Digest

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Proceedings of Salem Presbytery – One Hundred Fifty-Second Stated Meeting

November 7, 2026

SALEM ACTIONS:

Renewed a Contract with an Interim Pastor/Transitional Minister between:

- Rev. Jon Phillips & Forest Hills PC of High Point, October 1, 2026, for one year

Secured Stated Supply Contract between:

- Rev. Dr. Alberta McLaughlin & Logan PC, November 1, 2026, for one year
- Rev. Kristen Levens & Community in Christ PC, November 1, 2026, for six months

Secured Stated Supply Renewal Contract between:

- Rev. Jay Lambeth & St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, November 1, 2026, for one year
- Rev. Pamela Mitchell & Grace PC, October 1, 2026, for three months

Securing a Ministry Intern:

- Tom Asimos approved to serve at Pilot Mountain PC for one year

Authorized to Preside at Celebration of the Lord's Supper:

- Ruling Elder Colby Hall at Reid Memorial PC on September 6, 2026
- Ruling Elder Ann Hill, Elder Don Martinat and Elder Kathryn Martinat at Hills PC on October 4, 2026
- Elder Doug Utt at Mount Jefferson PC on December 24, 2026
- Elder Jimmy Coore at Mount Vernon Springs PC on November 1, 2026 and January 3, 2027

Securing Commissioned Ruling Elders/Lay Pastor Contract between:

- CRE LaQreshia Bates-Harley & Hills PC of Pilot Mountain, for one year beginning January 1, 2027
- CRE LaQreshia Bates-Harley & Pine Ridge PC of Pilot Mountain, for one year beginning January 1, 2027

Renewed Commissioned Ruling Elders/Lay Pastor Contract between:

- CRE Wayne Robertson & Greenwood PC of Reidsville, for one year beginning September 1, 2026
- CRE Rick Purcell & Bethany PC of Graham, for six months beginning October 1, 2026
- CRE Chris McClain & Griers PC, for one year beginning October 1, 2026
- CRE Shannon Langston & Bethesda PC, for one year beginning March 1, 2026
- CRE Jerry Blankenship & Third Creek PC, for one year beginning November 1, 2026

Minister Transferring into Salem Presbytery:

- Rev. Mark Diehl was received from Presbytery of Detroit
- Rev. Robert Messick-Watkins was received from Presbytery of Charlotte

Minister Transferring out of Salem Presbytery:

- Rev. Paul Sink was transferred to Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Sabbatical Approval:

- Rev. Dana Fruits

Appointed Moderator of Session:

- Rev. Amanda Horan for Glendale Springs PC
- Rev. Randy Harris and Rev. Joe Blankinship for Dellabrook PC
- Rev. Jim Beard for Taylorsville PC

Approved Retirement:

- Rev. Will Heyward, effective December 31, 2026

Participated in a Service of Honorable Retirement for:

- Rev. Will Heyward

Approved individuals to fill vacancy on Presbytery committees:

Executive Council:

Class of 2027: Rev. Jay Lambeth
Elder Catrelia Hunter
Rev. Pat Fletcher

Class of 2028: Rev. Joe Blankinship
Rev. Marybeth Asher-Lawson
Rev. Kathy Beach

Class of 2029: Elder Scott Templeton
Rev. Jon Phillips
CRE Rachael Brooks
Rev. Kathy Beach

EQUIP Task Force:

Class of 2027: CCE Joelle Brummitt-Yale

Class of 2028: Elder Ami Hill
Rev. Pamela Mitchell

Class of 2029: Rev. Diane Knauf
Rev. John Senior

Matthew 25:

Class of 2027: Rev. Frank Dew
Elder Karen Worley
Elder Beth Hooten

Class of 2028: Elder Purity Ruchugo
Elder Laura Gaylor

Class of 2029: Rev. Dave Henry
Elder Joy Morrison
Elder Brionne Jarvis

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Class of 2027: Elder Beth Hooten

Class of 2028: Rev. Margaret Almeida
Elder LeeAnn Hoskins
Rev. Jim Lunde

Class of 2028: Rev. Hannah Ostlund

Synod Commissioner:

Class of 2029: Rev. Katie Barrett Todd

Salem approved three recommendations to revise the Presbytery Manual: restructuring the Executive Council to include 12 elected members, establishing Equip as a standing committee with six members, and making the Matthew 25 Committee a standing committee

Salem Treasurer Elder Ronda Tatum presented the proposed 2027 budget, which was approved by the presbytery. The balanced budget totals $804,943 and is based on a requested per-member (per-capita) contribution of $46.

SALEM – OTHER ACTIONS:

- The Presbytery participated in worship and celebrated the Lord's Supper under the leadership of Rev. Jeff Smith, Rev. R.C. Griffin III, Rev. Larke Blanton, and Rev. Amanda Horan. Rev. R.C. Griffin III and Rev. Amanda Horan collaborated on a dialogue sermon entitled *The Dawn.*
- A Land Acknowledgement was presented by Ruling Elder Beth Hooten, recognizing the Indigenous Peoples of the region and acknowledging the continuing effects of colonialism.
- Ecumenical speaker Rev. Larry Lawhon shared an overview of App Faith Health, an ecumenical partnership between the hospital, local churches, and community organizations. The program brings together spiritual care and medical resources to support the health and well-being of residents in Avery and Watauga counties.
- The Presbytery received brief reports from Interim General Presbyter Rev. Jodi Lingan and Interim Stated Clerk David Vaughan.
- The presbytery celebrated retiring Interim Stated Clerk David Vaughan for his years of dedicated service and faithful leadership.
- The Personnel Committee presented Rev. Robert Messick-Watkins as its nominee for the position of Administrative Presbyter/Stated Clerk. Following a paper ballot election, Rev. Watkins was elected by an overwhelmingly favorable vote.
- The keynote address was presented by Interim General Presbyter Jodi Lingan highlighting Salem Presbytery's ongoing transformation, emphasizing connectional ministry, leadership development, congregational support, and financial sustainability. The message encouraged churches to embrace change, strengthen relationships, and work together in fulfilling God's mission.

The next stated meeting of Salem Presbytery is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2027. The meeting location is to be determined (TBD).