

**ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH STATED MEETING
MINUTES OF SALEM PRESBYTERY**

August 12, 2017

The One Hundred Fifteenth Stated Meeting of Salem Presbytery, held on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, North Carolina, was called to order with prayer by the Presbytery Moderator, the Rev. Stephen W. Scott at 9:00 a.m.

ENROLLMENT

Commissioners		Commissioned Ruling Elders	8
Elders	62	Christian Educators	3
Ministers	56	Corresponding Members	1
		Administrative Staff	2
		Stated Clerk	1
		TOTAL:	133

The following Ministers were enrolled: (+visitors –36) 169

A-F:

Margaret Almeida, Taylor Barner, Kathryn Beach, Joe Blankinship, Kellie Browne, Kathryn Campbell, W. Kevin Conley, Frank Covington, Franklin M. Dew, Will Eads, David Ealy, Christopher East.

G-L:

Brian Gawf, Diane Givens-Moffett, Kyle Goodman, J. Randy Hall, William Stephen Hannah, Randy Harris, William B. Heyward, Felicia Stewart Hoyle, James Robert Jackson, Karen Ware Jackson, John Johnson, Jacqueline Lynn Kunkle, Emily Schlaman Larsen, Eric Paul Larsen, Robert E. Lee.

M-R:

Eustacia Marshall, Sam Marshall, Touré Marshall, Patrick McElwaine, Bryan McFarland, Judson J. Milam, John L. Milholland, Raymond P. Mims, Jr., Alfredo Miranda, Susan E. Moorefield, Stephen A. Moss, Carl Parsons, S. Curtis Patterson, Sam Perkins, Pete Peterson, John Pruitt, Brian K. Rummage.

S-Z:

Stephen W. Scott, Burwell Shore, Paul Irving Sink, Stevan A. Snipes, Jeffrey Sockwell, Billy F. Sosebee, Courtney Stevens, Stuart Taylor, E. Dale Walker, Dan Wilkers, Alicia Wilson, A. Lee Zehmer.

The following Ministers asked in advance to be excused from this meeting of Presbytery:

Jay Banasiak, Kaye Barrow-Ziglar, Timothy Bates, Sidney F. Batts, Erin Bowers, Mark Brainerd, Steve D. Braswell, Olen Bruner, Thomas Burlison, Lindsay Conrad, Newton Cowan, Samuel Dansokho, Melissa Davis, Neil Wayne Dunnivant, John Elam, Lee Ellenwood, Terri Engle, Dana Fruits, Sandra Lee Greene, Stephanie Hankins, Marti Reed Hazelrigg, Frederick R. Horner, William M. Hoyle, Hye Jin Hwang, Dorothy C. Jacobs, Barrie Miller Kirby, Thomas J. Labonte, Jay Lambeth, Debbie Layman, Kathryn Conlan Lee, Mitzi Leshner-Thomas, Troy Leshner-Thomas, Rosa Miranda, Glenn Otterbacher, Jo Nygard Owens, Jeffrey Paschal, Andre Resner, Jr., Paul Rhodes, James Rissmiller, Ronald Lowell Shive, Mark Wallace Sinnett, Jeffrey S. Smith, J. Grantham Sutphin, Randy Wellford, Leigh Wisner.

The following Ministers were not present and did not request an excuse from this meeting of Presbytery:

A-L:

Amanda Anderson, Donald Barbour, Frederick Beck, Kent Berry, Kenneth Broman-Fulks, Thomas A. Brown, Virginia Christman, M. Gray Clark, Hilton J. Cochran, Jill Yvette Crainshaw, Lou McAlister East, Carlton A. G. Eversley, Jonathan H. Freeman, Larry W. Freeman, Jonathan Gaska, Carter B. Gillespie, Robert J. Goforth, John Hartman, Peter Hazelrigg, Jennie Leake Hemrick, Elizabeth Inman, Vicki Jones-Johnson, Cynthia Douglas Keever, Ki Seok Kim, Randal V. Kirby, Khelen Rhodes Kuzmovich, William F. Lawrence, Jr., David Yeon Lee, Insook Lee, Amanda Davee Lomax, Joel M. Long.

M-Z:

Amanda Maguire, Inger Manchester, Donald McCann, Mary C. McNeal, Francis Rivers Meza, Josh Musser-Gritter, Lara Musser-Gritter, Richard Osmer, Rebecca Todd Peters, Steve Macon Pharr, Kim Priddy, Mark Alan Sandlin, John Senior, Howard Sherrill, Jay Smith, Laura M. Spangler, William Stacey Steck, Erich W. Thompson, Ernest T. Thompson, III, Connie Weaver, Elinor Ware Wilburn, Nancy Cole Williams-Berry, Virginia Wood, Tom Wray.

The following Churches were enrolled by the attendance of their elected Elder Commissioners:

A-D

Alamance Ken Carraway, **Asheboro First** Cathy Grey, Barbara Smith, **Baird's Creek** Jinx Miller, **Bethany (Statesville)** Sue Moore, **Bethel** Lois Miles, **Burlington First** Scott Moffitt, Robert Giles, **Calvary** Steven D. Clark, **Cameron** Larry Scott, **Church of the Covenant** May Schafer, **Clemmons** Stephen Klinger, **Community in Christ** Michael Edens, **Concord** Penny Hedrick, **Covenant** Margie Blackburn.

E-J

Fellowship Will Gible, **Forest Hills** Gray Hubble, **Francisco** Greg Collins, **Grace** Juanita Eldridge, **Greensboro First**, Hilda Coulter, Walt Howell, Graham Eules, Becky Venable, **Hawfields** Sandra Beaudry, **High Point First** Judy Deal, Joan Burns, **Highland** Miriam Davie, Tony Kummer, **Immanuel** Tony Blankenship, **Jamestown** Debra Catto **John Calvin** Jackie Curran.

K-R

Logan Faye Rucker, **Mebane First** Thomas Vinson, **Mount Jefferson** Dick Workman, **Mt. Tabor** Carolyn Roberts, **North Wilkesboro** Betty R. Thompson, **Oak Ridge** Glenn Uhrlass, **Parkway** Mary Martha Smoak, **Pilot Mountain First** Steve Gilbert, **Pine Hall** Donald Gansham, **Prospect** Brian Jackson, **Reidsville First** Dell Hooper.

S-Z

Saint Andrews Daryl Heestand, **Saint James** Jerry Young, **Salisbury First** Bonnie Link, Chris Bradshaw, **Shady Side** Rebecca Jo Peoples, **Shallowford** Mark Berry, **Shiloh (Statesville)** Brenda K. Fields, **Sparta** George White, **Springwood** Cynthia Ingle, **Starmount** Grace M. Fowler, **Statesville First** David Parker, Dick Sears, **Taylorville** Laura Jamison, **Thomasville First** Sue Langfitt, **Thyatira** Keith Vaughan, **Trinity(Salisbury)** Annie Miller Bates, **Westminster (Greensboro)** Randy Fuqua, Mary Dimmick, Wendy Jones, Dottie Henderson.

The following Churches were not present and did not request an excuse from this meeting of Presbytery:

A-L:

Allen Temple, Bethany (Graham), Bethesda (Ruffin), Bethesda (Statesville), Beulah, Boone First, Boonville First, Chapel in the Pines, Christ, Church of the Cross, Cleveland, Collinstown, Cooleemee, Cross Roads, Danbury Community, Dellabrook, Dogwood Acres, Eben-ezer, Ebenezer, El Bethel, Elkin, Fairmont, Faith, Fieldstone, Fifth Creek, Flat Rock, Franklin, Freedom, Glendale Springs, Glenwood, Graham, Greenwood,

Griers, Guilford Park, Gulf, Hills, Joyce, Kernersville First, Korean First, Lake Norman Fellowship, Lansing, Laurel Fork, Lexington First, Lexington Second, Lloyd, Love Valley.

M-Z:

Madison, Milton, Mocksville First, Mocksville Second, Mt. Airy First, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Springs, New Creation Community, New Salem, Oakland, Oakview, Old Providence, Piedmont, Pine Ridge, Pittsboro, Pleasant Grove, Red House, Reid Memorial, Rumble Memorial, Saint Paul (Greensboro), Saint Paul (High Point), Salisbury Second, Sandy Ridge, Sedgefield, Shiloh (Burlington), Siler City, Smyrna, Speedwell, Stoneville, Tabor, Third Creek, Trinity (Winston-Salem), Vandalia, Wentworth, Yadkinville, Yanceyville.

The following Church Educators were enrolled: Harriet Gilbert, Kim Row, Dianna Wright.

The following Commissioned Ruling Elders (Lay Pastors) were present: Jim Beard, Steve Braxton, Sidney Crunk, John Groff, Nita Henderson, Cindy Ingle, Samuel Jenkins, Parks Williams.

Stated Clerk present: David Vaughan

Corresponding Member present: Rev. John Wilkerson, Charlotte Presbytery

The following Administrative Staff were present: Laurie Scott and Peggy Trenchard.

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Moderator, the Rev. Stephen W. Scott, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and constituted the meeting with prayer.

MORNING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Salem Presbytery was led in worship by the Rev. Stephen W. Scott, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Statesville; Wes Pitts D.C.E. of First Presbyterian Church, Statesville; the Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle, Member at Large, Salem Presbytery; and the Rev. Diane Givens-Moffett, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian, Greensboro. The Rev. Scott brought the message, "Why We Do What We Do" using scripture passages from Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Mark 12:28-34. The Lord's Supper was celebrated following the sermon.

WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

The governing body was welcomed by Rev. Scott, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, North Carolina. Information regarding the arrangements for this meeting was presented. Elder David Parker, First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, also extended greetings from the host church.

QUORUM

The Stated Clerk advised the Moderator that a quorum was present for conducting the business of Presbytery.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The docket was presented by the Moderator of Salem Presbytery, the Rev. Stephen W. Scott. No additional new business had been received by the Stated Clerk.

ACTION:

1. Presbytery approved the docket.
-

WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR AND INTRODUCTIONS

Elders attending Presbytery for the first time were recognized and welcomed by the Moderator. Corresponding Members were also recognized.

GREETINGS FROM THE MT. PLEASANT AME ZION CHURCH, STATESVILLE

The Reverend Reginald Keitt, Pastor of Mt. Pleasant AME Zion Church America, brought greetings from his congregation and highlighted our shared worship and communion in Jesus Christ.

GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION FROM SALEM PRESBYTERY STAFF

Executive Presbyter Sam Marshall, Associate Presbyter Bryan McFarland, Hispanic Minister Alfredo Miranda, and Associate Presbyter Dianna Wright brought prayers, greetings, and announcements to Salem Presbytery.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT Elder David Vaughan, Stated Clerk

Welcoming the Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Please see the flyer in the Presbytery packet – and register and sign-up for lunch (pre-payment required). All are welcome, particularly teaching elders and those ruling elders who are actively serving on the Sessions of Salem churches and/or on Presbytery committees. This event is Friday, September 29, 2017 at First/Burlington.

Session Minutes Reviews

Since the most recent meeting of Presbytery, the following Session records have been examined:

Baird's Creek	Lexington, First
Clemmons	Logan
Concord (Statesville)	Prospect
Coolmee	Reidsville, First

Greensboro, First
Hills
John Calvin

Shady Side
Thyatira
Trinity (Salisbury)

Correspondence

At its May 2017 meeting, Presbytery adopted a resolution regarding the Federal budget for 2018. As instructed, I forwarded this resolution to North Carolina's Federal congressional delegation and to the President of the United States. Included in this packet are responses received from Senators Burr and Tillis.

ACTIONS:

2. Salem Presbytery granted the Stated Clerk permission to appoint an Administrative Commission to work with Christ Presbyterian Church, High Point, North Carolina, as they proceed with steps to close the church.
 3. After a report by the Rev. Jud Milam, moderator of the Administrative Commission for the Francisco Presbyterian Church, Westfield, North Carolina, Salem Presbytery dismissed with deepest gratitude this Administrative Commission and returned the governance of the Francisco Presbyterian Church to the Francisco Presbyterian Church Session.
-

EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE Rev. William Hoyle, Moderator

The Examinations Committee report was presented today by the Rev. Randy Harris.

In the context of the committee's examination, the candidates mentioned in the following pages were asked those questions that were required through the endorsement of the Peace, Unity and Purity Special Committee's Report. There were no declared departures from the essential tenets of the Church. In addition, Examination Committee members were given additional resources for the examination including the P.U.P. Committee's suggested questions. Katie Todd was unable to appear today and will appear before the Commission on Ministry at the August 24, 2017 meeting. The committee recommends that Lindsey Alvater Clifton be approved for ordination. The Committee approved Brant Piper's examination to allow his name to be placed on the Pulpit Supply list.

Katie Barret Todd

Faith Journey

From the time that I can remember, and before I understood the notion of "call," I've always felt that I would work in the ministry of the church. I remember walking into our Head of Staff's office one random afternoon announcing to him that "I'm going to work in the church one day." When he asked me what I meant I told him, "I don't know yet but I know that God's tugging at my heart to work in the church." I was born and baptized as an infant in the PCUSA and grew up as a very active member of the children and youth at Shandon Presbyterian. I grew up in a home where not attending church was not an option. My parents prayed with us before meals and nightly and we read a Bible story before bedtime. While I did not realize it at the time, I am now truly grateful for the emphasis that my family placed on the importance of Scripture and faith development when I was younger. My faith has kept me grounded through many peaks and valleys in my life, and I am indebted to my parents and grandmother for their diligence in nourishing my spiritual growth, and that of my brother. I am a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in Religious Studies. I began studies at Union Presbyterian Seminary (at Charlotte) in 2005 and graduated in 2011 with a dual MDiv/MACE. About three-fourths of the way through the degree program I decided that my passion and calling is to education and pursued the MACE portion of the dual degree, thus extending my studies by and additional two semesters. While in seminary I worked full time at

Columbia College, the University of South Carolina and was an interim in youth ministry at Philadelphia Presbyterian Church. I volunteered several years of ministry during seminary to New Kirk Presbyterian, a new church development of Trinity Presbytery, where I worked in youth ministry, small group ministry, young adult/college ministry, and developed the children's ministry. I've realized over the period of discernment that was the Candidacy process that I am called to ministry that may not necessarily be what our denomination considers traditional ministry; I enjoy the challenges of campus ministry, new church development, higher education, and curriculum/resource writing and development. I do, however, love worship design, connecting music to scripture, liturgical arts and the like. I feel that God has called me to use my creative gifts in the ministry to God's church. In June of 2005 I married my high school sweetheart, Rev. Mason Todd, and we embarked on the seminary journey together with the hopes and dreams of serving alongside one another. Realizing the difficult realities of this, we decided to follow one another through the call search and would go where we both felt God called us. Mason accepted a call to Western Kentucky where the ordination possibilities were non-existent for me. I served as the Campus Minister at UKirk Murray State University on a very part-time basis while in Western Kentucky. I am a thyroid cancer survivor and the daughter of a breast cancer survivor. My family relies very heavily on our faith in the grace of God through Jesus Christ, and we also survive on humor. I enjoy reading for fun as well as for creating theological links for use in ministry, and I enjoy learning from colleagues through study of the Word. Mostly, however, I relish the gift of life that God has given me in every moment that I spend with my husband, son Luke (3), daughter Lilly (2) and our extended family. I am a grateful woman!

Katie Barrett Todd

Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune God revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is holy, self-sufficient, all-powerful, all-knowing, Almighty, sovereign and personal. God loves unconditionally, is caring, gracious and attentive to the needs of creation, but commanding of our worship. God created humanity out of love not out of need. Humanity was created in perfection to glorify and enjoy God forever. However we fall short of the glory of God by our rebellion against God that leaves us broken and sinful. God reaches toward humanity in mercy and love, offering wholeness and forgiveness. We are God's covenant people. I believe in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. Christ is the incarnate Word of God. Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary and is fully human and fully God. Christ lived in a broken world without sin; he is the perfection of humanity. While on earth, Christ lived and taught by example, bringing the good news of the Kingdom, preaching release to captives, showing love to poor, confronting self-righteous and offering salvation to all humanity. Through our sinfulness Christ was crucified, suffering death on a cross as an atoning sacrifice for humanity. He rose from the dead in victory over sin and death, and we have been reconciled to God through Christ's life, death and resurrection. I believe in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in my life. Through the Holy Spirit God opens our hearts to the divine Word of Scripture, creates and sustains our faith, and marks us as beloved children of God in Baptism. It is only through the Spirit that we are able to know God and profess our faith. The Holy Spirit encourages us, brings us to Christ, corrects us in wrongdoings, leads us in worship, comforts us in despair, and fills us with God's presence in the sacraments. The Spirit binds together the Church through guidance in worship and nurtures the proclamation and reception of the Word. I believe the Old and New Testaments to be the Holy Scriptures; God's authoritative Word and witness to Jesus Christ the Son. We understand the Word as enabled by the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are inspired by God, written by humans through the guidance of the Spirit, in accordance with the culture of the time written. In the Scriptures we learn that Jesus Christ shared with us the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist; the visible symbols of God's invisible grace, which are made real to us through the Holy Spirit. I believe the Church is a community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The church is the representation of God's Kingdom on earth and is wholly inclusive of every man, woman and child by the grace of God. The Spirit gathers us to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed. We are called to regular worship, administration of Sacraments, preaching and teaching. As God's children we serve in thanksgiving for God's gracious love, striving to be Christ-like through the Spirit as we await Christ's return and fulfillment of God's

I grew up going to a small, rural Southern Baptist church in Randolph County with my dad's family. The bible stories we read in Sunday school were fascinating, but much of the rest of my experiences were daunting. The pastor's voice often boomed about wrong and right, heaven and hell, sinner and saved. When I was 10, I was dunked in the church's baptismal pool as I sought to navigate the moral tightrope that seemed to capture that life of faith. Being relatively young, I certainly didn't realize that those waters were binding me to far more than the teachings of that one church. A present and compassionate God was surely drawing me to something more.

In becoming part of the ELCA with my mom's family during middle and high school, I was captivated by the call to respond to God's grace through faith in Christ, love of others, and service to the communities and world in which we live. That Lutheran congregation nurtured me through confirmation, encouraged me to become a young leader in the church, and even asked if I had plans to attend seminary. I politely declined since I wanted to be a high school English teacher, but it remained in the back of my mind.

A Presbyterian church close to the university I attended had a growing college ministry with a wonderful ministerial staff. After attending services and Sunday school there for a semester, I was invited to serve as a high school youth advisor. As I became more active in and connected to that congregation, I joined the church as a member. Having been an active member for a year or so, I was asked to help co-lead the middle and high school youth programs when the associate minister transitioned into a new role as a full-time mom. Though that role was my first substantial experience with ministry leadership, it felt very comfortable and somehow familiar.

After graduating from college, I found myself grappling to reconcile my sexuality and my faith. But something about my baptismal experience had deeply confirmed that I was called and claimed as God's own, so I didn't distrust God's love for me or question whether I'd been made in God's image. It wasn't that I felt far from God, either; in fact, God's presence reassured me and gave me the courage not to give up my faith. What I struggled with was more about the church: would the body of Christ still be able to see God in me and affirm the ways in which God was moving in my life? Would there be a place for me in the church and at the table?

During that time, I was teaching high school English. As my colleagues learned about my identity as an LGBTQ person of faith, students began showing up in my classroom before and after school or at lunch. In search of a safe and affirming place, they brought with them their hurt and insecurity. As we offered care and held space for each other, not only did my self-awareness deepen, but I also began to develop a clearer sense of the work of the church and the significance of community. Through gradual revelation and a deepening sense of God's presence, I realized that I was being called out of the classroom and into faith communities to work toward social justice and reconciliation both in and beyond the church.

To learn about doing that work, I began my studies at Wake Forest's School of Divinity. As a student, the planning of weekly ecumenical chapel services, completing varied coursework, and serving in multiple internship positions were all integral in shaping my vocational trajectory toward ministry in a diverse community of faith. In each of those places, worship and liturgy captured my imagination, and as a result, I feel deeply called to engage both as tools for pastoral care, community building, faith formation, and justice-seeking. My gifts and passions are linked to the mutual teaching and learning that occurs as people of faith walk alongside each other. As congregants and ministers journey with one another, asking theological questions and sharing in the joys and sorrows of life, the entire community might know more fully the richness of God's presence. In that regard, I am committed to partnering with a congregation in the pursuit of authentic, loving Christian community, even—and perhaps especially—across lines of difference. Without a doubt, I am called and gifted to help a community of faith create an environment that is a safe space for authenticity and sharing, both of which are integral to spiritual growth, meaningful worship, and the flourishing of a vibrant congregation.

I believe in the mystery of a triune God, one God in three persons—Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Maker, Word, and Wisdom; Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, and Life-giver; God, Christ, and Spirit.

I believe in God, the Creator, the divine maker of all, universe and humanity. Having been created in God's image, humanity is beautifully interwoven with all creation and called to its stewardship and care.

I believe in Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the fully human and fully divine incarnation of God. Out of God's unending love, Christ was sent to walk upon the earth and minister among its peoples. In word and deed, Christ's life proclaimed God's call to justice, reconciliation, and compassion. Christ was crucified at the hands of the world's powers and resurrected at the hand of God's grace. Through Christ's living, suffering, dying, and rising, we belong to God and are liberated from the powers of sin, those things which separate us from God and one another, and from the power of death for a new wholeness and fullness of life beyond time among the great cloud of witnesses.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Sustainer who enlivens us with the moving, breathing presence of God. Through the Spirit's movement in our lives, we come to know comfort, wisdom, grace, and renewal. The Spirit inspires our worship, reveals God's authoritative word in Scripture, and draws us into community through the waters of baptism and the bread and cup of the communion table—outwards signs of God's inward grace.

I believe in the church universal, the active body of Christ in the world. As one Christian community comprised of many with diverse gifts and convictions, the church is called to unity and reconciliation, serving humankind with love and compassion, especially those in need. With prophetic boldness and the hope of God's beloved community on earth, the church is called to seek liberation for the oppressed, justice for the persecuted, and inclusion for the marginalized.

I was born into a family in which my mother was a dedicated Episcopalian, and dad wasn't, and I have as one of my earliest memories of the church a Shrove Tuesday dinner. In time we changed to Miami Shores Presbyterian Church where I attended church school and confirmation classes. These didn't impress me much.

When I first went to high school, I went to a large inner city high school with friends I had known for nine years, but found it difficult to deal with the violence. Before the end of the year, I transferred to a Catholic high school on the other side of the city, Immaculata LaSalle. In that new setting, though I got along well with many of my classmates, I found myself to be very lonely. When I left the public high school, I felt that it was out of cowardice and felt shame for leaving the public school. At that time, my older sister was going through a time of strong growth in her faith and worked to get me to join her in the youth group. On my birthday I finally went to a youth group meeting, and there to my amazement, discovered was that my old friends from school, people I was afraid had abandoned me because I had switched schools, were welcoming me in. It was my first real experience of grace. By the end of that school year I was elected president of the youth group. On our way to the Montreat Youth Conference, following a night in Atlanta, the word came that a young woman who had just graduated from high school, had slipped off a mountain and died. By this time I was very good friends with the youth pastor and I felt compelled to sit next to him, and offer him comfort, and I told him that I would be willing to listen to whatever he had to say. It was an echo of a calling that I continue to live out. Through my college years I participated in the Presbyterian Student group and during those summers worked with young people at summer camps and volunteered at the church.

Through those experiences my leadership abilities were affirmed and after a year in the work force, I started at Union Seminary in Richmond. There I was drawn to the pastoral care classes, especially to the work of reconciliation through my classes taught by Bill Oglesby, and served as a student minister at a local Disciples of Christ Church. Following a stint as a middle school teacher, I entered PSCE where I excelled in human development and small group dynamics, and began to think of a career as a pastoral counselor. Though I was enrolled in a training program for a time while I finished up my M. Div. at Eden Seminary in St. Louis, I soon discovered I had more work to do in reconciling me to myself. Following the completion of my M. Div., I worked in a variety of church settings, again drawn to the work of pastoral care. In these different settings, I discovered God's healing presence through worship, the study and journaling of scripture, meditation, prayer and fasting, conversation in both informal gatherings and more formal small group dialogue and prayer. These disciplines are essential to me in deepening my relationship with God and in anchoring my life in the strength and the promises of God. It is through the power of honest, authentic, compassionate, and graceful relationships that God's transformational power is experienced and Christ's sacrificial love is known.

It was also in this time that I became a Certified Advanced Pastoral Specialist, where I learned more about the wounding that challenges the effort to create the Christian community. Following two interim experiences, I came across another Pastoral Counselor Training program, and this time I was ready. I have experienced in a new way the power of God's Spirit at work connecting me not only to the God in Christ, but also to my clients in a way that makes us both whole.

Brant C. Piper**Statement of Faith**

I believe that through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God's true nature of being both loving and righteous is revealed and experienced. Through this relationship, the gift of salvation is shared with us, and made effective in us, transforming us into a new and holy people. Through our encounter with Jesus Christ, our selfish nature, our fears, our lethargy, our unwillingness to live by faith in God, our continual denial of our need for God – the things which keep us separated from a Holy God and from one another, are revealed. Through our encounters with our God in Christ, we find the comfort that empowers us to live not in fear, but in freedom, certain that we are in the hands of a loving God. In Jesus Christ, God reveals an incredible love that works to bring new life and new possibilities beyond our sinfulness. Through his life of compassion and faith, through his willingness to suffer and die, and through his resurrection, Jesus shows the great lengths to which God will go to restore our relationship with God.

And with our repentance and returning to God we find that Christ makes available to us the power to live as holy and loving people. Through our relationship with him our past no longer holds us bound. Old wounds are, in time, healed, forgiveness for old sins is accepted, past wrongs are righted, and old ways of viewing the world are eventually discarded. Through this relationship we begin a movement into a new reality, a place where God's reign is more clearly seen, a present that contains joy in the midst of struggles. This relationship empowers us to vision a new future, where there is hope despite what may be present now. Through this relationship, we can become the new creations who are able to serve the needs of the world with compassion and creativity, and bringing it closer to complete restoration and wholeness.

Assured in that grace, aware of the peace that passes all understanding, even if in only fleeting moments, we are called out into the places of fear, oppression, and injustice, that we might become sources of reconciliation in a broken and hurting world. Trusting that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, we dare to venture out into those places where God seems least likely to be present. Into the grief of a nursing home, into the shame of the addict, into the violence of family or community, into the resentment and revenge of a marriage.

As a pastoral counselor, I find myself dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit to bring to fruition Christ's work of reconciliation. As I work with my clients, the Spirit brings to me an awareness of the brokenness contained within each person. The Spirit offers us compassion and empathy that allows for forgiveness and reconnections. The Spirit gives me empathy and understanding that I might understand more fully where the shame and fear lie. The Spirit brings me insight, that I might use the images and words of our

faith in touching the self of the others, offering them hope for acceptance and love. It is the Spirit of God in Christ that I seek out in my disciplines which empowers me to live in the midst of my fears and shame and continue in my ministry of reconciliation.

ACTION:

4. Salem Presbytery sustained the examination of Lindsey Alvater Clifton and approved her for ordination.
-

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
Rev. Joe Blankinship and Elder Larry Hooker

I. COMMISSION ACTION REPORTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF PRESBYTERY

A. SECURING AN INTERIM PASTOR/TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

1. Concurred with the Session of **Concord Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, in securing the **Reverend Dan Wilkers** to serve as Interim Pastor for a period of 12 months, beginning June 1, 2017.

B. RENEWING A CONTRACT WITH AN INTERIM PASTOR/TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

1. Concurred with the Session of **Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church**, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, in renewing the interim contract with the **Reverend Lynn Stall** for a period of twelve months beginning August 1, 2017.

C. TEMPORARY SUPPLY RENEWAL

1. Concurred with the Session of **Bethesda Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, in renewing the Temporary Supply contract with the **Reverend Eric M. Faust**, for a period of twelve months beginning January 1, 2017.

D. DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS WHERE BOTH PARTIES AGREE

1. Dissolved the Associate Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Amanda Maguire** and **Graham Presbyterian Church**, Graham, North Carolina, effective May 31, 2017.
2. Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Carl Parsons** and the **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, effective June 30, 2017.
3. Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Troy Leshner-Thomas** and **Pittsboro Presbyterian Church**, Pittsboro, North Carolina, effective April 30, 2017.
4. Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Frank Stewart** and **Bethany Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, effective June 30, 2017.
5. Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Phil Hagen** and **Unity Presbyterian Church**, Woodleaf, North Carolina, effective July 31, 2017.

II. COMMISSION ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

A. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS (RENEWAL)

1. Concurred with the Session of the **Mocksville Second Presbyterian Church**, Mocksville, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Mr. Frederick N. Terry** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2017.
2. Concurred with the Session of the **Hills Presbyterian Church**, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Ms. Mandy Santolla** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning April 19, 2017.

B. TRANSFER MINISTER OUT OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

1. That the **Reverend Kristi Rolison** was transferred to the Presbytery of the Peaks effective June 22, 2017.
2. That the **Reverend Kevin Geurink** was transferred to the Presbytery of West Virginia effective July 27, 2017.

C. APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

1. Concurred with the Stated Clerk in approving the administrative commission to install the **Reverend John Pruitt** at **First Presbyterian Church**, Kernersville on June 4, 2017.

D. RENUNCIATION OF JURISDICTION

1. That the **Reverend Laurie Valentine** renounced jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. as of May 22, 2017. (G-2.0509)

E. MODERATOR OF SESSION

1. That the **Reverend Don McCann** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina.
2. That the **Reverend Tim Bates** was appointed the Moderator of Session for **Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church**, Woodleaf, North Carolina.
3. That the **Reverend Jud Milam** was appointed the Moderator of Session for **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina.
4. That **Elder Lee Woods** was appointed the Moderator of Session for **Beulah Presbyterian Church**, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, for one year beginning July 27, 2017 and meeting quarterly.
5. That the **Reverend Timothy Porter**, AME Zion and Missionary Baptist minister, was appointed the Moderator of Session for **Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church**, Cleveland, North Carolina.

F. STATED SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP (NEW)

1. That the **Reverend Scott Orr**, minister member of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, was appointed as the Stated Supply (and Moderator of Session) of the **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, for a period of six months beginning July 24, 2017.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PRESBYTERY

A. CALL EXTENDED TO CANDIDATE OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

ACTION:

5. Following her successful examination, the call of the **Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, High Point, North Carolina**, to **Lindsey Michelle Altvater Clifton**, a candidate under the care of Salem Presbytery, to serve as Co-Pastor was found in order; and the terms of call (printed below) were approved; and that upon the signing of the Book of Ministerial Obligations, the call was placed in her hands. The committee on Ministry is satisfied that this congregation has complied with the EEO provisions of the **Book of Order** (G-3.0307) and the AAEEEO Policy adopted by Salem Presbytery (July 1993) in offering this call, pending her successful examination and ordination. The effective date is September 1, 2017.

Salary	\$40,554.50
Housing Allowance	\$16,500.00
Continuing Education	\$ 1,500.00
Board of Pensions	\$19,675.43
Book Allowance	\$ 500.00
Vacation	4 weeks
Study Leave	2 weeks
Three month Clergy Renewal Leave after seven years.	

B. WELCOME LITURGY

C. ELDERS AUTHORIZED TO CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

ACTION:

6. **Elder Travis Milam**, candidate under the care of Salem Presbytery, was authorized by Salem Presbytery to serve the Lord's Supper at **Pilot Mountain Presbyterian Church** for the months of June, July, and August, 2017.

D. HONORABLE RETIREMENT

ACTIONS:

7. The **Reverend Randy Hall** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective September 30, 2017
8. The **Reverend Frank Stewart** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective June 30, 2017.
9. The **Reverend Judith Dellinger** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective August 12, 2017.
10. The **Reverend Gray Clark** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective November 1, 2017. A Service of Retirement will be held at the November 14, 2017 Presbytery meeting.
11. The **Reverend Mary McNeal** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective November 1, 2017. A Service of Retirement will be held at the November 14, 2017 Presbytery meeting.

E. SERVICE OF HONORABLE RETIREMENT

ACTION:

12. A service of Honorable Retirement was held for the **Reverend Judith Dellinger**, the **Reverend Randy**

Hall, the Reverend Ray Mims, and the Reverend Frank Stewart. A recognition for faithful service was extended to the Reverend Bruce Benton, Baptist Pastor who retired after laboring in our bounds at Sparta Presbyterian Church.

D. WELCOME TO SALEM PRESBYTERY

Salem Presbytery participated in a welcome to Lindsey Altvater Clifton.

Welcome into membership of Salem Presbytery

Lindsey has been received into membership of Salem Presbytery. Let us join in celebration as she is welcomed.

Leader: As in one body we have many members,
and not all the members have the same function.

**People: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.**

Leader: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us

People: prophecy, in proportion to faith;

Leader: ministry, in ministering;

People: the teacher, in teaching:

Leader: the exhorter, in exhortation;

People: the giver, in generosity;

Leader: the leader, in diligence;

People: the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Leader: Let us not lag in zeal, but be ardent in spirit, serving the Lord. *Romans 12:4-9, 11*

ALL: We remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ, and we celebrate God's call to our brothers and sisters in Christ as they serve among us as ministers of Word and Sacrament.

Leader: As you join us in ministry, the Presbytery remembers some of our constitutional responsibilities to ministers and congregations. *(G-3.0301)*

ALL: As Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament, we, Salem Presbytery, pledge ourselves to provide encouragement, guidance, resources and pastoral care to you as members of our presbytery.

Leader: As we join in this new relationship we reclaim our historic calling and remember the great ends of the church as stated in our *Book of Order*. Please join me as we remember that The Great Ends of the Church are:

**ALL: The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;**

the maintenance of divine worship

the preservation of the truth;

the promotion of social righteousness;

and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world. *(Book of Order, F-1.0304)*

Leader: Prayer

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
The Rev. Diane Givens-Moffett, Moderator

The Executive Council (EC) met on June 15 and July 20, 2017.

Regular reports were received from Sam Marshall, Executive-General Presbyter; Bryan McFarland and Dianna Wright, Associate Presbyters; Alfredo Miranda, Hispanic Evangelist; and David Vaughan, Stated Clerk.

For Information –

The Executive Council:

- Approved minutes of previous EC and Presbytery meetings;
- Allotted an increase in the budget for campus ministries, using funds restricted for this purpose;
- Affirmed that the host pastor of future Presbytery meetings would be responsible for identifying and inviting an ecumenical visitor to such meetings, keeping in mind diversity in ethnicity and spiritual/denominational affiliation;
- For expediency's sake and under the terms of the Presbytery's standing rules, granted permission to dispose of church-owned property as follows:
 - First/High Point: to dispose by sale of property at 133 Montlieu Avenue, as approved by Session and congregation;
 - First/Thomasville: to dispose by sale of property at 20 Cramer Street, as approved by Session and congregation;
 - Westminster: to dispose of residential property adjacent to the Friendly Avenue campus, pending affirmative action of the Session and congregation;
- Established the **dates for 2018 meetings of Presbytery:**
 - Tuesday, February 20, 2018**
 - Tuesday, May 15, 2018**
 - Saturday, August 11 or 18, 2018 (host's choice)**
 - Tuesday, November 13, 2018.**
- Reflected regularly on the work, worship, and witness of Salem's congregations and missional organizations.

ACTION:

13. The Rev. Eustacia Marshall was invited to address the Presbytery concerning the work of the Dream Team.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION
Elder Floyd Jackson, Moderator

The Committee on Representation met on July 7, 2017.

For Information:

1. Ministers and Elder Commissioners are encouraged to nominate individuals for service on Presbytery committees. A flyer describing committees of Presbytery, together with a nominating form, is a part of this meeting's packet.
2. **NOMINATIONS FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS** will be presented for Presbytery action at the November 2017 meeting. Salem Presbytery will send four Minister Commissioners and four Elder Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly (June 16-23, 2018 in St. Louis), and Salem will elect a Young Adult Advisory Delegate as well. A nomination form is included in this packet; nominations are due by October 6, 2017.

ACTIONS:

14. Salem Presbytery elected the following slate of nominees:

Church Growth:

Class of 2019- Rev. Stacey Steck, Thyatira

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Class of 2018- Rev. Lara Musser-Gritter, Greensboro First

Executive Council:

Class of 2019- Elder Robin Chandler, Elkin
Rev. Kathy Beach, Rumble

PYC Adult:

Rev. Taylor Barner, Burlington First

15. Salem Presbytery elected the Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle (MAL) for a term of service (2018-2020) as **Moderator of Salem Presbytery.**

LUNCH ADJOURNMENT

Directions for lunch plans were given by the **Reverend Stephen Scott** as well as a blessing of thanksgiving. Salem Presbytery was dismissed for lunch.

RECONVENE

After lunch, the Moderator reconvened Salem Presbytery with prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Moderator led Salem Presbytery in a time of prayer of intercession for needs throughout the presbytery, country, and the world.

REPORTS

Reports were heard from the following people, committees, and agencies: Rev. Paul Sink and Allison Sink showed a video highlighting the activities of the PYC Leadership Team; Jinx Miller brought a message about campus ministry at Appalachian State University; Rev. Eric Larsen presented information to Salem Presbytery about the upcoming older adult POAMN event at Highland Presbyterian Church and the EQUIP Little Big Tent at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church; Rev. Ray Mims introduced the new Send Mission committee and its work; and Rev. Stuart Taylor presented a video about the recent march for racial justice held in Salisbury.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The motion to adjourn was approved and the Moderator, the Rev. Stephen W. Scott, pronounced the benediction and the closing prayer.

Recorded by:

Laurie Scott
Office Manager

David Vaughan
Stated Clerk

These minutes approved by Executive Council, 10/19/2017.