

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

**AUGUST 18, 2018**

The One Hundred Nineteenth Stated Meeting of Salem Presbytery, held on Saturday, August 18, 2018 at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, High Point, North Carolina, was called to order with prayer by the Presbytery Moderator, the Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle at 9:00 a.m.

**ENROLLMENT**

Commissioners		Commissioned Ruling Elders	10
Elders	65	Christian Educators	2
Ministers	74	Corresponding Members	0
		Administrative Staff	2
		Stated Clerk	1
		TOTAL:	154

The following Ministers were enrolled: (+visitors –32) 186

**A-F:**

Margaret Almeida, Amanda Anderson, Marybeth Asher-Lawson, Taylor Barner, Kent Berry, Joe Blankinship, Edward L. Boyce, Kenneth L. Broman-Fulks, Kellie Browne, Thomas Burleson, Kathryn Campbell, Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Christy Clore, Frank Covington, Nancy Jo Dederer, Franklin M. Dew, David Ealy, Stewart E. Ellis, Terri Engle, Carlton A.G. Eversley, Martha Anne Fairchild.

**G-L:**

Jonathan Gaska, Kyle Goodman, Sandra Lee Greene, Kate Davelaar Guthrie, William Stephen Hannah, Randy Harris, William B. Heyward, Fred Horner, Bryan Hovey, Charles H. Howell, Felicia Stewart Hoyle, James Robert Jackson, John Johnson, Sandra M. Kern, Barrie Miller Kirby, Thomas J. LaBonte, Emily Schlaman Larsen, Eric Paul Larsen, Debbie Ann Layman, Amanda Davee Lomax.

**M-R:**

Inger Manchester, Eustacia Marshall, Touré Marshall, Patrick McElwaine, Bryan McFarland, Raymond P. Mims, Jr., Alfredo Miranda, Steve Monroe, Susan E. Moorefield, Josh Musser-Gritter, Glenn Otterbacher, Jeffrey P. Paschal, Kim Priddy, Paul L. Rhodes, Paul N. Ridolfi, Jessica Rigel, Brian Rummage.

**S-Z:**

Stephen W. Scott, Caroline Newman Sell, John Senior, Ronald Lowell Shive, Jay Dale Smith, William Stacey Steck, Courtney Stevens, John Stuart Taylor III, Andrew Taylor-Troutman, Ernest T. Thompson, III, Katie Barrett Todd, E. Dale Walker, Daniel C. Wilkers, Nancy Cole Williams-Berry, Leigh Wisner, Virginia Wood.

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

Jay Banasiak, Timothy Bates, Kathryn Beach, Erin Bowers, Steve D. Braswell, Olen V. Bruner, W. Kevin Conley, Lindsay Conrad, Samuel Dansokho, Melissa Davis, Neil Wayne Dunnavant, Christopher F. East, Lou McAlister East, John Elam, Lee Ellenwood, Dana Fruits, Kenneth Griffin Gatewood, Brian Gawf, William M. Hoyle, Hye Jin Hwang, Karen Ware Jackson, Dorothy C. Jacobs, Randal V. Kirby, Jacqueline Lynn Kunkle, Jay Lambeth, Kathryn Conlan Lee, Joel Long, Sam Marshall, Donald McCann, Rosa Miranda, Stephen A. Moss, Diane Givens-Moffett, Samuel Perkins, Rebecca Todd Peters, Floyd Peter Peterson,

Andre Resner, Jr., James M. Rissmiller, Mark Wallace Sinnett, Jeffrey S. Smith, Stevan A. Snipes, J. Grantham Sutphin, Mason M. Todd, Randolph T. Wellford, Alicia Wilson, A. Lee Zehmer.

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

A-L:

Kaye Barrow-Ziglar, Sidney Batts, Frederick Beck, Thomas A. Brown, Virginia Christman, Hilton J. Cochran, Newton Cowan, Jill Yvette Crainshaw, Will Eads, Jonathan H. Freeman, Larry W. Freeman, Carter B. Gillespie, Will Gipe, Robert J. Goforth, Stephanie Hankins, Marti Reed Hazelrigg, Peter Hazelrigg, Jennie Leake Hemrick, Elizabeth Inman, Vicki Jones-Johnson, Cynthia Douglas Kever, Ki Seok Kim, Khelen Rhodes Kuzmovich, William F. Lawrence, Jr., Charlie Lee, Insook Lee, Mitzi Leshner-Thomas.

M-Z:

Francis Rivers Meza, Lara Musser-Gritter, Richard Osmer, Jo Nygard Owens, Steve Macon Pharr, John Pruitt, Mark Alan Sandlin, Howard Sherrill, Paul Irving Sink, Jeffrey Sockwell, Laura M. Spangler, Erich W. Thompson, Elinore Ware Wilburn, Tom Wray.

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

A-D

**Alamance** Clint Aydulette, Lee Shores, **Asheboro First** Joanne Corsbie, Karen Reedy, **Baird's Creek** Jinx Miller, **Bethany (Graham)** Chip Allen, **Bethany (Graham)** Chip Allen, **Bethany (Statesville)** William Campbell, **Bethel** Sharon Smith, **Burlington First** Scott Moffitt, David Sapp, **Chapel in the Pines** Margaret Reif, **Church of the Covenant** Nancy Schaefer, **Church of the Cross** Sharon S. Ozment, **Clemmons** Bev Sanford, Anne Welch, **Community in Christ** Hal McElroy, **Concord** Della Kinney, **Covenant** Robin Mica.

E-J

**Fairmont** Phil Styers, **Fellowship** Julie Davis, **Flat Rock** Margaret Graham, **Freedom** Roy Green, **Greensboro First** Gay White, John Vanderwerff, Mark Yarbrough, **Gulf** Hal McElroy, **Hawfields** Sam Beaudry, **High Point First** Betsy Hunt, Carol Cox, **Highland** Ethie Edwards, Miles Abernethy, **Immanuel** Tony Blankenship, **Jamestown** Jim Gonsicwski **John Calvin** Amy McCachren.

K-R

**Lexington Second** Nissa Heller, **Logan** Lee Woods, **Mebane** Thomas Vinson, **Mocksville First** Teresa Soyka, **Mount Jefferson** Joe R. Blevins, **New Creation** Pat Patrick, **North Wilkesboro** Beth Huie, **Oak Ridge** Heather Hodgkin, **Parkway** Sheila Tatum, **Pilot Mountain First** Sherri Collins, **Pine Ridge** Carol G. Jessup, **Prospect** Walter Teeter, **Reidsville First** Rick McKinney.

S-Z

**Saint Andrews** Fred B. Knott, Jr., **Saint Paul (Greensboro)** Merrilou Williams, **Saint Paul (High Point)** Doris T. Davis, **Salisbury First** Rip Collins, Steve Thomas, **Shady Side** Ken Davis, **Shallowford** Sally Gant, **Shiloh (Statesville)** Elizabeth Moseley, **Sparta** George White, **Springwood** Cynthia Ingle, **Starmount** Steve Blackwood, **Thomasville First** Joe Bennett, **Thyatira** Keith Vaughan, **Trinity (Winston-Salem)** Carol Kayler, **Westminster (Greensboro)** Larry Hooker, Rose Gaiser, John Cross, Sharon Westfall.

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

A-L:

Allen Temple, Bethesda (Ruffin), Bethesda (Statesville), Beulah, Bixby, Boone First, Boonville First, Calvary, Cameron, Cleveland, Collinstown, Cooleemee, Cross Roads, Danbury Community, Dellabrook, Eben-ezer, Ebenezer, El Bethel, Elkin, Faith, Fieldstone, Fifth Creek, Forest Hills, Francisco, Franklin, Glendale Springs, Glenwood, Grace, Graham, Greenwood, Griers, Guilford Park, Hills, Joyce, Kernersville First, Korean First, Lake Norman Fellowship, Lansing, Laurel Fork, Lexington First, Lloyd, Love Valley.

M-Z:

Madison, Milton, Mocksville Second, Mt. Airy First, Mount Tabor, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Springs, New Salem, Oakland, Oakview, Old Providence, Piedmont, Pine Hall, Pittsboro, Pleasant Grove, Red House, Reid Memorial, Rumpel Memorial, Saint James, Salisbury Second, Sandy Ridge, Sedgefield, Shiloh (Burlington), Siler City, Smyrna, Speedwell, Spencer, Statesville First, Stoneville, Tabor, Taylorsville, Third Creek, Trinity (Elon), Vandalia, Wentworth, Yadkinville, Yanceyville.

The following Church Educators were enrolled: David Smithey, Dianna Wright.

The following Commissioned Ruling Elders (Lay Pastors) were present: Jim Beard, Steve Braxton, Doug Brinkley, Bill Browder, John Groff, Samuel Jenkins, Hal McElroy, Rick Purcell, Fred Terry, Parks Williams.

Stated Clerk present: David Vaughan

Corresponding Member present:

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

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#### CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Moderator, the Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and constituted the meeting with prayer.

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#### MORNING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Salem Presbytery was led in worship by the Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton and the Rev. Joe Blankinship, Co-Pastors of Forest Hills Presbyterian Church. Rev. Blankinship brought a timely message using the scripture passage Luke 14:12-24. The Lord's Supper was celebrated following the sermon.

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#### WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

The governing body was welcomed by Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton, Forest Hills Presbyterian Church, High Point, North Carolina. Information regarding the arrangements for this meeting was presented.

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#### QUORUM

The Stated Clerk, Elder David Vaughan, 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. Felicia Stewart Hoyle. No additional new business had been received by the Stated Clerk, but the morning schedule was adjusted.

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### **ACTION:**

1. Presbytery approved the docket as amended.
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## WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Moderator welcomed Salem Presbytery to the meeting and emphasized our connection and relationship as the body of Salem Presbytery. Elders attending Presbytery for the first time were recognized and welcomed by the Moderator. Visitors and guests were also welcomed.

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## GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUEST

The Rev. Timothy Peoples, pastor of Emerywood Baptist Church, High Point, brought greetings from his congregation and the community of High Point. The common work and ministry we share as Christians was the theme of his conversation, and Salem Presbytery was invited to join in living out a vision of wellness for the church with other sisters and brothers of faith.

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## GREETINGS AND PRESENTATION FROM SALEM PRESBYTERY STAFF

Transitional General Presbyter, Steve Scott, Associate Presbyter, Bryan McFarland, Associate Presbyter, Dianna Wright, and Hispanic Mission Evangelist Alfredo Miranda brought greetings and reports of the work of the Presbytery.

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## STATED CLERK'S REPORT Elder David Vaughan, Stated Clerk

Elder David Vaughan called attention to the Stated Clerk's report printed in the packet.

### **FOR INFORMATION:**

#### **Session Minutes Reviews**

Since the most recent meeting of Presbytery, the Session minutes of the following churches have been successfully reviewed:

Boone, First  
Covenant, Winston-Salem  
New Creation  
Sedgefield  
Westminster

#### **Review of Salem Presbytery minutes**

Salem Presbytery's meeting minutes for 2018 have been successfully reviewed by Synod's representative as outlined in the attached letter.

### **Appointment of Administrative Commission for two Lexington-area churches**

Based upon the authority granted me by the Presbytery at its most recent meeting, I have appointed the following presbyters to an Administrative Commission to assist the Fairmont and Lexington Second churches to unite together in witness, work, and worship: TE Joe Blankinship, RE Ken Davis, RE Nissa Hegler, TE Tom LaBonte, TE Brian Rummage, RE Janie Styers, and TE Dale Walker. The AC elected Rev. LaBonte as its moderator. The AC will address the Presbytery at this meeting.

### **2019 Meetings of Presbytery**

Salem Presbytery will meet in 2019 according to the following schedule that was approved by the Presbytery's Executive Council (and announced at the most recent meeting of Presbytery):

Tuesday, February 12, 2019: Guilford Park Presbyterian Church, Greensboro

Tuesday, May 14, 2019: *Host needed (preferably in the West Neighborhood)*

Saturday, August 17, 2019: Jamestown Presbyterian Church, Jamestown

Tuesday, November 12, 2019: *Host needed (preferably in the Central Neighborhood)*

### **A personal note ...**

I am deeply grateful to Ruling Elder Mack Dagenhart (Highland), immediate past Stated Clerk of this body, for his willingness to be summoned at the very last minute to assist at the most recent meeting of Presbytery. I was attending to a medical emergency involving my son – and my family remains grateful for the many earnest prayers and expressions of concern and support from all realms of our Presbytery's bounds. Jeff has successfully recuperated.

David Vaughan, Stated Clerk

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## RESOLUTION OF GRATITUDE

WHEREAS Joe Louis Spears early responded to God's call to ministry in the church of Jesus Christ, and

Whereas Rev. Spears took seriously and personally the Great Commission of Jesus in Matthew 28:19-20 to make disciples and teach them, and

Whereas Rev. Spears served faithfully as pastor of New Liberty Presbyterian Church, in Dillon, Georgia, and Washington Street Presbyterian Church, in Dublin, Georgia, and

Whereas Rev. Spears served in Salem Presbytery as pastor of Calvary Presbyterian Church in Statesville, Trinity Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, Mount Tabor Presbyterian Church in Cleveland and Cameron Presbyterian Church in Elmwood, and

Whereas Rev. Spears served in the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as the first African-American moderator of Augusta-Macon Presbytery and as a commissioner to the General Assembly on two occasions, as a member of Salem Presbytery's council and moderator of its Black Caucus, and

Whereas Rev. Spears served his community beyond the church as a vice president, chaplain, and professor of religion and Philosophy at Barber-Scotia College of Concord, North Carolina, and professor of homiletics at Hood Theological Seminary, and in many professional and service organizations, and

Whereas Rev. Spears has fought the good fight, has run with perseverance the race set before him, and has kept the faith entrusted to him, being received into the arms of God on August 11, 2018, and

Whereas we are confident that Joe has heard the words of Jesus, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of your master,"

BE IT RESOLVED that Salem Presbytery celebrates the life and ministry of Joe Louis Spears and offers thanks to Almighty God for the life of Joe Louis Spears and God's call to him.

Be it further resolved that Salem Presbytery remember in prayer all who mourn the death of Joe Louis Spears and that we might find hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

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**ACTION:**

2. Salem Presbytery voted to adopt the Resolution of Gratitude for the Life and Ministry of Joe Louis Spears.

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**EXAMINATIONS**

William Hoyle – Moderator, Debbie Layman – Vice Moderator, Jim Norris – Clerk

At our May meeting we examined and approved the following persons:

**Martha Anne Fairchild** – Honorably Retired coming to Salem

**Otto Gaither** – to preach and serve communion at Mt. Vernon

**Caroline Newman Sell** – coming to Westminster

**Jessica Rigel** – to be ordained

At our June meeting we examined and approved **Ed Boyce** to serve as Interim at Statesville.

Statement of Faith and Journey of Faith documents are printed below:

**Jessica Rigel**

**Statement of Faith**

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Our God is one – the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all, who remains ever present with Creation, refusing to abandon it. God redeems everything, relishes beauty, and embodies grace, forgiveness, and absolute love. Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God's son yet God's self, emerged from Mary's womb fully human while remaining fully Divine. This Jesus loved, laughed, healed, suffered, died, and had the audacity to return from the dead through the power of God to demonstrate His love for humanity. I trust in the Holy Spirit, and I live in awe of the way I glimpse the Spirit working through lives, including my own. I believe that the Spirit is not always gentle, but is persistent, acting as a guide committed to enriching lives to find the wholeness, fulfillment, and peace of Christ and to become reflections of God's grace.

I believe that God is the architect behind Creation, and that the created order reflects God's glory and is worthy of reverence and awe. Humanity is a part of this good Creation, and we were made with a natural curiosity and awareness, but with a limited attention span and memory. We are both forgetful and willful, and this reality can make us cruel, destructive and selfish. We are culpable for these actions and attitudes, and the consequence is a self-imposed distance from the Divine.

I believe in the healing authority of Scripture, which serves as a witness to God's great love. Scripture reflects the intended relationship between God and the created order, and it revolves around human stories as a means of helping believers understand, grow and persevere in their relationship with the Divine. Through studying and struggling with these writings, we can become more faithful to living in the ways of Christ, whose commitment to prayer, presence, and service is embodied throughout the Gospels. To be a disciple of Christ is to submit to such spiritual practices with a grateful heart.

I believe that the sacraments physically manifest the grace of God through their focus on our unity and humility before Christ in worship. In baptism and communion, communities of faith engage Christ's power through dying to their own sin and being resurrected to a relationship with Him rooted in sustenance and fellowship. By practicing these sacraments, believers experience God's healing presence in our daily lives and recommit ourselves to the kingdom vision of the beloved community.

I believe that Christ came to redeem the world, and that He endows His followers with the desire and the power to share His hope and grace. I believe that though humanity can distance itself from God, it can never be separated from God. Even though we sin, believers receive glimpses of how God's kingdom is at work in the world and how we can share in kingdom building. It is this kingdom building that we are invited to participate in that defines our lives and brings us hope.

Our Triune God redeemed the world and continues to redeem it through abundant grace. When we open our hearts to welcome the Holy Spirit, we are transformed and empowered to walk beside the hungry and the homeless and the sick and the imprisoned until Christ comes again.

**Jessica Rigel**  
**Journey**

**Faith**

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Though I was raised in the Presbyterian Church, and grew up attending weekly services and participating in youth group, confirmation, and mission trips, I only became comfortable calling myself a Christian in college. After noticing that there were a variety of interpretations of Christian belief on my campus, I decided to improve my personal faith understanding by not only getting involved in an ecumenical campus ministry, but also by becoming a religion major. As my studies progressed, I found myself drawn to Buddhism, which prompted me to study for a semester in northern India.

The experiences I had in India forever changed the way I view my relationship with God. Through my travels I was exposed to and began to practice meditation as a form of contemplative prayer. Having only previously experienced the Divine through service, meditating taught me how to personally communicate with God. I realized that my value for other faiths need not separate me from my own, and I returned to the U.S. with a stronger commitment to Christ than I'd ever had before. This commitment eventually led me to the PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, where I served as a land steward in Southeastern Arizona and as a community gardener in New Orleans, Louisiana. Each of my YAV years significantly impacted the way I interact with God's good creation, and the way I understand Christian community.

Following my YAV year in New Orleans, I was encouraged to pursue Seminary, and though I had no idea what such an experience might lead to, I trusted the movement of the Spirit and enrolled at Princeton Theological Seminary in 2014. Having no intention of becoming a pulpit pastor, I was shocked when my studies led me to fall in love with Scripture in a way I had never imagined possible, and when my professors and peers acknowledged my skills in preaching. Through field education opportunities I was able to serve college and entrepreneurial ministry initiatives, create young adult mission programs, and complete hospital chaplaincy in both traditional hospital and mental health settings. I formed meaningful relationships with faculty, and was granted opportunities to teach and assist with publishing projects. I rediscovered my love of music, and performed and traveled with the Seminary choir, and I even got the opportunity to take classes and work regularly on a farm! Through Seminary I saw more and more how the Spirit was affirming my call to a parish ministry that allowed me to preach and teach, while also remaining engaged in youth work and environmental and food justice initiatives.

In the course of the past year, I've been blessed to have started a regular Sabbath practice, which has become an imperative part of my spiritual discipline. Through a particularly meaningful class, I was encouraged to practice 6 uninterrupted hours of Sabbath each week and to reflect on that practice in writing. Though carving out this time for rest has proved challenging, when I prioritize Sabbath I feel closer to God, I strengthen relationships with my friends, family, and community, and I feel less anxiety and stress throughout the week. This Sabbath practice, like so much of my faith journey, has been an unexpected grace. In remaining open to the movement of the Spirit in my life, and in consistently taking time to engage with God through the Church, I have been blessed to observe Christ's hands and feet at work in the world.

It is with hope and humility that I follow Christ's call to North Carolina, where I aspire to continue to grow in relationship with Him through serving His people.

**Martha Anne Fairchild**

**Statement of Faith**

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I belong to Jesus Christ. This is the source of all my faith, that I trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. He is the second person of the Triune God, the God known to us through Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Our sin separates us utterly from God, but through Jesus Christ we are saved and reconciled with God. This enables us to receive and act upon God's call to serve in the world as disciples of Jesus Christ, working as redeemed sinners to share the good news of God's love, freely available to all. All this is God's gracious gift. We respond to God's gift in gratitude. This is the core of my faith.

Our Creating God brought all things into being and pronounced them good. But human beings rebelled against our loving Creator and thus alienated ourselves from God. In patient love God declined to abandon us to the consequences of our sin. Instead, God gave up God's very self, Jesus the Son, to be born as a human being while remaining fully divine. Jesus lived, suffered, and died at the hands of sinful human beings, and then, by God's power, he was raised from the dead – all for our sake. Jesus thus took upon himself the full penalty of our sin through his death and claimed for us full redemption through his resurrection. Through Jesus the reign of God has begun, and at his return in glory the new creation in him will be completed.

We live, therefore, in the season of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit God continues to dwell among us, enabling our faith and empowering our ministry on God's behalf. The Scriptures which were inspired by the Holy Spirit are also opened to us by the Holy Spirit's work among us, so that they may teach us what we need for our faith and practice. The Holy Spirit brings together the Church of Jesus Christ, in which God's children may gather for worship, nurture, and service. With Jesus Christ as its head, the Holy Spirit enables the church to be the body of Christ in the world.

As inheritors of the Reformed tradition, we Presbyterians seek to live together in communities of faith in which disciplined church order guides our discipleship. Knowing well that God is sovereign over all things, we rejoice in our election, not merely for our own salvation, but for service to God throughout our lives. This service includes a special responsibility to work for justice and peace, as well as to be faithful stewards of all that God has given us, especially of the created natural world. In obedience to God's word we recognize the reality of human sinfulness. We know we are prone to idolatry, setting up other, lesser things in God's place, and to tyranny, setting ourselves up as God over other people. We resist our sinfulness, not out of our own strength, but out of the gracious power of the Holy Spirit acting in us. As Presbyterians, we joyfully celebrate the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through baptism we are adopted into the family of God by water and Spirit, and the church bears witness to this adoption by baptizing infants, children, and adults, in recognition that all are helpless to save themselves. Through the Lord's Supper, we are fed with the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ in bread and cup.

I rejoice to belong to Jesus Christ!

**Martha Anne Fairchild**

**Faith Journey**

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I was nurtured in Reidsville's First Presbyterian Church, the child of faithful Presbyterian parents. There my grandmother Lucile Palmer McMichael was the first woman elected a ruling elder in the former Synod of North Carolina (PCUS). My mother, aunts, and uncle followed her as ruling elders, and my father served as a deacon for many years. Baptized as an infant, I made my profession of faith at the age of 10. I grew in faith especially through my involvement in the church's music program, singing with my father and sister in the chancel choir until I left for college at age 17.

That was when I began my own wilderness wandering. I was blessed to receive early admission to what was then Florida Presbyterian College (now Eckerd College), where I majored in philosophy and began to wonder if I could really claim to be a Christian. My professors encouraged my intellectual growth but also challenged me spiritually. At home, my family and my church patiently supported me through times of doubt and even despair. When I graduated with a B.A. and headed off to Duke University's philosophy Ph.D.



program, I was sure I would become a college professor. To my surprise I hated graduate work in philosophy. It turned out I was no specialist. Encouraged by friends I made at Duke, I transferred after one semester to the Divinity School, not out of any sense that I was called to ministry, but out of academic interest in studying theology. To support myself with little financial aid, I took a part-time job with Duke's Public Safety Department, and continued to work for them the following summer, since I was not eligible for field education yet. That summer, by God's grace, I was in the right place at the right time to save the life of a ten year old boy, and by the end of the following semester I had left graduate studies to pursue (so I thought) a career in law enforcement. After several years as a police officer at Duke, I accepted a job at Queens College in Charlotte where I organized their first campus police department. But I soon learned that this was not my calling, either, and I left Queens and law enforcement uncertain of where my life would lead next.

There followed several years of frustrating attempts to find my way in life: law school, computer science, back to Duke to work as a civilian in the Public Safety Department. A colleague at Duke kept asking me, "Are you still running from the Lord?" Perhaps jarred into action by her gentle reminders, I reapplied to the Divinity School and was accepted to resume my degree work. But once again I met a setback – the Candidates' Committee of Orange Presbytery rejected my candidacy application. And once again God led me, when the Rev. Richard Hildebrandt of the Hillsborough Presbyterian Church accepted me for field education despite my not being a candidate. Working in Hillsborough for over a year, I fell in love with pastoral ministry. I finally understood that through all the experiences of my life, God was calling me: first and foremost to renew my faith in Jesus Christ, but even further, to seek ordained ministry. The committee accepted me when I applied again, and after a three year search for a call, I was ordained by Salem Presbytery in April, 1990, to serve two small yoked churches in Vermont. From there I accepted a call in 1995 to serve the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Tennessee, where I served until my retirement in March, 2018. I now reside back where I started my journey, in my hometown of Reidsville, North Carolina.

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**Caroline Newman****Statement of Faith**

I believe in one Sovereign, Creator God. Human beings (who are created in the Image of God), and indeed the whole of Creation, are a witness to God's sustaining, redeeming, and providing work. Life is a gift that despite our best attempts we cannot control but instead only receive.

I believe that God has always lived in perfect relationship within God's self: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit (the Trinity). God not only created the world, but also remains in relationship with all of creation, even today.

I believe that Jesus Christ died and rose from the dead, defeating sin and death and breaking down all barriers between God and humanity. "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23). Sin affects not only humanity, but also all of creation. Yet, because of Jesus' great act of grace, we can live in communion with God as forgiven creatures. In the end of days, when Jesus returns to the Earth, true justice will prevail once and for all. Because of what Jesus Christ has done and will do, we have hope.

I believe in the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit. We are promised that the Holy Spirit of God will be with us, even until the end of the age. The Holy Spirit convicts, guides, and aids us. Through the Spirit, we remain in communion with God, working towards God's Kingdom.

I believe that God's faithfulness is most perfectly seen in the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh. Jesus, mysteriously fully human and fully God, models God's intention for us to live lives marked by sacrificial love. In Christ, God demonstrated God's love for us once and for all – living, breathing, laughing, serving and even suffering on this Earth.

I believe that Christ has chosen to be uniquely present to us through the two sacraments, Baptism and Communion. Baptism marks the beginning of a journey in faith. Through the Spirit, new life for the baptized is proclaimed and the community welcomes a new member of the Body. In communion, we feast together and remember Christ's saving forgiveness of sins. Christ, present in the Supper, provides nourishment for a lifelong journey of faith and mission in the world.

I believe that the Church is Christ's Body on Earth. The Spirit forms the Church as a community through worship and fellowship. In worship, the Holy Scriptures are proclaimed and explored. Whenever we read Scripture, we are joined to a great cloud of witnesses spanning time and place—witnesses who have found challenge and inspiration from these sacred words. With the help of the Holy Spirit and within the context of community, we can discover meaning and purpose from Scripture. In fellowship, the Christian community practices how to live with each other, striving to be a community marked by self-sacrificial love. This is fuel for the journey: we are formed in remarkable ways to then be sent to join in the mission of redemption and justice throughout our world.

**Caroline Newman**

**Faith Journey**

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I did not grow up attending church regularly, but as my Jewish father puts it, "We believed you would enjoy being in a faith community, so we wanted to give you the chance." I am indebted to my parent's insight, for when my mother began taking me to Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, NC in seventh grade, I thrived. I quickly became involved in Sunday School and even was baptized and confirmed the following spring. Throughout the rest of middle and high school, church became my second home as I was active in the youth ministry, both as a participant and as a leader. I loved the community I found through church, a community where I felt accepted, challenged, loved, and embraced. This experience of community shapes my faith and belief in the power of the Church even today.

By the time I began college at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I had fallen in love with leadership in a church setting, particularly through leading a sixth grade girls weekly Bible Study. I immediately found a church (Chapel Hill Bible Church), where I could serve in a similar capacity. Here I was blessed with another experience of intense community, finding support and love throughout college through the church. The relationship was complicated, though, by the intellectual journey I had embarked on back on UNC's campus. Through being a Religious Studies major at UNC and my time studying abroad, I developed many intellectual curiosities regarding Scripture and faith. Such inquiries and curiosities were not welcomed at church, a reality that frustrated me and led to a dissonance in my own faith life. I continued to seek deep inspiration in Scripture, but I also wanted to recognize the context and culture in which it was written. I wanted to extend grace through societal boundaries (gender, sexual orientation, race, etc.), yet this was discouraged. Following graduation, the youth director position, under which I had been an intern, opened up. I applied, but I was told they were only interested in male applicants. For me, this was the final straw; I knew that I needed to find a church setting where I could grow and lead with my full self.

Following college, I began working at First Presbyterian, Winston-Salem - the church that sent me to seminary. While living in Winston, my dad was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma, a cancer of the blood. This was an intense year of uncertainty and medical treatments, testing my own faith and call. It is during this period that I was reminded of the love of Jesus Christ as the foundation to every corner of my faith. As I began seminary the following year at Princeton Seminary, this foundation prepared me to integrate my academic and personal faith life. During seminary, First Presbyterian, Winston-Salem left the PC(USA) and I transferred my ordination process to New Brunswick Presbytery. Yet, throughout this time I increasingly felt drawn to the PC(USA) as the PC(USA) gave me the freedom to integrate my mind and heart.

My current call has been in a setting that I never suspected: an international, multi-faith, and all-girls boarding high school. I am grateful for the faith journey that I underwent during seminary, for it has given me the confidence to believe that God's love and embrace truly extends to each of my students. It is my call to remind them of this. While my time at St. Tim's has been full of many growth opportunities, I am eager for the next chapter of the journey: pastoral leadership in a congregation. I have missed preaching and teaching regularly, and it has felt that a piece of me has been missing. I am particularly excited to pray more often with congregants. I am sure that the next chapter will have its own struggles and challenges, but my husband and I do believe that God is calling us to serve in North Carolina. Believing that God owns all the roads, we are eager to find what God may have in store for us!

**Otto Gaither**

**Statement of Faith**

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I affirm that my life is dedicated to follow an invisible entity that envelops all things, in time, and place; this, in my belief, is **GOD: the Father: Abba!** Who's manifestation (Matt. 1:23) Emmanuel; being interpreted as

GOD within us, Jesus being known; the son this being the redeeming of mankind. This same entity, as Christ, the messiah, indwells as the son, in me; "MY" Lord; my master this anointing in me leads and guides. On this premise I believe being born by the Holy Ghost is the fulfillment/completeness of (Colo. 2: 8-9); the fullness of the God head bodily; I believe that this communion of the **Holy Ghost in humanity** is the Church's **call to the table of saints** as we believe and take/make transformation; we are forgiven and forgive each other's sin, **believing the power of Romans 6:4 the baptisms we rise walking in newness of life** with the fruits of the spirit being love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, and goodness these are the power of the **Holy text** becoming the Emmanuel alive in us. There is no other whereby man can please GOD, as the persons holding these gifts in earthen vessels. (2 Cor.4: 7) I believe in this Holy Ghost and Our resurrection in this life unto/make up **the Catholic Church** everlasting!

I also believe that our lives should be a manifestation of the Apostles Creed.

**Otto Gaither**

**Faith Journey**

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In the fullness of time God sent forth a son born of a woman, born to make known his will to the people. On October 26, 1951 was born to Minnie Lou and Arthur Gaither of Chester County South Carolina a seven pound boy. In the small town of Great Falls, South Carolina, on highway 21, stood an old school house next to a church; this was our home. Inspired, Arthur changed his name to Otto unofficially, thereby naming the son OTTO GAITHER, JR. At an early age, my parents told me the history of our house which gave me an appetite for knowledge and the ministry.

My father had gone to the eleventh grade and in his day, that was considered very high. He was made the Master of his Masonic Lodge, which made him well respected even, knowledgeable of the community in his day. I recall often being made to read the Bible and recite scripture for visitors and relatives, at my father's command. At the time I was under the age of five.

My early childhood days were very adventurous, yet, at times, frightening. Most of my time was spent playing, especially with the older kids who found nature and the environment characterized by unknown dangers and risks. An example of disturbing things that the older kids did was destroying an entire litter of kittens by throwing them in a nearby creek. This, I thought, was cruel because, now that I look back, I had compassion and empathy for the world and what God had created. My thinking was that they should protect the kittens, and I know that the yellow jackets were trying to tell them this when they would swarm around and run them away from the creek bed. The older kids were supposed to have been looking out for me, but they did not. This upset me greatly, and showed me that neither I nor the kittens were to trust these older kids with our lives.

Another low point in my childhood was the sudden illness of my father which caused us to have to move in with my grandmother who lived in Winnsboro, South Carolina. During this time of living with my grandmother, we children went to church whenever the doors were opened, especially during the summer. With Vacation Bible School, Revivals, Tent Meetings, and reciting Bible verses upon my Father's command, I learned and was taught a lot about church and God.

As best as I recall, my father sometimes took us to the home of senior friends and relatives, who would declare, "the mark is on that boy". This happened quite a few times.

In my search to find myself, I also re-dedicated my life to God which led me to preach the Gospel. I had been a Deacon, Trustee, President of a choir, but this did not fulfill the void I had to preach. My ministry began in 1976 and I served in later years as Pastoral Assistant at First Baptist Church. The experiences of getting biblically educated, preaching and teaching led me to become a Pastor in the Church of God Apostolic, Inc., and a Pastor of Berea Christian Church.

Because of the impact of my ministerial experiences on my life, and the lives of others, I felt compelled to broaden my education skills. As a result, I studied at Winston Salem Bible College, Virginia Union, and the American Baptist Churches of the South Educational Congress. In 1989, after realizing that I needed an undergraduate degree, I entered Winston Salem State University and later transferred to Shaw University in pursuit of an undergraduate degree in Social Sciences. I achieved my undergraduate degree in Social

Sciences and went on to achieve my ultimate goal of obtaining a Master Degree in Divinity in 2007 from Virginia Union School of Theology.

I feel that all that I am, or ever hope to be, I owe it all to God.

**Edward L. Boyce, III**

**Statement of Faith**

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I believe in God the Father Almighty, who created the universe and continues to sustain and rule the universe. While being one in substance, God is distinct in three persons: God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Humankind was created in God's image. God calls humanity into covenant. God continues to sustain the covenant relationship with humanity and calls women, men, and children to follow him, glorifying and enjoying him forever. Jesus Christ is God's only begotten son. God sent Jesus to rescue us from sin. Jesus came to restore humanity to fellowship with God. Jesus accomplished for us that which we cannot do for ourselves by reconciling us with God. He accomplished this through his life, death on the cross, and his resurrection from the dead. God raised Jesus from the dead and Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of God. To Christ belongs the victory. Come, Lord, Jesus Come! The Holy Spirit teaches, comforts, edifies, equips, and guides humanity. The Holy Spirit renews us in the image of God and enables humankind to die to sin and live in righteousness. The Holy Spirit guided the production of the Scriptures and opens them to us today as both the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and the rule of the faith and life of the church. The Holy Spirit gathers us into the church and leads us forth in mission into the world. The Holy Spirit communicates to us the grace of God, the forgiveness of sin, and the gift of faith. By the Holy Spirit, we are endowed with spiritual gifts, the call to obedience and service, and eternal life. I believe that the sacraments are signs and seals of God's covenant with humanity. I believe that the sacraments are an outward and visible sign of a spiritual and an inward grace. With the breaking of bread and pouring of the wine, we partake of a meal with the crucified and risen Christ. Further, it is a foretaste of the marriage banquet to be celebrated with the Lamb of God. Through baptism humanity dies to that which separates us from God and will be born into new life in Jesus Christ. We also receive the promise of new life in Christ and the hope of the resurrection. The waters of baptism cleanse, renew, purify, and restore humanity. Baptism points back to God's grace and forward to God's promises. I believe that the Church is the Body of Christ and is God's temporary demonstration of what is intended for all humanity. Through the Church, God proclaims the gospel to the world. She enacts signs of repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, and new life for humanity. God calls all of the disciples of Jesus to be disciple-making disciples, to invite people into relationship with Jesus, to be equipped for ministry, and to go into the world to minister in Jesus' name.

**Edward L. Boyce, III**

**Faith Journey**

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I was born in Richmond, Virginia and grew up in Bon Air, Virginia. God called me, while still in my mother's womb, to be a disciple of Jesus. According to God's gracious providence, I was born into a Christian family. My parents saw to it that all five of their children grew in faith and attended church. My entire family was active in the church and when the doors were opened, we were there.

At the age of seven, I made my profession of faith and acknowledged what Jesus had already done in my life, calling me as his disciple. Throughout my youth, I was active in Sunday School, Youth Group, and the choir.

Upon graduation from High School, I attended Emory and Henry College for two years. During that time, I first sensed God's call upon my life to enter full time Christian ministry. After my sophomore year, I worked full time as a sales representative in the bearing and industrial Supply industry while going to college at night. After several years of part time study, I returned to college fulltime to finish my degree. It was at this point, that I sensed God's call and responded with my willingness to enter fulltime pastoral ministry. I graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a degree in History and Religious Studies.

I attended Union Theological Seminary in Virginia where I earned a Master of Divinity. While attending seminary, I met and married my wife, Rev. Marian J. Carmical.

My wife and I accepted a call as co-pastors to a three-church parish in Henderson, NC. While in Henderson, our son, William was born. We enjoyed ministry surrounded by fields of tobacco, soybean, and corn.

Following our ministry in Henderson, I accepted a call to First Presbyterian Church in Winnfield, Louisiana. While pastoring in Winnfield, I worked with the local congregation and with the presbytery on Redevelopment and Revitalization issues and strategies. While in Louisiana, I was actively involved in Kairos Prison Ministry, Rotary Club International, and the Winn Parish Literacy Council.

Sensing God's continued call in my life, we moved to Franklin, Virginia to working with another congregation in Redevelopment and Revitalization. In Franklin, I continued to work with congregations on Redevelopment and Revitalization issues as well as helping other congregations with developing and implementing effective stewardship ministries.

My next call was to the Eureka Church in Whispering Pines, NC. We lived in Whispering Pines for almost nine years. During my time there I enjoyed helping the congregation reconnect with the community around the church. We especially concentrated on strengthening the relationship between the congregation and the elementary school next to the church's property.

My most recent call was to the Mars United Church in Mars, PA. While in Mars, I worked to help the congregation continue to deal with the after effects of a 25 years pastorate and the unresolved grief that still remained from the end of that pastoral relationship.

In my spare time, I enjoy playing guitars, making semi-hollow body electric guitars, spending time with my wife and son, swimming, studying American history, walking my dog, and playing and watching any sporting event.

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**ACTION:**

3. Salem Presbytery approved the ordination of Jessica Rigel.

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COMMISSION ON MINISTRY  
Rev. Joe Blankinship and Elder Larry Hooker, Co-Moderators

Elder Jim Beard described the current Commissioned Ruling Elder program and urged commissioners to help identify church members who may have gifts and a sense of call to this important ministry.

Rev. Will Heyward called attention to the Call to Health program of the Board of Pensions.

**I. COMMISSION ACTION REPORTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF PRESBYTERY**

**A. SECURING AN INTERIM PASTOR/TRANSITIONAL MINISTER**

1. Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, in securing the **Reverend Edward Boyce** to serve as Interim Pastor for a period of 12 months, beginning June 1, 2018.

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

1. Concurred with the Session of **Concord Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, in renewing the interim contract with the **Reverend Dan Wilkers** for a period of twelve months beginning June 1, 2018.

2. Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Reidsville, North Carolina, in renewing the interim contract with the **Reverend Christy Clore** for a period of 6 months beginning August 26, 2018.

#### C. SECURING A TEMPORARY SUPPLY

1. Concurred with the Session of **St. James Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, in securing the **Reverend Eustacia Marshall** to serve as Temporary Supply for a period of twelve months, beginning June 4, 2018.
2. Concurred with the Session of the **Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church**, Woodleaf, in securing the Temporary Supply contract with the **Reverend Otto Gaither**, Missionary Baptist, for a period of twelve months beginning July 1, 2018.

#### D. TEMPORARY SUPPLY RENEWAL

1. Concurred with the Session of **Fairmont Presbyterian Church**, Lexington, North Carolina, in renewing the Temporary Supply contract with the **Reverend Brian Rummage**, for a period of seven months beginning June 1, 2018.

#### E. STATED SUPPLY RENEWAL

1. Concurred with the Session of the **Cleveland Presbyterian Church**, Cleveland, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract of the **Reverend Andre Resner** for a period of one year beginning May 1, 2018.
2. Concurred with the Session of the **El Bethel Presbyterian Church**, Eden, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract of the **Reverend Carl Stephen Monroe** for a period of six months beginning May 1, 2018.
3. Concurred with the Session of **Lloyd Presbyterian Church**, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract of the **Reverend Laura Spangler** for a period of one year beginning August 1, 2018.

## II. COMMISSION ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

#### A. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS (RENEWAL)

1. Concurred with the Session of the **Love Valley Presbyterian Church**, Love Valley, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Mr. William A. Bates** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning August 1, 2018.

#### B. TRANSFER MINISTER OUT OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

1. That the **Reverend Amanda Maguire (Thomas)** was transferred to Shenandoah Presbytery effective June 28, 2018.
2. That the **Reverend Troy Lesher-Thomas** was transferred to New Hope Presbytery effective August 1, 2018.

#### C. MODERATOR OF SESSION

1. That **Mr. Tom Burlison** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Glenwood Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina.
2. That **Mr. Doug Brinkley** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Collinstown Presbyterian Church**, Westfield, North Carolina.
3. That **Mr. Joe Blevins** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Lansing Presbyterian Church**, Lansing, North Carolina.
4. That **Mr. Lee Woods** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Beulah Presbyterian Church**, North Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

5. That the **Reverend Alicia Wilson** was appointed Moderator of Session for **John Calvin Presbyterian Church**, Salisbury, North Carolina.

D. PULPIT SUPPLY LIST

1. Added the **Reverend Lisa Mullen** (Moravian) and the **Reverend Randy Hall** to the pulpit supply list.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION APPROVED

1. Stated Clerk approved the administrative commission to install the **Reverend Andrew Taylor-Troutman** as Pastor of **Chapel in the Pines** on July 8, 2018.

F. MINISTER TRANSFERRING TO SALEM PRESBYTERY

1. That the **Reverend Caroline Sell**, a member of Baltimore Presbytery, was received by Salem Presbytery on May 24, 2018.
2. That the **Reverend Martha Anne Fairchild**, a member of East Tennessee Presbytery, was received by Salem Presbytery on June 28, 2018.
3. That the **Reverend Edward Boyce**, a member of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, was received by Salem Presbytery on June 28, 2018.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PRESBYTERY

A. CALL EXTENDED TO CANDIDATE

**ACTION:**

4. Following her successful examination, the call of the **Alamance Presbyterian Church, Greensboro**, North Carolina, to **Jessica Rigel**, a candidate under the care of the Presbytery of New Brunswick, to serve as Associate Pastor was found in order; and the terms of call (printed below) were approved; and upon the signing of the Book of Ministerial Obligations, the call was placed in her hands. The Commission on Ministry is satisfied that this congregation has complied with the EEO provisions of the **Book of Order** (G-3.0307) and the AAEEO Policy adopted by Salem Presbytery (July 1993) in offering this call, pending her successful examination and ordination. The effective date is August 1, 2018.

Salary	\$33,000
Fair Rental Value of Manse	\$14,000
Utilities Allowance	Included
Deferred Compensation	\$ 2,400
Automobile Expense	Fed. Rate
Business/Professional	\$ 1,000
SECA	\$ 3,799
Continuing Education	\$ 2,000
Board of Pensions	Provided
Moving Expenses	Provided
Vacation	4 weeks
Study Leave	2 weeks
Two months maternity leave at full pay.	
Three month Clergy Renewal Leave after seven years.	

B. WELCOME LITURGY

C. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

**ACTIONS:**

5. The following Administrative Commission to install the **Reverend Lara Musser Gritter** and the **Reverend Josh Musser Gritter** as Co-Pastors of **First Presbyterian Church, Salisbury**, North Carolina, on September 9, 2018, was approved.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>MINISTER/ ELDER</b>
Bob Lewis	Preside & Propound the Constitutional Questions	Min
Sid Batts	Preach the Sermon	Min
Katherine Kausmaul (L)	Charge the Minister	Min
Griff Gatewood (J)	Charge the Minister	Min
Margaret Almeida	Charge the Congregation	Min
Dianna Wright	Prayer of Installation	Elder
Will Martin	Lead in Worship	Elder
Catreliia Hunter	Lead in Worship	Elder

6. The following Administration Commission to install the **Reverend Will Gipe** as Pastor of **Prospect Presbyterian Church**, Mooresville, North Carolina, on October 7, 2018, was approved.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>MINISTER/ ELDER</b>
Jeff Sockwell	Preside & Propound the Constitutional Questions	Min
Tom LaBonte	Preach the Sermon	Min
Barrie Kirby	Charge the Minister	Min
Lee Williams	Charge the Congregation	Elder
Carolyn Roberts	Prayer of Installation	Elder

**D. REQUEST FOR HONORABLE RETIREMENT**

**ACTIONS:**

7. The **Reverend Donald Johnson Barbour** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective June 28, 2018. Rev. Barbour's retirement was recognized and celebrated at today's meeting.
8. The **Reverend Nancy Cole Williams-Berry** was granted the status of Honorably Retired effective June 30, 2018. Rev. Williams-Berry's retirement was recognized and celebrated at today's meeting.

**E. SERVICE OF HONORABLE RETIREMENT**

**The Reverend Donald Johnson Barbour** and the **Reverend Nancy Cole Williams-Berry** were recognized with a service of Honorable Retirement after the lunch hour.

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**CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY  
COM and Equip Committee**

The 2017-19 edition of the Book of Order at G-3.0106 requires each council of the Church (including synods, presbyteries, and sessions of all particular churches) to develop and adopt a Child and Youth Protection Policy.

The Child and Youth Protection policy to be presented to Salem Presbytery at the August 18, 2018 meeting is proposed by the EQUIP Committee and is written specifically for Salem Presbytery



events/gatherings involving adults (defined as anyone 18 years of age and older) in leadership and caregiving roles with children and/or youth (example – Salem Presbytery Youth Retreats).

The proposed policy conforms with the insurance guidelines and requirements for risk management. The policy uses the Brotherhood Mutual Risk Management and Safe Sanctuaries resources. Brotherhood Mutual is the insurance company for Salem Presbytery. The EQUIP Committee's proposed policy implementations and procedures complies with Brotherhood Mutual's suggestions for risk management. [www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/](http://www.brotherhoodmutual.com/resources/) Brotherhood Mutual's suggestions for a Child Protection Policy include:

- Screening – a written application; criminal background check; personal interview, six-month rule stating that an individual must be an active participant in the life of the faith community before working with the children or youth
- Supervising church workers – includes visits during activities; having a two teacher rule; providing visual access with a window in a door or an open door when only one teacher is available; limiting one-on-one activities/counseling
- Plan for reporting and responding to allegations of abuse
- Training and implementation of procedures

The Child and Youth Protection Policy proposed by the EQUIP Committee requires criminal background checks and volunteer applications be completed on any persons working with and/or participating in overnight retreats with children and youth. Each individual will submit an application and results of the criminal background check to the Salem Presbytery office, ATTN: Committee on Ministry, P.O. Box 1763, Clemmons, NC 27012.

Teaching Elders currently serving in Salem Presbytery:

- A criminal background check has been performed and is kept confidential in the Salem Presbytery Office. No extra criminal background check needed.
- Submit the Application to Work with Children and Youth.

Non-ordained applicants:

- Submit the Application to Work with Children and Youth.
- Ask your local congregation to perform the criminal background check and to provide a letter from the Session verifying an up-to-date completed satisfactory criminal background check including the name of the company used for the criminal background check. Submit with your application.
- Samples of accredited online companies: Protect My Ministry, First Advantage criminal background checks.
- Salem Presbytery will not perform criminal background checks on non-ordained applicants.

Background checks and letters from Session submitted to Salem Presbytery will be kept in a locked confidential file in the office for five years. After five years, if the same persons are serving in ministry with children and youth, they must submit an updated background check.

This letter includes the volunteer application adapted from suggestions by Brotherhood Mutual. The application can be altered to fit individual congregations. According to the Brotherhood Mutual information, legal counsel should review the written application with permission for background check before use. The written application and permission for background check was reviewed by Steve Pharr, attorney and Teaching Elder in the PC(U.S.A.) on April 2018.

We are excited to put this policy into place as soon as possible to show our faith community and our local community how much we care about the safety of our children and youth.

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**ACTION:**

9. Salem Presbytery adopted the Child and Youth Protection Policy for Salem Presbytery.
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#### RECOGNITION OF CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR

David Smithey was recognized as having achieved the status of Certified Christian Educator. Salem Presbytery joined in a litany of recognition upon his achievement.

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#### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION Rev. Tom LaBonte

Rev. LaBonte, on behalf of the Administrative Commission for the joining of Fairmont Presbyterian and Second Presbyterian in Lexington, brought the following motion to the floor of Presbytery:

#### MOTION to PRESBYTERY:

“In accordance with the strong desire expressed by the voting membership of Fairmont Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian of Lexington to unite as one body in Christ, and with the support of the governing bodies of both congregations, the Administrative Commission recommends the dissolution of both churches to form a new congregation in the Lexington area with The Reverend Brian Rummage as Installed Pastor. We further recommend the transfer of all assets and liabilities of the Fairmont and Lexington Second congregations to the new congregation. Finally, the AC moves that Presbytery grant to the AC and the Stated Clerk all necessary powers and authority to bring this union to effect in the civil and ecclesiastical courts.”

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#### ACTION:

10. Salem Presbytery approved the motion.
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#### CELEBRATION

The histories of Fairmont Presbyterian Church and Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, were presented and celebrated.

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#### LUNCH ADJOURNMENT

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

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## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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### PEACE AND JUSTICE

Rev. Jon Gaska

Rev. Jon Gaska introduced the following resolution endorsing Black Lives Matter for Salem Presbytery to consider and vote upon in November:

- a. Providing resources, such as brochures and necessary communication tools which provide a clear understanding of what the Black Lives Matter movement is and why it is a movement of the Holy Spirit. Resources should be based on the movement's platform ([www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com))
- b. Offering trained liaisons from the Presbyterian Inter-racial Dialogue (and others within our presbytery) who are equipped to facilitate meaningful and transformational dialogue regarding racial justice issues which must lead to practical and social actions of restorative justice.
- c. Urging all congregations to work with community partners to identify and work to address at least one local issue affecting quality of life in communities of color, such as equity in education, housing, economic opportunity, access to a clean and healthy environment, and others.
- d. Strongly encouraging the placement of banners which state "Black Lives Matter," with the PCUSA logo on it, to be hung on individual church properties, inside their buildings, or in designated visible areas as deemed appropriate by the session as a sign of public witness.
- e. Increasing the visibility of anti-racism efforts in the presbytery by: 1) Allotting time during each Presbytery meeting for congregations to report on their efforts and seek advice; 2) Preparing case studies of congregational efforts to overcome structural racism to inspire and guide similar efforts across the presbytery; 3) Forming an "Anti-Racism Coalition" (A.R.C.) in our presbytery tasked with equipping, supporting and creating opportunities for education, dialogue and collective action toward achieving racial justice in our churches and communities.

There will be opportunities for neighborhood conversations regarding this initiative before the next Presbytery meeting.

Rev. Carlton Eversley gave the history and mission of the Presbyterian Inter-Racial Dialogue (PIRD) and encouraged Salem to enter into a transformative dialogue together.

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### SEND Mission Committee

Rev. Ray Mims

Rev. Mims reported on the mission and work of Salem Presbytery supported by the SEND Mission Committee.

The Mission (Send) Committee continues to plan mission opportunities for our congregations and to encourage participation in disaster assistance efforts. The Presbytery has sponsored two Medical Mission trips to Ocosingo, Mexico this year. Over the two weeks, the medical teams served over 1,500 people at Los Manos de Cristo (the hands of Christ) Clinic built by churches in the Presbytery ten years ago. Two hundred folks received eye glasses donated by congregations. Donated medical supplies were carried to

restock the Clinic. Some 198 clean water filters were distributed and the people were trained in how to use and maintain them. Two weeks of medical mission are scheduled in the fall.

Mission travelers went back in mission to the small town of Chaban in Chiapas June 23-July 1 to do construction of a new Sunday School room and to lead Vacation Bible School at the community Presbyterian Church. Twelve folks from Salem congregations made the trip carrying down with them medical supplies and eye glasses to share at the Clinic. A mission group from 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian in Boone went to Chiapas July 28-August 5 to assist in building a camp for Presbyterian youth in the area.

Our first trip to Kenya is scheduled for October 4-16 where we will volunteer at the Sister to Sister International Outreach Ministry which is partially funded by our Pennies-for-Hunger offerings. Other trips are planned for February and June in 2019. Rev. Bryan McFarland will be a participant on this trip and gave some background information on the Sister to Sister work and ministry.

The following upcoming opportunities were highlighted:

2018 Remaining Mission Trip Schedule

**September 29-October 7, 2018 - Medical Trip - Ocosingo, Mex.**

Leader: Bill Herring, [walnutcovefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:walnutcovefarm@yahoo.com)

**October 6-14, 2018 - Medical Trip - Ocosingo, Mex.**

Leader: Bill Herring, [walnutcovefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:walnutcovefarm@yahoo.com)

**October 4-16, 2018 - Mission Awareness Trip - Nairobi, Ken.**

Leader: Purity Ruchugo, [pwaithanji@gmail.com](mailto:pwaithanji@gmail.com)

The SEND committee is seeking donations of used or discount eye glasses and medical supplies for the fall mission trips. The needs list can be found on the Presbytery web site. Supplies are being collected at the Presbytery office.

Presbytery is currently seeking contact information for Mission Leaders in each congregation. Information can be e-mailed or mailed to Salem Presbytery, P.O. Box 1763, Clemmons, NC 27012. Additional information and traveler application forms can be found on the Presbytery website, [salempresbytery.org](http://salempresbytery.org).

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Rev. Jennie Hemrick, Moderator  
Elder Graham Dail, Presenting the Report

The Executive Council (EC) met on June 27 and July 19, 2018.  
Regular reports were received from the Presbytery staff and David Vaughan, Stated Clerk.

**For Information –**

The Executive Council:

- Approved minutes of previous EC and Presbytery meetings;
- Received, in executive session, a thorough draft report from the “Dream Team”, the EC’s task force seeking to envision a sustainable programmatic and administrative structure and mission for the Presbytery’s future;
- Received, in executive session, a proposed timeline for presenting the “Dream Team’s” final report to Presbytery; the EC amended the timeline, endorsed Phase One of the process, and affirmed the beginning of Phase Two (with communication with the staff as a priority);
- Elected the Rev. Jennie Leake Hemrick as Executive Council moderator;

- Approved the docket for the August 2018 meeting of Presbytery;
- Approved a request to allocate \$5,000 to Winston-Salem Campus Ministry, to be funded from restricted funds for campus ministries;
- Reviewed responsibilities and membership of the EC's Property Committee and authorized the Transitional General Presbyter to re-develop both the committee's responsibilities and membership
- Received a request from New Story UMC to permanently acquire the property of the former Southminster PC (Winston-Salem), discussed the request, and delayed acting on the request until further information can be gathered;
- Reflected upon the work, worship, and witness of Salem's congregations and missional organizations;
- Shared announcements and prayed for matters of pastoral concern.

**ACTIONS:**

11. Salem Presbytery approved the election of the **Rev. Lindsey Altvater Clifton** (Forest Hills), the **Rev. Sam Perkins** (Westminster), and the **Rev. Kim Priddy** (Sedgefield) to a term through December 2020 on the Committee on Representation.

12. Salem Presbytery recognized the **Rev. Felicia Hoyle** on behalf of the **Rev. Ron Shive**. She addressed the Presbytery concerning the work and schedule of the Dream Team.

GA COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioners, **Elder Ty Buckner**, **Rev. Felicia Hoyle**, **Rev. Emily Larsen**, **Rev. Ken Broman-Fulks**, **Elder Dianna Wright**, and **Elder Lee Woods** presented highlights and information from the 2018 General Assembly.

COR

Rev. Ray Mims and Rev. Sandy Kern, Co-Moderators

Rev. Kern presented the report. The Committee on Representation met on July 9, 2018.

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

**Commission on Ministry:**

**EAST**

Class of 2018-

Rev. Andrew Taylor Troutman, Chapel in the Pines

Class of 2018-

Rev. Mason Todd, Pittsboro

**Equip Support:**

Ms. Karen Mullinax, Mt. Jefferson

**Executive Council:**

Class of 2018-

Rev. Marybeth Asher-Lawson, Springwood

**Personnel:**

Class of 2018-

Mr. Graham Dail, Alamance

**Jubilee Fund (Synod)**

Ms. LaQreshia Bates-Harley, Trinity, Salisbury  
(Will serve when current commissioner's term expires)

**PYC Adults**

Kim and Lamar Austin, Statesville First

**Reach**

Mr. Hal Vincent, Burlington First

**Teaching Elder Commissioner to 242<sup>nd</sup> Synod Assembly**

Rev. Stephen W. Scott, Salem Presbytery

Following consultation with the Personnel Committee (as required by our Presbytery's standing rules), the Committee on Representation nominates David Vaughan (Elder, First/Burlington) for a three-year term as Stated Clerk of Salem Presbytery – to begin 8/19/2018.

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**ACTIONS:**

13. Salem Presbytery approved the list of nominees to their respective committees.
14. Salem Presbytery elected Elder David Vaughan for a three-year term as Stated Clerk of Salem Presbytery beginning August 19, 2018.

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ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The Moderator pronounced the benediction and adjourned the meeting with prayer.

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Recorded by:

Laurie Scott  
Office Manager

David Vaughan  
Stated Clerk

*These minutes approved by Executive Council, 12/13/2018.*



