

AGENDA FOR CALLED MEETING  
NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY  
March 25, 2023 @2PM by ZOOM

Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Rev. Mari Turner, Moderator
Declaration of Quorum	Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk
Statement of Purpose for Called Meeting and Rules for Speaking	Rev. Rees
Call to Worship ( <i>from Psalm 85</i> )	Rev. Turner

One: Restore us, O God of our salvation:

**Many: Put away your indignation against us.**

One: Will you not revive us again, O Lord?

**Many: Revive us, so that your people may rejoice in you.**

One: Show us your steadfast love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Prayer of Confession and Pardon (*from the Book of Common Worship, pp. 734-737*)

Jesus said: Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

**For every one who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.**

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask, and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace. Let us open our lives to God's healing presence, seeking peace with God and reconciliation with our neighbors.

Let us be mindful not only of personal evil but also of our communal sins of family, class, race, and nation. Let us confess to God whatever has wounded us or brought injury to others, that we may receive mercy and become for each other ministers of God's grace. We'll pray first using the words below and afterward take a moment of silence to invite the Holy Spirit to search our hearts. Let us pray together:

**Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun. Know that you are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Romans 12: 9-21

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

#### Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Let us lift our prayers to God, saying

One: In Your Mercy Lord

**Many: Hear our prayer**

Loving God,

We come before you today as a community of faith in need of your grace and guidance. As we gather as a Presbytery, we acknowledge that there may be disagreements and conflicts among us. We ask that you would help us to live out the words of Paul, to let love be genuine, to hate what is evil, to hold fast to what is good, and to outdo one another in showing honor.

One: In Your Mercy Lord

**Many: Hear our prayer**

We pray for mutual affection and harmony among us, that we may be a community that rejoices with those who rejoice and weeps with those who weep. We ask that you would give us patience in suffering and perseverance in prayer, that we may be steadfast in our commitment to you and to one another.

One: In Your Mercy Lord

**Many: Hear our prayer**

Lord, we pray for humility and a spirit of service, that we may contribute to the needs of the saints and extend hospitality to strangers. We ask that you would help us to be agents of peace and reconciliation, even in the midst of disagreement and conflict. May we never repay evil for evil, but always take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

One: In Your Mercy Lord

**Many: Hear our prayer**

We pray for those who may be experiencing persecution or hardship, that you would bless them and protect them. We ask that you would help us to be a community that overcomes evil with good, that we may be a shining light in the world, reflecting your love and grace to all whom we encounter.

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen

Proposed Amendments (link to document from GA here)  
Recommendations from NEGA B&O Committee (link to the spreadsheet here)

Omnibus Motion #1  
22C, 22D, and 22N

Omnibus Motion #2  
22G, 22H, 22K, 22L, and 22O

Omnibus Motion #3  
22T, 22U, 22V, 22W, 22X, 22Y, 22Z, 22AA, and 22BB

Omnibus Motion #4  
22CC, 22DD, 22EE, 22FF

Consideration of Individual Amendments (recommendation in parentheses)

Amendment 22A (approve - pulled from omnibus at 2/25 meeting)

Amendment 22B (approve - pulled from omnibus at 2/25 meeting)

Amendment 22E (approve)

Amendment 22F (approve)

Amendment 22I (approve)

Amendment 22J (approve)

Amendment 22M (approve)

Amendment 22N (approve)

Amendment 22P (approve)

Amendment 22Q (approve)

Amendment 22R (approve)

Amendment 22S (no recommendation)

Amendment 22GG (approve)

Adjournment with Prayer

Rev. Turner