

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

July 28, 2026



Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
927 W. Trinity Avenue
Durham, NC 27701
919-682-3865
<http://trinityave.org>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Stated Gathering of Presbytery	4
Newcomer's Guide to Presbytery Meetings.....	6
Hotels.....	8
Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church	
Directions.....	9
Campus Maps	
Main Levels.....	10
Upper Levels.....	11
History.....	12
Proposed Docket.....	14
Consent Agenda	16
Report of Executive Presbyter	17
Report of Associate Presbyter.....	27
Report of Stated Clerk.....	31
Report of Sessional Records.....	40
Report of Coordinating Body	41
Finance and Property	42
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses.....	44
Special Offerings	47
Together Task Force.....	49
General Assembly Commissioner Reports	
Rev. Jordan Davis.....	53
Elder John Etheredge.....	54
Rev. Dr. A. Vanessa Hawkins	55
Elder Lisa Lewis Jenkins.....	56
Rev. Gun Ho Lee.....	57
Elder Madeleine Lee.....	58
Elder Alec Peters.....	60
Rev. Jackie Rodriguez	61
Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies.....	62
Nominations and Representation	67
Nominations Brochure.....	68
Nominations Form	70
Commission on Preparation for Ministry.....	71
Report of Commission on Ministry and Examinations and Transfers Sub-Commission	72
Changes in Ministers' Compensation 2026	75
Statements of Faith and Biographical Sketches	
Alli Buikema	76, 77
Rev. Tracy W. Daniel.....	78, 79
Rev. Nancy Morris.....	80, 82
Journeys of Faith	
Rev. Kenneth J. McFayden	83
In Memoriam	
Rev. Dr. Billy Joe Martin	84
Rev. John Pilutti.....	85
Paid Family Medical Leave Polity Report.....	86

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.....	91
Highlights of Synod 257th Stated Meeting.....	92
Bills and Overtures/Resolutions: How to Submit to Presbytery	99
Overture/Concurrence: How to Submit to General Assembly	100
Parliamentary Procedures for Presbytery of New Hope.....	104
Parliamentary Procedures for Motions Chart	106
Presbytery of New Hope Guide to Acronyms.....	107
Presbytery of New Hope Staff Contact Sheet.....	108
Presbytery of New Hope Publications, Publicity, and Table Display Policy	109

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH STATED GATHERING OF PRESBYTERY

Registration

Please register on the presbytery website at the following link: <https://nhpresbytery.org/registration-for-128th-stated-gathering/>. **The deadline for registration is Tuesday, July 21 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/128th-stated-gathering-of-presbytery/> . **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.

DONATIONS OF CANNED GOODS

Thank you for your donations of canned goods. Your contributions are much needed, and will go to support the 150+ individuals who benefit from the Walltown Neighborhood Food Pantry, just blocks away, supported by the collaboration of neighbors Trinity Avenue and Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Churches, Grace Lutheran Church, Watts Street Baptist, and Beth El Synagogue. Collection areas will be located at church entrances.

Worship Offering

Proceeds from today's offering will go to support Emmanuel Food Pantry. Founded by Iglesia Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in partnership with members from First Presbyterian and supported through the volunteers and leadership of area Presbyterian congregations, this largest food pantry in Durham provides boxes of fresh produce and dry goods to over 800 households every Wednesday.

Lunch

Please register your attendance online by the July 21 deadline if you would like lunch. This is helpful to the host church for planning purposes.

Box lunches (\$15.00) will be catered by Mediterranean Deli of Chapel Hill. Follow this link (<https://mediterraneandeli.com/chapel-hill/about/about-the-deli>) to read the story of Palestinian founder, Jamil Kadoura, and his commitment to fostering health, joy, and relationship-building across the local Palestinian and Jewish communities through delicious food. Lunches will include a sandwich and a side of pasta salad, Moroccan couscous, apple orzo, fresh seasonal fruit display, or potato chips and pistachio baklava.

Lunch tickets may be purchased on the day of the meeting in the registration area, payable by cash, digital pay via QR code, or checks made out to Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church with "lunch" in the memo line.

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 Friday, July 24 by 5:00 p.m. if you reserve childcare, but then do not require it. Contact Jenni Albright for cancellations or any other questions: jalbright@trinityave.org.

Wi-Fi Network

Network name: TAPC

Password: johnknox

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 104 and 106 of the handbook. Motion forms will be at the stated clerk's table if you need to use one.

Next Stated Gathering

Saturday, October 24, 2026: St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh

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.

Hotels

All within two miles of the church – approximate price estimates for July 27-28

Residence Inn by Marriott

1108 West Main St. (+/- \$233/night)

1-888-236-2427

Durham Marriott City Center (+/- \$161/night)

201 Foster Street

866-429-5787

Hampton Inn (\$128)

1542 N. Gregson

866-215-4064

Hilton Garden Inn (\$248)

2102 W. Main

866-215-4054

Holiday Inn Express (\$143)

2516 Guess Road

919-313-3244

Comfort Inn (\$134)

1816 Hillandale Rd.

866-215-4064

Directions to Trinity Avenue

From Points East: Take I-40 West to NC-147 North to the South Duke St. exit. Travel 1 mile and take a left onto Trinity Avenue. The parking lot will be on your left.

From Points South: Follow NC-540 to NC-147 North to the South Duke St. exit. Travel 1 mile and take a left onto Trinity Avenue. The parking lot will be on your left.

From Points West: Follow I-85 N to Gregson Street, exit 176, toward Northgate. Follow N. Gregson St. to West Trinity Avenue. Take a left onto West Trinity Avenue. Parking will be on your right. Or, go through the light at Trinity Avenue, and take a left onto Minerva to enter the parking lot off of Gregson St.

From Points North: Follow US-501 S. Continue onto N. Duke St. Continue onto N. Gregson St. Take a left onto West Trinity Avenue. Parking will be on your right. Or, go through the light at Trinity Avenue, and take a left onto Minerva to enter the parking lot off of Gregson St.

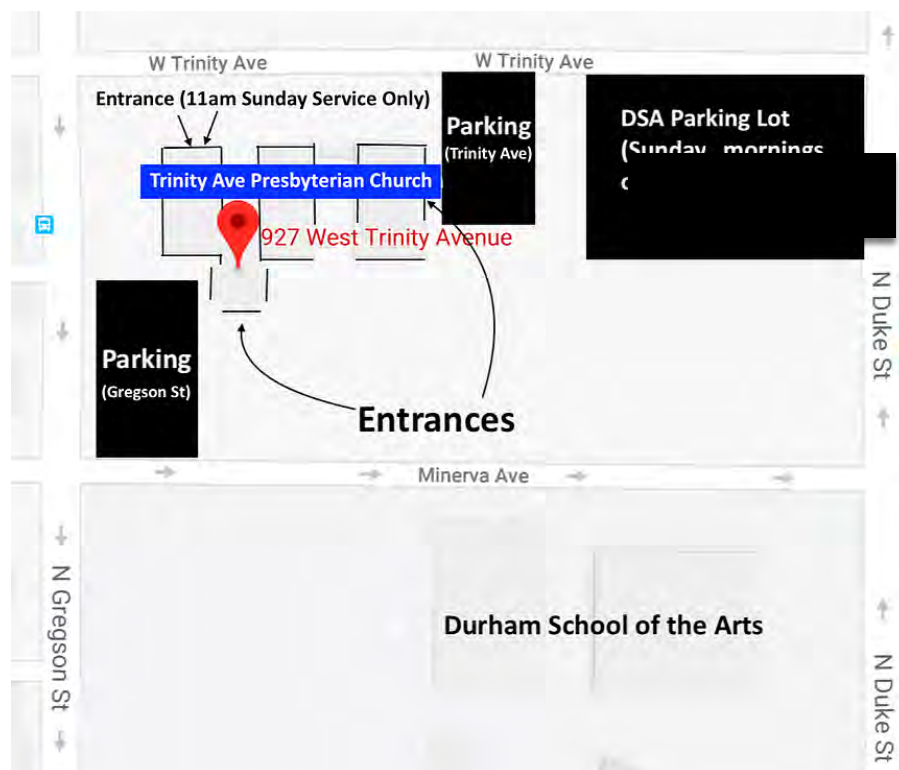
Location and Parking

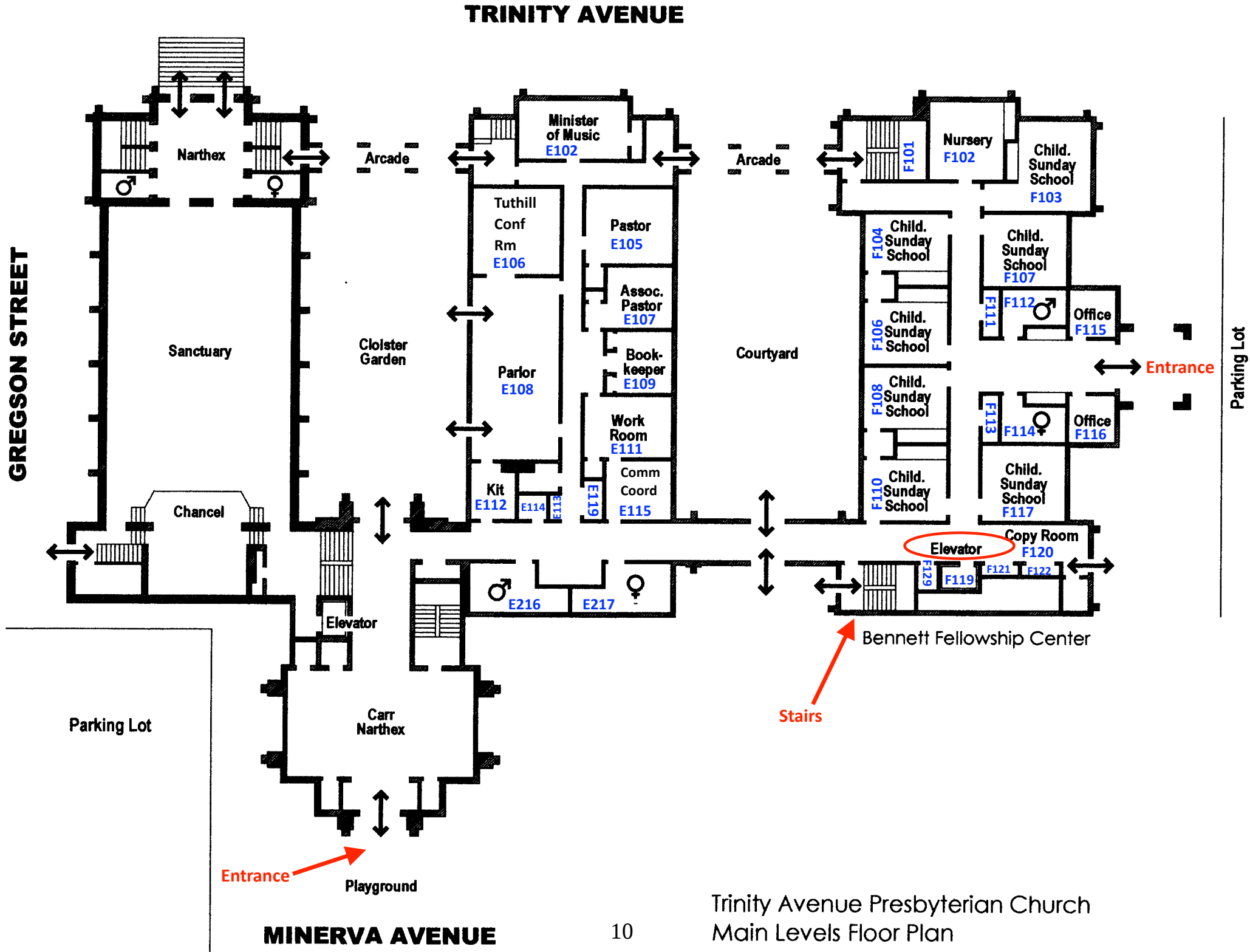
Address: 927 W. Trinity Ave, Durham, NC 27701

We are on the southeast corner of Trinity Avenue and Gregson St.

Parking is available in 4 convenient locations:

- Our Gregson St. lot
- Our Trinity Ave. lot
- On the street in front of the church on Trinity Ave
- DSA parking lot accessible from Duke St and from Trinity Ave.

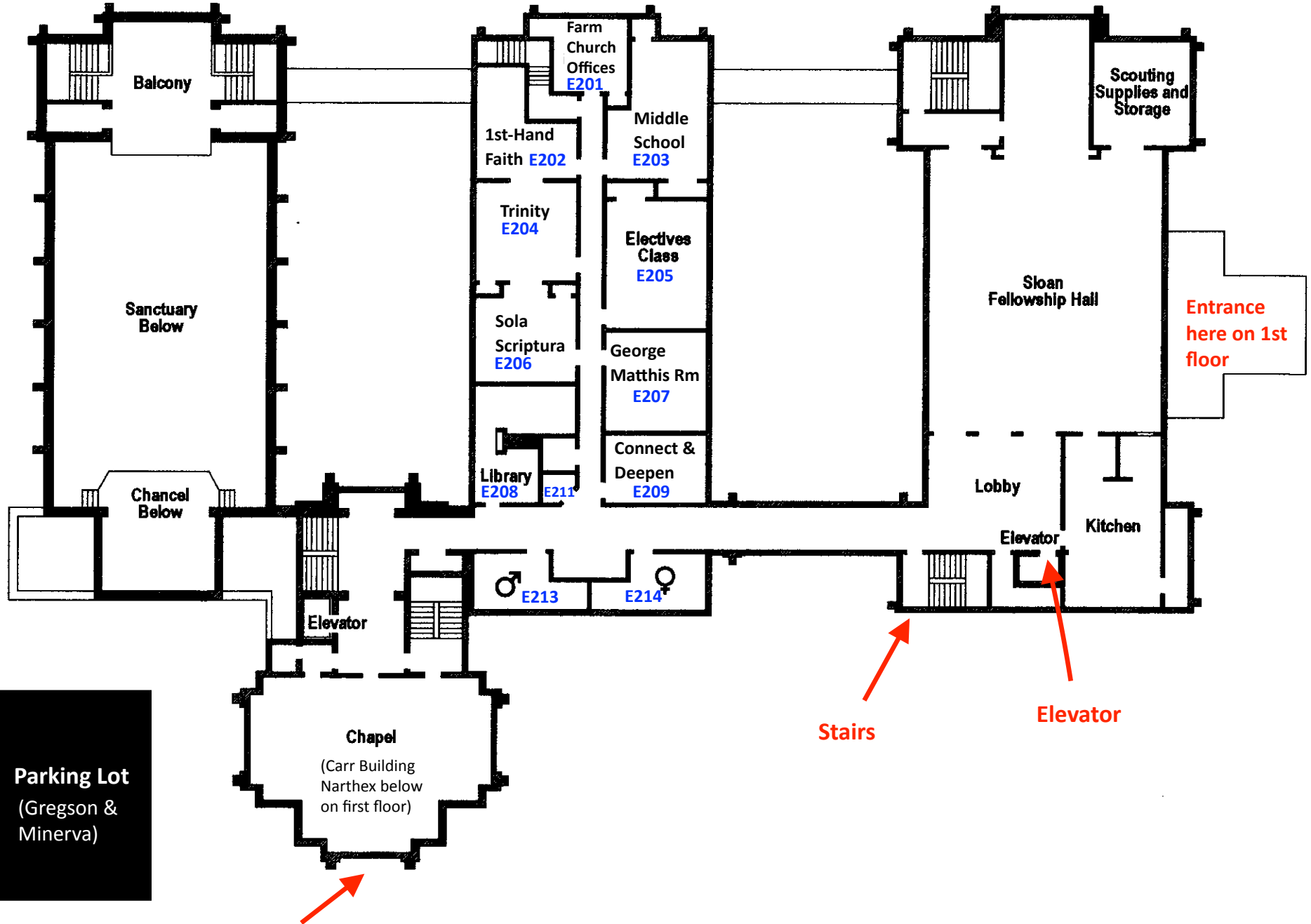




Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church
Main Levels Floor Plan

TRINITY AVENUE

GREGSON STREET



Parking Lot (Enter from Trinity Avenue)

Enter here on first floor

MINERVA AVENUE



Trinity Avenue

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trusting God. Living in Christ. Loving all.

Dear Fellow Presbyters,

July 28, 2026

It is our great honor and joy to welcome you to the Bull City and to Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church for the 128th Stated Gathering of the Presbytery of New Hope! Your presence has been prayed over, prepared for, and anticipated with great joy.

By way of context for your visit, you are stepping into Durham in a time of great growth and gritty challenges as the prosperity evidenced by new restaurants, businesses, and highrise apartments intersects with a crisis of housing affordability, gun violence, food insecurity, and widening socioeconomic disparities. It heartens us that you will be in town to delight in the joys of the Durham community, and to join us in praying for its concerns. Thank you.

The land we know today as Durham County was originally home to the Eno and Occoneechee peoples. In the Carolina colony, the British empire sold parcels of this land to European settlers, and the area attracted Scots, Irish, and English colonists. In the 1800's some of the largest plantations in the South were established here, including the Stagville plantation, with many descendants of those who were enslaved residing in Durham still today.

In 1848 the North Carolina legislature authorized a railroad that would connect the eastern part of the state with the piedmont, and in 1849 a depot was established in Durham between the settled towns of Raleigh and Hillsborough. The community of Durham Station expanded rapidly following the Civil War. Durham soon became a bustling tobacco, textile and transportation center, with the city being officially incorporated in 1869.

Durham's "Black Wall Street" was a thriving hub of African American entrepreneurship and financial enterprise located primarily on Parrish Street in downtown Durham during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It earned national acclaim as a premier model of Black economic self-sufficiency, anchored by the NC Mutual Life insurance company, and yielding flourishing Black neighborhoods and businesses in the surrounding area.

In 1970, the construction of highway 147, heralded by promises of deepening Black prosperity, decimated Black wealth; a legacy Durham continues to heal and rebuild from. This Spring, ground was broken on the Villages of Hayti; a mixed-use affordable housing development on land at the epicenter of this struggle, won through the efforts of our local community organizing entity, in which several Durham Presbyterian churches play an active part.

Presbyterians got a foothold in Durham through the Blacknall family who moved from the Rougemont area, successfully forged partnerships with Orange County Presbyterian congregations, and established First Presbyterian Church of Durham in 1871. As First Presbyterian became established, church leaders began to create Sunday School classes in the area tobacco factories and cotton mills.

In 1894, First Presbyterian opened the Pearl Cotton Mill mission church, which met in a mill cottage on Washington Street owned by George Watts, a Sunday School teacher and champion of the new church. A year later a chapel was built on the mill property, and in 1902

927 W. Trinity Ave · Durham, NC 27701-1715

Phone: 919-682-3865 · Fax: 919-682-6021

Web: TrinityAve.org

the Pearl Mill mission church was reorganized and named Second Presbyterian. The original Pearl Cotton Mill site and the location of this first church structure is not far from our present church building.

The Pearl Mill owners and First Presbyterian Church continued to play an important role in establishing Trinity Avenue. The Pearl Mill Board of Directors, including city fathers such as the Dukes, Watts, and Erwin of Erwin Mills, facilitated a number of land grants and swaps which resulted in our owning the present church property. When finances became tight and membership dropped in May 1921, a few remaining loyal members, with the help of three Elders from First Presbyterian Church, organized a special revival service. This resulted in seventy new members and reorganization under the name Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church, with the first full-time pastor, Mr. George L. Cooper, being called to serve.

Although several names were added to the rolls in the early years of Mr. Cooper's tenure, the congregation's financial situation soon reached a breaking point. In response, Mr. Cooper visited the Big Brothers Men's Bible Class at First Presbyterian Church, making an impassioned plea for support which resulted in a delegation of 38 members being moved to transfer their membership in January 1924 to Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church. We continue to offer thanksgiving to God for the faith, vision, sacrifice, and trust of First Presbyterian that enabled our congregation to have a new lease on life.

Shortly thereafter, the deed to the present property was secured and a building committee was elected. The cornerstone for the new sanctuary building, where you will be meeting, was laid in 1924. The first service in the new Sanctuary was held on Sunday, October 6, 1925.

The church's education wing was built in the early 1950s, but suffered a significant fire on January 15, 1966. The wing was reconstructed immediately thereafter, with a Chapel and second education wing being constructed in 2004. The fellowship hall of this wing (where we will enjoy lunch together) was home to weekly shabbat services and special events for Beth El Synagogue for sixteen months in 2018 while their synagogue was under renovation. The church facility now serves as host to three formally nested congregations in Emmaus Way (founded on inclusion and the arts), Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church (of the Nigerian diaspora), and new church development Farm Church, with other congregations and community partners regularly using the space for worship and gatherings.

Today we are grateful for the opportunity to proclaim the good news of Christ's love in a diverse and rapidly changing city. We strive to take the gospel seriously without taking ourselves too seriously, and are humbled by the recognition that we owe our roots and our flourishing to God's grace manifest in the connectional nature of the Presbyterian church.

Thank you for enhancing our joy with your presence, and for helping us live into our mission of *Trusting God. Living in Christ. Loving All!* with your prayers. We are surely grateful, and wish you every blessing in your life and ministry as our extended family of faith.

May your visit to Durham and time with your fellow presbyters be most richly blessed.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Katie Crowe
Senior Pastor

Rev. Emily Wilkes
Associate Pastor for Public Witness

PROPOSED DOCKET
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH STATED GATHERING
THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HOPE
JULY 28, 2026

8:00 a.m.	REGISTRATION AND FELLOWSHIP TIME • Non-Perishable Food Collection • Displays	
8:00 a.m.	SESSIONAL RECORDS CHECK	Tuthill Room
8:15-8:45 a.m.	ORIENTATION FOR FIRST-TIME ELDER COMMISSIONERS	Chapel
9:00 a.m.	CALL TO ORDER • Opening Prayer • Declaration of Quorum • Adoption of Docket • Land Acknowledgment • Seating of Corresponding Members • Approval of Consent Agenda (Page 16) • Welcome by Host Church • Welcome to Elder Commissioners Attending Presbytery for the First Time	Rev. Sydne Allen, Moderator
9:15 a.m.	WE APPROACH GOD IN WORSHIP The offering received during worship will go to Emmanuel Food Pantry	
10:00 a.m.	FELLOWSHIP AND STRETCH TIME	
10:15 a.m.	RECONVENE	
GOD’S WORK IN THE LARGER CHURCH		
10:15 a.m.	REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER (Page 17)	Rev. Bruce Grady
10:25 a.m.	REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE PRESBYTER (Page 27)	Rev. Katie Cashwell
10:35 a.m.	STATED CLERK’S REPORT (Page 31)	Rev. Ed Johnson
10:45 a.m.	REPORT OF COORDINATING BODY (Page 41) • Finance and Property Committee (Page 42) • Together Task Force (Page 49)	Rev. Jordan Davis Elder Sue Regier Elder Phil Parker
11:15 a.m.	BLACK CAUCUS REPORT	Rev. Antonio Lawrence
11:30 a.m.	GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER REPORTS (Pages 53-61)	
11:55 a.m.	LUNCH INSTRUCTIONS AND PRAYER	
1:05 p.m.	RECONVENE IN SANCTUARY	

- 1:10 p.m. AFTER LUNCH ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- Rev. Michelle E. Lewis
- 1:20 p.m. THE GATHERING PLACE-AHOSKIE UPDATE** Ms. Pat Byrd, Exec. Dir.
- 1:35 p.m. PRESBYTERIAN FEDERAL CHAPLAINCIES** Rev. Dennis Hysom, Exec Dir.
(Page 62) Rev. Doug Slater, Assoc. Dir.
- 1:50 p.m. CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND EVANGELISM REPORT** Rev. Hannah Trawick
- 2:05 p.m. NOMINATIONS AND REPRESENTATION (Page 67)** Elder Ray Watson
- 2:20 p.m. PCUSA STEWARDSHIP AND FUNDS DEVELOPMENT**
Rev. Wilson Kennedy, Assoc. Dir.
- 2:35 p.m. COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** Rev. Anne Galliher
(Page 71)
- 2:50 p.m. COMMISSION ON MINISTRY (Page 72)** Elder John Winings, CRE
 - Examinations and Transfers Sub-Commission Rev. Frank Mansell
 - o For Ordination
 - o For Transfer
- 3:05 p.m. OTHER BUSINESS**
- Unfinished Business
 - Stated Clerk's Gathering Report
 - A Word of Gratitude to Our Worship Hosts Rev. Sydne Allen, Moderator

GOD SENDS US OUT

- 3:20 p.m. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER**

**Please complete your stated gathering questionnaire online
at the following link:**

[128th Presbytery Gathering Questionnaire – Fill out form](#)

**The next stated gathering is October 24, 2026
at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh**

ITEMS FOR CONSENT AGENDA

July 28, 2026

The presbytery will vote in a single action on everything in the consent agenda (all items contained within boxes on designated pages). 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 Stated Clerk Pages 31, 34
- Report of Nominations and Representation Page 67
- Report of Commission on Ministry Page 74

Report of the Executive Presbyter

128th Stated Gathering

of

The Presbytery of New Hope

July 28, 2026

Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church

927 W. Trinity Avenue, Durham, NC 27701

Rev. Dr. Bruce T. Grady, EdD

Letter from the Executive Presbyter

Good day and welcome, Moderator Rev. Sydne Allen, commissioners, friends and guests to the 128th stated gathering of the Presbytery of New Hope. To God be the glory for the great things that the Lord has done!

I extend a heart-felt thanks to the outstanding staff of the office of NHP, pastors, congregations, committees, commissions, networks, validated ministries, community partners, Board of Pensions of the PC(USA), Presbyterian Foundation, PILP and other agencies who co-labor with us in the Gospel. The Lord continues to be gracious to us, extending a wonderful opportunity to (re)discover the heart of the God-shaped mission alongside countless communities and individuals from Mebane to the Outer Banks, across the thirty-four (34) counties. Over the past three years, we have made tremendous progress. By the grace of God, the Coordinating Body, Strategic Plan Steering Committee and the Togetherness Task Force are growing together.

Our impact transcends the boundaries of New Hope Presbytery, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and the General Assembly. Recently, I witnessed this activity as commissioners from across the nation gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). From June 22 - July 2, 2026, we engaged in worship, dialogue, and discernment, for the purpose of interpreting the work of the Presbyterian Church (USA) for our present age. The theme

for GA227 was “Persevering Toward Wholeness”. Guided by Revelation 22:2—“***the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations***”—this theme is calling the church to come together as one and seek God's kin-dom in a fractured world.

Coming together as one and seeking God's kin-dom can be challenging, messy and quite disorienting. Having courageous conversations in safe places may still feel uncomfortable. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit is leading NHP through a process of holy transformation.

Lately, I have reflected on the narratives of two national holidays that focus on freedom and justice- Juneteenth and Independence Day. Juneteenth is a combination of "June" and "Nineteenth". This holiday pays homage to the day (June 19, 1865) in which enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, were informed that they were free. But the news of freedom arrived more than two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The 4th of July, Independence Day, is a federal holiday that celebrates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. It represents the nation's separation from Great Britain. Several of the Constitution's framers also owned enslaved African Americans and this very land was violently stolen from the indigenous people. When these stories are juxtaposed, they raise interesting questions about freedom, power, justice and personhood.

Psychological, spiritual and relational brokenness persist where narratives dominate without accountability to the truth. The ones who tell the story, the ways in which the story is told, and their respective interpretations are as important as the conflicting narratives themselves. The elimination of diversity, equity and inclusion programs, the revision and removal of historic displays, and banning of books that describe America's social ills, and the systems of oppression all point to an erasure of history. There has never been a more critical time for disciples to learn from the lessons of our nation's past than now. (See the following article by Angelo Villagomez, October 23, 2025) <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-trump-administration-is-erasing-american-history-told-by-public-lands-and-waters/>

This is not the first time that the PC(USA) has had to engage courageous conversations on conflicting views of truth and nationalism. According to *Honest Patriotism and two shorter resolutions on faith and politics*: Approved by 223rd General Assembly (2018) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we have developed affirmations, rationale, and practical directions for church members, and leaders. I will highlight four of the major affirmations below.

First, honest patriotism is defined as loving one's country enough to remember and addressing misdeeds, especially when people have been denied equal protection under the law. This idea is grounded in the Christian prophetic tradition, which exercises moral freedom to challenge abuse of power.

Second, the church supports active participation in public life, responsible citizenship, and prophetic witness as essential Christian duties.

Third, the church calls for honesty in public statements, media, and theological witness, and urges scrutiny of news sources to avoid sensationalism and demonization.

Finally, the church supports academic freedom and opposes censorship in research and education. (See the following link.) <https://pcusa.org/resource/honest-patriotism-and-two-shorter-resolutions-faith-and-politics>

I am extremely proud of the courageous conversations of GA277. The PC(USA) called White Christian Nationalism incompatible with the teachings of Jesus. Commissioners approved a proposed constitutional amendment and a new policy statement opposing the ideology. (Presbyterian Outlook, July 3, 2026, See the following link.) <https://pres-outlook.org/2026/07/pcusa-labels-white-christian-nationalism-theological-error/>

In closing, I leave you with the words of Martin Niemöller, a well-known Lutheran pastor in Germany. He went public about his own early collusion with Nazism and his later transformation. His courageous poetic words are still relevant today.

*First, they came for the socialists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a socialist.
Then they came for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a trade unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.*

(Holocaust Encyclopedia, See the following link.) <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/martin-niemoeller-first-they-came-for-the-socialists>

Together in Hope... Together for Christ...

Bruce T. Grady, EdD
Executive Presbyter, New Hope Presbytery

The Photo Journey of the Executive Presbyter



**Bruce meets Rev. David Black,
Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian
Church (Chicago) at Synod of Mid-
Atlantic Stated Gathering,
March 2026.**



**Bruce Grady and Donna Graves
served as Co-Chairs for the Next
Generation Initiative Committee-
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, March
2026.**



*(Photo Ashlee Rezin | Chicago Sun-Times/AP; Quote below from
Presbyterian News Service December 1, 2025)*

**“On September 19, 2025, Rev. Black
was peacefully praying outside the
Broadview ICE detention center in
Illinois. Federal immigration agents
stationed on the roof shot him in the
head with pepper balls and sprayed
him in the face.”**

**Elder Jay Cummins of Hudson
Memorial Presbyterian Church
(Raleigh) and member of the
Organizing Team for the Joint
Matthew 25 Conference NHP & CCP.**



Rev. Ed Johnson and Rev. Bruce Grady join Rev. Jimmie Hawkins at Davie Street Presbyterian Church (Raleigh) March 21, 2026.



Joint Presbyteries Matthew 25 Conference First Presbyterian Church (Sanford) New Hope and Coastal Carolina Presbyteries, March 21, 2026

In this photo: Rev. Dr. "Flo" Barbee Watkins- the new Synod Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid Atlantic, Elder Cassandra Thomas, CRE in Coastal Carolina and Rev. Dr. Bruce Grady- EP of NHP.



Rev. Jimmie Hawkins preaches at Davie Street Presbyterian Church (Durham) on Sunday, March 22, 2026. He is the director of the Office of Public Witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the public policy advocacy and information office of the denomination located in Washington, DC.



Bruce preaches Last 7 Words-Good Friday Service at Covenant Presbyterian Church (Durham) at noon on Friday, April 3, 2026. Rev. Dr. LaKesha Bradshaw Easter, Senior Pastor.



Bruce preaches at Last 7 Words-Good Friday Service at St. Paul Presbyterin Church (Louisburg, NC) at 7pm on Friday, April 3, 2026. Elder Dr. Felecia Hardy, CRE is the pastor.



Elizabeth Little, former Church Consultant (NC & SC) for the BOP-facilitated a gathering for NHP's members on April 21, 2026, at Kirk of Kildaire Presbyterian Church (Cary). Elizabeth retired in June and we are grateful for her years of faithful service. Bruce is shown with Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon- Vice President, Ministry Innovation at The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Bruce participates in La Fuente: El Salvador April 6-11, 2026, an after-school program that seeks to reach out to middle schoolers at risk of violence at a public school in San Salvador. They collaborate with local churches for VBS, church partnership evangelism, and more. (Mission El Salvador Website)



EP was delighted to share updates on NHP's strategic plan with members of Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church (Raleigh) on May 27, 2026.



Triangle Association of Stephen Ministry meeting at St. Philip Lutheran Church in Raleigh on May 30, 2026

Ron Bostick, Stephen Leader at Resurrection Lutheran in Cary; Bruce Grady, EP of NHP and Bobby Simpson, Stephen Leader at Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church (Raleigh).



What a joy and privilege to gather with the 2026 Presbyterian Leader Formation (PLF) at Bon Secours (Marriottsville, MD)! May 7, 2026. This has been an incredible way to enhance discernment, knowledge, skills and imagination with other Mid Council Leaders in the PCUSA.



NHP celebrated the ordination of Rev. Rebecca Mattern June 7, 2026, at Westminster Presbyterian Church (Durham). It was a glorious gathering.



**EP Visits Faith Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr.
Antonio Lawrence, June 7, 2026.**



**EP visits Fuquay-Varina Presbyterian Church
on June 21, 2026.
Rev. William Arnold, Supply Pastor**



**GA227 Valerie Izumi- Assistant Stated Clerk
and Manager GA Nominations and
Representation, Manuel Silva-Esterrich-
Manager of Call Process
Presbyterian Life & Witness of the
Presbyterian Church (USA), Ed Johnson-
Stated Clerk of NHP, & Bruce Grady, EP of NHP.**



**Ed Johnson and Bruce Grady at GA227. The
theme for the 227th General Assembly (2026)
of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was
“Persevering Toward Wholeness”. Guided by
Revelation 22:2—“the leaves of the tree are for
the healing of the nations”—this theme calls
the church to come together as one and seek
God's kin-dom in a fractured world.**



New Hope Presbytery Commissioners and Mid Council Attendees for GA227 in Milwaukee, WI June 25 – July 2, 2026.

- **Commissioner Madeline Lee and ruling elder at Trinity Avenue Presbyterian Church in Durham.**
- **Commissioner John Etheredge and ruling elder at First Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount.**
- **Commissioner Alec Peters and ruling elder at West Raleigh Presbyterian Church in Raleigh.**
- **Commissioner Lisa Lewis Jenkins and ruling elder at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Raleigh.**
- **Commissioner Jordan Davis, and teaching elder at St. Giles Presbyterian Church in Raleigh.**
- **Commissioner Jackie Rodriquez and teaching elder at Duke Presbyterian Campus Ministry in Durham.**
- **Commissioner Gun Ho Lee and teaching elder at Shalom Ministry in Pineville.**
- **Commissioner Vanessa Hawkins and teaching elder, an honorably retired minister in Durham.**

Ed Johnson, our stated clerk, invested time and energy guiding our commissioners throughout their service to GA227. Ed was a Mid Council Attendee and member of the Parliamentary Help Desk. He and our commissioners labored tirelessly in preparation for this event.

· Our executive presbyter, Bruce Grady, teaching elder in New Hope Presbytery, served as a Mid Council Attendee and supported the Committee on Theological Education's display table for the Town Hall.

· A special thank you to commissioner alternate, Betty Berghaus, honorably retired teaching elder, for standing at the ready. Thank you, Betty, for staying current and on topic in case you were needed.

It was inspiring to witness the church discerning the Holy Spirit throughout the various gatherings.

Report on the Work of the Associate Presbyterian, Rev. Katie Cashwell

Practicing Resurrection: Walking with Congregations Through Holy Transition

Since our February Stated Gathering, a significant portion of my ministry has involved accompanying congregations through seasons of profound transition. In recent months, I have been shepherding several churches through the discernment process that will ultimately lead to the closure of their congregations.

This work has caused me to reflect often that serving these churches feels remarkably similar to hospice chaplaincy.

Hospice care is not about hastening death, nor is it about preventing it at all costs. Rather, it is about honoring a life that has been faithfully lived, caring for those who grieve, helping people make intentional decisions, celebrating legacy, and trusting that even in death, God's promises remain true.

Much of my ministry this spring has felt exactly this way.

I have sat with sessions making difficult decisions, listened to stories spanning generations of faithful ministry, helped congregations navigate practical realities, and walked with leaders carrying tremendous grief. These are sacred conversations that require honesty, patience, and hope.

One congregation has illustrated this reality in particularly poignant ways. Earlier this spring, the final remaining member of the church died. The Presbytery now finds itself completing the work of dissolving a congregation without members remaining to serve as conversation partners or decision-makers. There is no session to gather. No congregational meeting to call. No members left to tell the stories or make the final decisions that belong to a congregation.

It is a sobering reminder that discernment delayed can become discernment denied.

This experience serves as a cautionary tale for all of us. Faithful future planning is not an admission of failure. Rather, it is an act of stewardship that allows congregations to prayerfully shape their legacy while they still have the capacity to do so.

Yet this season has also been filled with extraordinary hope.

I continue to believe we are not simply closing churches.

We are practicing resurrection.

Again and again, I have witnessed congregations asking faithful questions about how their buildings, financial resources, relationships, and witness might continue serving Christ's mission

long after the congregation itself has completed its ministry. Their final decisions are becoming gifts to future generations of disciples.

Resurrection often begins long before Easter morning. It begins whenever God's people entrust the future to God with courage and hope.

Because these conversations are important for every congregation—not only those nearing closure—the Office of the Associate Presbyter has intentionally created opportunities for churches to engage these questions before crisis arrives.

On **September 3**, we will gather at **Milner Commons Senior Living**, the former Milner Memorial Presbyterian Church, for **Practicing Resurrection: Imagining Your Church's Next Chapter**. Together with the Presbyterian Foundation, congregational leaders will explore legacy ministry, faithful property stewardship, courageous discernment, and practical tools for future planning.

Likewise, the **2026 Small Church Gathering** will continue these themes by creating space for congregations to engage difficult conversations together, hear stories of faithful adaptation, and imagine new possibilities for ministry rooted in God's enduring presence.

One of the greatest gifts a presbytery can offer its congregations is the creation of courageous spaces where faithful conversations can happen before they become emergencies.

Even amid endings, I remain convinced that the Holy Spirit is inviting New Hope Presbytery to become a community that practices resurrection—helping congregations faithfully discern not simply how to end well, but how their witness can continue blessing Christ's Church for generations to come.

Ongoing Ministry

Throughout this period, I have continued to travel extensively across the presbytery, providing pastoral care, consultation, and leadership support to pastors, sessions, congregations, and committees—particularly within our small and rural churches.

All of this work continues to be guided by the Presbytery of New Hope Strategic Plan, **Together in Hope, Together for Christ**, particularly our commitments to:

- Strengthen connectional relationships among congregations
- Equip churches for faithful and adaptive ministry
- Care for small churches and their leaders
- Cultivate courageous leadership for the future of Christ's Church

Ongoing

- Staff support to Commission on Ministry
 - Staff support to Church Development & Evangelism Committee
 - two New Worshipping Communities are bubbling up in New Hope!
 - Staff support to Coordinating Body
 - Staff support to Commissioned Ruling Elder Team
 - Staff support to Small Church Gathering Planning Team
 - Holy Cow! Consultation and Interpretation
 - Supervision of Pulpit Supply Ministry
 - Website management and presbytery communications
 - Congregational consultation regarding shared ministry, transitions, yoking, and future planning
 - Support for churches navigating pastoral transitions, conflict, and discernment
-

Since the Last Stated Gathering

- Keynote presenter and retreat facilitator at New Hope Presbyterian Women Retreat
- Represented New Hope and made remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony for Milner Commons Senior Living (former home of Milner Commons Presbyterian Church)
- Presbyterian Leader Formation Residency, Baltimore
- Member of Commissioning Commission for Ruling Elder Byung Lee
- Black Rural Church Summit
- Acceptance into the Mid Council Property Cohort
- Continued accompaniment of multiple congregations discerning closure and legacy planning
- Ongoing support for congregations in transition, including moderator work, session consultations, and COM referrals
- Planning and promotion of **Practicing Resurrection: Imagining Your Church's Next Chapter** (September 3)
- Planning of the Small Church Pastors Retreat (September 14–15)

- Planning of the 2026 Small Church Gathering (November 7)
 - Continued visits to congregations throughout New Hope Presbytery for worship, consultation, pastoral care, and strategic planning.
-

Looking Ahead

- **Practicing Resurrection: Imagining Your Church's Next Chapter**
September 3, 2026
- **Small Church Pastors Retreat**
September 14–15, 2026
- **Small Church Gathering**
November 7, 2026
- **Mid Council Property Cohort**
September 17-18, 2026
- Ongoing accompaniment of congregations engaged in discernment, legacy planning, pastoral transitions, and adaptive ministry
- Week of vacation in August; week of Continuing Education in September. New Hope pastors, take yours too!

Report of 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-eighth stated gathering.

INFORMATION

1. Received the minutes of the commission to ordain Rebecca Mattern as pastor of Jonesborough Presbyterian Church, TN at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham on May 31, 2026.
2. Received the minutes of the commission to commission Ruling Elder Byung Seok Lee to the Presbytery of New Hope pulpit supply validated ministry at Peace Presbyterian Church on May 31, 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Receive the sessional records report for the following churches (attachment #1, page 40)
2. Rev. Rob Jackson, by way of affirmation, has been recently appointed to the Board for the North Carolina Council of Churches. The North Carolina Council of Churches (founded in 1935) unites various Christian groups across the state to work for justice and peace. It connects 19 denominations and over 6,200 congregations. The Council focuses on defending civil rights, fighting poverty, protecting the environment, and promoting equal access to healthcare and education. The Council acts as a bridge. It brings together different faith communities to solve big social problems. Congratulations Rev. Rob!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

1. Rev. Rebecca Mattern, ordained as pastor of Jonesborough Presbyterian Church, TN at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham on May 31, 2026.
2. Ruling Elder Byung Seok Lee, commissioned to the Presbytery of New Hope pulpit supply validated ministry at Peace Presbyterian Church on May 31, 2026.
3. Rev. Dr. Tolokun Omokunde upon receiving the distinguished Order of the Long Leaf Pine recently. He was attributed this celebrated honor for his many extraordinary years of public service in the community and throughout our great state that is above and beyond the call of duty.

CONDOLENCES TO

1. The family of Ruling Elder Helen Moore, last surviving member of Young Memorial Presbyterian Church, who died March 3, 2026.
2. The family of Ruling Elder Wes Hare (Church of Reconciliation), longtime moderator of the presbytery's Peacemaking Committee, who died March 15, 2026.

3. The family of Rev. John Pilutti (HR), who died March 17, 2026. John served for many years on the presbytery's Finance and Property Committee.
4. Rev. Christopher Edmonston (White Memorial, Raleigh) and his wife Colleen on the death of Colleen's mother, Judi Camaione, on Friday, April 3, 2026 and father, David Camaione on Sunday, April 5, 2026.
5. The family of Ruling Elder Sylvia Hendrick (Geneva), who died May 28, 2026.
6. The family of Ruling Elder Willie Williams (Calvary, Wilson) who died May 30, 2026.
7. Rev. John Rogers on the death of his mother, Ruling Elder Judy Rogers (First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh), who died June 28, 2026.

Stated Clerk's Report (Cont'd)

The ministry of the Stated Clerk extends well beyond recording the actions of the Presbytery. It is a ministry of serving the Church through constitutional guidance, pastoral support, connectional leadership, and careful stewardship of our shared life together.

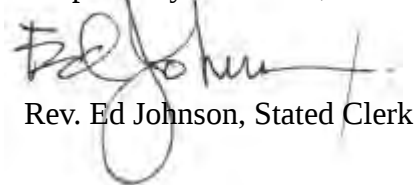
Since our last Stated Gathering, the efforts of the Stated Clerk has included supporting congregations and sessions through matters of governance and polity; providing constitutional interpretation and consultation; working alongside commissions and committees; coordinating the work of administrative commissions; reviewing session records; assisting with ministerial and congregational transitions; and collaborating closely with the Executive Presbyter, the Associate Presbyter, the Coordinating Body, and our Presbytery leadership to strengthen our common life and ministry together.

In addition to these ongoing responsibilities, recent months have also been marked by intentional listening, reflection, and conversation across the life of our Presbytery. These experiences have reaffirmed the importance of approaching our work with humility, curiosity, and a willingness to learn from one another as we seek to discern God's leading together.

This report also celebrates the continued progress of the Presbytery's Strategic Plan, *Together in Hope, Together for Christ*, and the faithful work of the Together Task Force. Their leadership continues to encourage our congregations and governing bodies to move beyond simply responding to immediate challenges and toward deeper conversations about the health, vitality, and future witness of the Presbytery of New Hope. This ongoing work invites us to strengthen relationships, cultivate trust, and build communities where every congregation and every voice is valued as we serve Christ together.

The Stated Clerk's oral report will offer both updates on the constitutional and administrative work of the Presbytery and a pastoral reflection on what we are learning together as a covenant community. Commissioners, visitors, ecumenical guests, staff, and Corresponding Members are warmly invited to enter this conversation with open hearts and open minds as we continue discerning how God is calling the Presbytery of New Hope to faithful leadership, courageous service, and hopeful witness in the years ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Johnson", is written over the printed name.

Rev. Ed Johnson, Stated Clerk

Report of the Stated Clerk: Administrative Commissions for Church Dissolution

Notification of Action: The Coordinating Body (CB) has acted on behalf of the Presbytery to appoint three Administrative Commissions (ACs) to oversee the dissolution of the following congregations: Young Memorial Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem Presbyterian Church – Mebane, Oak Hill Presbyterian Church, and West Haven Presbyterian Church. Young Memorial Presbyterian Church has requested dissolution, and the AC is currently being assembled. The Presbytery will be notified once an AC for YMPC is fully formed.

Administrative Commission composition:

- Bethlehem Presbyterian Church – Mebane
 - RE - Lesley Stanford
 - TE - Betty Berghaus
 - RE – Sue Rieger
 - RE – Ed Cockrel
- Oak Hill Presbyterian Church
 - TE - Sam Miglarese
 - RE - Jim DeVillier
 - RE – Sherry Biggs
 - TE - Alan Koenek
 - RE – Sue Rieger
- West Haven Presbyterian Church
 - RE - Catherine Flye
 - RE - Peggy Griffin
 - TE - Amy Simes
 - RE - Michele Kennedy
 - TE - Preston Smith

Scope of Authority: These commissions have been entrusted with all functions necessary to conclude the ministry of these congregations. Notably, pursuant to G-3.0109b(5) of the *Book of Order*, the Coordinating Body has explicitly granted these ACs the power to dissolve the pastoral relationships of these congregations. This ensures the ACs can address all aspects of the transition pastorally and effectively.

Report of the Stated Clerk: Judicial Business

Communication of Remedial Complaint: On June 23, 2026, the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic received a remedial complaint against the Presbytery of New Hope. In accordance with D-4.0202, the complaint has been transmitted to the Presbytery of New Hope Stated Clerk and the Governing Council; Coordinating Body (CB).

Status: The complaint has been referred to the Officers of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission for a preliminary ruling to determine jurisdiction, standing, and timeliness.

Committee of Counsel: Pursuant to D-4.0204, a Committee of Counsel has been appointed to represent the Presbytery in this matter.

Stated Clerk's Report (Cont'd)

Report of the 227th General Assembly Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 22 through July 2, 2026, bringing together commissioners, advisory delegates, ecumenical partners, and staff from across the denomination to worship God, discern the leading of the Holy Spirit, and conduct the business of the Church. As the highest council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the General Assembly serves as a visible expression of our connectional church, seeking together to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and equip the Church for faithful ministry in a changing world.

The Presbytery of New Hope was well represented by an outstanding delegation of commissioners who faithfully prepared for and participated in committee deliberations, plenary sessions, worship, and fellowship throughout the Assembly.

Ruling Elder Commissioners

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

Teaching Elder Commissioners

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

Alternate Commissioner

- Rev. Betty Berghaus, Honorably Retired

I had the privilege to serve as a Mid Council Leader and volunteer on the General Assembly Parliamentary Help Desk, assisting moderators and commissioners with parliamentary procedure throughout the Assembly. Rev. Dr. Bruce Grady, Executive Presbyter, also attended as a Mid Council Leader, participating in gatherings with colleagues from across the denomination and supporting the work of the Assembly, commissions and committees.

I am very grateful to each commissioner for the many months of preparation, participation in online committee meetings prior to the Assembly, thoughtful discernment, faithful voting, and willingness to represent the congregations and ministers of New Hope Presbytery. Serving as a commissioner requires a significant amount of time, careful study of homework and preparation,

prayerful discernment, and a commitment to listening to each other and to the leading of the Holy Spirit. I am deeply grateful for their service thus far.

I also want to extend a heartfelt thanks to the outgoing commissioners from the 226th General Assembly. These commissioners comprised the Bills and Overtures Committee over the last two years.

Special thanks are also extended to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic for its generous hospitality throughout the Assembly, particularly in providing opportunities for fellowship among commissioners and mid council leaders at a great dinner together. These moments of connection remind me that we are strengthened in ministry through relationships across our shared covenant.

While several members of the Presbytery staff were serving in Milwaukee, the ministry of the Presbytery continued faithfully at home. Sincere appreciation is extended to Rev. Katie Cashwell, Associate Presbyter; Amber Zapffel, Financial Administrator; Christine Kelson, Office Manager, and Shauna Villela, Office Administrator, who ensured that the daily work of the Presbytery continued without interruption while supporting those attending the Assembly from Raleigh.

Among its work, the 227th General Assembly addressed numerous matters affecting the life and witness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Commissioners considered constitutional amendments for referral to the presbyteries, adopted budgets and financial policies for the coming biennium, received reports from denominational agencies, and acted upon recommendations concerning mission priorities, theological education, ecumenical relationships, social witness policy, and matters of church governance. Throughout the Assembly, commissioners engaged in thoughtful and prayerful debate, seeking to balance faithfulness to Scripture and our Reformed tradition with the changing realities of ministry in today's world.

While the 227th PC(USA) General Assembly met in Milwaukee, WI, and online from June 22 to July 2, 2026, several key actions included declaring the war in Gaza a genocide, approving a \$5.8 million budget increase for 2027--2028, and installing the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and Rev. Dr. Kristopher Schondelmeyer as Moderators. The hybrid assembly featured online committee work followed by in-person plenaries. It also featured a new president and CEO for the Board of Pensions.

Several major legislative and social issues took center stage:

- **Israel-Gaza:** Commissioners took their strongest stance in 75 years on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by passing a unified resolution (RIW-04) by an overwhelming 454-15 vote. The assembly voted to declare Israel's military actions in Gaza a "genocide".
- **Budget:** Delegates approved an increased 2027--2028 budget. This increase reflects adjusting finances for inflation and new denominational efforts. The spending spike is

primarily driven by the six-year convergence of the upcoming 228th General Assembly and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

- **White Christian Nationalism:** A special committee on race shared reports aimed at exposing how white supremacy operates foundationally within the denomination. The public action instructs national leadership to establish ecumenical partnerships to vocally and publicly oppose nationalist movements.
- **Fossil Fuels:** Commissioners debated climate policies and fossil fuel investments. The historic vote directs fiduciaries to remove the vast bulk of church investments from the fossil fuel industry, aiming for full divestment by 2030.
- **Confession:** The assembly voted against sending a newly proposed confession to regional presbyteries. Instead of throwing out the project, the assembly voted to restart the churchwide study process. This move allows for greater communal discernment regarding a new theological summary, a topic that has evolved since initially considering Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" in 2018.
- **World Mission Closures:** Internal friction regarding the structural alignment of the denomination culminated in an Investigation into World Mission Closures. The designated review committee is authorized to exhaustively parse through existing legal, personnel, governance, and ecclesial processes to determine if proper protocols were followed during the closures.

Several actions of the Assembly will require continued attention by presbyteries and congregations during the coming months. Proposed amendments to the Book of Order will be transmitted to the presbyteries for discernment and vote. Additional Assembly actions will inform the work of sessions, commissions, committees, and mid councils as we continue to interpret and implement the decisions of the wider church. Resources related to these actions will be made available as they are received and reviewed.

As is often the case, the General Assembly reflected the breadth and diversity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Commissioners experienced moments of **spirited** debate alongside inspiring worship, meaningful fellowship, and opportunities to hear stories of God's work through congregations and ministries across the denomination. Daily worship grounded the Assembly in prayer and reminded commissioners that our common calling is first to glorify God and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

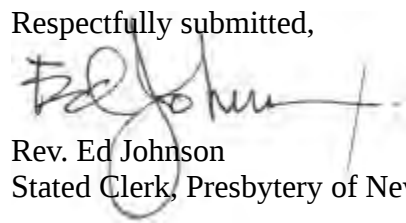
Participation in the General Assembly also provided opportunities to strengthen relationships among commissioners from New Hope Presbytery. Time spent together in committee meetings, worship, meals, and informal conversation fostered deeper connections that will continue to benefit the ministry of our Presbytery in the years ahead.

It's important to note that the work of the General Assembly does not conclude when commissioners return home. Rather, the Assembly's actions now become part of the ongoing

ministry of presbyteries and congregations as together we discern how best to live into the decisions of the wider Church. As constitutional amendments come before the Presbytery for consideration and as Assembly actions are implemented, New Hope Presbytery will continue to provide education, interpretation, and opportunities for faithful conversation.

On behalf of the Presbytery of New Hope, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to every commissioner, volunteer, staff member, and family member whose prayers, encouragement, and support made this important ministry possible. May we continue to serve Christ's Church with humility, wisdom, and hope, remembering that our connectional witness is strengthened when we gather, discern, worship, and serve together for the glory of God and the building up of the Body of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ed Johnson", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev. Ed Johnson
Stated Clerk, Presbytery of New Hope

Report of Sessional Records July 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 2024 for the following churches:

FPC – Roanoke Rapids

Sessional records (rolls and minutes) have been reviewed and approved with no exceptions for 2025 for the following churches:

Church of Reconciliation
Cobb Memorial
Davie Street
Falkland
FPC – Goldsboro
FPC - Kinston
FPC - New Bern
FPC – Raleigh
FPC – Smithfield
FPC – Washington
Hillsborough
Howard Memorial
Little River
New Hope
Peace
Plainview
University
Westminster – Durham
White Rock

Report of the Coordinating Body

Greetings from your Coordinating Body!

The past several months have been filled with intentional discussions, discernment, and effort especially focused on strengthening connections across our Presbytery. One question we continue to return to in our work is “what are the critical needs around our Presbytery?”. Highlights of this shared ministry and discernment include...

- Reviewed, discussed and responded as we were able to concerns raised about the February 2026 Stated Gathering
- With prayer and intentionality, approved removal of the ‘temporary’ designation of the Stated Clerk role.
- Partnered with and supported the Personnel team in creating more clearly defined groupings of staff, and reviewing roles, benefits and compensation.
- With faithful hope and confidence in changing and renewing calls, we approved the formation of Administrative Commissions to work together with several congregations who are responding to God’s next Call by closing their formal ministries.
- In continued partnership with Camp Albemarle, we have approved a taskforce to assist in the review of the Camp Albemarle bylaws.
- Approved multiple Presbyterian Investment and Loan (PILP) requests for congregations in the midst of building repair and remodel.
- Continued partnership and support of the Together Taskforce.
- Sponsored an initial gathering of leaders within our Presbytery to learn more about the current strategic plan as well as initiatives taking place within the different committees, in hopes of collaborating and streamlining our work as we respond to the needs of our congregations and pastors together.

Like any ministry, our work fills us with great joy even as we lament having to make some of our more difficult decisions. We are grateful for all of the ways we are able to partner with the ministries throughout our Presbytery and look forward to our continued efforts to share divine justice throughout New Hope in the most faithful ways possible.

We also want to lift up a thank you for each of our staff who continue to go “above and beyond” in all they do and especially in ways not easily seen by the whole of the presbytery. Their work makes ours possible, and especially joyful!

Submitted with continued celebration in our shared ministry,

Rev. Jordan Davis
Moderator, Coordinating Body

Finance & Property Committee Report

The Finance & Property Committee continues to support congregations through financial oversight, property stewardship, educational resources, and strategic planning. The following report highlights key activities and initiatives since our last gathering.

Financial Update

Financial Summary of the 2025 Revenue & Expense Report:

- Total revenue: **\$1,464,488**
- Total expenses: **\$1,492,146**
- Net operating deficit: **\$27,658**, which is substantially improved from 2024's deficit of \$169,886

Although the Presbytery finished the year with an operating deficit, the result represents a significant improvement over 2024 due to careful expense management.

Grants Received

Several grants from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic were awarded to ministries within the Presbytery, including:

- \$5,000 Self-Development of People Grant for Wilson Read and Grow
- \$5,000 Jubilee Grant for the Black Caucus
- \$1,460 Synod Small Church Grant for Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church
- \$5,000 Synod Small Church Grant for White Memorial Presbyterian Church (Willow Springs)
- \$5,000 Presbyterian Investment Grant supporting the 2026 Joint Matthew 25 Conference with Coastal Carolina Presbytery

Property Actions

- Approved the sale of a gifted residential lot for Outer Banks Presbyterian Church.
- Approved and guaranteed a 20-year \$3,000,000 PILP loan for University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill.
- Approved and guaranteed a 10-year \$65,000 PILP loan for Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel and Durham Presbyterian Church, a \$25,000 Joan Fong Grant was also awarded.

Property Update

Beginning in September, members of the Presbytery will participate in the **2026 Mid Council Land Strategy Cohort**, a collaborative initiative that helps presbyteries develop sustainable, mission-focused property strategies. Throughout the cohort, participants will work with peers and experienced facilitators to create a comprehensive property plan tailored to the Presbytery's unique needs while establishing a repeatable framework for future property discernment and decision-making.

PC(USA) Funding Development Model

The Presbytery of New Hope continues participating in the PC(USA) Funding Development Model initiative. This General Assembly initiative is exploring alternative funding approaches for mid councils by testing models that replace traditional per capita assessments with income-based funding. During 2026, participating presbyteries are serving as field study sites to help evaluate these potential funding models and inform recommendations to the 227th General Assembly.

Congregational Resources

The committee has continued sharing practical resources through the Presbytery newsletter and website to assist congregations in strengthening their ministries and administrative practices.

Caring for Sacred Grounds: Congregations responsible for cemeteries and memorial grounds were introduced to the [Presbyterian Foundation's Cemetery Guide](#), providing guidance on cemetery management, recordkeeping, policy development, and perpetual care funds.

Presbyterian Foundation Financial Health Assessment: Church leaders were encouraged to use the Foundation's free [Financial Health Assessment](#) to evaluate stewardship, budgeting, audits, giving trends, and long-term sustainability.

IRS Determination Letters: Congregations were reminded that IRS determination letters can be obtained electronically through the [PC\(USA\) Group Ruling website](#) using either their Federal EIN or PCUSA PIN.

Special Offering Changes: Information was shared regarding recent changes to PC(USA) and Synod Special Offerings, including the transition from World Missions to Global Ecumenical Partnerships, changes to the Pentecost and Peace & Global Witness Offerings, and the discontinuation of the Synod's Mother's/Father's Day and Thanksgiving offerings.

The committee remains committed to strengthening financial stewardship, supporting congregational property decisions, and providing practical resources for churches across the Presbytery.

The Presbytery Of New Hope
January to December 2025

Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail

Headings and Account	2025 YTD Actual	2025 Annual Budget	2024 YTD Actual
Revenues			
General Fund Income			
Budgeted Benevolence Incm			
140101 - Benevolence Income	\$904,358.65	\$975,000.00	\$983,014.78
140109 - Per Capita Assessment	\$274,804.38	\$265,794.32	\$240,852.67
Total Budgeted Benevolence Incm	\$1,179,163.03	\$1,240,794.32	\$1,223,867.45
Interest Income			
141601 - Interest Income	\$43,844.56	\$0.00	\$14,915.28
Total Interest Income	\$43,844.56	\$0.00	\$14,915.28
Non-Budgeted Benvl Income			
142501 - Non-Budgeted Benev	\$14,322.31	\$0.00	\$137,627.71
142515 - Hunger Fund Income	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,900.46
142517 - Hunger Interest Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5.46
142600 - Other Income - NonBudgete	\$664.56	\$0.00	\$8,312.68
Total Non-Budgeted Benvl Income	\$36,986.87	\$0.00	\$171,846.31
Revenue for PCUSA			
140203 - PCUSA Budgeted Missions	\$15,100.00	\$0.00	\$3,691.68
140204 - PCUSA Special Offerings	\$111,482.03	\$0.00	\$200.00
Total Revenue for PCUSA	\$126,582.03	\$0.00	\$3,891.68
Revenue for Synod			
140301 - Synod Special Offerings	\$2,911.87	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Revenue for Synod	\$2,911.87	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total General Fund Income	\$1,389,488.36	\$1,240,794.32	\$1,414,620.72
Current Restricted Income			
950000 - Other Income - Releases	\$75,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$28,500.00
Total Current Restricted Income	\$75,000.00	\$70,000.00	\$28,500.00
Total Revenues	\$1,464,488.36	\$1,310,794.32	\$1,443,120.72
Expenses			
Total Camp Albemarle Cap Improv	\$50,734.00	\$50,734.00	\$66,049.83
Synod & PCUSA Expenses			
Synod & GA Per Capita			
155198 - Synod Per Capita Assessmen	\$25,493.20	\$25,493.20	\$25,925.60
155498 - GA Per Capita Assessment	\$240,301.12	\$240,301.12	\$220,931.20
Total Synod & GA Per Capita	\$265,794.32	\$265,794.32	\$246,856.80
Synd of MdAtlantic Benevl			
Total Synd of MdAtlantic Benevl	\$4,456.41	\$0.00	\$3,946.71
General Assembly Benevolences			
Total General Assembly Benevolences	\$135,989.71	\$0.00	\$177,809.86
Total Synod & PCUSA Expenses	\$406,240.44	\$265,794.32	\$428,613.37
Total Pres of New Hope NnBud Bn	\$3,089.12	\$0.00	\$2,304.61
157091 - Computer Equipment	\$937.12	\$0.00	\$321.75

Headings and Account	2025 YTD Actual	2025 Annual Budget	2024 YTD Actual
Hunger Fund			
157249 - Hunger Fund Other Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10.71
157255 - Hunger Fund Grant	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Total Hunger Fund	\$22,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,010.71
Congregational Ministries			
150102 - Traveling Seminars	\$35.10	\$0.00	-\$300.82
150837 - Older Adults	\$1,206.26	\$1,000.00	\$2,209.85
150754 - Resource Center Resources I	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4.95
Youth Ministries			
150841 - Sr. High Spring Retreat	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,482.21
150846 - Youth Council Retreat	\$0.00	\$0.00	-\$4,502.50
150848 - Youth Ministries Committee	\$3,000.00	\$4,500.00	\$93.00
150850 - Youth Council Coordinator	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Youth Ministries	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$6,072.71
Total Congregational Ministries	\$5,741.36	\$5,500.00	\$7,986.69
Div. for Leadership Dev.			
Commission On Ministry			
150501 - Calls & Vacancies	\$2,100.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,200.00
150512 - Counseling & Support Serv	\$0.00	\$2,340.00	\$1,365.00
150520 - Pastor Support/Shared Grar	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00
150560 - Examinations Committee	\$17.07	\$100.00	\$143.99
150598 - COM Other Expenses	\$147.00	\$200.00	\$239.92
150599 - COM Committee Expenses	\$1,242.63	\$500.00	\$2,708.73
Total Commission On Ministry	\$3,506.70	\$5,940.00	\$5,657.64
Commission Prep. for Ministry			
150301 - Candidates/Inquirers	\$2,273.42	\$4,000.00	\$960.00
150310 - Annual Consultation	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$100.00
150329 - Comm. Exp- Candidates	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$35.69
150330 - CPM Meeting Expense	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$121.88
Total Commission Prep. for Ministry	\$2,323.42	\$5,000.00	\$1,217.57
Total Leadership Development	\$4,576.59	\$0.00	\$4,832.76
Total Div. for Leadership Dev.	\$10,406.71	\$10,940.00	\$11,707.97
Ministries of Mission			
Total Campus Ministries	\$214,499.94	\$214,500.00	\$233,999.54
Total Evangelism (5FK)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,963.55
Total New Church Development (5FM)	\$15,807.00	\$33,100.00	\$35,624.53
153632 - Prison Chaplain	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$12,000.00
Total Ministries of Mission	\$230,306.94	\$247,600.00	\$287,587.62
Coordinating Body/Administr			
Salary/Benefits			
Total Travel/Meals	\$18,461.20	\$20,200.00	\$31,390.79
Total Salaries (Staff Assoc)	\$250,352.72	\$246,313.09	\$255,158.72
Total Salaries Support	\$219,786.04	\$227,146.88	\$220,826.18
Total Professional Expenses	\$3,625.85	\$7,000.00	\$1,942.40

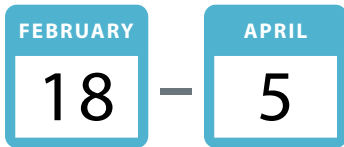
Headings and Account	2025 YTD Actual	2025 Annual Budget	2024 YTD Actual
Total Continuing Education	\$5,916.90	\$6,200.00	\$6,374.32
150909 - FICA (Lay) (Employer)	\$9,609.42	\$9,344.24	\$8,959.15
150948 - Staff Gifts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$811.48
150949 - Benefits Plan	\$156,478.68	\$151,625.32	\$146,066.16
150998 - Payroll Processing	\$1,175.18	\$1,750.00	\$1,964.47
Total Salary/Benefits	\$665,405.99	\$669,579.53	\$673,493.67
Coordinating Body Expenses			
150962 - Affiliated Partners	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,861.66
150965 - Insurance & Bonds	\$13,010.67	\$17,500.00	\$14,578.33
150972 - Bank Fees	\$302.42	\$350.00	\$393.35
150973 - Audit	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00
150974 - Finance Office Support	\$500.00	\$3,000.00	\$13,927.07
150975 - Special Recognition Expense	\$251.08	\$0.00	\$2,004.24
150996 - Mini Conference Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$814.50
150997 - Strategic Planning	\$10,985.30	\$0.00	\$1,272.08
150999 - Coordinating Body Meeting	\$1,928.49	\$1,200.00	\$80.00
151266 - PDM Passion Driven Ministr	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$8,000.00
Total Coordinating Body Expenses	\$26,977.96	\$42,050.00	\$42,931.23
Total Office Administration	\$41,161.41	\$42,700.00	\$45,373.24
Total Office Technology	\$21,659.48	\$21,202.00	\$28,701.72
Committees of Coordinating Bod			
150127 - Presbytery Mtg. Expense	\$4,635.57	\$4,000.00	\$2,849.80
150166 - Personnel Committee	\$2,850.00	\$2,800.00	\$0.00
Total Committees of Coordinating Bod	\$7,485.57	\$6,800.00	\$2,849.80
Total Coordinating Body/Administr	\$762,665.41	\$782,331.53	\$793,349.66
Total Expenses	\$1,492,146.10	\$1,362,899.85	\$1,612,932.21
Net Total	-\$27,657.74	-\$52,105.53	-\$169,811.49
Other Expenses			
100001 - Fraudulent Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Total Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Net Operating Total	-\$27,657.74	-\$52,105.53	-\$169,886.49



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

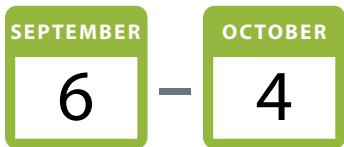


One Great Hour of Sharing | Season of Lent

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

pcusa.org/oghs

Resources distributed in January

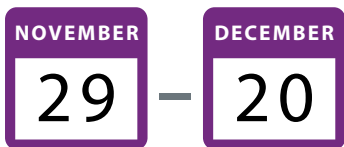


World Communion Offering | Season of Preparation

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.



Together Task Force

CHURCH SESSION SURVEY

Summary Report

July 2026

Executive Summary

This report summarizes responses from 34 churches across the Presbytery, collectively representing an estimated 2,433 worshippers each Sunday. The survey gathered data on each congregation's ministry alignment with Presbytery-wide strategic priorities, their primary challenges, and their impact on both their congregation and surrounding community.

The data reveals a Presbytery of diversity — from a congregation of 5 to one of 400 — united by a shared commitment to serving others. Key findings include strong alignment with the strategic themes of Discipleship, Evangelism, Serving the Marginalized, and Empowering Members, persistent challenges around volunteer capacity and congregational aging, and widespread community impact especially in food security and educational support.

Participation & Congregation Demographics

Survey Respondents

A total of 34 churches participated in this session survey.

Setting	# of Churches	Avg. Sunday Attendance
Urban	5	172
Suburban	7	109
Small Town	12	43
Rural	10	29

Attendance Summary

Metric	Value
Total responding churches	34
Estimated combined Sunday attendance	~2,433
Average Sunday attendance per church	~72
Largest congregation (University Presbyterian)	~400
Smallest congregation (Warrenton Presbyterian)	~5

Ministry Alignment

Participating churches were asked to identify which Presbytery-wide strategic themes each of their ministries addresses. The seven themes and the number of churches citing alignment with each are summarized below:

Strategic Theme	Churches Citing Alignment
Discipleship	27 of 34
Evangelism	26 of 34
Serving Marginalized	31 of 34
Empowering Members	30 of 34
Spirit-led Worship	25 of 34
Open Doors	29 of 34
Healthy Systems	19 of 34

All seven themes received broad representation. Serving the Marginalized topped the alignment counts, closely followed by Empowering Members and Open Doors, while Spirit-led Worship and Healthy Systems, though slightly lower, remain active across a strong majority of congregations. This reflects a Presbytery actively engaged in holistic ministry — combining outward mission with inward spiritual formation.

Obstacles to Progress

Churches were asked to describe their primary challenges. Several consistent themes emerged across congregations of all sizes and settings:

- Volunteer capacity and member engagement — many churches rely on the same small group of dedicated members
- Financial constraints and aging facilities requiring costly maintenance or repairs
- Aging congregations with limited ability to attract younger families and new members
- Absence of or difficulty retaining called pastors (multiple churches without a called pastor)
- Post-COVID recovery — reduced attendance, closed programs, loss of community ties
- Geographic and demographic challenges (rural isolation, overcrowded church markets in small towns)
- Language and cultural barriers to connecting with younger generations and newcomers in multicultural congregations, compounded for some by the strain current immigration policy places on member families

Notably, even the smallest and most resource-constrained congregations demonstrated extraordinary perseverance and creativity in continuing ministry despite these obstacles.

Congregational Impact

Churches reported meaningful internal transformation through their ministries. Common themes include:

- Deepened discipleship and spiritual growth through Bible studies, prayer groups, and faith formation programs
- Increased member engagement and ownership when congregations participate in hands-on ministry
- Stronger community bonds and caring culture — members supporting one another through life's challenges
- Revitalized worship and music programs lifting congregational spirits
- New members joining through genuine welcome and community involvement

Community Impact

The Presbytery's congregations are making a tangible difference in their local communities. Key impact areas include:

- Food security ministry (food pantries, backpack programs, soup kitchens, community gardens) serving hundreds of families
- Educational support — Head Start classrooms, school supplies, tutoring programs
- Emergency assistance and benevolence funds for families in crisis
- Hosting community groups (AA, Girl Scouts, YMCA, ASL classes) making churches community hubs
- Collaborative partnerships with other local churches and nonprofits multiplying impact

Congregational Context Ratings

Churches rated three congregational factors — Finances, Geography/Location, and Facilities — on a scale from Significant Challenge to Significant Asset. Results are summarized below:

Rating	Finances	Geography / Location	Facilities
Significant Asset	6	10	19
Moderate Asset	11	12	8
No Effect / Neutral	2	4	1
Moderate Challenge	9	7	5
Significant Challenge	6	1	1

Facilities are largely viewed as assets — a testament to the physical infrastructure many of these congregations steward. Geography was similarly rated as an asset by most. Finances present the most distributed challenge, with close to half of churches experiencing financial pressure.

Observations & Recommendations

Strengths to Build On

- Deep commitment to serving the marginalized and community food security across virtually all church sizes and settings.
- Strong culture of multi-church collaboration (food pantries, VBS, worship events, Habitat projects) that multiplies impact with limited resources.
- Genuine hospitality and openness to community use of church buildings as community hubs.

Areas for Presbytery Support

- Volunteer capacity: Many churches are stretched thin with the same small group of people carrying the load. Presbytery could support with leadership development and volunteer engagement resources.
- Pastoral leadership: Multiple congregations are without a called pastor or relying on supply/transitional clergy. Intentional Presbytery support in pastoral search and interim care is important.
- Connecting smaller congregations: Rural and small-town churches could benefit from peer networks and collaborative programming with nearby congregations.
- Generational transition: Many congregations cite aging membership as a challenge. Presbytery-wide initiatives to engage younger generations and young families could help.
- Communication and visibility: Several churches noted they struggle to "get the word out" about their ministries. Digital ministry and social media training could amplify community presence.
- Multicultural and multilingual ministry support: Newly responding congregations serving Hispanic and Korean-speaking communities highlight a growing need for culturally and linguistically tailored resources, translation support, and stronger connection to broader Presbytery life.

Participating Churches

As of July 13, the following 34 churches participated in this session survey, listed alphabetically:

Bear Grass	FPC Goldsboro	Roxboro
Butner	FPC Garner	Saint Andrews
Calvary	Greenville Korean	Trinity Avenue
Cary	Hillsborough	University Presbyterian
Covenant Presbyterian, Wendell	Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel	Chapel Hill
Davie Street	Kenly	Warrenton
Ernest Myatt	Little River	West New Burn
Faith	Morton	Western Boulevard
Falkland	North Raleigh	Westminster Lucama
Farmville	Oak Grove	White Memorial, Willow Spring
FPC Smithfield	Outer Banks	White Rock
FPC Roanoke Rapids	Plainview	

GA227 Report

Rev. Jordan Davis, TEC

I have to be honest from the very start – I signed up to go to GA with a lot of reluctance, but knew there was a need and decided that serving as a commissioner was a great way to learn more about the work of PC(USA) and to round out my service to NHP during this season as moderator of the presbytery and now, coordinating body. Upon my return, I am completely exhausted and still processing all that happened - and I can't wait to go back in the future! *(Please join me! But don't... I want a spot again! But really... please go!)*

I think one of the greatest personal takeaways from this time was the community built across the denomination within my age group. I am no longer a “young” pastor, but I am also barely “mid-career” after 11 years of ordination. GA gave me an opportunity to connect with colleagues in ministry who I have only “known” virtually. Not only were we able to process and discern with one another, but we were able to care for one another in invaluable and very tangible ways; we were able to show up as the Body of Christ in ways that just cannot happen on social media. It was clear to me that we didn't always agree on business and even our theology has its variety, but we all serve a unified faith and were seeking the same end goal in our discernment, caring for and showing respect in ways that I tend to forget can even occur in such a divided world. Our deepening relationships will carry me forward through, I hope and pray, many decades of ministry to come.

When I consider the whole of GA, I think that same unity is what highlighted the conference for me and gives me so much faithful hope for the Church. This was not a conflict free week and I cannot think of a single decision that came easily – in fact, there was no single unanimous decision among commissioners. Yet, there was always love and grace shared. Even in sighs of frustration and rolls of eyes, there was a merciful welcome. Motions were made, amendments were amended, votes were cast, many were disappointed, and all moved forward together with hope and endurance, ready to take on the next piece of business through faith.

I was brought to consider my own responses and even my role in discussions. I was called to serve on the Racial Justice committee and admittedly looked forward to the work because it seemed to be straightforward and relatively simple (a bonus in what became a very busy season with my congregation). Towards the end of the second day, though, when I was sure we would be wrapping up rather than continuing to work, grief and pain were named as results of the conversations that had taken place. I was honestly shocked and very confused. As I listened to the reflections of my siblings and colleagues, I began to reflect on my own place of comfort in these conversations - so much comfort, in fact, that what I saw as “logistical weeds” was experienced by others as very harmful and negligent conversation and decisions. As I lamented my own lack of perception, I celebrated the leadership and the safe and faithful space which was held in that time and even into the next morning so that we could be truly present with one another and for the work we were called to do.

The lasting reflection for me, through all of this, is the lament that the world is hurting so much but the hope and confidence that the Church is responding as faithfully and mercifully as possible. The pain and the anxiety that we feel in our homes, in our offices, in our congregations, and in the grocery store were not left at the security check at GA. The anxiety came with us and it lingered, waiting to take the focus at any opportunity. Even still, it was more apparent that as a whole, we were all working toward the same end goal – divine justice, the restoration of God's creation as God intended. In all we did, I could hear and feel that reflection happening. There was not a single second when I didn't feel prayer filling every possible gap in the ballroom.

We tackled dozens of items of business at GA227 and each one served as a reminder that our work is nowhere near done, but more importantly that God is continuing to work in and through each and every one of us, our congregations, our denomination, and the whole of the Body. The Church is continuing to be re-formed, and even when we feel too busy and too overwhelmed - God continues to call us, equip us, and use us to restore divine justice. For that, I will always give thanks!

New Hope Presbytery
227th General Assembly Commissioner Report
Elder John Etheredge, Commissioned Lay Pastor

If you have never attended a General Assembly, please put it on your bucket list. If you want to better understand how Presbyterians' politics is at work, you should attend, if not as a commissioner, go as an observer.

When I was invited to serve as a commissioner, I was ready, then I saw the list of overtures, I prayed I would not be assigned to "Gender and Sexuality Justice." I was not ready to address the subject. And sure enough, I was assigned to that committee. I said, "Lord how am I to handle such a hot topic." The Holy Spirit said, first, just listen to all concerns without making a prejudgment call. Be willing to hear what all are saying. Know that you are not to judge what is right or wrong. Then, move as the Spirit leads you. This assembly reminded me how important it is to be open and listen to any and all persons.

Sunday, I attended worship at Calvary Presbyterian Church. This church is a little different from the average Presbyterian church. In place of one minister, each member serves as a minister, and they minister to each other. They all take turns leading worship.

Our committee considered nine overtures to discuss and vote on. We spent a total of about 28 hours discussing, debating and voting on each overture. We had prayer before each vote. Even with different ideas, there were never disrespect toward the other's view. Just my opinion, it is clear from our discussions, the denomination is leaning towards being open to hear what the LGBTQIA+ community is asking from PCUSA. This is evident from several overtures voted for congregations and LGBTQIA+ pastors to be more open to accepting each in ministry. This will help both candidates and congregations align their values in order to prevent unnecessary harm.

1. Several overtures were voted for churches to address racism and white supremacy
2. Other overtures were introduced to investigate the process used in eliminating World Mission Agency and the dismissing of most mission co-workers.
3. Voted to investigate the use of artificial intelligence in pastors' educational preparation.
4. How Christians should view nationalism.
5. A study to introduce a new confession.

Commissioners voted to approve a unified budget of \$90,454,606 for 2027 and per capita at \$13.04.

New Co-Moderators elected were the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero and Rev. Dr. Kiristopher D. Schondelmeyer

The 228th General Assembly will be held in Puerto Rico

227th General Assembly Commissioner Reflection

Rev. Dr. A. Vanessa Hawkins

Attending the General Assembly is a bit like stepping into a beautifully unpredictable story — you never quite know which moment will stay with you. Maybe it's a conversation in the hallway, a debate in committee, or an overture you didn't expect to care about. Whatever it is, the impact often reveals itself only once you're in the thick of things. What makes the Assembly so meaningful is how clearly it shows the threads connecting the local church, our constitution, and the national office. You get to see, in real time, how the decisions we make shape the per capita for the coming year — why it's set at a particular amount, what choices might increase it, and how those dollars will be used over the next two years. It's also one of the clearest windows into how decisions flow through the denomination. Some actions move directly to Presbyteries and congregations for a vote, while others are carried forward by denominational commissions and committees. Being present helps you see that whole ecosystem — not just the outcomes, but the pathways that get us there.

Serving on the Constitutional Interpretation Committee (formerly Polity) was genuinely energizing. Our group took its work seriously, digging into overtures about expanding healthcare options for ministers, ending nondisclosure agreements in employee terminations, clarifying the role of monogamy in relationships, and discerning when and how CREs can serve communion across presbyteries. Along the way, several conversations pushed us to look honestly at our denomination's story — especially our long pattern of downsizing — and to confront racism and White Christian nationalism. We named the need for stronger accountability and better care for survivors of sexual misconduct, and we affirmed support for LGBTQIA+ candidates navigating the Church Leadership Connection portal. The discernment in these areas was thoughtful and deeply needed. What I appreciated most was how commissioners encouraged one another to look beyond the immediate concerns raised by overture advocates. We kept asking whether our decisions were truly equitable, just, and spacious enough for the church to breathe in the new life the Spirit is offering — the kind of life that helps us move forward in ways that are life-giving.

One hope I carry for New Hope Presbytery as we plan future gatherings is that we keep nurturing a good balance — the business we have to do, the worship that grounds us, the moments of inspiration that come from outside speakers, and the “snapshots” of ministry happening all around us. At GA, we heard some encouraging news from our Stated Clerk: our membership losses have slowed, and faith affirmations are on the rise. In small groups, we reflected two questions: What do you love about being Presbyterian and What does it mean to persevere toward wholeness? Ecumenical greeters and videos reminded us why we show up for GA and for presbytery life in the first place. They reminded us that faith is not a solo journey — others literally walk with us. We were also challenged to remember that this denomination has long been a place of privilege, and that returning to that posture isn't the goal. Also, if we want the world to recognize us as disciples of Jesus, we can't stay on the sidelines. We have to respond to the risks around us and embody what Christian witness really means. So, in the words of Bishop Vashti McKenzie, President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA: “Let's walk together. Let's stay at the table together. And let's strengthen our witness in this world — together.”

General Assembly Commissioner Report of the 227th General Assembly

Elder Lisa Lewis Jenkins

The Presbyterian Church (USA) can frustrate me, anger me, delight me, and make me fall in love with it all over again...all within the period of 10 days. For nearly two weeks, I joined nearly 500 colleagues in ministry for the 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA) culminating in Milwaukee, WI. It was a time of committee meetings, rallies, walks against gun violence, worship in Milwaukee area churches, breakfast, lunch and dinner gatherings, late night gatherings reconnecting with old seminary friends, commemorations, plenaries, elections, and of course more fellowship. It is always good to catch up with old friends and make new friends from presbyteries across the country and around the world.

I served on the committee “Reformed Identity Around the World”. We worked on international declarations regarding the crisis in the Middle East. We addressed the denominations restructuring of Presbyterian World Mission which eliminated traditional mission co-worker positions. The Assembly adopted overtures to investigate the restructuring of World Missions. It also directed denominational staff and advisory groups to draft a brand new missiological statement to guide the churches global engagement and international witness. Lastly, the assembly amended the overture to oversee the faithful stewardship of restricted world mission funds.

Friends, these were hard, challenging, and in some cases, painful conversations. It required us not only to closely examine the brokenness of this world. But also take unflinchingly honest ownership of the pain and brokenness we have caused others due to our own denominational inaction and misuse of institutional power. We were called to stand in a place and earnestly struggle with what ails us as a denomination...to struggle with is really wrong, with actions we have taken or stances we have failed to take on matters of justice. That can be a hard place to stand.

Yet I believe, in spite of all the weighty conversations on the plenary floor, a story of holy hope and the transformative power of faith has emerged. We are a church called to witness to a world where we are surrounded by broken people, broken systems, broken promises. Rev. Laura Mariko Cheifetz reminded us that two things are crucial to healing. First, we must have an honest reckoning of our own damning truths, the places we are broken. Then secondly, we must not forget that in this failure... in recognizing it... in breaking the heart open...that moment when everything almost collapses...that brokenhearted moment is the very moment of possibility. That is when God’s healing can happen. “God’s healing will happen with or without us.” The church’s job is to stay ready for the break. That is the moment to jump in, remove the yoke of oppression, offer food to the hungry, comfort to the afflicted and lose the bonds of injustice. That is the transformative power of faith! For me, that is the story of holy hope emerging out of the 227th General assembly of the PC(USA). When everything feels broken and collapsing...that brokenhearted moment is exactly where we, the church, become collaborators with God. Invited to participate and join in the healing, liberating work, of our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

In Gratitude and Joy,
Lisa Marie Lewis Jenkins, Ruling Elder, New Hope Presbytery
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church

General Assembly Commissioner Report of the 227th General Assembly

Rev. Gun Ho Lee

Serving as a commissioner to the General Assembly was a meaningful and enriching experience. One of the highlights was my work on the General Assembly Relations Committee. Our committee members were collegial, respectful, and willing to listen carefully to one another, even when we held different perspectives. The Moderator and Vice Moderator led our discussions with fairness, patience, and wisdom, creating an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect.

Our deliberations on the relationship between the General Assembly and the Board of Pensions involved challenging issues, yet the committee reached its recommendations through thoughtful dialogue, careful discernment, and a shared commitment to the well-being of the church. This experience deepened my appreciation for the strengths of the Presbyterian system. Committee work is where commissioners listen, ask questions, weigh diverse perspectives, and seek God's wisdom together before matters come to the plenary. It demonstrated that Presbyterian polity values shared leadership, accountability, and communal discernment rather than individual authority.

Two Assembly decisions especially caught my attention. The first was the declaration that the actions of the Israeli government in Gaza constitute genocide. The second was the decision to investigate the process that led to the closure of World Mission and the elimination of all mission co-worker positions. Both issues generated significant discussion and differing viewpoints. What impressed me most was not simply the outcomes but the Assembly's willingness to address difficult and controversial matters rather than avoid them or sweep them under the rug. Participating in these conversations reminded me that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) best serves Christ when it engages challenging issues openly, prayerfully, and with integrity.

One story I hope to share with the Presbytery of New Hope is the Mission Statement Window at Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee. The stained-glass window depicts Tabitha (Dorcas) from Acts 9 and was dedicated in memory of one of its members, whose life reflected faithful Christian service. Like Tabitha, the congregation has long served its neighbors through acts of compassion and mercy.

Standing before that window, I was reminded of Peter's words: "Tabitha, get up." I sensed God speaking those same words to the church today: *Rise again—to love, to serve, to stand with the marginalized, and to participate faithfully in God's mission.* That image renewed my own sense of calling and reminded me that the church's mission is not merely to preserve its institutions but to embody Christ's love in the world.

Reflections from the 227th General Assembly
A Report to the Presbytery of New Hope
Milwaukee, Wisconsin | June 22–July 2, 2026
Elder Madeleine Lee

It was my privilege to serve the Presbytery of New Hope as a ruling elder commissioner to the 227th General Assembly of the PCUSA, meeting online and in Milwaukee. I served on the Climate and Environmental Justice Committee, and I want to share a few reflections from the week as I return to serving alongside you.

Committee Work: Witness Meeting Action

The Climate and Environmental Justice Committee's work was some of the most substantively engaging of the whole Assembly. Every overture before us pushed on the same core question: how does the PC(USA) let our denominational actions, not just our stated values, bear witness to our care for creation? That question shaped our conversations about continued fossil fuel divestment (including recommending that ConocoPhillips and Duke Energy be added to the denomination's divestment list) and about the church's support for regenerative farming. All five items coming out of our committee were approved by well over 2/3, were approved on the consent agenda in Plenary, and remained on that agenda, blessedly approved without further plenary debate. Sitting (on Zoom) with commissioners, Young Adult Advisory Delegates, Partner Advisory Delegates, Theological Student Advisory Delegates, and resource persons who took that work seriously, line by line, reminded me that our polity is not bureaucracy for its own sake, it is one of the ways we try to make our actions match our confession and profession of faith.

Plenary: “Persevering Toward Wholeness”

I will not pretend the plenary sessions were easy. The days were long, the debates were often intense, and the business before us touched real nerves - our political climate, the changing shape of our faith communities, and hard questions about who belongs and how we treat one another. The presence and rhetoric of groups like Presbyterians for the Kingdom, tied to the broader “Operation Reconquista” movement, added real tension to the week. There were more than a few moments when I put my head down on the table or nudged my fellow New Hope commissioners out of sheer dismay at what was being said, or how.

And yet: there was nothing more invigorating than watching a genuinely diverse body of commissioners, YAADs, PADs, TSADs, and resource people dig into polity, constitution, and witness together, in good faith, trying to take faithful next steps. Disagreement did not disappear, but neither did the shared commitment to discern what faithfulness looks like for this denomination right now. That combination of exhaustion and hope, held together, is, I think, an honest depiction of what it means to be part of a connectional church in 2026. The money can be tight, good people can disagree intensely, we can admit that the Church has contributed harm to folks it should have loved, and: God is still good, the Spirit is still at work, we are not doing any of this alone. There is wholeness and unity even now, as we persevere.

Bringing It Home to New Hope

I return to you renewed in my sense of calling, and honestly, a little tired. Both things are true. What I want our presbytery to know is that the connectional church is alive - imperfect, argumentative, sometimes painful, but alive and full of people who love Jesus and are trying hard to be faithful together. Our voice from New Hope mattered in that room, and the work our commissioners did on all of our committees is work I hope our congregations will take up locally: asking not just what we *believe* about creation care, reformed identity in the US or the world, race and gender justice, or theological education and ordination, but *what we are actually willing to do about it*. How can we usher the kingdom in, even here, even now? How can we be like the leaves for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22)?

As you reflect on what comes next for our denomination, I invite you to visit the PCUSA website, specifically the 227th General Assembly page and myGA to look at the business items, video information, news, and worship from this year's General Assembly. It's an honor to run the race alongside each of you.

With love and prayer,

Madeleine Lee

Commissioner, 227th General Assembly

Report on the 227th General Assembly

Alec Peters, Ruling Elder Commissioner

The theme of the 227th General Assembly was "Persevering Toward Wholeness," with the "guiding Scripture" being Revelation 22:2: "and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." Together, this theme and verse provided a framework both for worship and for approaching the business of the assembly.

I was on the Reformed Identity in the United States committee, the remit of which was described as "discerning what it means to be the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), how we are called to persevere as people of Reformed faith, and how wholeness can be lived out in the United States." I was impressed by the spirit in which our committee approached its work. There was a commitment to listen to all voices and to respect positions different from our own. That we were able to do this despite meeting over Zoom for three long days was a testament, I think, both to our committee leadership and to the attitude that a diverse group of commissioners and advisory delegates brought to our work together.

Fifteen items of business were referred to our committee, related to matters such as white Christian nationalism, the Doctrine of Discovery, artificial intelligence, human trafficking, and immigration and internal displacement. Our committee also received the report of the Special Committee for a New Confession, created by the 225th General Assembly. The draft of the new confession will now go to a new special committee for further study. And an amendment to the Book of Order (Foundations of Presbyterian Polity section) related to white Christian nationalism will be forwarded to the presbyteries for ratification in the coming year.

One notable highlight of General Assembly for me was worship on Sunday morning. Rather than one large service for the gathered assembly, commissioners and advisory delegates went out to Presbyterian congregations in and around Milwaukee. I, along with New Hope's stated clerk, Ed Johnson, attended First Presbyterian Church of Waukesha. One of the first female ruling elders of First Waukesha, Lois Stair, was elected moderator of the 183rd General Assembly of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (1971), becoming the first woman to hold that position. In 2022, First Waukesha sold its building and began "nesting" in nearby St. Matthias Episcopal Church. One of only a handful of partnerships between Presbyterian and Episcopal congregations, St. Matthias–First Presbyterian is taking seriously the project of reflecting and honoring both Presbyterian and Episcopal identities, as well as the challenges of complying with Presbyterian and Episcopal polities, while moving toward a more formal relationship.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a commissioner from New Hope Presbytery to the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It was a joy to serve with and get to know my fellow commissioners from New Hope, as well as many others from across the PC(USA).

General Assembly Commissioner Report

Rev. Jackie Rodriguez

The deliberations in both committee and plenary work at the General Assembly deepened my understanding and appreciation for PCUSA polity. I have always respected the structure of our denomination that resists a top-down hierarchy and sets up many systems of accountability. I got to see this in its fullest form at the General Assembly. While at times, being “decent and in order” felt particularly tedious, I saw how it helped the body remain not only intentional, thorough, and clear in our deliberations, but also as just as possible. I appreciated how people of varying ideas and opinions were given the reasonable space to equally contribute to discussions. I experienced fellow commissioners and delegates as engaged and thoughtful, and I received their words and amendments on any given item of business as an opportunity to learn more about what people care about and why.

In my work in the Theological Education and Ordination Committee, ORD-03 in particular caught my attention - a recommendation for a committee to be formed to conduct a study and report on shared/teams ministry models as a potential new option for our churches in the future. The overture is in response to ongoing loneliness and burn-out of our ministers, and the inability of many smaller churches to afford ministers. Ultimately approved on the floor of plenary, this team-ministry exploration could offer concrete steps to our churches and presbyteries across the country who are needing a fresh and sustainable path forward. In general, I noticed many recommendations from the items of business we approved emerged from largely shared convictions of deeper inclusion, accessibility, integrity, and holding sources of power accountable in the PCUSA.

As I return from the General Assembly to continue serving within the Presbytery of New Hope, the process of navigating deliberations at that level sticks with me. In any space we have the honor of being in, there is the opportunity to thoughtfully weigh our contributions before we contribute. Rooted above all in a love of our Lord, neighbor, and self: What is it that I have to say? Because there is finite time and energy, and there are many people with things to say, what needs to be said here and what does not need to be said? What is actually at stake? Shall I help move us along or help keep us discerning? Do I dare take a risk?



Newsletter

SUMMER 2026

Pastoral Letter Sent to our Serving VA. FBOP. and Military Chaplains

Grace and peace to you,

It is a true privilege to serve as your endorsing agent and to walk alongside you in this sacred pastoral calling. I welcome your calls and emails and count it an honor to listen, pray, and support you as you faithfully shepherd those entrusted to your care through both the joys and the challenges of ministry.

These are not easy days. We live in a time marked by uncertainty, change, and at times disruption. Decisions beyond your control may shape your daily work and affect those you serve. Such seasons can be unsettling and raise difficult questions. Yet even here, we are grounded in the steady promise of Scripture: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble” (Psalm 46:1). The One who has called you remains near—your refuge in uncertainty and your strength in every demand.

Your pastoral calling has not changed. The ministry entrusted to you remains deeply important and divinely appointed. You are called to be a steady presence in the lives of others—to listen with compassion, to pray with sincerity, to lead with humility, and to faithfully bear witness to God’s nearness and grace. Through your quiet perseverance and daily faithfulness, you embody the hope you proclaim.

Even in seasons when the work feels heavy or unseen, your calling matters. The care you offer, the prayers you lift, and the presence you provide are sacred acts of ministry that God continues to use in powerful ways.

Please remember that you are not alone. Doug and I are here for you, grateful for the opportunity to offer encouragement and support, just as others have done for us.

I encourage you to reach out—whether in a moment of need or simply for connection. It would be our joy to listen, to pray, and to walk with you wherever you find yourself today. May the Lord sustain you in your calling, strengthen your heart for the work of shepherding, and fill you with His peace as you continue to serve Him faithfully.

With gratitude and prayer,

Dennis E. Hysom

Field Notes

In October, Andrew Stockstill and his Religious Professional visited a team of Marines operating forward, where they are part of a multinational coalition exercise. There, he led 2 Bible studies and 2 Protestant Divine Services, including Communion. It was a beautiful gathering of young service members from various nations who demonstrated a hunger for the Word and opportunities to explore and grow in faith.

When Bo Seok (Peter) Soe transitioned from 13 years of pastoral ministry at Good Stewards Church (KPCA) to enter the Army Chaplaincy, he still wrestled with doubts about whether this was truly God’s will. But through the ministry this year, he has found confirmation and peace. His brigade chaplain attended his first award ceremony and affirmed that God has indeed called him to serve here for His glory and for the spiritual well-being of Soldiers.

Young G. Jung, staff chaplain at Jesse Brown Veteran Affairs Medical Center was recently assigned to Palliative Care and bereavement programs at the VA Hospital. He writes: From the moment a veteran or their family member faced a critical or end-of-life situation, I was committed to providing timely and compassionate spiritual support. Within 24 hours of ICU, palliative, or family contact, I would reach out to offer comfort and reassurance.

ANNUAL TRAINING

The PFC will conduct a time of professional training, fellowship, renewal, and shared faith for endorsed chaplains and their families. We will gather at either Calvin Crest from June 21–26, or at Montreat—either virtually or in person—from August 10–14. May these days be a blessing of rest, connection, and spiritual growth for all who attend. This year's theme is: *Resilience in Times of Transition*.

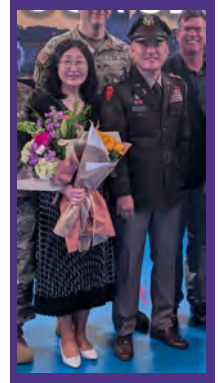
AWARDS

Congratulations to Ch (LT) Garrett A. Burns for his recognition by the Military Chaplains Association for his ministry and leadership providing for the religious freedom and spiritual welfare of the men and women of the armed forces. Chaplain Burns was awarded the MCA Distinguished Service Award for 2025.



RETIREMENT

Ch (COL) Martin Cho retired from the Army in May 2026. We are grateful for his service to God.



GRADUATION

Congratulations to Air Force Chaplains: Ch, Capt Joseph Song & Ch, 1 Lt David Taekjin Kim. They graduated from the Basic Chaplain Course on 15 May 2026.



General Assembly Presence

Dennis Hysom was able to set up a table at the Cumberland Presbyterian Church General Assembly and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly. We look forward to getting the word out about Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies to the wider church.



STORIES FROM THE FIELD

Joseph Kim, Air Force Chaplain, writes: Last February, I had the privilege of serving as Chaplain of the Day at the Georgia State Capitol. As I stood before the House Representatives, I felt a profound connection to a legacy of selfless service and its lasting impact. I chose to speak on the theme of hope, drawing strength from the enduring promise found in our faith. I shared a personal story, my experience at Tower 22 on January 28th, 2024, the day our brave brothers and sisters in arms, Georgia natives, were killed in action. I recounted the solemn memorial service, the empty boots, helmets, and rifles, and the heart-wrenching silence when the first sergeant called out the names of the fallen: Specialist Kennedy Sanders, Specialist Brianna Moffett, and Sergeant William Jerome Rivers. I wanted the representatives to understand that even in the face of profound loss, hope and resilience are possible. I challenged them, as representatives of the people, to live lives of sacrifice, giving, serving, and loving others, to listen to the needs of their constituents, especially the challenging circumstances faced by military families, and to legislate laws that protect our children and promote justice. I closed with a prayer, asking God to grant them wisdom, strength, and compassion, and to bless their service with humility and integrity. It was my hope that in sharing this message, rooted in both personal experience and faith, I could offer a moment of encouragement and reflection for those who serve our state.



Haley Stephenson, VA Chaplain, writes: As a chaplain serving multiple outpatient behavioral care teams, I often assist patients in exploring how their spiritual needs intersect with their mental and emotional well-being. For example, a patient was able to share with me their concerns about ongoing auditory hallucinations that they have managed alone for the last 20 years. I provided spiritual support to this patient regarding the sense of shame they carry about these hallucinations while also relaying the patient's concerns to the appropriate care team. The patient had been working with mental health providers for over a year, and he had not felt comfortable addressing these concerns with them due to their own shame. I highlight this story because it shows the unique way chaplains are utilized in the outpatient setting by the VHA to ensure patients receive the care they need, and how chaplains can assist patients working through shame that inhibits access to care. Please pray that this kind of creative ministry can continue and expand at this VA and other VA systems.

STORIES FROM THE FIELD. cont.

Chaplain Cheol Yi, Navy Chaplain, writes: As a KPCA minister and Chaplain, I remember that our first and most important goal is to be faithful to what God has called me to do, a higher calling. This is my spiritual core value for the chaplain ministry, which is the foundation for why the ministry exists and how it will achieve its goals, often grounded in specific biblical convictions and a vision from God. I appreciate the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincy's support in establishing a strong biblical foundation for my chaplaincy ministry. It provides clear spiritual direction and intentionality for my serving Sailors, helping them to pursue God's call amidst other challenges and pressures. Our denominational teaching bridges theological doctrine and practical ministry activities by outlining core values, principles, and goals to guide decision-making in the ministry field, focus resources, and ensure effectiveness in impacting people, making disciples, and glorifying God.

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Thank you PFC partners in ministry for your good support for those of us out here in the field. May the care you extend to others return to you in kind, and may God richly bless you in your work.

For over 50 years, the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies (PFC) has lived out the call of Matthew 25 by supporting our chaplains as they minister among those in Veterans Affairs hospitals, federal prisons, and the military—people often carrying heavy burdens and in need of hope. The PFC recruits, equips, sustains, and endorses ministers who bring compassion, presence, hope, and spiritual care to people in some of life's most challenging circumstances. This ministry is a celebration of over five decades of faithful leadership, compassionate service, and the enduring promise that when we care for "the least of these," we serve Christ himself.

As we give thanks for this legacy, we also look ahead with gratitude and hope. Please pray for our chaplains, their families, and all those they serve and inspire the church to continue supporting this vital ministry of presence, mercy, and love.

Donate online: presfedchap.org

NOTE: All of our funding is crowd-funded and community-sourced from sister denominations and local fundraisers directed to the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies nonprofit, a 501(c)(3) organization, and is tax-deductible. Any financial support provided by our donors and supporters is greatly appreciated and is essential to the continuation of our programs and services. We are committed to transparency and accountability, and we ensure that all donations are utilized in the most effective and efficient manner possible to achieve our mission. Thank you for your support!



Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies

*I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me... Matthew 25*

CHAPLAINCY: IS IT FOR YOU?

As you discern God's calling to ministry, the Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies invites you to consider using your spiritual gifts as a Federal Bureau of Prisons, Veterans Affairs, or Military Chaplain.

CONNECT WITH US!

Please contact us if you are considering federal chaplaincy and/or if you have a minister or candidate under your care who is considering federal chaplaincy.

Endorsement by Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies is required for federal chaplaincy programs, but does not guarantee an applicant will be accepted into a federal chaplaincy program.

Applications and information are available online: presfedchap.org



STAFF

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CONTACT US!

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 info@presfedchap.org



We are a joint ministry of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, the Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad, and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Nominations and Representation Committee July 2026

The following nominations are submitted for approval

Church Development & Evangelism		
Rev. Deborah McEachran, TE, Wilson 1st (begin serving in January 2027)		Class of 2029
Exams and Transfers		
Rev. Christopher Edmonston, TE, White Memorial, Raleigh		Class of 2027
Debbie Kirk TE, R		Class of 2027
Jesse Riggs, TE, Peace Presbyterian, Winterville		Class of 2028
Cindy Brittain, RE, Howard Memorial, Tarboro		Class of 2028
Finance and Property		
Frank Baird, RE, White Memorial, Raleigh		Class of 2028
Jeffrey Gray, RE, Raleigh 1st		Class of 2029
Dave Pottenger, RE, Westminster, Durham		Class of 2028



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!

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

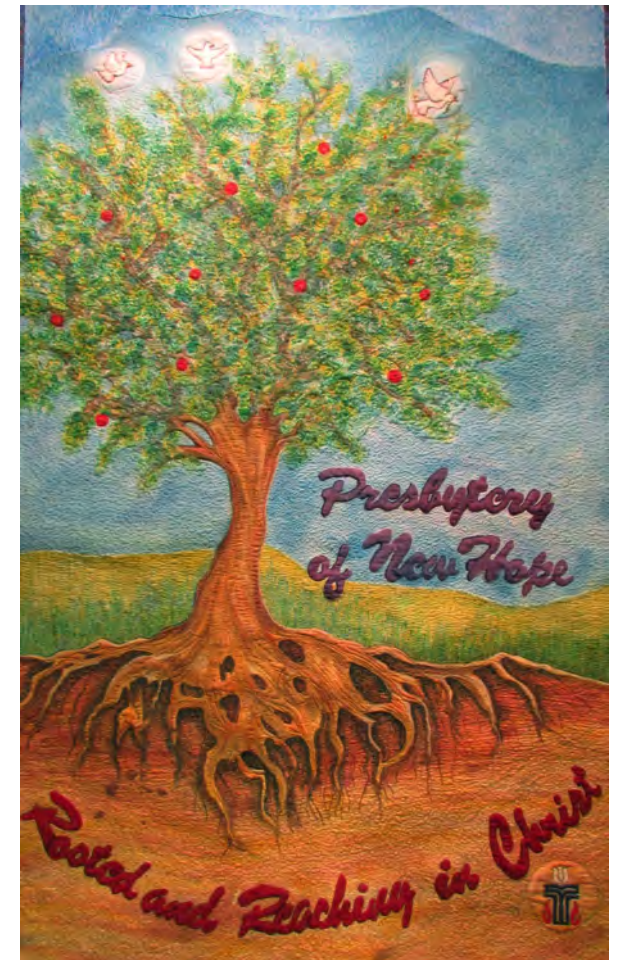
The Presbytery of New Hope

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 resources to the 5 campus ministries connected to the Presbytery. Enable and encourage the campus ministries to work and meet together. 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. 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 1PM. 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.

Commission 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) 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 usually online.

The Disaster Assistance Team (DAT) works to assist congregations and the Presbytery with preparing for and responding to disasters within the bounds of the Presbytery.

Examinations and Transfers Sub-Committee (ETSC) This is a subcommittee 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

Cris Rivera (Durham, First)

**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 commission Byung Seok Lee as commissioned ruling elder to the Presbytery of New Hope pulpit supply validated ministry at Peace Presbyterian Church on May 31, 2026. Teaching elders: Rev. Sydne Allen, Rev. Antonio Lawrence, Rev. Karen Jackson, Rev. Patrick Ryan, Rev. Katie Cashwell. Ruling elders: Jesse Riggs, John Winings, Intae Yoon, Youngjoo Kim.
2. Members of the commission to install Rev. Ally Pexa and Rev. Jacob Kennedy as co-pastors at First Presbyterian Church, Rocky Mount on August 16, 2026. Teaching elders: Rev. Sydne Allen, Rev. Mary Todd, Rev. Noe Juarez, Rev. Jackie Rodriguez, Rev. Hannah Trawick. Ruling elders: Philip Thomas, Mike Gaynor, Kate Honey. Guests of the commission: Rev. Raymond Privott, Rev. Will Shelburne.
3. Members of the commission to ordain Rebecca Mattern at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Durham on May 31, 2026. Teaching elders: Rev. Jordan Davis, Rev. Chris Tuttle, Rev. Betty Berghaus. Ruling elders: Susan Landis, John Etheredge. Guests of the commission: Rev. Shannon Craigo-Snell, Rev. Kristin Stroble.

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. Michelle Lewis (LWB) and Roanoke Island Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through December 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$34,700.00; housing allowance \$2,400.00; social security offset \$2,654.60; other reimbursable expenses \$1,135.40. Total compensation package \$40,890.00.
2. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Andrea Rock and Westminster Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, effective January 1 through December 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$20,676.00; housing allowance \$13,308.00; social security offset \$2,599.76; reimbursable expenses \$1,516.24. Total compensation package \$38,100.00.
3. Rev. Byeung Kyu Kim (LWB) to serve as stated supply pastor at Greenville Korean Presbyterian Church, effective May 15, 2026 through May 14, 2027. Terms: annual cash salary \$12,600.00; housing allowance \$17,400.00; one-time moving expenses \$2,000.00. Total compensation package \$32,000.00, 6 weeks of vacation.
4. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Raymond Privott (LWB) and Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church, effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027. Terms: annual cash salary \$19,300.00; housing allowance \$9,903.00; social security offset \$2,161.00. Total compensation package \$31,364.00.

5. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. John Robinson (HR) and Neuse Forest Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through June 30, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$4,065.07; housing allowance \$2,622.69; social security offset \$511.62; Total compensation package \$7,199.38.
6. Rev. Kathryn Lester-Bacon to serve as stated supply pastor at Howard Memorial Presbyterian Church, effective June 1 through November 30, 2026. Terms: monthly cash salary \$1,500.00; housing allowance \$1,500.00; social security offset \$230.00; reimbursable expenses \$500.00; Board of Pensions dues \$300.00. Total compensation \$4,030.00; 10 days of vacation for 6-month term.
7. Renewal of stated supply agreement between Rev. Stephen Herring (HR) and Cobb Memorial Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through December 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$16,020.00.
8. Extension of stated supply agreement between Rev. Carrie Tuttle and Little River Presbyterian Church, effective July 26, 2026 through December 31, 2027. Terms: annual cash salary \$54,000.00; social security offset \$4,131.00; Board of Pensions dues \$2,667.00, reimbursable expenses \$2,825.00. Total compensation package \$63,623.00, 4 weeks of vacation, 2 weeks of continuing education.
9. Renewal of interim pastor agreement between Rev. Marguerite Sirrine and Hudson Memorial Presbyterian Church, effective April 6, 2026 through April 5, 2027. Terms: annual cash salary \$66,950.00; housing allowance \$66,950.00; social security offset \$10,243.00; reimbursable expenses \$4,000.00; Board of Pensions dues \$44,140.00. Total compensation package \$192,283.00, 4 weeks of vacation, 2 weeks of continuing education.
10. Renewal of interim pastor agreement between Rev. Debbie Osterhoudt and Oakland Presbyterian Church, effective August 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027. 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.

B. Commissioned Ruling Elders

1. Renewal of commissioned ruling elder agreement between Felecia Hardy and St. Paul Presbyterian Church, effective January 1 through December 31, 2026. Terms: annual cash salary \$21,600.00.
2. John Winings to serve as commissioned ruling elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church, effective May 1, 2026 through April 30, 2027. Terms: annual cash salary \$55,000.00; reimbursable expenses \$2,500.00; employer share of FICA/Medicare \$4,208.00. Total compensation package \$61,708.00, 4 weeks of vacation, 2 weeks of continuing education.
3. That, upon the recommendation of the CRE sub team, that Elder Jeff Gray of First Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, be certified ready to receive a commission.
4. That CRE's be empowered to officiate at weddings for church members of churches where they are commissioned, including destination weddings within North Carolina, provided the authority to officiate at marriages is included within the terms of the commission approved by the Presbytery. Such authority shall remain in effect only during the period of active commission. CRE's working in New Hope's pulpit supply validated ministry and QRE's (qualified ruling elders) requesting to officiate in other cases should discuss with the CRE sub-team on a case-by-case basis. The CRE sub-team shall notify COM of each case and the decision reached.

C. Dismissals

1. Rev. Ben Kane to Presbytery of Arkansas, effective April 15, 2026.

D. Retirement

1. Rev. Ken McFayden, effective June 30, 2026.

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 Alli Buikema to be ordained to serve as pastoral resident at White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, effective August 3, 2026, be approved. Terms: annual cash salary \$34,320.00; housing allowance \$27,180.00; social security offset \$4,705.00; reimbursable expenses \$3,000.00; Board of Pensions dues \$23,985.00. Total compensation package \$93,190.00, 2 weeks of vacation.

2. CHANGES IN TERMS OF CALL REPORTED IN 2026 (attachment #2, page 75)

For the following ministers: Ben Acton, Sydne Allen, Goodwyn Bell, Lee Hunter Baissana, Tara Bulger, Katie Crowe, Jordan Davis, Nick Demuynck, Mindy Douglas, Howard Dudley, David Dunderdale, Christopher Edmonston, Alex Fischer, Berry French, Anne Galliher, Cheryl Barton Henry, Esther Hethcox, Katherine Kussmaul, Paul Lang, Frank Mansell, Jarrett McLaughlin, Meg Peery McLaughlin, Nancy Myer, Cate Church Norman, Grier Richards, Katherine Rick-Miller, Alex Stayer-Brewington, Hannah Trawick, Elizabeth Troyer, Chris Tuttle, Tom Watkins, John Weicher, Emily Wilkes, Sarah Wolf, Laurie Weicher.

IV. TRANSFERS (To Be Welcomed)

Rev. Tracey Daniel, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, effective May 12, 2026

Rev. Nancy Morris, Presbytery of the Peaks, effective June 9, 2026

Commission on Ministry
Changes in Ministers' Compensation Reported in 2026

Attachment #2

Church	Mem.	Pastor	Annual Cash Salary	Housing Allowance	Medical Suppl.	Taxable Soc. Sec.	Deferred Income	Bonus/ Unvouch. Allow.	Other Applicable Income	Manse	Social Security Offset	Reimb. Expenses	Board of Pensions Dues	Total Comp. Package	Position	Time
Blacknall Memorial	460	Goodwyn Bell	72,625.00	72,625.00							11,111.63	3,000.00	55,225.00	214,586.63	Pastor	Full
Blacknall Memorial	460	David Dunderdale	58,425.00	58,424.00							8,938.95	3,000.00	30,184.90	158,972.85	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Cary	450	Paul Lang	49,500.00	50,000.00	3,400.00						7,612.00	5,500.00	40,548.00	156,560.00	Pastor	Full
Durham, First	592	Mindy Douglas	70,047.42	45,636.00								8,000.00	30,617.00	154,300.52	Pastor	Full
Durham, First	592	Esther Hethcox	48,920.00	17,000.00								3,500.00	18,676.76	88,096.76	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Durham, First	592	John Weicher	73,025.11									3,500.00	31,258.66	107,783.77	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Garner, First	119	Ben Acton	29,261.00	21,833.00 4,047.00 (Util.)	2,200.00		2,191.00				4,555.00	3,169.00	27,980.00	95,236.00	Pastor	Full
Hillsborough	136	Alex Fischer	36,324.00	36,324.00				750.00			5,615.00	3,000.00	34,746.00	116,759.00	Pastor	Full
Kirk of Kildaire	958	Howard Dudley	96,321.00	30,000.00							9,664.00	7,500.00	41,082.00	184,567.00	Pastor	Full
Kirk of Kildaire	958	Hannah Trawick	21,233.00	49,296.00							5,395.00	3,935.00	33,149.00	113,008.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Mt. Bethel	126	Sarah Wolf	40,545.00	26,499.96								3,000.00	18,986.16	89,031.12	Pastor	Full
Peace	102	Sydne Allen	56,413.00	10,000.00		5,081.00						5,000.00	18,361.00	94,855.00	Pastor	Full
Raleigh, First	800	Tara Bulger	75,793.00	60,000.00							10,388.00	8,060.00	54,279.00	208,522.00	Pastor	Full
Raleigh, First	800	Laurie Weicher	51,029.00	30,000.00							6,199.00	4,850.00	26,591.00	118,669.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Saint Andrews, Raleigh	767	Tom Watkins	70,013.00	46,675.00	2,750.00						9,137.00	5,500.00	58,929.00	193,004.00	Pastor	Full
St. Giles	250	Jordan Davis	59,033.00	25,000.00			4,202.06				6,428.00	5,100.00	41,434.00	141,197.00	Pastor	Full
Trinity Avenue	440	Katie Crowe	30,842.48	80,926.79				2,235.39	1,000.00		8,797.86	5,000.00	50,000.00	178,802.52	Pastor	Full
Trinity Avenue	440	Emily Wilkes	31,827.00	47,740.50				1,591.35	1,000.00		6,288.14	3,000.00	40,257.57	131,704.56	Assoc. Pastor	Full
University	1,235	Berry French	51,861.00	37,000.00							7,361.00	3,900.00	41,765.00	141,887.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
University	1,235	Jarrett McLaughlin	96,282.00	30,000.00							10,461.00	4,900.00	31,128.00	172,771.00	Co-Pastor	Full
University	1,235	Meg Peery McLaughlin	96,282.00	30,000.00							10,461.00	4,900.00	41,078.00	182,721.00	Co-Pastor	Full
University	1,235	Nancy Myer	52,381.00	30,900.00							6,899.00	3,900.00	22,902.00	116,982.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Wake Forest	466	Elizabeth Troyer	50,000.00	50,000.00	29,677.00	7,650.00						6,500.00	10,766.00	154,593.00	Pastor	Full
West Raleigh	233	Katherine Kussmaul	37,056.72	44,496.00				200.00			6,238.78	5,000.00	22,427.00	115,418.50	Desig. Pastor	Full
West Raleigh	233	Katherine Rick-Miller	56,199.87	37,466.49				200.00			7,165.48	5,000.00	44,023.18	150,055.02	Pastor	Full
Western Blvd.	225	Frank Mansell	42,978.00	30,854.00	1,500.00		\$4,500.00				6,107.15	3,500.00	21,954.00	111,393.15	Pastor	Full
Westminster, Durham	950	Cheryl Barton Henry	60,439.00	20,000.00							6,154.00	3,000.00	37,806.00	127,399.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Westminster, Durham	950	Alex Stayer-Brewington	41,998.00	22,320.00							4,920.00	3,000.00	30,229.00	102,467.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Westminster, Durham	950	Chris Tuttle	90,883.00	40,008.00							10,013.00	5,100.00	53,789.00	199,793.00	Pastor	Full
White Memorial, Raleigh	3,833	Lee Hunter Baissana	35,518.00	27,000.00							4,783.00		26,964.00	94,265.00	Desig. Pastor	Full
White Memorial, Raleigh	3,833	Christopher Edmonston	139,719.00	79,016.00							14,090.00		47,823.00	280,648.00	Pastor	Full
White Memorial, Raleigh	3,833	Anne Galliher	49,146.00	27,000.00							5,825.00		19,442.00	101,413.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
White Memorial, Raleigh	3,833	Cate Church Norman	42,213.00	53,000.00							7,284.00		40,026.00	142,523.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
White Memorial, Raleigh	3,833	Grier Richards	61,903.00	30,000.00							7,031.00		32,416.00	131,350.00	Assoc. Pastor	Full
Wilson, First	500	Nick Demuynck	53,000.00	42,000.00							7,267.50	9,000.00	48,325.08	159,592.58	Pastor	Full

Statement of Faith

Alli Buikema

I believe in the Triune God as revealed in the Bible— God’s inspired, authoritative, and living word to God’s people— and through the beauty and structuring of creation. God is three persons in perfect unity: creating, loving, and sustaining all things. In God the Father’s abundant grace, God became human in Jesus Christ to bring justice to the oppressed, heal the sick, and enter the suffering and joy of creaturehood. It is by the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus that all creation is being renewed through the power and guidance of God the Holy Spirit. God joined us so that we would be joined to God. Because God is with us and loves us eternally, we have hope that God’s reign of mercy and justice is prevailing over all evil and brokenness in creation and that one day God’s reconciliation will become fully present to creation. I believe that the Holy Spirit dwells in and among creation, upholding all life, inspiring Christians to envision a different kind of world, and empowering us to act in prophetic hope.

I believe sin is active and present in this world. I see violence in the world, I hear the heartbreak of a friend, I feel the earth warming from human greed, and I know sin within myself that tries to convince me that I am not worthy of love or that I should serve my own interests at the expense of my neighbor. And I believe that God has ultimately overcome the powers of sin through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit helps us overcome sin in our own lives and to seek justice and peace in our world that needs healing.

I believe the church, at its best, is an embodiment of God’s work in the world as imperfect people seek to join the movement of the Holy Spirit with energy and creativity. The local church is where people are formed by eclectic community through play, grief, worship, prayer, service, study, and the sacraments. The church reminds us that we are irrevocably connected with our neighbors, siblings in a family that stretches across centuries, continents, and ideological differences brought into unity by God’s unwavering grace.

I believe God’s presence and connection is made visible to the church through the preaching of the Word and through the sacraments of baptism and Lord’s Supper. Baptism is a “sign and seal” that connects the baptized to the local church body which commits to supporting them, recognizing that God’s love has always been and will always be with them. In the Lord’s Supper, Christ makes himself present to us in the bread and cup, offering himself as food to nourish our bodies and souls. This shared feast also reminds the church of how we belong to one another and are connected through Christ’s love and sacrifice. In the Christian life, the preaching of Scripture brings the Living Word of God into our present context, while also connecting us to the history of God’s people, so that the same God who spoke Creation into being would continue speaking life and truth today by the power of the Holy Spirit in, through, and to the preacher and those listening.

Biographical Sketch

Alli Buikema

Originally from Holland, Michigan, Alli moved to Durham in 2020 to attend Duke Divinity School and to live at the Friendship House, a living community for divinity students and adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. She graduated with her M.Div. in 2023 and has since been working in Duke Divinity's Office of External Relations, helping the school raise funds and engage alumni. During this time, she completed her senior ordination exams and enjoyed many pulpit supply opportunities.

In August, Alli will begin serving as the Pastoral Resident at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. She looks forward to serving in a local church setting again and especially growing in her pastoral care skills. An important value in Alli's ministry is cultivating communities of inclusion and belonging, particularly for disabled individuals who are too often unconsidered and excluded. Alli also serves as the coordinator for the Presbytery Youth Council, working with stellar high schoolers and adult volunteers to contribute to the faith formation of New Hope Presbytery's youth.

Alli lives in Cary with her husband, Matt, and her son, Ezra (5.5 months). She enjoys playing sports, crocheting potted plants that can't die, and baking soft pretzels.

Statement of Faith

Rev. Tracey W. Daniel

I believe in the one triune God, who is love. I believe in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, three persons in one. God created the world, and all that is in it and called it good. God created human beings in God's own image, yet we are all sinners.

I believe in God, the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus was born into the world, tempted in every way, and yet lived without sin. Jesus was a servant leader who cared for all people and especially for those who were marginalized by his society. Jesus came into the world as an example of how human beings should live and work together. Jesus brought good news to the poor, release to the captives, and freedom for the oppressed. Jesus willingly died on the cross, overcoming all the sin of the world. Jesus rose from the dead, offering new life to all. Jesus lived, died, and was resurrected from the dead to reconcile the world with God. This is an act of grace. Salvation is a gift from God through Jesus Christ that we cannot earn through our own works. Jesus' victory over death initiated God's kingdom coming on earth.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, our advocate, comforter, and guide. Jesus tells his disciples that he will not leave them orphaned. But that he will send the Holy Spirit to be with them. I believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit, there is hope for human beings to become new creations and hope for the world to be transformed according to God's divine plan. I believe that through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, Scripture is our guide to faithful living. The stories in the Old Testament and the New Testament tell us who God is, whom God calls human beings to be, and what the actions of God have been and will be in the world.

I believe that the two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible means of God's invisible grace. I believe that the sacrament of Baptism is a sign and seal of God's grace and covenant in Christ and an outward sign of our incorporation into the Body of Christ. I believe the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of God's grace and an act of thanksgiving and remembrance. I believe that the church should celebrate the sacraments regularly.

I believe that the church is a community called out from the world to live in the world as God's agents. We are created to praise, worship, and enjoy God. We are to work in the world to help bring in God's kingdom. We are God's children, and through the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, we are to share the love of God with all the world. My hope in life and in death is God's unchangeable love that sustains me and gives me purpose. I am called to glorify God and enjoy God forever.

Biographical Sketch

Rev. Tracey W. Daniel

I am a retired Presbyterian pastor in the Presbyterian Church USA. I have served the church as an associate pastor in the areas of faith formation and congregational care. I love to teach, plan, organize and create new opportunities for people to learn about God's love and grow in faith. My husband, Dan, and I returned to Raleigh in 2025 to be closer to our adult children and grandchildren.

I look forward to being back in New Hope Presbytery.

Statement of Faith

Rev. Nancy Morris

My life is claimed by God, Creator of all that is. In love, majesty, and power God spoke and our world came into being, a world of beauty and wonder beyond our comprehension. Though absolute in power, God did not desire to live in aloneness, but rather created humanity to live in joyful relationship with God and to care for God's creation. In love, God granted humanity the freedom to choose, and sin quickly entered our world. But God did not give up on us. Constantly seeking to reestablish relationship, God called a people to be God's own. In covenantal love, God reached out to us through patriarchs and matriarchs and prophets. In the fullness of God's time, God took on human form in Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God and Redeemer of humankind.

In Christ, we see what God is like. He welcomed the least, healed the sick, forgave sins, broke the chains of injustice and inhumanity, proclaimed the Kingdom of God, and called all persons to follow him in costly, life-giving discipleship. Undeterred by the forces of sin and fear, along with the power of Empire, Jesus endured death by human hands. God then raised Jesus again to life, forever defeating the powers of death and separation. In his death and resurrection, the power of redeeming love overcame the power of sin and reconciled humanity to God. In the gift of his life, I find my own life: healed, whole, and abundant. This is God's gift of salvation uniquely offered through Christ for the entire world.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, God's sustaining presence is made real in the world. The Spirit inspires faith and enables us to worship God. The Spirit opens our eyes to new callings and understandings. The Spirit comforts us in times of doubt, despair, and bewilderment. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit restored life to a defeated community of disciples who were empowered to become the called-out community of Christ. As Christians today, we are heirs of that birth and recipients of that power. The Church exists to proclaim the reconciling and redeeming love of God, to nurture faithful, committed discipleship, to heal broken lives, and restore a broken world.

The Church finds its identity and strength in the faithful work of worship, especially as it proclaims the Word of God and celebrates the sacraments. In the waters of baptism, we are claimed and reborn as God's children. Such is possible only by the faithfulness and grace of God and depends nothing on our ability to respond. Through baptism, we are received into the covenant community of the Church, God's family. As God's children, we spend our lives living into our baptism, reclaiming its life-giving power in joyful thanksgiving and deepening faithfulness.

In the bread and cup of Communion, we come face to face with the reality of Christ's love for us. It is a moment of presence, of mercy, and of celebration. In sharing the bread and cup, we receive life-renewing grace. Even as his gift of love sought to restore hope and faith among the first disciples, his bread and cup bind all Christians together in Beloved Community until we shall feast together with Christ at God's great banquet table.

The Church proclaims the Word, Christ risen and living among us, as it claims and teaches Scripture, the written Word, the unique and authoritative record of God's on-going revelation. As

Christians, that Word grounds our journey toward discovering who we are in God's eyes, how we are to live our lives as God's children, and what God has done and is doing in our world. We proclaim its marvelous stories and truths because we need constant reminding that God is forever reaching out to us, calling us back home, and calling us out into a world in need of re-creation and reconciliation.

Christ's Church, though divided on earth, embraces all who claim him as Savior and Lord. When we are faithful to our confession, the Holy Spirit governs the Church, empowering it for faithful mission and service. The government of the Church binds us together as brothers and sisters in Christ no matter our individual gifts and callings. The gifts of Church order in the tradition known as Presbyterian provide for the strength of unity amidst the power of diversity. We are bound together by Spirit and tradition and cannot break that bond without breaking the heart of God.

Biographical Sketch

Rev. Nancy Morris

I am a retired Teaching Elder coming to New Hope from Peaks Presbytery. I have served PC(USA) congregations in Roanoke, Virginia (Second Presbyterian) and Seneca, South Carolina (Seneca Presbyterian). My faith was birthed within the Southern Baptist tradition and in the northern New Jersey suburbs of the 1950s. It was nurtured at the Baptist Student Union at UNC-Chapel Hill and then Duke Divinity School. I served among progressive Baptists in Charlotte, NC and Macon, GA before transitioning to the PC(USA) in 2001. I was previously ordained by University Baptist Church (Chapel Hill) in 1977 and served Orange Presbytery briefly from 1981-1983 before moving to Charlotte.

My ministries were predominantly focused on Christian Education with much time spent among children and their families. The saints of Seneca Presbyterian blessed me with a call to the pastorate, from which I retired in 2018. My first retirement years were spent back in Roanoke where I sought opportunities to work in interfaith settings for social justice and racial equity. I was blessed to find like-minded people of faith who were unafraid to ask the hard questions and to persist together in the elusive search for clarity concerning the best paths for changing the world.

Journey of Faith

Rev. Kenneth J. McFayden

My journey of faith and vocation is deeply related to the Presbytery of New Hope. As a child and adolescent, I was involved in Sunday school classes, worship, youth groups, and youth choirs at First Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. My parents were married in this church and are buried in its columbarium. It is the only church of which I have been a member.

At the age of 15, I began to work at Presbyterian Point. Toward the end of two weeks as a volunteer, I suffered a burn in the kitchen and could not proceed into Senior High Sailing Camp the following week. Jack Davidson, the camp director, invited me to continue on the staff. This was the first of eight summers at Presbyterian Point, later with the addition of Camp New Hope for summer camp programming. In 1982, I was the summer director as I prepared for seminary that fall. In 1983, I returned for my final summer and worked with a newcomer, Paul Ransford.

I completed my first seminary degree at Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (now Union Presbyterian Seminary) and was ordained and installed on June 29, 1986 as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Alliance, Ohio. This church had a camp to serve children and youth in the congregation and community. I treasure diverse opportunities I had in ministry in Alliance.

From 1990-1994, I completed advanced degrees in the psychology of religion (ThM, 1991; PhD, 1994). These years were a whirlwind as I completed seven units in advanced and supervisory CPE, worked as a home health chaplain, and completed degree program requirements. I focused my master's thesis on attachment theory and doctoral dissertation on how theological education may be *threatening* to the formation of pastoral identity, particularly in a theological classroom.

From 1994-2000, I served as the director of a ministry development center in Minneapolis-St. Paul. As this center served multiple denominational bodies in the Upper Midwest, I conducted assessments for candidates for ordained ministry; worked with pastors in areas such as leadership effectiveness, congregational change, conflict management, and strategies for remaining fresh in ministry while avoiding the vocational trappings of isolation and burnout; and worked with synod and presbytery search processes for executive leaders.

From 2000-2026, I served on the faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary. I had incredible opportunities – teaching courses in congregational leadership, church administration, polity, and pastoral care; co-leading travel seminars for students to Korea (5x), China (4x), and Ghana; writing a book, *Strategic Leadership for a Change: Facing Our Losses, Finding Our Future*; directing the DMin program; providing support to two UPSem presidents in the crafting of three strategic plans; serving as president of APCE; serving on visiting teams to several theological schools for their accrediting processes with ATS and SACSCOC; and serving for 10 years as the VP for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean during which a sizeable number of new faculty members were called, new resources were directed to the Charlotte campus, and new educational models and curricula were created in support of an evolving church and its ministry.

For all of this, with 40 years and one day between my dates of ordination and retirement, I enter a new chapter in my life with deep gratitude.

In Memoriam
Rev. Dr. Billy Joe Martin
January 13, 1931 ~ June 15, 2024

Rev. Dr. Billy Joe Martin, 93, passed away Saturday, June 15, 2024. Born January 13, 1931 in Atlanta, Georgia to the late Albert, Sr. and Ruby Irene Martin, he was also preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Joe Ann West Martin; sister, Frances Martin; and brothers, Albert Martin, Jr. and James Martin. An ordained Presbyterian minister since 1971, he was the former Moderator of the Ashville, NC Presbytery. He served as Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA. A U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean Conflict, he was also a former pilot and driver on the NASCAR circuit.

Surviving are his daughter and son in law, Wanda and Michael Pedersen, Haslet, Texas; sons and daughters in law, Dr. William Stephen and Janet Martin, Alpharetta, Georgia, Benjamin Carlton and Tracy Martin, Pinehurst, North Carolina; grandchildren, Amanda Luzicza, Charles Pedersen, Cody Martin, Stephanie Clayton, Grant Martin, Tyler Martin, Blake Martin; great grandchildren, Chandler Luzicza, Karleigh Pedersen, Hendrix Clayton, James Martin, Wyatt Martin, Emily Martin, Marissa Martin, Bennett Clayton, Amelia Martin, Maggie Martin, Jonathan Martin, and William Martin.

In Memoriam
Rev. John Pilutti
July 26, 1942 ~ March 17, 2026

John Aldo Pilutti, born July 26, 1942, passed away at peace on March 18, 2026 surrounded by lots of love and family. He was preceded in death by his mother Alice Milliken Pilutti and his father Aldo Oliver Pilutti.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Judith L. Pilutti of Raleigh, NC. His brother James and Suellen Pilutti of Irondale, Ohio. His brother and sister in law, John P. and Susan L. Wing. His sons (John B. Pilutti, Micheal B. and Stacy Pilutti, and Pete C. Anderson) of Columbus, Ohio and Raleigh, NC. His grandchildren (Greyson and Chelsea Pilutti, John C. Pilutti, Michael C. Pilutti, Nate J. Pilutti, Stephanie and Zack Kearns, Frances Pilutti and Emma Grayce Whitley-Anderson) of Columbus, Ohio and Raleigh, NC. As well as lots of other loving extended family.

John was born in East Liverpool, Ohio to Alice and Aldo Pilutti. He grew up in the small town of Irondale, Ohio. John was active in scouting and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He also played football and the trombone. He was a man of many talents. He graduated Valedictorian from Irondale high school. He got his undergraduate degree from Kent State University and went on to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. After graduating, he served several Presbyterian [USA] Churches in Wisconsin for over 20 years. In 1991, he began serving as a development officer with the Presbyterian Foundation, which required a move to North Carolina. He continued that for seventeen years until he chose to retire.

He was also the president of the Homeowners Board where he resided. He enjoyed being very social. He began a Bocce/Cornhole lunch group of clergy retirees and friends. They have enjoyed each other's company for over 30 years. John loved to write and devoted a lot of time to writing family history. He loved to play card games to pass the time and was very lucky. He fully supported Ohio State Football and Duke Basketball. He loved to take walks and enjoy the breeze in the air. He and Judy were very active in the family reunion called 'PiluttiFest.' They enjoyed keeping the family close and it was John's wish to continue family traditions.

Please consider giving any memorials to the food bank of your choice or the Central and Eastern Food Bank of North Carolina.

Presbytery of New Hope COM Paid Family Medical Leave Policy Report

Process Background: Over the past 9 months the COM Sub-Team on Paid Family Medical Leave (Paid FML) was tasked with crafting policy for the Presbytery of New Hope for this new term of call outlined in the Book of Order G-2.0804. To that end the Sub-Team collected several policies from other PC(USA) Presbyteries regarding Paid FML using those policies as a basis for crafting one for New Hope. The COM received and approved the final draft of the policy at their July 8, 2026 meeting.

As the Sub-Team did its work, other topics beyond the Sub-teams' capacity to fully address were raised. So, the work is not done! In particular, the following issues will require congregations, pastors and the Presbytery to faithfully walk and wrestle with the Spirit's guidance.

- 1) **Responsibility for implementation:** While the policy outlines required action for sessions and pastors in implementing this term of call, there are still questions that will emerge that a policy is unable to answer. The policy is therefore an attempt to provide a consistent framework for making decisions rather than a strict "one size fits all formula."
- 2) **Constitutional Interpretation:** Based on policies of our sister presbyteries, the prevailing current interpretation of Paid FML as a minimum term of call is that it is mandatory for installed pastors only. The policy reflects this interpretation. If such is in error or future General Assemblies of the PC(USA) vote to amend the language making Paid FML a minimum term of call for installed and non-installed positions, the policy will likewise need amending. Relatedly, our Sub-Team's assumption is that this policy, when adopted, will supersede any individual congregation's policy for FML as it applies to a congregation's **installed pastors only**.
- 3) **Funding Assistance:** Affordability of this term of call is a potential concern for some congregations. A policy of COM cannot mandate how Presbytery addresses this need, but our Sub-Team has been in conversation with Presbytery Staff and Coordinating Body, encouraging development of funds for this potential need.
- 4) **Sharing Resources:** Though not available today, we hope to attach to the policy examples from churches who have implemented Paid FML as templates other congregations can use when developing their plans.

Presbytery of New Hope
Paid Family Medical Leave (FML) Policy
Approved by PNH COM on July 8, 2026

Eligibility All persons serving in a called and installed relationship with a PC(USA) congregation within the Presbytery of New Hope are required to have a minimum of twelve weeks Paid Family Medical Leave (FML) according to the Book of Order G-2.0804.

This policy establishes minimum paid leave standards for installed pastoral relationships within the Presbytery of New Hope regardless of whether a congregation is otherwise subject to federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requirements.

Though not mandatory, congregations are strongly encouraged to provide these benefits to all other staff members, such as ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in temporary positions, Certified Ruling Elders serving congregations, and Certified Christian Educators.

Provision for Paid FML leave consistent with this policy must be explicitly written into the approved Terms of Call for all installed pastoral relationships within the Presbytery of New Hope.

Theological Background:

God created us to be in relationship with one another, to care for one another, and to participate in families. As we see in Scripture, our Confessions, and our Polity:

“Children are indeed a heritage from the Lord.” (Psalm 127:3) and

“Reconciled to God...parents receive the grace to care for children in love and to nurture their individuality.” (The Confession of 1967, 9.47) and

“We respond to God’s grace in the context of personal relationships...Congregations are encouraged to nurture and equip households and families...” (W-5.0104).

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) likewise in the Book of Order section F-1.0403 acknowledges a shared value of openness and diversity, which naturally includes a great variety of forms of family.” This policy is, therefore, intended to support pastors in the diverse family relationships through which care and responsibility are lived out.

Paid FML helps the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Presbytery of New hope live into this call in two main ways:

1. It gives families the time and financial support needed to attain and maintain physical, mental and spiritual health.
2. It bolsters a healthy working environment, increasing the likelihood of fulfilling one’s call, and a strong and enduring professional relationship between employer and employee.

Types of Leave

Paid FML may encompass any of the following:

- 1. Parental Leave:** Within one year of the birth, adoption, foster placement, or legal placement of a child into the pastor's family, a pastor may take up to twelve consecutive or intermittent weeks of Paid FML.
- 2. Caregiver Leave:** In times when an immediate family member requires care due to a major illness or disability, a pastor may take up to twelve weeks' Paid FML, either consecutively or intermittently.
- 3. Medical Leave:** In the event of a major illness or disability, a pastor may take up to twelve weeks Paid FML.

In determining if "Caregiver" and "Medical Leave" applies to the pastor requesting Paid FML, the following definitions shall apply:

- **"Immediate family member"** includes spouse, child, parent, parent-in-law, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, or other person residing in the pastor's household for whom the pastor has significant caregiving responsibility.
- **"Major Illness or disability"** shall generally be interpreted consistent with and FMLA standards and/or Board of Pensions disability definitions.

Administration of Leave: As with other Presbytery of New Hope policies guided by the polity of the PC(USA), the design of the policy for Paid FML names for congregations required guidelines while also acknowledging the administration and implementation of those guidelines will vary according to multiple factors, including, but not limited to, each situation, pastor, and church.

While the **"Leave Parameters"** section includes language on basic responsibilities in coordinating and implementing Paid FML, the following "administration framework" below gives a "big picture" view of these roles and responsibilities.

- **Session** administers leave locally, in mutual support and consultation with the pastor. This includes, but may not be limited to:
 - o Development and approval of a written plan of leave
 - o Led by the clerk and pastor, communicating to COM, the congregation, and the Board of Pensions the details of the leave
 - o Insuring compensation continuity for the pastor
- **COM** provides interpretation/support as called upon, intervening particularly when exceptional circumstances and disputes arise in the session and pastor's development of a plan for leave.

Leave Parameters

1. A pastor may use up to twelve weeks (including Sundays) of Paid Family Medical Leave in any rolling twelve-month period. This period begins upon the first date of Paid FML. Should more than one precipitating event or circumstance permitting the use of Paid FML arise in a twelve-month period, the

session and pastor are encouraged to be gracious and generous in granting Paid FML and caring for one another.

2. A pastor provides as much advance notice as possible for potential Paid FML. Paid FML may be used—in accordance with need—consecutively or intermittently. Paid FML may also be used as a time offset that allows the pastor to move temporarily to part-time service. Should such a move from full-time to part-time occur, related Book of Order requirements regarding changes in terms of call shall be followed.

Whether used consecutively, intermittently, or as an offset, the total amount of leave time permitted is equal to the equivalent of twelve weeks of work hours as regularly scheduled prior to the beginning of the leave.

When Paid FML is needed, such shall be communicated to the Commission on Ministry (COM). The pastor and clerk should send this communication both to the current COM Advocate and current COM Moderator(s).

3. Eligibility for Paid FML begins on the first day of installed service and concludes upon dissolution of the call.

4. During Paid FML, the pastor shall continue to receive all benefits in their terms of call, including dues paid to and benefits provided by the Board of Pensions. Any needed communication to the Board of Pensions should initially be made by the clerk of session and include the pastor. COM is available to assist in this communication as needed. Communication to COM and to the congregation should also be made by the pastor and clerk of session when an approved written plan of leave is developed.

5. Use of vacation time or other forms of paid leave is not required but may be used to extend leave time at the discretion of the pastor.

6. In addition to reporting to COM when Paid FML is needed, any additional questions about eligibility for Paid FML, special circumstances, or policy questions, shall be referred to the Commission on Ministry for interpretation.

7. Use of Paid FML shall not negatively affect call status, future compensation consideration, performance evaluation, or standing within the congregation or presbytery. Upon completion of Paid FML, the pastor shall return to the same position with the same title, terms of call, hours worked, job description, and vacation and study leave time prior to leave. In the event the session and pastor mutually ask for any changes in these terms of call, normal process as outlined in the Book of Orders, including communication with COM, shall be followed.

Church Support

1. While the individual congregation is responsible for the funding and administration of Paid FML, state-provided disability and paid leave benefits and Board of Pensions financial protection programs may be considered to help offset income continuation costs.

2. Communication of mutual needs and planning is vital to minimize disruption for the congregation. Pastors are encouraged to anticipate leave with sensitivity around the needs of the congregation, including but not limited to temporary replacement and fulfillment of duties. A written, session-

approved plan developed by the pastor and session outlining specific expectations about pastoral availability (e.g. to receive and respond to phone calls, emails, or emergency pastoral care situations) is strongly encouraged.

3. Paid FML is not intended to be a burden but rather a source of joy as congregations encourage pastors to take time for the good of their families. In the spirit of the connectional church, councils of the PC(USA) are encouraged to work together to assist individual congregations in the development of funding Paid FML in order to best serve God.

4. Congregations and councils shall respect the pastor's privacy and confidentiality regarding medical information shared in connection with leave requests. The Presbytery of New Hope staff, Coordinating Body, and COM, will work to support congregations as their pastors use Paid Family Medical Leave.

Adapted from policies of Greater Atlanta, the James, Palo Duro, and Yellowstone Presbyteries



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace to you! I am thrilled to share with you the highlights from our recent 257th Synod Assembly, a gathering that truly reflected the vibrant faith and dedication of our community. Together, we worshipped, discerned, and celebrated the ways God is calling us to live out our mission in this time and place.

This year's March Assembly was marked by moments of deep connection and inspiration. From powerful worship services that united us in prayer and song, to thoughtful discussions on key issues facing our congregations, the Spirit was undeniably present. We also celebrated milestones, including my installation.

As you review these highlights, I invite you to reflect on how these moments resonate with your own congregation's journey. Together, we are part of a larger story—one of hope, service, and transformation. Thank you for your continued partnership in this sacred work.

Enjoy the highlights from the 257th Synod Assembly:

[Highlights Link](#)

In Christ's service,

Dr. Flo

Synod Executive and Stated Clerk



SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC (PCUSA)

257th Stated Meeting – Assembly Highlights

March 9–10, 2026 | Richmond, Virginia

Theme: “Dismantling Barriers, Cultivating Opportunities”



A Gathering Rooted in Faith, Purpose, and Possibility

The 257th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic brought together commissioners, corresponding members, guests, and leaders from across the Synod for two meaningful days of worship, reflection, learning, and action in Richmond, Virginia.

From the very beginning, the tone was clear: this would be more than a business meeting. It would be a time to gather in faith, confront hard truths, celebrate important milestones, and consider together what faithful leadership looks like in this season of the church’s life. The Assembly was convened by Moderator **Leah Epps**, with a Land Acknowledgement offered by Vice Moderator **Debbie Reese**, grounding the gathering in respect and remembrance.



Morning worship, led by **Rev. Bill Davis** of the Presbyterian Foundation, opened the Assembly with prayer, Communion, and a thoughtful message that helped center the room for the work ahead. Music was provided by Dr. Tony McNeil



A recorded message from Co-Moderator **Cece Armstrong**, who was unable to attend in person, reminded the Assembly of the larger work and witness of the church beyond this gathering. With a quorum declared and 12 presbyteries represented, the Synod officially moved into its work, balancing inspiration with the practical responsibilities of governance. The Assembly was structured in two parts:

plenary sessions open to all participants, and business sessions focused on the formal work of the Synod. That format created space both for big-picture vision and for the careful work of decision-making.

A Powerful Start: Plenary Sessions That Challenged and Inspired

One of the strongest threads throughout the Assembly was the depth and power of the plenary sessions.



Rev. Dr. **Frances Taylor Gench** opened the plenary experience with a memorable Bible study on *Matthew 15:21–28*, focusing on the story of the Canaanite woman. Her teaching invited participants into a deeper reading of the text and challenged the Assembly to think about courage, advocacy, and what it means to push past barriers in pursuit of justice and healing. It was the kind of teaching that stayed in the room long after the session ended.

Pastor **David Black** of First Presbyterian Church of Chicago followed with a compelling plenary on the church's public witness in times of social and political upheaval. Drawing on both history and lived experience, he reflected on the responsibility of the church to speak and act faithfully in the face of injustice. His message connected the church's historic role in resisting oppression with the present-day call to moral courage and public engagement.



This Assembly was more than a meeting—it was a reminder that faithful leadership requires both courage and community.

Looking Honestly at the Present, Imagining Faithfully Toward the Future



Rev. **Larissa Kwong Abazia** of NEXT Church led another standout plenary session, guiding the Assembly through a thoughtful and challenging conversation about how the church engages its neighbors and responds to a changing world. Her presentation encouraged participants to consider the Synod's place in the broader community and to reflect honestly on the systems that shape church life.

The session included discussion of the many ways racism can show up in personal, institutional, and structural forms, along with an invitation to move beyond awareness into faithful response. Participants were encouraged to speak up, examine themselves and their systems, ask hard questions, and show up in solidarity. It was a session that aligned deeply with the Assembly's theme and offered practical spiritual direction for the work ahead.

A Season of Leadership and Forward Movement

The Assembly also marked an important chapter in the Synod's leadership story.

In her first Assembly report as **Synod Executive and Stated Clerk**, **Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins** offered a hopeful and practical overview of her first six months in the role. Since beginning in September 2025, her work has focused on building stronger relationships across the Synod's fourteen presbyteries, improving internal systems, supporting collaboration, and



helping the Synod become an even more resourceful, connected, and mission-minded body. Her report reflected both strong administrative leadership and a clear commitment to presence, partnership, and long-term sustainability.

Highlights from the report included:

- Visits with multiple presbyteries and leadership teams
- Redesigned commissioner orientation and training materials
- Continued leadership transition work and administrative process review
- Increased Synod presence in denominational leadership spaces
- Ongoing conversations around financial sustainability and future planning

The Assembly also received important updates that reflect thoughtful stewardship and strategic progress. The Synod office has been relocated to **Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary**, creating secure office space while reducing annual expenses. Administrative and financial protocols continue to be reviewed and strengthened, and commissioner preparation remains a high priority heading into the year ahead.

Those assembled had the opportunity to enjoy Dr. Flo's "[Out and About in the Synod](#)" Video. Click on it to enjoy as well.

A Well-Deserved Recognition

The Assembly also took time to honor **Rev. Jan Edmiston**, former Executive Presbyter for Charlotte Presbytery, in recognition of her service and retirement. It was a meaningful moment of gratitude and celebration—one that reminded everyone in the room of the lasting impact faithful leaders have on the church across generations.



The Synod's work is not only about managing today—it is also about preparing faithfully for tomorrow.

Investing in Ministry, Innovation, and the Future of the Church

The business of the Assembly made one thing clear: the Synod continues to invest in ministry, leadership, and new possibilities.

One of the most encouraging highlights was the approval of **\$56,460 in grants and scholarships** through the Grants Committee. Even though the committee was unable to meet with a quorum between Assemblies, the Synod still moved forward to support students, congregations, and presbyteries through scholarships, small church grants, and presbytery initiatives. The Assembly approved support for scholarship recipients, congregational ministries, and mission-focused local efforts—demonstrating a strong commitment to nurturing both present ministry and future leadership.

The **Jubilee Fund Committee** also awarded **\$10,000 in grants**, including support for **Freedom East PC** in Coastal Carolina and leadership development in Western North Carolina. Together, these actions reflect a Synod that is intentionally directing resources toward vitality, service, and community impact.



Innovation and Emerging Work

The **Emerging Ideas Committee** shared its continued passion for supporting innovation, healthy risk-taking, and new possibilities across the Synod. The committee described itself as a group committed to exploring beyond traditional structures and encouraging dreamers throughout the church. Its current partnership with **NEXT Church** is one example of that commitment in action.

The **Next Generation Initiative (NGI)** also reported meaningful progress in its work to support historically Black congregations and ministries within the PC(USA). The committee highlighted its ongoing focus on congregational vitality, leadership, communication, and strategic planning, along with a significant restructuring of its work into two major areas:

- **African American Church Ministry Revitalization**
- **Healing, Repair, and Reparations for Historical Harm**

These reports underscored that the Synod is not only responding to current needs, but also building frameworks for deeper healing and long-term transformation.

Important Business Actions and Helpful Updates

The Assembly also completed important business, including:

- Approval of the **Omnibus Motion** with amendments
- Approval of updated language in **Personnel Policies** and **Standing Rules**
- Approval of a **\$6,500 increase to the 2026 travel expense line item**
- Approval of nominations for several Synod committees and designated roles

Participants also received encouraging updates from **Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center** and the **Presbyterian Board of Pensions**, including upcoming accessibility improvements, new support for dependent child coverage, and a developing childcare assistance grant program for lower-paid pastors.

A Powerful Closing and a New Chapter

The Assembly concluded with closing worship and the **installation of Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins as Synod Executive and Stated Clerk**, marking a significant and celebratory moment in the life of the Synod.



The closing message, delivered by **Rev. Tawnya Denise Anderson**, was described as “fiery, powerful, and moving,” drawing once again from the story of the Canaanite woman and bringing the Assembly full circle. It was a fitting conclusion to an Assembly that consistently invited the Synod to lead with courage, honesty, and faith.



Closing Reflection

The 257th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic was not simply a gathering to conduct business. It was a time of worship, challenge, celebration, discernment, and recommitment.

It reminded all who attended that the church is still being called to do brave work: to dismantle barriers, cultivate opportunity, invest in ministry, and show up faithfully for the communities God has called us to serve.

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 228th General Assembly (2028) 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.

228th General Assembly

The PC(USA) 228th General Assembly will be held June 11-22, 2028 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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. FIVE PRIVILEGED MOTIONS							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.						
		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."