PROVIDENCE presbytery

Summer Virtual Stated Meeting
Summary
August 16, 2026



Virtual Meeting

Moderator Tim Cureton opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. with prayer and then invited Presbytery Executive Steve Lindsley to share his report.

Staff Reports

Steve began by recognizing **Eric Robinson's transition** from his role as Presbytery mission consultant to a new position as an educator at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. He also encouraged members to consider the upcoming **CAMP retreat**, noting the value of the experience.

Steve reminded ruling elders about the upcoming **Communion Training** on August 23 at Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church and spoke about the continued growth of the **commissioned pastor ministry** within the Presbytery. He also shared resources for churches that are considering renting out their facilities.



Finally, Steve introduced the **Better Together Fall Stewardship Campaign**, including its themes and upcoming dates.

Stated Clerk David Bender then gave his report. He confirmed that a quorum was present, welcomed first-time ruling elders and guests, and reminded everyone about the **Legacy of Faith Award Luncheon**, which will take place October 6th at Beth Shiloh Presbyterian Church.

David also invited the body to share joys and concerns and led a prayer. The docket was approved without amendments, followed by approval of the consent agenda, which included 12 informational items and two action items.

Worship Together

At 1:54 p.m., the meeting paused for a time of worship. Rev. Letarshia Robinson and Rev. Rob Jones participated, with Rev. Paul Smith reading Scripture and offering a devotional.

A central thought from Paul's reflection was:

“God never promised to recreate yesterday. God promises to be present today.”

The meeting resumed at 2:07 p.m.

227th General Assembly

Commissioners Sue Williams and Rev. Dr. Joanne Sizoo, shared reflections from the 227th General Assembly.

Sue spoke with gratitude about the opportunity to serve on the Financial Stewardship and Witness Team. She highlighted the team's work toward greater equity among General Assembly staff positions and efforts to ensure that restricted funds designated for international mission are used according to donors' intentions. The team also spent time discussing the dismissal of international mission workers and brought forward a statement describing Israel's war with Gaza as genocide.

Joanne also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve. As a member of the Reformed Witness in the U.S. Committee, she described work related to maintaining checks and balances on executive power, immigration concerns, actions involving undocumented people, and deaths involving federal agents. The committee also addressed and condemned White Christian Nationalism.

The YAADs, of which Kate Roberson from Providence Presbytery was one, were described as being fully engaged throughout the Assembly and active in their committees. They also reported on some challenging and uncomfortable interactions with a group known as Presbyterians for the Kingdom.

Communities of Care

CE Edye Bender gave an update from the Faith Formation and Technology Committee. She announced that the next **Leaderfest** will be held March 7, 2027, at First Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. Educators throughout the Presbytery continue to meet regularly.

Rev. Nick Setzer shared an encouraging story from First Presbyterian Church in York. After participating in a youth event organized by the Foothills Presbytery Youth Council, the church's youth group returned home inspired to explore creating a similar **youth council**

within Providence Presbytery. Nick is already talking with Liz Corsig and other educators about the possibilities. A **planning conversation** will take place September 19 at Unity Presbyterian Church from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and churches are encouraged to send representatives.

Coordinating Team and Transformation Grant Initiative

Dr. Dave Keely, moderator of the **Mission and Advocacy Team**, reported on Mission Consluntant Eric Robinson's transition and recognized the many accomplishments of Eric's ministry with the Presbytery.

Professor Ginger Williams shared that plans are underway for a delegation to **visit the U.S./Mexico border** in June 2027, and churches are encouraged to consider sending representatives.

Syrian/Lebanon Partnership Network

Rev. Edgar McCall provided an update on the **Syrian/Lebanon Partnership Network**. He reminded the Presbytery that the suffering caused by the war continues, with thousands of lives lost and hundreds of thousands of people displaced.

The partnership network continues to provide humanitarian assistance and help displaced people find housing. Edgar also invited members to a presentation by **Dr. Martin Accad**, President of the Near East School of Theology in Lebanon, on September 18 at 7 p.m. at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill.

Racial and Religious Reconciliation

Rev. Molly Spangler reported on behalf of the **Committee on Racial and Religious Reconciliation**. The committee is offering two opportunities to study *The Color of Compromise*—one in person and another through Zoom.

She also highlighted an opportunity to gather as part of the **York County Community Remembrance Project** on Saturday, October 10th to honor the memories of those lynched in York County.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Paul Smith then reported for the **Committee on Ministry**. The committee brought before the Presbytery the examination of **Elizabeth "Beth" Olker**, who is seeking to transfer her membership from the Presbytery of Charlotte to Providence Presbytery.

Rev. Derek Marotta led Beth through questions covering worship and sacraments, Presbyterian polity, Reformed theology, and leadership/self-care. Members of the Presbytery were then given an opportunity to ask additional questions or request clarification.

Following the examination, Rev. Smith moved that Beth's examination be approved in all its parts and in the whole and that her membership be transferred to Providence Presbytery. With no further discussion or opposition, the Presbytery **unanimously approved the transfer**.

Administration Team

Hope Moore reported on behalf of the **Administration Team** and referred members to the team's report in the meeting packet.

Attendance

Stated Clerk David Bender reported the following attendance:

- **29** Ruling Elders
- **28** Teaching Elders
- **6** Community Moderators
- **2** Presbytery Staff
- **3** Guests
- **68 total participants**

With the approval of the body, Moderator Tim Cureton adjourned the meeting with prayer at **3:18 p.m.**