

P. O. Box 1763  
Clemmons, NC 27012



www.salempresbytery.org  
336-766-3393

August 25, 2026

**TO:** Members of Salem Presbytery and CREs  
Elder Commissioners elected from Salem's churches  
Certified Church Educators and all other church staff  
Corresponding Members (ministers of other presbyteries or other Christian denominations)  
Visitors and guests of the Presbytery

**Meeting: Tuesday, September 1, 2026**

*Meeting will begin at 9:00am. Registration/check-in starts at 8:00am*

**PLACE:** Clemmons Presbyterian Church  
3930 Clemmons Road, Clemmons, NC 27012  
336-766-4631

Welcome to the 151<sup>st</sup> meeting of Salem Presbytery! In this packet, you will find the docket for the day, and many attachments to read and inwardly digest before arriving at Clemmons Presbyterian next Tuesday morning! Please prepare for this meeting by reviewing the contents of this packet.

If you missed advance registration, in-person on-site registration will be available prior to 10:00am at the meeting site, but lunch cannot be guaranteed for those who register on site. (If you want to take a chance on a lunch --- and our hosts tell us that there's a good chance that on-site lunches could be available --- please bring \$12, or a credit/debit card, or a check to Clemmons PC.)

We are grateful to Elder Anne Welch, Sandy Moffett, and their teams, the Rev. Troy Leshner-Thomas, the officers, staff, and members of Clemmons Presbyterian Church who have worked to prepare us for our time together. We look forward to seeing you.

The Rev. Dr. Matt Bussell, Moderator  
Elder David Vaughan, Interim Stated Clerk

Please observe that the report of the Commission on Ministry for this meeting  
will be published as an addendum on Friday, August 28.

September 1, 2026

151st Meeting of  
Salem Presbytery

## Docket

### Our Vision

**By the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, Salem Presbytery is a catalyst for transformational ministry, vital mission, and dynamic leadership in local congregations and worshipping communities.**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00amv | <b>Call to Order and Opening Prayer</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The Rev. Dr. Matt Bussell, Moderator                       |
|         | <b>Organization of Presbytery</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Moderator                                                  |
|         | Establishment of Quorum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                            |
|         | New Business (Written proposed motions to be given to the Stated Clerk before the meeting begins.)                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                            |
|         | Approval of Docket                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                            |
|         | <b>Moderator's Welcome</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Moderator                                                  |
|         | Corresponding Members (Teaching Elders from other Presbyteries and ministers of other Christian denominations)                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                            |
|         | Ruling Elder Commissioners attending for the first time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                            |
|         | Visitors and Guests                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                            |
| 9:15    | <b>Land Acknowledgement</b> p. 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Elder Laura Gaylor, Member<br>Peace and Justice Task Force |
| 9:17    | <b>Committee on Representation</b> p. 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | The Rev. Sam Perkins                                       |
| 9:20    | <b>Search Committee for new Presbyters</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Rev. David Ealy                                        |
| 9:25    | <b>Proposed dismissal of Thyatira PC</b> pg. 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | CRE Jerry Blankenship, Co-Moderator                        |
| 9:35    | <b>Worship and Celebration of the Lord's Supper</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                            |
|         | <i>Worship has been planned and coordinated by the Rev. Troy Lesher Thomas and the Rev. Jodi Lingan.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                            |
| 10:50   | Break                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                            |
| 11:00   | <b>Greetings and Report from Interim General Presbyter</b> p. 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | The Rev. Jodi Lingan                                       |
| 11:05   | <b>Stated Clerk's Report</b> pg. 14                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Elder David Vaughan, Interim Stated Clerk                  |
|         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Installation/Ordination minutes</li><li>• Annual report of Roll</li><li>• Report from Committee on Preparation for Ministry p. 29</li><li>• Report from Church Growth and Transformation p. 30</li><li>• Synod Assembly highlights p. 33</li></ul> |                                                            |
| 11:08   | <b>Commission on Ministry</b> pg. 40, 41                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The Revs. Jeff Smith and R. C. Griffin                     |
| 11:20   | <b>Report from GA227 Commissioners and YAAD</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                            |

|         |                                                                                                       |                                                                                      |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:30   | <b>Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program</b>                                                       | The Rev. Dr. Sung-Joo Park                                                           |
| 11:35   | <b>Executive Council</b> <b>pg. 42</b><br>• Budget and Finance Committee <b>pg. 43</b>                | The Rev. Dr. Andrew Taylor-Troutman<br>Elder David Pinson                            |
| 11:45   | <b>Keynote Address</b>                                                                                | The Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, Executive Presbyter<br>Presbytery of Western North Carolina |
| 12:15pm | <b>New Business</b><br><b>Announcements</b><br><b>Adjournment with Benediction and Lunch Blessing</b> | Moderator Bussell<br>The Rev. Jorge Vasquez                                          |
| 12:20   | <b>Lunch and Table Fellowship</b> (Pre-registration required)                                         | Fellowship Hall                                                                      |
| 1:20    | <b>Workshops</b><br>• Digital Disciples<br>• Spirit in Motion<br>• Just Foundations                   | Sanctuary<br>Fellowship Hall<br>TBA                                                  |

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**Next Presbytery Meeting:**  
**Saturday, November 7, 2026 9:00am**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Boone**

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### **Mission of Salem Presbytery**

**Salem Presbytery connects, supports, and strengthens local congregations and worshipping communities to carry out Christ's transformative work of love and justice in the church and in the world.**

## Braiding Prayer

*A prayer to mark the 20th anniversary of the United Church Apology to Former Students of United Church Indian Residential Schools, and to Their Families and Communities.*

God of struggle, and of reconciliation,  
Be with us as we remember what we have been a part of:  
Cruel and unjust systems,  
Efforts to say “sorry” ... and to mean it.

Remind us that our history as people is like a braid.  
We are wrapped together.  
And there is tension in that, and pain.  
But there is also strength.

Remind us of the beauty and sacredness of braids,  
The beauty and sacredness of relationships.  
Remind us to never again sever these braids  
But to honor them in everything we do.

God of struggle, and of reconciliation,  
Be with us as we recognize what we must be a part of:  
Loving and just relationships,  
Saying “sorry” ... and actively meaning it.  
Amen.

— Sara Stratton, *Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice Animator, United Church of Canada*



**The Rev. Sam Perkins, Moderator**

**For Action:**

The Committee on Representation nominates the following individuals for service on Presbytery and Executive Council committees:

**Budget & Finance**

- Tara Sandercock
- George Clark

**Church Growth & Transformation**

- Leslie Lloyd
- Carol Wilson

**Commission on Ministry**

*Right away*

- Debby Ferrell

*As of January 1*

- Alfredo Miranda
- RC Griffin
- Randy Harris
- Sandy Lacey
- Kathy Clark
- Diane Knauf

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

- Thom Burleson
- John Senior
- Leigh Wisner

**Permanent Judicial Commission**

- Luellen Curry

**Personnel**

- Evan Harrison
- Luellen Curry

Please observe that the following individuals were elected by the Executive Council (on behalf of the Presbytery) for terms on the Commission on Ministry: Margaret Arbuckle, Jerry Blankenship, David Boger, Tricia Fearing, and Joe McCutchen.

Report of the Administrative Commission of Salem Presbytery  
Appointed to inquire into and settle difficulties at  
Thyatira Presbyterian Church at Mill Bridge, North Carolina

July 29, 2026

Commissioners:

Co-Moderator: Shannon Langston, Commissioned Ruling Elder

Co-Moderator: Jerry Blankenship, Commissioned Ruling Elder

Clerk: Jon Martin, Teaching Elder

Miriam Wilfong, Ruling Elder

Lynn Kunkle, Teaching Elder

### Timeline and Narrative of the Administrative Commission

On May 2, 2025, the Session of Thyatira Presbyterian Church sent a letter by email to Tony De La Rosa, General Presbyter of Salem Presbytery. The letter expressed a concern about the theology of the PC(USA) with an invitation to conversation. Rightly, the letter was passed to the COM for response.

On August 24, Paul Sink, Stated Clerk, appointed an Administrative Commission to visit with the Thyatira Session to inquire and settle the difficulties therein.

On September 14, two members of the AC attended the first congregational hearing. This heading was organized by COM representatives, who had already started the dismissal process. The COM will have the specific details of this meeting. Because the AC had already been appointed, which was allowed in the policy effective in September 2025, three members of the AC were also present. While the question of requesting a dismissal was discussed at this hearing, there was no straw poll taken. Following the hearing, the Session (1) voted to proceed with the dismissal process, and (2) provided the AC with policy-required documentation showing both the real estate holdings of Thyatira Church and its financial assets.

On November 4, the AC and the Session met for the first time. It was clear to the AC, that “settling the difficulties therein” for Thyatira was about taking over the work begun by the COM and guiding the Session through the Presbytery’s dismissal policy.

On November 15, Salem Presbytery adopted a new Dismissal Policy. Forward progress paused as the AC worked to understand (1) the new policy, and (2) what steps had been completed under the old policy that fulfilled new policy requirements.

On January 20, 2026, the AC and the Session Representatives met to review the next steps in the dismissal policy. The Session reported that they were submitting an application to join ECO-Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians.

On January 29, the AC met to begin evaluating the congregation's financial assets and identifying a certified appraiser to value two properties (church property and manse property). The AC agreed that it would use a membership of 195 for calculating per capita. This was the membership at the time of the Session's letter to the General Presbyter on May 2, 2025. The non-designated financial assets totaled \$450,000. The Session also reported designated funds for the cemetery, building maintenance, scholarships, Sunday school, Preschool, museum, and Boy Scout troop. The AC did not consider those funds in our calculations of the terms of dismissal.

On March 23, the AC met with Session Representatives to review (1) the financial details, (2) the status of the property appraisal, and (3) the status of the request for a letter of acceptance from ECO. According to Salem Presbytery's dismissal policy, the Session will procure a letter of acceptance from the clerk of the reformed body they are requesting to join, and provide that letter to the AC. The Session Representatives shared that ECO had not sent the acceptance letter because there had been no congregational vote to request acceptance.

Because the *Book of Order* does not permit a congregation to vote on such a question, the AC concurred with the Session that the straw poll to be taken at the second congregational hearing would satisfy this ECO requirement.

On May 19, the AC met with representatives of the Session to review the terms of dismissal. The completed certified appraisal valued the church property and the manse property at \$1.655 Million. In the previous months, the non-designated financial assets had declined from \$450,000 to \$400,000. The AC shared that the terms of dismissal were not meant to punish the congregation for leaving the PC(USA), neither were they meant to hinder the congregation from a continued vibrant mission and ministry with ECO. The AC presented the following terms of dismissal: \$80,000 to satisfy the real estate, financial assets and per capita interests of the PC(USA). The Session Representatives took this information to the Session for its review and action.

The Session Representatives sent word to the AC that the Session had approved the terms of dismissal and asked whether June 28, 2026, would be a suitable date for the second congregational hearing. The AC concurred.

On June 28, a second congregational hearing was called to order at noon by Session moderator, Bill Hoyle. Ninety-four members were present. Jerry Blankenship, co-moderator of the AC, presented the terms of dismissal. Ample time was given for discussion. One church member spoke in opposition to leaving the denomination. Additionally, a church member who was not present at the meeting contacted the AC by email to express

opposition to leaving the denomination. A written ballot was distributed with the question: “Shall our session request the Presbytery for dismissal to ECO (Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians) according to the terms agreed upon by the Session and the AC?” Members of the Session and the AC counted the ballots with the following result: 82 in favor with 12 against. The Session met immediately after the ballots were counted and, taking the results of the straw poll under advisement, voted unanimously formally to request that the Presbytery dismiss the congregation to ECO. Immediately following the Session meeting, the results of the written ballot and the Session decision were reported to the congregation.

On July 9, The Session received the official letter of acceptance from ECO.

On August 3, The AC sent this report and supporting documents to the Executive council for action by the Presbytery at the Stated Meeting on September 1, 2026.

#### Additional Information

1. Mission Plan. The dismissal policy requires the AC to “notify the Executive Council, who shall engage in a discernment process to identify the Presbytery’s mission plan for the area served by the departing congregation.” The Stated Clerk informed the AC that the mission plan prepared for the Unity Presbyterian Church dismissal will satisfy this requirement.
2. Property Appraisal. The property appraisal was paid for by the Thyatira Session and completed by Timothy N. Tallent CCRA, an independent, licensed, commercial real estate appraiser, experienced in church property matters. The Rowan County Property tax website shows Thyatira owns 24 acres which includes church buildings and the cemetery. It also owns 3.78 acres which includes a single-family home (manse). This combined property was valued at \$1.655 Million. Additionally, a small trailer valued at \$500 is tagged as personal property by Rowan County government. This trailer was not considered in the terms of dismissal.
3. Full Financial Review. A financial review was conducted by members of the AC. While this is a fluid number, undesignated financial assets total \$400,000 late in the negotiation process. No per capita payments were received in 2024, 2025, and 2026. The AC valued the per capita arrears at \$26,325 (195 X \$45 X 3).
4. Terms of Dismissal. The AC and the Session agree that Thyatira Presbyterian Church be dismissed to ECO- A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians with all its property and financial assets, under these terms:
  1. Thyatira pays \$80,000 to Salem Presbytery to satisfy the assets and per capita responsibilities. (Per Capita: \$26,325, and Property: \$53,675)

2. Thyatira provides copies of all minutes and rolls to Salem Presbytery upon dismissal.
  3. Thyatira remains under ecclesiastical authority of ECO or a successor Reformed denomination for 10 years from the date of the signed dismissal agreement or all property and assets of Thyatira Presbyterian Church revert to the PC(USA).
  4. Thyatira gives members wishing to remain in the PC(USA) sufficient time to transfer to a PC(USA) congregation.
  5. Thyatira continues with the name Thyatira Presbyterian Church absent all PC(USA) references and branding.
  6. The dismissal will be effective with the action of the Presbytery and signing of documents.
5. Presbytery Action. The AC was given authority to negotiate the terms of the dismissal and bring a report to the Presbytery for action. The Presbytery retains the authority to dismiss this congregation. (G-3.0301a). This report will be presented for action at the Stated meeting of Salem Presbytery on September 1, 2026, to consider this question: “Shall the congregation of Thyatira Presbyterian Church be dismissed to ECO according to the terms agreed upon by the AC and the session?”
  6. Elders and Educators. This request for dismissal does not require provisions to be made for any teaching elders or Christian educators associated with the congregation. One commissioned ruling elder has already transferred to a PC(USA) congregation.
  7. Thyatira Cemetery. Following the second congregational hearing, one member has transferred to a PC(USA) congregation. The Session has agreed that his access to a burial plot will not change with his membership.

#### Impact to larger mission and ministry of Salem Presbytery.

1. Twelve members of the congregation present at the second congregational hearing opposed dismissal. Should they or any other members transfer to a PC(USA) congregation, they should receive pastoral care.
2. Salem Presbytery, as part of the PC(USA), welcomes all people and rightly celebrates inclusion and diversity. The Session of Thyatira felt increasingly distant from the Presbytery. When they wrote to the Presbytery leadership to share those feelings, they felt their concerns were minimized. To borrow Matthew 25 language, they increasingly felt like *a stranger not welcomed*. This is admittedly a challenge, but how is the COM, and more broadly the Presbytery, attentive to a greater inclusivity? Jesus’ circle is wide and should remain wide.
3. The COM should review the dismissal policy with the Unity AC and the Thyatira AC for feedback and possible policy updates.

We remember ministers and ruling elders who joined the Church Triumphant in 2025.

***MINISTERS OF WORD AND SACRAMENT (Teaching Elders)***

|                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Amanda Claire Anderson | December 17, 2025  |
| Richard Cox            | December 20, 2025  |
| Joanne Dempsey Glaser  | January 4, 2025    |
| B. Paul Lindsay        | November 17, 2025  |
| Samuel P. Marshall     | June 26, 2025      |
| Peter F. Peterson      | September 15, 2025 |
| Jerold D. Shetler      | March 11, 2025     |
| Samuel Stevenson       | February 13, 2025  |
| Harry S. Thomas, Jr.   | April 26, 2024     |
| Arthur Michael Warren  | January 30, 2018   |

***RULING ELDERS:***

|                        |                                                                                       |                                                                       |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ALAMANCE               | Barbara Ellen Hobbs Alexander<br>James Logan Witherspoon, Sr.<br>Michael Lamotte Holt | March 26, 2025<br>August 29, 2025<br>September 26, 2025               |
| ASHEBORO, FIRST        | Marianne Aitken                                                                       | October 6, 2025                                                       |
| BETHANY, GRAHAM        | Katherine Swanner Bayliff<br>Darrell Braxton Holmes                                   | August 14, 2025<br>April 15, 2025                                     |
| BETHESDA, STATESVILLE  | Philip McCoy<br>Barbara Horst                                                         | February 14, 2025<br>December 16, 2025                                |
| BURLINGTON, FIRST      | George Stanford Bason, Jr.<br>Frances Wiggins Underwood                               | December 4, 2025<br>March 10, 2025                                    |
| CHURCH OF THE COVENANT | James Allen North                                                                     | January 19, 2025                                                      |
| CLEMMONS               | Margaret Moore<br>Tony Stovall<br>Steve Seawright<br>Bruce Sanspre                    | January 4, 2025<br>February 3, 2025<br>April 19, 2025<br>June 7, 2025 |
| COMMUNITY IN CHRIST    | Betty Glasgow<br>Hal McElroy                                                          | February 7, 2025<br>August 16, 2025                                   |
| ELKIN                  | Charles Sidney Gilreath                                                               | June 18, 2025                                                         |

|                       |                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FAITH                 | Carolyn Campbell                                                                                                        | March 2, 2025                                                                                            |
| FOREST HILLS          | Ruby Jean Mauldwin<br>Richard Johnson                                                                                   | July 13, 2025<br>June 21, 2025                                                                           |
| GREENSBORO, FIRST     | Steven L. Easter<br>David E. Caccamo<br>Ronald W. Hampton<br>Mamie K. Snider<br>Roy M. Phipps, Jr.<br>Marilyn G. Burris | January 18, 2025<br>February 7, 2025<br>April 11, 2025<br>May 6, 2025<br>May 23, 2025<br>August 13, 2025 |
| GUILFORD PARK         | Barbara Jackson<br>Edward Hendricks<br>Burl Hull<br>Claire Natalie Bingaman<br>Richard Lytle Cromer<br>James Tosco      | March 6, 2025<br>April 25, 2025<br>May 21, 2025<br>July 15, 2025<br>July 17, 2025<br>December 13, 2025   |
| HIGH POINT, FIRST     | John Croom<br>Ann Byerly                                                                                                | October 9, 2025<br>June 26, 2025                                                                         |
| JOHN CALVIN           | William Kessler                                                                                                         | April 23, 2025                                                                                           |
| KERNERSVILLE, FIRST   | Margaret Burks                                                                                                          | September 30, 2025                                                                                       |
| LEXINGTON, FIRST      | Mary Ann Farthing<br>Nancy Wright                                                                                       | August 3, 2025<br>December 11, 2025                                                                      |
| MADISON               | David Stratton                                                                                                          | November 10, 2025                                                                                        |
| MOCKSVILLE, FIRST     | Pauline Eanes<br>Bill Eanes                                                                                             | January 1, 2025<br>February 16, 2025                                                                     |
| MOUNT AIRY, FIRST     | Mary Ellen Goad                                                                                                         | May 8, 2025                                                                                              |
| MOUNT JEFFERSON       | Carolyn Jane Bowers Owens                                                                                               | November 24, 2025                                                                                        |
| MOUNT TABOR           | Roy Leon Carruth                                                                                                        | July 23, 2025                                                                                            |
| NEW HOPE              | Larry Sink                                                                                                              | June 2, 2025                                                                                             |
| PILOT MOUNTAIN, FIRST | Larry Dean Hudson<br>Patsy Jean Handy Morrison                                                                          | November 26, 2025<br>November 9, 2025                                                                    |
| PINE HALL             | Wanda Tarlton                                                                                                           | December 12, 2025                                                                                        |
| PITTSBORO             | Bob Allen                                                                                                               | October 29, 2025                                                                                         |
| PLEASANT GROVE        | Faye Mise                                                                                                               | January 8, 2025                                                                                          |

|                 |                                                                     |                                                                    |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                 | Addie Cook                                                          | March 2, 2025                                                      |
| RUMPLE MEMORIAL | Kim Jenkins Rogers<br>John Barclay Beall                            | August 7, 2025<br>September 24, 2025                               |
| SHALLOWFORD     | Joanne Federchuck<br>Ray Gossett<br>Mary Dickson<br>Russell Goodwin | November 15, 2025<br>January 5, 2025<br>January 17, 2025<br>2025   |
| SPARTA          | Mack Gruver Pittman, Jr.                                            | September 7, 2025                                                  |
| SPRINGWOOD      | Ann Jennings<br>Betty Small                                         | June 6, 2025<br>September 2, 2025                                  |
| STARMOUNT       | Patricia Hall<br>Deborah Hooper<br>Jean Spangler                    | January 27, 2025<br>January 20, 2025<br>January 14, 2025           |
| TAYLORSVILLE    | Larry Schronce                                                      | October 11, 2025                                                   |
| TRINITY, W-S    | Gilbert McLeod<br>Janet Rolison<br>Lib Wilson<br>Marilyn Hedgepeth* | April 10, 2025<br>April 14, 2025<br>June 25, 2025<br>July 23, 2025 |

*\*Teaching Elder in New Hope Presbytery, who worshipped with the Trinity PC congregation.*



*Greetings Siblings in Christ!*

Your 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (GA) Commissioners, David and I attended several busy, long days/nights in Milwaukee at the beginning of July. You will hear from our commissioners firsthand, however, **we also encourage you to read up on the major actions taken at this GA.**



In a show of special unity and support, **all of the Exec Presbyters and Stated Clerks of the five North Carolina Presbyteries were present at GA227** as well (we can't even make this happen in NC!). We are all looking forward to ways we can take being NC connectional to a new level. To that end, **Western North Carolina Presbyter Byron Wade and their**

**Disaster Recovery Coordinator Anne Waple** will offer a keynote address at this September Presbytery meeting. They will update us on the status of Helene recovery, along with how our presbyteries are working together to better support each other's ministry needs as, together, we look toward being relevant presbyteries.

Our churches and communities have been in an accelerated period of transformation and change, especially over the last five years. Our Executive Council is moving forward to meet leadership challenges in a more productive, meaningful, and transformational way. Leading transformation and change calls for leaders working to make a difference beyond the traditional metrics of budgets and worship attendance. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, the **Executive Council will participate in a full year of a leadership cohort provided by NEXT Church as we move to embrace our next chapter.**



In less than a year, STORM has addressed Salem's vision, staffing model, strategic financial planning, and are completing a discussion on current committee structures to support changes needed to move from solely managing what we have to flexibly leaning into a rapidly changing future. Looking forward, as a reformed and always reforming Matthew 25 Presbytery, STORM has provided the jump start for critical efforts needed to establish, sustain, and nurture our future health. I would encourage us to be thinking about Salem as a **New and Emerging Presbytery:** one which is missional, designed as a network and incubator for current and new types of worshiping communities for emerging expressions of being the Church. As we continue to revitalize, may our vision encompass how Salem Presbytery can be more relevant to all of our churches in this dynamic, post-COVID, 21<sup>st</sup> century environment.

*With a grateful heart to be serving with you, jodi*

For Information:

**PRESBYTERY MINUTES FOR SYNOD REVIEW:**

Salem's minutes were reviewed by Ann Philbrick, the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. I reviewed the minutes of New Hope Presbytery. Both Rev. Philbrick and I have submitted our reports to the Synod's Administrator and the Stated Clerk. These will be acted upon by the Synod Assembly, to be held

**ANNUAL REPORTING:**

This meeting's packet includes some matters shared with you on an annual basis. One is a roster of minutes of Administrative Commissions to Ordain/Install ministers in Salem. Our annual rolls are also published in this packet. Keep in mind that only PC(USA) members are reflected on these rolls, though we are grateful to those whose membership is in another Christian denomination, but who serve a Salem church. During the period of their service, these individuals hold membership in Salem.

**REMEDIAL COMPLAINTS TO SYNOD PJC:**

Salem Presbytery has been the subject of two separate Remedial Complaints currently lodged in the Synod PJC's domain. The Synod PJC officers found that neither case could be heard due, generally speaking, to the absence of appropriate standing of the complainants. Both complainants appealed the Synod PJC officers' initial determination. Under the terms of the Church Discipline section of the *Book of Order*, in both cases I appointed a "Committee of Counsel" (COC) to represent Salem before the Synod PJC. Our CoCs have filed their response to the appeals. At this writing, our CoCs await the hearings before the full Synod PJC.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM):**

I draw your attention to the written report of the Presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry in this packet. You'll see the exciting news of the reception of a new Inquirer. Does the name sound familiar?!

**CHURCH GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION (CG&T):**

I draw your attention to the written report of the Executive Council's Committee on Church Growth and Transformation. This report focuses on how grant funding from the CG&T has been used by several churches as grant recipients.

**SYNOD ASSEMBLY:**

A summary of the work of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic at its March Assembly meeting is enclosed in this packet.

**FOR NOVEMBER MEETING:** Presbytery meeting dates for 2027 will be announced once the Executive Council has ordered these.

David Vaughan  
Interim Stated Clerk

## **Minutes of Administrative Commissions to Ordain/Install Ministers**

### **INSTALLATION OF DARI VICTORIA ROWEN**

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Dari Victoria Rowen as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina met at FPC Burlington on Sunday, August 9, 2026, at 3:00pm.

The meeting was called to order by David Vaughan, whom Presbytery appointed to preside.

The opening prayer was offered by Dari Rowen. The following members were present: Ministers Jill Duffield and James Lunde, Ruling Elders Jack Harrington, Julie Parrish, and David Vaughan.

Julie Parrish was elected clerk of the Administrative Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 4:00pm.

Jill Duffield preached the sermon using the text from the Gospel of John 15:1-11.

Constitutional questions were propounded to the minister by David Vaughan. Constitutional questions were propounded to the congregation by Barbara Roberts, Clerk of Session at FPC Burlington. Prayer of installation was offered by Julie Parrish.

Dari Victoria Rowen was declared duly installed as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, North Carolina according to the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Associate Pastor was charged by James Lunde and Jack Harrington charged the congregation.

Dari Victoria Rowen, the newly installed Associate Pastor, pronounced the benediction. Following the service, the officers of the commission met, read and approved the minutes as authorized by the AC, and closed its meeting with prayer by the Moderator.

### **INSTALLATION OF DIANE KNAUF**

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Diane Knauf as Pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church, met at John Calvin Presbyterian Church of Salisbury on June 7, 2026, at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by James Beard, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Mark Curran. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Hannah Ostlund. Commission Ruling Elders: James Beard and James Harley. Elders: Mark Curran, Catreli Hunter and Polly Pruitt.

Mark Curran was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest Elder Shannon Ward 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. Shannon Ward preached the sermon using the text from Matthew 11:28-30, and topic, "The Yoke's on You."

James Beard propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Mark Curran propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. Polly Pruitt offered the prayer of installation.

Diane Knauf was declared duly installed as Pastor of John Calvin Presbyterian Church, according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Pastor was charged by Hannah Ostlund, and James Harley charged the congregation.

Diane Knauf, 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 Catreliia Hunter.

### **INSTALLATION OF ERIN KESTERSON BOWERS**

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Erin Kesterson Bowers as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation of First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, met at First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro on April 26, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Newton Cowan, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Newton Cowan. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Newton Cowan, Marti Hazelrigg and Jon Phillips. Elders: David Perry and Lisa Cook.

Jon Phillips was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest minister Chris Currie of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian 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 3:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Chris Currie preached the sermon using text Deuteronomy 6:1-9 and topic, "More than a Dopamine Hit."

Newton Cowan propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Newton Cowan propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. Jon Phillips offered the prayer of installation.

Erin Kesterson Bowers was declared duly installed as Associate Pastor for Christian Formation of First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Associate Pastor was charged by Marti Hazelrigg, and Lisa Cook charged the congregation.

Erin Kesterson Bowers, the newly installed Associate Pastor for Christian Formation, pronounced the benediction. Following the service, the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Newton Cowan.

### **INSTALLATION OF MASON TODD**

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Mason Todd as Pastor for New Hope Presbyterian Church in Lexington, met at New Hope Presbyterian Church on March 15, 2026, at 1:20 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Katie Barrett Todd, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Jon Martin. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Katie Barrett Todd, Sam Perkins and Jon Martin. Elders: Ken Davis, Phillip Styers and Celia Stalvey.

Phillip Styers was elected Clerk of the Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 2:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Sam Perkins preached the sermon using text Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 and the title was, "New All Over Again."

Katie Barrett Todd propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Phillip Styers propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. Katie Barrett Todd offered the prayer of installation.

Mason Todd was declared duly installed as Pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church of according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Pastor was charged by Katie Barrett Todd, and Jon Martin charged the congregation.

Mason Todd, 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 Sam Winters.

### **INSTALLATION OF HANNAH OSTLUND**

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to install Hannah Ostlund as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, met at First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury on March 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Lara Musser-Gritter, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Lara Musser-Gritter. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Lara Musser-Gritter, Josh Musser-Gritter and Kathryn Campbell. Elders: James Harley, Catreliia Hunter, Annie Bates and Steve Thomas.

Kathryn Campbell was elected Clerk of the Commission. Guest ministers Mike Samson of Second Presbyterian of Indianapolis and John Hage of Brownson Memorial and guest elder Shadreck Kamwendo of Second Presbyterian Indianapolis 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. Mike Samson preached the sermon using text 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 and Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-16 and topic, "Formed and Sent."

Steve Thomas propounded the constitutional questions to the minister. Josh and Lara Musser-Gritter propounded the constitutional questions to the congregation. Kathryn Campbell offered the prayer of installation.

Hannah Ostlund was declared duly installed as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Salisbury, according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The

Associate Pastor was charged by Shadreck Kamwendo, and John Hage charged the congregation.

Hannah Ostlund, the newly installed Associate Pastor, pronounced the benediction. Following the service, the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Kathryn Campbell.

### **ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF MEAGAN KELLY**

The Commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to ordain and install Meagan Kelly as Pastoral Resident for Youth and Campus Ministries of Parkway Presbyterian Church, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and UKIRK Greensboro, met at Parkway Presbyterian Church on June 21, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Tony De La Rosa, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Tony De La Rosa. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: R.C. Griffin, Emily Schlaman Wilson, Thom Burleson and Katie Barrett-Todd. Elders: Tony De La Rosa and Beth Hooten.

Emily Schlaman Wilson was elected Clerk of the Commission.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 10:00 a.m., the Moderator presiding. R.C. Griffin preached the sermon using text Acts 1:6-26, and on the topic, "Looking ..."

Constitutional questions were propounded to the minister by Tony De La Rosa. Constitutional questions were propounded to the worshipping community by Tony De La Rosa. Prayer of ordination and installation was offered by Katie Barrett-Todd.

Meagan Kelly was declared duly ordained and installed as Pastoral Resident for Youth and Campus Ministries of Parkway Presbyterian Church, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and UKIRK Greensboro according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Pastoral Resident for Youth and Campus Ministries was charged by Emily Schlaman Wilson, and Thom Burleson charged the gathered congregation.

Meagan Kelly, the newly ordained Pastoral Resident for Youth and Campus Ministries, pronounced the benediction. Following the service the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Thom Burleson.



## **Minutes of Administrative Commissions to Commission Commissioned Ruling Elders**

### **COMMISSIONING OF HYATT N. GRISSOM**

The commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to commission Hyatt N. Grissom as Commissioned Ruling Elder of Bixby Presbyterian Church and Cooleemee Presbyterian Church, met at First Presbyterian Church of Mocksville, November 9, 2025 at 3:15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Rachael Brooks, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by Mike Spry. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Dana Fruits and R.C. Griffin. Elders: Rachael Brooks, Neal Cornatzer, Jeff Overbey and Mike Spry.

The elected clerk of Commission was Neal Cornatzer.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregations in a worship service at 4:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. R.C. Griffin preached the sermon using text Acts 1:6-26 and topic, "Looking ..."

Constitutional questions were propounded to the Commissioned Ruling Elder by Rachael Brooks. Constitutional questions were propounded to the congregations by Dana Fruits. Prayer of commissioning was offered by Neal Cornatzer.

Hyatt Grissom was declared duly commissioned as Commissioned Ruling Elder of Bixby and Cooleemee Presbyterian Churches according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commissioned Ruling Elder was charged by Dana Fruits, and Mike Spry charged the gathered congregations.

Hyatt Grissom, the newly commissioned Ruling Elder, pronounced the benediction. Following the service the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Dana Fruits.

### **COMMISSIONING OF RACHAEL BROOKS**

The commission appointed by Salem Presbytery to commission Rachael Brooks as Commissioned Ruling Elder of First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy, met at First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy, September 28, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by R.C. Griffin, whom Presbytery appointed to preside. The prayer was offered by R.C. Griffin. The following members and guests were present: Ministers: Jodi Lingan, Susanne Martin and Jon Martin. Elders: Margaret Cockerell and Peter Pequeno.

The elected clerk of Commission was Jon Martin.

After organization, a quorum being determined, the Commission joined the congregation in a worship service at 5:00 p.m., the Moderator presiding. Jodi Lingan preached the sermon using texts Joshua 24:14-18 and Matthew 5:13-16 and topic, "This Little Light of Yours."

Constitutional questions were propounded to the Commissioned Ruling Elder by R.C. Griffin. Constitutional questions were propounded to the congregation by Peter Pequeno. Prayer of commissioning was offered by Peter Pequeno.

Rachael Brooks was declared duly commissioned as Commissioned Ruling Elder of First Presbyterian Church of Mount Airy according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commissioned Ruling Elder was charged by Susanne Martin, and Jon Martin charged the gathered congregation.

Rachael Brooks, the newly commissioned Ruling Elder, pronounced the benediction. Following the service the Commission reconvened, read and approved the minutes, and closed its meeting with prayer by Margaret Cockerell.



**Stated Clerk Office**  
**Active PC(USA) Members in Salem Presbytery**  
**September 2026**

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|                           |                    |                               |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Marybeth Asher-Lawson     | Pastor             | Springwood                    |
| Timothy Bates             | Pastor             | Cameron                       |
| Kathryn Beach             | Pastor             | Rumple Memorial               |
| Frederick A. Beck         | Stated Supply      | Faith                         |
| Kent Berry                | Validated Ministry | Private Practice              |
| Erin Bowers               | Associate Pastor   | Greensboro First              |
| Thomas Burleson           | Pastor             | Parkway                       |
| Matthew Bussell           | Associate Pastor   | Greensboro First              |
| Kathryn Grace N. Campbell | Pastor             | Fellowship                    |
| Charles Jeremy Cannada    | Pastor             | Statesville First             |
| M. Gray Clark             | Stated Supply      | New Creation Community Church |
| William Kevin Conley      | Interim Pastor     | Vandalia                      |
| Daniel Newton Cowan       | Associate Pastor   | Greensboro First              |
| Amanda Davee Lomax        | Validated Ministry | Salem College                 |
| Jill Duffield             | Pastor             | Greensboro First              |
| James David Ealy Jr.      | Pastor             | Hawfields                     |
| Stephen Fearing           | Pastor             | Guilford Park                 |
| Carrie Finch-Burriss      | Pastor             | Fieldstone                    |
| Dana Fruits               | Pastor             | Mocksville First              |
| Jonathan Gaska            | Pastor             | Trinity, W-S                  |
| Will Gipe                 | Pastor             | Prospect                      |
| Sarah Godbey              | Validated Ministry | Novant Rowan                  |
| Jon Kyle Goodman          | Pastor             | Alamance                      |
| Patricia Greene           | Validated Ministry | Hospice of the Piedmont       |
| Ralph C. Griffin, III     | Pastor             | North Wilkesboro              |
| Stephanie Hankins         | Validated Ministry | ASU                           |
| Kathryn Harper            | Pastor             | Cross Roads                   |
| Randy Harris              | Pastor             | Highland                      |
| James Evan Harrison       | Pastor             | Pittsboro                     |
| David Henry               | Parish Associate   | Rumple Memorial               |
| William Bailey Heyward    | Pastor             | Mount Jefferson               |
| Cindy Higgins             | Parish Associate   | Westminster                   |
| Amanda Horan              | Associate Pastor   | North Wilkesboro              |
| John W. Johnson           | Parish Associate   | Burlington First              |
| Ki Seok Kim               | Pastor             | Korean First                  |
| Seulki (John) Kim         | Associate Pastor   | Korean First                  |
| Diane Knauf               | Pastor             | John Calvin                   |
| Jacqueline Lynn Kunkle    | Parish Associate   | Statesville First             |

|                               |                              |                            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Sandy Lacey                   | Stated Supply                | Shallowford                |
| Phanta Lansden                | Pastor                       | St. James                  |
| Scott Lawson                  | Interim Pastor               | Graham                     |
| Debbie Layman                 | Associate Pastor             | Highland                   |
| Charlie Lee                   | Pastor                       | Starmount                  |
| Troy Leshner-Thomas           | Pastor                       | Clemmons                   |
| Kristen Levens                | Pastor                       | Member at Large            |
| Jodi Lingan                   | Interim General<br>Presbyter | Salem Presbytery           |
| James Lunde II                | Pastor                       | Burlington First           |
| Jon Martin                    | Pastor                       | Lexington First            |
| Susanne Martin                | Stated Supply                | Thomasville First          |
| Vicki McCain                  | Pastor                       | Church of the Cross        |
| Douglas McLeroy               | Parish Associate             | Greensboro First           |
| Kristine Miles                | Validated Ministry           | Well-Spring                |
| Joshua Musser Gritter         | Co-Pastor                    | Salisbury First            |
| Lara Musser Gritter           | Co-Pastor                    | Salisbury First            |
| Thomas Nesbit                 | Validated Ministry           | Medi Home Hospice          |
| Hannah Ostlund                | Associate Pastor             | Salisbury First            |
| Samuel Perkins                | Associate Pastor             | Westminster                |
| Jon Phillips                  | Interim Pastor               | Forest Hills               |
| Wes Pitts                     | Pastor                       | Reidsville First           |
| John Pruitt                   | Pastor                       | Kernersville First         |
| Dari Victoria Rowen           | Associate Pastor             | Burlington First           |
| Brian Rummage                 | Pastor                       | Asheboro First             |
| Mark Sandlin                  | Pastor                       | Church of the Covenant     |
| Michael Sarvis                | Associate Pastor             | Graham                     |
| Christopher Schooley          | Parish Associate             | Guilford Park              |
| John Senior                   | Stated Supply                | Pine Hall                  |
| Allison Simmons               | Validated Ministry           | Iredell Memorial Hospital  |
| Paul Sink                     | Pastor                       | Taylorsville               |
| David Smith                   | Interim Pastor               | High Point First           |
| Jay D. Smith                  | Pastor                       | Jamestown                  |
| Jeffrey S. Smith              | Pastor                       | Boone First                |
| Christopher Speaks            | Validated Ministry           | Well Care Hospice          |
| Courtney Stevens              | Associate Pastor             | Highland                   |
| J. Grant Sutphin              | Validated Ministry           | United States Armed Forces |
| Betsy Swetenburg              | Pastor                       | Westminster                |
| Austin Tickle                 | Validated Ministry           | HonorBridge                |
| Andrew Taylor-Troutman        | Pastor                       | Chapel in the Pines        |
| Mary Virginia Taylor-Troutman | Parish Associate             | Chapel in the Pines        |
| Mason Todd                    | Pastor                       | New Hope                   |
| Rebecca Todd Peters           | Validated Ministry           | Elon University            |

|                       |                    |                     |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| David True            | Interim Pastor     | Concord             |
| Laura (Arlo) Tysinger | Pastor             | Elkin               |
| Jorge Vazquez         | Pastor             | El Buen Pastor, NCD |
| Alicia Wilson         | Validated Ministry | Private Practice    |
| Emily Wilson          | Pastor             | St. Andrews         |
| Leigh Wisner          | Interim Pastor     | Oak Ridge           |

**Stated Clerk Office  
PC(USA) Members-at-Large in Salem Presbytery  
September 2026**

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Sandra Kaye Barrow-Ziglar  
Lynn Bryant  
Virginia Christman  
Hilton J. Cochran  
Melissa G. Davis  
Jonathan H. Freeman  
Meredith Gantt  
Kenneth Gatewood  
Carter B. Gillespie  
Diane Givens-Moffett  
Robert J. Goforth  
Peter Hazelrigg  
Hye Jin Hwang  
Elizabeth Emma Inman  
Peter Kim  
Khelen Kuzmovich  
Eric Larsen  
Insook Lee  
Travis Milam  
Kristine Miles  
Richard R. Osmer  
Glenn Otterbacher  
Steve M. Pharr  
Caroline Phillips  
Frederick Ritsch  
Steven Schaick  
William Steck  
Kathryn Summers

**Stated Clerk Office**  
**Retired PC(USA) Ministers in Salem Presbytery**  
**September 2026**

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|                         |                           |                          |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Willard Ackles          | John Donald Fowler        | Joseph McCutchen         |
| Margaret Almeida        | Larry W. Freeman          | Bryan McFarland          |
| Donald Johnson Barbour  | Philip R. Gehman          | Douglas McLeroy          |
| Frederick A. Beck       | Sandra Lee Breeden Greene | Mary C. McNeal           |
| Joseph Blankinship      | J. Randy Hall             | Judson J. Milam          |
| Jesse W. Bledsoe        | William Hamilton          | Myron Miller             |
| Ronald L. Bowie         | William Hannah            | Raymond P. Mims Jr.      |
| Steve D. Braswell       | Jennie Leake Hemrick      | Alfredo Miranda          |
| Ann Brinson             | David Henry               | Molly D. Morgan          |
| Kenneth L. Broman-Fulks | Cindy Higgins             | Stephen Moss             |
| Kellie J. Browne        | Fredrick R. Horner        | Kathy Muder              |
| Olen Bruner             | Charles H. Howell         | Charlie Murphy           |
| Jae Heung Chung         | William Hoyle             | George Murray            |
| M. Gray Clark           | Felicia Hoyle             | Donald Nance             |
| Frederick A. Coates     | Karen Huddelson-Gillespie | Arnold Nuckles           |
| Frank Collier           | Marcia Jaureguizar        | Carl Parsons             |
| Wallace Covington       | John W. Johnson           | David Partington         |
| Jill Crainshaw          | William Stephen Johnston  | Franklin L. Partridge    |
| Calvin E. Crump         | Vicki Jones-Johnson       | Samuel Curtis Patterson  |
| Sidney Davis            | Cynthia Douglas Keever    | Joseph L. Pickard        |
| Judith Dellinger        | Sandra Kern               | Richard L. Qualls        |
| Franklin Dew            | Walter W. King            | Bonita Quandt            |
| James A. Dickens        | Barrie Kirby              | Andre Resner Jr.         |
| Susan Dobyns            | Randal V. Kirby           | Jeffrey Reynolds         |
| James Dollar            | Thomas J. LaBonte         | Paul Rhodes              |
| Neil Wayne Dunnavant    | Thomas Lane               | Russell Ritchel Jr.      |
| Christopher F. East     | George Lashley            | Francis Rivers Meza      |
| Lou East                | William F. Lawrence Jr.   | Charles Frederic Sanford |
| John C. Elam            | Robert E. Lee             | Suzanne Schafer-Coates   |
| Lee Ellenwood           | Ruth B. Lenger            | Christopher Schooley     |
| Stewart E. Ellis        | Robert M. Lewis           | Grant Sharp              |
| Terri L. Engle          | S. Edwin Lewis            | R. Page Shelton          |
| Martha Fairchild        | B. Paul Lindsay           | Ronald Shive             |
| Eric M. Faust           | Joel M. Long              | Suzanne Shoffner         |
| Judith Fitchett         | Gordon Marshall           | Mark Wallace Sinnett     |
| Patricia Fletcher       | Robert M. Matthews        | Stevan Snipes            |
| Lisa Florence Mullen    | Steve McCutchan           | Delores Spielman         |

Bernard Spielman Jr.  
Frank Stewart  
Julia Ross Strobe  
Larry Summey  
J. Stuart Taylor III  
Glenn Thomason  
Erich Thompson  
Thomas Ronald Vaughan  
Stanley M. Voth

Russell Ward Jr.  
William Waterstradt  
Randolph T. Wellford  
Jeff White  
Elinor Ware Wilburn  
Benjamin F. Williams  
Nancy Williams-Berry  
Virginia Wood  
R. Scott Woodmansee

Frank Wyche  
Willard Ackles  
Margaret Almeida  
Donald Johnson Barbour  
Frederick A. Beck  
Joseph Blankinship

**Stated Clerk Office  
Commissioned Ruling Elders, CRE in Salem Presbytery  
September 2026**

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|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Jerry Blankenship   | Third Creek                  |
| Steven Braxton      | Trinity, Elon                |
| Marty Brim          | Wentworth                    |
| Rachael Brooks      | Mount Airy First             |
| Jeffrey Bumgarner   | Laurel Fork / Old Providence |
| Sidney Crunk        | Glendale Springs             |
| Hyatt Grissom       | Cooleemee / Bixby            |
| Christopher McClain | Griers                       |
| James Harley        | Freedom / Salisbury, Second  |
| Richard LaDew       | Siler City                   |
| Shannon Langston    | Bethesda, Stsvl              |
| Tim Parker          | Shiloh, Burlington           |
| Rick Purcell        | Bethany, Graham              |
| Rainey Ratchford    | New Salem                    |
| Wayne Robertson     | Greenwood                    |
| Steven Stiles       | Milton                       |
| Mae Weed            | Lansing                      |

**Stated Clerk Office  
Certified Christian Educators in Salem Presbytery  
September 2026**

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Charlotte Allbright, Burlington First  
Joelle Brummitt-Yale, Chapel in the Pines  
Sarah Beth Christie, Retired  
Rachel Culler, Retired  
Jacquelyn Hall, Retired  
Wynn McGregor, Retired  
Elizabeth Welter, Retired  
Samantha Wesley, Retired  
Parks Williams, Retired



**Ruling Elders Elizabeth Hooten and Alice Milam, Co-Moderators**

**For Information:**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) offers the following report from the most recent quarter of 2026:

- The CPM received Ryan Beach-Verhey, a member of Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church and an incoming student at Duke University Divinity School in Durham, NC, as an inquirer in the ordination process, on August 4, 2026 (Zoom meeting).

**The Rev. Emily Schlaman Wilson, Moderator****For Information:**

This year so far 6 churches and 2 presbytery entities have applied for and received over \$115,000 from the Innovation Grants program. This money has supported the formation of feeding ministries in local communities, outreach programs involving the arts, provided leadership for presbytery workshops, and more. Through these grants, Salem Presbytery has reached out into the communities surrounding our churches. Communities have been nurtured and nourished by the creative and innovative ways these funds have been used.

One grant recipient is Parkway Presbyterian Church for their first Robin Hood Festival coming up on October 17. See the attached flyer and come out for food and fun that will help support feeding ministries in the Winston-Salem area.

At First Presbyterian, Pilot Mountain, Innovation Grant funds were used to prepare for Yadkin Valley Economic Development District (YVEDDI) to use their kitchen and fellowship hall. Each weekday, senior citizens in Surry County and the surrounding area come together for fellowship, classes, and meals at FPC, Pilot Mountain.

A grant recipient from last year, First Presbyterian, Mt Airy, shared how their childcare program has been able to serve children whose families are in shelters or have financial hardships. They are also installing a handicapped accessible playground so that all children can play. Here are a couple stories of those who have been helped through this grant:

“J. 13 months - J.’s Mother was just out of jail and less than six months sober when she discovered she was pregnant. At the time she was unhoused and would frequently sleep under a bridge or at the local, seasonal Warming Station. It was at the Warming Station that she was referred to Helping Hands Outreach Program. Through resources provided by Helping Hands, she found affordable housing. One month later she gave birth to J. Since his birth, she has maintained her sobriety, has created a warm, loving home for J., and has begun working at The Shepherd’s House and Helping Hands as staff support personnel. By J. having a spot in the First Steps Early Learning Initiative, he receives quality care, socialization, and a faith-based foundation while Mom is working to build a loving, happy life for her son.”

“C. 21 months - C. lives with his Mom and baby sister in Virginia, a spot they relocated to after Mom and Dad separated following an incident of domestic violence. C.’s Mom is beyond thankful for the scholarship opportunity offered because it allows her to work to support her two children. Even though she is receiving food stamps to help make sure her children’s needs are met, she was willing to try and find ways to ‘save ’so she could afford a faith-based learning environment for her son. She is looking forward to seeing all the things her son learns at First Steps Early Learning Initiative.

To find out more information or to apply for an Innovation Grant check out:

<https://www.salempresbytery.org/cgat-innovation-grant-application>

If you have any questions or want to talk through ideas for your application, please contact Emily Schlaman Wilson at [emily@standrewsnc.org](mailto:emily@standrewsnc.org) or 336-978-7658.



*Join the Merry Band for joy, justice, and generosity.*

## Can You Help a Church Out?

Join the Merry Band in Sherwood Forest on October 17!

We at Parkway Presbyterian Church in Winston-Salem are throwing a big party in our backyard to bless our community and we want you to be a part.

We've got the following needs. Can Salem Presbyterian churches help?

- Volunteers (day of the event and prior), e.g., cooks, servers, runners, helping with kids' activities, setup/takedown, publicity, graphic design, etc.
- Tables
- Chairs
- Tents
- Portable sound equipment
- Social media support (through FB, Instagram, etc.)
- Encouraging your own members to attend
- Traffic cones
- Cookers/smokers (the bigger the better!)
- Trucks or trailers (to haul what you each can offer!)
- Church airport-style shuttlebus (for our offsite parking)
- Pastors or others willing to be arrested at our Jail and Bail

*Parkway*  
Presbyterian Church

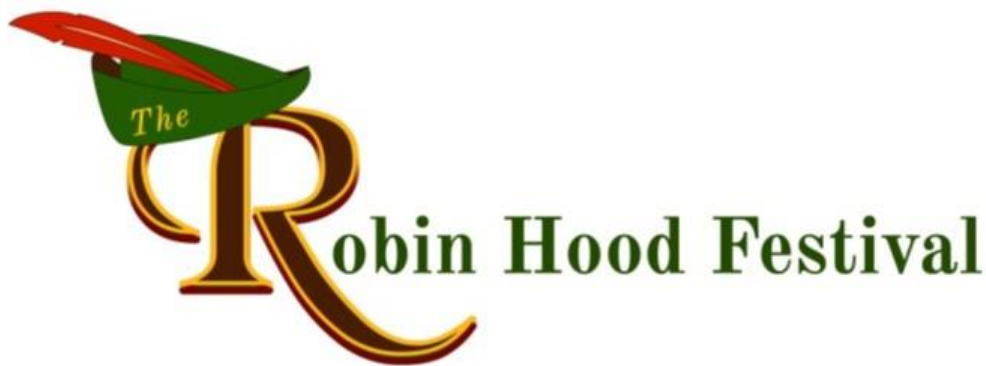


With your help, together we can be a blessing to the Robinhood/Sherwood Forest community and beyond!

Support for The Robin Hood Festival generously provided by the CG&T Committee of Salem Presbytery.



SALEM PRESBYTERY  
The Association of Churches in the Diocese of North Carolina



# The Robin Hood Festival

*Join the Merry Band for joy, justice, and generosity.*

**The Robin Hood Festival: A Celebration of Joy, Justice, and Generosity** is a one-day festival bringing together the Sherwood Forest/Robin Hood neighborhood, as well as the greater Winston-Salem community. With live music, great food, medieval martial arts, storytelling, square dancing, craft vendors, activities for children, and much more, the festival will help raise funds for local charities while providing a fun, family-friendly experience for its participants.

Presented by Parkway Presbyterian Church, the enduring legend of Robin Hood will come to life, reminding us to care for the most vulnerable members of our community, not by robbing the rich to give to the poor, but inviting all to contribute to bringing life and hope where they are needed.

The Robin Hood Festival takes place October 17, 2026, from 11:00 – 9:00 p.m. on the grounds of the church at 1000 Yorkshire Road in Winston-Salem.

More information can be found on the event's website at [www.robinfest.com](http://www.robinfest.com) or the event's Facebook page.

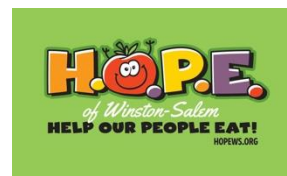
For more information or to explore sponsorship opportunities, please contact Stacey Steck at 704-245-8100 or [stacey@parkwaypres.com](mailto:stacey@parkwaypres.com).



Beneficiaries of the 2026 Robin Hood Festival are CareNet Counseling and H.O.P.E. of Winston-Salem (Help Our People Eat). Your support not only helps make the event a successful benefit to the community at large but helps support these important charities.



An affiliate of  
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist





## SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC (PCUSA)

### 257th Stated Meeting – Assembly Highlights

*March 9–10, 2026 | Richmond, Virginia*

## Theme: “Dismantling Barriers, Cultivating Opportunities”



### A Gathering Rooted in Faith, Purpose, and Possibility

The 257th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic brought together commissioners, corresponding members, guests, and leaders from across the Synod for two meaningful days of worship, reflection, learning, and action in Richmond, Virginia.

From the very beginning, the tone was clear: this would be more than a business meeting. It would be a time to gather in faith, confront hard truths, celebrate important milestones, and consider together what faithful leadership looks like in this season of the church’s life. The Assembly was convened by Moderator **Leah Epps**, with a Land Acknowledgement offered by Vice Moderator **Debbie Reese**, grounding the gathering in respect and remembrance.





Morning worship, led by **Rev. Bill Davis** of the Presbyterian Foundation, opened the Assembly with prayer, Communion, and a thoughtful message that helped center the room for the work ahead. Music was provided by Dr. Tony McNeil



A recorded message from Co-Moderator **Cece Armstrong**, who was unable to attend in person, reminded the Assembly of the larger work and witness of the church beyond this gathering. With a quorum declared and 12 presbyteries represented, the Synod officially moved into its work, balancing inspiration with the practical responsibilities of governance. The Assembly was structured in two parts:

plenary sessions open to all participants, and business sessions focused on the formal work of the Synod. That format created space both for big-picture vision and for the careful work of decision-making.

### **A Powerful Start: Plenary Sessions That Challenged and Inspired**

One of the strongest threads throughout the Assembly was the depth and power of the plenary sessions.



Rev. Dr. **Frances Taylor Gench** opened the plenary experience with a memorable Bible study on *Matthew 15:21–28*, focusing on the story of the Canaanite woman. Her teaching invited participants into a deeper reading of the text and challenged the Assembly to think about courage, advocacy, and what it means to push past barriers in pursuit of justice and healing. It was the kind of teaching that stayed in the room long after the session ended.

Pastor **David Black** of First Presbyterian Church of Chicago followed with a compelling plenary on the church's public witness in times of social and political upheaval. Drawing on both history and lived experience, he reflected on the responsibility of the church to speak and act faithfully in the face of injustice. His message connected the church's historic role in resisting oppression with the present-day call to moral courage and public engagement.




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**This Assembly was more than a meeting—it was a reminder that faithful leadership requires both courage and community.**

---

### Looking Honestly at the Present, Imagining Faithfully Toward the Future



Rev. **Larissa Kwong Abazia** of NEXT Church led another standout plenary session, guiding the Assembly through a thoughtful and challenging conversation about how the church engages its neighbors and responds to a changing world. Her presentation encouraged participants to consider the Synod's place in the broader community and to reflect honestly on the systems that shape church life.

The session included discussion of the many ways racism can show up in personal, institutional, and structural forms, along with an invitation to move beyond awareness into faithful response. Participants were encouraged to speak up, examine themselves and their systems, ask hard questions, and show up in solidarity. It was a session that aligned deeply with the Assembly's theme and offered practical spiritual direction for the work ahead.

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### A Season of Leadership and Forward Movement

The Assembly also marked an important chapter in the Synod's leadership story.

In her first Assembly report as **Synod Executive and Stated Clerk**, **Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins** offered a hopeful and practical overview of her first six months in the role. Since beginning in September 2025, her work has focused on building stronger relationships across the Synod's fourteen presbyteries, improving internal systems, supporting collaboration, and



helping the Synod become an even more resourceful, connected, and mission-minded body. Her report reflected both strong administrative leadership and a clear commitment to presence, partnership, and long-term sustainability.

Highlights from the report included:

- Visits with multiple presbyteries and leadership teams
- Redesigned commissioner orientation and training materials
- Continued leadership transition work and administrative process review
- Increased Synod presence in denominational leadership spaces
- Ongoing conversations around financial sustainability and future planning

The Assembly also received important updates that reflect thoughtful stewardship and strategic progress. The Synod office has been relocated to **Union Presbyterian Theological Seminary**, creating secure office space while reducing annual expenses. Administrative and financial protocols continue to be reviewed and strengthened, and commissioner preparation remains a high priority heading into the year ahead.

Those assembled had the opportunity to enjoy Dr. Flo's "[Out and About in the Synod](#)" Video. Click on it to enjoy as well.

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### A Well-Deserved Recognition

The Assembly also took time to honor **Rev. Jan Edmiston**, former Executive Presbyter for Charlotte Presbytery, in recognition of her service and retirement. It was a meaningful moment of gratitude and celebration—one that reminded everyone in the room of the lasting impact faithful leaders have on the church across generations.



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**The Synod's work is not only about managing today—it is also about preparing faithfully for tomorrow.**

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## Investing in Ministry, Innovation, and the Future of the Church

The business of the Assembly made one thing clear: the Synod continues to invest in ministry, leadership, and new possibilities.

One of the most encouraging highlights was the approval of **\$56,460 in grants and scholarships** through the Grants Committee. Even though the committee was unable to meet with a quorum between Assemblies, the Synod still moved forward to support students, congregations, and presbyteries through scholarships, small church grants, and presbytery initiatives. The Assembly approved support for scholarship recipients, congregational ministries, and mission-focused local efforts—demonstrating a strong commitment to nurturing both present ministry and future leadership.

The **Jubilee Fund Committee** also awarded **\$10,000 in grants**, including support for **Freedom East PC** in Coastal Carolina and leadership development in Western North Carolina. Together, these actions reflect a Synod that is intentionally directing resources toward vitality, service, and community impact.



## Innovation and Emerging Work

The **Emerging Ideas Committee** shared its continued passion for supporting innovation, healthy risk-taking, and new possibilities across the Synod. The committee described itself as a group committed to exploring beyond traditional structures and encouraging dreamers throughout the church. Its current partnership with **NEXT Church** is one example of that commitment in action.

The **Next Generation Initiative (NGI)** also reported meaningful progress in its work to support historically Black congregations and ministries within the PC(USA). The committee highlighted its ongoing focus on congregational vitality, leadership, communication, and strategic planning, along with a significant restructuring of its work into two major areas:

- **African American Church Ministry Revitalization**
- **Healing, Repair, and Reparations for Historical Harm**

These reports underscored that the Synod is not only responding to current needs, but also building frameworks for deeper healing and long-term transformation.

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### Important Business Actions and Helpful Updates

The Assembly also completed important business, including:

- Approval of the **Omnibus Motion** with amendments
- Approval of updated language in **Personnel Policies** and **Standing Rules**
- Approval of a **\$6,500 increase to the 2026 travel expense line item**
- Approval of nominations for several Synod committees and designated roles

Participants also received encouraging updates from **Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center** and the **Presbyterian Board of Pensions**, including upcoming accessibility improvements, new support for dependent child coverage, and a developing childcare assistance grant program for lower-paid pastors.

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### A Powerful Closing and a New Chapter

The Assembly concluded with closing worship and the **installation of Rev. Dr. Flo Barbee-Watkins as Synod Executive and Stated Clerk**, marking a significant and celebratory moment in the life of the Synod.



The closing message, delivered by **Rev. Tawnya Denise Anderson**, was described as “fiery, powerful, and moving,” drawing once again from the story of the Canaanite woman and bringing the Assembly full circle. It was a fitting conclusion to an Assembly that consistently invited the Synod to lead with courage, honesty, and faith.



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### Closing Reflection

The 257th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic was not simply a gathering to conduct business. It was a time of worship, challenge, celebration, discernment, and recommitment.

It reminded all who attended that the church is still being called to do brave work: to dismantle barriers, cultivate opportunity, invest in ministry, and show up faithfully for the communities God has called us to serve.



September 1, 2026

151<sup>st</sup> meeting of  
Salem Presbytery

COM – Task Force on Examinations

40

**The Revs. Newton Cowan and Jeff Smith, Co-Moderators**

Because some COM Task Forces are meeting this week, the COM Examinations Task Force report will be posted this coming Friday, August 28, on the Presbytery website as an addendum.



September 1, 2026

151<sup>st</sup> meeting of  
Salem Presbytery

Commission on Ministry

41

**The Rev. R. C. Griffin, Moderator**

Because some COM Task Forces are meeting this week, the COM report will be posted this coming Friday, August 28, on the Presbytery website as an addendum.



**The Revs. Andrew Taylor-Troutman and Jay Lambeth, co-moderators**

The Executive Council met on June 18, July 16, and August 20, 2006. Regular reports were provided by Jodi Ligan and David Vaughan.

*Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery:*

- Approved the sale of a very small parcel of land on the Oak Ridge PC campus, at the request of the Oak Ridge congregation;
- Elected the following to the Commission on Ministry pending the affirmative action of the COR (which has occurred): Margaret Arbuckle (Greensboro First), Jerry Blankenship (Third Creek), David Boger (Sedgefield), Tricia Fearing (Guilford Park), Joe McCutchen (Retired).

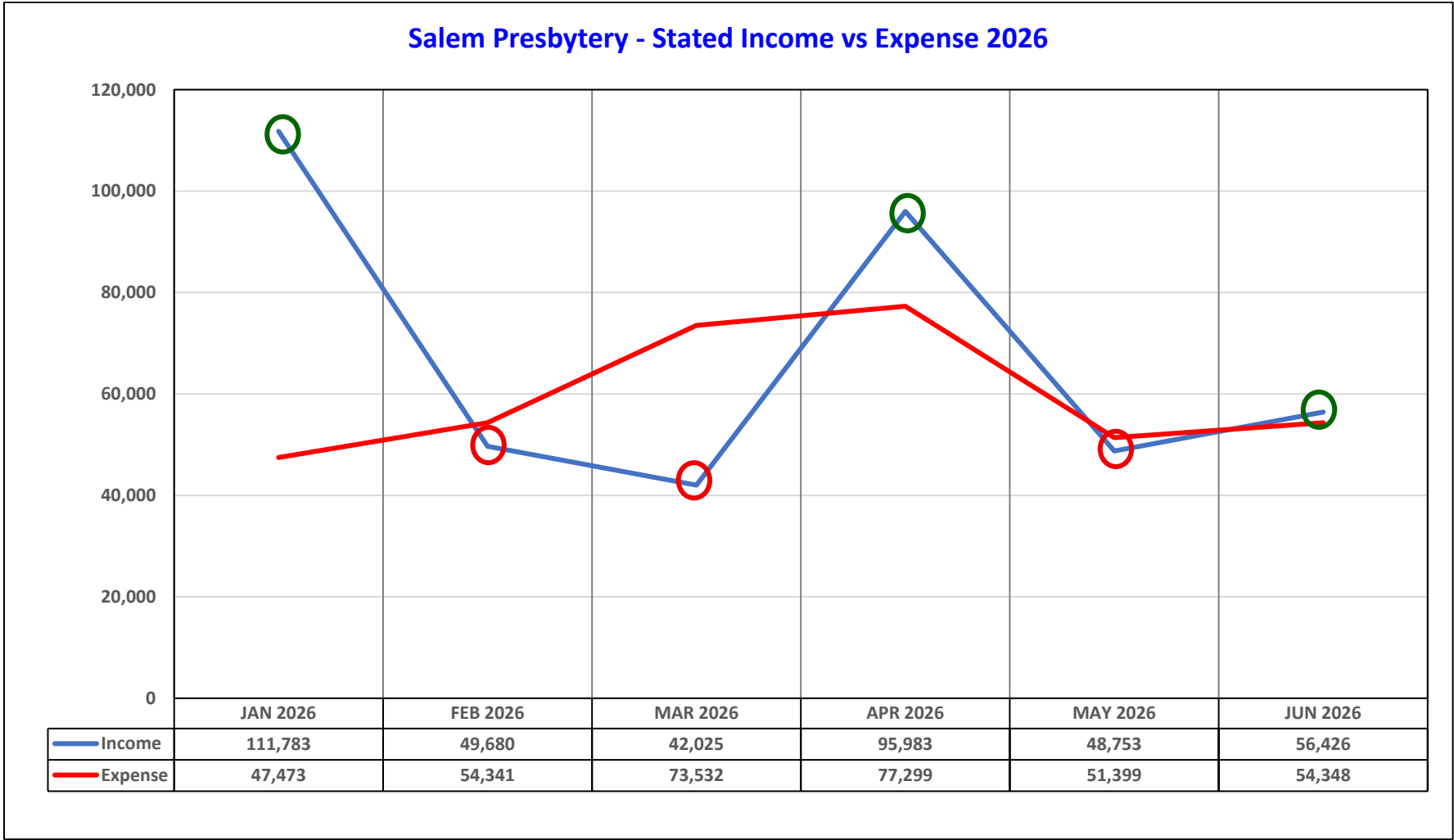
*Business of the Executive Council:*

- Approved the docket for the September 1 meeting of Presbytery;
- Approved the following as signators on Presbytery accounts at Allegacy Federal Credit Union: Steve Moore, Christine Ratledge, Ronda Tatum;
- Received the final report from the Administrative Commission to work with Thyatira PC regarding dismissal from the PC(USA)
- Approved the MDPs for the two co-presbyters and received a progress report from the Co-Presbyters Search Committee;
- Heard a presentation by the Rev. Tom Lane (Retired) regarding advancing attention to the basic needs of children in our society;
- Received reports from the Budget and Finance Committee;
- Approved Budget and Finance Committee's recommendation to engage Duncan Ashe (Greensboro, NC) as the Presbytery's auditor;
- Received reports from STORM, including a review of the May meeting of Presbytery.

*For Action:*

- The Executive Council asks the Moderator to recognize Elder David Pinson, co-moderator of the Budget and Finance Committee, to present a report from his committee.

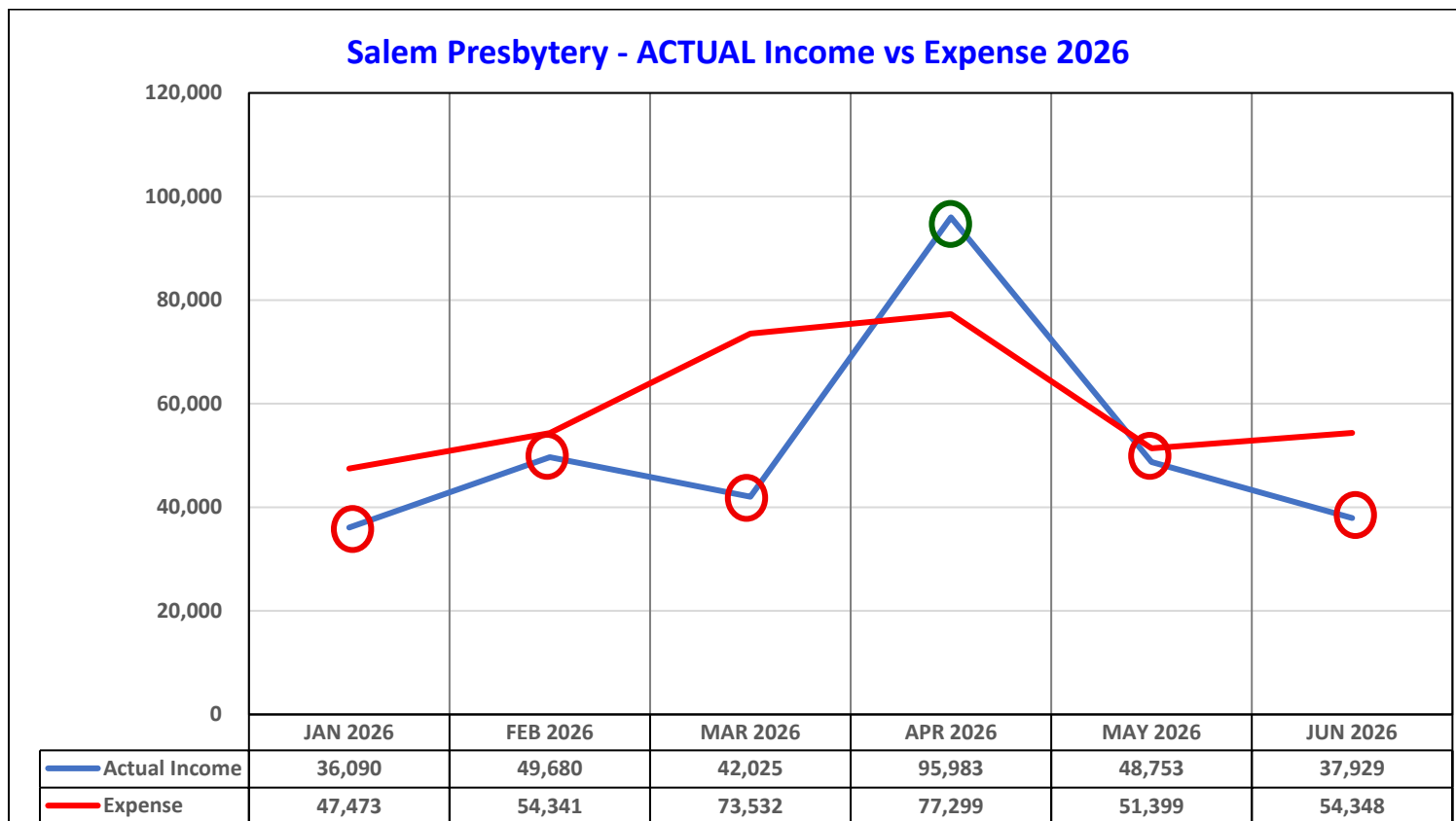
1 - As of June 30, 2026, our YTD Income exceeds Expenses by **\$46,258.63**



2 – Excluding Property Disposals from Income, our Income vs. Expense Variance would be **(\$47,931.77)**

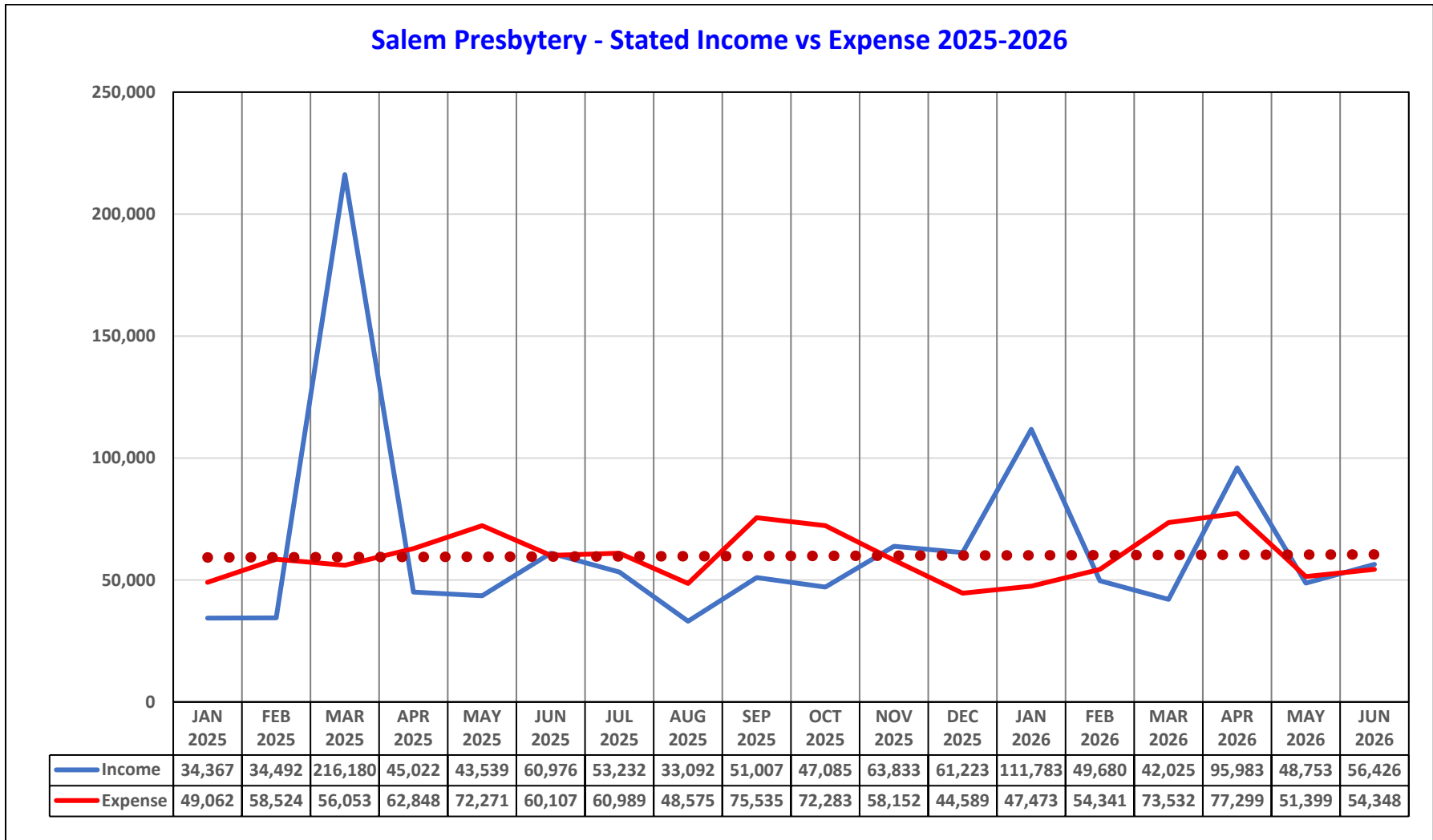
So far this year, \$94,190.40 in Property Disposals has resulted in this positive variance.

|                                    | Actual              | Actual Less Property Income |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Support Income                     | \$274,987.10        | \$274,987.10                |
| Investment Income                  | \$35,472.02         | \$35,472.02                 |
| Property Disposals                 | \$94,190.40         |                             |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                | <b>\$404,649.52</b> | <b>\$310,459.12</b>         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>               | <b>\$358,390.89</b> | <b>\$358,390.89</b>         |
| <b>INCOME vs. EXPENSE VARIANCE</b> | <b>\$46,258.63</b>  | <b>(\$47,931.77)</b>        |





3 - EXPENSE trends have remained relatively consistent month to month over the prior 18 months – excluding income spikes from Property Disposals



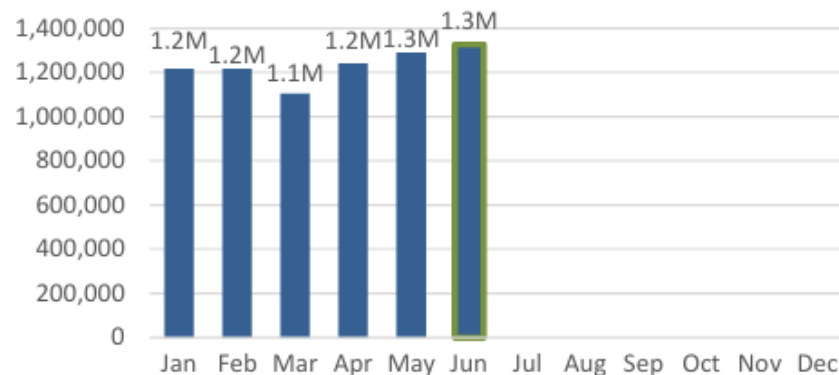
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4 - To manage our budget ongoing assuming fewer spikes in income from Property Disposals, the Budget & Finance team are focusing on the following efforts:

- Work with Presbyterian Foundation to consolidate our various investments and strengthen our Investment Strategy to generate additional Interest & Dividend Income. Our objective is to nearly double our Investment Income.
  - Increase Budgeted Investment Income from \$70,000 to \$140,000
- Maximize utilization of Restricted & Designated Investments to cover appropriate expenses.
- Develop communication strategy with congregations to articulate how Salem Presbytery is utilizing their financial gifts and showcase the benefits of Stewardship.

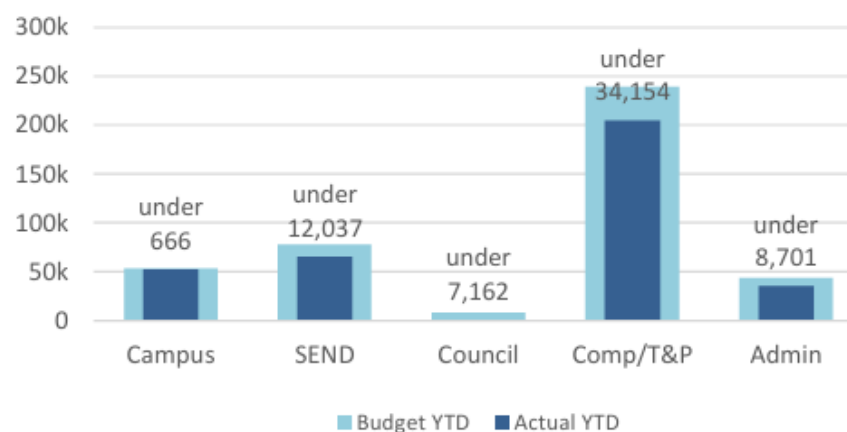
## REFERENCE - Miller Management Graphics – 2026

Cash Available w/o Donor Restriction

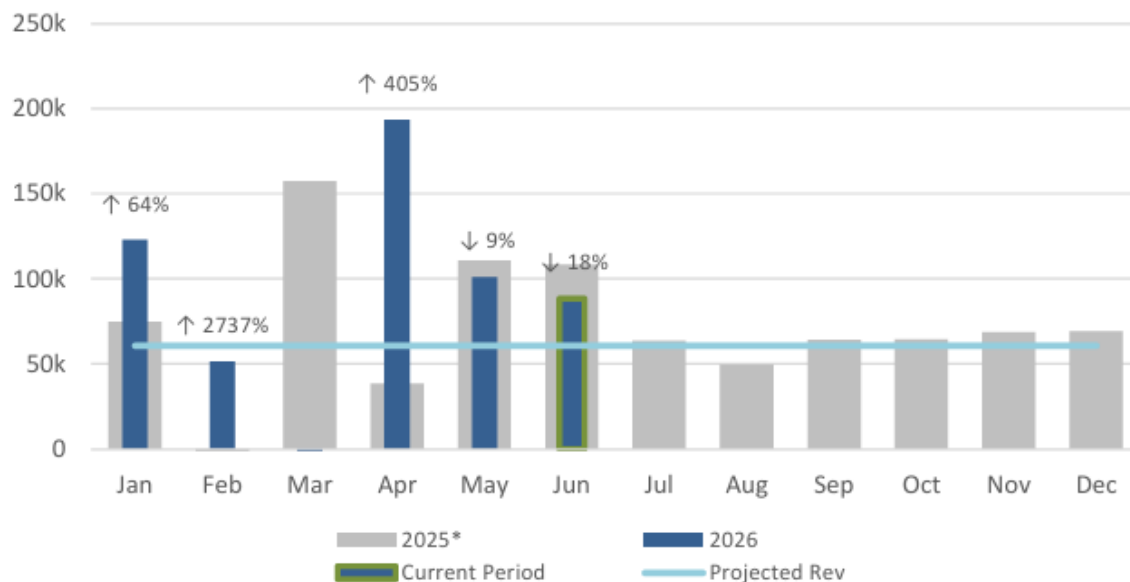


\* Green outline denotes current period.

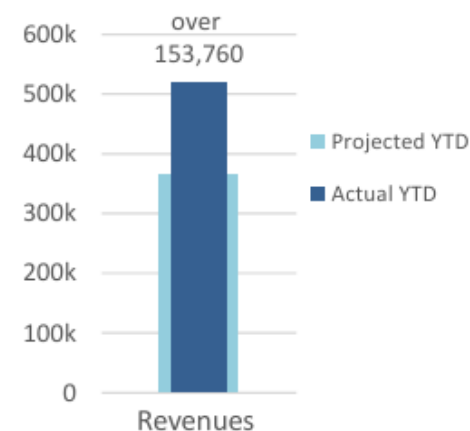
So far this year, are we over or under budget (by category)?



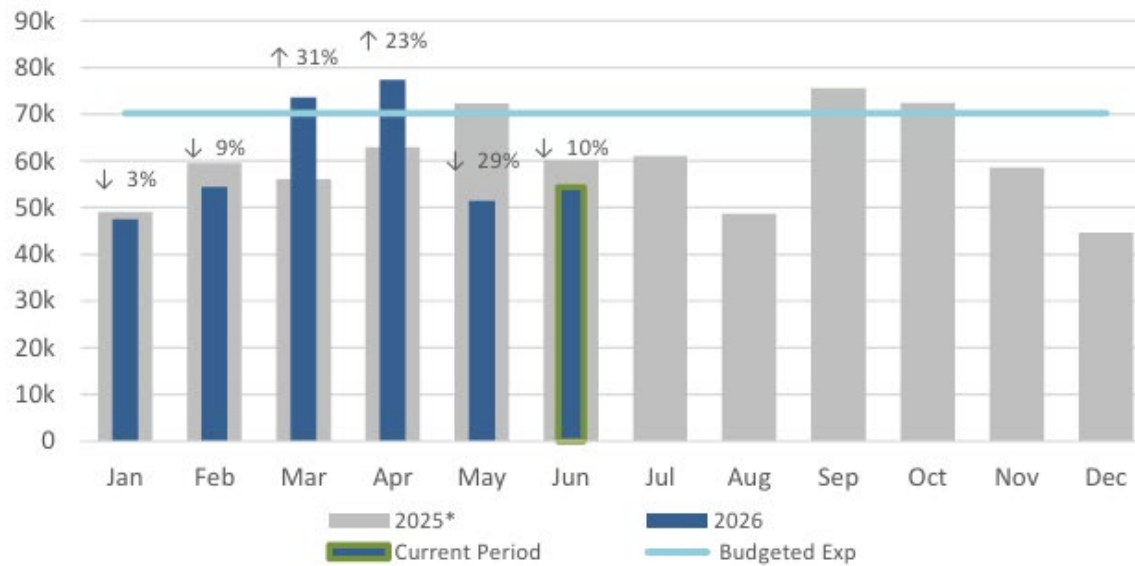
How does our revenue w/o donor restriction compare to last year?



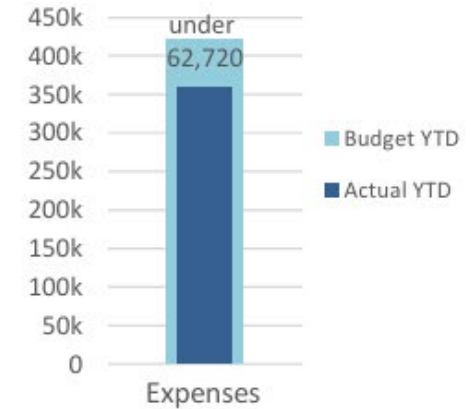
So far this year, are our revenues over or under what we projected?



## How do our operational expenses compare to last year?



## So far this year, are our expenses over or under what we budgeted?



So far this year: Revenues w/o Donor Restrictions - Operational Expenses = **\$160,369**

Run Date: 07-22-2026



# FREE

# Concert

## David LaMotte

### LEBAUER PARK



**Saturday, September 26**  
**6:00 P.M.**



**LeBauer Park**  
**Downtown Greensboro**



Food and beverage available at  
nearby Parkside Pull-Up



Please bring your own chair  
(and maybe one to share!)



**guilfordpark**  
presbyterian church (usa)

Sponsored by  
**Guilford Park**  
**Presbyterian Church**



In case of inclement weather, the concert will be  
**HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL OF**  
**GUILFORD PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
2100 Fernwood Drive, Greensboro





# Team Tenant: Eviction Prevention and Building Housing Justice in Guilford County

## An Analysis of Court Watch, Organizing, and Local Solutions to the Eviction Crisis



A Report by Devyn Rascoe and Cecile "CC" Crawford  
 Keep Gate City Housed Coalition  
 October 2025



**American  
 Friends  
 Service  
 Committee**

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*Cover image: Keep Gate City Housed volunteers and AFSC staff  
at a Greensboro City Council meeting. (Photo: Ugl3e)*

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# The Landscape of Eviction in Guilford County

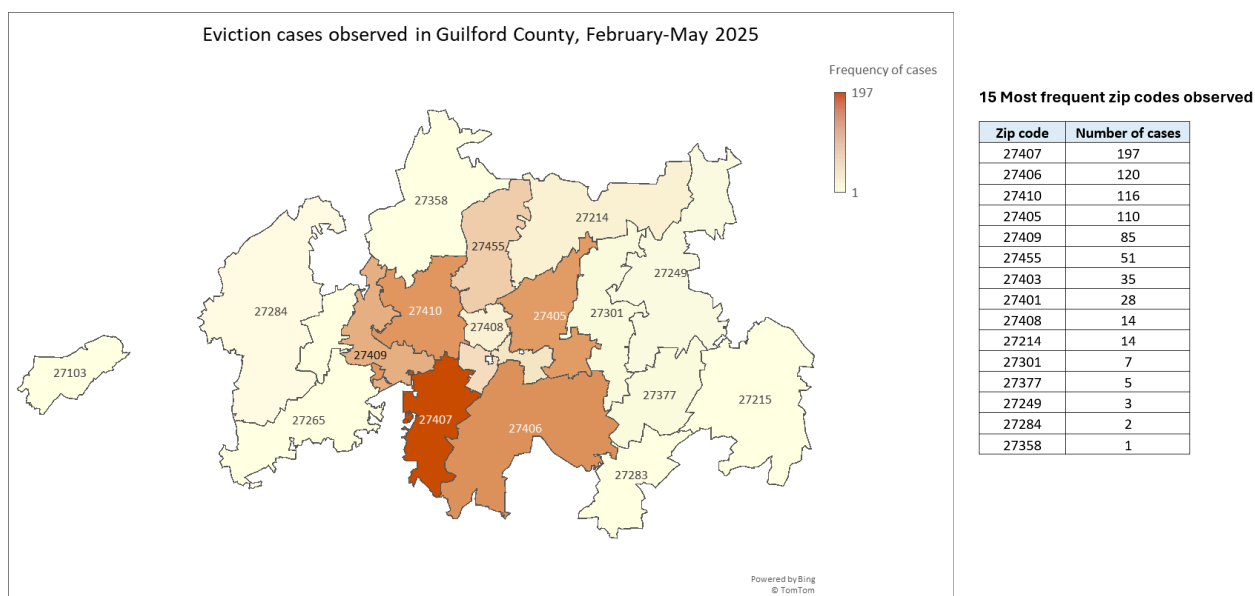
Guilford County is in the midst of an eviction crisis that affects thousands of residents each year, most of them renters living in low-income, Black, and Brown communities. While eviction is often framed as an individual or legal issue, the local data reveals it as a systemic and racialized pattern that demands structural change.

Each year, over 16,000 people in Guilford County face the threat of eviction. Evictions are not spread evenly across the county. They are concentrated in a handful of ZIP codes, including **27407**, **27406**, **27410**, and **27405** in East Greensboro and parts of High Point: communities that have long faced disinvestment, housing discrimination, and limited access to resources.

These areas also reflect the legacy of redlining and urban renewal, where predominantly Black and Brown neighborhoods have borne the brunt of landlord neglect, inadequate code enforcement, and rising rent burdens.

## Volume and Geography of Evictions

**Visual 1: ZIP codes image of eviction cases observed**



Observed chart reflects observed evictions from court sessions in the Guilford County Courthouse, NC (February-May 2025). Source: Keep Gate City Housed Coalition, Court Watch Team

These trends point not just to a legal imbalance, but to the absence of meaningful tenant protections in Guilford County's eviction system.

The racialized nature of eviction compounds existing inequities. It undermines access to education, employment, and health, reinforcing cycles of poverty and segregation across the country.

## **Courtroom Disparities: Representation and Outcomes**

### **In Guilford County's eviction courtrooms:**

- The vast majority of tenants go unrepresented. In the cases we observed only 9% of tenants had legal counsel, compared to landlords who are represented in over 80% of cases.<sup>12</sup>
- Outcomes skew heavily toward landlords. Even when tenants raise legitimate concerns, such as unaddressed maintenance issues, harassment, or lack of notice, judgments are often issued in favor of property owners.
- Repeat filings are common, often used by landlords as a tool of harassment or rent collection rather than actual removal. Some tenants face multiple eviction filings in the same year, destabilizing households even if they avoid physical displacement.<sup>3</sup>

**"It was either pay my electricity bill so I could use my breathing machine or pay rent."**

— An elderly woman explaining to the magistrate her reason for non-payment

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<sup>1</sup> Am. Friends Serv. Comm., NC Court Watch Data (Internal Report, 2024)

<sup>2</sup> Stout Risius Ross, The Cost-Benefit Analysis of Providing a Right to Counsel in Eviction Cases (2016)

<sup>3</sup> Matthew Desmond, Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City (2016)



*Volunteers and staff celebrate the City of Greensboro's support in funding the TEAM Project.  
(Photo: E Henderson)*

## Why Eviction Prevention Matters: Racial Equity, Public Cost, and Community Health

Eviction is not just a housing issue; it's a racial justice issue, a public health crisis, and a costly failure of prevention. When families are pushed out of their homes, the consequences ripple far beyond the front door. Communities without strong eviction prevention measures face rising costs, deepening racial disparities, and long-term harm to residents' well-being.

Housing isn't just a singular issue, and eviction prevention is just one of the many priorities that need to be highlighted when discussing the evident disparities in access to legal representation amongst tenants facing eviction. Eviction prevention should take priority because of its short and long-term effects on racial equity, public cost, and community health. Without prevention, tenants are forced to face the eviction process with a lack of prior knowledge of tenant rights and legal verbiage.

As observed through summary ejectment cases, most tenants observed without legal representation struggled through their quick hearing, oftentimes costing them consequences unbeknownst to them. The nature of forcibly losing your home causes mental and physical stressors. There is a story to each case and a family behind many.

Unfortunately, the name on the lease does not equate to a singular story. Many cases involve parents and children. The mental health of families and individuals facing eviction causes an immediate strain on their productivity level which reflects their income.

## What's Happening Without Prevention

With no resources, legal support, mediation services, and no guidance, the disturbingly frequent cases of overlooked incorrect filings and uninhabitable living areas will continue. Without targeted eviction prevention, thousands of families are displaced every year; many over small amounts of rent or due to landlord neglect. In Guilford County alone, more than 16,000 people face eviction annually. The lack of legal representation, affordable housing, and mediation means tenants are often funneled through a system that oftentimes prioritizes speed over fairness, escalating instability and homelessness.

## Intersections with Race, Sex, and Poverty

- Black women are the most disproportionately impacted, especially single mothers. They are more likely to be renters, more likely to be underpaid in the labor market, and more likely to face eviction even when accounting for income and household size.<sup>4</sup>
- Many tenants facing eviction live below the poverty line or are one emergency away from crisis. Rent burdens—where families spend more than 30% or even 50% of their income on housing—are common in high-eviction ZIP codes.
- Evictions also disproportionately affect children, as many cases involve households with minors who then face school disruptions, instability, and trauma.
- In Greensboro and High Point, neighborhoods with predominantly Black and Latinx residents see the highest eviction rates; often overlapping with areas that have been historically redlined or disinvested in.

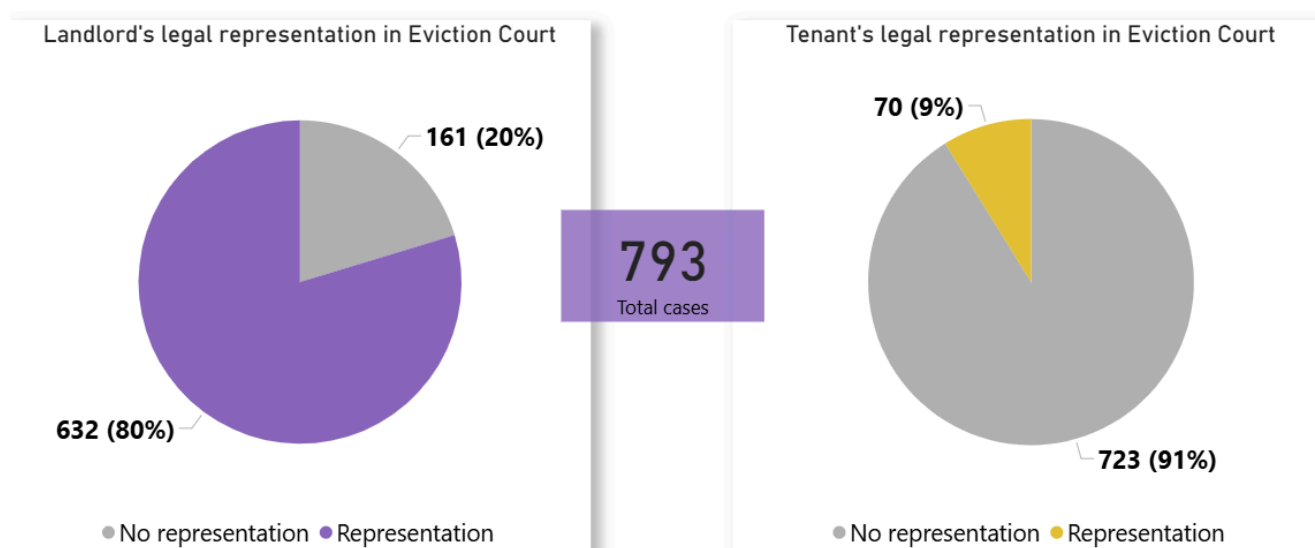
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<sup>4</sup> Bluthenthal, C. The disproportionate burden of eviction on Black women. Center for American Progress (2023)

### Here's what the Keep Gate City Housed Coalition data team found:

- In 793 cases we observed that 80% of the time the landlord showed up with legal representation for eviction court.
- Only 9% of tenants showed up with legal representation for eviction court.
- When tenants had legal representation (seen below), their likelihood of receiving a continuance<sup>5</sup> increased from 17% to 37% and their likelihood of receiving a dismissal increased from 32% to 43%, in comparison to tenants without legal representation.
- When tenants had legal representation, their likelihood of getting evicted that day dropped from 48% to 16%, in comparison to tenants without representation.

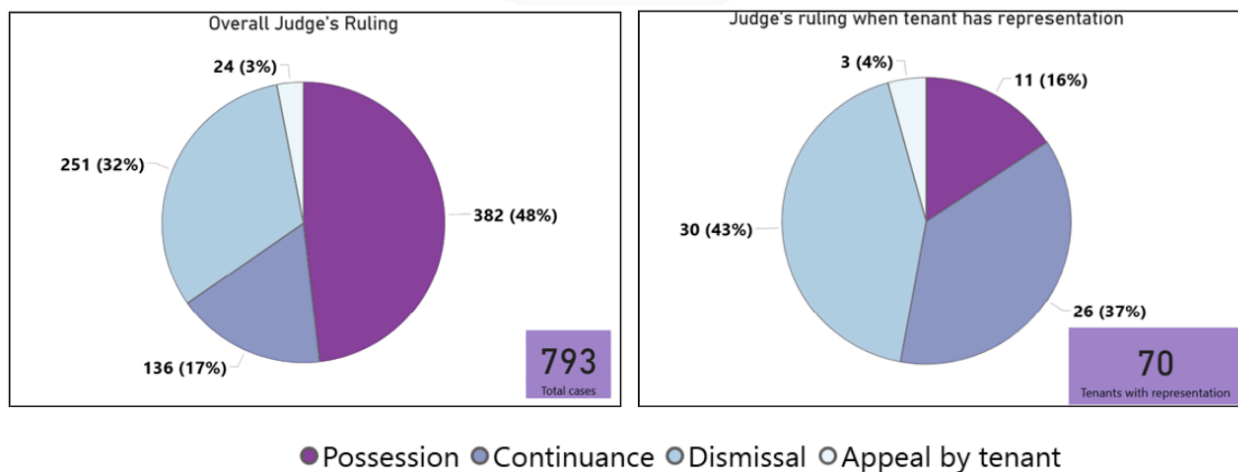
### Visual 2: Legal representation disparity in eviction cases observed



*This data is from the American Friends Service Committee - North Carolina Program, Eviction Court Watch project. The eviction court cases were observed and documented by volunteers from February 3, 2025 - May 1, 2025.*

<sup>5</sup> Continuance - A delay or deferral of a court hearing, trial, or other legal proceeding which can be requested by either involved party or initiated by the judge  
(Continuance. Justia Legal Dictionary.(n.d.).<https://dictionary.justia.com/continuance>)

### Visual 3: Judge's ruling in eviction cases observed



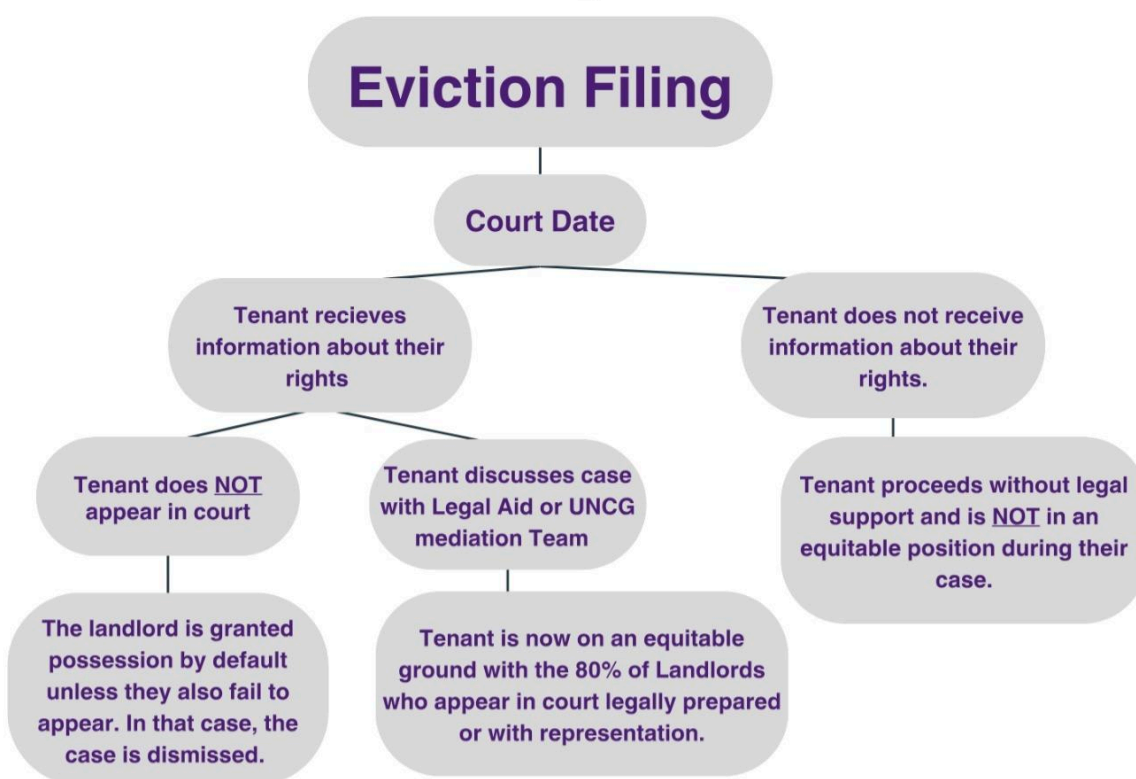
*This data is from the American Friends Service Committee - North Carolina Program, Eviction Court Watch project. The eviction court cases were observed and documented by volunteers from February 3, 2025 - May 1, 2025.*

## Who Is Most Affected?

**Evictions do not affect everyone equally. National and local data show:**

- Black renters, particularly Black women, are disproportionately evicted, regardless of income.
- Families with children are more likely to be targeted for eviction.
- Low-income renters, who often spend more than 50% of their income on housing, face a higher risk.

## Tenants vs Eviction: A Flowchart of Possible Legal Outcomes





## Impacts on Health and Environment

Through observations of the Cottage Gardens apartments, there were about 35 code compliance violations filed. It was concluded that the standard of living for these tenants was uninhabitable. Filing a complaint just isn't enough in cases where tenants are going home, following a hearing, to sewage flooding their bathtub and mysterious fungus.

Substandard housing has lasting effects on tenants' health, including the risk of exposure to dangerous and toxic substances.

Eviction increases exposure to environmental hazards and chronic stress. Displaced families often move into overcrowded, unsafe, or poorly maintained housing, if they can find housing at all. Children experience higher rates of asthma and missed school days, while adults face increased emergency room visits, mental health crises, and untreated chronic conditions. Eviction also disrupts access to transportation, groceries, and healthcare.

## Undermining Racial Equity

Evictions widen the racial wealth gap and erase progress toward racial justice. Generations of discriminatory housing policies, from redlining to exclusionary zoning, have funneled Black and Brown families into vulnerable rental markets. When evictions occur, these same families lose not just shelter, but stability, credit, job access, and sometimes custody of their children. Preventing eviction is an essential part of repairing historical harm.

**“I’m just embarrassed and sorry.”**

— A woman behind one month on rent, representing herself in a  
Summary Ejection Case

## The Public Cost of Inaction

Eviction is expensive for everyone, especially the public.<sup>6</sup> **When prevention fails:**

- Families enter emergency shelter systems or rely on overburdened family networks.<sup>7</sup>
- Children may be placed in foster care, especially when housing instability is mistaken for neglect.<sup>8</sup>
- Increased emergency medical services, school instability, and court costs drain public budgets.<sup>9</sup>
- Neighborhoods see higher rates of crime and surveillance, adding to public safety expenditures.<sup>10</sup>
- Investing in eviction prevention — through legal support, rental assistance, and proactive code enforcement- is not just the moral thing to do. It's the smarter, more cost-effective, and equitable approach to keeping our communities housed and healthy.<sup>11</sup>

### **"Mom, it's raining again."**

— A mother in court explaining what her son told her every time the roof started leaking in their apartment

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<sup>6</sup> Ross, *supra* note 2, at 3

<sup>7</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition, *The Gap: A Shortage of Affordable Homes* (2025)

<sup>8</sup> Child Welfare League of America, *Housing Instability and Child Welfare: Partnerships Supporting Families in Crisis*, CWLA (2025)

<sup>9</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *The Health Impact of Eviction* (2021)

<sup>10</sup> Matthew Desmond & Nicol Valdez, *Unpolicing the Urban Poor: Consequences of Third-Party Policing for Inner-City Women*, 78 *Am. Soc. Rev.* 117 (2013)

<sup>11</sup> Ross, *supra* note 2, at 3



*A volunteer speaking at a County Commissioners Meeting. (Photo: Whitney Campbell)*

## **AFSC NC's Role and Mission in Housing Justice**

The American Friends Service Committee – North Carolina (AFSC NC) is rooted in the belief that housing is a human right and that no one should be punished with homelessness because of poverty, racism, or neglect. Our mission in housing justice is to center the voices and experiences of those most impacted by housing insecurity—especially Black, Brown, immigrant, working class, and low-income renters—and to organize collectively toward a future where everyone has a safe and dignified place to live.

Through community organizing, policy advocacy, and direct support, AFSC NC works to: prevent evictions by supporting rental assistance, legal representation, and tenant rights education; build tenant power through court watch programs, leadership development, and organizing campaigns; advance housing policy that protects renters, combats displacement, and holds landlords and governments accountable; shift the narrative by exposing the root causes of housing injustice and uplifting community stories and solutions.

Launching the Keep Gate City Housed campaign in Greensboro, tenant organizing around non-compliant landlords to expand our Court Watch program, AFSC NC plays a vital role in connecting everyday struggles to systems change. We believe that by building coalitions, documenting injustice, and organizing with compassion and resolve, we can transform our housing system to serve people, not profit.

## AFSC Volunteers vs. Eviction



*Volunteers chanting for tenants' right to counsel, continued TEAM funding, and rental assistance at a Guilford County Commissioners meeting. (Photo: Whitney Campbell)*



*Volunteers at a Guilford County Commissioners Meeting. (Photo: E Henderson)*

Volunteers supporting the Keep Gate City Housed Campaign have been instrumental in ensuring tenants' voices are heard and funding is continued. Packing the stands and speaking on behalf of the court watch observations, tenant rallies, and personal lived experiences are just a few of the ways tenants have publicly backed the right to counsel initiative and TEAM funding support.

## Scope of the Timeline

### Geographic Reach

- Primarily focused on Greensboro and Guilford County, with emerging partnerships in High Point, Jamestown, and surrounding communities.

### Organizing & Outreach

- Hundreds of tenants engaged through canvassing, court watch, storytelling, and multilingual outreach
- Collaboration with students, faith communities, and grassroots advocates

### Policy Demands

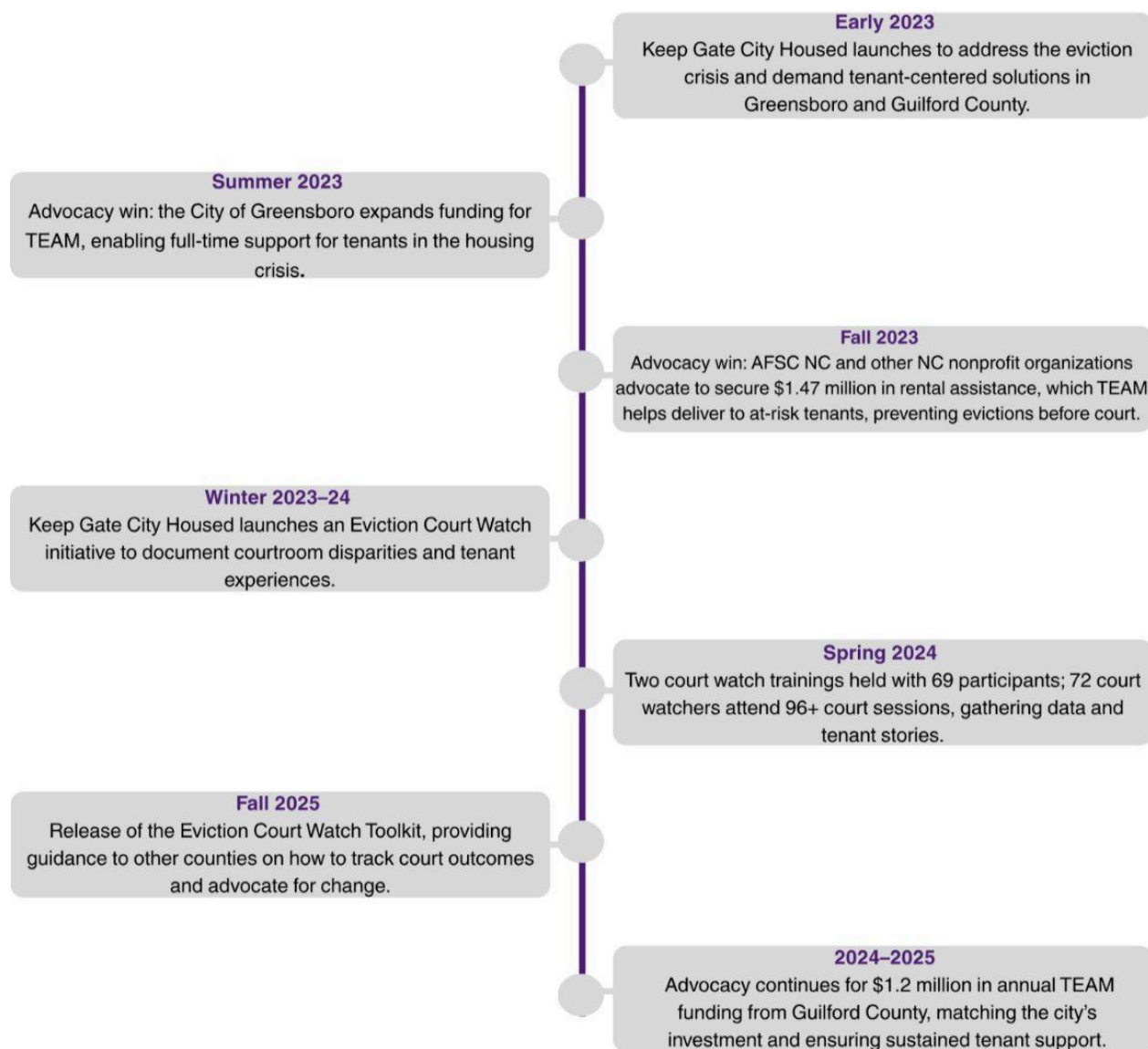
- Secure ongoing city and county funding for TEAM
- Win a Right to Counsel for all tenants facing eviction
- Expand and streamline rental assistance access
- Enforce housing codes and hold negligent landlords accountable

### Data & Accountability

- Court watch and tenant data used to identify eviction patterns and inform public policy
- Supportive alignment with programs like TEAM to advance holistic housing justice



## Campaign Timeline





*Cecile "CC" Crawford at the County Commissioners Public Forum. (Photo: Whitney Campbell)*

## Growing the Movement: Data, Toolkits, and Expansion

### Witnessing Injustice: What Keep Gate City Housed Court Watch Reveals

The Eviction Court Watch program was never meant to be a standalone effort. From the outset, our goal has been to build a sustainable, replicable model—one rooted in community power, equity, and data-driven advocacy. By creating a detailed Court Watch Toolkit, we're equipping communities across North Carolina and beyond with the tools to document court proceedings, amplify tenant voices, and push for systemic change.

### Recommendation on the Impact of Legal Representation

In order for the Keep Gate City Housed Campaign to succeed, it will take the permanent funding of the Tenant Education Advocacy Mediation Program (TEAM). The TEAM Program addresses underlying issues that low-income and medium-income tenants face. This program assists tenants in keeping their housing and mediating with

landlords over rental disputes. TEAM also makes referrals to community-based organizations and social services. Along with permanent funding for the TEAM program, KGCH NC is fighting for a Right to Counsel for all tenants in North Carolina, establishing a fair legal playing field for tenants vulnerable to housing instability.

It is imperative that the Keep Gate City Housed Coalition continues to work with local organizations committed to similar missions. Community groups like Guilford for All and the Unitarian Universalist are a few impactful organizations in Guilford County who have amplified the voice of tenants, teachers, and children. With a number of grassroots organizations fighting for justice, it is crucial that Guilford has leaders to push the long-fought narrative of local organizations and their pursuit toward justice.

## Court Watch Toolkit: Purpose and Vision

The purpose of the toolkit is simple but powerful: To demystify the eviction court process, empower volunteers to observe and document patterns of injustice, and translate those findings into policy advocacy that keeps people housed.

**This toolkit reflects lessons learned from our experience in Guilford County, including:**

- How to recruit and train volunteers
- What data to collect and how to collect it ethically and consistently
- Strategies for storytelling, healing, and community support
- Guidance on navigating limited access to court records
- Templates for forms, reports, and public communication

The Court Watch Toolkit was designed to make eviction court monitoring accessible, replicable, and impactful. Its primary goal is to equip grassroots organizations, tenant groups, and advocacy coalitions with a step-by-step guide for launching their own court watch programs. Rooted in our experience in Guilford County, the toolkit offers a model that can be adapted to other North Carolina counties and beyond. By



standardizing best practices and templates for observation, data collection, and volunteer coordination, we aim to fuel a growing statewide movement demanding transparency, tenant protections, and Right to Counsel.

## Regional Replication Goals

We believe every community deserves transparency in their eviction process—and the power to hold systems accountable. Our goal is to support at least five new counties in launching their court watch initiatives over the next 12 months, using our toolkit as a foundation.

### **By expanding this work:**

- We build a shared statewide data infrastructure to expose eviction patterns and legal disparities.
- We increase pressure for Right to Counsel legislation and proactive rental protections.
- We grow a network of tenant-centered, grassroots-led housing justice efforts that are informed by local context and strengthened by statewide solidarity.

This is how we grow the movement—not just with hope or outrage, but with infrastructure, tools, and a shared belief that everyone deserves a safe and stable home.

Central to our approach is people-powered data collection. We trained volunteers—including students, faith leaders, and tenants themselves—to observe court proceedings, collect detailed case data, and identify trends in representation, outcomes, and courtroom conditions.

### **Our framework includes:**

- Orientation and issue education on tenants' rights and the eviction process.
- Training on how to use our standardized court watch form.
- A structured schedule of shifts to ensure courtroom presence.
- Ongoing communication and debrief sessions to support volunteer retention and wellness.
- This community-led data collection approach builds both local capacity and political will.

## **Technical support for other counties**

We recognize that building a statewide movement requires more than just a toolkit. That's why we're offering:

- Virtual and in-person training to onboard new organizers and volunteers.
- Access to customizable templates for court forms, flyers, and reports.
- 1:1 consultation sessions with organizers from our Guilford County team.
- Ongoing peer learning cohorts to foster collaboration and real-time problem-solving between counties.

Through this infrastructure, we help remove the barriers that prevent communities from launching their own court watch programs.



*Architect Toolkit team during a planning meeting. (Photo: AFSC/Cecile Crawford)*

## Standing Together: Tenant Organizing and Narrative Power

As every case has a different story, every volunteer who observes a court session has to observe various emotions. After every court session, the Eviction Watch Coordinator held a safe space discussion to ensure all volunteers had room to express their immediate feelings after hearing heartbreaking stories and to answer any questions that came up in the observations.

After all 96 court sessions, the volunteers had a healing circle led by Terrell Dungee, Cecile “CC” Crawford, Devyn Rascoe, and Jess St. Louis. During this session, volunteers shared the stories that touched them the most and unveiled the emotionally heavy cases that stuck with them. The stories ranged from tenants tearfully pleading for a continuance or dismissal to tenants who simply said nothing because they stated they were embarrassed to be in court.

Whether it was before or after a court session, tenants shared how grateful they were to see TEAM and the observers showing up for them. Even though the volunteers could not provide legal representation for tenants, the brochures full of tenant rights and encouraging dialogue shifted the energy in the courthouse.

## Methodology

The AFSC North Carolina Program Director and the Just Economies Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Technical Advisor used Microsoft Forms to collect the data that was observed in eviction court from February through April 2025.

A data entry team, composed of eight individuals, used the Microsoft Form to submit data from eviction court watch observation forms, court dockets, and publicly available information from North Carolina e-courts.

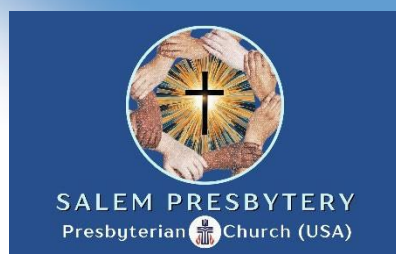
The data team met weekly from 3:30-4:30 PM and debriefed the data entry process, sharing trends seen in the data and working through any questions that arose from the process. We reviewed data visualizations created in Power BI each week and discussed data needs.

The visualizations provide data on the cases that eviction court watch volunteers were able to observe or hear the verdict in court. These visualizations are not representative of all eviction court cases in Greensboro; they only provide data and visualize the trends that the eviction court watch volunteers were able to observe from February through April, 2025.

## Contact

Cecile "CC" Crawford  
northcarolina@afsc.org

[AFSC.org](https://afsc.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)



# Be a part of a Presbytery Committee

## **Budget and Finance**

Reviews and advises on the financial operations of the Presbytery. Responsible for preparing and recommending the annual Presbytery budget. *Meets monthly on the third Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.*

## **Campus Ministry**

Encourage, support, advocate for, and promote campus ministries and their local boards in Salem Presbytery. *This Committee will meet at least two times per year with one of those meetings with Campus Ministers. The Campus Ministers will meet quarterly for information sharing and mutual support.*

## **Church Growth & Transformation**

Encourages creative approaches to growing vital churches and cares for small churches. *Meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.*

## **COM Task Force on CRE Training and Oversight**

Responsible for overseeing all CREs in Salem Presbytery in their roles as pastors of churches or other validated ministries. The Task Force is also responsible for approving and monitoring the training of CREs in the Presbytery. *Meets monthly on Tuesday at 11:00 am during the week of the 4th Thursday of the month.*

## **COM Task Force on Examinations**

Meets to examine ministers and persons ready to receive a call to service and membership in Salem Presbytery. *Meets most months on the fourth Thursday at 9:30 a.m.*

## **COM Task Force on Policy, Compensation, Mediation and Church Officer Development**

Discerns best policies and practices for pastoral relationships in Salem Presbytery; this task force also provides resources for churches seeking mediation or other specific leadership needs. *Meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.*

## **COM Task Force on Temporary Ministry and Pulpit Supply**

Supports the work of ministers and churches utilizing temporary pastoral relationships, as well as maintaining the presbytery's pulpit supply list. *Meets the Tuesday before the fourth Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m.*

## **COM Task Force on the Care of Pastors and Retirees, Members at Large/Validated Oversight and Certified Christian Educator Oversight**

Provides support for members of Salem Presbytery who are honorably retired, serving in validated ministry beyond church walls, members-at-large, and our certified Christian educators. *Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 11:00 a.m.*

## **COM Task Force on Transformational Ministry for the Changing Church**

Supports and coaches churches as they discern their mission and pastoral needs. *Meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday at 1:00 p.m.*

## **COM Task Force on Transitions in Ministry (for Installed Positions)**

Oversees the transitional process for churches with installed pastors beginning with the moment the current pastor alerts the congregation they are leaving, through the transitional time until the new pastor is called. *Meets monthly on the fourth Thursday at 1:00 p.m.*

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

Supports our inquirers and candidates preparing for ministry. *Meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 12:30 p.m.*

### **Committee on Representation**

Reviews committee vacancies, seeks candidates, confirms their willingness to serve, and presents to Presbytery for election. *Meets 2 to 3 times each quarter.*

### **Equip**

Equips congregations for ministry today by resourcing, curating, connecting and communicating. *Meets monthly on the 3rd Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.*

### **Executive Council**

Coordinating body of Salem Presbytery; works on behalf of the presbytery. *Meets monthly on the third Thursday at 1:00 p.m.*

### **Hunger Committee**

Seeks to educate, advocate, and equip non-profit agencies and churches across Salem Presbytery who are working to address food insecurity. The committee reviews international and domestic hunger grants and addresses opportunities to advocate more equitable distribution of the world's resources. *Meets quarterly.*

### **Peace & Justice Task Force**

Salem Presbytery's advocacy arm, connecting congregations and individuals to the justice movements happening in the bounds of Salem and beyond. *Meets monthly on the first Tuesday at 2:30 p.m.*

### **Permanent Judicial Commission**

*Meets when a legal case arises, only as needed.*

### **Personnel Committee**

The Personnel Committee exercises proper oversight over the staff of the Presbytery including evaluating the work of the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, assures that evaluation of other staff members is carried out annually, maintains the Personnel Policies of the Presbytery, makes recommendations on compensation and benefits, and provides resource and support to the General Presbytery as needed in dealing with personnel issues as they relate to Presbytery. *The Committee meets as needed.*

### **Presbyterian Youth Council – Adults**

Plan and implement events for Middle and High School students in the Presbytery, providing an atmosphere of fun and fellowship while sharing the Good News of the gospel, comprised of youth and adults. *Meets on 3rd Saturdays during the school year, plus events.*

### **Property Management Task Force**

Oversees real estate owned by Salem Presbytery, addressing any needs that arise. *Meets as needed.*

### **Send Mission Committee**

Oversee the mission-related outreach and justice ministries for the Presbytery, and aids congregations in developing their own outreach and justice endeavors. Inspires and models local and global mission ministries. *Meets quarterly.*

### **Stewardship Committee**

To build a culture of generosity through year-round stewardship efforts to support our Salem Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly budget. *Meets monthly on the third Monday at 2:00 p.m.*





## Nominations for Salem Presbytery Committees

For the use of the Committee on Representation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Nominee Information:**

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Status: ☐ Teaching Elder/Clergy  
☐ Ruling Elder  
☐ Deacon  
☐ Church Member

Committee of Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly state relative experiences:

### **Nominator Information:**

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return form to:**  
 Salem Presbytery  
 P.O. Box 1763  
 Clemmons, NC 27012  
**[office@salempresbytery.org](mailto:office@salempresbytery.org)**

P. O. Box 1763  
Clemmons, NC 27012



www.salempresbytery.org  
336.766.3393

### **Commissioner Report Form**

*Please use this form as a convenient way of reporting back to your session on what happened at the meeting today.*

#### **I. What the Session, Pastor or Congregation should KNOW:**

a. The main ACTIONS of the Presbytery were:

1)

2)

3)

b. The RESOURCES offered were:

c. The time(s) I sensed the Spirit of God moving in the meeting:

#### **II. Presbytery would like our INPUT about:**

#### **III. The Presbytery requested we ACT to:**

#### **IV. We might consider asking the Presbytery to do:**

#### **V. A church or pastor which needs our PRAYERS:**

#### **VI. One Presbytery initiative which needs our SUPPORT:**

#### **VII. Next Presbytery Meeting:**

Saturday, November 7, 2026, First Presbyterian Church, Boone

*REMINDER: The Digest for this meeting will be on the website one week from the date of the Presbytery meeting, which will highlight the events and actions taken at the meeting.*