



Digest

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Proceedings of Salem Presbytery – One Hundred Fifty-First Stated Meeting September 1, 2026

SALEM ACTIONS:

Secured Interim Pastor/Transitional Minister between:

- Rev. Tim Auman has been approved to serve at Danbury Community Church

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

- Rev. David Smith & First PC of High Point, June 1, 2026, for six months

Secured Stated Supply Contract between:

- Rev. Ladale Benson & Mt. Vernon PC, October 1, 2026, for one year

Secured Designated Associate Pastor Contract between:

- Rev. Larke Blanton & First PC of Boone, July 5, 2026, for one year

Secured Stated Supply Renewal Contract between:

- Rev. Gray Clark & New Creation Community Church, July 1, 2026, for one year
- Rev. Evelyn Crews & Springwood PC, June 1, 2026, for six months
- Rev. Pamela Mitchell & Grace PC, July 1, 2026, for three months

Laboring outside the Bounds of Salem Presbytery:

- Rev. Diane Givens Moffett as the Transitional Pastor of Germantown PC (Philadelphia Pby)

Secured Commissioned Ruling Elders/Lay Pastor Internship Contract between:

- Elizabeth A. Cooper & First PC of High Point, for one year beginning January 1, 2026

Renewed Commissioned Ruling Elders/Lay Pastor Contract between:

- CRE Rachael Brooks & First PC of Mount Airy, for one year beginning August 1, 2026

- CRE James Harley & Second PC of Salisbury, for one year beginning June 1, 2026
- CRE Tim Parker & Shiloh PC, for one year beginning August 1, 2026
- CRE Rainey Ratchford & New Salem PC, for one year beginning June 1, 2026
- CRE Steve Braxton & Trinity PC, for one year beginning March 15, 2026

Validated Ministry Approved:

- Rev. Kristine Miles

Appointed Moderator of Session:

- CRE Hyatt Grissom at Community in Christ PC

Appointed Moderator of Congregational Meeting:

- CRE David Boger at Dellabrook PC on September 6, 2026

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

- Ruling Elder Janet Pence at Third Creek PC on August 9, 2026
- Rev. Lea Slaton at Fifth Creek PC on July 5, 2026
- CRE Tim Parker at First PC, Morganton
- CRE LaQreshia Bates-Harley at Spencer PC on October 4, 2026
- Ruling Elder Jimmy Coore at Mount Vernon Springs PC on October 4, 2026

Minister Transferring into Salem Presbytery:

- Rev. Kristie Miles was received from Presbytery of the Coastlands
- Rev. Meredith Gantt was received from Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
- Rev. Sandra Lacey was received from Presbytery of Central Florida
- Rev. Lynn Bryant was received from Presbytery of Charlotte

Sabbatical Approval:

- Rev. Jorge Vasquez

Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship where both parties agree:

- Rev. Kristen Levens, Stony Creek PC, Burlington effective September 30, 2026

Ordination of Candidate accepting a call outside Salem Presbytery:

- James Nolan Chilton and to concomitantly transfer his membership to the Presbytery of East Tennessee effective September 6, 2026

Approved Retirement:

- Rev. Lisa Mullen, effective March 1, 2026

Participated in a Service of Honorable Retirement for:

- Rev. Lisa Mullen

Approved individuals to fill vacancy on Presbytery committees:**Budget & Finance:**

Class of 2029: Tara Sandercock
George Clark

Church Growth & Transformation:

Class of 2029: Leslie Loyd
Carol Wilson

Commission on Ministry:

Class of 2028: Debbie Ferrell
Margaret Arbuckle
David Boger
Tricia Fearing

Class of 2029: Will Gipe
Jerry Blankenship
Joe McCutchen

Commission on Ministry as of January 1, 2027:

Class of 2029: Alfredo Miranda
R.C. Griffin
Randy Harris
Sandy Lacey
Kathy Clark
Diane Knauf

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Class of 2029: Thom Burleson
John Senior
Leigh Wisner

Personnel Committee:

Class of 2029: Evan Harrison
Luellen Curry

Permanent Judicial Commission:

Class of 2029: Luellen Curry

Approved minimum compensation standards for 2027 for Ministers of Word and Sacrament (both installed and non-installed), Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators and Part-Time Ministers of the Word and Sacrament (not in installed positions)

Dismissal agreement of Thyatira PC approved by 84-42 vote (126 votes cast; 66.67% in favor)

Necrology for 2025 remembered and honored Ministers and Elders of Salem Presbytery whose deaths occurred in 2025

SALEM:

- The Presbytery participated in worship and celebrated the Lord's Supper under the leadership of Rev. Troy Leshner-Thomas and Rev. Patricia Greene. CRE Rachael Brooks offered a sermon based on Isaiah 43:19; Rev. Sam Perkins shared a message drawn from Joshua 1:9; and Rev. Phanta Lansden delivered a sermon from Mark 4:35-41.
- A Land Acknowledgement was presented by Ruling Elder Laura Gaylor, recognizing and honoring Indigenous Peoples as the original stewards of the lands upon which we live, worship, and serve.
- Interim General Presbyter Jody Lingan introduced the keynote speakers, Byron Wade, General Presbyter of Western North Carolina Presbytery, and Anne Waple, Disaster Recovery Coordinator for Western North Carolina.
- The Presbytery received reports from Interim General Presbyter Rev. Jody Lingan and Stated Clerk David Vaughan.
- The Presbytery welcomed Rev. Dr. Sung-Joo Park, representing the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program.
- Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly shared their experiences and provided an overview of significant actions and decisions of the Assembly.
- The Presbytery received reports from the Committee on Representation (COR), the Search Committee, the Committee on Ministry (COM), Committee on Preparation (CPM), Church Growth and Transformation, the Executive Council, and Budget & Finance.

**Next Presbytery meeting will be held
Saturday, November 7, 2026, at First
Presbyterian Church of Boone**