

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING MINUTES OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

August 5, 2025

The One Hundred Forty-Seventh Stated Meeting of Salem Presbytery, held on Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at Elkin Presbyterian Church in Elkin was called to order and opened in prayer by the Presbytery Moderator, Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton at 9:00 a.m.

ENROLLMENT:

Commissioners		Commissioned Ruling Elders	7
Elders	45	Lay Pastors	2
Ministers	47	Executive Presbyter	1
		Designated Presbyter	1
		Stated Clerk	1
		Presbytery Moderator	1
		Presbytery Staff	1
		TOTAL:	106
		(+Visitors - 40)	146

The following were present for this meeting of Presbytery:

Ministers (47):

Beach, Kathy	Henry, Dave	Mosley, Kate
Bowers, Erin	Horan, Amanda	Moss, Stephen
Bussell, Matt	Huddelson-Gillespie, Kate	Mullen, Lisa
Conley, Kevin	Johnson, John	Otterbacher, Glenn
Cowan, Newton	Kim, John	Perkins, Sam
Crews, Evelyn	Kim, Ki Seok	Peters, Rebecca Todd
Eads, Will	Kirby, Barrie	Pitts, Wes
Finch-Burriss, Carrie	Kirby, Randy	Pruitt, John
Fletcher, Pat	Lambeth, Jay	Schaick, Steve
Fruits, Dana	Layman, Debbie	Smith, David
Gaska, Jon	Lee, Charlie	Smith, Jeff
Goodman, Kyle	Lunde, James	Tysinger, Arlo
Griffin, R.C.	McCain, Vicki	Vazquez, Jorge
Hankins, Stephanie	Milam, Jud	Wilson, Alicia
Harris, Randy	Milam, Travis	Wilson, Emily
Hazelrigg, Marti	Montoya, Courtney	

Ruling Elder Commissioners (45):

Alamance	Gonzalez, Betty Lou	Grace	Worley, Ernestine
Baird's Creek	Miller, Jinx	Greensboro 1st	White, Gay
Bethel	Andrews, Beth	Greensboro 1st	Martin, Lauren
Bethesda, Stvl	Coker, Neva	Greensboro 1st	Slaughter, Tamara
Burlington 1st	Arnn, Alvah	Griers	Morris, Bill
Burlington 1st	Grady, Don	High Point 1st	Briggs, Elizabeth
Burlington 1st	Joyce, Ronald	Highland	Howerton, Richard
Church of the Covenant	Fore, Mitchell	Highland	Black, Kathy
Church of the Cross	Hepburn, Cheryl L.	Hills	Martiat, Don
Clemmons	Ring, Jennifer	John Calvin	Hinshaw, Sammie
Collinstown	Williams, Bonnie	Mocksville 1st	Archer, Debbie
Concord	Kinney, Della	Mount Jefferson	Utt, Douglas
Cooleemee	Grissom, Hyatt	Mt. Vernon	Culbertson, Dwayne
Elkin	Bryant, Mike	New Creation	Wright, Dan
Francisco	Collins, Greg	Oak Ridge	Drugman, David

Pine Ridge	Taylor, Sally	St. Andrews	James, Craig
Pittsboro	Adcox, Martha	St. Paul, GSO	Miller, John
Rumple Memorial	Hardage, David	Starmount	Fitchett, Art
Salisbury 1st	Lucas, Savannah	Taylorsville	Dew, John
Shallowford	Watkins, Lynn	Third Creek	Pence, Trent
Shiloh, Burlington	Wade, John	Trinity, Winston-Salem	Daniels, Brenda
Sparta	Bennett, Susan	Wentworth	Parker, Tim
Springwood	Ingle, Cynthia		

Commissioned Ruling Elders (7):

Blankenship, Jerry
Brooks, Rachael
Harley, James
Langston, Shannon

Parker, Tim
Ratchford, Rainey
Shores, Lee

Lay Pastors (CREs without current commission) (2):

Bates-Harley, LaQreshia
Beard, Jim

Executive Presbyter (1):

De La Rosa, Tony

Designated Presbyter for Transformational Ministry (1):

Jodi Ligan

Stated Clerk, Salem Presbytery (1):

Sink, Paul

Presbytery Moderator (1):

Braxton, Steve

Presbytery Staff (1):

Ratledge, Christine

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Presbytery Moderator, Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton 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 and celebrated the Lord's Supper under the leadership of Rev. Arlo Tysinger, CRE Tony De La Rosa and CRE Rachael Brooks. The sermon was given by Rev. Arlo Tysinger based on 1 Kings 19:4-13 entitled "Under a Broom Tree." Ecumenical visitor, Rev. Wallace Hairston, pastor of Purpose of Love, shared his outreach ministry which serves Winston-Salem's homeless community with meals and other basic needs.

QUORUM

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Paul Sink, advised the Moderator, Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton that a quorum was present for conducting the business of Presbytery, and the Moderator declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The docket was presented by the Moderator of Salem Presbytery, Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton with request to amend the docket allowing the Salem Task Force on Reviving Ministry (STORM) to give their report after the Executive Presbyter's welcome and report.

ACTION:

1. Presbytery approved the docket after a motion to amend the docket allowing the Salem Task Force on Reviving Ministry (STORM) to give their report after the Executive Presbyter's welcome and report.
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WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Moderator welcomed Salem Presbytery to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Elders attending a Presbytery meeting for the first time. Visitors and guests were also welcomed and recognized.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement statement was offered by Elder Beth Hooten, to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER CRE Tony De La Rosa, Executive Presbyter

Dear Friends:

In my last report to you, I identified several congregations of all sizes and locations who are accomplishing great things in their mission and ministry. Their impact shows that congregations-both big and small-can accomplish great things when they allow the Spirit to guide them.

I recognize, however, that not every congregation can celebrate their accomplishments on anything approaching a grand scale, if at all. Some of our congregations struggle with keeping their doors open, supplying their pulpits, wondering whether the roof/communications/plumbing/ electrical/flooring/RVAC system will be the next to go and whether there will be enough money to cover its repairs. They experience illness and absence far more calamitously than others because the pillars their communities who have been holding things together for so long are now at risk of demise. They dare not take on anything new because their spiritual energy is well-nigh depleted, and no one wants to expend what little is left on something that is not iron-clad guaranteed to bring favorable results. They suspect or even know that their time will come all- too-soon, and they are hanging on just to hang on.

To be clear, Jesus walks in the midst of these congregations at risk, lifting up the downtrodden and inspiring the faithful to keep going. Their worship, though simple to some, is safe and comforting. The small community of fellow saints they have come to know, trust, and love can be counted on to be there in times of crisis and to bury their remains with dignity in the ancestral family plot the adjoins the sacred structures their families constructed decades and centuries ago. "Change" is not on the menu here; getting to the "finish line" is.

The truth is, though, that our faith in Christ Jesus does not come with an expiration date. Our churches may cease operations, but the faith they proclaimed need not die with them. Both Jodi Langan, our Designated Presbyter for Transformation, and I work with churches who recognize the need to plan for their legacy. Like anyone who puts together an estate plan for their family's benefit, churches need to plan their legacy so their Christian witness may endure beyond the existence of a single worshipping community, and that witness can-and should-be made both locally and worldwide.

Legacy planning is not a morose exercise. It can bring about a burst of new energy in the satisfaction of knowing that the church's witness will continue unabated. As a wise stewardship chair once told me, "We need for the dead to sustain the Church as well as the living." There are definitely missions and needs that can be fulfilled by perpetual witness. We have only to envision it.

So, what will your church's legacy be? If your church closed tomorrow, who besides your membership will mourn your departure? How can planning your church's legacy comfort those who would otherwise mourn? These are just some questions I hope all our churches are asking themselves, both strong and at risk. What can we do so that the proclamation of our faith and purpose of our mission can endure beyond on earthly days?

I hope and pray and know that God will be with you in this discernment for your future. May it enrich and inspire you. May it also bring you comfort that your Christian witness can and shall endure to those final days when Christ calls us home.

Be blessed, dear friends!

In Christ's name,
Tony De La Rosa, Executive Presbyter

SALEM TASK FORCE ON REVIVING MINISTRY (STORM)
Rev. Kyle Goodman, Co-Moderator
Rev. Sam Perkins, Co-Moderator

Rev. Sam Perkins revealed that the task force was now at a place where they needed input from the Salem Presbytery community in reference to a survey put forth by STORM. Rev. Perkins focused on three survey discussion questions and had those in attendance at the meeting break up into groups to answer these three questions:

- 1) Name a few things you believe Salem Presbytery is currently doing well.
- 2) What are 2-3 things that are frustrating or not going well within Salem Presbytery?
- 3) Please share ideas about what the presbytery might do that could be transformational for our congregations or for the presbytery as a whole.

The STORM team collected the participants' surveys to review the answers to the above questions.

REPORT FROM DESIGNATED PRESBYTER
Rev. Jodi Ligan

Summer Greetings Presbytery Siblings!

The church calendar designates this as the season of "Ordinary Time". We know that 'ordinary' is not meant as 'regular', but rather numbered weeks in the season. It is the longest season (broken into two parts) of the church year, with the focus being on celebrating Jesus' teachings. In the Salem Presbytery transformation world of Ordinary time, I would draw our focus on celebrating Jesus' transformational ministry in what is occurring through the STORM (Special Task Force on Reviving Ministry) task force and the work of Mother Lloyd Presbyterian Church's Administrative Commission (AC).



You will hear directly from STORM today, however, know they have been meeting twice a month (through vacations, illnesses, mission trips, and VBS!) trying to boil the ocean of potential change opportunities across the Presbytery. Their work has been akin to peeling layers of an onion...you peel one only to find another. As good Presbyterians (!), they are looking now to invite you directly into this conversation with them and the Holy Spirit.

Thanks to the gifts and talents of Ken Broman Folks, you will see a short video today which tells the story of Mother Lloyd and how the AC feels called into the future. What originally began as a \$200,000 guesstimate a year ago for shoring up the foundation is now over \$1 million to preserve the structure. This only includes the costs to modify it into a safe structure which will withstand further disintegration. This now becomes the largest transformation opportunity being addressed by the Presbytery.





The Mother Lloyd AC had originally hoped only one major grant would be required to accomplish the structural work needed, however, now we understand it will take several grants to pursue. #1 Lesson Learned so far: it costs a lot of money to pursue grants of the size we need (folks need payment to provide professional estimates). The Church Growth & Transformation committee has generously supported the AC to date. We are now turning a corner, however, in that the National Historic Trust for the Preservation of Black Churches request for proposals may not materialize this year.

The AC does not discern that the Spirit is calling this transformative effort to end, but instead to pivot. And to understand in new ways, how wildly and passionately the Spirit is capable of blowing. Look to hear more from them in the future as the Spirit calls to all of us.



In these 'Ordinary' summer days of living into the ministry of Jesus Christ here in Salem, may we be still to dream and know God. May we support each other on the journey. And may we especially love God in new ways that are drenched in love.

With a grateful heart to be serving with you, jodi

LLOYD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
Elder Catrelia Hunter and Rev. Jon Gaska

Elder Catrelia Hunter and Rev. Jon Gaska shared a report which included a video on the vision and future of Lloyd Presbyterian Church and its rich historical value to the history of Winston-Salem and the African American community.

GREETING FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION
Olanda Carr, Ministry Relations Officer for East Region

Olanda Carr, Ministry Relations Officer for East Region of the Presbyterian Foundation, shared that the Presbyterian Foundation is ready to help churches and its leadership plan for a vibrant future. Their sacred call is to advise Presbyterian churches, ministries and individuals on matters of stewardship and provide financial services, all in hopes of sharing the love of Christ. He revealed that the Presbyterian Foundation offers stewardship support, best practices for investments and endowments and project regeneration.

UPDATE FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
Elizabeth Little, Church Consultant

Elizabeth Little, church consultant with the Board of Pensions, discussed the 2026 rate increase and employer agreements as well as new mental health services. Assistance program grant opportunities and employer support with benefits connect were also discussed.

STATED CLERK REPORT
Rev. Paul Sink

Correspondence: (As seen in Salem Matters)

Dear Friends in Salem Presbytery,

I bring you greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! As we look forward to our meeting of Salem Presbytery next week at Elkin Presbyterian Church, I wanted to share a bit of news with you. While I have greatly enjoyed serving as your Stated Clerk for the last year, it has become very evident that this role at this time in Salem Presbytery is much greater than the 15 hours per week that are in the position description. By living into this role for a year, the time requirement varies greatly depending on the week, which has

created an untenable situation for me. I simply cannot continue to serve as a full time pastor at Taylorsville Presbyterian Church and part-time Stated Clerk for Salem Presbytery, as it is not fair to anyone involved. I let the Presbytery Personnel Committee know of this near the end of June, so they have been working on succession planning ever since. They have advised the Executive Council recently that my last day will be August 31.

Please know that I have greatly enjoyed the duties of being your Stated Clerk because it has given me opportunities to work with many of our congregations on important ministry tasks. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting next week and for our continued work together as members of Salem Presbytery.

Peace be with you,
Paul Sink

For Information:

- Presbytery Meeting Dates for 2026 have not yet been established by the Executive Council. Much consideration is being given to meeting format, timing, and location.
- Please find reports on Appendix A from Administrative Commissions that have served to ordain and/or install Teaching Elders across Salem Presbytery.

Paul Sink

Stated Clerk

statedclerk@salempresbytery.org

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
Rev. R.C. Griffin, Moderator

I. COMMISSION ACTION REPORTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF PRESBYTERY

A. SECURING A CONTRACT WITH AN INTERIM PASTOR/TRANSITIONAL MINISTER

1. Concurred with the Session of **Vandalia Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, in securing the contract with the **Reverend Kevin Conley** as Transitional Pastor for a period of one year beginning July 1, 2025.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Graham Presbyterian Church**, Graham, North Carolina, in securing the contract with the **Reverend Scott Lawson** as Transitional Pastor for a period of one year beginning May 15, 2025.

B. SECURING A TEMPORARY SUPPLY

1. Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Salisbury, North Carolina, in securing a Temporary Supply contract with the **Reverend William Hoyle** for a period beginning June 16, 2025 and ending September 7, 2025.
2. Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Salisbury, North Carolina, in securing a Temporary Supply contract with the **Reverend Felicia Hoyle** for a period beginning June 16, 2025 and ending September 7, 2025.

3. Concurred with the Session of **Parkway Presbyterian Church**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in securing a Temporary Supply contract with the **Reverend Stacey Steck** for a period beginning June 8, 2025 and ending October 19, 2025.

C. TEMPORARY SUPPLY RENEWAL

1. Concurred with the Session of **Grace Presbyterian Church**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Pamela Mitchell** for a period of one month beginning July 1, 2025.

2. Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Maria Hanlin**.

II. COMMISSION ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

A. SECURING A COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTOR

1. Concurred with the Session of **New Salem Presbyterian Church**, Stony Point, North Carolina, in securing a contract with **Rainey Ratchford** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2025.

2. Concurred with the Session of **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, in securing a contract with **Lee Shores** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of six months beginning August 1, 2025.

3. Concurred with the Session of **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, in securing a contract with **Tim Parker** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of six months beginning August 1, 2025.

B. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS (RENEWAL)

1. Concurred with the Session of **Glendale Springs Presbyterian Church**, Glendale Springs, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Sidney Crunk** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning May 1, 2025.

2. Concurred with the Session of **Second Presbyterian Church**, Salisbury, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **James Harley** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2025.

C. MINISTER TRANSFERRING TO SALEM PRESBYTERY

That the **Reverend Kate McGregor Mosley** a member of the Greater Atlanta Presbytery, was received by Salem Presbytery on May 22, 2025.

D. MODERATOR OF SESSION

1. That the **Rev. Paul Sink** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Concord Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina.

2. That the **Rev. Rachael Brooks** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Cooleemee Presbyterian Church**, Cooleemee, North Carolina.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PRESBYTERY

A. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS (LAY PASTOR)

1. That **Rainey Ratchford** be commissioned as the Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor of **New Salem Presbyterian Church**, Stony Point, North Carolina, for a period of one year beginning June 1, 2025, and that she be granted permission to celebrate the Sacraments and Moderate the Session.

2. That **Lee Shores** be commissioned as the Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor of **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, for a period of six months beginning August 1, 2025, and that he be granted permission to celebrate the Sacraments and Moderate the Session.
 3. That **Tim Parker** be commissioned as the Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor of **Shiloh Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, for a period of six months beginning August 1, 2025, and that he be granted permission to celebrate the Sacraments and Moderate the Session.
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ACTION:

2. Salem Presbytery engaged in the act of commissioning Rainey Ratchford, Lee Shores, and Tim Parker to their respective Commissioned Ruling Elder positions in these congregations. This action was taken using the Commissioning of CREs litany by the gathered body of Salem Presbytery.
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B. REQUEST TO CELEBRATE COMMUNION

1. That Ruling Elder **Richard Collier** be allowed to celebrate communion on July 6, 2025, at Sparta Presbyterian Church.
 2. That CRE **James Harley** be allowed to celebrate communion at Lloyd Presbyterian Church.
 3. That CRE **David Boger** be allowed to celebrate communion at Lloyd Presbyterian Church.
 4. That CRE **Rachael Brooks** be allowed to officiate communion at the Presbytery Meeting on August 5, 2025.
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ACTION:

3. Salem Presbytery approved that Ruling Elder Richard Collier be allowed to serve communion at Sparta Presbyterian Church on June 6, 2025.
 4. Salem Presbytery approved that CRE James Harley and CRE David Boger be allowed to serve communion at Lloyd Presbyterian Church until December 31, 2025.
 5. Salem Presbytery approved that CRE Rachael Brooks be allowed to serve communion at the Salem Presbytery Meeting on August 5, 2025.
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COM TASK FORCE ON EXAMINATIONS Rev. Travis Milam, Moderator

The Examinations Committee has successfully examined the following for service in Salem Presbytery. The COM has received Rev. Kate McGregor Mosley to membership in Salem Presbytery.

Rev. Kate McGregor Mosley

My Faith Journey

Born to church professionals in the late sixties, I am a child of the church, accustomed to wandering its halls, actively participating in weekly worship and other church programs, while calling its members my second family. Baptized into the faith on Charter Sunday at Community In Christ Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, I moved a few times with my family during my formative years which had a significant impact on me and my faith formation. Even 40+ years later, I can still recall the profound impact of church hospitality shared with me to provide grounding during times of great transition. I learned at an early age that a wider community beyond my family had a vested interest in nurturing my self-development and spiritual sense through the sharing of God's love and grace.

Settled in Nashville, TN as a young adult, I found myself discerning a call to ministry while leading a faith-based medical mission that served children in war-torn Central America in the 90s. It took several years and a few vocational turns for me to accept fully God's vocational claim on my life.

During this time, I was ordained as a ruling elder at Second Presbyterian Church and found much fulfillment in helping to establish the Nashville Epiphany Project, a PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer site, nurturing young adults recently returned from international mission placements. In that church, I met my now husband who had just embarked on a second career as a school teacher. He obliged my calling and together we relocated to Atlanta for me to attend Columbia Theological Seminary from 2002-2006.

We thought our time in Atlanta would be brief and prepared for ministry to fling us across destinations unknown. Alas, three children, three houses and four jobs later, we were well-ensconced in Atlanta until 2024 when we felt a longing to live among the mountains of North Carolina. The 20 years I served in Atlanta were rich, diverse, and life-giving with amazing colleagues across varied faith traditions and vocations. After serving at Central Presbyterian Church, I worked as a "Presbytery Partner" leading a faith-based environmental ministry that resourced the 120 PCUSA congregations across Metro Atlanta. That evolved into an interfaith environmental ministry that served 3,000+ congregations across Georgia from 2011-2020. I thrived in that setting, sharing the openness and connectivity of being Presbyterian while embracing brothers and sisters across the faith spectrum in a shared commitment to be better stewards of God's beautiful Creation. My family and I remained an active part of North Decatur Presbyterian Church for twelve years before moving to Boone in the summer of 2024, where we now regularly attend Rumble Memorial Presbyterian in Blowing Rock.

My primary ministry all these years has been focused within nonprofit executive leadership that resources congregations. I had thought my ministry would be focused on pastoral care within the local congregation when I embarked on this journey, but my innate leadership skills and desire to build programs that bring diverse groups together seems to be my calling. Someone once remarked to me that the Bible is about God moving people in new directions – to places they never imagined they would or could go. That has been the experience of my own life, and I am thankful for the presence of the Holy Spirit that continues to shape and

nurture me along the way. I pray that I may always be attentive to the movement of the Spirit and how it is drawing me into the presence of others. I have learned that a faith shared is a faith strengthened. It is in the sharing of our joys and burdens that we come to know Christ in one another. It is when we break bread together, study and experience Holy Scripture, welcome the stranger, care for the needy, sow seeds for peace and justice *together* that we come face to face with the power of God's faithful promises to us, calling us into one family. I pray my ministry may still flourish for God's purposes in this new place I call home.

Rev. Kate McGregor Mosley

Personal Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune
God Creator
Sustainer
Reconciler
Lover, Giver and Protector of All Life.

I believe in the Living God who created this world and all that dwells in it and around it. With love and mercy, God rules over all creation, breathing life into it, guiding it and transforming it. God desires to be in relationship with the world, and so faithfully, God freely gives abundant grace so that we all may be restored to fullness of life. God promises to be faithful to us, to be present with us, and to love each of us justly.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the son of God, Word made flesh. In his saving life, death and resurrection, Jesus is the embodiment of our faithful God, dwelling among us to give new life and hope for the world. In his earthly ministry, Jesus came as teacher, healer, lover and reconciler for all of creation. His presence blurred the lines between the strong and the weak, the rich and the poor – to challenge systems that humans had formed and became barriers to God's love. In his death on the cross, Jesus showed us the power of God's gracious love for the world. Through his resurrection, we are no longer in the clutches of sin and death but are given new life and set free to love and serve God and one another.

I believe in the Holy Spirit whose power we cannot fully comprehend but spurs our imagination, our passion, and our hopefulness for how the Triune God intends for us to live. This life-giving Spirit sustains us in our times of joy and sorrow, celebration and contemplation, activity and stillness. The Spirit reveals God's goodness to us and stirs within us the desire for a faith-filled life, propelling us

towards acts of love, justice and compassion.

I believe that as the body of Christ, the church is to be a reflection of God's grace and mercy to the world. The world does not exist for the church, but the church exists for the world. We are called to proclaim the good news as found in Holy Scripture, and it is in our faithful study and proclamation of God's Word as empowered by the Holy Spirit that informs our experience of God's active presence in the church and world. As the beloved community, we are called to respond gratefully to the life-giving presence of the Divine by extending at every turn wide- reaching acts of love, compassion, hospitality, justice and reconciliation for all. Living as disciples, we accept God's claim on our lives and participate in the joyful feast to which all are invited in the Kingdom of God.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION
Rev. Sam Perkins, Moderator

The COR offers the following report:

The Committee on Representation nominates the following for service on Presbytery committees:

Commission on Ministry: Transitions in Ministry (for installed positions):

Class of 2025: Elder Margaret Cockrell (First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Airy)

Class of 2028: Elder Margaret Cockrell (First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Airy)

Alternate Minister Commissioner for 256th Synod Assembly: Rev. Kim Priddy

ACTION:

6. Salem Presbytery approved the nominees for service on the committees as they are listed.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Rev. Courtney Montoya, Co-Moderator
Rev. Jay Lambeth, Co-Moderator

Executive Council met July 17, 2025. The June agenda was consolidated to July since the June stated meeting date fell on the Juneteenth Holiday.

The Executive Council received reports from Executive Presbyter Tony De La Rosa, Designated Presbyter Jodi Ligan and Stated Clerk Paul Sink. Committees and Commissions made reports as well.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery:

Approved Freedom Presbyterian Church's request to move forward with contracting to have a cell tower located on a portion of their property.

Approved an amended motion brought by the Sandy Ridge Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission granting the way forward as related to property concerns in working with that congregation as they move toward ceasing to be a PCUSA congregation.

Other Business of the Executive Council

Received Budget and Finance Committee report from Elder Ronda Tatum.

Received a report from the Personnel Committee regarding Presbytery staffing. This report included notifying the Executive Council of the Stated Clerk's intent to resign as of August 31, 2025 due to the expanding nature/requirements of the role as compared to the position description's work time.

Gave consent for Presbytery Staff to move forward with necessary physical office space needs for the Presbytery as related to physical space and file handling.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
Ruling Elder Ronda Tatum, Moderator

Salem Presbytery received a thorough report from the Ruling Elder Ronda Tatum on behalf of the Executive Council's Budget and Finance Committee regarding the Presbytery's financial sustainability.

WEBSITE REDESIGN PRESENTED
Revs. John Johnson and Wes Pitts

Salem Presbytery was presented with the newly redesigned Presbytery website. Key features were outlined and walked through. The site should be fully operational in the next few days.

PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE
Elder Beth Hooten, Committee Member

Elder Beth Hooten gave a reminder about Salem Presbytery's Racial Equity Equipping. There are two upcoming sessions September 18th (Alamance Presbyterian Church and November 20th (First Presbyterian Church, Statesville).

Elder Hooten shared two resources to use when navigating responses to emerging communal needs. The first is a statement from Charlotte Presbytery to which our own Salem Presbytery Executive Council has unanimously concurred. The second resource is a recent publication from the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations (GACIER) of the PC(USA). The two-page document is intended to help Presbyterians learn more about Christian Nationalism. It contains responses to frequently asked questions as well as a liturgy.

The next book from the Matthew 25 Studies will be *Christians Against Christianity: How Right-Wing Evangelicals are Destroying Our Nation and Our Faith* by Obery Hendricks. This will be discussed via Zoom on August 25th at noon.

CHURCH GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION
Rev. Emily Wilson, Moderator

Rev. Emily Wilson spoke about living in the space of transformation between trepidation and excitement and where comfort collides with the need to do something differently. Rev. Wilson questioned if congregations were ready to live in that space. Church Growth and Transformation is ready to walk alongside those in the journey of transformation and the resource of *Discovering God's Future* can offer a first step for what churches can do towards transformation. Rev. Wilson also mentioned the grant opportunities offered by Church Growth and Transformation.

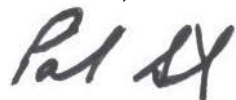
INVITATION TO LUNCH AND PRAYER OF BLESSING

The Presbytery Moderator, Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton led Salem Presbytery in a prayer of blessing for lunch.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The Presbytery Moderator adjourned the meeting with the benediction.

Recorded by:
Christine Ratledge, Office Manager
Paul Sink, Stated Clerk



Appendix A
Minutes of Administrative Commissions to Ordain/Install

INSTALLATION OF JAMES LUNDE

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install James Lunde as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church Burlington, met in the parlor, room 201 at First Presbyterian Church of Burlington on September 22, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Steve Braxton, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by James Lunde. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Felicia Hoyle, Erin Bowers, Lewis Galloway, John Johnson and Carrie Tuttle. Elders: Steve Matthews, Steve Braxton, Katie Shugart and Tony De La Rosa.

Steve Matthews was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest ministers Lewis Galloway of Western Carolina Presbytery and Carrie Tuttle of New Hope Presbytery were welcomed and invited to sit with the Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 4:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Lewis Galloway preached the sermon using text Acts 10 and topic, "Crossing the Threshold of Grace."

Steve Braxton propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Steve Matthews propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. Felicia Hoyle offered the prayer of installation.

James Lunde was declared duly installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Burlington according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Pastor was charged by Erin Bowers, and Tony De La Rosa charged the congregation.

James Lunde, the newly installed Pastor, pronounced the benediction. Following the service, the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Tony De La Rosa.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHRISTOPHER WAYNE SPEAKS

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to ordain and install Christopher Wayne Speaks in Validated Ministry as Chaplain of Moses Cone Hospital Network, met at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church on October 27, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by John Senior, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by John Senior. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: John Senior and Amanda Davee Lomax. Elders: Angela Davis, Brenda Drewry and Gay Wyche.

Amanda Davee Lomax was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest ministers Carl Utley of Presbytery of the Peaks and Robert Johnson of Presbytery of the James were welcomed and invited to sit with the Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 4:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Robert Johnson preached the sermon using texts II Kings: 2:1-15, Luke 22:14-27, and Ephesians 4:4-7, 11-16, and on the topic, "It's Not About You."

Constitutional questions were propounded to the minister by John Senior. Constitutional questions were propounded to the worshipping community by Gay Wyche. Prayer of ordination and installation was offered by Carl Utley.

Christopher Wayne Speaks was declared duly Ordained as a Chaplain of Moses Cone Hospital Network according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Chaplain was charged by Amanda Davee Lomax, and Gay Wyche charged the gathered congregation.

Christopher Wayne Speaks, the newly ordained Chaplain, pronounced the benediction. Following the service the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by John Senior.

INSTALLATION OF TROY LESHER-THOMAS

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Troy Leshier-Thomas as Pastor of Clemmons Presbyterian Church, met at Clemmons Presbyterian Church of Clemmons on November 3, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Paul Sink, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Stu Cameron. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Scott Lawson, Stu Cameron and Paul Sink. Elders: Cyndy Hartsfield, Bobbie Morrel and Cindy Massey.

Cyndy Hartsfield was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest minister Stu Cameron of New Hope Presbytery was welcomed and invited to sit with the Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 4:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Stu Cameron preached the sermon using text John 21:15-17 and topic, "True Love.

Paul Sink propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Paul Sink propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. Bobbie Morrel offered the prayer of installation.

Troy Leshier-Thomas was declared duly installed as Pastor of Clemmons Presbyterian Church according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Pastor was charged by Scott Lawson, and Cyndy Hartsfield charged the congregation.

Troy Leshier-Thomas, the newly installed Pastor, pronounced the benediction. Following the service, the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Paul Sink.

INSTALLATION OF CARRIE FINCH-BURRISS

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Carrie Finch-Burris as Pastor of Fieldstone Presbyterian Church, met at Fieldstone Presbyterian Church of Mooresville on November 10, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Steve Braxton, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by David Smith. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: David Smith and Felicia Stewart-Hoyle. Elders: Steve Braxton, Tony De La Rosa and LaQreshia Bates-Harley.

Mary Ann Turetsky was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest ministers Byron Wade of

Western North Carolina Presbytery and guest elders Erik Burris and Mary Ann Turetsky of Fieldstone Presbyterian Church were welcomed and invited to sit with the Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 3:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Byron Wade preached the sermon using text Joshua 1:4-9 and topic, "Don't Be Afraid."

Steve Braxton propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Mary Ann Turetsky propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. LaQreshia Bates-Harley offered the prayer of installation.

Carrie Finch-Burriss was declared duly installed as Pastor of Fieldstone Presbyterian Church according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Pastor was charged by Tony De La Rosa, and David Smith charged the congregation.

Carrie Finch-Burriss, the newly installed Pastor, pronounced the benediction. Following the service, the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by LaQreshia Bates-Harley.

Appendix B

Ministers Absent from the August 2025 Presbytery Meeting (excluding HR, unless she/he is currently serving a congregation)

Asher-Lawson, Marybeth	Harper, Kathryn	Phillips, Jon
Austin, Taylor	Harrison, James	Porter, Timothy
Bates, Timothy	Heyward, William Bailey	Priddy, Kim
Bates, William	Higgins, Cindy	Purcell, Rick
Beck, Frederick A.	Hill, Julie	Puryear, Sam
Berry, Kent	Hoffman, Kymberley	Rigel, Jessica
Brim, Marty	Ingle, Cynthia	Robertson, Wayne
Bruner, Olen	Jordan, Stephen	Robison, Lee
Bumgarner, Jeffrey	Joyce, Boyd	Rummage, Brian
Burleson, Thomas	Kim, Peter	Sandlin, Mark
Caldwell, Lynne	Kisner, Jeff	Sarvis, Michael
Campbell, Kathryn Grace	Kunkle, Jacqueline Lynn*	Schooley, Christopher
Cannada, Charles	LaDew, Richard	Senior, John
Choplin, Patty	Lansden, Phanta	Simmons, Allison
Clark, M. Gray	Larsen, Eric*	Smith, Jay D.*
Collier, Richard*	Lawson, Scott	Speaks, Christopher
Coppage, Jeffrey A.	Leshner-Thomas, Troy*	Steck, William
Crunk, Sidney	Levens, Kristen	Stiles, Steven
Davee Lomax, Amanda	Martin, Jon	Sutphin, J. Grant
Donovan, John	Martin, Susanne	Taylor-Troutman, Andrew
Duffield, Jill*	McClain, Christopher	Taylor-Troutman, Mary Virginia
Durham, Larry	McFarland, Bryan	Tickle, Austin
Ealy Jr., James David	Mitchell, Pamela	Todd, Katie Barrett
Fearing, Stephen	Moore, Robert	Todd, Mason
Freese, Scott	Moore, Sue	Weed, Larry
Fulp, William	Moore, Timothy	Weed, Mae
Gaither, Otto	Musser Gritter, Joshua	Wisner, Leigh
Gipe, Will	Musser Gritter, Lara	Wood, Virginia
Glaser, Timothy	Nesbit, Thomas	Wray, Tom
Godbey, Sarah	Newsome, Stedman	Zacarias, Rigoberto
Greene, Patricia	Oliver, (Gregory) Jones	
Hanlin, Maria	Phillips, Caroline	

***Notes an excused absence**