	-	No
7.	Previous Questions	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes		To Read a Paper	Yes	No	No	Maj	Yes
6.	Modify Debate	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	Yes		To Withdraw a Motion (to be used only before debate)	No	No	No	Maj	Yes No Vote
5.	To Postpone Definitely	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes		To Divide the Question	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	No
4.	To Commit or Recommit	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Maj	Yes		To Close Nominations or Polls	Yes	No	Yes	2/3	No
3.	To Amend	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes		To Consider Seriatim	Yes	No	Yes	Maj	No
2.	Postpone Indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Maj	Yes Affirmative only		TO UNCLASSIFIED MOTIONS					
1.	MAIN MOTION	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj	Yes		Reconsider	Yes	** Yes	No	# Maj	No
Example of Incidental Main Motions; rescind, ratify, amend by-laws								To Take from the Table***	Yes	No	No	Maj	No
* only re. desirability of referral or details of referral. The merits of the question cannot be debated.								Rescind	Yes	Yes	Yes	* Yes	Neg
								# same Presbytery meeting					
Neither the chart nor references are inclusive but are to be used as an abridgement of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.								* with previous notice					
								*** before the end of the next regular Presbytery meeting					
								** if main motion is debatable					

Presbytery of New Hope Guide to Acronyms

AC	Administrative Commission
AOP	Associate Pastor
APNC	Associate Pastor Nominating Committee
BOC	Book of Confessions
BOO	Book of Order
BPC	Black Presbyterian Caucus
CD&E	Church Development and Evangelism
COM	Commission on Ministry
CM	Campus Minister
COR	Committee on Representation
CPM	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
CRE	Commissioned Ruling Elder (formerly CLP, Commissioned Lay Pastor)
DP	Designated Pastor
E&T	Examinations and Transfers Sub-Commission
EP	Executive Presbyter
F&P	Finance and Property
FOG	Form of Government
GA	General Assembly
HR (Up to July 6, 2023)	Honorably Retired
I	Interim
LOB	Laboring Outside Bounds
LWB	Laboring Within Bounds
MAL	Member at Large
MDP	Ministry Discernment Profile
MOM	Ministries of Mission
NCD	New Church Development
NHP	New Hope Presbytery
OA	Older Adults
OGA	Office of the General Assembly
P	Pastor
PA	Parish Associate
PC(USA)	Presbyterian Church (USA)
PDA	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
PDP	Personal Discernment Profile
PJC	Permanent Judicial Commission
PMA	Presbyterian Mission Agency
PNC	Pastor Nominating Committee
PW	Presbyterian Women
R (as of July 7, 2023)	Retired
RE	Ruling Elder
SDOP	Self-Development of People
SS	Stated Supply
TE	Teaching Elder

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PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE

Publications, Publicity, and Table Display Policy

Only the following entities and organizations shall be entitled to request

- (a) the inclusion of written announcements or communications on the official Presbytery of New Hope website (www.nhpresbytery.org), in e-mail notifications, or e-newsletters distributed by presbytery staff, or in other publications prepared and distributed by presbytery staff, or
- (b) announcements to be made orally at meetings of the presbytery, table displays at presbytery meetings, and other events sponsored by the presbytery.
 - 1. Agencies, committees, and commissions which report directly to the Presbytery of New Hope or a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) above the Presbytery of New Hope.
 - 2. Organizations and projects which relate to an agency, committee, or commission described in item 1 above and whose staff and funding are provided for by the Presbytery of New Hope or a council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) above the Presbytery of New Hope.
 - 3. The docket for each meeting of the Presbytery of New Hope shall include this statement: "The displays you see at any given presbytery meeting may or may not be endorsed by the Presbytery of New Hope."