

HANDBOOK

PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY



Faith Presbyterian Church
7520 Charlotte Highway
Indian Land, SC
Sunday, February 15, 2026

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

[Click this link to Register
and Download the
Handbook For The Meeting](#)

or use the QR Code



Providence Presbytery
Winter Stated Meeting

February 15, 2026

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

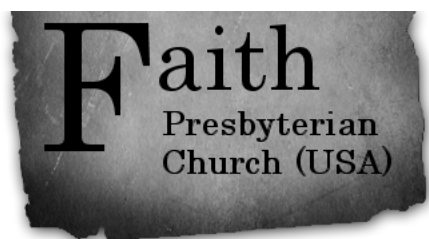
**Questions - Contact the
Providence Presbytery
Office at 803-328-6260**

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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 Faith Presbyterian Church
7520 Charlotte Highway
Indian Land, SC 29707
Phone: 803-548-8810

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



Our Vision

Faith Presbyterian Church is a growing church located in the Indian Land area of Lancaster County, SC. We are a Christian community founded on God's love as we encounter it in the person of Jesus. We are a part of a connectional church in that God connects us with all Christian churches in our trust in Jesus and, in particular, God connects us to all other Presbyterian Church (USA) churches by a shared theology, form of government, mission and commitment. We worship on Sunday mornings at our worship center at 7520 Charlotte Highway. We are located at the intersection of Charlotte Highway (US Highway 521) and Van Wyck Road on the site of the historic Six Mile Creek Presbyterian Church, which now houses our Church offices. We are literally minutes from Fort Mill, SC, Ballantyne (South Charlotte), NC and Waxhaw, NC.

Purpose Statement

Our purpose is to be a worshipping community who makes disciples by gathering in the name of God, gifting by the Holy Spirit, and going into the world to share the love of Jesus Christ.

In gathering, we encourage relational ministries by caring for and fellowshiping with one another. In gifting, we engage in educational and spiritual nurturing ministries. In going, we reach out in ministries of love, compassion and justice and invite others into relationship with Jesus. Through this vision and purpose, we affirm that "God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live in one community" (A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA). Therefore, we open our hearts, our arms, and our doors to people from all backgrounds, believing that we stand on common ground when we claim the indwelling presence of Jesus.

We open our arms and hearts and doors, we envision God blessing and growing this community in nurture, calling, ministry and membership as we anticipate growing a worshipping community with membership between 700 and 900 in the decades to come.

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

PROVIDENCE presbytery

Presbyterian Church (USA)

Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley

Executive Presbyter

steve@providencepres.org

Rev. Dr. David Bender

Stated Clerk

davidbender@providencepres.org

Ralph Sweeney

Executive Director

Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center

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Elston (EJ) Hart

Program Director

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Rose Lemmons-Berry

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Dr. Eric Robinson

Mission Consultant

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Katie Rutland

Technology/Communications Coordinator

katie@providencepres.org



P. O. Box 2601
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Phone: 803-328-6269

www.providencepres.org

Greetings friends of Providence Presbytery,

As I'm writing this letter, some ice is still on the ground from the ice storm at the end of January. We are still living in the frigid weather—well, frigid for this part of the country. During this time, as churches made decisions on how to both honor our practices of worship and to take the steps necessary for safety, I am grateful for the good and thoughtful witness of our congregations. I have been in prayer for emergency crews, powerline workers, road clearers, school decision makers and so many others whose lives are made much more challenging during these days. I have also been praying for folks who have no way to get out of the frigid weather. It appears that we have avoided the “worst,” and for that we are all grateful.

We look forward to welcoming you to our February 15, 2026 Presbytery meeting. We will gather at Faith Presbyterian Church in Indian Land, the newest congregation created and launched by Providence Presbytery.

At the meeting, we will have the opportunity to do many of the things that help our churches continue their faithful service. In our consent agenda, we will approve many covenants between congregations and pastors. We will commission Tim Cureton as our Presbytery moderator for 2026. Our worship experience will include receiving God's word through the preaching of CP Tim McCullough, and we will celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. We will have a second reading and a vote on final approval of our Church Separation Policy. We will hear hope-filled reports of many ways that God is allowing our congregations and ministry teams to share the love of Jesus.

You will find herein the agenda and packet. Pastors and/or Clerks of Session, please make sure that your elder commissioners receive this information.

We look forward to seeing you.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. David M. Bender, Stated Clerk

Installation Service For The Presbytery Moderator Elder Tim Cureton

Current Moderator: There are a variety of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them. There are different ways of serving God, but it is the same Lord who is served. God works through each person in a unique way, but it is God's purpose that is accomplished. To each is given a gift of the Spirit to be used for the common good. Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Ordination

We are all called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling, to be disciples of Jesus Christ and servants of our servant Lord. Within the community of the church, some are called to particular service as deacons, as ruling Elders, as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Tim Cureton, in baptism you were claimed by the love of God, clothed in the grace of Jesus Christ, and anointed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to share Christ's mission in the world. Now you are called by God through the voice of the church for new service in Jesus' name. You have been elected by this body to serve as the Moderator of Providence Presbytery. This service is for one year, unless called upon by the body to be moderator appointed if future moderators cannot serve. Today we gather to install you in this office.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), show your commitment to this calling by responding to these questions:

- a. Do you trust in the Lord 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.**
- b. 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.**
- c. 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.**
- d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our Confessions? **I will.**
- e. 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.**

- f. 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.**
- g. Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? **I do.**
- h. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? **I will.**
- i. Will you be a faithful Moderator, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture, and service, and will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? **I will.**

Question to the presbytery:

- a. Do we, the members of the church, accept Tim Cureton as the Moderator of Providence Presbytery, chosen by God through the voice of this presbytery to lead us in the way of Jesus Christ? **We do.**
- b. Do we agree to pray for him to encourage him, to respect his decisions, and to follow as he guides us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church? **We do.**

Let us pray:

Gracious and eternal God, with joy we give you thanks and praise. Throughout the ages and in every place, you have chosen servants from among your people to point the way to salvation by your grace. We are grateful for ancestors in the faith who followed without fear, placing their trust in you alone— for judges and monarchs who ruled in righteousness and peace; for prophets and apostles who spoke your bold words of mercy and of truth; for leaders and teachers in every age who have nurtured your people in faith and faithfulness. Above all, we praise you for Jesus Christ, who came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life to set others free. Anointed by your Holy Spirit, Christ proclaimed your reign on earth, revealing your saving love in all he said and did.

Gracious God, pour out your Spirit upon your servant, Tim, whom you called by baptism as your own. May he continue in the ministry to which you have called him. May he rely on the gifts of your Spirit, following Christ faithfully in this calling. Empower him to build up the church, to strengthen the common life of your people, and to lead with compassion and vision. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Welcome, Moderator Cureton. Be faithful and true to your ministry so that your whole life will bear witness to the crucified and risen Christ. Amen

Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery DOCKET

Sunday, February 15, 2026 at 2:30 p.m.

Faith Presbyterian Church
Indian Land, 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. Derek Marotta Bethesda (Y) Presbyterian
2:35 pm	<u>Installation of 2026 Presbytery Moderator: Elder Tim Cureton</u>	Moderator, Rev. Derek Marotta Pages A: 1 - 2
2:40 pm	<u>Welcome From Faith Presbyterian Church, Indian Land, SC</u>	Rev. Dr. David Bender Pastor Faith Presbyterian
2:45 pm	<u>Executive Presbyter Report</u>	Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley Executive Presbyter
2:55 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 B: 1 - 3
	F. Consent Agenda	Pages C: 1 - 3
3:05 pm	<u>Worship</u>	<u>The Worship Team</u> Rev. Rob Jones CP Tim McCullough Rev. Letarshia Robinson Rev. Paul Smith
	<u>In Memoriam Report</u>	Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Bender Page D: 1

Ministries of Communities of Care

- 3:35 pm A. Administration Committee**
- Ruling Elder Clarke Moore
Presbytery Treasurer
Oakland Avenue Presbyterian
Appendix 3: Pages 1 - 11
1. 2025 Mission Partnership Giving Y-T-D
Appendix 3: Pages 3 - 4
 2. Detailed Analysis of Revenue & Expenses 12/31/25
2025 Designated Account Balances – Operating Account
Appendix 3: Pages 5 - 6
 3. 2025 Designated Account Balances – Reserve Accounts
Appendix 3: Pages 7 - 8
 4. 2026 Mission Partnership Pledges
Appendix 3: Page 9
Appendix 3: Pages 10 - 11
- 3:40 pm B. Ministry Support Committee - COM**
- Rev. Paul Smith
Co-Moderator
Old Waxhaw & Wade Presbyterian
- Rev. Dr. Matt Rich
Co - Moderator
Unity Presbyterian
Pages E: 1 - 9
Pages E: 5 - 6
1. Examination of Rev. Elizabeth “Beth” Olker
As Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church,
Lancaster, SC
 2. Temporary Pastoral Relationships for 2026
Pages E: 7 - 8
 3. 2026 Salary Compensation and Benefits Packages
Page E: 9
- 3:50 pm C. Committee on Missions & Advocacy**
- Ruling Elder Dr. Dave Keely
Moderator
Rock Hill First Presbyterian
Appendix 4
1. Dimes For Hunger
Ruling Elder Dr. Eric Robinson
Mission Consultant
 2. New Vision Clinic in Honduras
Appendix 4: Pages 3 - 5
 3. Bethelwoods Update
Ralph Sweeney
Executive Director
Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center
Appendix 6
- 4:10 pm D. Coordinating Team**
- Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta
Pages F: 1 - 12
1. Motion to review the Congregation Separation
Policy and to approve as written. (Second Read)
Pages F: 2 - 12

- 2. Motion to dismiss the Administrative Commission who has been working with the Mount Tabor Church and previously with the Lockhart Church with thanks to their members: Rev. Christina Trimble, Rev. Paul Smith, Doug Macdonald, and Mike Conn.

4:25 pm	D. Faith Formation and Technology Committee	Ruling Elder Dr. Eric Robinson Moderator
		Rev. Kara Wheeler Rock Hill First Presbyterian Appendix 7
4:35 pm	Attendance Report	Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Bender
4:40 pm	Thanks to Host Church & Adjourn With Prayer	Moderator Tim Cureton

2026 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS:

Type of Meeting/Date	Time	Location
Stated: Sunday. February 15, 2026	2:30 pm	Faith Presbyterian Church (Indian Land)
Stated: Sunday, May 17, 2026	2:30 pm	Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church (Rock Hill)
Stated: Sunday, August 16, 2026	1:30 pm	Virtual
Stated: Sunday, November 8, 2026	2:30 pm	Riverview Presbyterian Church

CONSENT AGENDA (OMNIBUS MOTION)
Report to Providence Presbytery
February 15, 2026

For Information:

1. **Regarding balance of ministers and elder commissioners at presbytery meetings**

NOTE: The stated clerk is instructed by the *Book of Order*, G 3.0301 to report annually the balance of elder commissioners and ministers attending Presbytery meetings.

As of January 1, 2026, Providence Presbytery had 28 active ministers, plus 24 retired ministers for a total of 52. We have 62 elder commissioners eligible to vote at each meeting of the Presbytery. In 2025, we had the following representation at the four stated meetings.

<u>2025 Meetings:</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Elder Commissioners</u>	<u>Ministers</u>
Stated Winter: (In Person)	February 23	35	30
Stated Spring: (In Person)	May 18	35	28
Stated Summer: (Virtual)	August 24	31	27
Stated Fall: (In Person)	November 9	<u>27</u>	<u>19</u>
Total		128	104

2. That the Administration Committee Report from the Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team be received as information: **(See Appendix 3: Pages 1 - 11)**
- 2025 Mission Partnership Giving Y-T-D **(See Appendix 3: Pages 3 - 4)**
 - Detailed Analysis of Revenue & Expenses 12/31/25 **(See Appendix 3: Pages 5 - 6)**
 - 2025 Designated Account Balances - Operating Accounts **(See Appendix 3: Pages 7 - 8)**
 - 2025 Designated Account Balances – Reserve Accounts **(See Appendix 3: Page 9)**
 - 2026 Mission Partnership Pledges **(See Appendix 3: Pages 10 - 11)**
3. That the Committee on Mission & Advocacy Report be received as information, which includes: **(See Appendix 4: Pages 1 - 5)**
- New Vision Eye Clinic in Honduras: Serving at the Crossroads Report **(See Appendix 4: Pages 3 - 4)**
 - Story of Weldin Munguia, and a Triple Blessings Report by Tim & Gloria Wheeler **(See Appendix 4: Page 5)**
4. That the Presbyterian Women's report be received as information. **(See Appendix 5: Page 1)**
5. That the Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center Report, which includes the following flyers be received as information: **(See Appendix 6: Pages 1 - 4)**
- Bethelwoods & Bowties - May 2, 2026 Flyer **(See Appendix 6: Pages 2 - 3)**
 - Bethelwoods 2026 Camp Registration Flyer **(See Appendix 6: Page 4)**

6. That the Faith Formation and Technology Committee Report be received as information, which includes the Providence Presbytery Leaderfest Seminar March 28, 2026 Flyer be received as information **(See Appendix 7: Pages 1 - 5)**
7. That the SC5 School of Theology 2026 Spring Semester Flyer be received as information. **(See Appendix 8: Page 1)**
8. That Providence Presbytery churches gave \$1,950 for Theological Education in 2025. This is a \$400 decrease from 2024.

9. Save the Dates!

Spring 2026 Disaster Emotional & Spiritual Care Academy Announced



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is pleased to join a collaboration of other disaster, crisis, and preparedness organizations in offering the Spring 2026 **Disaster Emotional and Spiritual Care Academy**. Beginning March 23, 2026, six weeks of live webinars will offer pragmatic and informative sessions to help faith and community leaders address needs emerging from disasters and other crises. Webinars are offered at no cost to participants. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. Registration opens in late January!

For more information contact Kathy Riley, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Associate for Emotional and Spiritual Care at Kathryn.riley@pcusa.org

Six weeks of web-based trainings brought to you by collaborative organizations including:

Church World Service
Crisis Care Ministries
International Orthodox Christian Charities
Lutheran Disaster Response
Oklahoma Conference of the United Methodist Church
Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Prevention Division
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - PC(USA)
United Church of Christ
Week of Compassion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
With additional support from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy

10. That the Faith Presbyterian Church (USA) A History of Ministry Report be received as information. **(See Appendix 9: Page 1)**
11. That Providence Presbytery sponsored events in 2026 be authorized to celebrate the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper as needed.

For Action:

1. That excused absences for those requesting to be excused from this Presbytery meeting be granted.
2. That the Providence Presbytery Nominating and Representation Committee's nomination of John Nettles, ruling elder at Bethesda Presbyterian Church, York, SC for the class of 2026 for the Committee on Ministry Committee be approved.

3. That the minutes of the Administrative Commission elected to Install the Rev. Kara Wheeler as Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC on Sunday, January 11, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. held at First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC be approved as presented and the Administrative Commission be dismissed with thanks. **(See Appendix 10: Page 1)**
4. That the minutes of the Providence Presbytery Winter Stated Meeting at Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center, York, SC on November 9, 2025 be approved by the Presbytery. **(See Appendix 11: Pages 1 - 4)**

IN MEMORIAM REPORT
Elders of Churches in Providence Presbytery Who Died in 2025

Beth Shiloh

Nita McGill: March 4
Albert Dickson: August 18

Grace (Y)

Sue Gulasky: June 19
Fred Swiger: April 20

Bethesda (Y)

Gail Elizabeth Boyd: May 27

Oakland Avenue

Dr. Goody G. Thomas Jr.: June 15
James D. (Jimmy) Galloway Jr.: November 21

Bethune

Paul L. Huckabee: August 14

Pleasant Ridge

David Jenkins: March 25

Cornwell

John Ray Kimbrell Jr.: March 9

Unity

Robert "Bo" Palmer: May 8

Covenant

Eloise Rosemond: February 10
Doris Kaiber: October 14

Van Wyck

Shirley Cauthen.: January 15

Faith

Wallace (Wally) Drexler: March 9
Raymond (Ray) Weiss: December 6

York First

Dr. William G. "Bill" Sandifer: January 8
Harold D. Wilson: February 27
Clyde D. Smith: March 22

Ministers & Commissioned Ruling Elders
of Providence Presbytery Who Died in 2025

Rev. Winifred Rinehart: May 31
Rev. Dr. Daniel (Dan) Holoway Jr.: July 3

:

**Ministry Support Committee
(A Community of Witness)
Report to Providence Presbytery
February 15, 2026**

Committee on Ministry

Items For Information:

1. Committee on Ministry Leadership:

The Rev. Dr. Matt Rich was nominated and unanimously elected as Co-Chair/Clerk for 2026, serving alongside Rev. Paul Smith.

2. COM Liaisons to All Congregations:

COM adopted a new policy that every church within Providence Presbytery will be assigned a COM liaison. Previously, practice dictated that only churches in transition or those experiencing conflict were assigned liaisons. Under the new policy, liaisons will reach out to their assigned congregations to establish themselves as the primary point of contact should any issues arise. Additionally, liaisons will attempt to make at least one visit to a Session meeting or worship service per year. The Committee will begin selecting congregations for each member within the next month.

3. Approved the following covenants:

Covenant Approval between Rev. Dr. David E. Leininger and Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church

Approximately 20 hours/week

Salary: \$0 cash salary for the term of the covenant

Housing: \$40,219.44 annually (manse not provided)

Board of Pensions: not listed (housing-only compensation)

Continuing education: one week/six months

Vacation: one week/quarter

Travel reimbursed at IRS rate

Contract period: 03/01/2026–02/28/2029

Covenant Approval between Rev. Robert M. Jones and Liberty Hill Presbyterian Church

Approximately 40 hours/week

Salary: \$35,838 for the term of the covenant

Housing: \$12,000

Board of Pensions: full pension and insurance (family medical, dental, and vision)

Continuing education: one week/six months

Vacation: one week/quarter

Travel reimbursed at IRS rate

Contract period: 01/01/2026–12/31/2028

Covenant Approval between Rev. Paul E. Smith, Jr. and Wade Memorial Presbyterian Church

Approximately 10 hours/week
Salary: \$4,054 for the term of the covenant
Housing: \$4,054 (no manse provided)
Board of Pensions: Covenant Plan at 10% of salary (\$810.80)
Continuing education: one week/six months
Vacation: one week/quarter
Travel reimbursed at IRS rate
Contract period: 01/01/2026–12/31/2028

Covenant Approval between Rev. Jason Myers and Clover Presbyterian Church

Approximately 20 hours/week
Salary: \$32,000 annualized for the term of the covenant
Housing: A portion of salary may be applied to housing, not to exceed \$32,000
Board of Pensions: Covenant Plan at 10% of salary (\$3,200)
Continuing Education: One week per every six months
Vacation: One week per quarter
Travel: Reimbursed at IRS rate
Contract Period: 01/01/2026 – 03/31/2026

Covenant Approval between Rev. Remi Flaherty and Purity Presbyterian Church

Approximately 20 hours/week
Salary: \$1,800 per month for the term of the covenant
Housing: \$1,620 per month (housing allowance)
Board of Pensions: \$180 per month (Covenant Plan at 10% of salary)
Continuing Education: One week per every six months
Vacation: Two weeks per six months
Travel: Reimbursed at IRS rate
Contract Period: 02/09/2026 – 02/09/2027

Covenant Approval between CP Carrie Blanchard and Tirzah (Y) Presbyterian Church

Approximately 19 hours/week (including Sunday services)
Salary: \$40,040 per year
Professional Development: Up to \$1,500 per year (mileage reimbursed at IRS rate, books, office supplies, etc.)
Housing: Not provided
Board of Pensions: Not listed
Vacation: Three weeks annually
Continuing education: Additional time may be requested with Session approval
Travel reimbursed at IRS rate
Contract period: 01/01/2026–12/31/2026 (annual review beginning Nov. 2026)

Covenant Approval between Rev. Remi Flaherty and Carmel Presbyterian Church

Approximately 20 hours/month (2nd and 4th Sundays)
Compensation: \$200 per 2nd and 4th Sunday, categorized as housing allowance
Housing: Housing allowance only
Board of Pensions: Not listed
Continuing education: One week every six months (if falling on 2nd or 4th Sunday)
Vacation: Two weeks every six months (if falling on 2nd or 4th Sunday)
Travel reimbursed at IRS approved rate
Contract period: 03/09/2026–03/09/2027

Covenant Approval between CP Timothy McCullough and Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church

Approximately 20 hours/week

Salary: \$23,220 per year

Housing: Not provided

FICA allowance: \$1,776

Board of Pensions: Not listed

Continuing education assistance: \$1,000

Vacation: One week per quarter

Continuing education: One week every six months

Travel reimbursed at IRS-approved rate (excluding travel from pastor's home)

Contract period: 01/01/2026–12/31/2026

Covenant Approval between CP Max Russell and Woodlawn Presbyterian Church

Approximately 25–30 hours/week

Salary: \$48,000 for the term of the covenant

Housing: \$12,000 (manse not provided)

Board of Pensions: Not listed

Continuing education: One week every six months

Vacation: One week per quarter plus three Sundays

Travel reimbursed at IRS-approved rate (up to \$3,500)

Contract period: 10/01/2025–10/01/2026

Covenant Approval between CP Philip Wright and Beersheba Presbyterian Church

Approximately 15 hours/week (part-time)

Salary: \$8,400 per year

Housing: Not provided

Board of Pensions: Not listed

Continuing education: One week every six months

Vacation: One week per quarter

Travel reimbursed at IRS-approved rate

Contract period: 01/18/2026–01/18/2029

Covenant Approval between Rev. Elizabeth Olker and First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster, SC

Approximately 30 hours/week (three-quarter time)

Compensation: \$22,500 total cash compensation (Salary \$12,500; Housing \$10,000), payable biweekly.

SECA: \$1,721.25

Board of Pensions: \$6,187.50 (Health Care - pastor only)

Total compensation: \$30,408.75

Ministry expenses: \$750 total (including mileage reimbursed at IRS rate)

Vacation: Two weeks

Continuing education: One prescheduled day

Travel reimbursed at IRS rate

Contract period: 02/01/2026–07/31/2026 (six-month interim, renewable with approval)

Termination: 30 days' written notice by either party

4. **Approved the following:**

A. New COM Liaisons for 2026

Allison Creek – Rev. Carson Montgomery (replacing Keith McGuire)
Beth Shiloh – Rev. Dr. Jeff Bryan
Community – Rev. James Platt and Keith McGuire (co-liaisons)
Douglas – Rev. Steve Simon and Rev. Carson Montgomery (co-liaisons)
Fishing Creek – Rev. James Platt (replacing Rev. Christina Trimble)
Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church – Doug Macdonald
Ramah Presbyterian Church – Rev. Dr. Derek Marotta (replacing Rev. Nick Setzer)

B. Rev. Dr. Derek Marota to serve as COM's Interview Coordinator.

Items For Action:

1. Motion that Rev. Elizabeth "Beth" Olker (member of the Presbytery of Charlotte) to labor within the bounds of Providence Presbytery as Transitional Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Lancaster be approved. **(See Pages E: 5 - 6)**
2. Motion that the Temporary Pastoral Relationships for 2026 for Providence Presbytery be approved. **(See Pages E: 7 - 8)**
3. Motion that the 2026 Salary Compensation and Benefits Packages be approved. **(See Page E: 9). For online privacy purposes, this report will be given out at the Presbytery meeting.**

Committee On Preparation For Ministry

No Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Matt Rich, COM Co-Chair
Rev. Paul Smith, COM Co-Chair

Statement of Faith

Rev Elizabeth “Beth” Olker

I believe in God. I believe that before the first moments of creation, God was forming in connection, with connection, and through connection. That connection is visible in the movements of the ecosystems, the changing of the seasons, the evolution of change and growth seen around the universe. I believe that God created people to be one inclusive, expansive family. As with any family, throughout the history of our stories, we have gone through the full breadth and depth of the human life and experience. We have known, and will always know joy and grief, wisdom and uncertainty, hope and fear; none of these opposite, but as a range of existence. Throughout it all has been and will continue to be God, the root from which we have our past, our present, and our future.

I believe in Jesus Christ, fully God and yet fully human. I believe that in the incarnation of the divine into the person of Jesus Christ, we have been given the blessed assurance of God's eternal connection, commitment to reconciliation, and loving choice to gather us all home when our paths lead us astray. I believe that in his life and ministry, Jesus taught us how to dwell with each other. He taught us how to accept and extend hospitality, healing, hope and wisdom. Through the good news of the resurrection, God's victory over death, we are given the gift of assurance and accessibility to homecoming.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy breath that flowed over the first moments of creation, the winds that gave life as chaos formed into vitality. The holy breath that continues to sweep over our world today. I believe that the Holy Spirit, who has loved and led the church in every generation, continues to lead, teach, create, and inspire in new ways. This work is intentional and stirs life and growth up like the breeze carrying the leaves from their first home in the trees to their home on the ground as their life forms the soil and nutrients for the next generation of the forest.

I believe that as through the Trinity-Creator, Incarnate Redeemer, and Spirit of Reconciliation and Revelation-we are offered a divine model of the community to which we are called. We are called to live as an inclusive, expansive family, connecting and welcoming, growing and learning. I believe that two of the ways we live out that calling is through the shared moments of sacramental ministry, sacred and shared moments of Baptism and Eucharist. When we gather at the font or around the table, we are provided tangible signs of the incomprehensible love, wisdom, and life that God has placed, does place, and will place in this world until, on God's time alone, we are prepared for what is to be.

Bio for
Rev. Elizabeth “Beth” Olker

Rev. Elizabeth “Beth” Olker is originally from Clemson, South Carolina, and currently lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her 10-year-old son. She earned a BS in Early Childhood Education and a BA in Christian Education from Presbyterian College, an MDiv from Union Presbyterian Seminary, and a Master of Marriage and Family Therapy from Louisville Presbyterian Seminary.

Since ordination, Beth has served as pastor of Macedonia Presbyterian Church in Biscoe, North Carolina, and as Director of Christian Education at Matthews Presbyterian Church. She has also worked as a staff member with the Presbyterian Mission Agency and as a Christian Educator. Most recently, she has been serving as pulpit supply across the Presbytery of Charlotte while also working as a substitute teacher in Mecklenburg County Schools.

Outside of her ministry and professional work, Beth enjoys reading, traveling, building Legos with her son, and cheering on Clemson football.

**Temporary Pastoral Relationships Report
To Providence Presbytery
February 15, 2026**

Church	Supply	Kind	Moderator of Session
Allison Creek	Danny Trapp	Transitional Pastor	Danny Trapp
Beaver Creek	Rodney A Foster	Temporary Supply	Rodney A Foster
Beersheba	Phillip Wright	Temporary Supply (CP)	Phillip Wright
Bethlehem First	Edward Brown	Temporary Supply	Derek Marotta
Bethune	Rodney A. Foster	Temporary Supply	Rodney A. Foster
Bowling Green	Lisa Johnson	Temporary Supply (CP)	Lisa Johnson
Camden 2 nd	Vacant		Timothy McCullough
Carmel	Remi Flaherty	Temporary Supply	Remi Flaherty
Catholic	Wayne Pruitt	Temporary Supply (CP)	Wayne Pruitt
Clover	Jason Myers	Transitional Pastor	Jason Myers
Community	Vacant		James Platt
Cornwell	Tim Foster	Temporary Supply (CP)	Tim Foster
Doby's Bridge	Dan Cockerill	Temporary Supply (CP)	Dan Cockerill
Fishing Creek	Vacant		James Platt
Grace (L)	Marty Simmons	Temporary Supply	Marty Simmons
Great Falls	James M. Williams	Temporary Supply	James M. Williams
Hebron	James M. Williams	Temporary Supply	James M. Williams
Hermon	Jonathan Davis	Temporary Supply	Jonathan Davis
Hopewell	Donnell White	Temporary Supply	Donnell White
Lancaster, First	Beth Olker	Transitional Pastor	Beth Olker
Liberty Hill	David Leininger & Rob Jones	Temporary Supply	David Leininger & Rob Jones
Lockhart	Vacant		Jonathan Cantrell
Messiah	Vacant		
Mt. Pleasant	Vacant		To be assigned
Mt. Tabor	Jonathan Cantrell	Temporary Supply	Jonathan Cantrell
Old Waxhaw	Paul E. Smith	Temporary Supply	Paul E. Smith Jr.
Pleasant Grove (C)	Buzzy Elder	Temporary Supply	Buzzy Elder
Pleasant Grove (Y)	Vacant		Timothy McCullough
Pleasant Ridge	Timothy McCullough	Temporary Supply (CP)	Timothy McCullough
Purity	Remi Flaherty	Temporary Supply	Remi Flaherty
Ramah	Philip Wright	Temporary Supply (CP)	Philip Wright
Riverview	Tom Sherer	Temporary Supply	Tom Sherer

Church	Supply	Kind	Moderator of Session
St. Paul's	Greg McDowell	Temporary Supply (CP)	Christina Trimble
Tirzah (L)	Vacant	Temporary Supply	Edgar McCall
Tirzah (Y)	Carrie Blanchard	Temporary Supply (CP)	Carrie Blanchard
Uriel	Mike Shaffer	Temporary Supply	James Platt
Wade	Paul E. Smith, Jr.	Temporary Supply	Paul E. Smith, Jr.
Woodlawn	Steven "Max" Russell	Temporary Supply (CP)	Steven "Max" Russell

Laboring Outside the Bounds Of Providence Presbytery

Church	Minster
Beth Hutton-Muse	Ruby Presbyterian Church - Ruby, SC

L:Presbytery Meetings/Handbooks/2025 Handbooks/February 23,2025/Vacant Church Relationships Report

2026 Salary Compensation and Benefits Packages
To Be Handed Out at Presbytery Meeting

**Coordinating Team
(A Community of Love)
Report to Providence Presbytery
February 15, 2026**

Items for Information:

1. Administrative Commissions:
 - Mt. Tabor—The session has had no further contact with the Administrative Commission. The team is making efforts to reestablish communication.
 - Fort Lawn—This church has been closed, and the commission has been dismissed, though the Fort Lawn Community Center, Inc. is making payments to purchase the property. The presbytery has received a \$15,000 payment – balanced owed \$27,500.
 - Blackstock—The Commission is actively working with the remaining members to resolve cemetery and property management issues.
2. The Executive Presbytery reports that a new monthly webinar series will launch in February 2026 to provide resources for leaders. February's topic is: **Shared Ministry with Jerry Cannon.**



Our spiritual gifts mean we naturally have many different tools at our disposal in our toolbox, but sometimes those tools may need a little sharpening. Enter: **The Ministry Toolbox of Providence Presbytery.**

We've invited experts in various areas to join us in a monthly live webinar where they will present information on their area of ministry expertise, then we will have a Q&A session. We hope you can join us!

The conversation will take place February 19 from 7:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.

[Please click here for more information and to register and get the zoom link.](#)

Items for Action:

1. Motion to disband the Administrative Commission for Mt. Tabor.
 - a. It was reported that communications have reached a stalemate as the congregation has not found another Reformed body to join. Mt. Tabor will remain in the denomination for now, and the Stated Clerk will officially inform the congregation of the dissolution of the Administrative Commission.
2. Motion to receive the Providence Presbytery Church Separation Policy for second and final read. **(See Page: F: 2 - 12)**
 - a. There has been a change to this document. The final document includes the addition of language requiring an appraisal of the monetary value of church property by a licensed, independent appraiser. **Additional text listed in red on Page F:5 item O.**

Providence Presbytery Congregation Dismissal Policy

I. Introduction

Providence Presbytery's mission statement proclaims that, "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." With the congregations within the bounds of our Presbytery, we live out the connectionalism of the PC(USA) by offering mutual support, care, friendship and ministry with one another while also serving God through our individual congregations. Our congregations are many, while our Church is one. In all these relationships, Providence Presbytery strives to be a servant to the congregations God has entrusted to us, encouraging and supporting them toward becoming healthy, growing, missional congregations.

Like in all areas of our culture, sometimes relationships become strained and breaches begin to form. Regrettably, at times the bonds of unity are stretched, and ecclesiastical connections frayed. When a congregation/ Presbytery relationship becomes strained, the Presbytery prayerfully seeks to work with the congregation to repair that relationship—to find a faithful and positive way forward to the end that both the Presbytery and the church continue to support one another to better live into our common calling to proclaim and to share the love of the God we know through Jesus the Messiah and the Holy Spirit.

At times, despite prayer and effort on both sides, that way forward cannot be found, and a congregation comes to believe that they can best serve God through their ministry by disaffiliating with the PC(USA) and Providence Presbytery and transferring to another denomination. While such a break-up is difficult, Presbytery has demonstrated a faithful willingness to walk with congregations toward that goal.

When we walk together towards that goal of disaffiliation, we also work towards our goal that the Presbytery and the congregation agree to mutually support the future ministry of the other. A part of that mutual support includes consideration of the Church property and buildings. According to the "trust clause" in our Book of Order (G-3.0101), while the local congregations maintain and manage the Church property for its ministry, that property is "held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church." A similar trust clause was held valid and enforceable by the South Carolina Supreme Court in the 2022 decision in *The Protestant Episcopal Church v. The Episcopal Church*. Providence Presbytery will not initiate a civil action based on the trust clause, though it will defend any action brought against the Presbytery.

While the trust clause will not be used as a weapon against the congregation, it is the responsibility of the Presbytery to fulfill its fiduciary duty under the trust

clause. This fiduciary duty requires that the Presbytery exercise due diligence regarding the value of the property of the congregation seeking dismissal. Due diligence, of necessity, includes not only an evaluation of the spiritual needs of the congregation and its circumstances but also financial analysis of the value of the property at stake.

II. Processes for Resolution

In the Presbyterian tradition, an inner-connected relationship is assumed between the Presbytery and its congregations. Therefore, the Presbytery/Administrative Commission and the congregation seeking disaffiliation will follow this process to lead to a final resolution.

A. Preparation Stage

1. NOTICE--The Session and its pastor/moderator, after consideration, prayer and a majority vote will inform the congregation of this vote, and thereafter they will inform Presbytery (through either the Stated Clerk, General Presbyter or chair of the Community of Love) of their desire to transfer to another Reformed denomination by written and/or digital correspondence detailing the reasons for their desire to disaffiliate.
2. ACKNOWLEDGMENT—The Presbytery will acknowledge receipt of that correspondence and send to the session this Congregation Dismissal Policy. Presbytery will report receipt of this correspondence to the Community of Love (formerly Coordinating Team) which will begin discussions within the team about potential members for an Administrative Commission to work with this congregation.
3. LISTENING—If this conversation has not already been accomplished by Presbytery representatives, within a reasonable time after receiving notice from the session, the Presbytery, through the Community of Love (formerly Coordinating Team), shall appoint at least two representatives of Presbytery to visit the session, to listen to and enter dialog regarding the reasons the session seeks dismissal and to review this congregation dismissal process. If the Session remains convinced that God's will for the congregation is to seek dismissal, then it shall proceed to step four below
4. OTHER DENOMINATION—The Session and its pastor/moderator will engage conversations with another Reformed denomination and work with that denomination towards the end that said denomination acknowledges its willingness to accept the congregation into membership when the way be clear. Upon request, Presbytery will provide information and be of assistance during this process. Once the process reaches a conclusion, the congregation will work with the other Reformed denomination to inform the Presbytery of that decision.

- a. Dismissal will only be made to another Reformed body that recognizes that only the Presbytery can authorize dismissal of a congregation from the Presbyterian Church (USA). Past actions by a Reformed body in receiving a congregation not properly dismissed by the Presbytery will preclude dismissal to that body absent acts of repentance by such a Reformed body.
5. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION—The Presbytery working through the Community of Love (formerly Coordinating Team) will appoint an Administrative Commission moderator and, working with the moderator, form an Administrative Commission (AC) of between 3 and 7 people to engage the session and congregation in conversation towards a conclusion of the matter. The AC members will reflect the rich diversity of the Presbytery. Members of the AC will be Minister of the Word and Sacrament members of the Presbytery and active participating ruling elder members of congregations of Providence Presbytery. The teaching elder(s) and ruling elders of the church seeking disaffiliation are not eligible to serve on this AC. The AC will be approved by Presbytery, receive training for this task and will soon thereafter begin meeting as a team.
6. DOCUMENTS—The congregation's session will provide to the AC the following documents:
 - a. A report highlighting their missions and ministries
 - b. A report detailing the reasons for seeking disaffiliation.
 - c. A current list of the names and email addresses of active church members.
 - d. A report answering these questions and providing this information:
 - i. Assets – What does the church own (buildings, cemeteries, other real or personal property)?
 - ii. Restricted Accounts-- What are their specific purposes and how often are they used? What use is made on the interest generated by these accounts?
 - iii. Liabilities – What amount, and to whom, does the church owe money? Are there any outstanding loans (please provide copy of latest statement)?
 - iv. Revenue – Please list all the funding your church brings in through its various income streams which may include annual

pledge amount, pre-school revenue, memorial garden revenue, facility rental revenue, grants, non-cash contributions, building fund, memorials etc.

- v. Expense – Please list the congregation’s actual expenses for (1) church ministries and programming (2) facility upkeep (3) Staff compensation (4) Revenue-generating initiatives like pre-schools (5) Administrative needs and all other expenses.
- e. Annual Budget including operating expense, staff salaries and anticipated income for the last 3 years
- f. Statements of all Restricted Accounts with their activity for the past 3 years
- g. Current Month Bank Statement for all accounts
- h. Current copy of Insurance Policy or policies, including declaration pages
- i. List of any liabilities include latest statement of any loans
- j. Operating Statement – one year broken down by month
- k. Year-End financial statement for the past 3 years – expense and revenue
- l. Pre-School financial statement for the past 3 years – expense and revenue
- m. Memorial Gardens financial statement for the past 3 years – expense and revenue
- n. Year-End Statistical reports for the last 3 years
- o. An appraisal **of the monetary value of** all the church property, including land and buildings and contents, including church property titled and not titled in the name of the congregation. Said appraisal will be performed by a reputable, licensed appraiser who is unaffiliated with the congregation and staff. The cost of this appraisal will be the responsibility of and paid for by the congregation.

B. Conversation Stage

1. MEETING—The AC will meet with the session and pastor/moderator of the congregation. If the moderator does not desire to be a part of that conversation, the moderator will appoint the chairperson of the Administrative Commission to moderate that meeting. At that meeting, AC will review this Congregation

Dismissal Policy and the process for dismissal and will answer any questions

about this process or policy. The session will verbalize in more detail their reasons for the congregation's desire to disaffiliate and clarify its understanding. The group will discuss and agree upon next steps, using this policy as a guide. Following this meeting, the AC will report to Presbytery's Community of Love (formerly Coordinating Team).

2. **ISSUES**—The AC will not determine the merits of the concerns raised by the Session, but it will work to assure that before the issues are brought before the congregation, they have been addressed fairly and accurately.
3. **CONGREGATION CONTACT**—The Administrative Commission may, if it deems wise and potentially fruitful:
 - a. Work with the session to arrange an informal “town hall” meeting for the purpose of formally receiving comments from congregation members regarding the issues the session has identified, answering questions from the congregation and reviewing this dismissal policy. The chairperson of the Administrative Commission shall moderate this meeting.
 - b. Arrange one or a series of informal congregational (or smaller group) gatherings to inform the congregation of the issues to be considered, present background information about them, and listen to the responses of congregation members. These informal congregational gatherings shall be moderated by the moderator of the AC or, if meetings are held with different groups or families simultaneously, by members of the AC. The church session will cooperate in arranging these events, if requested, and it will encourage participation from the congregation.
 - c. Email a message/letter, the wording of which will be negotiated between the church session and the Administration, to each active member of the church informing them of the session's move towards disaffiliation and asking any who desire to remain affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) to contact the Administrative Commission.
4. **NON-BINDING VOTE**—The AC will work with the session to call a congregational meeting to hear from the members (if they have not yet had the opportunity to be heard) and to discern by a non-binding written “straw ballot” vote how many members desire that, should the way be clear, the congregation be dismissed to another Reformed body. The congregation will have at least three (3) weeks' notice of this meeting. While the quorum for congregational meetings is set by the Book of Order and by the bylaws of particular congregations, the AC requires that at least fifty percent of the active membership participate in the meeting and the vote.

5. **PERCENTAGE**—If the AC believes that a significant proportion of the congregation wishes to be dismissed (estimated at more than 75% of those present and voting, with that number being greater than a majority of the total active membership), it will begin to negotiate terms of dismissal that will allow the Presbytery and the congregation to continue to support the ministries of each other.
6. **“NO” VOTE**—If the congregation is unable obtain the voting numbers necessary to move forward, this process of disaffiliation ends, and the congregation will not take actions to utilize this dismissal policy or to pursue membership in another denomination for a five-year period. Presbytery will continue to work with the congregation to reduce their dissatisfaction and reestablish relationship. In that case, this AC will present a final report to the Community of Love and to Presbytery, after which the work of the AC will be completed, and they will be dismissed with thanks.

C. Negotiation Stage

1. **REVIEW**—If the congregation moves toward disaffiliation, the AC, having reviewed all the documents provided pursuant to paragraph 6 in the Preparation Stage above, will come to a better understanding of the ministry, goals, finances and assets of the congregation and of the Church property. If the documents are incomplete or more information is needed, the AC will make a request and the congregation will provide these to the best of their ability.
2. **REMNANT**—The AC will contact members of the congregation who wish to remain affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) to best strategize how to continue an existing mission presence by maintaining the existing congregation, incorporating members into nearby Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations, or creating a new entity.
3. **SCHISM**—If these conversations and activities demonstrate that a true schism exists between members who wish to disaffiliate and those who do not “and the Presbytery is unable to effect a reconciliation or a division into separate congregations within the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbytery shall determine if one of the factions is entitled to the property because it is identified by the Presbytery as the true church within the Presbyterian Church (USA). This determination does not depend upon which faction received the majority vote within the congregation at the time of the schism.” *G-4.0207, Book of Order*.
 - a. In the event of a schism, the AC will review all the facts, and it will make a recommendation to the Community of Love (formerly Coordinating Team) as to which faction should be identified as the true church. The Community of Love will review the facts and the recommendation and make any necessary inquiry, and it will then bring a formal recommendation to the floor of Presbytery identifying which faction is the

true church, and the Presbytery will vote.

- b. Once Presbytery identifies and proclaims which faction is the true church and therefore entitled to the property, the AC will work with this group to ensure and/or take action to the end that a session is duly elected, trained and installed, along with a clerk of session and a church treasurer. If necessary, Presbytery's Community of Witness (formally Committee on Ministry) will work with the session to secure a session moderator and pastoral support and will remain in supporting relationship and partnership with the congregation.
 - c. The AC will work with the session in communicating with the other faction and assisting the parties in resolving any points of contention related to the separation.
 - d. If members of the faction not identified as the true church desire to transfer their membership to another Christian church or to have their names removed from the church membership rolls, the AC will work with session to do so.
 - e. Once these tasks have been accomplished, the Administrative Commission will present a report to Presbytery, at which time, assuming all the necessary work is accomplished, the commission will be dissolved and dismissed with thanks.
4. TERMS—In negotiating the terms of dismissal, the AC and the church session will enter conversation of “mutual dialogue and particular discernment” as suggested by the GA PJC in *Presbytery of NY v. McGee, et al, Remedial Case 221—08, 2014*. The AC and session will not utilize a “predetermined, formulaic mechanism” to determine the terms of dismissal. Rather, parties will consider the totality of the situation and determine how the congregation and the Presbytery will continue to support the past, present and future ministries of one another.

WITH PROPERTY—If the church congregation desires the Presbytery, in support of the past, present and future ministry of the congregation, to transfer Presbytery's ownership and trust interests in the Church property by executing a quit claim deed of Presbytery's interest in said property to the congregation, we offer these guidelines as a place to begin the conversations:

- a. PAST—If any of the congregation's “fair share asking” offerings and/or “per capita” offerings are in arrears, the congregation supports Presbytery's ministries by bringing those payments up to date.
- b. PRESENT—The congregation contributes some number of years (like 3 to 5) worth the congregation's “fair share asking” giving calculated by using the amount contributed the last year the congregation was fully participating financially in the Presbytery

- c. **FUTURE**—The congregation will generally contribute between 25 and 35% of total assets (cash, investments, real and personal property, equipment and others) to support Presbytery’s future ministries.
 - i. Reasonable terms of payment might be negotiated if needed (such as being paid over three years with a five-year maximum). Those terms must ensure that the departing congregation’s payment is properly secured prior to its execution of a deed and departure of the congregation.
 - ii. The consideration of these terms shall in no way bind the Presbytery or attempt to supersede its constitutional obligation to assess the full value of the assets, real and personal, held by the congregation in trust for the Presbyterian Church (USA) and to consider the totality of the strength, vitality and ministry needs of the congregation. The parties will engage in mutual dialogue and consider the particular situation of the congregation.
 - iii. As terms are being negotiated, the congregation may, if so desired, designate up to 15% of its monetary payments towards a particular Presbytery ministry or a ministry that the Presbytery supports.
- 5. **WITHOUT PROPERTY**—If the congregation seeks to disaffiliate without acquiring ownership rights of the Church property but, rather, with the relinquishment of all interest and ownership, including land and buildings, to the Presbytery, then the conversation begins with the congregation paying any “per capita” and/or “fair share” offerings in arrears in addition to the actions called for in section D of this document, the Decision Stage. After the congregation’s execution of a deed to the property, the congregation would then have reasonable time to vacate said premises.

D. Decision Stage

- 1. **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**—When a written covenant of dismissal is agreed upon by the AC and church session, the congregation will hold a congregational meeting to vote on dismissal to a specific Reformed body according to the dismissal terms negotiated. At least fifty percent of the current active membership will attend the meeting.
- 2. **NOTICE**—Advance notice for this meeting shall be established by session writing and mailing a letter to each member on the active roll of the congregation, as well as through Sunday worship announcements. The letter shall be mailed at least 30 days in advance of the meeting date, and public announcements of the meeting shall be made at all worship services during that 30-day period. The congregation will bear the expense of that mailing.

3. **PROVISIONAL**—If someone claims active membership in the church but their name is not on the roll, they shall be allowed to attend the congregational meeting without voice and may cast a provisional ballot. Final determination as to the validity of any provisional ballot will be decided by the General Presbyter after hearing from the individual and the session.
4. **REPRESENTATION**—The congregational meeting to consider dismissal will be moderated by a member of Presbytery (other than the congregation's installed/temporary pastor). At least two representatives from the Administrative Commission (or members of Presbytery's Community of Love, if the need arises) shall attend the meeting.
5. **PERCENTAGE**—An affirmative vote that meets the following requirements is necessary in order to continue the dismissal process: at least seventy-five percent (75%) of those present and voting, with that number being greater than one-half of the total active membership, must vote to affirm the covenant of dismissal and to transfer to the other denomination. This vote shall be taken by secret ballot, said ballots to be counted by a team consisting of two members of the session and two members of the AC or other Presbytery representatives in attendance.
6. **"NO" VOTE**— In the event that the vote for the terms of dismissal, as agreed upon by the session and AC, does not attain the required percentage of affirmative votes, the time for concluding this process shall be extended as appropriate and the congregation has two choices:
 - a. It may, through the session, continue to negotiate with the AC to seek modified terms of dismissal and then offer these to the congregation for another vote (under the same rules as the previous meeting and voting requirements); or
 - b. It may choose to rescind its request for disaffiliation and end this process. Said choice must come by vote of session in a stated or called meeting, and this decision will be forwarded to the AC, and the congregation will not take actions to utilize this dismissal policy or to pursue membership in another denomination for a five-year period. The AC will report these developments to the Community of Love and then to the Presbytery, after which the work of the AC will be complete, and they will be dismissed with thanks. The Presbytery shall continue to work with the congregation with the goal of reducing dissatisfaction and reestablishing a relationship.
7. **TASKS**—The session of a congregation voting in favor of requesting dismissal shall work with AC to address the following:
 - a. **Church's name:** A congregation shall take appropriate action to remove any reference to the Presbyterian Church (USA) from its formal legal name. Further, the congregation shall not use or display the logo/seal of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

- b. Prior to the final vote of Presbytery for dismissal, the presbytery and the congregation shall take all steps possible to accomplish all the following tasks:
 - i. Care: The congregation will provide for the pastoral care and congregational life for those members who do not wish to depart the Presbyterian Church (USA). Their protection and nurture shall be a matter of paramount concern to both the departing congregation and to the Presbytery.
 - ii. Worship: The congregation and/or Presbytery will hold a worship service to pray for the effectiveness and well-being of both the congregation and the Presbytery.
 - iii. Loans: The congregation will pay off any loans outstanding to any entity of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Matters of loans of the congregation held by non-Presbyterian entities are the responsibility of the congregation, and the congregation will take all steps necessary to relieve the Presbytery of any responsibility or liability related to such loans.
 - iv. Reports: The congregation will close out its financial and membership books as of the official date of dismissal and file all reports required by the Presbytery for statistical record-keeping.
 - v. Records: The congregation will deliver to the Presbytery all session minutes and other official records of the congregation as required by G-3.0107, Book of Order (*Presbytery of NY vs. McGee*). The congregation may maintain copies of these records.
 - vi. BOP: the congregation will work with the Presbyterian Board of Pensions to affect a clean break as of the time of dismissal.
 - vii. Transfer: The congregation will work closely and diligently with the AC to assist in the transfer of membership of members who do not desire to remain with the disaffiliating congregation.

8. CONSIDERATIONS—There are some practical considerations to be addressed, should a congregation request dismissal. These are listed for information but are not binding for the purposes of this policy.

- a. The status of the minister(s) currently called by the congregation: whether they shall remain with the congregation and transfer their ministerial status to the new denomination, or whether they choose to remain within the Presbyterian Church (USA) and thus need to look forward to seeking a new call.

- b. The status of any insurance policies held by the congregation with instrumentalities of the Presbyterian Church (USA) may need to be changed.
- c. The tax status of a congregation as a non-profit tax-exempt organization may need to be re-established under the new denomination to which the congregation is being dismissed.
- d. The corporate status of the congregation may need to be revised.

E. Voting Stage

1. VOTE—When the congregation has voted to approve the terms of dismissal, the AC will present the covenant of dismissal to the body of Presbytery at a Presbytery meeting, and Presbytery shall vote on whether to approve the dismissal the congregation in accordance with the terms of that covenant.
 - a. Renegotiation of the proposed terms for dismissal through the use of amendments from the floor of the Presbytery Assembly would invalidate months of work between the Presbytery and the congregation. Therefore, the proposed terms will be presented as a whole with the understanding that they have been reached by good faith negotiations. Any motion to amend that seeks to change the substance of the proposed terms would serve to make the adoption of the amendment equivalent to the rejection of the original proposed terms and would thus be out of order because one cannot amend a document that one is rejecting (*RONR (11th ed.)*, p. 138, ll. 13-20). A Presbytery meeting commissioner who wishes to change the substance of the proposed terms should instead make a motion for the AC and the church session to return to negotiations.
 - b. If the Presbytery votes not to approve the terms of the dismissal covenant, negotiations between the AC and the congregation will continue, and, if another agreement is reached, the revised dismissal covenant will again be presented to the congregation and then the Presbytery for vote using the same process as outlined in this document.

- F. Concluding Stage**—When the congregation and the Presbytery approve the terms of the dismissal covenant, both the congregation and Presbytery will begin performance of the agreed upon actions and execute all necessary documents to meet, achieve and enact the terms of dismissal subject to the terms thereof. The congregation will bear all costs of creating and filing all necessary legal documents within a timely manner. When the congregation meets and completes all its requirements in the terms of dismissal, including the complete remittance of all contributions and payments agreed upon, the Presbytery will thereupon execute all documents necessary to transfer the Church property only if agreed upon according to the terms of dismissal. Afterwards, the work of the AC will be completed, and they will be dismissed with thanks

Appendix

Providence Presbytery

February 15, 2026

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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

**Administration Committee
(A Community of Hope)
Report to Providence Presbytery
February 15, 2026**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

From Stewardship & Finance Ministry Team

1. Financial Update as of 12/31/25:

- Mission Pledges received as of 12/31 **\$ 303,718.62** this is 1.09% over the amount originally pledged. Only 2 churches did not pay their full 2025 Pledge and we received a **total of \$3,261.62 more than was pledged for 2025.**
(See Appendix 3: Pages 3 - 4)
- As of 12/31/25 Net total (Revenue-Expense) is **\$ 36,847.12** – Great job by all communities along with Bethelwoods and Presbytery for being great stewards with our money! (See Appendix 3: Pages 5 - 6)

Items paid at year-end included:

- Staff was paid a 2.5% lump sum increase in salaries for 2025 for a total of \$2,775.29.
- HVAC unit at Bethelwoods \$15,600.00 – replaced early in 2025 but expense was held in designated until year-end.
- **Bethelwoods is ended the year in the BLACK \$ 22,845.56 bouncing back from a deficit in 2024 of -\$ 148,809.26:**

\$10,000 of this overage was applied to the loan from Providence Presbytery for the Dam repairs that were done in 2025.

The balance of **\$12,845.56** has been transferred to Bethelwoods Designated accounts under Timber Sales. (See Appendix 3: Pages 7 - 8) Moving this money to designated leaves Bethelwoods at a net zero balance for 2025.

2. Bank Balances as of 12/31/2025:

Wells Fargo Operating Account: \$ 225,340.49
Wells Fargo Designated Account: \$169,014.83
Fidelity Investments: \$536,185.46
New Covenant Fund Presbytery: \$350,331.27
New Covenant Church Development: \$390,818.36
Bethelwoods Note Receivable For Dam Repair -
\$158,000 Bethelwoods Endowment - \$ 22,962.79
Total Current Assets: \$1,852,653.20

3. 2025 Year End Designated Account Balances:

Operating Account: (See Appendix 3: Pages 7 - 8)

Reserve Account: (See Appendix 3: Page 9)

4. Mission Partnership Pledges 2026 – Total pledges for 2026 are \$304,626!

This is a \$4,459 increase over 2025 pledges (See Appendix 3: Pages 10 - 11)

From Nominating and Representation Committee

See Consent Agenda: Page C: 3 – Under Items For Action #2

Submitted By:

Hope Moore

Moderator

Administrative MT a Community of Love

Providence Presbytery								
2025 Mission Partnership Giving Y-T-D								
01/01/25 to 12/31/25								
Church	2025 Assessment	2025 Assessment PD Y-T-D	2025 Pledge	2025 Pledge Received	2025 Non-Budget Y-T-D	2025 Total Received	Over or Under Pledge	% Given on Pledge
Allison Creek	\$1,595.88	\$1,595.88	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$33.75	\$3,629.63	\$0.00	100.00%
Beaver Creek	\$136.40	\$136.40	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$4,720.19	\$9,856.59	\$1,000.00	125.00%
Beersheba	\$204.60	\$204.60	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00	\$0.00	\$1,304.60	\$0.00	100.00%
Beth Shiloh	\$1,732.28	\$1,732.28	\$4,500.00	\$5,020.00	\$777.75	\$7,530.03	\$520.00	111.56%
Bethesda (K)	\$3,464.56	\$288.71	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,288.71	\$0.00	
Bethesda (Y)	\$2,032.36	\$2,032.36	\$6,175.00	\$6,175.00	\$2,901.35	\$11,108.71	\$0.00	100.00%
Bethlehem First	\$341.00	\$341.00	\$1,734.00	\$1,757.00	\$300.00	\$2,398.00	\$23.00	101.33%
Bethune	\$150.04	\$150.04	\$2,000.00	\$2,038.96	\$2,291.00	\$4,480.00	\$38.96	101.95%
Blackstock	\$27.28	\$27.28	\$893.00	\$893.00	\$20.00	\$940.28	\$0.00	100.00%
Bowling Green	\$1,186.68	\$1,186.68	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$11,219.13	\$14,405.81	\$0.00	100.00%
Camden Second	\$122.76	\$122.76	\$250.00	\$253.50	\$635.00	\$1,011.26	\$3.50	101.40%
Carmel	\$95.48	\$95.48	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$254.54	\$650.02	\$0.00	100.00%
Catholic	\$109.12	\$109.12	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$860.00	\$1,869.12	\$0.00	100.00%
Clover	\$2,018.72	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$706.07	\$706.07	(\$500.00)	0.00%
Community	\$313.72	\$313.72	\$1,320.00	\$1,320.00	\$0.00	\$1,633.72	\$0.00	100.00%
Cornwell	\$668.36	\$668.36	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$658.39	\$4,126.75	\$0.00	100.00%
Covenant	\$1,159.40	\$1,159.40	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,150.51	\$7,309.91	\$0.00	100.00%
Doby's Bridge	\$1,486.76	\$1,366.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$647.74	\$9,013.74	\$0.00	100.00%
Douglas	\$1,009.36	\$1,009.36	\$6,075.00	\$6,075.00	\$287.87	\$7,372.23	\$0.00	100.00%
Faith	\$3,028.08	\$3,028.08	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$1,598.66	\$24,626.74	\$0.00	100.00%
Fishing Creek	\$763.84	\$763.84	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$13,763.84	\$0.00	100.00%
Fort Lawn	\$27.28	\$27.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,025.20	\$25,052.48	\$0.00	
Grace (L)	\$941.16	\$941.16	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$2,636.00	\$18,577.16	\$0.00	100.00%
Grace (Y)	\$3,887.40	\$3,887.40	\$10,008.00	\$10,008.00	\$1,495.55	\$15,390.95	\$0.00	100.00%
Great Falls	\$422.84	\$422.84	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00	\$4,422.84	\$0.00	100.00%
Hebron	\$190.96	\$190.96	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,190.96	\$0.00	100.00%
Hermon	\$750.20	\$750.20	\$5,900.00	\$5,900.00	\$0.00	\$6,650.20	\$0.00	100.00%
Hopewell	\$545.60	\$545.60	\$1,260.00	\$1,260.00	\$0.00	\$1,805.60	\$0.00	100.00%
Lancaster First	\$1,159.40	\$1,159.40	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$1,747.00	\$8,906.40	\$0.00	100.00%
Liberty Hill	\$613.80	\$613.80	\$14,000.00	\$14,000.04	\$10,415.29	\$25,029.13	\$0.04	100.00%
Lockhart	\$204.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Messiah	\$27.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Morningside	\$81.84	\$81.84	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$135,350.10	\$135,431.94	\$0.00	
Mt. Pleasant	\$436.48	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Mt. Tabor (U)	\$190.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
Oakland Avenue	\$8,988.76	\$8,988.76	\$36,500.00	\$36,500.00	\$12,031.61	\$57,520.37	\$0.00	100.00%
Old Waxhaw	\$368.28	\$368.28	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$300.00	\$1,868.28	\$1,200.00	
Pleasant Grove (C)	\$531.96	\$531.96	\$3,400.00	\$3,400.00	\$840.00	\$4,771.96	\$0.00	100.00%
Pleasant Grove (Y)	\$395.56	\$395.56	\$535.00	\$535.00	\$160.00	\$1,090.56	\$0.00	100.00%
Pleasant Ridge	\$286.44	\$286.44	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,786.44	\$0.00	100.00%
Purity	\$709.28	\$709.28	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$679.75	\$3,389.03	\$0.00	100.00%
Ramah	\$150.04	\$150.04	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$485.00	\$1,135.04	\$0.00	100.00%
Riverview	\$695.64	\$695.64	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$2,255.00	\$8,950.64	\$1,000.00	120.00%

<div> <div>Providence Presbytery</div> <div>2025 Mission Partnership Giving Y-T-D</div> <div>01/01/25 to 12/31/25</div> </div>								
Church	2025 Assessment	2025 Assessment PD Y-T-D	2025 Pledge	2025 Pledge Received	2025 Non-Budget Y-T-D	2025 Total Received	Over or Under Pledge	% Given on Pledge
Rock Hill First	\$4,282.96	\$4,282.96	\$25,347.00	\$25,347.04	\$8,643.84	\$38,273.84	\$0.04	100.00%
St. Paul's	\$231.88	\$231.88	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$331.88	\$0.00	100.00%
Tirzah (L)	\$422.84	\$422.84	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,255.00	\$2,677.84	\$0.00	100.00%
Tirzah (Y)	\$1,254.88	\$1,254.88	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$9,055.00	\$15,309.88	\$0.00	100.00%
Unity	\$15,658.72	\$15,658.72	\$68,760.00	\$69,480.00	\$19,386.49	\$104,525.21	\$720.00	101.05%
Uriel	\$327.36	\$327.36	\$500.00	\$565.76	\$275.00	\$1,168.12	\$65.76	113.15%
Van Wyck	\$1,254.88	\$1,254.88	\$5,000.00	\$5,145.12	\$473.00	\$6,873.00	\$145.12	102.90%
Wade	\$218.24	\$218.24	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$300.00	\$2,118.24	\$0.00	100.00%
Woodlawn	\$954.80	\$954.80	\$6,000.00	\$5,045.20	\$904.00	\$6,904.00	(\$954.80)	84.09%
York First	\$2,782.56	\$2,782.56	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,396.65	\$12,179.21	\$0.00	100.00%
	\$70,641.56	\$64,466.91	\$300,457.00	\$303,718.62	\$373,171.43	\$741,356.96	\$3,261.62	101.09%

2025 Summary Detailed Analysis of Revenue & Exp**

Date Range: Dec 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025

			Annual Budget % Used	Annual Budget Remaining		
	Current Month (This Year)	This Year Year to Date	This Year Year	This Year Year	2025 Budget	Year To Date (Last Year)
Accounts						
Revenues						
PRESBYTERY						
UNIFIED & SELECTED	16,248.57	238,943.33	105.87 %	(13,242.98)	225,700.35	267,154.26
PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS	(392.34)	4,299.32	95.31 %	211.58	4,510.90	7,070.60
Total PRESBYTERY	15,856.23	243,242.65	105.66 %	(13,031.40)	230,211.25	274,224.86
BETHELWOODS (Mission Advocacy Neighborhood)						
SUMMER PROGRAM FEES	0.00	127,202.14	63.85 %	72,032.86	199,235.00	144,333.75
RETREAT FEES	21,518.75	204,789.98	101.07 %	(2,172.98)	202,617.00	145,586.25
FOOD SERVICE	0.00	62,133.21	80.35 %	15,194.79	77,328.00	65,560.09
YEAR ROUND PROGRAM FEES	833.99	3,987.43	23.42 %	13,037.57	17,025.00	3,923.48
OTHER INCOME	(22,611.56)	110,832.13	1,003.01 %	(99,782.13)	11,050.00	37,585.50
PRESBYTERY SUPPORT	7,164.25	74,907.17	90.83 %	7,559.63	82,466.80	72,182.89
Total BETHELWOODS (Mission Advocacy Neighborhood)	6,905.43	583,852.06	99.00 %	5,869.74	589,721.80	469,171.96
SYNOD						
UNIFIED & SELECTED	2,798.54	11,254.00	99.65 %	40.00	11,294.00	11,610.00
PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS	372.00	7,071.00	91.02 %	697.50	7,768.50	8,153.00
Total SYNOD	3,170.54	18,325.00	96.13 %	737.50	19,062.50	19,763.00
GENERAL ASSEMBLY						
UNIFIED & SELECTED	20.19	594.00	100.00 %	0.00	594.00	616.23
PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS	3,710.80	50,979.00	90.81 %	5,161.36	56,140.36	52,576.61
Total GENERAL ASSEMBLY	3,730.99	51,573.00	90.90 %	5,161.36	56,734.36	53,192.84
Total Revenues	\$ 29,663.19	\$ 896,992.71	100.14 %	(\$ 1,262.80)	\$ 895,729.91	\$ 816,352.66
Expenses						
PERSONNEL						
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT	0.00	0.00	0.00 %	0.00	0.00	972.99
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/TREASURER	5,044.73	60,046.12	100.07 %	(44.62)	60,001.50	65,392.85
COMMUNICATION/TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR	1,009.22	12,110.63	100.00 %	0.00	12,110.63	15,286.15
MISSION CONSULTANT	1,053.92	12,648.88	100.00 %	0.00	12,648.88	8,843.66
PRESBYTERY EXECUTIVE	5,773.61	54,939.66	91.57 %	5,060.34	60,000.00	34,669.23
STATED CLERK	2,187.50	26,250.00	97.22 %	750.00	27,000.00	26,506.25
Total PERSONNEL	15,068.98	165,995.29	96.64 %	5,765.72	171,761.01	151,671.13
COMMUNITY OF HOPE (Admin)	2,461.77	27,006.03	71.44 %	10,793.97	37,800.00	30,565.02
BETHELWOODS (Mission Advocacy - Neighborhood)						
UTILITIES	5,419.83	61,422.48	125.35 %	(12,422.48)	49,000.00	58,654.48
PERMANENT STAFF						
DIRECTOR	8,501.33	69,916.39	103.35 %	(2,266.83)	67,649.56	61,933.25
OFFICE MANAGER	0.00	19,959.13	81.09 %	4,653.28	24,612.41	25,278.13
MAINTENANCE	0.00	13,306.00	73.53 %	4,790.00	18,096.00	14,308.01
HOUSEKEEPING	0.00	8,535.00	63.50 %	4,905.00	13,440.00	11,811.28
FOOD SERVICE MANAGER	2,549.16	30,261.28	109.41 %	(2,602.98)	27,658.30	29,224.40
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	10,140.48	57,920.34	125.37 %	(11,719.34)	46,201.00	63,953.06
STAFF	0.00	2,005.56	0.00 %	(2,005.56)	0.00	1,214.42
PROGRAM ASSISTANT	0.00	3,404.65	8.51 %	36,621.61	40,026.26	43,178.87
Total PERMANENT STAFF	21,190.97	205,308.35	86.38 %	32,375.18	237,683.53	250,901.42
OCCASSIONAL HELP & SUMMER STAFF						
OCCASSIONAL HELP	1,609.36	12,922.82	400.15 %	(9,693.32)	3,229.50	5,360.95
SUMMER STAFF	0.00	45,488.91	68.16 %	21,254.09	66,743.00	63,516.99
Total OCCASSIONAL HELP & SUMMER STAFF	1,609.36	58,411.73	83.48 %	11,560.77	69,972.50	68,877.94
FOOD SERVICE	985.45	63,973.74	82.89 %	13,209.26	77,183.00	87,113.32
HOUSEKEEPING	141.31	5,923.88	131.64 %	(1,423.88)	4,500.00	5,247.55
MAINTENANCE - BUILDINGS	8,835.30	28,990.99	154.21 %	(10,190.99)	18,800.00	21,825.91
MAINTENANCE - GROUNDS	6,036.86	49,119.43	185.36 %	(22,619.43)	26,500.00	26,379.39

Accounts	Actual		Annual	Annual		
	Budget		% Used	Budget		
	Current Month	This Year	This Year	Remaining	Year To Date	
	(This Year)	Year to Date	Year	This Year	2025 Budget	(Last Year)
MAINTENANCE - VEHICLES	368.72	9,370.91	110.25 %	(870.91)	8,500.00	6,123.40
OFFICE EXPENSES	3,289.30	88,641.93	101.07 %	(941.93)	87,700.00	78,301.49
NON-SUMMER PROGRAM	0.00	1,325.29	132.53 %	(325.29)	1,000.00	1,152.42
SPRING BREAK/SUMMER	136.16	8,889.34	59.26 %	6,110.66	15,000.00	12,576.00
HEALTH SERVICES	0.00	2,473.99	123.70 %	(473.99)	2,000.00	827.90
Total BETHELWOODS (Mission Advocacy - Neighborhood)	48,013.26	583,852.06	97.66 %	13,986.97	597,839.03	617,981.22
COMMUNITY OF LOVE (Coordinating Team)	0.00	500.00	50.00 %	500.00	1,000.00	0.00
COMMUNITY OF FAITH	1,867.00	6,000.00	100.00 %	0.00	6,000.00	1,716.93
COMMUNITY OF WITNESS	80.55	680.55	24.31 %	2,119.45	2,800.00	203.23
COMMUNITY OF WITNESS (Mission & Advocacy)						
INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	312.93	3,903.53	103.82 %	(143.75)	3,759.78	5,480.86
Total COMMUNITY OF WITNESS (Mission & Advocacy)	312.93	6,213.66	99.26 %	46.12	6,259.78	5,720.86
GENERAL ASSEMBLY						
UNIFIED & SELECTED	79.52	594.00	100.00 %	0.00	594.00	616.23
PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS	9,012.32	50,979.00	90.81 %	5,161.36	56,140.36	52,576.61
Total GENERAL ASSEMBLY	9,091.84	51,573.00	90.90 %	5,161.36	56,734.36	53,192.84
PRESBYTERY						
PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS	0.00	0.00	0.00 %	6,732.70	6,732.70	7,070.60
Total PRESBYTERY	0.00	0.00	0.00 %	6,732.70	6,732.70	7,070.60
SYNOD						
UNIFIED & SELECTED	2,798.54	11,254.00	99.65 %	40.00	11,294.00	11,610.00
PER CAPITA ASSESSMENTS	372.00	7,071.00	91.02 %	697.50	7,768.50	8,153.00
Total SYNOD	3,170.54	18,325.00	96.13 %	737.50	19,062.50	19,763.00
Total Expenses	\$ 80,066.87	\$ 860,145.59	94.94 %	\$ 45,843.79	\$ 905,989.38	\$ 887,884.83
Net Total	(\$ 50,403.68)	\$ 36,847.12			(\$ 10,259.47)	(\$ 71,532.17)

Providence Presbytery Operating Acct - Designated

Date Range: Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025 | *Inactive Account | Filtered by: Core Account

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Restricted Net Assets				
GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SPECIAL OFFERINGS				
800610 Joy Gift	0.00	7,089.99	7,089.99	0.00
800630 Easter Offering	0.00	18,210.86	18,210.86	0.00
800650 Theological Education Fund	0.00	1,950.00	1,950.00	0.00
800660 Peacemaking Offering - GA	0.00	3,039.50	3,039.50	0.00
800661 Pentecost Offering - GA	0.00	2,947.20	2,947.20	0.00
800672 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)	0.00	11,143.56	11,143.56	0.00
Total GENERAL ASSEMBLY - SPECIAL OFFERINGS	0.00	44,381.11	44,381.11	0.00
SYNOD - SPECIAL OFFERINGS				
800751 Thornwell - Over & Above	0.00	7,683.84	7,683.84	0.00
Total SYNOD - SPECIAL OFFERINGS	0.00	7,683.84	7,683.84	0.00
PRESBYTERY - DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS				
PRESBYTERY EVENTS				
800894 Legacy Events - Presb Home	823.34	1,996.00	1,982.98	836.36
Total PRESBYTERY EVENTS	823.34	1,996.00	1,982.98	836.36
PRESBYTERY PROJECTS & GIVING				
800858 Central American Medical Missions	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00
800859 Central American Mission Trips	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
800861 Fudacion La Mision - Tito's Work	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
800870 SC Inn At Montreat	0.00	10,955.00	10,955.00	0.00
800881 Syria Education Funds	1,525.00	3,114.49	3,034.10	1,605.39
800883 Project Alternatives	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
800885 Minister Emergency Needs Fund	3,768.39	0.00	0.00	3,768.39
800886 Eye Clinic	100.00	1,000.00	1,100.00	0.00
800887 Jewelry	340.60	0.00	0.00	340.60
800889 Lebanese Refugee Appeal	2,000.00	100.00	2,100.00	0.00
800891 Living Waters Projects	21,724.64	5,441.25	10,374.86	16,791.03
800893 Hogar Dimante - Boys Home	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00
800912 Preparation For Ministry Scholarships	3,513.99	231.00	0.00	3,744.99
800916 Scholarships - Guatemala	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
818028 Anti-Racism Workshop	116.63	0.00	0.00	116.63
818036 Mexican Border Ministry	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00
818043 PDA Assistance Grant	391.35	1,030.11	400.00	1,021.46
Total PRESBYTERY PROJECTS & GIVING	40,480.60	28,821.85	34,713.96	34,588.49
PRESBYTERY - SPECIAL OFFERINGS				
800810 Mother's Day Offering	0.00	9,804.50	9,804.50	0.00
800860 Dimes For Hunger	0.00	97,930.67	97,930.67	0.00
800884 Pentecost Offering - Presbytery	0.00	96.00	96.00	0.00
800911 Peacemaking Offering - Presbytery	0.00	249.50	249.50	0.00
Total PRESBYTERY - SPECIAL OFFERINGS	0.00	108,080.67	108,080.67	0.00
PRESBYTERY OTHER - DESIGNATED				
800116 2024 Per Capita - Paid in 2025	0.00	38.80	38.80	0.00
800260 Planning Calendars	11.78	657.75	668.40	1.13
818014 Other Non-Budgeted	(3,658.00)	45,285.87	41,423.33	204.54
818025 Boundary Training	113.07	0.00	0.00	113.07
818072 Oakdale Church - Dismissal Payout	67,444.95	0.00	67,444.95	0.00

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
818077 Fort Lawn Church - Closing Payout	0.00	96,625.23	81,625.23	15,000.00
818078 Morningside Church - Closing Payout	0.00	195,431.94	195,431.94	0.00
818079 Bethesda (K) Church - Dismissal Payout	0.00	50,000.00	0.00	50,000.00
818081 Gun Violence	0.00	734.10	0.00	734.10
818082 Louise Mickle Harvey Memorial Fund	0.00	1,743.13	0.00	1,743.13
818083 Margaret B. Pitts Memorial Fund	0.00	358.14	0.00	358.14
Total PRESBYTERY OTHER - DESIGNATED	63,911.80	390,874.96	386,632.65	68,154.11
Total PRESBYTERY - DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS	105,215.74	529,773.48	531,410.26	103,578.96
BETHELWOODS - DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS				
BETHELWOODS DEPOSITS				
818039 Bethelwoods Retreat Deposits	65,365.25	45,529.25	108,496.25	2,398.25
818040 BWoods Summer Program Deposits.s	2,688.40	0.00	2,688.40	0.00
818053 Camp Store Deposits	40.00	0.00	40.00	0.00
818054 Camp In A Van Deposits	0.00	600.00	600.00	0.00
Total BETHELWOODS DEPOSITS	68,093.65	46,129.25	111,824.65	2,398.25
BETHELWOODS DONATIONS/PROJECTS				
800830 Bethelwoods	100.00	1,000.00	100.00	1,000.00
800841 Kids To Camp	7,588.52	65.00	7,653.52	0.00
818026 Bethelwoods Online Donations - Stripe	506.26	7,626.00	8,132.26	0.00
818034 Bethelwoods Annual Fund	2,775.00	0.00	2,775.00	0.00
818073 Dam Spillway Improvements	0.00	118,000.00	118,000.00	0.00
818075 BW - Designated Fundraising Events	0.00	30,024.25	30,024.25	0.00
818076 Timber Sales	0.00	104,211.12	91,365.56	12,845.56
818080 Church Donations - Bethelwoods	0.00	100,000.00	46,119.61	53,880.39
Total BETHELWOODS DONATIONS/PROJECTS	10,969.78	360,926.37	304,170.20	67,725.95
BETHELWOODS - OTHER				
818068 GA Environmental Grant	1,795.23	0.00	1,795.23	0.00
818070 BWoods Insurance Claim - Tree	4,383.71	24,397.78	28,781.49	0.00
818071 BWoods Insurance Claim-Hail 4-20-24	69,416.17	16,598.90	86,015.07	0.00
818074 BW Cannon - 2024 Grant	32,316.28	12,855.58	45,171.86	0.00
Total BETHELWOODS - OTHER	107,911.39	53,852.26	161,763.65	0.00
Total BETHELWOODS - DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS	186,974.82	460,907.88	577,758.50	70,124.20
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$ 292,190.56	\$ 1,042,746.31	\$ 1,161,233.71	\$ 173,703.16

Providence Presbytery RESERVE Accounts-Designated

Date Range: Jan 1st 2025 - Dec 31st 2025 | *Inactive Account | Filtered by: Core Account

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Income	Expense	Ending Balance
Restricted Net Assets				
PRESBYTERY - DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS				
PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY - RESERVE ACCOUNTS				
850100 Assessments - Presbytery	14,955.33	2.60	1,763.76	13,194.17
850200 Review	3,775.00	0.00	0.00	3,775.00
850410 Lemmons-Berry Cont. Ed.	4,519.29	438.99	3,154.24	1,804.04
850440 Wilson Cont. Ed.	1,156.20	71.60	1,227.80	0.00
850800 Leaderfest	3,935.52	0.00	0.00	3,935.52
851000 Triennium	5,973.38	0.00	804.74	5,168.64
851100 Racial Ethnic Scholarships	1,050.00	0.00	0.00	1,050.00
851310 Dimes For Hunger - Domestic	26,106.25	49,137.99	19,448.53	55,795.71
851320 Dimes For Hunger - Foreign	19,631.02	49,137.89	19,448.53	49,320.38
851410 Peacemaking Offering	10,171.11	249.50	10,211.11	209.50
851420 Pentecost Offering	17,735.98	96.00	0.00	17,831.98
851500 Queen & John Miller Scholarship	19,179.89	2,250.00	4,500.00	16,929.89
Total PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY - RESERVE ACCOUNTS	128,188.97	101,384.57	60,558.71	169,014.83
Total PRESBYTERY - DESIGNATED ACCOUNTS	128,188.97	101,384.57	60,558.71	169,014.83
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$ 128,188.97	\$ 101,384.57	\$ 60,558.71	\$ 169,014.83

Providence Presbytery 2026 Fair Share Askings Acceptances

Church	2025 Pledge	2026 Pledge	2025 Undesignated	2026 Undesignated	+ or - over 2025 Undesignated	2026 Presby Homes	2026 Thornwell
Allison Creek	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0		
Beaver Creek	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$3,300	\$3,000	-\$300		
Bersheba	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$1,100	\$0		
Beth Shiloh	\$4,500	\$4,500	4500	\$4,500	\$0		
Bethesda (Y)	\$6,175	\$6,175	\$3,250	\$3,250	\$0	\$900	\$2,025
Bethlehem 1st	\$1,734	\$1,734	1734	\$1,734	\$0		
Bethune	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0		
Blackstock	\$893	\$893	\$893	\$793	-\$100	\$50	\$50
Bowling Green	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0		
Camden 2nd	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$0		
Carmel	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$0		
Catholic	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$900	\$0		
Clover	\$500	\$100	\$500	\$0	-\$500	\$50	\$50
Community	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$0		
Cornwell	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$2,800	\$0		
Covenant	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0		
Doby's Bridge	\$7,000	\$4,400	\$7,000	\$4,400	-\$2,600		
Douglas	\$6,075	\$4,400	\$5,985	\$4,400	-\$1,585		
Faith	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$25,000	\$5,000		
Fishing Creek	\$7,000	\$6,000	\$5,500	\$4,500	-\$1,000		\$1,500
Grace (L)	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0		
Grace (Y)	\$10,008	\$10,008	\$10,008	\$10,008	0		
Great Falls	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0		
Hebron	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0		
Hermon	\$5,900	\$6,000	\$5,900	\$6,000	\$100		
Hopewell	\$1,260	\$1,260	\$1,260	\$1,260	\$0		
Lancaster 1st	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0		
Liberty Hill	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0		
Lockhart	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Messiah	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Mt. Pleasant	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Mt. Tabor (U)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0		
Oakland Avenue	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$36,500	\$0		
Old Waxhaw	\$0	\$1,200	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200		
Pleasant Grove (C)	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$0		
Pleasant Grove (Y)	\$535	\$535	\$535	\$535	\$0		
Pleasant Ridge	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0		
Purity	\$2,000	\$606	\$2,000	\$606	-\$1,394		

Church	2025 Pledge	2026 Pledge	2025 Undesignated	2026 Undesignated	+ or - over 2025 Undesignated	2026 Presby Homes	2026 Thornwell
Ramah	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0		
Riverview	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$1,000		
Rock Hill 1st	\$25,347	\$30,630	\$25,347	\$30,630	\$5,283		
St. Pauls	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0		
Tirzah (L)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0		
Tirzah (Y)	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,000	\$4,000	-\$1,000		
Unity	\$68,760	\$70,200	\$66,960	\$68,400	\$1,440		\$1,800
Uriel	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$0		
Van Wyck	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$5,000	\$6,000	\$1,000		
Wade	\$1,600	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,500	-\$100		
Woodlawn	\$6,000	\$4,015	\$6,000	\$4,015	-\$1,985		
York 1st	\$6,000	\$6,300	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0		\$300
Total	\$300,457	\$304,626	\$293,442	\$297,901	\$4,459	\$1,000	\$5,725

Committee on Mission & Advocacy
(A Community of Witness)
Report to Providence Presbytery
February 15, 2026

Introduction: Our Shared Mission in Action

Welcome to this overview of the Mission & Advocacy Team's recent work and upcoming priorities. This report serves as a high-level summary of our activities, celebrating key successes across our ministries and highlighting vital opportunities for you to get involved. We hope you will see these updates not just as a committee report, but as a testament to the collective mission being faithfully carried out by our congregations, ministry teams, and global partners.

Opportunities for Engagement: Your Invitation to Serve

The strength and impact of our shared mission lie in the active participation of our members. This section details the most immediate and impactful areas where your time, talents, and leadership are needed. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might contribute to these essential ministries.

- **Hunger Action Team (HAT) Leadership** There is a critical need for a dedicated individual to serve as moderator for the Hunger Action Team, along with others to be part of this vital ministry.

- **Building the Matthew 25 Assistance Network** We are actively building a network of individuals willing to provide practical assistance to those in need, embodying the principles of our Matthew 25 commitment. More participants are needed to build a robust and responsive network capable of meeting community needs as they arise.

These leadership needs arise directly from the exciting momentum and growth occurring across our mission neighborhoods, as highlighted below.

Mission Neighborhood Highlights: Progress Across Our Ministries

This section offers a snapshot of the recent progress and activities within our various mission areas. These highlights showcase the breadth of the Presbytery's impact and the dedication of our ministry partners, who are putting faith into action every day.

- **Border Ministry Event:** We are pleased to announce an upcoming event on **February 7th** featuring Mark Adams. Please check your inbox for a flyer and registration information!
- **Living Waters of the World (LWW):** This ministry continues to see positive progress. A mission newsletter focused exclusively on the work of LWW is planned for release in late February or early March. In an example of creative synergy across our ministries, Eric Robinson's forthcoming six-session Lenten curriculum on the theme of water will prominently feature the work of LWW, bringing this global mission directly into our congregations' Lenten journey.
- **Syria/Lebanon Partnership Update:** Edgar McCall recently visited Lebanon, and shared updates at our January 27 team meeting.
- **New Vision Eye Clinic in Honduras:** Serving at the Crossroads Report and the Story of Weldin Munguia, and a Triple Blessings report by Tim and Gloria Wheeler. (See Appendix 4: Pages 3 - 5).

The progress in these diverse ministries underscores the importance of the strategic planning detailed next, which ensures their long-term viability and impact.

Strategic Development: Ensuring a Sustainable Future

Effective mission work requires not only managing current programs but also adapting our leadership structures to ensure their resilience and long-term sustainability. When change occurs, we have an opportunity to strategically re-evaluate our models to better support our ministries for the future.

A primary example is our current work to restructure the leadership model for the South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (SCP-DAT). Following the departure of Mark McCain, whose contributions were immense, the team recognized that his former role was not sustainable for a single individual long-term due to the sheer amount of time he put in. To address this, collaborative conversations are underway with partners from Foothills Presbytery to brainstorm and develop a new, more sustainable leadership model that will carry this vital ministry forward effectively.

Conclusion: Looking Ahead

We are excited and energized by the incredible work being done across our Presbytery. From local hunger initiatives to global partnerships, our collective efforts are making a tangible difference. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing prayers and participation, which make all of this possible. As we look ahead, we once again encourage you to consider being part of our mission neighborhood, or even proposing a new neighborhood idea of your own!

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

Providence Presbytery, in South Carolina has partnered with Serving at the Crossroads to provide vision care for residents in the municipality of Trinidad located about 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.

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

To make a donation on line go to the website: www.servingatthecrossroads.org

Update on Manos Amigas

The **Manos Amigas** clinic is a privately owned charity medical clinic in La Entrada, Copan, Honduras, 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. In recent years it 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.

The clinic has a long list of patients needing eye surgeries and is very dependent upon periodic visiting brigades. Until the clinic has its own eye surgeons, surgeries cannot be performed on a daily basis.

The entire country has only 104 eye surgeons, virtually all of whom work on affluent patients in larger cities. SATC and Manos Amigas have decided to try and create scholarships for two emerging Honduran physicians, who will receive their medical degrees in a few weeks from the National University of Honduras. They hope to enroll in a surgical eye program somewhere in Latin America. In return, they will work full-time at the clinic upon degree completion. That will take 4 more years of advanced studies.

So for the next 4 years we will work at a similar pace, handling about 1,300 surgeries annually, until we have our own well-qualified and highly trained physicians performing surgeries daily at the clinic. At that time we expect to perform 3 -5 thousand surgeries annually. Currently Manos Amigas attends to more than 3,500 patients per year for a myriad of eye conditions with only about one third receiving surgery. In addition to one full-time staff optometrist, we have 2 young ladies, on SATC scholarships, enrolled in a university program in Guatemala to become optometrists - they have 2.5 years remaining until graduation.

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Much has been going on this year in vision care at the Manos Amigas Clinic: new equipment, continuing existing partnerships, and fostering of new ones like Providence Presbytery's New Visions project in support of the village of Trinidad. All are contributing to better vision care for people struggling with their eyesight. Vision Health International volunteers made three trips to Manos Amigas this year—January, May, and August. We are also excited to be working with Wake Forest University Medical School Department of Ophthalmology and the Fraternidad Hospital in San Pedro Sula. A team from Wake Forest worked at the clinic in January and May 2025 performing cataract surgeries. [In Jan. 8 people from Trinidad had eye surgery; in May, 9 people from Trinidad had eye surgery]

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.

*I am going to . . . work, read, give thanks to God, take care of myself, drive, walk without assistance, maintain my home, go to church, collect firewood, pray study, read the Bible, do God's work, bake bread, sew, make tortillas, see sunlight, cook, do more around the house, care for my husband,*

**DO EVERYTHING BETTER!**

**Cataract Surgery Patients**

# The Story of Weldin Munguia, and a Triple Blessing

By Tim and Gloria Wheeler, 2025

"I am Weldin Munguia. I am 29 years of age and am married to Claudia Patricia Martinez now for five years. We have three children: Derik Santiago Munguia is three, Josua Martinez from my wife's previous marriage is nine and Asley Maria Martinez is fourteen. I have been a shoemaker for various years in the town of Trinidad, Copan (Honduras) where I live.

About 5 years ago I started to lose my eyesight. I went to many doctors, some in San Pedro Sula, a large city in northern Honduras. Things got worse for me and I started to bump into things at night and struggled to see the stitches that I tried to make in my shoe craft.

I would really only see blurry images about two meters away. Sometime last year I went to a doctor in La Entrada de Copan. After that visit I really started to lose hope when the doctor told me that I had diabetic retinopathy and that nothing could be done for me. My eyesight was getting worse. At night I would bump into objects in my house. That is when my son, Josua, heard that there was a visiting mission team in Trinidad that was working on a housing project. A woman named Doña Gloria was with the mission team and she had been coming to Trinidad since I was a boy. Josua, almost tugging on her arm, saw an opportunity to talk with Doña Gloria and ask her if she had any glasses that might help me with my eyesight. She didn't have any glasses for me, but she told Josua that she wanted to talk with me early the next day before they went off for their day's activities.

I told Doña Gloria my whole story and she told me that I should go to the Manos Amigas Clinic in La Entrada de Copan, which had established a special relationship with Trinidad for patients needing cataract surgery. She called Karen Murillo, the optometrist at the Clinic and Karen responded that there was a visiting specialist on site that day and if Weldin could come right away to the Clinic, she could fit him into the schedule for patients to be seen by the specialist. That is when Gloria called the municipal office in Trinidad and told them of the case that had been presented and asked for transportation for me to be taken to the Clinic. Within half an hour, Weldin was on his way to Manos Amigas in the mayor's vehicle.

Things started to change for Weldin that day. The specialist examined Weldin and found out that he didn't have diabetic retinopathy at all, what he had were cataracts. He was put on the schedule for surgery in January 2025 for one eye and received his second successful surgery on the other eye in May restoring his eyesight. Cataract surgery for one eye can easily cost \$2,000 to \$3,000 making it prohibitively expensive for many people.



Today Weldin has hope for the future and of being able to provide for his family. Weldin was given a triple blessing if we want to think of it in those terms. First of all, a blessing was given by all of the people who stepped up for Weldin when he needed it, making his surgery possible, of getting him to the Clinic and the Clinic's willingness to review his case immediately. His second blessing comes from the Manos Amigas Clinic and the people involved with it by offering very low-cost medical services for those who otherwise would not receive the medical attention that they need. Thirdly, there is the blessing of relationships, by working together with others we become more than we are individually. The partnership between the Manos Amigas Clinic with the Municipal township of Trinidad, Copan and the people that have made this possible has been vital for this and other cases. Dr. Bill Oliver and Barbara Kurz, of Providence Presbytery PCUSA and Mike Tysowsky of Serving at the Crossroads deserve mention. On a day-to-day basis making this partnership function apart from the important roles of the director and staff at the Clinic, Karen Murillo, Manos Amigas optometrist, deserves

special recognition for her professionalism and patient empathy as does Roger Pleitez, volunteer resident of the Trinidad township for his compassionate liaison support for the program.



**Presbyterian Women  
Report to Providence Presbytery  
February 15, 2026**

The Presbyterian Women of Providence Presbytery have had luncheons at various restaurants every two months in 2025. Each person orders what they want to eat and pays for it. We meet at 11:30 a.m. and each person stays as long as one wants to stay. We have met at Mary's Cafe in Rock Hill several times and Captain Steve's Family Seafood Restaurant in Fort Mill. **We plan to meet at Sweet Caroline's BBQ Restaurant in McConnells, SC on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m..**

Our Providence Presbytery Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 18th at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church, 421 Oakland Avenue, Rock Hill, SC.

Providence Presbytery's Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Commission received a grant of \$781.11 from the PDA Commission of South Carolina. The Providence Presbytery Commission next meeting will be a luncheon meeting held at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>.

In Christ's Service,

Ellen Mayes and Lee Barnwell  
Co Moderators of Presbyterian Women of Providence Presbytery

# Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center Report

## To Providence Presbytery

### February 15, 2026

#### Bethelwoods & Bowties: An Evening That Makes a Difference

For more than six decades, Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center has been a place where faith is nurtured, friendships are formed, and lives are shaped through experiences in God's creation. None of this happens without the faithful support of friends like you. This spring, we are excited to invite you to a special evening that celebrates our shared love for Bethelwoods while helping ensure its mission continues for generations to come.

(See Appendix 6: Pages 2 - 3)

Bethelwoods & Bowties will take place on Saturday, May 2, from 6:00–10:00 p.m. at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. This festive fundraiser brings together supporters, friends, and community members for a meaningful night of connection, celebration, and generosity. Guests are encouraged to don their favorite bowties (or festive attire!) and enjoy an evening dedicated to supporting Bethelwoods' programs, including our beloved summer camp experiences and year-round ministry.

(See Appendix 6: Pages 2 - 3)

Funds raised through Bethelwoods & Bowties will directly support camperships, program development, and the ongoing care of this sacred place where so many have encountered Christ. Your participation helps ensure that children, youth, and adults from across South Carolina and beyond can continue to experience renewal, growth, and joy at Bethelwoods.

Tickets and additional event details are available online at

<https://2026bethelwoodsandbowties.eventbrite.com>

We hope you will join us, spread the word, and be part of this important evening. Thank you for being an essential part of the Bethelwoods story!

Bethelwoods 2026 Camp registration opened January 12<sup>th</sup>. Check us out at

[www.bethelwoods.org](http://www.bethelwoods.org) or for more information email: [info@bethelwoods.org](mailto:info@bethelwoods.org)

(See Appendix 6: Page 4)

We welcomed Elston (EJ) Hart Jr. as Bethelwoods Camp & Conference Center's Program Director on December 1, 2025:

Elston (EJ) is from Charlotte North Carolina. Growing up in Charlotte he attended South Mecklenburg High School and attended North Carolina A&T State University In Greensboro, NC, where he graduated with a degree in Kinesiology. EJ has spent most of his Camp Experience working at Camp Thunderbird in Lake Wylie, South Carolina. EJ is excited to bring great ideas and a wonderful impact to Bethelwoods and can't wait to jump into his new role here with us. Some of EJ's favorite hobbies are spending times outdoors, playing sports and coaching. We are blessed to have EJ apart of our team here at Bethelwoods.

BETHELWOODS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Proudly Presents Our Second Annual

*Bethelwoods*



*Bowties*

MAY 2, 2026

HORTON LODGE

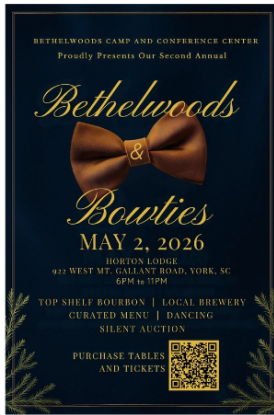
922 WEST MT. GALLANT ROAD, YORK, SC

6PM to 11PM

TOP SHELF BOURBON | LOCAL BREWERY  
CURATED MENU | DANCING  
SILENT AUCTION

PURCHASE TABLES  
AND TICKETS





# Saturday, May 2, 2026

6pm-11pm

## Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center, Horton Lodge

922 W Mt Gallant Road, York

### *2026 Bethelwoods and Bowties Sponsor Form*

#### **Visionary Sponsor \$2,000**

- Primary seating 8 top table
- Thoughtfully curated food menu
- 8 custom bourbon glasses
- Table service
- 8 top shelf cocktail tickets
- Name/logo in program
- Name/logo on Bethelwoods Instagram and Facebook pages
- Unlimited drinks
- Overnight lodging at camp

#### **Advocate Sponsor \$1,500**

- Select seating 8 top table
- Thoughtfully curated food menu
- Name/logo in the program
- 8 mid-shelf cocktails
- Name/logo on Bethelwoods Facebook and Instagram pages
- 8 custom bourbon glasses
- Unlimited drinks

#### **Believer Sponsor \$1,000**

- 8 top table
- Thoughtfully curated food menu
- Name/logo in the program
- 8 custom bourbon glasses
- 24 drink tickets

#### **Friends Sponsor \$100**

- Individual entry
- Thoughtfully curated food menu
- 1 custom bourbon glass
- 2 drink tickets

Please make your sponsor donation online at  
<https://2026bethelwoodsandbowties.eventbrite.com>

Please send the logo you wish to be used for recognition purposes to  
[support@bethelwoods.org](mailto:support@bethelwoods.org) by April 17, 2026

For any questions or support email [support@bethelwoods.org](mailto:support@bethelwoods.org)





REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 12TH  
**2026CAMP**

**WWW.BETHELWOODS.ORG**

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: [INFO@BETHELWOODS.ORG](mailto:INFO@BETHELWOODS.ORG)

**Faith Formation and Technology Committee**  
**(A Community of Faith)**  
**Report to Providence Presbytery**  
**February 15, 2026**

Dear friends and colleagues in ministry,

Welcome to the latest update from your Community of Faith committee. This report highlights a number of key opportunities for connection, leadership development, and resource sharing across the Providence Presbytery. We are excited about the work being done and invite all members, from clergy to lay leaders, to explore these initiatives designed to strengthen our collective ministry.

**Opportunities for Connection & Growth**

- **Stephen Ministry Leaderfest Event**

Our Stephen Ministry event is coming up on March 28. Please see the flyer in this packet for more information! We are asking those attending to contribute \$20 to defray the cost of food and other logistics for the event. However, if you are in need of a scholarship to cover the cost, please complete this form:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLG7KmHLu7PRRWgNBWheJJ4cv3rysJ7bPSn1jFK\\_LVX7pAQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdLG7KmHLu7PRRWgNBWheJJ4cv3rysJ7bPSn1jFK_LVX7pAQ/viewform?usp=publish-editor) (See Appendix 7: Page 5)

- **Educator Gatherings: Building Our Network**

Our regular Educator Gatherings serve as a vital forum for both paid staff and lay leaders to share ideas, find support, and access valuable educational resources. The committee is particularly encouraged by the positive trend of increasing attendance from lay leaders, who are dedicating their time and talent to the educational ministry of their churches. These gatherings are a cornerstone of our effort to build a stronger, more connected network of educators.

We invite you to join us for our upcoming event, where we'll hear from those who attended APCE:

- **Main Educator Gathering:** Monday, February 23, 10:00 AM at First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill.

For more information about these well-attended gatherings, please contact Kara Wheeler at [kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org](mailto:kwheeler@fpcrockhill.org) or Edye Bender at [dcedy@aol.com](mailto:dcedy@aol.com). As we continue to

strengthen our network of educators, we are also focusing on creating new points of connection for the youth of our presbytery.

### **Youth Engagement & Youth Council**

Our Presbytery is looking to increase engagement and opportunities for our youth through the creation of a youth council. Any churches with youth interested in serving on the council should contact Nick Setzer ([nsetzer@fpcyorksc.org](mailto:nsetzer@fpcyorksc.org)).

The committee is focused on building stronger connections among the presbytery's youth. This strategic initiative aims to foster a greater sense of community that will encourage participation in large-scale events like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Our experience shows that when youth build these relationships early, it becomes much easier and more natural for them to participate in larger presbytery events, creating a stronger and more vibrant youth community for years to come.

We celebrate the success of our 2025 Triennium delegation, which attended the event in partnership with Foothills Presbytery.

Looking ahead, the committee is planning to organize a presbytery-wide youth gathering at Bethelwoods to help youth connect. These efforts to engage our youth are part of a broader commitment to supporting ministry across all age groups.

### **We would Love Your Feedback!**

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey below about your interest in educational opportunities: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScL1V-ZH-49S-GGgNbht3SmKzeRm80sXG8XOEJsJBgvJ8dbA/viewform?usp=dialog>

### **Leadership Development Scholarships**

Providence Presbytery is committed to the continuing education and spiritual formation of all its members. These scholarships are available to support continuing education and training opportunities for **ALL** members of our presbytery and churches, both lay and clergy.

As a core component of this program, scholarship recipients are asked to share the knowledge they gain with others in the presbytery, ensuring that the entire community benefits from their learning.

The online application form is available at the following link:

<https://form.jotform.co/73313868774872>

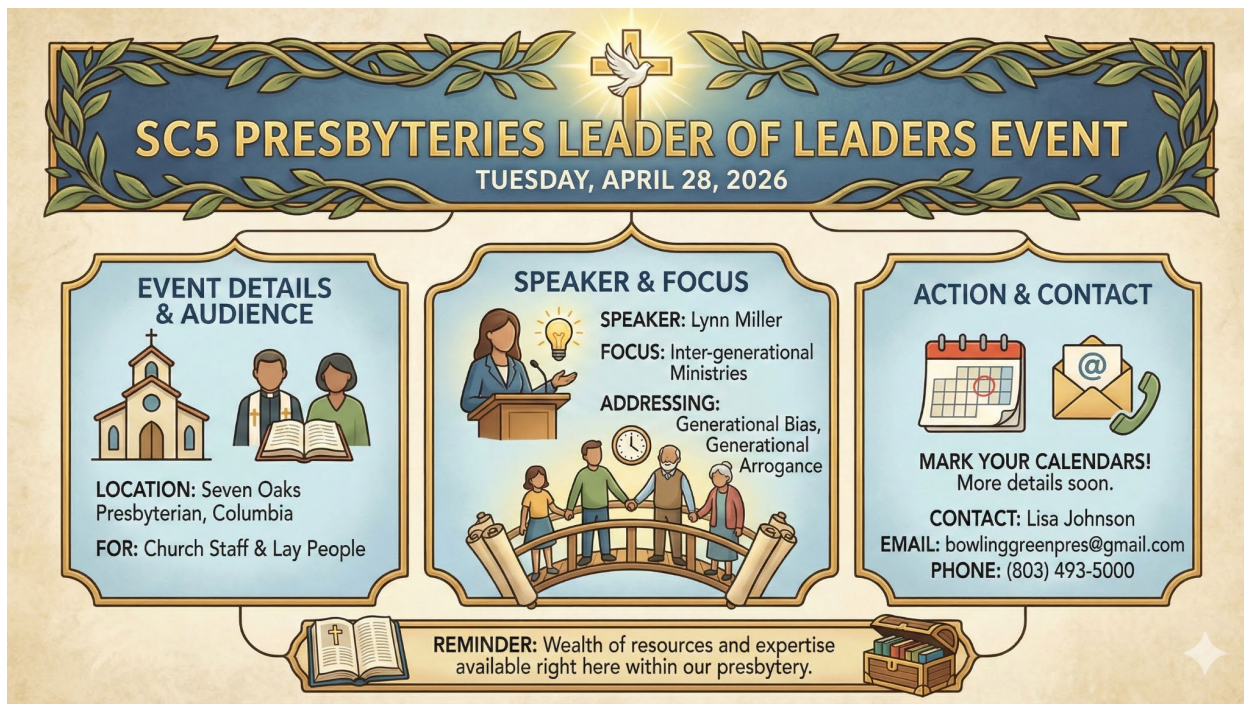
These scholarships can help members attend a wide range of educational events, including the excellent regional and national conferences offered by the wider church.

### **Upcoming Regional & National Events**

Connecting with the wider church through regional and national gatherings provides invaluable opportunities for growth, networking, and inspiration. We encourage you to consider the following upcoming events:

- **SOAP Regional Event:** Join the Synod of the South Atlantic Presbyterians in Puerto Rico from **April 9th -11th, 2026** . This exciting event will be built "around the table" and is planned to feature worship leadership from former General Assembly moderator Vil Marie and the wonderful Rev. CeCe Armstrong.
- **South Carolina 5 Training Event:** Please see the infographic below for information about our upcoming event. Feel free to contact our presbytery representative, Lisa Johnson.





## Shared Resources & Support

- **Accessing Curriculum & Guidance**

The Community of Faith committee acts as a connector and facilitator for churches seeking educational materials. We are particularly focused on providing easy-to-use, effective resources for smaller churches and lay leaders who are faithfully coordinating their church's educational ministries. A recent successful effort involved providing a local church with a curriculum on Genesis, demonstrating the tangible benefit of our resource network.

## Ask Our Resource Consultants

If you are looking for guidance on curriculum or other Christian education materials, please contact one of our experienced consultants:

- **Edye Bender**, Resource Consultant, Faith Presbyterian: [dcedy@aol.com](mailto:dcedy@aol.com)
- **Sarah Childers**, Resource Consultant, Bethesda (Y) Presbyterian: [schilders@comporium.net](mailto:schilders@comporium.net)
- **Kathryn McGregor**, Resource Consultant, Unity Presbyterian: [KmcGregor@UnityFortMill.org](mailto:KmcGregor@UnityFortMill.org)

# Providence Presbytery Leaderfest Seminar

## March 28, 2026

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Unity Presbyterian Church / 303 Tom Hall St / Fort Mill, SC 29715

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### **Presented by Stephen Ministries, St. Louis, featuring Joel Bretscher**

The mental health crisis has been a growing challenge in society for decades, with numerous proposed solutions that have fallen short of resolving the problem. Building on more than two years of research, Stephen Ministries St. Louis has developed a bold new approach for the church to make a far-reaching difference in this area. Come and hear about this unexpected, powerful way for you, your small group, and all of our congregations to help solve the mental health crisis.

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## Schedule

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**8:30–9:00 a.m.**      **Check-In and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 a.m.–Noon**      **Presentations**

- How Your Congregation Can Help Combat the Health Crisis:  
A New, Expanded Approach
- What Jesus Teaches Us about Empathy

**Noon–12:45 p.m.**      **Lunch (included with registration)**

- Optional Presentation on Getting a Church Involved  
with Stephen Ministry

**12:45–3:00 p.m.**      **Presentations**

- Unexpected Ways to Care
- What We've Learned about Grief and Relating to Those Who  
Are Grieving



**Scan the QR code on the Left to Register**

\$20 registration fee

Space is limited. Pre-Registration by March 21 is requested.

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**Joel Bretscher** has been a member of the staff at Stephen Ministries in St. Louis since 1995. As Program Director, Joel leads the writing and editing team in the development of books, videos, training materials, courses, and other resources.

He is the lead author of *The Gift of Empathy* and coauthor of *Caring Assertiveness*, both award-winning books.



## SC5 School of Theology 2026 Spring Semester March 27 & 28

The **SC5** School of Theology is sponsored by the five presbyteries in South Carolina: Charleston-Atlantic, Foothills, New Harmony, Providence, and Trinity.

**What is the SC5 School of Theology?** Theological training for elders and church leaders. There are two tracks:

- **Enrichment Track** – for Ruling Elders who have received a diploma from the SC5 School of Theology **and** for those who want personal enrichment for teaching or leading in their congregations.
- **Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)/Commissioned Pastor (CP) Track** – for Ruling Elders who want to become a CRE or CP.

**For Whom?** Classes are for:

- Church Leaders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in learning more.
- Ruling Elders interested in being commissioned to serve and lead congregations.
- Faith Formation Leaders interested in better equipping themselves to teach.

**When?** Friday, March 27 through Saturday, March 28, 2026

**Where?** The SC5 School of Theology classes are held at Presbyterian College

### Spring 2026 Semester Courses

- Old Testament (Core)
- Church History (Core)
- Worship & Sacraments (Core)
- Presbyterian Polity (Core)
- The Joyous Letter to the Church at Philippi (Elective)
- One Thread: Crafting Worship That Unravels (Elective)

### Costs:

- Course and 2 meals: \$75 for Enrichment Track, \$95 for CRE/CP Track
- Accommodations: Students may make arrangements as they choose. However, we negotiated with the Hampton Inn (located at Exit 54 off I-26) in Clinton for a discounted rate of \$119 for a King or \$129 for Queen room/night. The rate includes breakfast.

For more information about the SC5 School of Theology, please talk with your Presbytery leader, visit our website [here](#), or contact the SC5 School of Theology Registrar, Robin Morris, at [rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org](mailto:rmorris@foothillspresbytery.org) or call Robin at 864.288.5774.

# Faith Presbyterian Church (USA)

## A History of Ministry

Before Faith became the landmark on the hilltop at Charlotte Highway and Van Wyck Road, the Presbyterians of Indian Land, SC devoted over 250 years in ministry to their community:



Replacement headstone at the Old Six Mile Cemetery.



1835 timbers used to make the columbarium cross.



Six Mile Church as it looked until restoration in 2021.



First worship service in the Indian Land Rec. Center, 2007



A Second Harvest food distribution from the parking lot of the new Faith Presbyterian Church

- 1760's- Area communities requested a pastor from the Presbytery. A church structure was built on what is now Henry Harris Road (exact location unknown) with an adjoining cemetery. The cemetery, "Old Six Mile," remains and is managed by Faith Church.

- 1802-04-A woods fire destroys the original church structure.

- 1835- Member Allen Morrow and sawmill owner cut timber for a new Six Mile Presbyterian Church. (Faith's current office building)

- 1865- following the Civil War, many of the members move away from Indian Land.

- 1920-1970- The church structure is bricked. (1924) The church becomes a mission of Mecklenburg Presbytery. Though the church grounds are well maintained, it becomes a church without a congregation.

- 1971- The Six Mile membership was transferred to Banks Presbyterian Church in Marvin, NC.

- 1993- The property is transferred from Mecklenburg (NC) to Bethel Presbytery (SC) that became today's Providence Presbytery.

- 2005-Providence Presbytery formed a NCD Commission to organize a congregation.

- 2007-Rev. Dr. David M. Bender was called to organize a new congregation. Faith held our first worship service on October 7, 2007 at the Indian Land Rec Center.

- 2008-Edye Bender was called as Program Director.

- 2010- Faith was chartered on October 3, 2010 as a church of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

- 2017- The new worship facility was built on the original Six Mile Presbyterian Church site and dedicated on October 1, 2017.

- 2025- The Ministry Center is built and dedicated on October 5, 2025. Throughout its history, Faith has invested in ministry, to grow God's kingdom in Indian Land. Since its humble beginnings in the Rec Center, Faith ministries have grown from 3 to 118.

**REPORT TO PROVIDENCE PRESBYTERY OF  
ORDINATION AND/OR INSTALLATION**

The Commission to ordain and/or install Rev. Kara Wheeler as Associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church Rock Hill met at First Presbyterian Church Rock Hill at (time) \_\_\_\_\_ on January 11, 2026. The meeting was opened with prayer and organized as follows: Rev. Lee Zehmer to be Moderator and to preside and Rev. Letarshia Robinson to propound the constitutional questions to the Pastor; Elder George White to propound the constitutional questions to the congregation; Rev. Lee Zehmer to charge the Pastor; Elder George White to charge the congregation; and Elder George White to act as Clerk.

The sermon was preached by Rev. Lee Koontz of the Northeast George Presbytery. Other members of the Commission were: Elder Mimi Goodner, First Presbyterian Church Rock Hill and Commissioned Ruling Elder Alisa Johnson, Bowling Green Presbyterian Church.

These minutes were read and approved by the Commission. The Commission was adjourned with the benediction at the conclusion of the service.

Respectfully submitted,

 \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk



## **Minutes of the November 9, 2025 Winter Stated Meeting of Providence Presbytery**

The November 9, 2025 meeting of Providence Presbytery gathered at Horton Lodge in Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center. Vice-Moderator Tim Cureton called the meeting together with prayer due to the delay of Moderator Derek Moratta, who had a funeral beginning at 2 pm. Elder Cureton called upon Ralph Sweeny, executive director at Bethelwoods, to bring greetings. He did so, naming the Bethelwoods board members present and lifting up their capital campaign and other updates.

Elder Cureton then called up Executive Presbyter Steve Lindsley, who presented his report. He has visited many churches on Sunday mornings, and in 2026 he plans to report what he is hearing from the churches. He raised the possibility of hosting webinars on issues that might be common among our churches. He expressed his thanks to all the pastors of the Presbytery on this meeting closest to pastor appreciation month.

Elder Cureton then called upon David Bender for the Stated Clerk's report. He declared the presence of a quorum, which consists of a minimum of 3 pastors and 3 ruling elders from different churches. He then recognized and welcomed new ruling elder commissioners. He collected joys and concerns and offered a prayer. He then moved adoption of the docket. Without objection, it was accepted. He then brought the attention to the body of to the consent agenda. He announced that, due to national airline delays, Synod Executive Valerie Young was unable to attend, so the Stated Clerk removed from the Consent Agenda the recognition of her as a corresponding member. With that amendment, he moved the consent agenda, which included 6 items for information and 4 items for action. It was approved without objection.

Elder Cureton then turned the body's attention to a videoed presentation by Valerie Young. She brought greetings and informed the body of upcoming opportunities. She updated on the increase of the Synod's financial asking from the presbyteries.

Elder Cureton then suspended the business and invited forward the worship team. The body worshipped God, with Steve Lindsley preaching the Word.

Following worship, Elder Cureton announced a break at 3:26 pm.

Moderator Derek Moratta joined the meeting, and he called us back to order at 3:46 pm,

### **Community of Hope (Administration and Finance)**

Moderator Marotta called upon Hope Moore to report for the Community of Hope. Hope commented on our proposed 2026 budget and our Presbytery's financial situation. She then made the MOTION to receive for a second reading and to approve the 2026

Proposed Providence Presbytery budget as presented. The moderator opened the floor for comments or questions, and Hope responded. The moderator then called for the vote, and said motion passed without exception.

### **Community of Witness (COM)**

The Moderator called upon Rev. Paul Smith, chair of the Committee on Ministry. He brought forth one item of business, the examination of Kara Wheeler. He clarified two items regarding the information in the packet: (1) that Kara's position with First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, is an open-ended, full-time called position and (2) that her proposed date of installation is Sunday, January 11, 2026. Rev. Smith brought the body's attention to Kara's statement of faith, bio, and terms of call. He informed that she was being examined to receive her ordination into the PC(USA) from the Cooperative Baptists and to approve her installation as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill. Kara was questioned by Rev. Carson Overstreet and Elder Sandra Bullard on the subjects of worship and sacraments, Reformed theology, Presbyterian polity and leadership/self-care. The Moderator opened the floor for questions on each of these subjects. Rev. Smith made these motions:

- (1) to approve the examination in all its part and in the whole; the Moderator opened the floor for discussion and questions, following which the motion was approved.
- (2) To approve the receiving of Kara Wheeler's ordination into the Presbyterian Church (USA): the Moderator open the floor for discussion and questions, following which the motion was approved, followed by a raucous and spirit-filled celebration by the body.
- (3) To approve her terms of call as presented in the COM report and to approve her January 11, 2026 installation service and her installation commission, as named on the COM report; the Moderator open the floor for discussion and questions, following which the motion was approved unanimously.

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

Rev. John White, moderator of the Committee on Preparation for the Ministry, informed the body that Eric Robinson has become an Inquirer under the care of Providence Presbytery.

### **Community of Witness (Mission & Advocacy)**

The Moderator then called upon Dave Keely, Moderator of Community of Witness (Mission & Advocacy). He provided updates, then he called upon Eric Robinson, Presbytery Mission Consultant, who attended by Zoom and reported on various

ministries: Dimes for Hunger participation; Hunger Action Team member recruitment; Presbytery Disaster Assistance volunteer service trip to serve in the NC mountains; Living Waters filtration system to be installed in Guatemala; Guns to Garden neighborhood and many others. Jason Myers reported on the worker empowerment program in Chester Country.

### **Community of Love (Coordinating Team)**

The Moderator called up Tim Cureton, member of the Coordinating team. He presented three items for approval:

#### **(1) Administrative Commission for Blackstock**

As authorized in G-3.0303 b (BOO), motion was made to approve the following to serve as Administrative Commission to work with Blackstock Presbyterian Church to celebrate and close that congregation: Robert Folks (ruling elder), Meagan Watson (teaching elder) and Dickie Harper (ruling elder). The Administrative Commission is authorized as follows: To work closely with the Session of the Blackstock Presbyterian Church to conclude and close the ministry of the congregation; to assume original jurisdiction with “full power of session” if the congregation is without a session or if the session is “unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs” as authorized by G-3.0303 e (BOO); to oversee and direct all aspects of the management, sale, placement, care and protection of, dissemination, donation and/or transfer of the Churches’ real and personal property, including any cemeteries; to secure and properly store all session records; to oversee all financial assets and to arrange for their distribution, along with any other church properties; to celebrate the ministry of this congregation. Insurance is to remain active so long as the real estate is under ownership and/or management of Providence Presbytery through this Administrative Commission. The Administrative Commission is granted full authority to conclude these matters and will keep the Community of Love (Coordinating team) updated and to give a final report to the Presbytery. This motion also authorizes the trustees of Providence Presbytery to execute any deeds or other documents necessary to conclude these matters.

The moderator opened the floor for questions or debate, and, upon call for the vote, it passed unanimously.

#### **(2) Manual of Operations Updates**

Motion was made to approve for a second and final read the revised Providence Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations. The moderator opened the floor for questions or discussion. Upon call for the vote, the motion passed unanimously.



### **(3) Providence Presbytery Church Separation Policy**

Motion was made to receive the Providence Presbytery Church Separation Policy for first read questions and comments. The moderator opened the floor for questions and discussion. Following questions and discussion regarding how the policy came about and how it differs from our former Gracious Separation Policy, the document was received as a first reading. The item will be brought back for final read at the February, 2026 Presbyterian Meeting.

### **Community of Faith**

The Moderator then called on Kara Wheeler, who reported for the Community of Faith. The Presbytery educators have met several times. Conversations are ongoing regarding programs to allow our presbytery youth to know each other. A Leaderfest event is scheduled for March 28, 2026.

The Moderator then called on the Stated Clerk for an attendance report. He reported the following:

- 19 teaching elders
- 27 ruling elders
- 4 Communities of Care/Neighbors representatives
- 1 Church educator
- 4 Presbytery staff
- 1 Institution/Agency representative
- 1 Guest

57 Total

The moderator then expressed thanks to Bethelwoods for their hospitality, received a motion and second to adjourn, and adjourned with prayer at 4:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Rev. Dr. David M. Bender,  
Stated Clerk