

# ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING MINUTES OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

## May 13, 2025

The One Hundred Forty-Sixth Stated Meeting of Salem Presbytery, held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church in Chapel Hill was called to order and opened in prayer by the Presbytery Stated Clerk, Rev. Paul Sink at 9:00 a.m.

### ENROLLMENT:

|               |    |                               |     |
|---------------|----|-------------------------------|-----|
| Commissioners |    | Commissioned Ruling Elders    | 4   |
| Elders        | 47 | Lay Pastors                   | 1   |
| Ministers     | 51 | Certified Christian Educators | 3   |
|               |    | Executive Presbyter           | 1   |
|               |    | Designated Presbyter          | 1   |
|               |    | Stated Clerk                  | 1   |
|               |    | Presbytery Staff              | 1   |
|               |    | TOTAL:                        | 110 |
|               |    | (+Visitors - 21)              | 131 |

The following were present for this meeting of Presbytery:

### Ministers (51):

|                        |                           |                         |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Asher-Lawson, Marybeth | Harrison, Evan            | Mullen, Lisa            |
| Barrett Todd, Katie    | Hazelrigg, Marti          | Otterbacher, Glenn      |
| Blankinship, Joe       | Huddelson-Gillespie, Kate | Phillips, Jon           |
| Bowers, Erin           | Johnson, John             | Pitts, Wes              |
| Burleson, Thom         | Lambeth, Jay              | Priddy, Kim             |
| Bussell, Matt          | Lawson, Scott             | Pruitt, John            |
| Campbell, Kathryn      | Layman, Debbie            | Rigel, Jessica          |
| Cannada, Jeremy        | Lee, Charlie              | Schaick, Steve          |
| Conley, Kevin          | Leshner-Thomas, Troy      | Senior, John            |
| Crews, Evelyn          | Levens, Kristen           | Smith, David            |
| Dew, Frank             | Lunde, James              | Smith, Jay              |
| Duffield, Jill         | Martin, Jon               | Speaks, Christopher     |
| Ealy, David            | Martin, Susanne           | Taylor-Troutman, Andrew |
| Fearing, Stephen       | McCutchen, Joe            | Taylor-Troutman, Ginny  |
| Goodman, Kyle          | Milam, Jud                | Troyer, Elizabeth       |
| Griffin, R.C.          | Milam, Travis             | Tysinger, Arlo          |
| Harper, Kate           | Moss, Stephen             |                         |
| Harris, Randy          |                           |                         |

### Ruling Elder Commissioners (47):

|                     |                    |                |                   |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Alamance            | Brinkley, Becky    | Greensboro 1st | Bristol, Chip     |
| Bethel              | Allen, Eva         | Greensboro 1st | Thompson, David   |
| Bethesda, Stvl      | Wilfong, Miriam    | Greensboro 1st | Youngdahl, Rhonda |
| Bixby               | Cornatzer, Debbie  | Griers         | Morris, Bill      |
| Burlington 1st      | Crawford, Glenda   | Guilford Park  | Hickling, William |
| Burlington 1st      | Kernodle, Janice   | Guilford Park  | Weiner, Ellen     |
| Clemmons            | Ring, Jennifer     | High Point 1st | Osborne, Chris    |
| Clemmons            | Terry, Nance       | High Point 1st | Roberson, Daphne  |
| Community in Christ | Gaddy, Bobbie      | Highland       | Collins, Emily    |
| Concord             | Kinney, Della      | Highland       | Duane, Hannah     |
| Elkin               | Stewart, Susan     | Jamestown      | Gonsiewski, James |
| Fellowship          | Walker, Wynston    | Jamestown      | Whitt, Dick       |
| Greensboro 1st      | Arbuckle, Margaret | John Calvin    | Hinshaw, Sammie   |

|                            |                   |                    |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Logan                      | Tatum, Ronda      | Springwood         | Bleiler, James          |
| Madison                    | Hughes, Carolyn   | St. James          | Knox, Marsha            |
| Mount Jefferson            | Barr, Melissa     | St. Paul, GSO      | Lancaster, Gayle        |
| Mt. Vernon                 | Hunter, Catrelia  | Starmount          | Anderson, Gary          |
| North Wilkesboro           | Bowman, Karolen   | Stony Creek        | Boswell, Leo            |
| Oak Ridge                  | Drugman, David    | Taylorsville       | McCoy, Vickie           |
| Parkway                    | Hammeke, Patricia | Thomasville 1st    | Williams-Hege, Jennifer |
| Pittsboro                  | Morel, Bobbie     | Trinity, Salisbury | Lanear, Ann             |
| Reidsville 1 <sup>st</sup> | Coleman, William  | Wentworth          | Parker, Tim             |
| Rumple Memorial            | Apker, Jenny      | Westminster        | Hooker, Larry           |
| Rumple Memorial            | Tarbutton, Anne   |                    |                         |

**Commissioned Ruling Elders (4):**

Brooks, Rachael  
Crunk, Sid

Harley, James  
Langston, Shannon

**Lay Pastors (CREs without current commission) (1):**

Bates-Harley, LaQreshia

**Certified Christian Educators (3):**

Brummitt-Yale, Joelle  
Chase, Donna

Nance-Allbright, Charlotte

**Executive Presbyter (1):**

De La Rosa, Tony

**Designated Presbyter for Transformational Ministry (1):**

Jodi Ligan

**Stated Clerk, Salem Presbytery (1):**

Sink, Paul

**Presbytery Moderator (1):**

Braxton, Steve

**Presbytery Staff (1):**

Ratlidge, Christine

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CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Presbytery Stated Clerk, Rev. Paul Sink called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and constituted the meeting with prayer.

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MORNING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Salem Presbytery was led in worship and celebrated the Lord's Supper under the leadership of Salem Presbytery's Black Caucus, Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman and Rev. Ginny Taylor-Troutman, with the sermon from Rev. Eric Williams based on Mark 7.

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QUORUM

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

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APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The docket was presented by the Moderator of Salem Presbytery, Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton.

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**ACTION:**

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

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

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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

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

Dear Friends:

As I make my way visiting churches throughout our presbytery, I am always inspired by how our congregations are engaging in mission to their communities. The outsized impact of our churches in bringing the love of Christ Jesus to a hurting and hungry world strikes me with immense joy and pride at our witness as a church. No matter whether they are large or small, rural or urban, with pastoral leadership or without, Salem's churches make a positive difference every day in the lives of God's children. I want to share just a few of the stories I have encountered in my recent travels.

- First Presbyterian Church of Kernersville hosted me one morning in the middle of Lent as I toured their annual Chocolate Easter Egg Ministry's production line in the church's fellowship hall. This small congregation, along with their pastor, Rev. John Pruitt, engage in this incredible assembly-line production of delicious chocolate Easter eggs. Well over a hundred of volunteers from the greater region of eastern Forsyth County join the church's members in producing the eggs for sale for one dollar each whose proceeds in turn serve as a major church fundraiser for a host of mission projects serving the Kernersville community and beyond. The project's fame and outreach has expanded exponentially since it began a number of years ago. This year, the number of chocolate eggs produced were a record- shattering 60,000 (sixty thousand!) which were all sold out several weeks before production was concluded before Palm Sunday. To God be the glory!

- Presbyterian Church of the Cross in Greensboro played host to a lunchtime gathering of pastors in Parish B on April 30. At the lunch, Pastor Vicki McCain shared her congregation's mission commitments to severely underserved and impoverished members of their greater community. The church hosts a Recovery Café twice a week whose mission is to "provide a refuge, healing, and transformation for men and women traumatized by homelessness, addiction, incarceration, and other mental health challenges." Every Saturday, the church sponsors a youth soccer league made up of mostly refugee families from all over the world, while also providing a hot meal for the participants and their families in need. An inner-city music enrichment and education program for children during the public-school year is also housed at the church. As pastor McCain notes, "Sunday worship may end at 12 noon on Sundays, but the church is open seven days a week to serve the community."

- Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Statesville offers its community regular fairs, meals, and programs that have revitalized the church anew. CRE Shannon Langston who pastors the congregation notes that church formerly had 10-15 attendees at typical Sunday in worship. This year, on both Easter and the first Sunday of worship thereafter, the church had more than double that number in attendance.

- In a more humorous vein, the youth group at Guilford Park Presbyterian in Greensboro led worship on Sunday, May 4. Because "May the 4th" is known as Star Wars Day among fans of the blockbuster movie franchise, the youth incorporated the movie's characters and themes into the service to great acclaim. In an extra dash of creativity, Sith Lord Darth Vader himself greeted worshippers as they arrived for the service. Who ever said that Presbyterians were the "frozen chosen?"

There are a host of such stories of incredible things being done in our churches. I am so looking forward to sharing more of them with you as I continue my visits throughout the Presbytery. Please feel free to invite me to join you some Sunday. You may wind up in a future report to the Presbytery!

Blessings of the Risen Christ to you in this hope-filled and inspiring Easter season.

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

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## REPORT FROM DESIGNATED PRESBYTER

Rev. Jodi Ligan

I am the resurrection and the life ~John 11:25

Easteride Greetings Presbytery Siblings!

It was three years ago April that the position for Designated Presbyter for Transformational Ministry was established. On this adventure we have learned so much: discouraging and encouraging alike, but all of it part of the precious story of God's Kin-dom in Salem Presbytery. I often use the analogy that, together, we are in the emergency room needing to ask hard questions around how we are to move forward in being the Church.

The Church Empowerment Assessment (CEA) was developed as a resource for uninstalled churches to facilitate realistic conversations, while honoring where the Spirit is leading. In January a Presbytery Empowerment Assessment (PEA) was provided to take the conversation to broader level. And in February you approved the Special Task Force on Reviving Ministry (STORM) to discern anew the Mission and Vision of Salem Presbytery (or what it means to be a presbytery at all) in 2025 and beyond.

You will hear an initial report from them today, and a final report within 6 months, on how the Presbytery's structure (staffing, committees, et al) and finances might best realistically respond to God's call in this part of the Kin-dom. How you choose to invest in transformation should then be expected to take a turn: what has been happening for the last three years should not be what continues into the next three years. One of the world's foremost authorities on the practice and teaching of adaptive leadership, Ronald Heifetz, reminds us that the crucial step is not to do something, but rather to ask, "What do we need to learn?". Questions are essential for innovation and transformation, opening us to new possibilities.

Theologian Hans Kung describes the resurrection as something radically different than dying and being revived: Jesus was transformed into an entirely new state of being. Resurrection is nothing short of re-creation. We are presented with resurrection opportunities every day. Let us ask, then, in this season of resurrection, what do we need to learn in our passage as Christ's servants to something much greater? Let us practice resurrection....together.

Dear Ones, the resurrected Jesus sends Mary to tell the disciples not that he has been raised from the dead, but, that he is ascending to God to continue living. May transformational change be that for us as well!

With a grateful heart to be serving with you, jodi

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STATED CLERK REPORT

Rev. Paul Sink

## For Information:

Appointed the Administrative Commission to First Presbyterian Church of Pilot Mountain at the request of COM and subsequent action of the Executive Council. AC members are: Rachael Brooks, Garry Russ, John Senior, Wilson Smith, and Emily Wilson.

Please find the 2024 Statistical Report for Salem Presbytery included in the following pages.

Please find the 2024 Necrology report in the following pages. We mourn the deaths of these saints of Salem even while we celebrate their gifts to Christ's church in their lives of faith.

Please find the list of Elder Commissioner numbers for each church included in the following pages. This list is updated based on statistical report data.

Please find the Membership lists for the Presbytery in the following pages.

Paul Sink  
Stated Clerk  
statedclerk@salempresbytery.org

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## NECROLOGY 2024

The following necrology was read aloud by the Stated Clerk and by representatives of each congregation.

### MINISTERS:

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Jeannette G. Rodenbough | February 12, 2024 |
| James T. Frazier        | April 23, 2024    |
| Charles Ray Carter      | May 27, 2024      |
| Malcolm M. Bullock      | June 19, 2024     |
| Harold P. Waldruff      | July 7, 2024      |

### RULING ELDERS:

|                     |                                    |                                        |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| ALAMANCE            | James Frank Carter                 | December 5, 2024                       |
| BETHEL              | Sue Flippin<br>Ben Miles           | December 12, 2024<br>March 25, 2024    |
| BETHESDA, STVL      | Nettie McCoy                       | July 7, 2024                           |
| BURLINGTON, FIRST   | Wilbert Baxter (Bob) Harkey        | March 6, 2024                          |
| CLEMMONS            | William Cummings                   | December 29, 2024                      |
| COLLINSTOWN         | Mamie "Ruth" Hill                  | August 21, 2024                        |
| COOLEEMEE           | James Kevin Dodd                   | November 11, 2024                      |
| COMMUNITY IN CHRIST | Kirby Broughton                    | March 12, 2024                         |
| CONCORD             | Marjorie Swann<br>Charles McDonald | January 29, 2024<br>September 15, 2024 |
| ELKIN               | Tom Winstead<br>Rusty Tysor        | February 11, 2024<br>April 4, 2024     |

|                   |                                                                                                     |                                                                                              |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | Miner Flynt                                                                                         | October 4, 2024                                                                              |
| FAITH             | Jean Covington<br>Bob Waugh                                                                         | June 26, 2022<br>July 4, 2024                                                                |
| FELLOWSHIP        | Blaze Hayes<br>Julian Bullock                                                                       | February 28, 2024<br>March 27, 2024                                                          |
| FRANCISCO         | James Albert Collins<br>John Melvin George                                                          | March 20, 2024<br>November 2, 2024                                                           |
| GRAHAM            | George Johnston Dillard                                                                             | July 8, 2024                                                                                 |
| GREENSBORO, FIRST | Warren B. Buford, II<br>Ruth Ann R. Horner<br>J. Alexander Galloway                                 | January 8, 2024<br>January 28, 2024<br>April 8, 2024                                         |
| GREENSBORO, FIRST | Robert C. Rapp, Jr.<br>Evelyn C. Edwards<br>John A. Edwards<br>John S. MacRae, III<br>Ann P. Snyder | April 10, 2024<br>April 20, 2024<br>October 2, 2024<br>October 14, 2024<br>October 31, 2024  |
| GUILFORD PARK     | Betty Peraldo<br>Jane Lawrence<br>Robert Kollar<br>Richard Sherrick                                 | July 14, 2024<br>September 4, 2024<br>September 21, 2024<br>October 7, 2024                  |
| HAWFIELDS         | Tom Stone                                                                                           | August 16, 2024                                                                              |
| HIGHLAND          | Karen Robertson<br>Wesley (Wes) McGraw                                                              | July 11, 2024<br>November 22, 2024                                                           |
| HIGH POINT, FIRST | Aaron Clinard<br>Lyl Clinard<br>Jean Rowland<br>Tim Mabe<br>Bo Morgan                               | March 7, 2024<br>August 11, 2024<br>August 15, 2024<br>November 3, 2024<br>December 25, 2024 |
| JAMESTOWN         | Barbara Bayle<br>Andy Meehan<br>Jo Burroughs                                                        | June 22, 2024<br>July 10, 2024<br>September 13, 2024                                         |
| JOHN CALVIN       | Minnie McCachren<br>Wayne Hinshaw                                                                   | January 5, 2024<br>January 14, 2024                                                          |
| LEXINGTON, FIRST  | Sara Bookhart DeLapp                                                                                | March 22, 2024                                                                               |
| MOUNT AIRY, FIRST | Bill Rountree<br>Ladonna McCarther                                                                  | June 24, 2024<br>October 2, 2024                                                             |
| MOCKSVILLE, FIRST | Karen Kirkpatrick                                                                                   | February 3, 2023                                                                             |
| MOUNT JEFFERSON   | Gail Edwards Blackburn<br>Dale Baldwin                                                              | October 4, 2024<br>December 3, 2024                                                          |
| MOUNT TABOR       | Jerry Martin Springs                                                                                | March 26, 2024                                                                               |
| NEW CREATION      | Miriam Bell<br>Virginia Driscoll                                                                    | August 2, 2024<br>October 15, 2024                                                           |
| NEW HOPE          | Ken Truelove<br>Claude Graves                                                                       | March 5, 2024<br>July 5, 2024                                                                |

|                    |                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                    | Peggy Styres<br>Harry Lemon<br>Tad Helmstetler                                                                                                               | August 6, 2024<br>September 14, 2024<br>December 11, 2024                                                |
| OAK RIDGE          | Jack Wagstaff                                                                                                                                                | October 20, 2024                                                                                         |
| PINE HALL          | Billy C. Wilson<br>Vera K. Wilson                                                                                                                            | November 22, 2024<br>December 7, 2024                                                                    |
| PINE RIDGE         | Alice Carol Gilley Jessup                                                                                                                                    | December 9, 2023                                                                                         |
| PITTSBORO          | Richard (Andy) Sessoms                                                                                                                                       | March 9, 2024                                                                                            |
| PLEASANT GROVE     | Wayne Briggs                                                                                                                                                 | September 3, 2024                                                                                        |
| PROSPECT           | Wade Carrigan<br>Allen Jackson<br>Wyatt Fesperman<br>Perry Teeter                                                                                            | March 8, 2024<br>July 14, 2024<br>October 25, 2024<br>November 19, 2024                                  |
| RUMPLE MEMORIAL    | Jane Rogers<br>Bill Hall                                                                                                                                     | January 11, 2024<br>December 2, 2024                                                                     |
| ST. PAUL, HP       | Peggy Ann Smith<br>William "Bill" Payne, Jr.                                                                                                                 | September 6, 2024<br>September 18, 2024                                                                  |
| SALISBURY, FIRST   | Dellen Gudger                                                                                                                                                | September 24, 2024                                                                                       |
| SEDFIELD           | Madeline Kay Perry, DDS                                                                                                                                      | March 8, 2024                                                                                            |
| SPARTA             | Jerry Laws<br>John Brady                                                                                                                                     | May 5, 2024<br>October 10, 2024                                                                          |
| STATESVILLE, FIRST | Edith Young Andrews Williams<br>Elaine Boggess Steele<br>Janice Lawing Thornton<br>Roany Bennette Thomas<br>George Everett Caudle<br>John Neely Gilbert, Jr. | January 11, 2024<br>March 17, 2024<br>March 21, 2024<br>May 28, 2024<br>July 13, 2024<br>August 24, 2024 |
| THIRD CREEK        | Gwen Smith<br>Carol Watt                                                                                                                                     | January 1, 2024<br>January 19, 2024                                                                      |
| THOMASVILLE, FIRST | Joanne Mitchell<br>Joe Bennett<br>Don Osborne                                                                                                                | February 6, 2024<br>September 18, 2024<br>October 16, 2024                                               |
| THYATIRA           | William S. Hall, Jr.                                                                                                                                         | December 18, 2024                                                                                        |
| TRINITY            | Jim Sifford                                                                                                                                                  | September 12, 2024                                                                                       |

The Stated Clerk concluded the reading of the necrology in prayer.

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COMMISSIONER REPORT FROM SYNOD OF THE MID-ALTANTIC  
Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle and Elder Lee Woods

the Elder Lee Woods reported on the 255th Assembly of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. This included presentation of a Synod Small Church Grant check to Freedom Presbyterian Church.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 255<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC

Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic (PCUSA) March 10-11, 2025, | Drury Plaza Hotel, Glen Allen, VA.

The 255th Stated Meeting of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic (PCUSA) unfolded over two powerful days of spirit-led worship, prophetic teaching, justice-centered dialogue, administrative diligence, and heartfelt celebration. Held at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Glen Allen, Virginia, the Assembly brought together commissioners from all fourteen presbyteries, corresponding members, PCUSA agencies staff, volunteers, and guests to engage deeply with the pressing challenges and sacred opportunities before the church today. How will the PCUSA (SMA) Speak Truth to Power?

Grounding in Spirit and Land - Moderator Barry Parks commenced the Assembly with a heartfelt prayer, warmly welcoming everyone into the sacred space we were about to share. Afterwards, Valerie Luna Serrels, drawing from the Celtic Tradition engaged the Assembly in a deeply moving land acknowledgment. Through a powerful call-and-response prayer, we honored the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Nansemond, and Rappahannock tribes. It was more than a ritual—it was a moment of grounding. Together, we paused to remember the truths of the land we stood on, to feel the weight of history, and to commit ourselves to justice, healing, and compassion.

Worship as Witness: Justice, Mercy, and Communion - Vice Moderator Leah Epps gently guided us into a time of worship, setting the tone with grace and intention. She introduced Dr. Jacqueline Lapsley, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, who brought a powerful word to the Assembly. Drawing wisdom from Isaiah, Jonah, and the teachings of Bishop Mariann Budde, Dr. Lapsley reminded us that justice and mercy go hand in hand—they are not optional; they are at the heart of who we are called to be as the Church. Hymn singing during worship was at its absolute best as we were led in song by West Moore who engaged full participation. “I the Lord of Sea and Sky” and for “Everyone Born” echoed throughout the hotel as they complimented the piercing message of the sermon. Praise be to God!

The service concluded with the Lord's Supper, administered by Vice Moderator Leah Epps assisted by Rev. Warren Lesane. In that sacred moment, as bread was broken and the cup was shared with all in attendance, we were reminded of our unity in Christ—one body, many stories, bound together by grace.

Virtual Prophetic Witness: A Challenge from the Co-Moderator - Joining us via Zoom, Co-Moderators Tony Larson and Cece Armstrong brought a commanding message from afar—Tony from San Antonio and Cece from Charleston. They spoke candidly and with conviction about the path of denominational recovery, grounded in what they called “CAR”: Communication, Alignment, and Relationships. Their reflections reminded all that following Jesus dictates staying aligned with God's justice, love, and mercy—especially in a time when those values are being tested. Tony encouraged us to live in relationship with those experiencing disadvantages, pointing to the parable of the Good Samaritan as a model for modern discipleship. Cece built on that message with a poetic benediction, urging us to be people of love and compassion in a world that desperately

needs both. After their remarks, Moderator Barry Parks led the Assembly in prayer, grounding us once more in the Spirit.

Setting the Stage: Purpose, Presence, and Participation - Before diving into the work ahead, Moderator Parks laid out the theme, the purpose, and the flow of the Assembly. We are gathered for more than just business—we were here to discern God's will together, in a spirit of love, truth, and accountability. He encouraged everyone to practice self-care during hard conversations and to stay open to what the Spirit might be saying. As Christians, we know that God sent his only Son to us, to bring us all into loving relationships. To love God and love each other - God's children, everyone. And Jesus was very particular about what he expected all of us to do. We are supposed to feed the hungry, give drinks to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the poor, care for the sick and visit the prisoners. Today, we are faced with those in power who do not share these values. Those who hate, those who do not share God's love. Those who deny food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, who oppress the stranger. Our friends are crying out for help. How do we respond? How do we, members of the body of Christ, bring people back into loving relationships? Loving relationships with God, and with each other, all of God's children? With a quorum confirmed, the Synod Administrator was appointed as temporary clerk, and the docket was adopted with ease. Corresponding members were

enrolled, and volunteers were acknowledged.

“The Sin of Hostility” – Plenary one began with an intense keynote from Rev. Dr. James Taneti, founding director of the Syngman Rhee Global Mission Center and teaches World Christianity at UPS. Taneti invited us to step outside of our comfort zones and stand in true solidarity with the marginalized. He drew from Hebrews and Exodus, naming the harsh realities faced by undocumented immigrants—particularly from India—and the hypocrisy of relying on their labor while criminalizing their presence. Dr. Taneti called us to practice “xenophilia”—a love for the stranger—rather than fear. His message was a clear call to walk with Christ by walking with those at the margins.

Following his address, a panel discussion brought the message to life.

Facilitated by Ruling Elder Patricia Morse, the panel featured Rev. Dr. LaKeisha Cook, Ruling Elder Amanda Pine, and Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa, each offering wisdom rooted in experience:

- Amanda called churches to move beyond vague welcomes and step into the work of prophetic hospitality.
  - Tony lifted the importance of naming and resisting the toxic patterns of white heteropatriarchy and emphasized the need for spaces where men can express emotion without turning to violence.
  - LaKeisha introduced us to the Zulu greeting “I see you, (Ngiyakubona)” and connected it to advocacy work—including a bipartisan win that ended the shackling of minors in courtrooms.
- Additional Commissioners shared concerns, ideas, and hopes for how presbyteries can support bold pastors and prophetic congregations. Resources like Just Faith Ministries and Shaping Sanctuary were named as practical tools for transformation.

A Prophetic Word from Esther - Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler keynoted Plenary Two boldly ‘For Such a Time as This.’ With fire, brilliancy and clarity, he spoke about the moral crossroads at which the church and nation stand. He named the dangers of remaining silent when injustice is on the rise, reminding us that silence is not neutral - it is consent. Sadler provoked us with three statements, (1) Do not think that in the Kings house you will be immune; (2) If the church keeps silent, silence has a high cost; (3) Silence is not an option with Justice at stake. He explored the weight of privilege, especially white privilege, and challenged everyone to consider what they are willing to risk protecting the most vulnerable.

Following his keynote RE Flo Barbee- Watkins moderated a second panel bring to bear focusing on critical questions about the message in the sermon. Panelists Jonathan Barton, Kim Priddy, and Susan Krehbiel shared deeply personal stories of courage, struggle, and growth. From accompanying migrants in detention centers to comforting grieving families and stepping into hard conversations about sexuality and race, each story reminded us that courage is not solitary, it is communal. The panel wrapped with a powerful question: How do we cultivate the kind of courage Esther had? Their answer: through community, prayer, and a willingness to show up even when we are afraid. Reflections to Action - The Rev. Dr. David Cho brought a combined perspective in the final plenary. Building on the themes of Esther and previous messages, he introduced the “Five A’s of Social Action”: Awareness, Assessment, Action, Alliance, and Advocacy to enable everyone to process what they heard today. He then invited commissioners into small group conversations around three deeply personal questions:

1. What is breaking your heart?
2. What can/will you do about it?
3. What is your next faithful step?

The responses were as varied as the people in the room, but all shared a common thread: a desire to build something better. Groups talked about everything from building ministries of welcome and hosting interfaith potlucks to addressing job insecurity and reclaiming the prophetic role of the church. Several small groups, according to their presbytery developed action plans that will guide their work upon returning home.

Day Two: Looking Forward Together - The second day began with prayer and a compelling presentation from PCUSA Stated Clerk Jihyun Oh. Speaking candidly about inclusion, sanctuary, and international partnerships, she reminded all that PCUSA is still on the move—still answering the call of Matthew 25, still working for peace and justice in a divided world.

State of the Synod Address: Warren delivered his final State of the Synod Address. With humility and vision, he shared the story of how the Synod moved from uncertainty to strength—from contemplating closure to becoming a leader in justice and innovation. He lifted moments like the response to

Charlottesville, the Montgomery Immersion, and the powerful shift sparked by Matthew 25. His message: stay rooted, stay connected, and keep going.

**Business Rooted in Mission** - The business session was full of activity—it was a clear reflection of a Synod deeply engaged in justice, equity, and transformation. Committees reported vital work across the board and recommendations were adopted: The full commissioners Resolution can be found [here](#).

- The Assembly approved Wells Fargo Bank be authorized on 12/10/2024 to distribute \$650,557.62. This figure represents one-half of four percent of a three- year rolling average of the Kate Bitting Reynolds Fund market value, minus administrative fees of the Synod/Presbyteries. The distribution should be made in equal shares of \$1,465.22 to the certified ministers, the odd cents guaranteeing that the entire \$650,557.62 is disbursed.

- Stated Clerk reminded Synod Commissioners that they represent the presbyteries for which they have been elected. Synod Assembly meets twice annually, and the dates are provided far in advance. The Synod expects commissioners to make every effort to represent your presbytery during Assemblies and to make a report to the appropriate council or presbytery meeting following the Assembly. If you are unable to attend an Assembly, you are required to request excuse from the Synod Stated Clerk. A Commissioners Resolution has been filed with the Synod Stated Clerk that seeks actions from the 255th Synod Assembly related to supporting a compassionate comprehensive missional mandated in keeping with the PCUSA. The Administration Committee reviewed and supported the resolution to be presented.

- Emerging Ideas wrapped up the Wild Church project and launched a new partnership with NEXT Church. It continues to seek new ministry opportunities that may need initial grant support. It is looking for ministries that are creative, innovative, and energizing.

- Grants distributed over \$25,000 in scholarships and support for small congregations. They included:

- o Cellonia Ndede (new applicant) \$6,000 – Westminster PC (JAM)
- o Joshua Gilhart (renewal) \$3,275.00 – Cumberland MD (BAL)
- o Nenio Pfuzeh (renewal) \$3,275.00 – Ginter Park PC (JAM)
- o Praveen Pulkuri (renewal) \$3,275.00 – Ginter PC (JAM)
- o White Memorial \$5,000 for senior lunch program (NHO)
- o Freedom Presbyterian \$4,521 for tech for virtual services (PCC)

- Finance approved disaster relief funds for Western North Carolina Presbytery in the amount of \$25,000 to assist in hurricane/flood recovery and Salem Presbytery in the amount of \$7,500 for the disaster recovery. 2026 per capita increases and updated financial policies for staff.

- The Administration Committee shared ways to enhance staff benefits through synod personnel policies and updates. It presented a Commissioners Resolution which Commissioner Cassandra Thomas brought to the Assembly. The committee adopted it. Commissioners Tim Bird and Cassandra Thomas drafted the Resolution. The committee announced that there will be a called Synod Assembly to receive the candidate for the next Synod Leader. It approved a powerful resolution to protect global mission funding, and reviewed leadership structures with the Unified Mission Agency.

- The Next Generation Initiative expanded its mission to empower Black congregations and develop new leaders. Its work is subdivided into four work groups, namely, Research, Funding, Marketing and Recruitment. The committee meets four times a year and working groups meet in between time.

- The Executive Committee reaffirmed names of the Synod Executive/ Stated Clerk Search Committee to be ratified by the Assembly. Those individual approved were Bill Rienhold, Steve Scott, Cherry Peters, Addie Peterson, Susanne Hooker Taylor, Kate Rascoe.

- Partner Reports from Massanetta Springs, the Board of Pensions, and Mission Engagement Services showed creative adaptations and meaningful ministry continuing throughout the region.

- The Nominations Committee elected RE John Barker (ABI) as its co- moderator. The committee worked through collaboration with the Executive and Administration Committees to develop a list of nominees to serve on the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Search Committee. Vacancies exist in NHO, JAM, and SHE presbyteries on Representation; Vacancies exist from NEW and PEA presbyteries on Jubilee Fund; Vacancies exist from EVA, JAM, NAT, and PEA presbyteries on the Nomination Committee. Presbyteries are urged to fill these vacancies as soon as possible. It is critical that every presbytery is represented on synod committees.

**Honoring a Legacy: Celebrating Rev. Warren Lesane**

Monday evening closed with joy, laughter, and a few tears as the Synod celebrated the leadership and legacy of Rev. Warren Lesane. Through photos, music, video tributes, and warm words, the community honored his 11 years of service. A plaque was presented, officially naming the “Warren J.

Lesane Jr. Next Generation Initiative Fund”—a lasting tribute to his commitment to the future of the church.

Shortly, communications describing the fund will be shared very soon as to how the public might contribute to the Next Generation Initiative Fund established in Warren’s name. For the moment, one can visit the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic website at [www.synatlantic.org](http://www.synatlantic.org) and click the donate button. Then click in Next Generation Initiative.

Warren closed the evening with heartfelt thanks and a full heart. The video he was presented can be viewed here.

- Thank you, Rev. Warren Lesane, Jr., for eleven amazing years of service to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

Worship in the Wild - Before the 255th Synod Assembly concluded, the Assembly stepped outside for a Wild Church worship service, led by Valerie Luna Serrels. Under a canopy of trees, the Assembly was led in a seven-point prayer that invited them to listen, breathe, and remember that God’s presence is as near as the breeze.

Going Forth with Prayer: Moderator Barry Parks adjourned the 255th Synod Assembly at 12:30 p.m. on March 11, 2025. “Go back to your presbyteries,” he encouraged, “renewed, equipped, and ready to serve.”

Next Synod Assembly: September 9-10, 2025, at the Drury Plaza Hotel, Richmond VA.

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PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE  
Elder Beth Hooten, Committee Member

Elder Beth Hooten gave a reminder about Salem Presbytery’s Racial Equity Equipping. There are three upcoming sessions in 2025, May 31st (Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church), September 18th (Alamance Presbyterian Church and November 20th (Statesville First Presbyterian Church). Rev. Frank Dew reminded the Presbytery of the importance of Pennies for Hunger and that each church in the Presbytery is encouraged to have a designated Sunday to make donations for this cause.

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SALEM TASK FORCE ON REVIVING MINISTRY (STORM)  
Rev. Kate Harper, Co-Moderator  
Rev. Sam Perkins – Co-Moderator

On March 20, 2025, Executive Council approved the following recommendation:

That the Executive Council of Salem Presbytery approve the establishment of a special task force to review the Mission and Vision Statements of Salem Presbytery, assess the strengths and weaknesses of our current committee structure and staffing for the Presbytery and its ministries, and make recommendations to the Presbytery via Council for any proposed changes.

Members of this task force are: LaQreshia Bates-Harley, Rachael Brooks, David Ealy, Tom Gillespie, Kyle Goodman, R.C. Griffin, Randy Harris, Shannon Langston, and Sam Perkins, with Tony De La Rosa and Jodi Ligan (ex officio).

**Salem Presbytery Vision Statement**

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.

**Salem Presbytery Mission Statement**

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.

As we continue to tell God's story in Salem Presbytery we remember.... in 2017, as a part of reimagining the next chapter of this Presbytery's story, Salem Presbytery established the Dream Team, which prepared a report outlining a new vision, structure, and staffing. Their plan was approved by the Presbytery in February of 2019. It was determined shortly thereafter (Fall 2019) that parts of the plan were unaffordable given the resources available. Over the past six years, we have worked to forge a new

path forward. However, COVID provided a major disruption from 2020 to 2022. Those effects have provided major cultural and religious impacts still being felt, where we find ourselves working harder under the current plan without making meaningful progress (rowing a boat vs. raising the sails).

Similar to the Church Empowerment Assessment tool used with our congregations with uninstalled leadership, Associate Presbyter for Transformation Rev. Jodi Ligan conducted a Presbytery Empowerment Assessment (PEA) and presented to the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and a core group of Exec Council members (COM, Finance, Personnel) in January 2025. The PEA identified that Salem Presbytery is:

- Lacking clarity of vision
- Spending beyond its means
- Lacking in spiritual energy, partially from trying to support a structure that is no longer sustainable

The conversations begun through this PEA work led to further discussions with additional participants, and a small group energized around the need for bolder change in being a "catalyst for transformational ministry, vital mission, and dynamic leadership." This group was appointed as Salem's STORM Task Force.

This group has also recognized the need for fostering and deepening relationships across the presbytery as being fundamental to our identity. This group will consider the ways our current statements may still be relevant while remaining open to their revision, and provide suggestions for what transformational ministry, vital mission, and dynamic leadership might mean for us today and for the foreseeable future. The hope is that this task force will make a final report to the council and the presbytery within 6 months.

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#### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Courtney Stevens, Co-Moderator  
Elder Beth Hooten, Co-Moderator  
Elder Alice Milam, Co-Moderator

The CPM offers the following report:

1. The CPM received Dylan Lewellyn, a member of Guilford Park Presbyterian Church, as an inquirer in the ordination process, on February 4.
2. CPM approved the following candidate Meg Kelly to move to Certified Ready to Receive a Call status on April 28.

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#### COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

Rev. R.C. Griffin, Moderator

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

##### **A. SECURING A CONTRACT WITH A TRANSITIONAL MINISTER**

Concurred with the Session of **New Hope Presbyterian Church**, Lexington, North Carolina, in securing the contract with the **Reverend Mason Todd** as Transitional Pastor for a period of six months beginning March 8, 2025.

##### **B. STATED SUPPLY RENEWAL**

1. Concurred with the Session of **Springwood Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Evelyn Crews** for a period of one year beginning April 1, 2025.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church**, Yanceyville, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Stephen Jordan** for a period of one year beginning March 1, 2025.
3. Concurred with the Session of **St. Paul Presbyterian Church**, High Point, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Kymberley Hoffman** for a period of one year beginning April 6, 2025.
4. Concurred with the Session of **First Thomasville Presbyterian Church**, Thomasville, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Susanne Martin** for a period of one year beginning April 9, 2025.
5. Concurred with the Session of **Francisco Presbyterian Church**, Westfield, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Will Eads** for a period of 1 year beginning April 22, 2025.
6. Concurred with the Session of **Collinstown Presbyterian Church**, Westfield, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Will Eads** for a period of 1 year beginning April 22, 2025.

#### **C. SECURING A PARISH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT**

1. Concurred with the Session of **Clemmons Presbyterian Church**, Clemmons, North Carolina, in securing a Parish Associate Agreement with the **Reverend Travis Milam** for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.

#### **D. RENEWING A PARISH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT**

1. Concurred with the Session of **Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church**, Blowing Rock, North Carolina, in renewing a Parish Associate Agreement with the **Reverend Stephanie Hankins** for a period of one year beginning December 16, 2024.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Rumple Memorial Presbyterian Church**, Blowing Rock, North Carolina, in renewing a Parish Associate Agreement with the **Reverend David Henry** for a period of one year beginning December 16, 2024.
3. Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, in renewing a Parish Associate Agreement with the **Reverend John Johnson** for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.

#### **E. SABBATICAL PLAN APPROVAL**

1. That the sabbatical plan for **Rev. Jessica Rigel** was approved.
2. That the sabbatical plan for **Rev. Thom Burleson** was approved.

### **II. COMMISSION ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY**

#### **A. MODERATOR OF SESSION**

1. That the **Rev. David Henry** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Baird's Creek Presbyterian Church**, Vilas, North Carolina.
2. That the **Rev. Thom Burleson** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Pilot Mountain Presbyterian Church**, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina.

3. That the **Rev. Bill Hoyle** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Thyatira Presbyterian Church**, Salisbury, North Carolina.

#### **B. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS (RENEWAL)**

1. Concurred with the Session of **Milton Presbyterian Church**, Milton, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Steven Stiles** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning March 9, 2025.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Freedom Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **James Harley** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning February 1, 2025.
3. Concurred with the Session of **Bethesda Presbyterian Church**, Statesville, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Shannon Langston** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning March 1, 2025.
4. Concurred with the Session of **Trinity Presbyterian Church**, Elon, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Steve Braxton** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning March 15, 2025.
5. Concurred with the Session of **Cleveland Presbyterian Church**, Cleveland, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Tim Glaser** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder–Lay Pastor for a period of six months beginning March 1, 2025.

#### **C. MINISTER TRANSFERRING INTO SALEM PRESBYTERY**

That the **Reverend Myron Miller** transferred from the **Presbytery of Tropical Florida** effective March 27, 2025.

#### **D. VALIDATED MINISTRY**

Should the way be clear, the validated ministry of Meagan Kelly with UKirk Greensboro, Parkway Presbyterian Church, and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church was approved.

#### **E. MINISTER TRANSFERRING OUT OF SALEM PRESBYTERY**

1. That the **Reverend Keith Curl-Dove** was transferred to **Presbytery of Seattle** effective February 13, 2025.
2. That the **Reverend Ernest Thompson** was transferred to **Presbytery of New Hope** effective April 10, 2025.

#### **F. DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS WHERE BOTH PARTIES AGREE**

Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Alberta McLaughlin** and Dellabrook Presbyterian Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, effective February 16, 2025.

#### **G. REMOVAL FROM SALEM PRESBYTERY ROLL**

That the **Reverend Laura Spangler** be removed from Salem Presbytery's roll effective March 13, 2025.

#### **H. REQUEST TO CELEBRATE COMMUNION**

That Rev. Ruth Lenger be allowed to celebrate communion on May 1, 2025 at a neutral location within the bounds of Salem Presbytery.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PRESBYTERY**

A. That Commissioned Ruling Elder Rachael Brooks be allowed to serve communion at Shallowford Presbyterian Church, Lewisville, North Carolina on June 1, 2025.

B. That retired clergy transferring into Salem Presbytery who are not seeking to actively serve in Presbytery ministry (i.e., on committees, on the pulpit supply list, etc.) be exempt from full examination and that the Executive Presbyter's check suffice.

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**ACTION:**

2. Salem Presbytery approved that CRE Rachael Brooks be allowed to serve communion at Shallowford Presbyterian Church on June 1, 2025.

3. Salem Presbytery approved retired clergy transferring into Salem Presbytery who are not seeking to actively serve in Presbytery ministry (i.e., on committees, on the pulpit supply list, etc.) be exempt from full examination and that the Executive Presbyter's check suffice.

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COM TASK FORCE ON EXAMINATIONS  
Rev. Travis Milam, Moderator

The Examinations Committee has successfully examined the following for service in Salem Presbytery. The COM has received all of these to membership in Salem Presbytery.

**Statement of Faith**

**Rev. Myron Miller**

Following the suggestion I recently received that the Apostles' Creed provides an excellent framework for expressing one's personal faith, I offer the following for the Salem Presbytery

*I believe in God the Father, Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.*

Conceptually for Jesus to refer to "Father" is denotationally equivalent to "God." He tells Mary in the first resurrection experience recorded, "Do not hold on to me because I have not yet ascended to the Father, But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" What "Father" does is to transform the overarching and unimaginable power of the creator of the heavens and the earth into a personal relationship; one that makes God a someone who is interested in one's wellbeing. The Psalmist puts the relationship succinctly, <sup>11</sup>For as the heavens are high above the earth so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him <sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup>As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him. <sup>14</sup>For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. Whatever verse 14 meant for Jesus, Jesus pictured and practiced a relationship with a God who was not only strong enough to rule the whole universe, and every detail in it, but who folded him into the embrace of a loving child—"This is my son, my beloved . . ." A relationship that allowed Jesus to trust God for everything, including, being led straightway into the wilderness to be tempted after having fasted for a significantly long period first. Father means I put my complete trust in God confident that whatever challenges I may experience, my Father's compassion and ability combine to make my challenges filled with reward and insight that I, like my lord, will be better able to do what I was naturally inclined to want to do, namely, to serve and bless others.

*And in Jesus Christ, His only son, our (my) Lord. Including The Significance of Baptism*

<sup>1</sup>What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? <sup>2</sup>By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? <sup>3</sup>Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Messiah Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Messiah was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

<sup>5</sup>If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. <sup>6</sup>For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin—<sup>7</sup>because anyone who has died has been freed from sin.  
Romans 6: 1-7

It is *logically* impossible to confess that Jesus as Lord in our baptism and at the same time to think of him as being dead. It is not possible to conceive of someone being dead while at the same time affirming that

person to be his or her Lord any more than it is possible to conceive of a married bachelor. It is possible to venerate an important deceased person, to honor them, to memorialize them, even to emulate a memory or reputation, or follow what they are reputed to have said or written, but it is not linguistically possible to obey them. One cannot, for example, be said to “obey” a dead parent. To adopt an individual as “Lord” it is necessary to affirm that the adopted individual has a right to direct our behavior and then expect that we would follow that direction. Only the living can direct behavior needed for contexts and occasions calling for the proscribed behavior. Thus, baptism is directly linked, by sheer logic, to the affirmation that Jesus is not dead but is raised triumphantly over sin’s condemnation and the power of death. A “Living Lord” is, then, a redundancy, as redundant as saying ‘three-sided triangle’.

Thus, every time a baptism takes place there is the confession that Jesus is Lord and that he is therefore alive. This, Paul says, is the minimum that is needed, and that nothing else is needed, to be reconciled to God. He puts it this way in Romans 10: 9-10: <sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved, <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.\*

This is why baptism in numerous places in the New Testament is linked to “being saved.” It is not that baptism saves anyone—it is the confession that it represents that does this; that one is committed to the living Jesus is one’s affirmed and personal Lord. It is obedience to a Lord, living and knowledgeable about my specific and personal circumstances.

Baptism of the child is the confession of the parents and the congregation that this child now belongs to the family of the redeemed and that family will provide the growing context for this child that will make it as natural as breathing for them to confess the Lordship of Jesus in their lives, to be confirmed in that same individual’s life later as they take on the power of that influence.

That latter point is important and well-illustrated by incident recorded by Luke. Philip and the Eunuch, on the road from Jerusalem to Gaza (Acts 8: 26-28), specifically identified as a wilderness road, baptism is a witness, or confession, dramatize that baptism is not primarily for others but it is for oneself. It is one’s own explicit affirmation, made to Jesus our Lord as if Jesus alone is watching and listening.

#### *Borne of the virgin Mary*

While I served at Forman Christian College and University, our denomination’s education ministry in Pakistan, because that institution was fully integrated: Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, and Christians study and learn together. Students, faculty, and staff, provide a harmonious community in which fundamental agreements are shared as well as differences acknowledged.

The chair of the Religion department was a man who carried the special qualification of being “Hafiz,” that is a Muslim scholar who not only memorized the entirety of the Koran and memorized it in Arabic (as are all Muslim are expected to do), but was in addition fluent in Arabic. He, too, believed in the virgin birth of Jesus by Mary, even though he did not accept that Jesus was the Son of God (though he did affirm that Jesus would someday return to earth in ruling glory). We had several interesting discussions on how it was possible for Jesus to be borne by the power of God alone and God not be Jesus’ father. His explanation seemed to satisfy him and so we left that part of the discussion a private matter.

Unlike my Muslim brothers and sisters, it seemed to me perfectly rationally acceptable, to understand the statement, “. . . do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” does not require any physical organ to be a feature of the Holy Spirit. It does not seem blasphemous to say that in some way, necessarily physical, since Mary was a physical being, the Holy Spirit fertilized Mary’s physical womb. God bridged the physical and non-physical gap in some way that made it possible for the physical egg in Mary’s uterus to leap with real physical life. In my mind this still makes God Jesus’ father, whatever Mohamed may have thought, whom Jesus came to know in a very intimate way early on (“Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”) as his “compassionate” and loving personal Father, who had enlisted him in a very specific task.

#### *Suffered under Pontius Pilate*

Jesus lived and ministered and was prosecuted in an historical place and time with historically documentable figures like Pontius Pilate, the fifth Roman governor of the Roman province of Judea. I have attached for this discussion of the faith confession a monogram I produced when I was president of the St. Petersburg Theological Seminary and Yeshiva. It addresses the issue of the political dynamics that explain why Jesus was arrested.

#### *Was Crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell and rose again on the third day.*

The key for me in this whole historical/eternal drama in four parts (adding the capture in the garden and the trial) is the struggle that Jesus is portrayed by the gospel writers as taking place in a garden. “Nevertheless, not my will” is a clause that strikes me as emphasizing that my redemption was not an easy thing for Jesus to

do, however picturesque the setting of that struggle may have been. Jesus knew what a huge task he had taken on himself to perform for our sake. It struck Paul as humanly unimaginable

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly, <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

### *I believe in the Holy Spirit*

It makes no difference to me how we picture the teamwork of God's redemptive activity in this world, a world that is a tiny speck revolving around one of the smaller stars in the universe in this otherwise endless vast cosmos that has been spun out of the words of creation by an almighty God. That He should love us enough to come at us in a variety of ways is overwhelmingly wonderful; physically in the person of a son who is the Beloved of the Father, dynamically in the person of His Spirit to energize and direct the events that characterize our lives on this earth enabling us to want to be obedient to the will of the Father, and lovingly with discipline as He directs His Spirit and His Son to engage us with His purposes for our lives. It is by His Spirit that God accomplishes the promise communicated through Jeremiah, when it is reported:

<sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, I will write it on their hearts be their God and they will be my people. <sup>34</sup>No long shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

See also Deuteronomy 10: 16 compared with 30: 6.

### *The Holy Catholic Church.*

They will know that you are my disciples by how you love one another (John 13: 35). The church universal has one purpose, namely, to glorify God and obediently to make disciples of all peoples and its means of glorifying God is to present to the world what it means to be a part of a family that truly demonstrates that they love each other so clearly that those who do not now belong to this family will want to become a member. An amazing phenomenon is that we sometimes are too close to each other to see what an energizing and inspiring fact this is. This, too, like the transformation that takes place in the lives of individuals, is the work of the Holy Spirit as we are brought into the personal communion with the Father.

### *The communion of the saints*

This unity that transcends physical racial, ethnic, and cultural distinctions among humans becomes the opportunity to intentionally enjoy the membership of the greatest family that has ever been produced. It is, of course, symbolized in the family celebration of communion using bread and the fruit of the grape, elements from God for the people of God, and in this respect that celebration marks us all as God's presence in this world, together in spite of our differences, able by the power of the Holy Spirit to be a people from God for the people of this world.

### *The resurrection of the body*

I once served a church in New York (The Presbyterian Church of Ramapo Works, Inc.) in which one of the parishioners, due to her universalist background, did not believe in this part of the confession so when we as a congregation recited the Confession, she simply stayed silent for that one phrase. The problem is that this phrase is simply a logical point, though I never discussed this point with her. It is not logically possible to effect an identification without a body, a point that the Apostle Paul made when he emphasized that we, at the resurrection would have bodies; bodies of a physical sort even if not of the same type of physical reality as that which we now know. Philosophers in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that spend a lot of time and pen and ink criticizing Christianity for believing that we would have an existence after death that would be defined as an identity without a body, and so claiming that Christianity rested on a logical absurdity, had not paid attention to what Paul told the church at Corinth in the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of his first letter to that church.

### *The life everlasting; Amen!*

The promise of Christ that he has reserved a room for each of his disciples in glory was probably first expressed by implication in David's agonizing response to his servants as to why he stopped mourning for the child once it had died. <sup>22</sup>He said, "While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept; for I said 'Who knows? The LORD may be gracious to me, and the child may live.' <sup>23</sup>But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12). The Apostle Paul spells this out both that we will spend eternity with Christ and our fellow disciples, but that we have work to do while we remain in this early life and should patiently wait on God's timing for His purpose to be accomplished.

## **The Holy Scripture Received by the Church Universal as the Word of God**

To this I add that I accept the scripture as identified by the church universal, consisting of the Old (Tanakh) and New Testaments, as the authoritative word of God given through the prophets and the apostles to His people for their personal and corporate spiritual benefit as they grow in their relationship with God and in their service to humanity.

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\*Note that this squares exactly with Isaiah 43: 10-11, requiring that Jesus be affirmed as divine, a part of the Godhead. So that, while this is the Jehovah's Witnesses' foundational and defining scripture passage, they are at least partially, if only partially, right in affirming that it is God alone who can redeem us. Jesus must be divine for Paul's affirmation to be correct and Holy Scripture consistent.

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## **Faith Journey**

**Rev. Myron Miller**

### A Short Timeline Survey of the Ministries of Myron Michael Miller In the Presbyteries of Hudson River, Seattle, Tampa, Lahore (Pakistan), and Tropical Florida

While I first pastored the Wood Memorial Bible Church (later, after I had left this church, the subsequent pastor led the church to affiliate with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches and it became the Sumnerville Bible Baptist Church, Sumnerville, Michigan. Sumnerville is located five miles north of Niles, Michigan, just off US Route 40, at the border with Indiana at South Bend). I began pastoring this church when I was 18 years old in 1959, just before I entered Moody Bible Institute in Chicago and continued to pastor the church while still a student. I commuted during semesters and was full time during summers and vacation periods. I pastored that church through the time I earned my master's degree at Wheaton in the summer of 1964 when I joined the faculty of Houghton College, New York.

At the end of the summer of 1963, after completing my MA in Systematic Theology from the Graduate School of Theology at Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois, and on the recommendation of both Dr. Arthur Holmes, Chair of the Philosophy Department of Wheaton College, and Dr. Kenneth Kantzer, Chair of the Division of Religion and Theology of the Graduate School of Theology at Wheaton, I took the position of Lecturer in Philosophy at Houghton College, Houghton New York.

My wife, Betty Lou (nee Roberts; we were married in Flint, Michigan in July of 1959), and I began our family while I was an undergraduate at Wheaton. We welcomed a daughter in the fall of 1960, who is now the chair of the Department of Psychology at Wake Forest University, NC. Shortly after we took up duties at Houghton, our son Scott was born in 1965 in the city of Cuba, NY, some 40 miles south of Houghton and on the southwest border of New York State (who is now an executive in a dental franchising corporation located in Cooper City, Florida).

After four years teaching at Houghton and taking philosophy classes at Cornell University, commuting from Houghton to Ithaca during the regular school year and living in the dorm in Ithaca during the summers, I felt it was time for me to get serious about continuing my education in philosophy. Since I still needed a source of income to support our growing family, I took the position of Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Nyack College, Nyack, New York.

We also needed a place to live, so I accepted the invitation of the Ramapo Presbyterian Church in Hillburn, NY (paid \$25 a week with the privilege of living in the manse) and the Hudson River Presbytery approved an assignment of temporary pulpit supply for this church. There is an interesting story about the Presbytery's need to have someone, and willingness to solve that problem creatively at that church just at that time, a story that I will be glad to share at some time in the future.

Our youngest son, Anthony (Tony) was born in 1969 in Suffern, New York, which is a "bedroom community" for those who commute to work in New York City and located 20 miles north of the City. Suffern is the larger town located one mile to the east of Hillburn, where we lived, where Good Samaritan Hospital is located, and where Tony was born. He is now a citizen of Great Britain and is the CEO of the largest trades organization in that country.

What had moved us to just upstate New York was that I had matriculated in the Philosophy Department of New York University, N.Y. to begin working on a Ph.D., which I completed in 1977.

Also in 1977, after having served the Ramapo Presbyterian Church (more accurately, The Presbyterian Church of Ramapo Works, Incorporated, which had been established in 1790 and organized as Presbyterian in 1812) for

almost 10 years, blessed with significant growth in the membership of the church, I was ordained by the Hudson River Presbytery.

In 1979 Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington, invited me to join their administration (I was also given faculty status) as Dean of the School of Humanities. At that time I was transferred to and began serving in the Seattle Presbytery. During my tenure in this Presbytery, in addition to committee assignments, I was privileged to serve on a Synod of Alaska Northwest commission to evaluate the continuing support status of Sheldon Jackson College, at the time a Presbyterian established and supported school, in Sitka, Alaska (it ultimately closed in 2007 but continues as a cultural center and training facility for that area). I also served as Interim Pastor of Ravenna Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Seattle, from 1980-1982 and as an assistant pastor to the Reverend Murrey Marshall, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Seattle from c. 1987 to 1989.

In 1989 I accepted the position of Director of Social and Behavioral Sciences at St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida. I then transferred to the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and served on several committees, including Preparation for Ministry. I also served several churches in the Presbytery as either pulpit supply or interim pastor, as needed, during the time we lived in St. Petersburg.

When I retired from teaching at St. Petersburg College in 1999, I subsequently took the position of President of the St. Petersburg Theological Seminary and Yeshiva and piloted that institution through the process of accreditation. It was a unique institution in that it not only prepared those called to regular pastoral ministry in Christian churches but also provided accredited degree preparation for Messianic Jews called to minister in Messianic Synagogues.

In 2004 I retired from the Seminary, then in 2009 I accept the invitation of Forman Christian College and University in Lahore, Pakistan (established in 1864 by the Reverend Charles Forman, a Presbyterian minister and then missionary from Illinois). The school had been given back to the Presbyterian Denomination in 1997, having been nationalized in 1967 by the national government. My task was to help Dr. Peter Armacost, who had been assigned by our denomination to husband this gift from Pakistan back into an institution with the reputation it had before it had been nationalized.

General Pervez Musharraf, the president of Pakistan at the time of its return to the Presbyterian Church, had been a graduate of Forman Christian College in the days of its pre-nationalization prime, re-establish a western style liberal arts baccalaureate degree program by establishing a philosophy degree track and hire the appropriate qualified faculty and supporting materials (such as an adequate library collection of philosophy documents).

In summer of 2012 my wife and I returned to the US, having served there nearly 3 years. We moved from St. Petersburg, Florida, to Pembroke Pines, Florida, in 2014, and I joined the Presbytery of Tropical Florida in that year. As in the past, I simply made myself available to churches needing either a pulpit to be filled or an interim.

The last service to the Presbytery of Tropical Florida was for the Church of All Nations Presbyterian Church located in North Miami Beach, Florida. I filled the pulpit and provided some pastoral care there from early 2022 through 2023. This is a very delightful, spiritually energetic, congregation made up primarily of immigrants from Haiti, which is under the watchful care of the Presbytery of Tropical Florida.

I continue to seek ways to serve, including occasionally leading in worship here at Heritage Woods Independent Living community.

#### **Addenda for the Passing interest of, with any Corrective Insight from, members of the Committee**

*Why Jesus Was Arrested*, (a St. Petersburg Theological Seminary Monogram)      Revised edition, 2017

*The Bridge From Where Are to Eternity* A Manuel of Scripture matching normal Human challenges 2020

Prepared for the Koinonia Class of Mt. Tabor United Methodist Sunday School Class, Winston-Salem 2022  
*Jesus Teaches Us How to Count* a study guide for the adult Sunday School class at Hyde Park  
Presbyterian Church Tampa 2018

Two sermons delivered to the congregation of Hyde Park Presbyterian Church, Tampa, Florida, while I was the Parish Associate for that Church, The Reverend Kenneth Schick, pastor.      March 2008 and July 2008

I grew up in a Methodist Church attending church both on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday's. I was very active in everything the church had to offer for my age group from elementary school all the way through graduating high school. Participating in youth was a very big part of my identity in middle school and high school. I enjoyed the fellowship and the built in friend group it provided plus the chances to lean into and live out my faith. I had a tendency to ask more difficult questions that the adults working with the youth weren't always too keen to answer. I think I made some of the grownups uncomfortable by questioning different aspects of the church. For instance I didn't quite understand how these people could talk so much about loving one another being a central tenet of the teachings of Jesus and yet they were so quick to offer judgement instead of love anytime someone showed up who didn't look like them or think like them. Jesus called us to love everyone and we were taught that everyone is made in the image of God, so I really struggled in church when the mentality was "yes, but not (fill in the blank)."

When I went off to college I struggled to find my place participating in campus ministry. The offering was way more conservative than I was used to. There was too much talk about saving oneself from hell and not enough talk about grace and I wasn't comfortable with that nor did I feel like that aligned with my own faith experience. So while in college I didn't participate in campus ministry and instead focused on spending my time in outdoor programs and fostering my faith that way. Throughout undergrad I spent my summers working at a Presbyterian Camp and really that was when I found my niche in ministry. The love and grace I experienced from folks in the PCUSA church really helped me to take a new understanding of what I thought about church and faith. Working at camp I got to share my love of the outdoors, spending time and energy in Creation from a faith based perspective while working with elementary, middle, and high school shred youth. It was a game changing experience for me. I got to share my faith and help young people along on their own faith journey.

I used to think I couldn't work in ministry. That I might not have the right background or right lived experience but I've learned that God's gonna call who God's gonna call into ministry and you better buckle up for the ride when God calls you. I started working at a PCUSA church during the height of the COVID pandemic and was met by so much love and grace and opportunity for growth that I finally felt like I could quiet my own thoughts long enough to hear the voice of God telling me where to go. By the grace of God I surely have figured out the next right step, all along the way. This whole journey has taught me that all I have to do is put one foot in front of the other and God will guide the path.

I went to seminary and earned my M.Div while working full-time in the church. I learned and examined and figured out things just in time to re-learn and re-examine and think about things differently, really leaning into the notion of being reformed and always reforming. My seminary experience helped me to grow in my faith and gave me the courage to ask more questions and find the people and spiritual, faithful path that I've been intended to walk along and beside. I've had plenty of "come to Jesus" meetings with myself and asking God if this was truly the right path I'm supposed to take and each time I feel unsure of this journey someone has come along and affirmed the very step I'm about to take. I've been reminded over and over again that every step has led me here, for such a time as this.

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## **Statement of Faith**

**Meagan Kelly**

I believe in the holy, triune God; Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer. Creator of all things, God spoke the world into being and called it good, that creation and goodness extended to human beings; man and woman both created equally in God's own image. But we hid from God in the garden and ignored the call to live in the light, and to treat all with love and respect. In our straying from the life God intended us to live, all of us have sinned and fall short, and are therefore in need of the saving grace of God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully divine, the beloved Son of God. Jesus came into the world and lived among us as God incarnate, proclaiming the Kingdom of God. In his life, he echoed the call of the prophets to care for the poor, the widow,

the marginalized, and the oppressed. Jesus shared his meals with sinners and outcasts alike, healing those sick in body, mind, and spirit, and offering forgiveness to all. In our broken humanity, we responded to the grace of Christ with persecution, violence, charges of blasphemy, and death by crucifixion. Sinless and blameless Christ suffered the depths of human pain and separation to offer salvation for us all. After three days, through the Holy Spirit, God raised Jesus from the grave, making it known that no death could hold him, therefore we are given over from death to eternal life and redeemed through Christ Jesus our Lord.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who sustains all life, the breath of God at the beginning of creation. The same Spirit who urged the prophets and apostles in their lives, and who descended upon Jesus and anointed him at his baptism and raised him from death to life. The same Spirit which was poured out onto the disciples at Pentecost continues to move through each of us in the life of the Church. The Holy Spirit encourages and empowers us to respond in gratitude to God's grace.

I believe Scripture to be the holy, authoritative word of God encouraging us in our daily lives and in our faithfulness. In our worship, as the Scriptures are read and the Word is proclaimed, we become enlightened through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Sacrament of Baptism engrafts us into the body of Christ; it is the sign and seal given by God, through the Holy Spirit that points to the claim on us by grace as God's own and begins our life of discipleship. Through the Spirit we are nourished at the Sacrament of the Eucharist, at the Lord's Table, reminding us of the steadfast love of God and the gift of God's grace and call to discipleship. I believe in the holy, apostolic Church, and our calling as members of the body of Christ, is to be active participants in the redeeming work of the kingdom of God.

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## **Faith Journey**

**Meagan Kelly**

I grew up in a Methodist Church attending church both on Wednesday evenings and on Sunday's. I was very active in everything the church had to offer for my age group from elementary school all the way through graduating high school. Participating in youth was a very big part of my identity in middle school and high school. I enjoyed the fellowship and the built in friend group it provided plus the chances to lean into and live out my faith. I had a tendency to ask more difficult questions that the adults working with the youth weren't always too keen to answer. I think I made some of the grownups uncomfortable by questioning different aspects of the church. For instance I didn't quite understand how these people could talk so much about loving one another being a central tenet of the teachings of Jesus and yet they were so quick to offer judgement instead of love anytime someone showed up who didn't look like them or think like them. Jesus called us to love everyone and we were taught that everyone is made in the image of God, so I really struggled in church when the mentality was "yes, but not (fill in the blank)."

When I went off to college I struggled to find my place participating in campus ministry. The offering was way more conservative than I was used to. There was too much talk about saving oneself from hell and not enough talk about grace and I wasn't comfortable with that nor did I feel like that aligned with my own faith experience. So while in college I didn't participate in campus ministry and instead focused on spending my time in outdoor programs and fostering my faith that way. Throughout undergrad I spent my summers working at a Presbyterian Camp and really that was when I found my niche in ministry. The love and grace I experienced from folks in the PCUSA church really helped me to take a new understanding of what I thought about church and faith. Working at camp I got to share my love of the outdoors, spending time and energy in Creation from a faith based perspective while working with elementary, middle, and high school shred youth. It was a game changing experience for me. I got to share my faith and help young people along on their own faith journey.

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grow in my faith and gave me the courage to ask more questions and find the people and spiritual, faithful path that I've been intended to walk along and beside. I've had plenty of "come to Jesus" meetings with myself and asking God if this was truly the right path I'm supposed to take and each time I feel unsure of this journey someone has come along and affirmed the very step I'm about to take. I've been reminded over and over again that every step has led me here, for such a time as this.

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**ACTION:**

4. Salem Presbytery successfully examined and welcomed Meagan Kelly in a validated ministry position with UKirk Greensboro, Parkway Presbyterian Church and St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.
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COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION  
Rev. Sam Perkins, Moderator

BUDGET AND FINANCE  
Tara Sandercock (2026)

CHURCH GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION  
Ginny Taylor-Troutman (MAYBE FOR 2025) Leslie Loyd (2026)

COM – TASK FORCE ON MINISTRY FOR THE CHANGING CHURCH  
Christopher Speaks (2026)

COM – TASK FORCE FOR TRANSITIONS IN MINISTRY (FOR INSTALLED POSITIONS)  
David Smith (2027)

COM – TASK FORCE ON POLICY, COMPENSATION, MEDIATION AND CHURCH  
OFFICER DEVELOPMENT  
Donna Hines (2027)

CPM  
Martha Schronce (2026)  
Susan Stewart (2027)

PERSONNEL  
Margaret Elliot (2027)

PJC  
Wes Pitts (2030)  
Charles Younce (2030)

MODERATOR-ELECT  
Matt Bussell (2028)

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**ACTION:**

5. Salem Presbytery approved the slate of nominees for service on the committees as they are listed.
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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Rev. Courtney Stevens, Co-Moderator  
Rev. Jay Lambeth, Co-Moderator

The Executive Council met on March 20, 2025.

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

**Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery:**

Elder Rick Purcell was commissioned as a CRE to the Bethany Presbyterian Church (Graham).

Approved payment for a commercial property appraisal for the Cleveland Presbyterian Church. Funds would come from "carrying costs" in the Presbytery budget.

Approved the following concurrence:

The Executive Council of Salem Presbytery concurs with the Presbytery of Charlotte's statement, quoting (with adjustment for Presbytery name): "We are followers of Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and entrusted by God our Creator to serve "the least of these." Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, refresh the thirsty, clothe the naked, tend to the sick, and visit the imprisoned. And while some government leaders try to erase efforts to celebrate the diversity of God's people (Revelation 5:9), the equity that God expects (Isaiah 11:3-4), and the inclusion of all those created in God's Image (Genesis 1:27, John 3:16), we affirm that we – [Salem Presbytery] - will continue to be a Matthew 25 people: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

Because we remember the Great Commission of Jesus to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28) and the whole Biblical witness, we will try to follow the commandments to

...

Go forth into the world in peace (John 16:33) Be of good courage (Philippians 4:13)

Hold fast to what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:14) Render no one evil for evil (Romans 12:17)

Admonish the idle, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, (1 Thessalonians 5:14) And help the afflicted (2 Corinthians 1:4)

Honor all people (1 Peter 2:17)

Love and serve the Lord (Deuteronomy 10:12)

rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17).

We are more than members of any political party or nation. We are members of the Body of Christ. And we proclaim again that Jesus is our Lord and Savior."

Approved the establishment of a special task force to review the Mission and Vision Statements of Salem Presbytery, assess the strengths and weaknesses of our current committee structure and staffing for the Presbytery and its ministries, and make recommendations to the Presbytery via Council for any proposed changes. Approved members of this task force are: LaQreshia Bates, Rachael Brooks, David Ealy, Tom Gillespie, Kyle Goodman, R.C. Griffin, Kate Harper, Randy Harris, Shannon Langston, and Sam Perkins, with Tony De La Rosa and Jodi Lingan (ex officio). The name for this task force is the Special Task Force on Reviving Ministry (STORM).

Approved a motion from Budget and Finance for a budget amendment & transfer of \$10,000 from Campus Ministries Fund to the General Fund to make 2025 Budget match annual expenditures.

Approved a motion from Stewardship for the Presbytery to shift from a pledge/stewardship based model for our congregations to an invoice based model rooted in the per-capita funding structure of our denomination.

Approved the Stated Clerk taking steps necessary to gain closure related to a financial irregularity discovered in the records of the former Flat Rock Presbyterian Church.

Approved, with gratitude, the Oakland Presbyterian Church AC's formal request to be dissolved having completed their work.

Approved motion from the Commission on Ministry for the establishment of an Administrative Commission with original jurisdiction to work with the First Presbyterian Church of Pilot Mountain. This action is necessary because the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Pilot Mountain has acted in defiance of COM and Salem Presbytery policy by agreeing to a contract that they were explicitly told that they could not offer to an individual who is actively seeking to lead them out of the denomination.

## Other Business of the Executive Council

Received a presentation by John Johnson of a new logo for Salem Presbytery as part of an upcoming reworking of the Presbytery website. Feedback was given to John.

Received 2024 Statistical Report summaries from the Stated Clerk.

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### BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE Ruling Elder Ronda Tatum

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

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### CHURCH GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION Rev. Liz Troyer, Co-Moderator Rev. Emily Wilson, Co-Moderator

#### Information Items:

1. Since our February Presbytery Meeting, Church Growth and Transformation has received funds from two church closings, Emmanuel Presbyterian in Rowan County, and Oakland Avenue Presbyterian in Statesville. Church Growth evaluated the disbursements requested by each Administrative Commission in light of its mission to promote innovation and transformation in Salem Presbytery. Accordingly, grants were distributed to Second Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, and Bethesda Presbyterian in Statesville from the Emmanuel AC's request, while a grant was given to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in honor of its former pastors to support second-career pastors entering the ministry. All other funds were then reserved for future grant requests.
2. This quarter, Church Growth has given more than \$15,000 in support of local refugee ministries as part of a matching grant to both Church World Service, Greensboro and World Relief Triad in Salisbury. We anticipate being able to meet our commitment of \$35,000 in matching grants before the end of the summer. If you haven't yet made a donation to either organization, please consider doing so and to let the Presbytery know when you do.

#### New Materials to Help Local Churches



If you use the QR code to the left or go to the website linked below, you will discover two new resources CGAT offers to support your local church.

The first is a resources list, pointing you towards information, books. And videos which will help you discover God's purpose for your church.

The second is a discernment booklet which will walk you step-by-step through a discovery process which will lead to concrete, actionable ideas for your local context. This booklet will also give you all the information you need to successfully apply for one of our CGAT grants! (Also available at the QR code and link below.)

If you prefer a paper copy of any of these materials (because sometimes, paper is better!) Please contact Liz at [cgatsalem@gmail.com](mailto:cgatsalem@gmail.com) and we will be happy to send you a hard copy.

Also, CGAT members are here to help! These materials are designed to be used by all people, but if you want to walk through the discernment booklet but don't know where to start or have questions about filling out the application, send an email to [cgatsalem@gmail.com](mailto:cgatsalem@gmail.com) and we will connect you with someone who can help!

<https://www.salempresbytery.org/church-growth-and-transformation>

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#### INVITATION TO LUNCH AND PRAYER OF BLESSING

Rev. Andrew Taylor-Troutman led Salem Presbytery in a prayer of blessing for lunch.

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#### ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The Presbytery Moderator adjourned the meeting with the benediction.

Recorded by:  
Christine Ratledge, Office Manager

Paul Sink, Stated Clerk

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul Sink", written in a cursive style.

## Appendix A

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

|                            |                        |                       |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Almeida, Margaret          | Higgins, Cindy         | *Peters, Rebecca Todd |
| Bates, Timothy             | *Hill, Julie           | Phillips, Caroline    |
| Bates, William             | Horan, Amanda          | Purcell, Rick         |
| *Beach, Kathy              | Hoyle, Bill            | Ratchford, Rainey     |
| Beard, James               | Hoyle, Felicia         | Ridolfi, Paul         |
| Beck, Fred                 | Ingle, Cynthia         | Robertson, Wayne      |
| Berry, Kent                | Kern, Sandra           | Rummage, Brian        |
| Blankenship, Jerry         | Kim, Ki Seok           | Sandlin, Mark         |
| Boger, David               | Kim, Peter             | Sarvis, Michael       |
| Brim, Marty                | Kim, Seulki (John)     | Schooley, Christopher |
| Bruner, Olen               | Kirby, Barrie          | Sharp, Grant          |
| Bumgarner, Jeffrey         | *Kirby, Randal         | Simmons, Allison      |
| Clark, M. Gray             | Kisner, Jeff           | *Smith, Jeffrey       |
| Collier, Richard           | *Kunkle, Lynn          | Snipes, Stevan        |
| Cowan, Newton              | Labonte, Thomas        | Stevens, Courtney     |
| Davee Lomax, Amanda        | LaDew, Richard         | Stiles, Steven        |
| Donovan, John              | Lansden, Phanta        | Summey, Larry         |
| Finch-Burris, Carrie       | *Larsen, Eric          | Sutphin, Grant        |
| Fletcher, Pat              | Lee, Robert            | Tickle, Austin        |
| Freese, Scott              | Marshall, Gordon       | *Todd, Mason          |
| *Fruits, Dana              | McCain, Vicki          | Vazquez, Jorge        |
| Gaska, Jonathan            | McClain, Christopher   | Weed, Larry           |
| Gipe, Will                 | *McFarland, Bryan      | Weed, Mae             |
| Glaser, Timothy            | *Moore, Sue            | Williams-Berry, Nancy |
| Godbey, Sarah              | Moore, Timothy         | *Wilson, Alicia       |
| Greene, Patricia           | Musser Gritter, Joshua | Wilson, Emily         |
| Greene, Sandra Lee Breeden | Musser Gritter, Lara   | *Wisner, Leigh        |
| Hankins, Stephanie         | Nesbit, Thomas         | Wood, Virginia        |
| *Henry, David              | Newsome, Stedman       |                       |
| Heyward, William Bailey    | Perkins, Samuel        |                       |

**\*Notes an excused absence**

## Appendix B

### Stated Clerk Office Active PC(USA) Members in Salem Presbytery May 2025

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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   | High Point First        |
| Olen Bruner            | Stated Supply      | Logan                   |
| Thomas Burleson        | Pastor             | Parkway                 |
| Matthew Bussell        | Associate Pastor   | Greensboro First        |
| Kathryn G. N. Campbell | Pastor             | Fellowship              |
| Charles Jeremy Cannada | Pastor             | Statesville First       |
| Gray Clark             | Stated Supply      | New Creation Community  |
| 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 |
| R. 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               |
| Marti Hazelrigg        | Pastor             | Oak Ridge               |
| David Henry            | Parish Associate   | Rumple Memorial         |
| William Bailey Heyward | Pastor             | Mount Jefferson         |
| Cindy Higgins          | Parish Associate   | Westminster             |
| Kymberley Hoffman      | Stated Supply      | St. Paul, HP            |
| Amanda Horan           | Associate Pastor   | North Wilkesboro        |
| John W. Johnson        | Parish Associate   | Burlington First        |
| Ki Seok Kim            | Pastor             | Korean First            |

|                        |                      |                            |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Peter Kim              | Pastor               | High Point First           |
| Seulki (John) Kim      | Associate Pastor     | Korean First               |
| Randal V. Kirby        | Associate Pastor     | Salisbury First            |
| Jacqueline Lynn Kunkle | Parish Associate     | Statesville First          |
| Phanta Lansden         | Pastor               | St. James                  |
| Debbie Layman          | Associate Pastor     | Highland                   |
| Charlie Lee            | Pastor               | Starmount                  |
| Troy Leshner-Thomas    | Pastor               | Clemmons                   |
| Kristen Levens         | Pastor               | Stony Creek                |
| James Lunde            | Pastor               | Burlington First           |
| Jodi Lingan            | Designated Presbyter | Salem Presbytery           |
| Jon Martin             | Pastor               | Lexington First            |
| Susanne Martin         | Stated Supply        | Thomasville First          |
| Vicki McCain           | Pastor               | Church of the Cross        |
| Bryan McFarland        | Pastor               | Community In Christ        |
| Douglas McLeroy        | Parish Associate     | First Greensboro           |
| Travis Milam           | Parish Associate     | Clemmons                   |
| Rosa Miranda           | Agency Staff at GA   | PC(USA)                    |
| Lisa Florence Mullen   | Parish Associate     | Burlington First           |
| Joshua Musser Gritter  | Co-Pastor            | Salisbury First            |
| Lara Musser Gritter    | Co-Pastor            | Salisbury First            |
| Thomas Nesbit          | Validated Ministry   | Medi Home Hospice          |
| Samuel Perkins         | Associate Pastor     | Westminster                |
| Rebecca Todd Peters    | Validated Ministry   | Elon University            |
| Caroline Phillips      | Stated Supply        | Greensboro First           |
| Jon Phillips           | Interim Pastor       | Forest Hills               |
| Wes Pitts              | Pastor               | Reidsville First           |
| Kim Priddy             | Pastor               | Sedgefield                 |
| John Pruitt            | Pastor               | Kernersville First         |
| Jessica Rigel          | Associate Pastor     | Alamance                   |
| Brian Rummage          | Pastor               | Asheboro First             |
| Mark Sandlin           | Pastor               | Church of the Covenant     |
| Michael Sarvis         | 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   | Cone Health                |
| Courtney Stevens       | Associate Pastor     | Highland                   |
| J. Grant Sutphin       | Validated Ministry   | United States Armed Forces |

|                        |                    |                                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Andrew Taylor-Troutman | Pastor             | Chapel in the Pines                |
| Ginny Taylor-Troutman  | Parish Associate   | Chapel in the Pines                |
| Austin Blake Tickle    | Validated Ministry | Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center |
| Katie Barrett Todd     | Campus Minister    | Presby UKirk-GSO                   |
| Mason Todd             | Interim Pastor     | New Hope                           |
| Elizabeth Troyer       | Pastor             | Concord                            |
| Laura Tysinger         | Pastor             | Elkin                              |
| Jorge Vazquez          | Pastor             | El Buen Pastor, NCD                |
| Alicia Wilson          | Validated Ministry | Private Practice                   |
| Emily Wilson           | Pastor             | St. Andrews                        |
| Leigh Wisner           | Stated Supply      | Shallowford                        |
| Virginia Wood          | Validated Ministry | Cone Health                        |

**Stated Clerk Office**  
**PC(USA) Members-at-Large in Salem Presbytery**  
**May 2025**

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Amanda C. Anderson  
E. John Banasiak III  
Sandra Kaye Barrow-Ziglar  
Virginia Christman  
Hilton J. Cochran  
William Kevin Conley  
Melissa G. Davis  
Rachel Fitch  
Jonathan H. Freeman  
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  
Scott Lawson  
Insook Lee  
Travis Milam  
Richard R. Osmer  
Glenn Otterbacher  
Steve M. Pharr  
Frederick Ritsch  
William Steck  
Kathryn Summers

**Stated Clerk Office**  
**Honorably Retired PC(USA) Ministers in Salem Presbytery**  
**May 2025**

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

J. Stuart Taylor III  
Harry Thomas  
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  
R. Scott Woodmansee  
Frank Wyche

**Stated Clerk Office**  
**Commissioned Ruling Elders, CRE in Salem Presbytery**  
**May 2025**

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|                     |                              |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| William Bates       | Love Valley / Fifth Creek    |
| Jerry Blankenship   | Third Creek                  |
| Steve Braxton       | Trinity, Elon                |
| Marty Brim          | Wentworth                    |
| Rachael Brooks      | Pine Ridge / Hills           |
| Jeffrey Bumgarner   | Laurel Fork / Old Providence |
| Sid Crunk           | Glendale Springs             |
| Timothy Glaser      | Cleveland                    |
| James Harley        | Freedom / Salisbury Second   |
| Richard LaDew       | Siler City                   |
| Shannon Langston    | Bethesda, Stsvl              |
| Christopher McClain | Griers                       |
| Sue Moore           | Unity                        |
| Rick Purcell        | Bethany, Graham              |
| Wayne Robertson     | Greenwood                    |
| Steven Stiles       | Milton                       |
| Mae Weed            | Lansing                      |

**Stated Clerk Office  
Certified Christian Educators in Salem Presbytery  
May 2025**

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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