

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY

116th STATED MEETING MINUTES

Second Presbyterian Church

1125 Old Pocallo Rd, Sumter, SC 29150

May 13th, 2025

Moved, Seconded, and Approved: MSA.

PRESENT

Ruling Elder Commissioners (30): Cheraw First – Avery Dickson; Congruity – Leroy James; Cousar Memorial - Terry Scarborough; Ebenezer – Edith Jackson; Frazier Memorial - Louis Mays; Friendship - Lossie Matthews; G.W. Long – Karen Wilkerson; Georgetown - Karen Carter; Harmony - Cheryl Blackwell; Hartsville First – Hunter Frazer; John Calvin – Robin Permenter; Kingston – Cari Brown; Manning - Don Brice; Melina – Linda Jackson; Morton – David Sampson; Mt. Lisbon - Shirley McDonald; Mt. Sinai - Murline Ingram, Myrtle Beach – Alice Davenport; New Bethel – Wayne Townsend; New Covenant - Loretta Baker-Yates, New Harvest - Cheryl Jackson; Summerton - Bobby Fleming; Sumter First – John James; Sumter Second – Robert Singleton; Trinity Mayesville - Brenda Isaac; Trinity Surfside – Willow Stewart; Wedgefield – Ron Price; Westminster – Rachel Chandler; White Oak – Brenda Martin; Williamsburg - David Ruth.

Teaching Elders (22): John Brearley, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Ella Busby, Ashley Cheek, Frank Colclough, Tom Dendy, Jody Foster, Rodney Foster, Jarred Hammett, Carnell Hampton, Lamar Helms, Josie Holler, Louise Imsande, Joshua Jang, Jennifer Kottler, Tom Langston, Gavin Meek, Mary Ramirez, Stewart Rawson, Eva Ruth, Nathan See.

Commissioned Pastors (6): Delcia Harper-Baxter, Jack Humphries, Marshall Ivey, Othan Sharp, Chuck Staggs, Elijah Washington.

Guiding Council (1): Geneva Sharp.

Corresponding Members (5): Stefanie Marsden, Kristi Posewitz, Joe Rigsby, Alonza Washington, Rick Young

Inquirers (3): Randolph Green, Cate Henderson Jobe, Naomi K. McQuiller

Visitors (28): Deloris Brunson, Barbara Champagne, Walter Colclough, Gale Copeland, Leroy Copeland, Brad Erwin, Carrie Hampton, George Hampton, Alfred Humes, J. James, Linda Morton, Dorothy McBride, Gloria McDonald, Geraldine McFadden, Ronetta Moses, P. Presley, Paul Reed, Dorothy Samuel, K.D. Singleton, Lucretia Stevenson, Helen Stevenson, Mary Terwiske, Donise White, Sandra White, Melvin Wilkerson, Phyllis Wicker, Ruth Williams, Ola Young

Presbytery Staff (1): Ken Feaster-Eytchison

Total Attendance: 96

ABSENT

Absent Teaching Elders (43): Michael Allen, Scott Andrews, Sue Arledge, Alan Arnold, Robert Bannan, William Blackie, Bob Brearley, Annette Brewer, Pete Brzezinski, Jim Burton, Judith Cetti, Art

Chartier, Robert Chastain, Carol Dickerson, Snow Donmoyer, Malcolm Doubles, Mark Durrett, Michael Fleenor, Roger Gulick, Frank Holsclaw, Ray Howe, Thomas Johnson, Anthony Larson, Robert Ledbetter, Gary Lowe, Robert Maclin, Don McCann, Max Michaels, William Moore, Jane Osment, Myong Paik, Dean Parker, John Parks, Eva Ruth, Dan Sansbury, Michael Sorrell, Sam Sparks, Aaron Stevens, Rhett Talbert, George Wilkes, Robert Wilkes, William Wilson, Joan Yates.

Absent Commissioned Pastors (5): David Bessinger, Bob Henry, William A. Johnson, Joel Long, Bob Sloan.

Absent Guiding Council (6): Gene Crawford, Johnny Dennis, Orby Ferguson, Pam George, Tony Larson, James Wilson.

Absent Sessions (32): Bennettsville, Carolina, Celebration, Chesterfield, Fork, Goodwill, Grandview, Harmony, Hebron, Indiantown, Jefferson, Kentyre, Korean American, Lake City, Latta, Marion, McColl First, Mizpah, Mt Pisgah, Mt. Zion, Murrells Inlet, Olanta First, Pageland Second, Parkwood, Patrick, Pawleys Island, Ruby, Salem Black River, Society Hill, St. Paul's, Swan Lake, Timmons ville.

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Upon hearing from the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Gavin D. Meek, that a quorum was present according to the Standing Rules of NHP, **the Moderator, Rev. Ashley Cheek**, declared it so and **called the 117th Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Harmony (NHP) to order with prayer at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of Second Presbyterian Church, Sumter, SC.** Following this, the Moderator verbally shared a Land and Labor Acknowledgement.

Upon request of the Moderator, the Stated Clerk reviewed the proposed Docket (appendix) and the **Omnibus Motion** from the Guiding Council and, on its behalf, moved their adoption, which needed no second, as it came from “a committee of the whole.” The Omnibus Motion was as follows:

Receive the following written reports (attached) included in the Commissioners’ Handbook and approve the following therein:

- **Stated Clerk.**
- **Guiding Council.**
- **Committee on Ministry (COM)** but not including...
 - Approving the revised Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment.
 - Approving the revised Code of Ethics.
- **Committee on Preparation (CPM)** but not including...
 - Approving the Inquirers moving to Candidacy.
- **Hebron Administrative Commission.**
- **New Harvest Administrative Commission.**
- **Timmons ville Administrative Commission.**

The Moderator called for a vote on the Docket and the Omnibus Motion. After the vote, the Moderator declared the **Docket and Omnibus Motion approved.**

The Moderator called for the introduction of first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners. In addition to those previously seated while serving in a pastoral role in NHP or in the larger church, the following were seated as **Corresponding Members**:

Rev. Dr. David Ruth, Supply Pastor, Williamsburg; member of Coastal Carolina

Rev. Dr. Joe Rigsby, Temporary Supply Pastor, Goodwill; member of St. Augustine

Rev. Rick Young, Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF), President, member Grace Presbytery

Kristi Posewitz, TPF, Director of Marketing

The Moderator asked the host pastor, the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby, to share a welcome and brief remarks on the history and mission of Second Presbyterian.

NHP then moved into a time of worship with the following participating in leadership:

Musicians: Grace Johnson, Choir Director, Congruity PC

Liturgist: Rev. Ashley Cheek (NHP Moderator and Pastor, First PC, Hartsville)

Reflections: Elder Barbara Champagne (Clerk, Goodwill), Rev. Josie Holler (CPM Moderator; At-large), Rev. Nathan See (Guiding Council; Associate Pastor, First Myrtle)

Prayers of the People and Anointing: Rev. Dr. Ella Busby (Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship, NHP; Supply Pastor, Melina and Second Sumter) and Rev. Gavin Meek (Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk)

Following worship, there was a report about the March 15 event entitled Exploring Mission Leadership led by Rev. Micheal Gerhling with PCUSA's 1001 New Worshipping Communities. There were 50 persons from 19 of our NHP congregations.

The Moderator then recognized Elder Linda Jackson, member of Melina, who represented New Harmony's Presbyterian Women at the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women to give a report about that event.

Given that we were ahead in the docket, the Moderator recognized the **Rev. Rodney Foster, Moderator of the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN)**, who moved on behalf of the committee the following persons to the respective positions:

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

Class of 2026 – RE Mary Terwiske (Trinity, Surfside Beach)

227th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2026)

Ruling Elder Commissioner – Robert Calendar (Celebration, Carolina Forest)

Teaching Elder Commissioner – Ashley Cheek (First, Hartsville)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) – Lydia Cheek (First, Hartsville)

There was a vote and the moderator declared those nominated as elected.

Afterwards, the Moderator recognized the EP and Stated Clerk who read a certificate (see appendix) in honor of Texas Presbyterian Foundation's 100th anniversary. He moved its adoption, it was seconded and declared approved by the Moderator.

Afterwards, the moderator called the 12:00 **ORDER OF THE DAY for lunch** and asked the host pastoral leader, the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby to provide directions and share a blessing.

Given that the lunch was jointing sponsored by Texas Presbyterian Foundation, celebrating their 100th anniversary, both Rev. Rick Young, TPF President, and Stefanie Marsden, our TPF Relationship Manager addressed the presbytery during lunch then showed a video celebrating their 100th year.

After lunch, the moderator facilitated our **Good News from Congregations** where Ruling Elders are given opportunity to share the good news happening in their respective congregation.

Rev. Cheek introduced the Rev. Tom Dendy, one of NHP's elected representative to SC Inn at Montreat Board, who shared information about the campaign to winterize the Inn so that hurricane recovery groups could use the Inn all year round.

The Moderator-elect then recognized the **Stated Clerk, the Rev. Gavin D. Meek**, who called attention to the written report in the Commissioners Handbook (see appendix) which was received in the Omnibus Motion.

The Moderator recognized the **Rev. Josie Holler, Moderator of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**, who stated that there were three Inquirers to be examined for candidacy: **Cate Henderson of First, Hartsville, Randolph Green of Congruity, Gable, and Naomi McQuiller of Second, Sumter**. Each Inquirer was introduced by Rev. Holler, who asked them to introduce themselves, sharing about their background posed by the CPM Moderator. The NHP Moderator opened the floor for questions about the Inquirer's background and sense of call. Afterwards, the Moderator asked for a vote and **NHP voted unanimously to approve each to move to Candidacy** upon affirmative responses to the Constitutional questions. The Constitutional questions were propounded by the NHP Moderator, a charge and prayer were provided for each. The **Moderator declared all three to be Candidates**, under the care of New Harmony Presbytery. The following provided a charge and prayer for each of the new Candidates:

Cate Henderson:	Charge - Rev. Ashley Cheek Prayer – Kyle Henderson
Randolph Green:	Charge – Commissioned Pastor Elijah Washington Prayer – Leroy James
Naomi McQuiller:	Charge – Rev. Josie Holler Prayer – Rev. Dr. Ella Busby

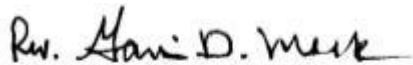
Following a reminder that the **Committee on Ministry (COM)** report was received in the Omnibus Motion, **Elder Avery Dickson**, Moderator of COM, was recognized who moved on behalf of COM the **Policy on Sexual Misconduct and Harassment**. This coming from a committee of the whole, it needed no second. After allowing for questions, the moderator called for a vote and **declared the policy approved**. The COM moderator then moved on behalf of COM the **Code of Ethics**. This coming from a committee of the whole, it needed no second. After allowing for questions, the moderator called for a vote and **declared the policy approved**. The Rev. Dr. David Ruth, the new Supply Pastor for Williamsburg, Kingstree, introduced himself as did the Rev. Dr. Joe Rigsby, the new Supply Pastor for Goodwill, Mayesville. The COM Moderator shared the good news that Friendship, Harmony, and

Westminster are forming a "Parish" as are Congruity and Goodwill. The congregations that make up the Parish will do, together, a mission study, form a Pastor Nominating Committee, search and call a pastor, then do education, fellowship and mission together. The Guiding Council voted to give these Parishes \$50,000 over five years following the call of a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament. These Parishes signed a covenant to begin the mission study, using Cyclical Full Circle. Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough was asked by the COM Moderator to have prayer.

The Moderator then recognized the **Moderator of the Guiding Council, the Rev. Gavin D. Meek**, who called attention to the written report in the Commissioners Handbook (see appendix) which was approved in the Omnibus Motion, and who shared a bit about his pending sabbatical.

Following an opportunity for brief announcements, thanking all those who provided leadership and volunteered, made reports, and participated, and announcing that the next Stated Meeting will be **Saturday, August 16, 2025, by ZOOM**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 117th Stated Meeting was complete and asked if there was any objection to adjourn. There were no objections the Moderator **adjourned the meeting with prayer at 2:40 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Gavin D. Meek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rev. Gavin D. Meek,
Stated Clerk and Executive Presbyter**