

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

Click the following tabs:
Calendar
2025 Presbytery Meetings
May 18, 2025

Direct Link:
[May 18, 2025 Handbook](#)

HANDBOOK

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY



Providence Presbytery
Spring Stated Meeting

May 18, 2025

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

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

Spring Stated Meeting

Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, Liberty Hill, SC

Sunday, May 18, 2025

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Ministers, please make sure that your Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery meeting has a copy of the Handbook prior to the meeting. Handbooks are being sent by email. We are not mailing any copies because of the cost of postage. We will have 15 printed Handbooks available at the meeting. If you want a printed copy, please call the Presbytery office at 803-328-6260 or lemmonsberry@providencepres.org to request a copy to be available at the registration desk at the Presbytery meeting.



Directions to Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church

20 Meeting Lane
Liberty Hill, SC 29074
Phone: 803-684-2356

[Click This Link For Directions to Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church](#)



Brief History of Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church

In the early nineteenth century, a number of the people of Liberty Hill attended church services in the Old School House or at Tolerant Chapel and Beaver Creek Presbyterian Church. In 1851 they organized as the Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church with a membership of ten men and sixteen women.

The first church building was erected in 1852; the present one was built in 1880 using many timbers from the original. The Education Building was built in 1970 and was funded by individual donations from members, former members, and interested friends. In May of 1992 members and friends of the church dedicated a large addition to the Education building naming it The Miss Bettie Richards Hall. That structure was completed in nine months, with the work done largely by members. It was dedicated debt free to the glory of God.

The Youth Education Building was built to serve as the Liberty Hill School; it served in that capacity for many years. In 1982 the congregation purchased it to be used as the Manse, but its purpose was changed again in 2008 to serve as the location for the education of our children.

The sanctuary organ, a single manual instrument with six stops, was built in 1820 under the name of James Jackson, New York. Originally, it was given to Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden, SC soon after that church was built. Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church purchased the organ from Bethesda in 1907 for \$200. It was fully restored by J. Allen Farmer, Inc., organ builders in Winston-Salem, N.C. and rededicated on March 17, 1996. There is only one known James Jackson organ remaining. It was built in 1834. It also is a single manual instrument but has only three stops. That organ is in St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicottville, NY.

[Click This Link For Directions to Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church](#)

PROVIDENCE presbytery

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Dr. David Bender

Stated Clerk

davidbender@providencepres.org

Ralph Sweeney

Director

Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center

ralph@bethelwoods.org

Lizzie Garrison

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Rose Lemmons-Berry

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May 7, 2025

Greetings friends of Providence Presbytery!

We welcome you to our May 18, 2025 meeting in the beautiful, historical sanctuary of Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church. That meeting offers a variety of opportunities and possibilities for the Presbytery. We will hear a report from our Executive Presbyter search team. At our worship service, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

We will hear from some of our favorite institutions: The South Carolina Inn at Montreat, the Board of Pensions, and the Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina. We will then seek to discern God's will by acting on the 12 recommendations from the 2024 General Assembly to amend the Book of Order, along with an ecumenical agreement between the PC(USA) and the Episcopal Church.

Please read both the Bills and Overtures report and the Consent Agenda regarding these items for actions. Ten of the recommendations are included in the Consent Agenda, with Bills and Overtures recommended a "no" vote for two of them. We will vote by paper ballot on the other two recommendations.

We will also celebrate new and growing callings among our Presbytery siblings, and we will celebrate the ministries of the Cedar Shoal and Fort Lawn churches as we receive a report from their Administrative Commission dissolving them. We thank Liberty Hill for hosting this meeting, and we look forward to seeing you there!

Peace,

David

Rev. Dr. David M. Bender, Stated Clerk
Providence Presbyter

Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery DOCKET

Sunday, May 18, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church
Liberty Hill, SC

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

2:30 pm	<u>Call to Order and Opening Prayer</u>	Moderator, Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta Bethesda (Y) Presbyterian
2:35 pm	<u>Welcome From Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church</u>	Rev. Dr. David Leininger Stated Supply, Liberty Hill Presbyterian
2:40 pm	<u>Stated Clerk's Report</u>	Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Bender
	A. Enrollment and Declaration of Quorum	
	B. Recognition of New Ruling Elder Commissioners	
	C. Recognition of Corresponding Members & Guests	
	D. Joys and Concerns	
	E. Adoption of the Docket	Pages A: 1 - 3
	F. Consent Agenda	Pages B: 1 - 3
	G. Providence Presbytery Membership 2020-2024 & 2024 Statistical Info	Pages C: 1 - 3
2:50 pm	<u>Executive Presbyter Search Committee Update</u>	
2:55 pm	<u>Worship</u>	<u>The Worship Team</u> Rev. Rob Jones Rev. Letarshia Robinson Rev. Paul Smith
	Celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Communion	
3:30 pm	<u>Greetings From Institutional Representatives</u>	
	A. Board of Pensions of the PCUSA	Elizabeth Little Regional Representative, Board of Pensions Appendix 3

B. Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

William McConnell
Director of Foundation Services
Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

C. South Carolina Inn at Montreat

Barbara Kurz
Board Member
South Carolina Inn at Montreat
[Appendix 4](#)

3:50 pm

Voting on Recommendations from 2024 General Assembly
Only Those Items Not Acted Upon in the Consent Agenda

Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta
Moderator
[Pages D: 1 - 19](#)

Comments/Questions for Bills and Overtures Team:

Rev. Rob Jones, Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery, Rev. Steve Austin, and Gwen Cunningham

Votes on Recommendations:

- 24-A (amending F-1.0403)
- 24-C (amending G-2.0104b)

[Pages D: 13 - 15](#)
[Pages D: 16 - 19](#)

4:30 pm

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

Ministries of Communities of Care

4:35 pm

A. Community of Hope (Administration & Support)

Ruling Elder Hope Moore
Co-Moderator
Tirzah (Y) Presbyterian
[Appendix 5](#)

4:40 pm

B. Community of Witness (Ministerial Services) - COM

Rev. Paul Smith
Co - Moderator
Old Waxhaw & Wade Presbyterian

Ruling Elder Susan Bullard
Co - Moderator
Unity Presbyterian
[Pages E: 1 - 9](#)

1. Recommendation for Ordination Exam Exemption for Kara Wheeler
2. Recommendation to Commission Dan Cockerill as a Lay Pastor to Moderate the Session and Serve Communion for the Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church
3. Service of Commissioning of Dan Cockerill

[Pages E: 3 - 5](#)

[Pages E: 6 - 7](#)

[Pages E: 8 - 9](#)

5:00 pm

C. Community of Witness (Mission & Advocacy)

Ruling Elder Dr. Dave Keely
Moderator
Rock Hill First Presbyterian
[Appendix 7](#)

1. PDA Update

Ruling Elder Dr. Eric Robinson
Mission Consultant

2. Bethelwoods

Ralph Sweeney
Executive Director
Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center
[Appendix 5](#)

5:15 pm D. Community of Love (Coordinating Team)

Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo
Co-Moderator
Grace (Y) Presbyterian
[Appendix 9](#)

1. Cedar Shoals and Fort Lawn Presbyterian Churches Report
and Terms of Closing

Administrative Commission
Cedar Shoals and Fort Lawn Churches
[Appendix 10](#)

Motion: As we humbly follow God's call, to celebrate the ministry and to close, according to the terms of the Administrative Commission's report, Cedar Shoals Presbyterian Church and Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church after many generations of faithful service and to dismiss the Administrative Commission, Robert Folks, Rev. Megan Watson, and Dickie Harper with thanks for their service with these two congregations.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: A prayer for the Ministries of Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church and Cedar Shoals Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. David Bender
Stated Clerk

5:20 pm E. Community of Faith

Ruling Elder Dr. Eric Robinson
Moderator
[Appendix 11](#)

5:25 pm F. Presbyterian Women Presentation

Presbyterian Women

5:55 pm Attendance Report

Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Bender

6:00 pm Thanks to Host Church & Adjourn With Prayer

Moderator Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta

2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:

Type of Meeting/Date

Stated: Sunday, February 23, 2025
Stated: Sunday, May 18, 2025
Stated: Sunday, August 24, 2025
Stated: Sunday, November 9, 2025

Time

2:30 pm
2:30 pm
1:30 pm
2:30 pm

Location

First Presbyterian Church (York)
Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church
Virtual
Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center

CONSENT AGENDA (OMNIBUS MOTION)
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2025

For Information:

1. That the Board of Pensions Mental Health Flyer be received as information.
(See Appendix 3: Page 1)
2. That the South Carolina Inn at Montreat Report and Bulletin Insert be received as information.
(See Appendix 4: Pages 1 - 4)
3. That the Community of Hope (Administration & Support) Report be received as information and the action items within the report be voted on under the consent agenda.
(See Appendix 5: Pages 1 - 2)
4. That the Community of Witness: Mission & Advocacy Report be received as information, which includes an Update of New Vision in Honduras: Serving at the Crossroads.
(See Appendix 7: Pages 1 - 2)
5. That the Executive Director of Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center Report be received as information. (See Appendix 8 Page 1)
6. That the Community of Love (Coordinating Team) Report be received as information and the action items within the report be voted on under the consent agenda. (See Appendix 9: Page 1)
7. That the Community of Faith: Faith Formation Report be received as information.
(See Appendix 11: Pages 1 - 2)
8. That the 2025/2026 Presbyterian Planning Calendar, Book of Confessions, and Book of Order Form be received as information. Note deadline of July 22, 2025 to order through the Presbytery office. (See Appendix 12: Page 1)
9. That the Brief History of Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church, Liberty Hill, SC be received as information. (See Page i)

For Action:

1. That excused absences for those requesting to be excused from this Presbytery meeting be granted.
2. That the following individuals be seated as a Corresponding Members and be granted the privilege of the floor to address the Presbytery at the appropriate time on the docket.

Elizabeth Little: Regional Representative for the Board of Pensions

William McConnell: Director of Foundation Services for the
 Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

3. That the following actions items under the Community of Hope (Administration and Support) Report be moved for a vote under the Consent Agenda. **(See Appendix 5 - Page 2)**
 - (A) Motion from Committee and approved by Coordinating Team: That the closing funds received from Morningside in January be changed to designate \$25,000 to Bethelwoods and \$25,000 to Thornwell per the request of the remaining Elders at Morningside.
 - (B) Motion from Committee and approved by Coordinating Team:: Add a line to the 2025 budget for PJC with a budget of \$3,000 to use as needed.
 - (C) Approved by Coordinating Team: To take \$10,000 from the Morningside Church Funds to donate to the SC Inn Board's Winterize Project
4. That the revised Providence Presbytery Nominations Committee Report for 2025 be approved. **(See Appendix 6: Pages 1 - 10)**
5. That the following actions items under the Community of Love (Coordinating Team) Report be moved for a vote under the Consent Agenda. **(See Appendix 9 - Page 1)**
 - (A) **Motion:** at the request of members of the former session of Morningside Presbyterian Church, which was closed at the February Presbytery meeting, to designate from their \$135,4312.94 gift to Providence Presbytery the amount of \$25,000 to go to Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, Inc. and \$25,000 to go to Thornwell Children's Home.
 - (B) **Motion:** to join other SC Presbyteries by making a \$10,000 donation to the South Carolina Inn at Montreat to help them winterize the facility, said donation to come from the funds generated by the sale of the Morningside church property.
6. That the Final Report of the Administrative Commission For the Cedar Shoals and Fort Lawn Presbyterian Churches be approved and Administrative Commission be dismissed with gratitude. **(See Appendix 10 - Pages 1 - 5)**
7. That the minutes of the Providence Presbytery Winter Meeting held in person on February 23, 2025 hosted by First Presbyterian Church, York, South Carolina be approved by the Presbytery. **(See Appendix 13: Pages 1 – 4)**
8. That the minutes of the Administrative Commission elected to Install the Rev. Letarshia Robinson as Associate Pastor for Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church on Sunday, May 4, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. held at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC be approved as presented and the Administrative Commission be dismissed with thanks. **(Minutes will be available at the Presbytery meeting).**

9. That Providence Presbytery approve/disapprove (as indicated on the individual items below) the 226th General Assembly's motions on changes to the Book of Order and the ecumenical agreement:

- (A) Approval of 24-B (amending G-1.0104)
- (B) Approval of 24-D (amending G-2.0504b)
- (C) Approval of 24-E (amending G-2.0504b)
- (D) Approval of 24-F (amending G-2.0610)
- (E) Approval of 24-G (amending G-2.0901)
- (F) Approval of 24-H (amending G-3.0106)
- (G) **DISAPPROVAL** of 24-I (amending G-3.0302d)
- (H) Approval of 24-J (amending G-3.0501)
- (I) Approval of 24-K (amending D-7.0501)
- (J) **DISAPPROVAL** of 24-L (amending D-7.0902b)
- (K) Approval of 24-M—Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

Providence Presbytery Membership 2020 - 2024

CHURCHES	2020 Membership	2021 Membership	2022 Membership	2023 Membership	2024 Membership	Membership Difference 2023 - vs - 2024
Allison Creek	137	140	120	117	123	-3
Beaver Creek	19	18	18	10	9	-8
Beersheba	27	26	25	15	15	-10
Beth Shiloh	118	121	127	127	118	0
Bethesda-K	367	357	309	254	268	-55
Bethesda-Y	161	159	145	149	158	4
Bethlehem First	25	25	25	25	25	0
Bethune	15	15	15	11	11	-4
Blackstock	2	2	2	2	2	0
Bowling Green	77	77	83	87	88	4
Camden Second	11	10	9	9	9	0
Carmel	9	9	8	7	7	-1
Catholic	13	9	8	8	8	0
Cedar Shoals	2	2	0	0	0	0
Clover	156	154	150	148	148	-2
Community	23	23	23	23	23	0
Cornwell	49	49	49	49	42	0
Covenant	86	85	83	85	82	2
Doby's Bridge	118	115	115	109	108	-6
Douglas	74	73	74	74	65	0
Faith	178	168	203	222	211	19
Fishing Creek	56	55	55	56	56	1
Fort Lawn	3	2	2	2	2	0
Grace-L	68	73	75	69	63	-6
Grace-Y	284	270	276	285	298	9
Great Falls	42	42	37	31	30	-6
Hebron	16	14	14	14	14	0
Hermon	52	53	56	55	55	-1
Hopewell	40	40	40	40	42	0
Lancaster First	110	107	91	85	85	-6
Liberty Hill	75	60	57	45	48	-12
Lockhart	15	15	15	15	15	0
Messiah	3	3	2	2	2	0
Morningside *	7	7	6	6	5	0
Mt. Pleasant	33	32	32	32	29	0
Mt. Tabor (U)	14	14	14	14	14	0
Oakdale	146	147	146	146	0	0
Oakland Avenue	719	722	720	659	597	-61
Old Waxhaw	24	22	27	27	30	0
Pleasant Grove-C	36	35	39	39	38	0
Pleasant Grove-Y	30	29	29	29	28	0
Pleasant Ridge	24	26	21	21	21	0

Providence Presbytery Membership 2020 - 2024

CHURCHES	2020 Membership	2021 Membership	2022 Membership	2023 Membership	2024 Membership	Membership Difference 2023 - vs - 2024
Purity	78	78	61	52	52	-9
Ramah	27	26	25	11	9	-14
Riverview	67	61	54	51	51	-3
Rock Hill First	366	366	378	314	331	-64
St. Paul's	18	16	17	17	17	0
Tirzah-L	27	29	29	31	31	2
Tirzah-Y	92	93	92	92	89	0
Union First	14	11	11	11		0
Unity	1,073	1,088	1119	1148	1026	29
Uriel	22	21	21	24	27	3
Van Wyck	91	89	92	92	102	0
Wade Memorial	17	19	18	16	12	-2
Woodlawn	117	76	73	70	102	-3
York First	208	207	211	204	207	-7
TOTAL	5,681	5,585	5,546	5,336	5,048	-288
* Morningside Church closed 2-23-25						
** Bethesda (K) Church was dismissed 2-23-25						

2024 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Providence
Address PO Box 2601, Rock Hill, SC 29732
Phone 803-328-6269
Email lemmonsberry@providencepres.org
Web Site www.providencepres.org



Membership

Prior Active Members	5325	Adjusted membership	5335
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Gains

Certificate	130
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Youth Professions	59
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Professions & Reaffirmations	116
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Total Gains	305
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Total Ending Active Members	5048
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Losses

Certificate	191
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Deaths	85
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Deleted for any Other Reason	316
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Total Losses	592
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Baptisms

Presented by Others	48
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At Confirmation	10
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All Other	13
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Average Weekly Worship Attendance	2480
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Friends of the Congregation	427
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Ruling Elders on Session	294
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Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	7 / 33
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Age Distribution of Active Members

17 & Under	270
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18 - 25	330
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26 - 40	567
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41 - 55	897
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56 - 70	1099
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Over 70	1474
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Total Age Distribution	4637
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People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	210
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Sight impairment	16
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Mobility impairment	155
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Other impairment	175
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Gender Distribution

Women	2675
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Men	2057
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Non-Binary	1
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Youth in Congregation

Age 4 and under	177
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Elementary School (K-5th grade)	389
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Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	223
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High School (9th – 12th grade)	235
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Total Youth	1024
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Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	15
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Black/African American/African	200
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Middle Eastern/North African	1
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Hispanic/Latino-a	9
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Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	0
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White	3442
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Multiracial	8
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Total Racial Ethnic	3675
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Budgeted Income	8,424,461
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Budgeted Expense	8,682,761
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Receipts

Regular Contributions	8,257,181
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Capital Building Fund	1,876,325
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Investment Income	497,424
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Bequests	72,282
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Other Income	700,712
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Subsidy or Aid	7,000
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Expenditures

Local Program	7,070,770
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Local Mission	507,109
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Capital Expenditures	2,552,262
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Investment Expenditures	264,613
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Per Capital Apprt	131,368
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Other Mission	172,995
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Report of the Bills and Overtures Team
Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2025

When we receive overtures from the General Assembly for vote, it is the practice of Providence Presbytery to form a Bills and Overtures team to study the overtures and to bring recommendations to Presbytery. The members of that team are our commissioners to the last two meetings of General Assembly.

Our current team, comprised of Gwen Cunningham, Mark Verdery, Steve Austin and Rob Jones, met on March 10, 2025 to review, discuss and make recommendations on the 10 overtures and one ecumenical agreement.

Our report includes two parts. First, we provide and make recommendations on the 8 overtures that are included in the consent agenda and the ecumenical agreement. The second part includes the content, recommendations and all the background, rationale, opinions and advice provided by the different agencies on the two overtures that are not included in our consent agenda.

PART I

24-B – G-1.0104

THE CONGREGATION

G-1.0104 OTHER FORMS OF CORPORATE WITNESS (WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES, etc.) (POL-03)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-1.0104 be added to Congregations in the Form of Government as follows?

(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

G-1.0104 *Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshiping Communities, etc.)*

In circumstances where the formation of a traditional ecclesiastically and legally organized congregation is not desired or deemed appropriate, and a worshiping community has been formally recognized by a presbytery according to its own definition, presbyteries and congregations may work together with such a group to provide supervision and support. Such recognized groups shall be under the mutually agreed upon oversight of a minister of the Word and Sacrament approved by the presbytery, shall include at least one ruling elder in their chosen leadership, and shall function under the financial, legal, and disciplinary sponsorship of an ecclesial council (either a session or a presbytery). The sponsoring council shall, in consultation with the worshiping community, authorize any celebrations of the sacraments within the group in accordance with the Directory for Worship. Membership records for group participants desiring to be formally enrolled as baptized, active, or affiliate members in the PC(USA) shall be maintained by the sponsoring council. Such groups shall not hold property, and may not undertake any financial, legal, or contractual obligations, apart from their sponsoring council. They shall adhere to the sponsoring council's required policies on sexual misconduct, harassment, child and youth protection, and antiracism. Presbyteries shall determine appropriate means of representation and participation of such groups in and through the sponsoring councils (session and/or presbytery).

RECOMMENDATION FROM BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture. It provides sessions and presbyteries the freedom to launch and engage ministry in more creative ways with less "red tape" to slow the process.

24-D — G-2.0504b

PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

G-2.0504b TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS (POL-05)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall Section G-2.0504b, Temporary Pastoral Relationships, be amended as follows:

(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

...

Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed ~~twelve~~ *thirty-six* months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery. ...

RECOMMENDATION BY BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture. It will save much paperwork for pastors and churches, and it will more readily support churches and pastors to engage longer term planning,

24-E — G-2.0504b

PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

G-2.0504b TEMPORARY PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS (POL-08 2)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0504b in the Form of Government be amended as follows?

(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships

Temporary pastoral relationships are approved by the presbytery and do not carry a formal call or installation. When a congregation does not have a pastor, or while the pastor is unable to perform her or his duties, the session, with the approval of presbytery, may obtain the services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament, candidate, or ruling elder in a temporary pastoral relationship. No formal call shall be issued and no formal installation shall take place.

Titles and terms of service for temporary relationships shall be determined by the presbytery. A person serving in a temporary pastoral relationship is invited for a specified period not to exceed twelve months in length, which is renewable with the approval of the presbytery. A minister of the Word and Sacrament employed in a temporary pastoral relationship is ordinarily not eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co- pastor, or associate pastor.

When the temporary pastoral relationship ends, no non-disclosure agreement shall be allowable.

A non-disclosure agreement, also known as a confidentiality agreement, is an agreement that outlines confidential material, knowledge, or information that is to remain confidential. Such an agreement binds the party or parties who have signed it and prevents them from discussing any information included in the contract with anyone not authorized by the agreement.

RECOMMENDATION BY BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture because the ministry of God is most authentically accomplished through honesty, transparency and communication. Non-disclosure agreements accomplish the opposite.

24-F — G-2.0610

PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

G-2.0610 ACCOMODATIONS TO PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES (ORD-05)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0610 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?

(Deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

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

RECOMMENDATION BY BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends the approval of this overture. The presbytery and the inquirer or candidate develop a relationship of accountability and trust that enables and empowers the whole church to be a part of this journey of faithful response to God's call. Placing a detailed record of a potentially traumatic encounter in the permanent records of the presbytery does little to further this relationship of accountability and trust and only provides an opportunity to increase and intensify harm.

22-G — 2.0901

DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS

G-2.0901 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (POL-08 1)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0901 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?

(Deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

An installed pastoral relationship may be dissolved only by the presbytery. Whether the minister of the Word and Sacrament, the congregation, or the presbytery initiates proceedings for dissolution of the relationship, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation to consider the matter and to consent, or decline to consent, to dissolution. *No non-disclosure agreement shall be allowable.*

A non-disclosure agreement, also known as a confidentiality agreement, is an agreement that outlines confidential material, knowledge, or information that is to remain confidential. Such an agreement binds the party or parties who have signed it and prevents them from discussing any information included in the contract with anyone not authorized by the agreement result of unprocessed trauma typically carries over to negatively affect the next pastoral relationship.

RECOMMENDATION FROM BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture because the ministry of God is most authentically accomplished through honesty, transparency and communication. Non-disclosure agreements accomplish the opposite.

24-H — G-3.0106

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF COUNCILS

G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (POL-11)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

Shall the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 be amended as follows:

All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child, ~~and youth~~, *and adults with vulnerabilities* protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months.

RECOMMENDATION FROM BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture. God entrusts the church with special relationships, including relationships with adults with vulnerabilities. The thought of these wonderful folks being subject to abuse or mistreatment is reprehensible. Providence Presbytery already has in place a policy addressing our vulnerable adults.

24-I — G-3.0302d

THE PRESBYTERY

G-3.0302d RELATIONSHIPS WITH SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GAP-05)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0302 in the Form of Government be amended as follows?

(Deleted text is in ~~striketrough~~; added text is in *italics*.)

G-3.0302 Relations with Synod and General Assembly

d. proposing to synod such measures as may be of common concern to the mission of the church, ~~and/or~~ proposing to General Assembly overtures that have received a concurrence from at least one other presbytery, and/or concurring with proposed overtures, and

RECOMMENDATION FROM BILLS AND OVERTURE

The team recommends we NOT approve this overture. Our reasoning follows the reasoning of a motion requiring a second. The practice better allows the GA to hear the voices of those on the margin by minimizing the number of issues that are not yet ripe for action.

NOTE: Voting in favor of the Consent Agenda will have the effect of voting NO to this overture.

24-J — G-3.0501

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

G-3.0501 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITY (GAP-04)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-3.0501 Composition and Responsibilities be amended as follows:

(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

The General Assembly is the council of the whole church, and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It shall consist of equal numbers of ruling elders and ministers of the Word and Sacrament elected by the presbyteries and reflective of the diversity within their bounds (F-1.0403 and G-3.0103), to serve as commissioners according to the following proportions:

~~8,000~~ 6,000 members or less: 1 ruling elder and 1 minister of the Word and Sacrament
~~8,001–16,000~~ 6,001–12,000: 2 ruling elders and 2 ministers of the Word and Sacrament
~~16,001–24,000~~ 12,001–19,000: 3 ruling elders and 3 ministers of the Word and
Sacrament
~~24,001–32,000~~ 19,001 or more: 4 ruling elders and 4 ministers of the Word and
Sacrament
~~32,001–40,000: 5 ruling elders and 5 ministers of the Word and Sacrament~~
~~40,001–48,000: 6 ruling elders and 6 ministers of the Word and Sacrament~~
~~48,001 or more: 7 ruling elders and 7 ministers of the Word and Sacrament~~

Background and Rationale

The team recommends the approval of this overture. This amendment allows fair representation to the GA with the recent decline of numbers in the denomination. It does not change the number of commissioners from Providence Presbytery.

24-K — D-7.0501

INVESTIGATION

D-7.0501 REFERRAL TO INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE (POL-02)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-7.0501 Referral to Investigating Committee be amended as follows:

(Added text is in *italics*.)

When a clerk of session or the stated clerk of a presbytery receives an allegation, without undertaking further inquiry, that clerk shall then report to the council only that an offense has been alleged without naming the *person* accused or the nature of the alleged offense and *shall* refer the statement of allegation promptly to an investigating committee, which shall conduct an inquiry as defined below. *Pursuant to G-4.0302, the clerk shall report to civil legal authorities any knowledge of harm, or risk of harm, related to the physical abuse, neglect, and/or sexual molestation or abuse of a minor or adult lacking mental capacity.* The clerk of session or stated clerk shall also inform the accuser of the disciplinary process and their rights and responsibilities in the process.

Background and Rationale

The team recommends approval of this overture. It follows the spirit of the "mandatory reporting" laws, and it works to protect some of our most vulnerable members.

24-L — D-7.0902b

ALLEGATIONS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

D-7.0902b ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE (POL-04)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall D-7.0902B Administrative Leave be amended as follows:
(Added text is in *italics*.)

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

Background and Rationale

The team recommends that Presbytery NOT approve this overture. It will hurt smaller, struggling churches by mandating that they pay two pastors during the time of administrative leave. When this overture was brought before Providence Presbyter for concurrence, it was rejected by the acclimation of the body.

NOTE: Voting to approve the Consent Agenda is voting to not approve this overture.

24-M Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

Send to presbyteries for their affirmative or negative vote pursuant to G-5.0203 (ECU-05)

This long, detailed agreement is the result of many, many hours of dialogue and collaboration that began in 2017. The resulting agreement is much like the PC(USA)'s agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It will allow the two denominations to work together to allow pastors of each denomination to serve in the other.

The entire document was emailed to Providence Presbytery clerks of session to distribute to pastors and Presbytery commissioners.

A very limited number of copies of the document will be available for review at the May 18, 2025 Presbytery meeting.

RECOMMENDATION OF BILLS AND OVERTURE

The team recommends approval of this ecumenical agreement. We believe that God calls us to work together with other Christian communities to engage the important work of sharing the word and the love of Jesus to the world. We also recognize that this partnership might offer other strong possibilities when churches struggle to fill their pulpits.

PART II

24-A — F-1.0403

OPENESS TO THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

F-1.0403 UNITY IN DIVERSITY (POL-01 1)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall F-1.0403 in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity be amended as follows?
(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

“F-1.0403 Unity in Diversity ...

The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the Church’s membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, *gender identity, sexual orientation*, disability, geography, or theological conviction. There is therefore no place in the life of the Church for discrimination against any person. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall guarantee full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership. No member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

Background and Rationale

...While affirming the freedom of councils of the church to make ordination decisions as guided by the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that the Church has been called upon historically to be ever more faithful to the most inclusive and affirming statements of Scripture and promptings of the Holy Spirit...

We feel that the Spirit is working in the churches concerning this matter. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the following resolution.

1. *Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LGBTQIA+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world...*
5. *The assembly also gives thanks for those who continue to seek deeper understanding, and more authentic welcome, even amid discomfort or uncertainty about how best to show hospitality, in the spirit of continuing Reformation...*
10. *The assembly encourages all congregations and councils of the PC(USA) continually to seek to expand their welcome so that all might know the Good News of Jesus Christ and encourages all other communions to do the same.*

We follow this encouragement by urging that gender identity and sexual orientation be established as protected classes against which we must not discriminate.

Advice – From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

We believe the witness of Scripture and the Constitution testifies to the full inclusion of persons as members of the Church (universal), as noted not only in F-1.0403 but also reiterated in G-1.0302 regarding the church particular: “No person shall be denied membership for any reason not related to profession of faith” (see also the “Confession of Belhar,” *The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): Part I The Book of Confession* (2016), 10.3). A positive affirmation of this principle through constitutional amendment is consistent with this witness.

Comment – From the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Task Force

At the 223rd General Assembly (2018), the Assembly approved item 11-13 “On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church.” This statement affirmed the faithful presence and service of LGBTQIA+ folks in the PC(USA). This is one of many overtures passed at past General Assemblies (dating to at least the 221nd General Assembly in 2014) in support of LGBTQIA+ people in the church and around the world.

Thus the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Committee advises the Assembly to continue to embody this commitment by stating explicitly in our Foundations that, alongside “race, ethnicity, age, sex, [etc.],” sexual orientation and gender identity are similarly fundamental dimensions of personhood that shall not be used as barriers from membership in the Church universal or participation in the “worship, governance, and emerging life” of PC(USA) churches.

Advice and Counsel – From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

F-1.0403 outlines the principles of unity in diversity, citing Gal. 3:27-29 as the guiding scriptural basis for these principles. ACWGJ reads Gal. 3:27-29 alongside Col. 1:16-17. The diversity in which we are united is not only plentiful but also specifically flows from God. As a result, affirming these diverse identities with language that closer estimates the depths of human experience in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity allows us to stand firmly in our Reformed Tradition. Only when we explicitly affirm the theological, ecclesial, and biblical foundations of openness and welcome to individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities can we proclaim the “good news” Gospel truth.

Advice and Counsel – From the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP)

We acknowledge the historic role that the church has occupied, both as the oppressor and as advocate. We acknowledge that there is still much work to do in fostering healing with our siblings who have been harmed by the church. Echoing the 223rd General Assembly (2018), we celebrate the faithful, loving, and courageous Gospel witness of LGBTQIA+ persons. Our church is enriched, made vibrant and vital by the contributions of LGBTQIA+ people and they ought to be

afforded the same constitutional protections that have been extended to those on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, location, and theological conviction.

Advice and Counsel – From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee (REAC)

REAC notes that the PC(USA) has already take the step in accepting “On Celebrating the Gifts of People of Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities in the Life of the Church.” At the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis in June 2018, the PC(USA) voted unanimously to pass three significant overtures related to LGBTQ+ inclusion. Therefore, in approving POL-01, the PC(USA) cements and demonstrates the denomination’s commitment to inclusivity and its Matthew 25 platform, which sends a resounding message of acceptance across the denomination.

Comment – From the General Assembly Committee on Representation (GACOR)

GACOR will primarily direct its comments toward Part 1 (proposing changes to F-1.0403) from which section of the *Book of Order* GACOR receives its primary mandate and focus. GACOR has already been studying the impact of gender identity and sexual orientation on equity and representation within the structures, systems, and leadership of the PC(USA). Approval of this item, however, would greatly increase the capacity of GACOR to invite the wider church to include ways to collect data and understand the ways the diversity already among us impacts how we live and move together as the Church in terms of process and norms. This change also, foundationally, acknowledges the multiplicity of leaders and members led by the Spirit to serve and take part in the life of the Church (Joel 2:28-29/Acts 2:17-18).

The Assembly Committee on Polity approved Item POL-01 1, 35/3. The 226th General Assembly (2024) approved Item POL-01 1, 389/24.

For the full report on POL-01, go to
<https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001122>

RECOMMENDATION OF BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture for many of the reasons outlined in the material above.

24-C — G-2.0104b

ORDERED MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH

G-2.0104b GIFTS AND QUALIFICATIONS (POL-01 2)

The 226th General Assembly (2024) directed the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0104b be amended as follows:

(Deleted text is in ~~strike through~~; added text is in *italics*.)

b. Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404), *the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01)*, and *in the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403*. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

Background and Rationale

...While affirming the freedom of councils of the church to make ordination decisions as guided by the Holy Spirit, we acknowledge that the Church has been called upon historically to be ever more faithful to the most inclusive and affirming statements of Scripture and promptings of the Holy Spirit...

We feel that the Spirit is working in the churches concerning this matter. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) approved the following resolution:

1. *Celebrating the expansive embrace of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the breadth of our mission to serve a world in need, the 223rd General Assembly (2018) affirms the gifts of LGBTQIA+ people for ministry and celebrates their service in the church and in the world...*
5. *The assembly also gives thanks for those who continue to seek deeper understanding, and more authentic welcome, even amid discomfort or uncertainty about how best to show hospitality, in the spirit of continuing Reformation...*
10. *The assembly encourages all congregations and councils of the PC(USA) continually to seek to expand their welcome so that all might know the Good News of Jesus Christ and encourages all other communions to do the same.*

We follow this encouragement by urging that gender identity and sexual orientation be established as protected classes against which we must not discriminate.

Advice – From the Advisory Committee on the Constitution (ACC)

Inserting the wording “and in the principles of participation, representation, and non-discrimination found in F-1.0403” into G-2.0104b adds a requirement for acknowledgment of F-1.0403 in the examination of all candidates for ordered ministry before ordination and/or installation.

Under the proposed amendment, a council is required to examine candidates to be ordained and/or installed, to

1. determine the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404), and
2. determine the candidate’s ability and attentiveness to fulfill the principles of participation, representation, and non-discrimination of church members found in F-1.0403 which pertains to
3. the foundational principles of unity in diversity of the Church (universal), and
4. the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as a particular church, guaranteeing full participation and representation in its worship, governance, and emerging life to all persons or groups within its membership, and no member shall be denied participation or representation for any reason other than those stated in this Constitution.

The proposed amendment, in effect, would require the candidate to acknowledge, by some means, during the examination, what F-1.0403 states regarding the unity in diversity of the Church universal when it comes to non-discrimination, and church particular when it comes to participation and representation related to membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Authoritative Interpretation of the General Assembly (1987, 151, 15.252, Com. 17-87) states that the determination for church membership is different from the determination for ordination and/or installation to the ordered ministries of deacon, ruling elder, and minister of Word and Sacrament. Furthermore, the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in 1985 determined that the right to elect deacons, ruling elders, and ministers of Word and Sacrament is not absolute but is bound by the constitutional framework of the larger church (Minutes, 1985, Part I, pp. 118--23, Union Presbyterian Church of Blasdell, New York, et al. vs. The Presbytery of Western New York).

When a council is prayerfully discerning and examining candidates to be ordained and/or installed, the council is required to act with due diligence on behalf of the whole church in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). As stated in G-2.0104b, standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (F-1.02). The council responsible for ordination and/or installation (G-2.0402; G-2.0607; G-3.0306) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry.... Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

Where membership within the greater church is to be inclusive, demonstrating unity in diversity, ordination and/or installation into an ordered ministry of the church does require candidates to determine their ability to uphold the Constitution and principles of Presbyterian polity.

In *Book of Order* G-2.0105, “in entering the ordered ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), one chooses to exercise freedom of conscience within certain bounds. His or her conscience is captive to the Word of God as interpreted in the standards of the church so long as he or she continues to seek, or serve in, ordered ministry. The decision as to whether a person has departed from essentials of Reformed faith and polity is made initially by the individual concerned but ultimately becomes the responsibility of the council in which he or she is a member” or to become a member (i.e. a session or a presbytery).

The current examination standards already require a candidate to affirm W-4.0404e, to be governed by our church’s polity and to abide by its discipline. Adding the proposed language to the examination requirements is redundant.

Comment – From the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Task Force

The heart of this proposal intends for emerging teaching elders, ruling elders and deacons to make explicit their intention, as part of the preparation/examination process for ordination (prior to an ordination service), not to discriminate in the course of their service based on identity markers named in F-1.0403. The committee believes that every person in the church has a right to be treated with equality, fairness and dignity.

On one hand, this proposed measure may be seen as a redundancy since the constitutional questions for ordination already articulate a commitment “to be governed by our church’s polity,” which, obviously, includes the current version of F-1.0403. On the other hand, this commitment has not, in practice, preserved ordained individuals from discriminatory behavior in the course of their service based on race, age, sex, etc. Also, this overture refers to the examination process and therefore neither requests nor requires a change to the constitutional questions.

Thus the LGBTQIA+ Advocacy Committee calls upon the Assembly to continue to support ordained individuals in keeping their ordination vows by making explicit in the preparation/examination process a determination of the candidate’s “ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404)” – “the principles of participation, representation and non-discrimination,” [*Proposed addition to G-2.0104b*]. We also believe the changes to G-20104b are the action to the sentiments expressed in F-1.0403 and therefore they should not be separated into two amendments.

This assessment does not require uniformity of thought or conviction – only a commitment not to disrupt or block other individuals from living into their callings based on the identity markers named in F-1.0403. We not only support this regarding LGBTQIA+ identities, but also in regard to the other identities listed in F-1.0403 (all of which can and do intersect with LGBTQIA+ identities). People with a variety of identities and convictions exist in the church, are baptized in the name of the Lord, and are called to lay and ordained ministry, and all should be able to exist and serve in the church without discrimination or disruption.

Advice and Counsel – From the Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice (ACWGJ)

The Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice advises that the 226th General Assembly (2024) **approve** POL-01 2.

Since the original overture addresses changes to two parts of the Book of Order, ACWGJ looks at the two parts separately, in light of advice from the Advisory Committee on the Constitution. Ordination already calls us to uphold our commitment “to be governed by our denomination’s polity.” G-2.0104b explicitly names our baptismal call to include welcome and openness as named in 1 Cor. 12: 12-13. As a community of disciples who seek to embody the Gospel of Jesus Christ, asking those preparing for ordination to name their baptismal call with specific detail allows us to work towards the Great Ends of the Church together. Only by being explicit in this way can we stand for justice, rising up against the wicked and standing for God against evildoers (Psalm 94:16). Vague affirmation, like silence, only perpetuates the pain inflicted on our siblings in Christ when their experiences are not recognized as part of the Body of Christ. Naming our belief in participation, representation, and non-discrimination is not only important, it is precedent.

Finally, ACWGJ affirms the work of our siblings on the LGBTQIA+ Equity Advocacy Committee to specifically advocate for individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities before the Assembly.

The Assembly Committee on Polity approved Item POL-01 2, 28/10. The 226th General Assembly (2024) amended and approved Item POL-01 2, 297/130.

For the full report on POL-01 02, go to <https://www.pc-biz.org/search/3001122>

For the video of the GA Plenary 10 discussion on POL 01 2 go to <https://ga-pcusa.org/videos/>

RECOMMENDATION OF BILLS AND OVERTURES

The team recommends approval of this overture for many of the reasons outlined in the material above.

Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)
Committee on Ministry
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2025

Approved the following covenants:

1. Covenant between Clover Presbyterian Church & Rev. Jason Myers to serve as Transitional Pastor, to be compensated \$32,000 annualized for salary (can be applied to housing) and \$1,700 professional expenses, serving approximately 20 hours/week with one week per quarter vacation and one week every six months for continuing education. (period of contract: from 03/23/2025 to 09/23/2025).
2. Covenant between Purity Presbyterian Church & Rev. Remi Flaherty to serve as Stated Supply Pastor, to be compensated \$1,620/month for housing allowance and \$180/month to Board of Pensions, serving approximately 20 hours/week (may vary), with two weeks' vacation every six months and one-week continuing education every six months. (period of contract: from 02/03/2025 to 08/04/2025).

Other Approvals:

1. Approved a request from Kara Wheeler to exempt the standard ordination exams pursuant to G-2.0610 and to be examined by three members of presbytery instead: Rev. Dr. Matt Rich, Rev. James Platt, and RE Susan Bullard. (See Pages E: 3 - 5)
2. Examined and Approved Ruling Elder Daniel Cockerill of Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church, who recently completed SC 5 Lay School of Theology, to be Commissioned as a Commissioned Pastor (formerly CRE) to serve Doby's Bridge by moderating Congregational and Session Meetings and serving the Sacraments. (See Pages E: 6 - 9)
3. Approved a request from Rev. Edgar McCall, H/R, to begin gathering joys and prayers concerns from Church Leaders (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Pastors, Christians Educators, Presbytery Staff, etc.) and then distributing them to their colleagues for prayers and pastoral support.
4. Approved a request from Daniel Cockerill, a candidate for Commissioned Pastor, to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Doby's Bridge's Maundy Thursday Service.

Items for Action:

1. Request from Kara Wheeler to exempt the standard ordination exams pursuant to G-2.0610 and to be examined by three members of the Committee on Ministry instead: Rev. Dr. Matt Rich, Rev. James Platt, and RE Susan Bullard. **(See Pages E: 3 - 5)**
2. Examine Daniel Cockerill for Commissioned Pastor. Daniel recently completed the SC5 Lay School of Theology and is requesting to be commissioned to Doby's Bridge, where he is a member, so that he may, when needed, moderate congregational and session meetings and administer the sacraments. **(See Pages E: 6 – 9)**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Bullard, COM Co-Chair
Rev. Paul Smith, COM Co-Chair

Recommendation for Ordination Exam Exemption
Committee on Ministry
Kara Wheeler

The Committee on Ministry unanimously recommends that the Presbytery approve a waiver of standard ordination examinations for Kara Wheeler in accordance with G-2.0610 of the Book of Order, "Accommodations to Particular Circumstances," which permits a presbytery, by three-fourths vote, to waive ordination requirements when there are good and sufficient reasons.

Background

Kara Wheeler is seeking to become a Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She was ordained in the Baptist tradition in April 2007 at First Baptist Church in Knoxville, TN, and has served at First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill for nearly five years.

Rationale for Exemption

The Committee on Ministry offers the following rationale for this request:

1. **Demonstrated Ministry Experience:** Kara has served faithfully at First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill since June 2020, demonstrating competence, commitment, and effectiveness in ministry. She has 15 years of congregational ministry experience, with the last five at First Presbyterian Rock Hill.
2. **Educational Qualifications:** Kara holds a Master of Divinity degree from McAfee School of Theology (graduated 2010 with a 3.588 GPA), which included significant coursework in:
 - Biblical Interpretation
 - Church History
 - Theology/Philosophy
 - Pastoral Care
 - Religious Education
 - Church Administration
 - Leadership and Church Systems
 - Hebrew Exegesis I
 - Greek Exegesis I

3. **Presbyterian-Specific Education:** Kara has completed substantial Presbyterian-specific education, including:
 - Reformed Theology (Dubuque, Fall 2022)
 - Worship & Sacraments (Union Seminary, Spring 2023)
 - Presbyterian Polity and Presbyterian Program & Mission (APCE, January 2022)
4. **Certified Christian Educator:** Kara has fulfilled the requirements to be recognized as a Certified Christian Educator in the PC(USA), demonstrating her commitment to Presbyterian educational ministry.
5. **Integration into Presbyterian Life:** Kara is actively involved in Providence Presbytery, serving on the Community of Faith and organizing quarterly Educator gatherings. She previously served as moderator for two years on the Education and Equipping Ministry Team. This service on Presbytery committees has provided her with valuable practical experience and insight into Presbyterian polity and governance structures.
6. **Recommendation:** Kara comes highly recommended by the Pastor of First Presbyterian Rock Hill, Rev. Dr. Lee Zehmer, who has worked closely with her and affirms her calling to ministry in the PC(USA). Dr. Zehmer was particularly impressed by her integrative project, which demonstrated significant insight into Reformed theology. He encouraged her pursuit of recognition of her ordination and completion of her certification as a Christian Educator.
7. **Life Circumstances:** As a mother and full-time ministry professional, Kara's responsibilities at church and in family life present practical challenges to preparing for and taking standard ordination examinations.

Alternate Means of Assessment

In lieu of standard ordination exams, the Committee proposes that Kara be examined by a three-person panel from the Committee on Ministry in the same five areas as the standard ordination exams (Bible Content, Bible Exegesis, Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity), with this panel consisting of:

1. Co-Chair of the COM, Ruling Elder Susan Bullard
2. Rev. Dr. Matt Rich (Unity)
3. Rev. James Platt (H.R.)

Recommendation

Based on these considerations, the Committee on Ministry recommends that Providence Presbytery approve this waiver by the required three-fourths vote and proceed with Kara Wheeler's examination by the designated panel as the alternate means to ascertain her readiness for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (USA)

Biography – Dan Cockerill

I was born in Sumter SC and moved to Rock Hill in 1986. In 1989 Belinda and I were married and later moved to Fort Mill her hometown. I have been blessed to have her Love and support for 36 years. We have 3 adult children and 8 grandchildren, all living in the area.

I have been employed by Frito Lay for 32 years this May. During my time at Frito Lay I have held many positions. The one common thread has been for the last 20 years. I have led many classes on leadership, team development, and conflict management.

I am an active Scout leader with Palmetto Council. As a volunteer one of my primary jobs for more than 10 years was leading the Adult Leader Training and Development.

I have been a member of Doby's Bridge Presbyterian for more than 25 years. During that time, I have served as Elder. It was during one of the rotations serving as Clerk that I felt the desire to learn more about the operations and history of our Denomination. One day reading "In the Know" newsletter I came across the announcement for the SC Lay School of Theology. I discussed it with our Interim Pastor at that time and decided to attend in 2019.

I have learned a lot over the last 7 years. I think the most important thing I learned is that the Christian religion is a lifelong journey of praying, reading, and sharing with others to continue the journey.

Statement of Faith - Dan Cockerill

I believe that God created Heaven and Earth.

I believe the Bible to be the inspired, authoritative Word of God. Written to provide history, understanding, and guidance for a us to teach, preach and live by.

I believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. Who always was, who is, and who is to come.

I believe that we were created in God's image to know Him and have relationship with Him. However, we willfully rejected the glory of God for which we were intended. Because of this, sickness, death, and judgement entered the world and now creation experiences the effects and consequences of sin.

I believe in Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His death through His bloodshed, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. I believe He was fully God who made Himself fully man. I believe he did this to bring forth a New Covenant with God the Father. This Covenant is available to all who believe.

I believe we are saved by God's grace, through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit, convicts, regenerates, justifies, and adopts us as we enter the kingdom of God as His sons and daughters. It is not through works that we are saved, but through grace.

I believe that a life surrendered to God as Lord of our lives changes us and brings fruit in our lives.

I believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit who convicts, restores, comforts, reveals, and empowers the believer in his/her walk.

I believe that through the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper that the power of the Holy Spirit is among us. I believe that is how we follow the steps of Jesus example and commune in that Spirit.

Commissioning Service for Daniel Cockerill To Serve as Commissioned Pastor for Doby's Bridge

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE: We, who are many, are one body in Christ, Rom. 12:5–8 and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, Eph. 4:1–6.

COMMISSIONING OF A COMMISSIONED PASTOR: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Providence Presbytery is satisfied that Daniel Cockerill has met all requirements and completed all preparations prescribed in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We now commission Daniel as a Commissioned Pastor to serve in and for Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS: Daniel, please answer these questions required by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? **I do.**

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? **I do.**

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? **I do and I will.**

Will you fulfill your commission in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? **I will.**

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? **I will.**

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? **I will.**

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**

Will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**

Will you be a faithful commissioned lay pastor, watching over the people, providing for their worship? In your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYER: Let us pray. Almighty God, in every age you have chosen servants to speak your Word and lead your loyal people. We thank you for Daniel, whom you have called to serve you as commissioned pastor in and for Doby's Bridge Presbyterian Church. Give him gifts to do his particular work. Fill him with your Holy Spirit, so that he may have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, and be a faithful disciple throughout life.

All may pray together:

God of grace, in baptism you have called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.

The moderator greets the Commissioned pastors:

Daniel, on behalf of the Providence Presbytery, I welcome you to this ministry. May God's Holy Spirit empower you in the ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Appendix

Providence Presbytery

May 18, 2025

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HELPFUL HINTS FOR PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Providence Presbytery Meeting Policies

Persons who have the privilege of the floor are:

- Teaching Elder members of Providence Presbytery
- Commissioned Ruling Elders
- Ruling Elder Commissioner(s) of each church
- All Moderators of the Communities of Care of Providence Presbytery, the Committee on Ministry, the Preparation for Ministry Committee, and the Presbyterian Women Moderator provided they are ordained as either a ruling elder or a teaching elder, if not listed as members of Providence Presbytery shall be enrolled as members of Presbytery with voice and vote for the length of their term as Moderator.
- All members of the Community of Love (Coordinating Team) of Providence Presbytery
- All full-time Christian Educators and all Certified Christian Educators employed by Providence Presbytery churches (G-2.1103b)
- All Candidates under care of Providence Presbytery not otherwise enrolled in the Presbytery
- Persons certified in church service (Certified Church Service, G-2.11)

Persons who are eligible to vote are:

- Teaching Elder members of Providence Presbytery
- Commissioned Ruling Elders
- Ruling Elder Commissioner(s) of each church
- All Moderators of the Communities of Care of Providence Presbytery, the Committee on Ministry, the Preparation for Ministry Committee, and the Presbyterian Women Moderator provided they are ordained as either a ruling elder or a teaching elder, if not listed as members of Providence Presbytery shall be enrolled as members of Presbytery with voice and vote for the length of their term as Moderator.
- Certified Christian Educators who are ordained as a ruling elder or a teaching elder (G-2.1103b)

Membership and Representation:

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

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

From *Providence Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations*, pages 2 - 3, approved 3-26-23.
L:/Presbytery Meetings/Providence Presbytery Meeting Policies 8-1-24



Elizabeth Little
Church Consultant

m: 252-723-8653
elittle@pensions.org

Spring 2025

We at the Board of Pensions are working hard to serve our churches, ministers, and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I am here to support you and your congregation should you have any questions about the Board's benefits and programs. I look forward to our continued partnership.

The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, mid councils, and affiliated employers.

Member/Employer Services: 800-773-7752 M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET. memberservices@pensions.org

Mental Health

When it comes to mental health care, it can be a struggle for ministers and staff to find appropriate care for stress, anxiety, depression, burnout — and a variety of other conditions.

Spring Health, the new provider for the [Employee Assistance Plan \(EAP\)](#), offers eligible employees a variety of mental well-being and EAP services, including mental health care navigation, six clinical therapy sessions at no cost to them, and **unlimited virtual coaching sessions with certified coaches at no cost**. If the member is also participating in any of our medical benefits, those consultations with the Spring Health mental health care provider can continue with a normal copay.

Should a minister or staff member need to take leave to focus on mental health, they can consider making use of the [Temporary Disability](#) benefit which is available by itself or as part of the [Covenant Package](#), [Congregational Pastors Package](#) and the [Transitional Pastor's Participation Package](#).

News from the March Board of Directors Meeting

The Board of Directors of the Board of Pensions met in early March. You can read the [Spring Board Bulletin](#) for more details on the information and actions from that meeting, including a 4.6% experience apportionment for the [Defined Benefit Pension Plan](#).

Other important information:

Support for employers as they manage employees through Benefits Connect Any changes to effective salaries must be reported to the Board of Pensions via Benefits Connect within 30 days of the effective date. Details about this and other Quick Start Guides for Benefits Connect are found [here](#).

Appendix 3: Page 1 of 1



The South Carolina Inn at Montreat is YOUR home in the mountains!

400 South Carolina Terrace Montreat, NC 28757

828.669.7460

<https://scinnatmontreat.org>



The **William Brearley Home** has 16 guest rooms and 8 shared/assigned hall bathrooms on the three floors of the home. The first floor has a spacious lobby with a gas log fireplace and a meeting room where reading, table games, spiritual studies, worship, and end of the day conversations take place. It also has a front porch overlooking the valley that provides opportunities for enjoying the view and developing friendships. In **the Kirk Apartments** there are eight modern units that have bath facilities and small kitchens.



The South Carolina Inn belongs to the five presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in South Carolina: Charleston-Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity

Brief History* Back in the early days of Montreat, Dr. R.C. Anderson offered free lots to any Synod which would build a house where its ministers could stay rent-free while attending Montreat conferences. Mr. McIver Williamson, a planter of Darlington County, made it possible for our Synod to qualify by erecting a 16-room house in 1912. In honor of his boyhood pastor, Mr. Williamson called the home "The William Brearley - South Carolina Home for Ministers." At first the home was not very popular, having no screens, no hot water, no linen, and no funds assigned to it to provide any of these conveniences. Later Rev. and Mrs. R. M. Kirkpatrick became host and hostess of the home. "Mrs. Kirk," as she is lovingly known to the hundreds she has cheered and helped, is a woman to whom "all things are possible." She enlisted the aid of the Women of our church, in those days known as Ladies Aid Societies and Young Ladies Missionary Societies. From the women came funds for hot water, screens, linens, furniture, and an annual amount for operating expenses. Best of all there was Mrs. Kirk herself, loving everyone, welcoming them, and making all around her happy and comfortable.

**from the 1955 SC Home report*

When the apartments were built in the 1970s they were named in honor of Mrs. Amanda Kirkpatrick. At the time of the 100th anniversary celebration the Board changed the name from the South Carolina Home to the **South Carolina Inn** so that all will know it is a hotel not a retirement home! Just as an old brochure says – "We invite you to come join us for Rest, Relaxation, and Rejuvenation"

Since its founding over 100 years ago, the South Carolina Inn has undergone many improvements. Now there are some additional improvements that need to be made to make the Inn **fully functional year-round**.

In 2025, the South Carolina Inn board of Directors made two important decisions:

- 1) to provide professional and sustainable management of the Inn through a new agreement with the William Black Lodge in Montreat.**
- 2) to develop a campaign to raise funds for a winterization / weatherization project for the William Brearley House at the South Carolina Inn so that it can accomodate guests year round. Also, as the area recovers from the impact of Hurricane Helene, an updated Inn will be able to host groups working on recovery efforts.**

There are three phases to this project:

- **Insulate pipes on the back wall of the house** – sewer drain pipes are exposed to freezing weather and could freeze and crack thereby forcing the the Inn to close the rooms in the house. A plumbing consultant recommends insulating the pipes with 1.5 inch thick fiberglass pipe insulation and finish with .016 inch stucco aluminum jackets.
- **Mini Split HVA Unit installation** – currently small electric radiator heaters are placed in the bathrooms and bedrooms and propane heaters are used in the living room and kitchen during cold weather and ceiling fans and a few small window units are used to relieve the summer heat. HVAC consultants have approved a plan to install at least two, and preferably three, mini-split units in the house. These would be located on the office wall in the kitchen, above the windows opposite the living room lobby, and in the second floor hallway. These would provide base temperatures of 60 degrees in the winter and 80 degrees in the summer. This would keep the entire house well above freezing and no longer require all the small units when temperatures threaten frozen pipes.

- **Electricity for the Mini Splits** – the new units will require new wiring and electric support.

While the cost for these projects is significant, the improved protection of pipes and heating and cooling equipment will enable the William Brearley Home to be used year round thus providing an increase in income. While this is called a Winterization Project, the HVAC Mini-Split units will provide a less humid and cooler space in warm/hot weather.

A **Whole House Generator** will be added after the first three projects are completed and additional funding is available.

At its Febraury, 2025, meeting the SC Inn Board approved the project and a campaign to raise funds with a goal of \$50,000.

We are seeking gifts gifts of \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, or more made through checks or on-line donations (sorry no pledges).

**Please fill out the donor information and mail to:
South Carolina Inn Winterization Campaign
PO Box 670
Montreat, NC 28757**

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: THE SOUTH CAROLINA INN AT MONTREAT FOR: WINTERIZATION CAMPAIGN

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

____ In Honor ____ In Memory of: _____

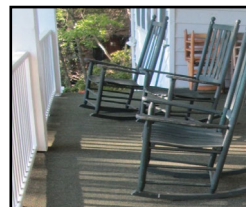
Please notify: _____

Thank you for your support!

YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

For on-line donations Click: [SC Inn at Montreat Winterization Campaign Donation](#)

or scan QR Code



Make plans to visit your home in Montreat for a conference, with your church, with your family, with your friends, or by yourself for quiet time. There's a chair on the porch waiting for you!

For on-line donations:

Funds will be given through an account with Providence Presbytery and will be forwarded to SC Inn at Montreat.

Direct Link to the giving form:

<https://onrealm.org/ProvidencePresb18431/give/SCInn>

or scan QR Code



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FOR: WINTERIZATION CAMPAIGN

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

___ In Honor ___ In Memory of: _____

Please notify: _____

Thank you for your support!

YOUR GIFT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE

**Community of Hope (Administration & Support) Report
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2025**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Financial Update as of 03/31/25:

- Mission Pledges received as of 3/31 **\$ 80,806.56**
- As of 03/31/25 Net total (Revenue-Expense) is **\$ 42,299.60**
- **Bethelwoods as of 3/31/25 – (\$2,741.12)**
 - Revenue is \$ 8,370.89 better than 3/31/24
 - Expense is \$ 9,951.10 more than 3/31/24

Bank & Investment Balances as of 03/31/25

- Operating Account \$ 181,391.91
- Reserve Account \$ 123,044.13
- Bank of York (515 Oakland Av Funds) \$ 526,874.50
- Mutual Fund – Providence Presbytery \$ 375,502.74
- Mutual Fund – New Church Development \$ 398,477.85
- Mutual Fund – Bethelwoods Endowment \$ 20,003.89
- Note Receivable – BW – New Covenant \$ 70,000.00 (dam repair)

Funds from the sale of 515 Oakland Av \$526,874.50 will be invested in a mutual fund to be determined no later than March 31, 2025 – **new target date 4/30/25**

SC5 has formed a committee consisting of one person from each of the 5 Presbyteries to serve as a discernment group to recommend a plan for the future of the SC Inn. This group had an in-person meeting at the Inn April 6th and 7th. They will have more meetings going forward to make a recommendation on the best way forward for the best success of the Inn in the future. Members are listed below:

Martha Casto, Moderator (Trinity)
Johnny Dennis, Clerk (New Harmony)
Henry Meeuwse (Charleston Atlantic)
Hope Moore (Providence)
Pete Roe (Foothills)
Gavin Meek, Ex. Officio & EP Liaison)

Nominations Committee

Still seeking members for various classes and search for Class of 2028/29 will begin soon. **(See Appendix 6: Pages 1 -10)**

Permanent Judicial Commission

No report

Trustees

No report

Items For Action:

(1) Motion from Committee and approved by Coordinating Team: That the closing funds received from Morningside in January be changed to designate \$25,000 to Bethelwoods and \$25,000 to Thornwell per the request of the remaining Elders at Morningside.

(2) Motion from Committee and approved by Coordinating Team:: Add a line to the 2025 budget for PJC with a budget of \$3,000 to use as needed.

(3) Approved by Coordinating Team: To take \$10,000 from the Morningside Church Funds to donate to the SC Inn Board's Winterize Project

Submitted by:
Hope Moore

Nominating and Representation Committee Report

Updated April 28, 2025

New additions in red

MODERATORS OF PRESBYTERY MEETINGS: 2025

Alternating years, teaching and ruling elders

2025 Presbytery Moderator	2025 Presbytery Vice Moderator
Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta	Ruling Elder Tim Cureton

2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:

Month / Type	Date:	Method	Location	Time:
February/Stated	Sunday, February 23, 2025	In-Person	First (York)	2:30 PM
May/Stated	Sunday, May 18, 2025	In-Person	Liberty Hill	2:30 PM
August/Stated	Sunday, August 24, 2025	Virtual	Virtual	1:30 PM
November/Stated	Sunday, November 9, 2025	In-Person	Bethelwoods	2:30 PM

COMMISSIONERS TO OR MEMBERS OF PC(USA) HIGHER COUNCILS

Commissioners to Synod of South Atlantic

2-year staggered terms

Ruling Elder Commissioner	Class	Teaching Elder Commissioner	Class
Tim Cureton (Pleasant Ridge)	'25	Rev. Carson Montgomery (Van Wyck) Term 1	'26

2026 General Assembly Commissioners

To be elected May the year before the year of GA service

Teaching Elder	Ruling Elder	Young Adult Advisory Delegate
Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo (Grace Y)	Sue Williams (Oakland Ave.)	

Synod Permanent Judicial Commission

Synod requests recommendations from Providence Presbytery for members of the commission and elects them.

Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo, Class of 2026

COMMUNITY OF LOVE (Coordinating Team)

12 members plus two staff members, as noted below.

Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo – Chair

Elder Tim Cureton – Co-Chair

Members:	Position
Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo	Moderator of Community of Love
Dr. Eric Robinson	Moderator of Community of Faith
Hope Moore / Iris Rose	Co-Moderator of Community of Hope
Rev. Paul Smith / Susan Bullard	Moderator of Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)
Dr. Dave Keely	Moderator of Community of Witness (Mission & Advocacy)
Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta	2025 Moderator of Presbytery
Tim Cureton	2025 Vice-Moderator of Presbytery
Rev. Carson Montgomery	Synod Commissioner. TE
Rev. Steve Austin	GA Commissioner
Gwen Cunningham	GA Commissioner
Tim Cureton	Synod Commissioner. RE
Lee Barnwell / Ellen Mayes	Co-Moderator of Presbyterian Women
New EP	Executive Presbyter – Voice but No Vote (Staff)
Rev. Dr. David Bender	Stated Clerk - Voice but No Vote (Staff)

COMMUNITY OF FAITH
Dr. Eric Robinson, Moderator

(Faith Formation, Technology, and Communication)

Moderator and at least 9 other members divided into two sub-committees.
 The Presbyterian Women also fall under the Community of Faith.

Faith Formation Team (Community of Faith Sub-Committee)
 =>6 members **Eric Robinson, Moderator**

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
Jennifer Ancrum (Hermon)	1			Kimberly Palmer (Grace Fort Mill)	1
Sarah Childers (Grace Y)	1	Kara Wheeler First Rock Hill)	1		
Dr. Eric Robinson (Allison Creek)	1	=>6 members plus Moderator		=>6 members plus Moderator	

Staff: Ralph Sweeney - Bethelwoods Director

Technology and Communications Team – (Community of Faith Sub Committee)

=>3 Members

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
John Baker, RE (Old Waxhaw)	1	Rev. Rob Jones (Douglas)	1	Rhett Eckhardt (Grace – Y)	1

Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team

Ellen Mays, Lee Barnwell – Co-Moderators

2025-2026 Officers	
Ellen Mays	Co-Moderator
Lee Barnwell	Co-Moderator / Historian
Debbie Lowe	Treasurer
Kay Nivens	Secretary
Pat Ancrum	Member-at-Large
Shirnetha Belk	Member-at-Large
Trici Davis	Member-at-Large
Arlene Harder	Member-at-Large
Pat Oglesby	Member-at-Large
Arlene Harder	Member-at-Large
Elizabeth Schrum	Member-at-Large

**COMMUNITY OF HOPE
(ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPORT)**

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

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

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM – (Community of Hope)

6 members

Hope Moore & Iris Rose – Co-Moderators

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
Bobby Rogers (Unity Fort Mill)		Hope Moore (Budget) (Tirzah-Y)	2	Clarke Moore (Budget) (Oakland Ave)	
Rev. Steve Simon (Honorably Retired)	2	Tim Cureton (Pleasant Ridge)	2	Eddie Lee (Budget) (First-York)	

Staff: New EP
Rev. Dr. David Bender
Business Administrator/Treasurer

PERSONNEL MINISTRY TEAM – (Community of Hope)

3 members

Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan – Moderator

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	2027	Term
Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan (Oakland Avenue)		Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo (Grace-Y)	1	Iris Rose (First-Rock Hill)	

Staff: New EP
Rev. Dr. David Bender

NOMINATING and REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE (Community of Hope)

6 Members

Doug Macdonald, Moderator

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
Rev. Letarshia Robinson (Oakland Avenue)	1	Doug Macdonald (Liberty Hill)	2	Leland Summers Grace-L	2
Karen Holt (First-Rock Hill)	1	Rev. Remi Flaherty (Purity)	1	Holly Furr (Lancaster First)	1

Staff: New EP
Rev. Dr. David Bender

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION – (Community of Hope)

9 Members, 6-year term, 4 or 5 TE and 4 or 5 RE. 2 years off before re-election.

Maintain history of three previous classes.

Elect own Moderator and Clerk

Freddy Faircloth, Moderator

Class of 2020 Show three	Class of 2022 previous	Class of 2024 classes	Class of 2026	Class of 2028	Class of 2030
Geoff Dunn (Purity)	Marie McCarter (Tirzah Y)	Iris Rose (First - Rock Hill)	Brian Wilson (Grace – Y)	Kay Nivens (First - York)	Rev. Dr. Mark Verdery (Unity)
Tyre Lee (Purity)	Spratt White (Unity)	Ann White (Member at large)	Clarkson McDow (Oakland Avenue)	Adrienna Witherspoon (Douglas)	Robin Rogers (Hermon)
Rev. Bob Moss (HR) - Deceased	Joanne Sizoo (Grace Y)	Tyre Lee (Purity)	Freddy Faircloth (First—Rock Hill)	Craig Wilkerson (First Rock Hill)	Leland Summers (Grace L)

Staff: New EP
Rev. Dr. David Bender

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY TRUSTEES - (Community of Hope)

3 Members

Term	Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027
2	Spratt White (Unity)	2	Robert Folks (Lancaster--First)	1	Freddy Faircloth (First-Rock Hill)

COMMUNITY OF WITNESS

(MINISTERIAL SERVICES)

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

Paul Smith/Susan Bullard – Co-Moderators

Community of Witness (Ministerial Services)

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

15 Members

Rev. Paul Smith/Susan Bullard Co-Moderators

Balance minister/ruling elder membership

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	2027	Term
Paul Horne (First – Rock Hill)		Rev. Paul Smith (Wade-Old Waxhaw)		Rev. Christina Trimble (Honorably Retired)	2
Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta (Bethesda-Y)	1	Spratt White (Unity)		Rev. James Platt (Honorably Retired)	2
Keith McGuire (Oakland Avenue)		Rev. Carson Montgomery (Van Wyck)		Rev. Marty Simmons (Grace-L)	2
Susan Bullard (Unity)	1	Rev. Dr. David Leininger (Liberty Hill)	1	Shirnetha Belk (First- Lancaster)	2
Rev. Edgar McCall (Honorably Retired)	1			Rev. Dr. Matt Rich (Unity)	1

Staff: New EP

Rev. Dr. David Bender

Salary Studies Team

(Sub-Committee of Committee on Ministry)

6 Members

Rev. Megan Watson– Moderator

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
Emma Jane Riddle (Hebron)		Megan Watson (Member-At-Large)	1	Keith McGuire (Oakland Ave.)	
Ronnie Byrd (Grace-L)		Phil Neely (First – Lancaster)		Robert Pender (First—Rock Hill)	

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
 (Community of Witness – Ministerial Services Subcommittee)
 6 Members
Rev. Dr. John White – Moderator
 Balance minister/ruling elder membership

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
Rev. Letarshia Robinson (Oakland Avenue)	1	Robbin Ingram (Douglas)	1	S. Max Russell (Woodlawn)	1
Sue Williams (Oakland Avenue)	1	Rev. Nick Setzer (First – York)	1	Rev. Dr. John White (Beth-Shiloh)	1

COMMUNITY OF WITNESS (MISSION AND ADVOCACY)

Dr. Dave Keely (First Rock Hill) – Moderator
 Moderator and the Chair or Coordinator of each Mission Neighborhood

Leadership and Membership of Mission Neighborhoods
 (chosen by the Mission Neighborhoods and not by the Presbytery)
 Membership open to non-ordained

Committee on Racial & Religious Reconciliation (CRRR)
Linda Kennedy – Moderator

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

Central America Task Force (CAT)
Geoff Dunn – Moderator

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

Staff: Dr. Eric Robinson

Hunger Action Team (HAT)

Arlene Harder (Ramah)
Kathryne “Tat” Perrill (Bethune)
Rev. James Platt (HR)

Staff: Dr. Eric Robinson

Living Waters Committee (LW)

Dan Rogers – Moderator

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

RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Bethelwoods Board of Directors

Members of the Bethelwoods Board of Directors who are members of Providence Presbytery or Churches in Providence Presbytery will be submitted by Bethelwoods to the Presbytery for approval at the time of each Director's election. The Bethelwoods Board of Directors may request assistance from the Presbytery's Nominating and Representation Committee in finding suitable Presbytery members to serve as Directors. Those serving in 2025 from Providence Presbytery include:

Hope Moore (Tirzah-Y)
Bobby Williams (First-Rock Hill)
Mia Levitan (Member-at-Large)
Tyler Bratton (Tirzah-Y)
Bill Russell (Bethesda-Y)
Jamie Bruce (Community Member)
Chase Nivens (Community Member)
Kim Friers (Community Member)
Helena Miller (Community Member)
John Tutwiler (Community Member)
Jim Devor (Charleston Atlantic Member)
Ronald Campbell (Community Member)

Thornwell Home for Children Board of Trustees

Providence Presbytery Appointed Member	
Holly Furr	(First - Lancaster)

Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina Board of Directors

To be selected by Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina

South Carolina Inn at Montreat Board 2 three year terms max. At least one TE.

Class of 2025	Term	Class of 2026	Term	Class of 2027	Term
Barbara Kurz (First—Rock Hill)	1	John Thompson (Liberty Hill)	1	Rev. Dr. Lee Zehmer (First—Rock Hill)	1

South Carolina Lay School of Theology Committee

Two Representatives, no classes

Max Russell (Woodlawn)	Philip Wright (Beersheba and Ramah)
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Presbytery Commissions

Providence Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission

Providence Presbytery Moderator: Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta
General Presbytery: New EP
Stated Clerk: Rev. Dr. David Bender
Mission Consultant: Dr. Eric Robinson

Presbyterian Women/Co-Moderators: Ellen Mayes
Lee Ann Barnwell

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>City</u>
Commissioners:	John Barnett	Bowling Green	Clover
	Trici Davis	Hermon	Rock Hill
	Rebecca Gaston	Fishing Creek	Chester
	Don Holmes	Covenant	Rock Hill
	Phillip Hinson	Lancaster First	Lancaster
	Chris Lopez	Riverview	Fort Mill
	Ben Ricks - Youth	Beth Shiloh	York
	Leland Summers	Grace (L)	Lancaster
	Fred Smith	Oakland Avenue	Rock Hill

2024 Year in Review

This year, Serving at the Crossroads, with the Manos Amigas clinic staff and brigades from the U.S., continued providing hope and healing to members of the community. Not only does Manos Amigas offer opportunities for treatment of medical conditions, it also provides opportunities for professional growth of its staff and employment for members of the community.

15,000 Patient Visits

4 eye brigades -- 1 surgical brigade -- family medicine brigade -- 1 OB/GYN brigade

New partnerships formed with:

Blue Sky Surgical, The C14 Foundation, Maya Chorty Maternity Clinic, Wake Forest University ophthalmology school, Fraternidad Hospital in San Pedro Sula, and **Providence Presbytery in**

South Carolina*

Manos Amigas nurses Melissa Castillo and Asalia Castro earned Ophthalmic Instrumentalist certificates

YAG Laser installed for cataract surgery

The optometrist conducts eye exams, provides glasses, treats common eye ailments, and screens patients for eye surgeries. The most common conditions she sees are cataracts, pterygium, far-sightedness, near-sightedness, and conjunctivitis. **With this access to vision care and surgeries, people in the area are able to return to work and provide better care for themselves and their families.**

Life Changing Impact

None of these activities could have taken place without the selfless gifts of time, talent and donations from our partners. But the real impact is felt by each person that these vision care professionals touch. Almost 60% of the patients report their poor vision keeps them from working. When asked what they were looking forward to doing with better vision, their replies covered a myriad of tasks that those of us with sight often take for granted as well as thoughts of gratitude and giving back.

****Providence Presbytery Partners to Provide Vision Care for the Municipality of Trinidad***

Providence Presbytery, encompassing Chester, Kershaw, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties in South Carolina has partnered with Serving at the Crossroads to provide vision care for residents in the municipality of Trinidad located 35 minutes from La Entrada. The Presbytery had originally hoped to establish their own eye program at a clinic in that rural community of 5,000 people, but the Covid pandemic interrupted plans for the completion of the project. Recognizing the prevailing circumstances and the bureaucratic hurdles ahead of them, they realigned their *New Vision in Honduras* Project to become a part of the vision care program at Manos Amigas. The *New Vision* program provides for free cataract surgeries at the Manos Amigas clinic for residents of Trinidad who cannot financially afford the procedure along with eye examinations and glasses.

To view the website: www.servingatthecrossroads.org

Report from the Wake ECHO Brigade* from Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC:

Our team travelled to the city of La Entrada, which is in the western part of the country and named for its location as the gateway to the mountainous western highlands of Honduras and the Copan Mayan ruins. The Manos Amigas clinic is a privately owned charity medical clinic in La Entrada that was started by an American non-profit organization called Serving at the Crossroads. This clinic provides free or low cost medical and dental care to the poor and underserved people in the area, and in recent years has expanded their facilities by building an eye clinic and three operating rooms. While they have an excellent optometrist, who provides basic eye care for the people of La Entrada, there are many people in need of cataract surgery who cannot afford to travel to larger cities for surgery. Organizations such as Vision Health International (VHI) have done an admirable job bringing cataract and oculoplastics surgical brigades to this site, but the operating rooms are unused for much of the year. There remains a large unmet need for cataract surgery.

We visited the Manos Amigos Clinic in December of 2023 and we were very impressed with not only the facilities but the great charitable work that was happening at the clinic. We planned to perform a small number of cataract surgeries on this inaugural trip to the Manos Amigos clinic as a trial run. On Wednesday we saw cataract evaluations and on Thursday and Friday we performed about 20 cataract surgeries. The Manos Amigos clinic provided three excellent surgical nurses who ran the autoclaves, circulated and scrubbed for our surgeries. The optometrist helped direct patients and perform blocks. We had a very smooth and successful first surgical trip and made many new friends at the clinic. We are looking forward to returning on our next brigade in January and hopefully increasing our surgical volume on subsequent trips.

*the team included 4 members of the eye faculty, 3 residents, and several students.

MAKE A DONATION TO CONTINUE THE SUPPORT FROM PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERIANS:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, & Zip Code _____

Email address: _____

**Specify that your gift is coming from a member / resident / friend of Providence Presbytery
so that funds will go to the designated fund to aid those from the Trinidad community
who need eye surgery.**

Mail to:

Serving at the Crossroads

1048 W. Baltimore Pike H306

Media, PA 19063

**Executive Director Bethelwoods
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2025**

The Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center (BCCC) is operating proficiently. We are ending the conference season and now preparing to accept over 200 youth for the 2025 summer experience! Staff are now being hired and will be ready to work with our students. We have renewed our agreement with the Boy Scouts to use the campgrounds. BCCC has completed several campus projects. The repairs to the dam were completed this month. The dam was upgraded to accommodate flooding should there be heavy rains or storms. Due to lowering the water level, our veterans will restock the lake to ensure our guests are able to enjoy catch and release. We are excited to announce that the pool surface is near completion and the water pump to the mushroom will be functioning to help cool our campers. We have also replaced the HVAC in one of the cabins thanks to the Cannon Grant and we are now working on funding to repair the HVAC to Horton. Other campus repairs have included replacing bursted underground pipes, removing uprooted trees potentially causing damage to campus property, minor cosmetic changes to enhance your retreat experience.

Donations continue to pour into Bethelwoods. We have received a \$75,000 donation from Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden. On April 26th, the BCCC had a success fundraiser where 160+ people visited for an elegant dining experience!!! The Bethelwoods Camp and Conference appreciate all donations. Individuals wishing to donate may visit our website at www.bethelwoods.org and contribute, today. Volunteer opportunities are available!!! Due to changes in our policies, volunteers will have to be screened pending the activity. If interested please email Lizzie Garrison, lizzie@bethelwoods.org or Ralph Sweeney, ralph@bethelwoods.org.

Community of Love (Coordinating Team)
Report Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2024

Items for information:

- David Bender (Stated Clerk) and Clarke Moore (Treasurer) are working with Fidelity to open an account into which we will invest the proceeds from the sale of the 515 Oakland Ave. property.
- Administrative Team Reports
 - Bethesda in Camden—the Presbytery approved the terms of their Covenant of Dismissal at the February meeting. Those terms have been met, and the congregation has been transferred to ECO.
 - Cedar Shoal and Fort Lawn—the AC has completed their work with these churches, and the Presbytery will vote on a motion to close those churches, with thanks to God from their many years of strong ministry.
 - Mt. Tabor—conversations have come to a long pause with their session.
 - Discussions ensued about other churches who need/want an administrative commission to work towards closure. We are contacting people who potentially might be involved.
- On April 9, a group of six folks from Providence Presbytery (Hilary Shuford, Eric Robinson, Letarshia Robinson, Joanne Sizoo and our Synod commissioners, Carson Montgomery and Tim Cureton), met with members and staff of the other four SC Presbyteries to continue the process of discerning how God might be working and leading the Presbyteries to work together. Following that meeting, members of Providence's team began conversations with folks from Foothills Presbytery about possibilities for joint ministries. Members of Providence's group had further conversation with members from all five Presbyteries on April 22 via Zoom.
- Hope Moore represented Providence Presbytery at a meeting in Montreat to help discern the future of the South Carolina Inn at Montreat. Pursuant to an agreement, the Inn is currently being managed by the William Black Lodge.

Items for Action Under the Consent Agenda:

- Motion, at the request of members of the former session of Morningside Presbyterian Church, which was closed at the February Presbytery meeting, to designate from their \$135,4312.94 gift to Providence Presbytery the amount of \$25,000 to go to Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, Inc. and \$25,000 to go to Thornwell Children's Home.
- Motion to join other SC Presbyteries by making a \$10,000 donation to the South Carolina Inn at Montreat to help them winterize the facility, said donation to come from the funds generated by the sale of the Morningside church property.

Item for Action:

- Motion, as we humbly follow God's call, to celebrate the ministry and to close, according to the terms of the Administrative Commission's report, Cedar Shoals Presbyterian Church and Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church after many generations of faithful service and to dismiss the Administrative Commission, Robert Folks, Megan Watson and Dickie Harper with thanks for their work with these two congregations.

FINAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR
THE CEDAR SHOALS AND FORT LAWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES

MARCH 31, 2025

At its meeting on March 26, 2023, Providence Presbytery named an administrative commission to conclude and close the ministry of the Cedar Shoals and the Fort Lawn Presbyterian Churches located in Chester County. The Cedar Shoals church lost its last member to death late in 2022. The Fort Lawn church last reported two members, one of whom incapacitated, the other active only as caretaker of the property. Interestingly, in the next decade of this century the Cedar Shoals church would have celebrated its two hundredth anniversary and the Fort Lawn Church its one hundred fiftieth. While there is inescapable sadness in the closing of these historic churches, we rejoice in the many years in witness and service to the Lord they provided in their places and in the church universal. To this day there is thanksgiving for that and fond remembrances of these churches when active in their communities.

Commissioners appointed to serve on presbytery's administrative commission were Richard C. Harper, Jr. (Ruling Elder, Tirzah (Y) Presbyterian Church), Robert K. Folks (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster), and Rev. Megan G. Watson (Member-at-Large of Providence Presbytery). Co-executive presbyters Hoover and Olivia Haney provided training in the summer of 2023. In the absence of a functional session in both churches, the commission assumed original jurisdiction in accord with provision G-3.0303e. in the Book of Order. For both churches, disposition of the buildings and land was the principal task. To achieve the optimum results in the opinion of the commissioners, resolution necessarily extended to February 2025.

CEDAR SHOALS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Cedar Shoals church is in the Richburg community just off SC Highway 99 (Richburg Road). The setting is rural, predominantly an area of family farms and timberland with some business and industry along SC Highway 9 nearby.

The church was organized in 1834. Its last member, Sarah K. Dixon, died October 31, 2022. Her daughter, Kathy D. Small, was the commission's point of contact for the church. She is resident in High Point, NC, but she and her brother, who lives in the area, retain ownership of their family property located very near the church.

The church is a modest wood frame, single room structure, on property having no public road frontage due to relocation of the Richburg Road years ago. Access is via a field road extending between cultivated fields about a hundred yards from the public highway. The way has been maintained by church members and those providing care for the cemetery located on the church property.

There is power to the church building, but no water. It is not insured.

The record title for the property cannot be completely established. The earliest deed for any of the property dates to 1836. A plat of the church's property dated February 7, 1897, recites an area of seven and one-half acres with the cemetery straddling one line. The cemetery is reported in the record to be an acre, but its expanse appears larger. The configuration of the property is irregular in alignment with lines of occupation of surrounding parcels. There are few

reliable indicators of corners and lines on the ground. It became apparent to the commission that before any deed could be drawn a survey of the church property, inclusive of the cemetery, would be needed.

In September 2023, the commission visited with Kathy Small, first at her mother's former home and then on site at the church. She shared with us the scarce records of the church her mother had accumulated. We authorized distribution of a very modest communion service set to a church known to Kathy to be in organization near where she lived in North Carolina. There were few furnishings in the church building: an old Bible, a few books, hymnals, none of which were of any historical or monetary value. There was a single communion plate inscribed with the church name and date which Kathy requested, and we agreed, be kept on site for display as a memorial to the church at that location. Kathy's mother had maintained the church's finances since approximately 1992. We examined the records then available and later supplemented. The balance of all funds in November 2023 was less than two thousand dollars.

The cemetery located on the premises is active, operated by a nonprofit corporation independent from the church. Identified as the Cedar Shoals Cemetery Fund, it is on record in good standing at the SC secretary of state's office. Our principal contact with the organization was through Wayne Anderson, a nearby resident with roots in the church. Kathy Small serves on the board as does her brother and others who have history with the Cedar Shoals church. Interestingly, the Cemetery Fund did not have title to the cemetery grounds. Members of the group recognized that the church's demise was the time to address that subject. It expressed interest to the commission in acquiring title to all the church property.

Investigation of the Cemetery Fund indicated it was a worthy prospect for donation. Its members have ties to the church and community. They have well maintained the cemetery grounds. Its financial position was shared which we determined to be sound. The building could be used in conjunction with services to families at times of funerals as well as a gathering place for reunions and events related to the church's heritage. Our commission readily concluded that a donation of the property to the Cemetery Fund was the proper course. The grounds and building were not clearly marketable, and if acquired by others could threaten the integrity of the cemetery, dear to those historically associated with the Cedar Shoals church and the community.

The commission authorized the remainder of funds in the church's accounts be transferred to the Cemetery Fund to contribute to the cost of a professional survey of the property and conveyance of title. Commissioner Robert Folks, a real estate attorney, met on site with the surveyor and cemetery representatives to ascertain parameters for preparation of a plat needed to draw a deed of conveyance. When the survey was completed, the area of the church's grounds was calculated to be 9.05 acres inclusive of the area designated for the cemetery. The plat has been recorded in the Chester County Clerk of Court's office in Cabinet E Slide 155 Page 7B.

A non-warranty deed for the Cedar Shoals church was executed by the commission for the surveyed church property as a donation to the Cedar Shoals Cemetery Fund, the nonprofit organization which has overseen the cemetery independent of the church. The deed was recorded, February 10, 2025, in Deed Book 1495 page 180 in the Chester County Clerk of Court's office. The cost of survey was \$1,250 and the costs for deed and recording totaled \$540, all of which was paid by the Cemetery Fund organization.

Just a few historical church records were available: an old history of the church's first years composed many years ago, an old Session book, old Registry of Members, and old Women of the Church minute book. These items were collected for delivery to denominational archival depositories.

FORT LAWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The organization of the Fort Lawn church dates to 1886. It is located in town on a half-acre corner lot fronting on Main Street. The church is the oldest building in Fort Lawn, recognized and appreciated as an historic landmark. The church, classic in design and surrounded by grass lawn, is very picturesque, thought of by many to present perfect wedding venue.

On September 20, 2023, our commission met with Paulette Weiland, now resident in Great Falls, whose husband served as the last installed elder until his death. She and another lady confined to nursing care facility were the last two members. Paulette continued her husband's duties of care for the facility and oversight of the church's remaining funds. At times she paid for necessary expenses out of pocket.

The last services of any kind at the property were in July 2022, attended by only a few. On our first visit we found the church to look much as it must have looked then. The pulpit and chairs, paraments and furnishings were in place as if ready for the next service. The pews are original to the building, each one hand crafted, and very much a source of pride. A functioning church bell hangs in the bell tower.

The last substantial upgrade to the facility was in 1952. Space was made to install a single, rudimentary bathroom in 2002. The rear balcony is accessible with some difficulty and used mostly for storage. The building has gas heaters. The air conditioning had not been turned on for years. County records indicate the building's area to be 1460 square feet.

It was with a heavy heart that Paulette Weiland has accepted the closing of the church. She had been in contact with presbytery officials for years when that prospect became self-evident. She maintained her membership while attending a Methodist church near where she lives. She identified at least one community member who had expressed an interest in acquiring the property. Her hope was that if the building could no longer be a church, it could somehow be in service and not lose that identity and history of a church once vital in the community .

The Fort Lawn Community Center located just across the street from the church had expressed to presbytery its interest in acquiring the facility when it may become available.

Our commission was fortunate to be led to Lloyd Hartman-Trimble, a real estate broker in the area. He is the brother of Christina Trimble, a retired minister and member of Providence Presbytery. He willingly agreed to consult with us on the condition and market value of the property. On August 20, 2024, he met with Robert Folks of our commission and Paulette Weiland at the property. His property assessment acumen was impressive. He provided our commission with his evaluation on condition, potential uses, and marketability. His conclusion was that though the building had issues, the property had value in the marketplace. His opinion was a target market price in its "as is" condition was as much as \$75,000. His thought was that the property could be easily marketed for residential use. He estimated a developer could convert the building to a duplex at a renovation price of \$120,000 to \$150,000.

Our commission determined that the better course for disposition of the property would be a

sale to the Community Center for community use rather than to sell to a developer for conversion to residential use.

The Community Center was organized as a SC nonprofit organization in 1998 and has provided years of service to citizens in the area. Its executive director, Libby Sweatt-Lambert, ably leads an all-volunteer board. The center is highly regarded in the community. Its board views the church property as a means by which to extend its program capacity. We asked the Center for its vision statement for the property's use. The board responded that the building and grounds as they exist would provide space for expressions of the cultural arts, service for humanitarian purposes, as well as provide event space for the community. The Center's board valued the property's appearance as a church and its historic significance to the town.

Robert Folks and Dickie Harper from our commission met with the Community Center's executive director and board chair at the property on September 2, 2024. At that time, we extended the offer to sell the property to the Community Center for \$75,000. The center was optimistic about its ability to raise the funds and spent the next months in pursuit of commitments. One financial institution agreed to donate \$25,000 provided the center raised the balance of funds needed. The Community Center had several prospective donors in mind, but it became clear that we needed to dispose of the property sooner than the Center would likely be able to raise the full purchase price. The contract for protection of the building from termites and moisture, together with the insurance policy for the building were due to be paid in February 2025. Soon the church's money to pay for utilities and lawn maintenance would be exhausted.

We concluded that a way forward would be to finance the sale. This would provide time for the Community Center to fund raise funds and relieve the church, and soon the presbytery, of further financial obligations for the property. We asked for 10% down, \$7,500, with the balance of \$67,500 without interest due one year from closing. The debt would be documented by a promissory note secured by real estate mortgage of the church property. The Community Center would take possession upon closing and thereafter be responsible for insurance, utilities, care, and maintenance of the property. To the extent possible, the facility could be used immediately in its programming.

On January 16, 2025, Robert Folks met with the Community Center's board at its offices in Fort Lawn. After a thorough explanation at the well-attended meeting, the board unanimously accepted the commission's proposal to finance the sale. The closing was held on February 13, 2025, at the offices of Robert Folks, attorney. The expenses of closing were paid from the Center's down payment of \$7,500. The proceeds of sale, \$6,625.23, was remitted to presbytery. Payments on the debt can be made as the Center raises funds. The balance will be due in full one year from closing, February 13, 2026.

From the church's money managed by Paulette Weiland we paid to renew the termite and wood contract then due for the next year and the utilities up to the closing date. There would not have been enough money to pay to renew the property insurance which was due the month the sale closed. The Center, when it sought to renew the existing policy as new owner, was advised the company would not insure the vacant property in its current condition. Coverage has been obtained from another provider. The small balance of the church's money, \$42.73, was included in the proceeds check at closing payable to the presbytery.

The non-warranty deed of the property from the Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church was executed by the commission to The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc., in consideration of the sum of

\$75,000. It was recorded on February 13, 2025, in Deed Book 1496 page 48 in the Chester County Clerk of Court's office. The real estate mortgage of the property from The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc. to Providence Presbytery, Inc. to secure the debt evidenced by a promissory note in the amount of \$67,500 was recorded on the same day, February 13, 2025, in Mortgage Book 2074 page 150 in the Chester County Clerk of Court's office.

The person who had expressed an interest in buying the property was not interested at the price for which it was sold. He has expressed his satisfaction that the Community Center was able to acquire the property. Paulette Weiland, who had done so much to maintain the building and grounds in the church's last years, was grateful that the property would be available for community use and enjoyment.

Due to the less than orderly record keeping and preservation in its last years, the church's historical records are scarce, but any which are salvageable and of historical merit will be delivered to denominational archival depositories.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard C. Harper, Jr.
Robert K. Folks
Rev. Megan G. Watson

Supporting Documents:

Plat of Cedar Shoals Church property dated December 4, 2024, recorded February 10, 2025, in Plat Cabinet E Slide 155 Page 7B

Deed of Cedar Shoals Church property to Cedar Shoals Cemetery Fund, a nonprofit corporation, dated January 2025, recorded February 10, 2025, Deed Book 1495 Page 180

Deed of Fort Lawn Presbyterian Church property to The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc., dated February 2025, recorded February 13, 2025, in Deed Book 1496 Page 48

Settlement Statement, dated February 13, 2025, for sale of the Fort Lawn Church property to The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc.

Promissory Note from The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc. to Providence Presbytery, Inc. dated February 13, 2025, in the amount of \$67,500

Mortgage of the Fort Lawn Church property from The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc. to Providence Presbytery, Inc., dated and recorded February 13, 2025, in Mortgage Book 2074 Page 150

Endorsement to policy of insurance of The Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc. for the Fort Lawn Church property naming Providence Presbytery Inc. as mortgage lienholder

NOTE: If you are interested in viewing these supporting documents, contact the Stated Clerk.

Community of Faith (Faith Formation)
Report to Providence Presbytery
May 18, 2025

Educator Gatherings

We have regular Educator Gatherings. If you'd like to learn more, please email Edye Bender at dcedye@aol.com.

We'll have an Educator Gathering at 10am on Monday, May 28th at Bethelwoods. Matt Wiggins, a current therapist and former youth director, will speak about how ministry can support the mental health of kids and teens. All are welcome! Please reach out to Kara Wheeler with any questions. kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org.

Triennium 2025

We have a delegation of three or four youth planning to attend this year's Triennium. We are working on a partnership with Foothills Presbytery for our youth and chaperones to attend with their delegation. Importantly, we are in need of a female chaperone. If you are interested, please reach out to Eric (eric@providencepres.org). If you have youth interested in attending, please reach out to Eric as well. The Presbytery is covering most of the cost of the trip.

Christian Educator Names and Emails

The Community of Faith would like to capture the names and emails of our Christian Educators in Providence Presbytery, both paid staff and lay leaders. We are working to create an email list to send out pertinent Christian Education information about workshops, get-togethers, and other opportunities. Would you take a couple of minutes to complete this form? <https://forms.gle/XZCPnQaQ58j4Jzwb8>

Leadership Development Scholarships

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

Do you have an educational resource to share?

Do you have something in your church or home library, or an online resource that you think others in the Presbytery would benefit from? Please share! Contact Eric (eric@providencepres.org)

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

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

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

Grace (Fort Mill): Sarah Childers

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

Unity (Fort Mill): Kathryn McGregor

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

Rock Hill-First: Kara Wheeler

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

Faith (Indian Land): Edye Bender

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

Oakland Avenue: Lisa Gallagher

- Various children's books

It's Time to Order Your 2025-2026 Presbyterian Planning Calendar

The 2025–2026 Presbyterian Planning Calendar is an invaluable resource for the whole church that includes photographs of Presbyterians living out their faith across the country and around the world. This 19-month calendar contains planning aids for pastors and other church leaders, including:

- Monthly calendar pages starting with September 2025 and ending with December 2026
- Lectionary for Sundays, special liturgical days, colors for liturgical seasons
- Resource information for PC(USA) programmatic emphases
- Updated synod, presbytery, and Presbyterian Mission Agency staff directories
- Color foldout synod/presbytery and world maps

Churches and individuals may order planning calendars, the Book of Confessions (2016), and the Book of Order (2025-2027) through the office of Providence Presbytery to take advantage of bulk pricing. **The Planning Calendars are \$11.25 and the Book of Orders and Book of Confessions are \$10.50 each, which includes shipping to the Presbytery office. You will be notified when your calendar/book order is available for pick-up in August.** Please note: If it is necessary to ship your order to you from the Presbytery office, you will be invoiced for the additional shipping charges.

Questions? Please call the Presbytery office at 803-328-6260

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

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

_____ 2025-2026 Presbyterian Planning Calendar(s) @ \$11.25 = \$ _____

_____ Book(s) of Confession (2016) @ \$10.50 = \$ _____

_____ Book(s) of Order (2025-2027) @ \$10.50 = \$ _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Church Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

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

Orders and payment must be received in the Presbytery office by July 22, 2025.

Minutes of the February 23, 2025 Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery

On February 23, 2025, Providence Presbytery convened in the hospitable comfort of First Presbyterian Church, York, SC for our first stated meeting of the year. At 2:30 pm, Moderator Marty Simmons called the body to order with prayer. She then placed into nomination the name of Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta to serve as Moderator of Providence Presbytery. She asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, she called for the question, and Derek was elected unanimously. She then led the service of installation of Derek as Presbytery Moderator. Derek expressed his gratitude for the honor and explained his mode of calling for votes.

Moderator Marotta then called upon host pastor Nick Setzer, who brought welcome from First Presbyterian Church, York, and informed the body of some of their rich history.

Moderator Marotta then called on Stated Clerk David Bender, who declared the presence of a quorum, which consists of 3 Teaching Elders and 3 Ruling Elders from different churches.

- The Stated Clerk then recognized and welcomed first time Ruling Elders.
- He recognized Regina Moore and Maake Masango as corresponding members.
- He received joys and concerns and offered prayers.
- He lifted up the Session Review report and a summary of the changes to the Book of Order on which the presbyteries are voting.
- He then made the following statement, as required by D-7.0501: "Pursuant to chapter D-7 of the Book of Order, an offense has been alleged against one of our pastor members. We, part of the Presbytery staff, followed the procedure found in our Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operation, Article 5, section C, number 4 to form an Investigative Committee to deal with the allegations. The Investigative Committee is formed, and they will begin their work. Again, according to the Book of Order, that is all to be said about this matter. If you have other questions, refer to page 127 of the Book of Order and read the rules of church discipline. This is not a matter for discussion. When there is more to report, I will report it."
- The Stated Clerk moved adoption of the docket. Without objection, the docket was approved.
- The Stated Clerk then reported three amendments to a portion of the Nominations and Representations report: Matt Rich serves on COM but not CPM; Clarke Moore is from Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church and not from Unity; and Ronnie Byrd is from Grace Presbyterian Church in Lancaster and not from Unity. With these amendments, a motion, which includes 11 items for information and 4 items for action, was made to approve. Moderator Marotta asked if any items needed to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Hearing none, the body passed the motion.

Moderator Marotta then called upon Rev. Hilary Shuford to introduce Regina Moore. After the introduction, Rev. Dr. Moore, the Executive Minister and CEO of the South Carolina Christian Action Council, addressed the body and informed it of the work of that council. She raised important societal issues, including the death penalty, economic injustice, inadequate healthcare and infant mortality rates.

The Moderator again called upon Hilary Shuford, who presented her Bridge Executive Presbyter's report. Following her report, David Bender asked for a moment of personal privilege and expressed the gratitude of the Presbytery for her good and faithful service for the past 8 months of ministry.

Moderator Marotta then paused the meeting for worship, which was led by Rob Jones, Paul Smith, and the moderator, with Maake Masango preaching.

At the end of worship, Stated Clerk David Bender presented the In Memoriam report of pastors and elders who passed away in 2024, and he offered a prayer.

Following worship, Moderator Marotta called upon John White, who introduced Maake Masango. Maake is an emeritus Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the University of Pretoria, South Africa. He is a retired Presbyterian pastor and was the moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Southern Africa. He studied under Desmond Tutu. He spoke for about 20 minutes and opened the floor for questions. Questions addressed the Belhar confession, healing and the role of kindness in healing, and the necessity of public apologies.

The body then took a refreshment break.

When we reconvened, Moderator Marotta called upon David Keely, who gave a report from the Community of Witness—Mission and Advocacy. David highlighted the launch of a new Mission Education newsletter, a reimagination of the Hunger Action team and the new Gun Violence Prevention neighborhood. David then called upon Hope Moore, who introduced Ralph Sweeney, the newly hired Executive Director of Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Ralph then brought greetings to the body.

Moderator Marotta then called upon Joanne Sizoo, Moderator of the Community of Love (Coordinating Team).

- Joanne Sizoo addressed the body, and she lifted up the final report from the Morningside Administrative Commission. A question was raised and addressed about pastoral care for the remaining members. A motion was made to accept the report and to close Morningside Presbyterian Church. The Moderator called for a vote, and the motion passed unanimously. David Bender offered a prayer for the closing of this faithful congregation.
- Joanne Sizoo then called attention to the Administrative Commission working with the Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Camden. She presented the Covenant

Agreement between the church and the presbytery, setting out the terms of dismissal of the church to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. The terms were approved by the Bethesda (Camden) congregation at a February 16 congregational meeting. Upon motion and call for the vote, the covenant agreement was unanimously approved by the body, along with the dismissal with thanks (upon completion of the terms of the covenant agreement) of the Administrative Commission: Hope Moore, Dannie Vaughn, Tim McCullough, Tom Robinson and John Nowaczewski.

Moderator Marotta then called upon Letarshia Robinson, chair of the Executive Presbyterian search team, who gave her report virtually. She informed the body that the team has received information from a number of potential candidates, that interviews have started, and that the team is progressing well.

Moderator Marotta then called on Eric Robinson, Moderator of the Community of Faith, who gave his report by Zoom. Among the items Eric lifted up were the Christian Education Symposium at Union Presbyterian Seminary in March, the upcoming presbytery educator gathering, the availability of leadership development scholarships and the organization of a group to attend Triennium.

Moderator Marotta then called on Paul Smith, Co-Moderator of the Community of Witness (COM) for a report. As a part of his report, Paul introduced the item of action to approve Letarshia Robinson's installation as Associate Pastor of Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, to approve the terms of call, and to approve her installation commission and date. Since Letarshia is already a member of Providence Presbytery and has had a prior examination on the floor of presbytery, a full examination was not necessary today. Paul called upon Letarshia to share her sense of call to this position, and she enthusiastically and eloquently expressed that call. Upon Paul's motion, and after opening the floor for questions or discussion, the body unanimously approved this motion in all its parts:

- Letarshia's terms of call are outlined in the Community of Witness report.
- The date of her installation is May 4, 2025 at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church.
- Her installation commission members are:

Shirnetha Belk, Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster
Brenda Nicholson, Ruling Elder, Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church
Tim Cureton, Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church
Eric Robinson, Mission Coordinator, Providence Presbytery
Rob Jones, Pastor, Douglas Presbyterian Church
Marty Simmons, Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Lancaster
Lee Zehmer, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill
Jonathan Davis, Pastor, Hermon Presbyterian Church

Paul Smith then brought the following items for approval, all of which were unanimously approved by the body:

- Approval of Danny Trapp, member of Charlotte Presbytery, to labor within the bounds of Providence Presbytery as transitional pastor of Allison Creek Presbyterian Church.
- Approval of the Temporary Pastoral Relationships report.
- Approval of the 2025 Salary Compensation and Benefit Packages for pastors of Providence Presbytery.

Moderator Marotta then called upon Hope Moore for a report from the Community of Hope. She highlighted portions of the financial support and informed the body that church pledges for 2025 are \$13,000 less than 2024. She also informed the body that presbytery's per capita giving is now used as follows: 33% for the presbytery, 33% for Bethelwoods and 34% for missions. She informed the body that the investment sub-committee was working to open an account with Fidelity Investments, and the proceeds from the sale of the building at 515 Oakland Avenue will be placed there.

Finally, Hope Moore introduced a motion to elect Clark Moore, Ruling Elder of Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church and a CPA, to serve a 3-year term from 2025 to 2027 as Treasurer of Providence Presbytery. Moderator Marotta opened the floor for other nominations. Receiving none, he called for the vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

Moderator Marotta then called on Stated Clerk David Bender for an attendance report. Those in attendance were:

Teaching Elders	30
Ruling Elders	35
Communities of Care/Neighborhoods	9
Church Educators	2
Institutional Representatives	2
Guests	<u>13</u>
Total	94

Upon motion and second, Moderator Marotta adjourned the meeting with prayer at 5:37 pm.