

PROPOSED DOCKET

AND

HANDBOOK

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTEENTH STATED MEETING

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

MAY 23, 2023

HOSTED BY
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1065 GAINES SCHOOL ROAD
ATHENS, GA

Covenant Presbyterian Church

1065 Gaines School Road
Athens, Georgia 30605



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Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the session and congregation, we are delighted to welcome you to Covenant Presbyterian Church and Athens-Clarke County. It is our honor and pleasure to host the May presbytery meeting as we gather in body and spirit to serve the Lord.

History

Covenant Presbyterian Church was officially established in May 1966 with 33 members. Over the past 57 years, the people of Covenant have faithfully ministered to the community on the Eastside of Athens and beyond. During this time of pastoral transition, Covenant has embarked on a new journey to explore who God is calling this congregation to be. As a part of this process, we have created a new mission statement to reflect who we are and why we are here:

Covenant Presbyterian Church is an all-inclusive family of faith whose mission is to live out Christ's example of serving others, with a focus on worship, spiritual growth, fellowship, and outreach in the Athens community and the world.

Accessibility and Parking

Covenant is located at 1065 Gaines School Road, Athens, GA 30605. There is limited parking in the parking lot near the building. Parking attendants will be standing by to direct you to a spot either in the lot or the field behind the church. There are no stairs or ramps for those entering through the main entrance. The restrooms, registration area, sanctuary, and fellowship hall are all located on the main floor.

Wi-Fi

There is a Wi-Fi connection throughout the church. Select the network "Covenant WiFi Public." There is no password needed to access this network.

Live Stream

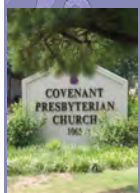
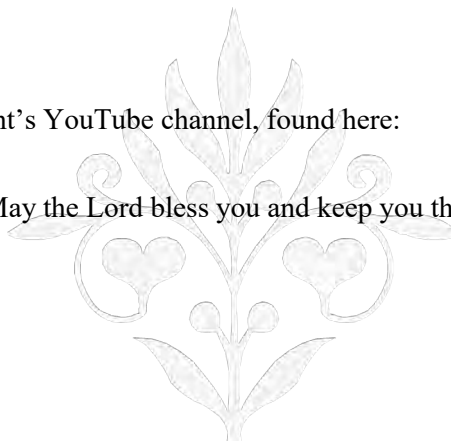
You can watch a live stream of the meeting on Covenant's YouTube channel, found here:
<https://www.youtube.com/cpcathens>.

We look forward to seeing you in Athens on May 23. May the Lord bless you and keep you this day and always!

Joyfully,

Rev. Dana Waters
Transitional Pastor

Luanne Rigsby
Clerk of Session



Northeast Georgia Presbytery
117th Stated Meeting
May 23, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.
at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, GA

	Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Rev. Mari Turner, Moderator
	Welcome	Rev. Dana Waters
	Seating of First-time Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Introduction of Visitors	Rev. Turner
	Declaration of Quorum	Rev. Ed Rees, Stated Clerk
	Approval of Docket	Rev. Turner
	Approval of Consent Agenda	
	Minutes of February 2023 Stated Presbytery Meeting	
	Minutes of March 2023 Called Presbytery Meeting	
pp. 10-22	Committee on Ministry:	
	1. Receive Rev. Andy Casto-Waters	
	2. Report on Clergy Annual Salary Standards Review	
pg. 23	Nominating Committee:	
	1. Elect Ruling Elder Denise Horton to Congregational Connections Committee	
	2. Elect Ruling Elder Joyce Dejoie to Clergy Care Committee	
pp. 5-8	Stated Clerk's Report	Rev. Rees
	Constitutional Amendments Update	
	Proposed Parity Allocation	
	Darkness to Light Training	
	Rules for Debate	
	Call to Worship	Rev. Waters
	Clap your hands, all you peoples!	
	Shout to God with loud songs of joy!	
	With praise and thanksgiving worship God,	
	Who reigns in majesty above the mighty waters.	
	We will not stand looking up toward heaven,	
	For God is moving in this place!	
	Hymn 268	
	<i>Crown Him with Many Crowns</i>	DIADEMATA
	Call to Confession	
	Friends, let us repent of those things that have drawn us away from God and our neighbors, that we may receive the joy of forgiveness. Let us pray together:	

Prayer of Confession

**God, in Christ you bore the suffering of the world
and made us witnesses to your grace.
In your Word you showed us your vision of peace
and made us witnesses to your promises.
Forgive us, O God, when we fail to work for your reign,
forgetting that you have called us to bear your truth.
Forgive us, O God, when we gaze up toward heaven,
forgetting that you have called us to do your work on earth.
Forgive us, O God, and by your forgiveness,
enlighten us to recognize the resurrection all around us. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness

You have been cleansed by the word that God has spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson:

Psalm 88
Job 2:11-13

pg. 9

Sermon

I Get By With a Little Help From My Friends

Rev. Burnetta Armour
Pastor, First PC, Cleveland, GA

Hymn 511

Come Behold! The Feast of Heaven

LLANFAIR

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

*Affirmation of Faith - The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,
And is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic* church;
The communion of saints; the forgiveness sins;
The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Invitation to Generous Giving

*This morning's offering will go to support the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).
<https://www.nami.org/About-NAMI>
Please make checks payable to Northeast Georgia Presbytery*

or donate online:



Prayers of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

***Blessing and Charge**

Greetings from the Synod of South Atlantic

Elder Valerie Young
Synod Executive & Stated Clerk

pp. 10-22 Committee on Ministry Report - other actions
Move to Honorably Retired Status:
Rev. Tom Query
Rev. Janet Williams
Receive Rev. Amy Baer
Receive Rev. Steven Barnes

Rev. Tom Buchanan

pp. 24-25 Coordinating Team Report
Elect Elder Jack Spencer to Nominating Committee
Approve the V26 Collaborative
Approve the Charge to the V26 Collaborative

Elder Sylvia McDonald

General Presbyter's Report

Rev. Hilary Shuford

Clergy Care Committee

Cohort Report - Pilgrimage to Scotland

Rev. Matt Henderson

12:30 PM - ORDER OF THE DAY: BLESSING AND LUNCH

in Fellowship Hall

Board of Pensions

Clark Simmons
Senior Church Consultant

pg. 26 Trinity Administrative Commission Report

Rev. Charles Crane

pg. 27 Presbyterian Campus Ministry

Rev. Will Norman

Announcements *(Please submit requests in advance to the Stated Clerk)*

Prayer and Adjournment

NEXT STATED MEETING:

Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m. via Zoom

Stated Clerk's Report
May 23, 2023

As you may already be aware, all thirty-three amendments to our Book of Order, proposed by the 2022 General Assembly, have now been ratified by a vote of the Presbyteries. In addition to a complete revision of the rules of church discipline, there are numerous amendments that will require implementation at the presbytery and session level. The Coordinating Team will be working diligently to prepare the necessary resources and guidance for your use; if you have any questions regarding these please let me know.

In our Reformed understanding of church polity, we are governed by a combination of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders. Neither of these “outrank” the other; rather, they have separate tasks but are colleagues together in leading the church. With this understanding, it is our practice to ensure that an equal number of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders are participants in our Presbytery meetings. Each church is allocated a certain number of Ruling Elder commissioners, based on membership; this allocation is updated each year based on membership data submitted by the churches, and is designated as the Parity Report.

Motion: To adopt the Parity Report for 2023-2024 as presented.

A reminder to all Teaching Elders: we have set a deadline of June 30, 2023, for the completion of the Darkness to Light/Stewardship of Children online training. ([Here is the link](#) to the training.) The training is mandatory, and your certificate of completion needs to be sent to Anita Green, Presbytery Business Administrator, in order to maintain your active status as a Teaching Elder.

A reminder to Clerks of Session: we are approaching the season for reviewing Session minutes; be on the lookout for instructions for the examination and certification of your records.

POLICY REGARDING TIME LIMIT FOR PERSONS SPEAKING (Debate) AT PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

(Approved by Presbytery October 23, 2007)

(Note: Presbytery can set aside such a rule when it deems necessary.)

When speaking at a Presbytery meeting:

1. Individuals are limited to speaking once and for no more than three minutes during discussion of a matter.
2. A bell may be used to signal when the speaker is near and at the end of his/her time.
3. Moderator alternates between “pro” and “con”.
4. No one may speak more than once until every person who wishes to speak has had an opportunity to do so.
5. Presbytery may set a maximum time for debating an issue.

Rev. Ed Rees
Stated Clerk

Proposed Allocation of Ruling Elder Commissioners

August 2023 – May 2024

Voting Commissioners at meetings of Northeast Georgia Presbytery include all Minister Members plus: Ruling Elders serving the Presbytery in official capacities (Chairs of Ministry Teams or Commissions, Presbytery Officers, and Commissioned Ruling Elders to a Particular Service), and Ruling Elders elected by their sessions to serve as Commissioners.

The latest statistics available from the PC(USA) show a total of **122 Minister Members** in Northeast Georgia as of December 31, 2022. Therefore, in order to achieve parity between Minister Members and Ruling Elder Commissioners, the total number of Ruling Elder Commissioners must be at least **122**. There are currently 7 Ruling Elders serving in the categories identified in (1) above. Therefore the number of **Ruling Elder Commissioners representing congregations must be at least 115**.

The chart on the following page shows the number of Ruling Elder Commissioners (REC) to be elected by each congregation, based on the following criteria:

Every congregation is entitled to at least **one REC** (shown as the “Base”).

In keeping with the policies and historic practices of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, each predominantly racial/ethnic congregation is allocated **one additional REC**.

To assure proportional representation of all members, additional RECs are allocated to larger congregations in numbers based on the congregation’s membership. The chart displays congregations in order of size, with the largest receiving the most additional RECs:

500 members or more:	5 additional RECs
250-499 members:	4
200-249 members:	3
100-199 members:	2
45 – 99 members:	1

This brings the total number of Ruling Elder Commissioners (including those serving in official capacities) to **123**.

If this report is approved by the Presbytery, the chart on the following page will be in effect through the Spring (May) meeting in 2024, when an updated proposal will be presented.

Rev. Ed Rees

Stated Clerk

Church Name	2022 Membership	Threshold	Base	Racial - Ethnic	Membership Adj.	TOTAL
Athens First	968		1		5	6
Reid Memorial	708		1		5	6
Gainesville First	540	500	1		5	6
Madison	296		1		4	5
Oconee	251	250	1		4	5
Nacoochee	247		1		3	4
Covenant Athens	230		1		3	4
Monticello	215		1		3	4
Covenant Augusta	207		1		3	4
Rabun Gap	201	200	1		3	4
Milledgeville First	138		1		2	3
Cornelia First	136		1		2	3
Clarkesville First	130		1		2	3
Saint Andrew	116		1		2	3
Sardis	102		1	1	2	4
Cleveland First	100	100	1		2	3
Belle Terrace	96		1	1	1	3
Athens Korean	81		1	1	1	3
Friendship	81		1		1	2
Mount Hermon	62		1		1	2
Augusta Korean	60		1	1	1	3
Winder First	55		1		1	2
Greensboro First	49		1		1	2
Commerce	48		1		1	2
Jefferson	48		1		1	2
Clayton	46		1		1	2
Westside	45	45	1	1	1	3
Eatonton	41		1			1
Clifford Memorial	40		1			1
Helen	40		1			1
Westminster	40		1	1		2
Hartwell First	36		1			1
Bath	31		1			1
Dahlonega	31		1			1
Pleasant Hill	30		1			1
Mountain	29		1			1
Homer	26		1			1
Wiley	26		1			1
Christ	24		1	1		2
Lavonia	21		1			1
Timpson	21		1			1
New Hope	20		1			1
Union Point First	18		1			1
Calvary	17		1			1
Trinity	16		1			1
Hopewell	13		1			1
Hebron	12		1			1
Elberton First	11		1			1
Totals	5799		48	7	61	116

Church	2022 Membership	Voting Commissioners
Athens First	968	6
Athens Korean	81	3
Augusta Korean	60	3
Bath	31	1
Belle Terrace	96	3
Calvary	17	1
Christ	24	2
Clarkesville First	130	3
Clayton	46	2
Cleveland First	100	3
Clifford Memorial	40	1
Commerce	48	2
Cornelia First	136	3
Covenant Athens	230	4
Covenant Augusta	207	4
Dahlonega	31	1
Eatonton	41	1
Elberton First	11	1
Friendship	81	2
Gainesville First	540	6
Greensboro First	49	2
Hartwell First	36	1
Hebron	12	1
Helen	40	1

Church	2022 Membership	Voting Commissioners
Homer	26	1
Hopewell	13	1
Jefferson	48	2
Lavonia	21	1
Madison	296	5
Milledgeville First	138	3
Monticello	215	4
Mount Hermon	62	2
Mountain	29	1
Nacoochee	247	4
New Hope	20	1
Oconee	251	5
Pleasant Hill	30	1
Rabun Gap	201	4
Reid Memorial	708	6
Saint Andrew	116	3
Sardis	102	4
Timpson	21	1
Trinity	16	1
Union Point First	18	1
Westminster	40	2
Westside	45	3
Wiley	26	1
Winder First	55	2



**Guest Preacher: Rev. Burnetta Armour
Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, GA**



Rev. Burnetta Armour is a Minister of Word and Sacrament and pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cleveland. She is proud to be a Western Carolina Catamount (Class of '01, BS Ed. English Ed.) and a graduate of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Class of '09, MDiv). She was diagnosed with depression and Generalized Anxiety Disorder in 2003. For her mental health, she reads "trashy" romantic suspense novels and spends time with her husband, James, son, Collin, and cat, Ernest "Ernie" Hemmingway Armour.



Committee on Ministry
Rev. Tom Buchanan, Chair

Meetings: March 9, 2023; April 13, 2023; May 11, 2023

For Information:

1. Heard liaison reports from the following churches and ministries: Backyard Ministry, Covenant Athens, Dahlonega, Hartwell, Hebron, Homer, Monticello, Nacoochee, Oconee, Westminster, and Wiley.
2. COM will monitor the completion of required “Darkness to Light – Stewards of Children” training, mandated for all minister members who are engaged in preaching/pastoring a church within our bounds. Training must be completed by June 30, 2023. The COM is also considering a grace period for failure to complete the training by that deadline, and what consequences may follow that extension for non-compliance.
3. The Board of Pensions hosted a meeting in Atlanta on May 9 & 10. Jacob Douylliez represented NEGP.
4. The Church Leadership Connection (CLC) is in the process of a transition which will ultimately require new forms for the MIF and PIF.
5. Hilary Shuford and Tom Buchanan conducted training for the PNC at Covenant Athens on May 22, 2023.

Actions:

1. Approved the Contract between Hebron and RE Rick Billingslea for service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.
2. Granted permission to RE Karen Fletcher (having finished her work at Columbia Theological Seminary and under care of Greater Atlanta Presbytery) to serve Hartwell in the following ways: To moderate a congregational meeting for the purpose of forming a Nominating Committee; to preside at the celebration of the Eucharist; and to moderate Session.
3. Approved the Mission Study of Nacoochee PC and granted permission to form a PNC.
4. Removed the Rev. Robert Abernathy from the Pulpit Supply List per his request.
5. Approved Monticello’s MIF and granted the PNC permission to upload it to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC).
6. Appointed the Rev. Peter Thornton as Moderator of Session at Homer through July 16, 2023.
7. Received the Annual Pastors’ Salary Review Report for 2023 and are reporting same. Those pastors listed with incomplete information are being contacted by their congregations’ COM liaisons.

Recommendations:

1. Approve the additions of the Rev. Travis Adams to the Trinity PC Administrative Commission.
2. Re-admit into membership the Rev. Andrew Casto-Waters from Trinity Presbytery, without re-examination.
3. Recommendation to Presbytery that the Rev. Jeff Reynolds be dismissed to Salem Presbytery, effective February 23, 2023
4. Approve the Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Tom Query.
5. Approve the Honorable Retirement of the Rev. Janet Williams, effective March 31, 2023.
6. Receive the Rev. Amy Baer, from Tropical Florida Presbytery, as a Member-at-Large.
7. Receive the Rev. Steven Barnes, from Greater Atlanta Presbytery, to serve as Pastor at Oconee Presbyterian Church, and approve his Terms of Call.
8. Approve the following as members of an Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Steven Barnes as Pastor at Oconee Presbyterian Church on Sunday, June 25, at 4:00 PM:

Teaching Elders: Rev. Mari Turner (Dahlonega); Rev. Tom Buchanan (Friendship);
Rev. Dana Waters, (Covenant Athens)

Ruling Elders: Kathy Little (Oconee); Kent Burel (Athens First)

Guest: Rev. Kimmy Briggs (Yellowstone Presbytery)

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Buchanan, Chair



Statement of Faith
Amy Baer

From a young age, I was drawn to the stories of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures because I believed I could come to know God in coming to know him. In learning about Jesus Christ, I came to believe that I was called to do as he did; reaching out to the least of these, comforting the grieving, speaking up for the silenced, and standing in solidarity with the oppressed. I believe the Holy Scriptures provide the source for recognizing God's saving acts throughout all times and places. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I believe that as we read the Holy Scriptures, they read us, and God's ancient Word becomes a Word for us today. It has been imprinted on my heart that it was in Jesus Christ that God graced and continues to grace humankind, and it is by this grace alone that I live and profess my faith.

I believe in the Triune God who is always Three and also always One. Ours is a God who creates, redeems and sustains. Although God's fullness is incomprehensible to my feeble mind and sinful heart, I believe God is sovereign in every way and also intimately active and perfectly present in my daily life.

I believe ours is a creative God who made all things out of nothing by speaking the Word. I believe this is the same God who covenanted with the people of Israel and forged the new covenant with us through the person of Jesus Christ. I believe God chose us long before we ever choose God. I believe ours is a God of justice who sought to be in solidarity with the ancient Israel, freeing them from their oppressive captors but also seeking to free them from their self-oppression. God freed the people and provided for the people long before the provision of the Law, illustrating God's unconditional love and affection for all of us.

I believe God enacted the ultimate solidarity with us in the person of Jesus Christ, his life, his ministry, his suffering, his death, and his resurrection. God's solidarity with us reached even as far as the depths of hell.

And I believe God has sent the Holy Spirit to empower each of us in our lives as disciples, to illumine the Word to us, and to inspire us to participate in God's mission of solidarity with the oppressed and helpless of our world today. I believe in the continuing power and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world, in the church, and in my own faith journey.

I believe the church exists by the grace of God and it is called to tell the Good News of the gospel, reflecting the love of God to all of God's children. I believe the church is also called to live as a beloved community, inviting and gathering around the Word, praying, baptizing and breaking bread together. In worship and in daily life, I believe we must confess our sin before God and one another, recognizing that it is only by God's unmerited and freely given grace that we exist as the body of Christ. Our sinfulness blinds and impairs us at our very core and it is only in our utter dependence on God that we are able to do any good in this life.

I believe all three persons of the Trinity are active in the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist. In the sacrament of Baptism, we celebrate God's justifying grace and indelible claim on our entire beings as we are engrafted into the church, the Body of Christ, and we are ordained to ministries of service. In the sacrament of the Eucharist, we celebrate God's sanctifying grace, and we are lifted up by the mysterious power of the Holy Spirit as we commune with the spiritual real presence of Jesus Christ. In this foretaste of the great heavenly banquet, we also commune with all the saints of the church in all times and places, and then we are sent out again into the world to be Christ's Body in and for the world. In Word and in Sacrament, the church is governed and guided by the Triune God and emboldened by the knowledge of who and whose we are.

I believe ours is a God who calls us by name, equips us for our calling, and empowers us to share the Good News with all who will listen. As the body of Christ, we are called to fellowship with one another and worship God together, acknowledging our dependence on our sovereign, faithful, all-loving, righteous and just, grace-giving God.

Statement of Faith Journey **Amy Baer**

I was born in Springfield, Missouri, in 1976. My birth parents placed me for adoption through Catholic Charities, and at three weeks old, I was adopted by my parents. My adoption record was closed, and I knew very little about my birth family as I was growing up.

My adoptive parents divorced when I was three, and I went to live with my mother in Kansas City, Missouri. However, my father remained a part of my life, and I spent many weekends and summers with him in Springfield when I was a girl.

I was raised in St. Elizabeth parish in an Irish-Catholic neighborhood in Kansas City. I attended grade school at St. Elizabeth and went to high school at St. Theresa's Academy. Everything about my childhood was connected to my church. My school was part of my church, all of my friends and the families I knew were members of my church, the movement of our year was connected to the church year and all of my extracurricular activities were connected to church. It's impossible for me to disconnect my childhood from my experience of my church and the faith in which I was raised. My mother led our family with a spirit of service to others and I learned from a very young age that I was blessed to be a blessing. As I look back on my childhood of faith, I think mostly about the ways my mother sought out opportunities for us to serve as a family; serving hot meals, stocking food pantry shelves, painting porches, cleaning up overgrown yards, tutoring in an alternative school, and caring for children in a domestic violence shelter. I remember thinking of God as a loving parent who loved me, watched over me and kept me safe.

When it came time for me to leave for college, I found myself in a wilderness place when it came to faith and church. When my lifelong church wasn't right there in my path, I began to notice other ways of worshiping and other ways of being church. I earned dual degrees in Graphic Design and Communication from the University of Missouri, and my first job out of college was as a graphic designer with the Missouri State Teachers' Association.

My husband Ryan and I were married in 2002, and we moved to Dallas, Texas. I took a job as a graphic designer for a small publishing company, and we began looking for a church home. One Sunday morning, we stopped into a Presbyterian church down the street from our apartment. When the pastor began to preach from the pulpit, I was moved in a deep and meaningful way by her words and her proclamation of the gospel. I had never heard a woman preach before. It was as if she was preaching directly to me. Soon after, Ryan and I became members of Woodhaven Presbyterian Church and we began learning what it means to be a Presbyterian.

In January 2003, Ryan began exploring his sense of call to ministry, and we made plans to make a major life change in the move to seminary. However, I couldn't shake the feeling that God was calling me to something new, too. I wasn't certain what it was or what shape it might take, but I could feel God stirring my heart. In July 2004, we moved from Dallas to Decatur, Georgia, and Ryan enrolled at Columbia Theological Seminary. I took a few classes from the Center for Lifelong Learning, and my sense of call to theological education was confirmed. I enrolled as a full-time student in February 2005. My years at Columbia were incredibly formative for me in my sense of call. I made it my goal to volunteer at every non-profit agency that would schedule me for a shift and I discerned my call to ministry on the margins.

We both prayed that after seminary, God might call us to a place where both of us could exercise our gifts for ministry, and that prayer was answered in the spring of 2008. God called Ryan to be the pastor of a church in West Palm Beach, FL and God called me to chaplaincy at VITAS Innovative Hospice Care. I served as a Hospice Chaplain for 2 years before receiving a call to serve as the Director of Volunteers and Congregational Development for CROS Ministries in West Palm Beach, FL. This ministry post turned out to be the one most like what I expected my call to be all along. It was my joy to manage CROS' multiple emergency food programs throughout the county, recruit and train our volunteers and develop deeper relationships with our community partners and congregations. It was my great joy to be a small part of reducing food insecurity in Palm Beach County.

In 2011, I gave birth to our twin sons, Nathan and Daniel, and my call shifted to motherhood and managing our household. We made a cross-country move in 2012 for Ryan's call to serve a church in Ft. Worth, Texas and our third son, Joshua, was born in 2014. In 2019, we once again followed our family's call to Athens, GA.

This last summer, after 10 years of serving my family, I received a new call to serve as the Coordinator of Outreach for Covenant Presbyterian Church. I am excited about this next stage of my call to ministry and our clergy family journey.

Statement of Faith Journey
Rev. Steven Barnes

I am a child of a loving and gracious God! I live each day mindful of the blessings of my life. I am a husband to a wonderful wife and father to a beautiful daughter. And, I have never been happier and more at peace in my whole life than I am now – preparing to take the first steps on the newest path of my faith journey and call to ministry.

I was born on April 5, 1976, in Sherman, Texas, to two wonderful and happy parents. I am their only child and have always been their best friend. I was baptized as an infant at First Presbyterian Church in Sherman. My family moved 30 minutes east to the town of Bonham when I was 18 months old, and I was raised through the 4th grade at First Presbyterian Church of Bonham. There I developed my earliest memories of church and the experiences of God's grace—my saintly Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Nicki Williams; the interim pastor, the Rev. David Sharp, who showed me that pastors were awesome people; and the entire congregation who showed the world what a family of faith is truly like. My family moved back to Sherman in 1986 as I entered the 5th grade. I was received as a Confirmand during my 5th grade year at First Presbyterian Church in Sherman. I met my lifelong best friend, Chris, in 6th grade when his family moved to town so his father, the Rev. Dr. Bill Poe, could accept the call as the solo pastor at my church. As a result, I spent all of my junior high and senior high school years living half the time at the pastor's house! I became an active member and leader of my church youth group until graduation from high school in the spring of 1994.

I faintly heard God's call to ministry toward the end of high school, which led me to enroll at Austin College in 1995 so that I could work closely with the Director of Church Relations (now the college Chaplain), the Rev. Dr. John Williams, and earn a valuable degree in Religious Studies and Sociology. During college I helped start a youth ministry organization called the "ACTivators" and I also served as a Youth Director and consultant at churches in Bonham and Sherman. Following college graduation in the spring of 1997, I enrolled that fall at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, Texas. I was honestly uncertain of my call to ministry and had difficulty discerning God's will at that time in my life, but I completed my degree program in early 2000. However, I then embarked on several years of valuable work experience in the corporate and retail worlds. During that time, I met, dated, and married my wife, Dency, in 2002, and we celebrated the birth of our only child, our daughter, Nicole, in 2003.

In the fall of 2006, I accepted a call to a part-time position as a Youth Director at Bentwood Trail Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, where over the next few years God's voice grew from a whisper to a roar, and I ultimately answered the call to ordained ministry in early 2009. As I progressed through the inquiry and candidacy phases, I continued serving Bentwood Trail as their DCE until June of 2010, at which time I began serving as an intern at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in Bedford, Texas. I was certified ready to seek a call in late 2010, and I was called to Cook's Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, in the spring of 2011. From there I accepted a call to serve as the Senior Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Newton, North Carolina, in late 2013, where I served faithfully until moving to the Atlanta area in June of 2016 to support my wife in her career. Since living in Georgia for the past six and a half years, I have served multiple churches in the Greater Atlanta and Northeast Georgia presbyteries.

God's grace has been ever-present and joyfully experienced throughout my life and my call to ministry. My personal journey to serving God as a pastor has definitely been *my* journey, and all the twists and turns have been important and meaningful in order for me to become the person and servant God continually calls me to be. In considering my call and faith journey, I am always comforted by these words from Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

Statement of Faith
Rev. Steven Barnes

The core and foundation of my faith is the triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

I believe in God the Father, who created all things good in heaven and on earth. I believe God is a loving and gracious God who cares for all creation in powerful and mysterious ways that our minds are not meant to understand or comprehend. I believe God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and always present with us. I believe God created human beings in God's image, and though we are fallen, God called us to be God's people and established a covenant with us for all time. And, as fallen creatures, humans have the unfortunate aptitude to bring evil into God's created world. But, I deeply believe in God's providence in our world, that God brings good out of evil, and especially that nothing bad or evil is allowed to exist in our world that our loving God does not ultimately bend toward the good. And, most of all, I believe that God continually proves God's love for us in amazing ways, and that our salvation and redemption are only possible through God's free gift of grace in the life, death, and resurrection of God's son, Jesus Christ.

I believe in God the Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus is God incarnate, the Word made flesh, "God with us." I believe that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine. I believe that Jesus is the foundation of our knowledge of God's sovereign love for all of creation, a love that is sealed upon our lives through the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, where the cleansing waters of Baptism and the expression of acceptance and grace at the Table are tangibly experienced. I believe that through his life and ministry Jesus teaches us God's will for our lives, and thus we are shown how to lead lives full of love, service, and compassion toward our neighbors and toward all creation. I believe that while we are sinners, Jesus' death is the ultimate sacrifice to reconcile us with God the Father, our Creator, providing each believer with the undeserved gift of grace.

I believe in God the Holy Spirit and in the power of the Spirit to work among us for the will of God. I believe that the Spirit is active in all lives and in all places, and that through the Spirit we are called and gathered into community to experience the fellowship of God's people in profound ways. I believe that the Holy Spirit experienced in our lives and in our current world is the same Spirit that guided the prophets and the apostles. I believe that the Spirit provides for many gifts according to the scriptures. And, I believe that the Holy Spirit instills in us the power and conviction to love and serve God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

I believe that God's Word found in Scripture remains alive for us today by the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe that the entire narrative of Scripture concerns God's love and redemption for creation, particularly our salvation made possible through Jesus Christ and the call to lead lives as servants and stewards of all with which God blesses us. And, I believe that Scripture has authority for all creation, and must be trusted and accepted as God's timeless truth.

As a follower of Christ, I believe in the community of faith, and the strength, unity, and identity of God's people gathered and organized as a church, as the body of Christ in this time and place, not in spite of our differences but because of them.

Installed Pastoral Call

(for Pastor, Co-Pastor, Associate Pastor)

The Oconee Presbyterian Church of Watkinsville, belonging to Northeast Georgia Presbytery, being well satisfied with your qualification for ministry and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose service will be profitable to the spiritual interests of our church and fruitful for the Kingdom of our Lord, earnestly and solemnly calls you,

Steven Meredith Barnes
(name)

to undertake the office of
Pastor/Head of Staff
(title)

of this congregation, beginning April 10, 2023, promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support encouragement and allegiance in the Lord.

That you may be free to devote full-time (part-time) to the ministry of Word and Sacrament among us, we promise and obligate ourselves to pay you in regular monthly payments the following compensation:

Effective Salary

Cash Salary (<i>NOT including 403(b) contributions</i>)	40,000
Manse Value or Housing Allowance	40,000
Other ^{1, 2, 3}	1,632 †
Manse Equity (<i>paid directly or through 403(b)</i>) ⁴	†
Total Effective Salary	81,632
Employer's <i>Matching Contribution</i> – 403(b) ⁵	†
50% of SECA (Social Security) - <i>unless pastor has opted out of Social Security</i>	6,245

Board of Pensions Pastors' Participation Plan

Pension & Disability (<i>10% of Effective Salary</i>)	8163
Medical (<i>29% of Effective Salary</i>)	23,673

Vouchered Expenses (Reimbursements)

Continuing Education	1,750
Professional Expenses (<i>incl. mileage at IRS rate</i>)	3,250
Other Vouchered Expenses	†

TOTAL \$ Paid by Church/Employer	124,713
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Vacation (*minimum 4 weeks*)

Four Weeks

Study Leave (*minimum 2 weeks*)

Two Weeks

Other Time Off: _____

†

Eligible for Sabbatical? If yes, indicate year:

†

2029

Footnotes

† = Optional

¹Pastor's elective contributions to the PC(USA) 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan are listed here and INCLUDED in Effective Salary.

²Most contributions by a church to a pastor's 403(b) account ARE INCLUDED in Effective Salary (see footnote 5).

³Payments made by the employer or reimbursed to the pastor for optional or supplemental insurance ARE INCLUDED in Effective Salary unless the same benefits are offered to all employees.

⁴Sums paid or contributed by a church to a deferred compensation plan or other account on behalf of a pastor residing in a manse (to compensate for equity which the pastor forgoes by not owning his or her own residence) ARE INCLUDED in Effective Salary.

⁵When a church matches some or all of a pastor's voluntary contributions to his or her 403(b) account, the church's MATCHING contribution is NOT included in Effective Salary (see footnote 2).

*For more information about Effective Salary, see "Understanding Effective Salary," available on www.pensions.org.

We further promise and obligate ourselves to review with you annually the adequacy of this compensation.

In the seventh year of service, the congregation will provide for a three-month Clergy Renewal Leave, continuing the salary and benefits for that period, and providing for pulpit supply in the pastor's absence.

In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names this 26 day of February, 2023.

Having moderated the congregational meeting which extended this call for ministerial services, I do certify that the call has been made in all respect according to the presbytery policy and the Form of Government, and that the persons who signed the foregoing call were authorized to do so by vote of the congregation.

Vote of the congregation at the meeting was _____ in favor of the candidate and _____ opposed.

(signed) _____
moderator of the meeting

Certification of Call

A. Action by Presbytery of Call

1. The Presbytery of _____ has reviewed and approved this call.

Date of action _____ (Signed) _____

Stated Clerk or Authorized Signer

B. Action by the Minister's/Candidate's Presbytery

1. The Presbytery of _____ finds it expedient (not expedient) to release _____
to accept this call.

Date of action _____ (Signed) _____

Stated Clerk or Authorized Signer

C. Acceptance of the Call

This is to certify that I have received and accepted the call.

Date of action _____ (Signed) _____

Minister

*Complete and sign four original copies. When all parties have signed, an original copy goes to
1) the minister, 2) the calling church, 3) the presbytery of call and 4) the minister's presbytery of membership/care.*

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2023 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

Pastor/Church	Service Status	Full Time Equivalency	Total Effective Salary	Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b)	Social Security Allowance *	Board of Pensions Dues	Continuing Education	Professional Expenses	Other Vouchered Expenses	Vacation Time	Study Leave	Other Time Off	Notes
ARMOUR Cleveland First	Installed	1.00	60,166		4,603	23,465	2,000	1,000		4	2		
BAER Athens First	Installed	1.00	121,724		9,312	47,472	4,000	4,800		4	2		
BAKER Madison	Interim	1.00	79,500		6,082	9,540	1,500	1,500		4	2		
BALFOUR Milledgeville	Installed	1.00	56,053		4,288	21,860	1,000	3,500		4	2		
BARBER Rabun Gap	Installed	1.00	89,361	10,802	6,836	34,851	0	12,480	5,000				time off not indicated
BILLINGSLEA Hebron	CRE	0.25	12,300		0		0			4	2		full time equivalency unknown, estimate used
BONNER Athens First	Interim	1.00	70,000		5,355	27,300	2,400	2,400		4	2		
BUCHANAN Friendship	Installed	1.00	50,252		3,844	19,598	400	1,500		4	2		
CAIN Commerce	Installed	1.00	48,205		3,688	18,801	600	1,800	300	4	2		
CALDWELL Belle Terrace	Covenant	0.50	25,000		0	0	2,000	1,000		4	2		unsure whether opted out of social security: eligible for pension benefits?
CASTO-WATERS Reid Memorial	Installed	1.00	116,369		8,902	45,384	0	7,500		4	2	2	continuing ed allowance does not meet minimums
CHAMBERS Cornelia First	Installed	1.00	68,777		5,261	26,823	0	6,000		4	2		continuing ed allowance does not meet minimums

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2023 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

Pastor/Church	Service Status	Full Time Equivalency	Total Effective Salary	Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b)	Social Security Allowance *	Board of Pensions Dues	Continuing Education	Professional Expenses	Other Vouchered Expenses	Vacation Time	Study Leave	Other Time Off	Notes
COOKE Covenant Augusta	Installed	0.75	56,574		4,328	5,657	1,800	3,600	27	4	2		
CRANE Winder First	Covenant												
DIMAIO Clayton	CRE	0.50	33,425		0		350	200		4	2		
DOUYLLIEZ Eatonton	Covenant	0.75	35,852		2,743	3,585	0	0		5	2		continuing ed allowance does not meet minimums
ELLSWORTH-MORAN Reid Memorial	Installed	1.00	64,093		4,903	24,996	0	5,500		4	2		continuing ed allowance does not meet minimums
EVANS Jefferson	Covenant	1.00	41,000		3,137	0	1,800	6,046	3,400	4	2		effective salary and social security allowance do not meet minimums
FRANKLIN Nacoochee	Interim	1.00	73,916		5,655	7,392	2,000	1,000		4	2		
GORDON COOKE Covenant Augusta	Installed	0.75	56,574		4,328	22,063	1,800	3,600		4	2		
HENDERSON Clarksville First	Installed	1.00	73,386	5,500	0	28,621	2,000	8,000		4	2		opted out of Social Security
HORTON Lavonia	Covenant	0.75	44,072		2,964		400			6	2		
JACKSON CLARK Greensboro First	Installed	1.00	63,371		4,848	24,715	1,500	750		4	2		
JOHNSON Sardis	Covenant	0.50	29,710		2,273		0			4	2		continuing ed allowance does not meet minimums

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2023 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

Pastor/Church	Service Status	Full Time Equivalency	Total Effective Salary	Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b)	Social Security Allowance *	Board of Pensions Dues	Continuing Education	Professional Expenses	Other Vouchered Expenses	Vacation Time	Study Leave	Other Time Off	Notes
JUNG Athens Korean	Installed	1.00	49,050		3,752	19,130	1,200	0		4	2		
KIM Augusta Korean	Installed	1.00	51,277		3,923	19,998	400	0		4	2		
H. KOONTZ Mount Hermon	Covenant	0.50	24,811		1,898	2,481	500	2,000		4	2		
L. KOONTZ Gainesville First	Installed	1.00	96,378		7,373	37,588	2,500	4,000		4	2		
MCCROSKY Monticello	Interim	1.00	63,900		4,888	24,921	1,000	1,500	1,000	4	2		
MOON Westside	Covenant												
PEPPERS Gainesville First	Installed	1.00	61,356		4,694	23,929	2,500	4,000		4	2		
REES Saint Andrew	Installed	1.00	62,139		0	24,234	400	150	3,000	4	2	2 Sundays	<i>opted out of Social Security</i>
REES NEGAPBY	Elected	0.45	31,023		0	0	650	1,400		4	0		<i>opted out of Social Security</i>
SHUFORD NEGAPBY	Installed	1.00	93,230		7,140	36,360	1,500	5,500		4	2	1 week	
TOPPLE Pleasant Hill	Covenant	0.25	19,500		0	0	400		100	4	2		<i>opted out of Social Security</i>
TURNER Dahlonega	Installed	0.50	24,120		0	13,899	400	100		4	2		<i>social security allowance does not meet minimums</i>

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

2023 ANNUAL SALARY STANDARDS REVIEW FOR PASTORS

Pastor/Church	Service Status	Full Time Equivalency	Total Effective Salary	Employer's Matching Contribution to 403(b)	Social Security Allowance *	Board of Pensions Dues	Continuing Education	Professional Expenses	Other Vouchered Expenses	Vacation Time	Study Leave	Other Time Off	Notes
WATERS Covenant Athens	Interim	1.00	81,383		6,226	30,111	1,000	2,000		4	2		
J. WILLIAMS Homer	Covenant	0.25	15,300		1,170		800			4	2		<i>prorated to annual, contract is for 3 months</i>
M. WILLIAMS Bath	Covenant												



Nominating Committee Report
Ruling Elder Joel Burns, chair

The Nominating Committee met on April 27, 2023 via Zoom and subsequently via email. The committee is making the following recommendations to presbytery:

The committee recommends that Denise Horton, Female Ruling Elder from Athens First (Greater Athens MC) be elected to the Congregational Connections Committee to serve for a full term which includes the remainder of 2023.

The committee recommends that Joyce Dejoie, Female Ruling Elder from Belle Terrace (Greater Augusta MC) be elected to the Clergy Care Committee for a full term (class of 2025) which includes the remainder of 2023.

The committee considered other vacancies and candidates but is not able to make nominations for those positions at this time.

Respectfully submitted with gratitude,

Joel Burns, Chair
Heather Koontz
Travis Adams
John Stork
Joy Brown
Sue Jacobson
Elaine Wiegert
Elaine Fields



Report of the Coordinating Team

Sylvia McDonald, Chair

The Coordinating team met in person on April 25, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. This was the first “face-to-face” meeting of the Coordinating Team since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Being able to sit together as a team and have discussion and fellowship was a much overdue benefit. One of the most joyful benefits of meeting together was the opportunity to honor Anita Green and to express our deep appreciation to her for her 20 years of service to Northeast Georgia Presbytery. It would be impossible to enumerate the ways in which Anita provides expertise and a wealth of knowledge on a day to day basis. In addition, Anita is always gracious and kind in every situation. Northeast Georgia Presbytery is blessed to have Anita Green as our Business Administrator. Thank you, Anita!

General Information from the meeting:

- Stated Clerk, Rev. Ed Rees, provided a brief follow up report on the Special Called Presbytery Meeting that was held on March 25, 2023 via Zoom.
- There was a discussion regarding the need to update/revise the Vision Statement and the Action Plans for the Presbytery. According to the **Manual of Operations** this is a task for the Presbytery; however, clarity is needed in identifying who/what entity is responsible for initiating the action with the Presbytery.
- General Presbyter, Rev. Hilary Shuford, shared with the Coordinating Team that she identified 10 individuals and asked them to begin the work of visioning for the Presbytery. These 10 individuals have begun work on the task of visioning, led by Rev. Will Norman (chair of the group). The group is named the V26 Collaborative. Rev. Norman gave an informative report on the progress of the Collaborative. Members are:
 - Rev. Will Norman - Presbyterian Campus Ministry (UGA)
 - Paulo Santos - First Presbyterian Athens
 - Rev. Nadine Elsworth-Moran - Reid Memorial
 - Rev. Sun Jae Jung - Athens Korean
 - Audrey Markham - North Decatur Presbyterian & PCM @ UGA
 - Rev. Amy Hobby Rickard – Validated Ministry (America’s Warrior Partnership)
 - Betty Jean Jordan - Monticello Presbyterian
 - Rev. Burnetta Armour - FPC Cleveland
 - Rev. Cheryl Barnes - Presbyterian Mission Agency, World Missions
 - Brooks Benton - Sardis
 - Joslyn Fields – Covenant Augusta
- There was discussion regarding electing an individual to fill the vacancy on BFIT. There was also discussion regarding identifying an individual to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee.
- Reports were received from: Budget and Finance Initiative Team; Personnel Action Team; Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, General Presbyter, Presbyterian Campus Ministry, Black Presbyterian Caucus, Congregational Connections, Presbyterian Women, and Clergy Care.

Actions:

1. Approved the minutes of the January 26, 2023 meeting.
2. Authorized Rev. Mari Turner and Rev. Ed Rees to finalize the docket for the May meeting of the Presbytery.
3. Authorized Rev. Ed Rees to invite Rev. Burnetta Armour to bring the sermon at the May meeting of the Presbytery.
4. Reaffirmed by consensus that honorariums for all preachers at presbytery meetings follow the guidelines from the Committee on Ministry regarding pulpit supply compensation.
5. Elected Rev. Will Norman to fill the vacancy on the Budget and Finance Initiative Team for the class of 2025.
6. Received and accepted the Independent Accountant’s Review Report regarding the Presbytery Financial records and procedures.

7. Approved the recipient of the May Presbytery meeting offering to be the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Recommendations:

1. That Jack Spencer be elected to the Nominating Committee to fill a vacancy for the Class of 2025.
2. That the Presbytery approve the V26 Collaborative with the provision that the opportunity to join the Collaborative be extended to individuals who desire to engage in the work of visioning.
3. That the Presbytery approve the following charge to the V26 Collaborative: Engage with the transformations of the world and within the PC(USA); and collaboratively develop a 3 – 5 year vision for how Northeast Georgia Presbytery can faithfully encourage, equip and empower all our members to embody the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ.



Trinity Church Administrative Committee
Report to Presbytery
May, 2023

The Trinity AC was created at the October 2022 meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, in response to a request from the Session of Trinity that the church be closed. Members of the Commission, as named by Presbytery, are Rev. Charles Crane, Chair; Rev. Heather Koontz; Ruling Elder Susan Bidy; Ruling Elder Roy Martin; Rev. Travis Adams, and Rev. Bob Abernathy, Secretary.

Since its formation, the AC has met several times with the Session and congregation of Trinity Church to prepare for an orderly dissolution of the congregation and appropriate disposition of its assets. By action of the Presbytery at its February 2023 meeting the AC was authorized to exercise original jurisdiction if the AC deemed it necessary. Thanks to the good cooperation between the Session of Trinity Church and the AC, that step has not yet been taken.

In consultation with the AC, the Trinity Session has made plans for providing specific contributions to local charities, and has also engaged the services of a real estate appraiser to evaluate the potential sale price of the church property.

The AC makes the following recommendation to Presbytery:

That the congregation of Trinity Church be dissolved, effective with a final worship service on June 25, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Charles Crane
Chair



Presbyterian Campus Ministry

Report to Presbytery, May 23, 2023

PCM's **Spring Annual Fund Campaign** is underway, as PCM celebrates our 8 graduates, and begins to plan for the '23-'24 program year. **Our goal for this Spring Campaign (aka, what it will take to meet our budget goal for donations) is \$15,000 by June 30.** As of the writing of this report (May 9), we have received 1/5 (\$3000) of that goal in new donations. Your gift can help ensure that the coming classes of students have the same experience of belonging in Christ that these graduates have enjoyed for the last four years.

The new HVAC system is up and running wonderfully! Thank you, NEGA, for your incredible support of the NEXT80 Capital Campaign to date!

There is more good news to report: thanks in large part to this presbytery's gift, PCM was able to pay half of the HVAC replacement out of pocket, without drawing from the approved PILP loan. The surplus, which is still available to us for 'creation care projects' is more than enough to cover the **replacement of the 8 entryways to the building at 1250 S Lumpkin St. with all new metal frames and high efficiency glass doors and windows. This work is contracted for the coming summer break**, and will complete the first round of construction to renovate the Student Center.

There is still much work to be done (all non-entryway windows, bathrooms, kitchen, etc), and we continue to seek the support of the congregations and members of this presbytery, but the accomplishments and generosity so far deserves to be celebrated. Thank you!

Last but definitely not least: **Send us your students!** If your congregation is sending any graduating seniors off to Athens next year, it is our very reason for existence to 1. Welcome them to campus; 2. Pick up where you leave off nurturing their spiritual lives and Christian faith; and 3. Become for them a community of belonging, a beacon of hope in the world, and their church home away from home.

We plan to host a **dinner for any and all incoming UGA students** at the PSC on Sunday August 6th, and will be getting invitations out in the coming weeks. If you or your church would like to receive notifications about this dinner, kindly provide contact info at www.pscuga.org/events/2023-bridge-ath.



Committee on Preparation for Ministry

May 23, 2023

For information:

Annual Consultation was completed with Inquirer Kris Steinmann on 4/17/23.

Actions:

Courtney Pittman was certified ready to receive a call on 4/17/23.

Congregational Connections Committee
Betty Jean Jordan, Chair

The Congregational Connections Committee met on April 18, 2023 via Zoom. They took the following actions and are making the following recommendations to presbytery:

For Information:

1. The committee continued planning for the Hope and Healing mental health training (see attached FAQ sheet). Note that participants in the online training sessions conducted on May 11 and May 18, 2023 are invited to stay after the May 23, 2023 Northeast Georgia Presbytery meeting to share insights and resources about the training.

Actions:

1. The committee voted to approve the attached "Policy for Stipends for Persons of Color from Northeast Georgia Presbytery Attending Seminary." Stipend funds will come from the Congregational Connections Committee's approved budget.
2. One seminarian has applied for a stipend. The committee voted to award the applicant a \$500 stipend upon verifying his good standing with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, his church's session, and Columbia Theological Seminary, as per the policy.
3. The committee voted to appoint the following members to the Nourish the Seed ministry team to work with the Backyard Ministry:
 - Rev. Don Barber
 - Rev. Andy Chambers
 - Ruling Elder Chad Chitworth
 - Commissioned Pastor Fred DiMaio
 - Ruling Elder Denise Horton
4. The committee voted to approve establishing a Northeast Georgia Congregational Connections Facebook group. The purpose of this group is to provide a means for churches in Northeast Georgia Presbytery to share events, ideas, and resources. The group will be private, open only to verified members of churches in Northeast Georgia Presbytery or to clergy members of the presbytery.

Recommendations:

1. The Congregational Connections Committee does not have any recommendations to Northeast Georgia Presbytery at this time.

Hope and Healing FAQs

The COVID-19 pandemic has unleashed a mental health crisis that is unlikely to find resolution anytime in the near future. The social isolation, coupled with stressors caused by economic, health, and other related hardships, has pushed already fragile persons and communities to the edge and overwhelmed available mental health providers. A CDC study using data from the summer 2020 reported that 40% of American adults describe themselves as struggling with mental and behavioral health issues and substance use. Further research in 2021 reveals that 44% of teenagers report poor mental health and 1 in 5 have contemplated suicide. Post-pandemic research already shows the trend worsening.

Hope and Healing is a program of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's Office of Continuing Education. This program seeks to respond to this multi-layered crisis by adding another layer of support in the community through front-line faith community leaders to whom many already turn in times of crisis.

What is Hope and Healing?

Hope and Healing is a training that will empower faith leaders with the knowledge, practices, and grounding they need to respond with grace and effectiveness to mental health concerns, and to build viable, strong support systems to advance this work in their churches. This program will provide participants with the tools they need to offer spiritual care more effectively to youth and adults affected by mental illness and mental health issues.

Who is the training for?

Lay and ordained leadership in faith communities

Where and when is the training?

Our Presbytery will be participating in online Hope and Healing Training on May 11th and 18th from 9:30-12. We ask that you commit to attending both sessions. We will also be taking some time following our Presbytery meeting on May 23rd to process what we have learned in the Hope and Healing training and how we plan to apply it in our communities.

How do I register?

Contact Betty Jean Jordan, chair of the Congregational Connexions Committee of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, at bettyjean@jordan-eng.com or 706-819-9036. Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will send links to registrants for the sessions on May 11th and 18th. **Registration deadline is May 8, 2023.**

Policy for Stipends for Persons of Color from Northeast Georgia Presbytery Attending Seminary

Northeast Georgia Presbytery is a Matthew 25 mid council within the PC(USA). One of the focuses of the Matthew 25 initiative is dismantling structural racism. Given that 80% of black churches within the PC(USA) do not have an installed pastor, Northeast Georgia Presbytery has designated funds through the budget of the Congregational Connexions Committee to provide stipends to people of color within Northeast Georgia Presbytery who are attending seminary. This policy is not intended to be burdensome or to be a gatekeeping mechanism or roadblock. Rather, its intent is to build up both the seminarian and Christ's Church.

Action to Be Taken by Applicant

An Inquirer or Candidate shall apply for a stipend by contacting the chair of the Congregational Connexions Committee. Contact information for the chair can be obtained from the office of Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

Status Verification

When an applicant applies for a stipend, the Congregational Connexions Committee shall do the following:

- Verify with the Committee on Preparation for Ministry that the Inquirer or Candidate is under that committee's care and is in good standing
- Verify that the applicant has been endorsed by the session of their church as an Inquirer or Candidate
- Verify that the applicant is in good standing with the seminary they are attending

Stipend Amount

The Congregational Connexions Committee may award a verified applicant an initial stipend of up to \$500. If all funds available for stipends have not been disbursed by the end of the fiscal year, the Congregational Connexions Committee may award an additional stipend to a verified applicant for the same fiscal year. The amount of an additional stipend is at the discretion of the Congregational Connexions Committee, such that total stipends awarded do not exceed budgeted funds.

Stipends awarded to persons of color under this policy are in addition to stipendiary funding from other sources, including the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and do not replace other stipends.

Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women Report

SOSA CT April 28-29, 2023

Elaine Wiegert, Moderator Northeast Georgia PW

The PW Northeast Georgia Annual Gathering took place at First Presbyterian Church, Athens on March 18, 2023. The Gathering was co-hosted by Presbyterian Women from Athens First and Covenant Athens. There were approximately 50 attendees at the Gathering. Special guests included Shelagh Wirth, PW Moderator for SOSA, Rev. Mari Turner, Moderator of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery, Rev. Margaret Davis, Parish Associate of First Presbyterian Church Athens, and Dana Abu Ghazaleh, recipient of a 2022-23 Columbia Friendship Circle Scholarship. During our worship service, Ms. Abu Gahzaleh presented the message based on Galatians 6: 9-10.

At the Business Meeting nominees for offices on the NEGA Coordinating Team were elected and installed by Shelagh Wirth. It is my pleasure to report that all positions on the Coordinating Team have been filled for the first time since 2019.

In lieu of a registration fee, nonperishable food items were collected for the Share Food Pantry at Columbia Theological Seminary. Reading glasses and used prescription glasses were collected for Frank Dimmock's mission to Ethiopia, Malawi, and South Sudan. Frank Dimmock is a mission co-worker with The Outreach Foundation. His wife, Nancy, and four of their eight children are current residents at Mission Haven. Frank is expected to return from Africa by the end of this month and return to Africa in June. The PW NEGA portion of the offering from the Annual Gathering was donated to Columbia Friendship Circle.

The Fall Workshops will be held on August 19, 2023, at Commerce Presbyterian Church. Planning for the workshops is underway.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Wiegert

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET
APRIL 2023**

	JAN - APR 2023	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
INCOME				
SHARED MISSION - CURRENT YEAR	84,763.64	226,587	-141,823.36	37.41%
PER CAPITA	52,230.81	127,731	-75,500.19	40.89%
INVESTMENT INCOME	997.46	1,500	-502.54	66.5%
TRANSFER FROM UNDESIGNATED RESERVES		45,933		0.0%
TOTAL INCOME	137,991.91	401,751	-263,759.09	34.35%
EXPENSES				
BACKYARD MINISTRY		1,500	-1,500.00	0.0%
CAMPUS MINISTRY AT UGA - Annual Support	6,000.00	18,000	-12,000.00	33.33%
Campus Ministry - Montreat College Conference		2,600	-2,600.00	0.0%
CLERGY CARE	5,614.00	6,170	-556.00	90.99%
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY	1,153.93	2,500	-1,346.07	46.16%
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY	500.00	6,030	-5,530.00	8.29%
COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION		100	-100.00	0.0%
CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS	500.00	5,000	-4,500.00	10.0%
COORDINATING TEAM	13,140.00	28,550	-15,410.00	46.03%
GENERAL ASSEMBLY PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT	20,507.72	61,523	-41,015.28	33.33%
GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHARED MISSION	1,500.00	4,500	-3,000.00	33.33%
MISSION PERSONNEL SUPPORT	375.00	1,500	-1,125.00	25.0%
NOMINATING COMMITTEE		325	-325.00	0.0%
PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION		500	-500.00	0.0%
PROPERTY COMMISSION		100	-100.00	0.0%
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT PASTORAL RESPONSE		200	-200.00	0.0%
STAFF SALARIES	83,477.65	250,284	-166,806.35	33.35%
SYNOD PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT	3,123.00	9,369	-6,246.00	33.33%
SYNOD SHARED MISSION	1,000.00	3,000	-2,000.00	33.33%
TOTAL PRESBYTERY EXPENSES	136,891.30	401,751	-264,859.70	34.07%
BALANCE	1,100.61	0	1,100.61	

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
CLERGY CARE
April 2023

	Jan - Apr 2023	Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Clergy pictorial directory	114.00	120	(6.00)	95.0%
HR minister gatherings		200	(200.00)	0.0%
Online Workshops		300	(300.00)	0.0%
Pby Support for cohorts	5,500.00	5,500	0.00	100.0%
Supplies & miscellaneous		50	(50.00)	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	5,614.00	6,170	(556.00)	90.99%

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
April 2023

	Jan - Apr 2023	Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
A/C & Other Expense		200	(200.00)	0.0%
Background Checks	31.50	300	(268.50)	10.5%
Committee Meeting Expense	1,122.43	2,000	(877.57)	56.12%
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,153.93	2,500	(1,346.07)	46.16%

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
April 2023

	Jan - Apr 2023	Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Aid to Candidates	500.00	4,000	(3,500.00)	12.50%
Career Assessment		1,280	(1,280.00)	0.00%
Committee Meeting Expense		750	(750.00)	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	500.00	6,030	(5,530.00)	8.29%

CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE
April 2023

	Jan - Apr 2023	Budget	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Hope & Healing Conference		2,000	(2,000.00)	0.00%
Matthew 25 Initiative	500.00	3,000	(2,500.00)	16.67%
TOTAL EXPENSES	500.00	5,000	(4,500.00)	10.00%

Northeast Georgia Presbytery
Coordinating Team
April 2023

	Jan - Apr 2023	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
Committee Meeting Expenses	186.20	1,200	-1,013.80	15.52%
Copier Support	125.97	750	-624.03	16.80%
Financial Review (CPA)	6,875.00	7,000	-125.00	98.21%
GA/Synod Commissioners' Expense	174.00	300	-126.00	58.00%
GP Discretionary Fund		1,000	-1,000.00	0.00%
Insurance	1,862.00	3,550	-1,688.00	52.45%
IT Support/Software	955.45	4,300	-3,344.55	22.22%
Miscellaneous	166.00	500	-334.00	33.20%
Moderator Expenses	15.00	1,000	-985.00	1.50%
Office Equipment		2,500	-2,500.00	0.00%
Office Supplies	466.56	900	-433.44	51.84%
Postage	138.00	350	-212.00	39.43%
Presbytery Meeting Expenses	275.00	1,000	-725.00	27.50%
Recording Clerk Stipend	300.00	900	-600.00	33.33%
Recording Clerk Expense	115.15	300	-184.85	38.38%
Telephone	667.67	2,050	-1,382.33	32.57%
Workers' Compensation Insurance	818.00	950	-132.00	86.11%
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,140.00	28,550	-15,410.00	46.02%

Staff Salaries				
April 2023				
	Jan - Apr 2023	Budget	Over/(Under) Budget	% of Budget
Medicare-Employer Portion	231.20	700	-468.80	33.03%
Social Security-Employer Portion	988.57	2,970	-1,981.43	33.29%
Stated Clerk				
Travel/Professional Expenses	15.00	1,400	-1,385.00	1.07%
Continuing Education		650	-650.00	0.0%
Salary	10,341.04	31,023	-20,681.96	33.33%
Total Stated Clerk	10,356.04	33,073	-22,716.96	31.31%
General Presbyter				
Travel/Professional Expenses	1,926.56	5,500	-3,573.44	35.03%
Pension, Health, D&D	12,119.92	36,360	-24,240.08	33.33%
Continuing Education		1,500	-1,500.00	0.0%
Social Security & Medicare	2,380.00	7,140	-4,760.00	33.33%
Salary	21,076.64	63,230	-42,153.36	33.33%
Housing Allowance	10,000.00	30,000	-20,000.00	33.33%
Total General Presbyter	47,503.12	143,730	-96,226.88	33.05%
Business Administrator				
Travel/Professional Expenses	871.98	1,875	-1,003.02	46.51%
Continuing Education	48.14	500	-451.86	9.63%
Pension, Health, D&D	5,017.96	15,054	-10,036.04	33.33%
Matching Contribution to RSP	1,500.00	1,500	0.00	100.0%
Gross Wages	16,960.64	50,882	-33,921.36	33.33%
Total Business Administrator	24,398.72	69,811	-45,412.28	34.95%
TOTAL EXPENSES	83,477.65	250,284	-166,806.35	33.35%

Northeast Georgia Presbytery

Balance Sheet

As of April 30, 2023

ASSETS

Current Assets

Cash-Synovus Checking	117,466.14
First American Money Market Checking	150,907.76
ILP 15 Month Note	101,791.12
New Covenant Balanced Income Fund	125,569.62
Notes Receivable - Short Term (GDMS)	<u>1,134.34</u>

Total Current Assets 496,868.98

Fixed Assets

Land (1250 Lumpkin St.)	71,492.66
Student Center Building	191,199.41
Computer Equipment	10,278.77
Other Fixed Assets	1,086.61
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-58,137.36</u>

Total Fixed Assets 215,920.09

Other Assets

Notes Receivable - Long Term (GDMS)	<u>4,327.06</u>
Carnesville Church Property	25,000.00
Ficklen Church Property	<u>25,000.00</u>

Total Other Assets 54,327.06

TOTAL ASSETS 767,116.13

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

Credit Cards	15.99
Payroll Liabilities	<u>-406.37</u>

Total Current Liabilities -390.38

Other Liabilities

Property Held in Trust	<u>50,000.00</u>
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Total Other Liabilities 50,000.00

Total Liabilities 49,609.62

Equity

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Assistance Fund	18,327.69
Beth Duncan Fund (PW)	41,181.31
Carnesville Church Fund	-419.15
Clergy Care Fund	23,405.18
Connectional Events Fund	15,285.09
Ficklen Church Fund	-362.32
Georgia Domestic Missionary Society Fund	91,601.24
Justice & Peacemaking Fund	6,418.40
Property Protection & Defense Fund	83,565.38
Spiritual Direction Fund	<u>5,000.00</u>

Total Temporarily Restricted Net Assets 284,002.82

Unrestricted Net Assets	
Undesignated Reserves	166,601.48
Other Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>260,781.27</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	427,382.75
Net Ordinary Income	1,100.61
Unrealized Gains/Losses	<u>5,020.33</u>
Total Equity	<u>717,506.51</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>767,116.13</u></u>

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
CHURCH GIVING
APRIL 2023

CHURCH	MEMBERS 12/31/2021	SHARED MISSION COMMITMENT	SHARED MISSION RECEIPTS	REMAINING BALANCE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY BENEVOLENCES	PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT	PER CAPITA RECEIPTS	REMAINING BALANCE	TOTAL RECEIPTS
ATHENS FIRST	949	65,000.00	16,250.00	\$ 48,750.00	\$ 1,056.00	\$ 19,407.05	\$ 4,851.75	\$ 14,555.30	\$ 22,157.75
ATHENS KOREAN	80			\$ -		1,636.00	1,636.00	\$ -	\$ 1,636.00
AUGUSTA KOREAN	60	2,373.00		\$ 2,373.00		1,227.00	1,200.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 1,200.00
BATH	31			\$ -	1,124.00	633.95	633.95	\$ -	\$ 1,757.95
BELLE TERRACE	96		1,459.10	\$ (1,459.10)	189.23	1,963.20	1,963.20	\$ -	\$ 3,611.53
CALVARY	23	1,375.00	540.50	\$ 834.50		470.35	470.35	\$ -	\$ 1,010.85
CHRIST	25	1,200.00	200.00	\$ 1,000.00		511.25	511.25	\$ -	\$ 711.25
CLARKESVILLE FIRST	126	0.00		\$ -		2,576.70	1,288.36	\$ 1,288.34	\$ 1,288.36
CLAYTON	42	1,000.00	1,000.00	\$ -		858.90	858.90	\$ -	\$ 1,858.90
CLEVELAND FIRST	95	1,850.00	647.60	\$ 1,202.40		1,942.75	647.60	\$ 1,295.15	\$ 1,295.20
CLIFFORD MEMORIAL	40			\$ -		818.00		\$ 818.00	\$ -
COMMERCE	64	1,100.00	275.00	\$ 825.00		1,308.80	654.40	\$ 654.40	\$ 929.40
CORNELIA FIRST	145			\$ -		2,965.25	1,000.00	\$ 1,965.25	\$ 1,000.00
COVENANT, ATHENS	330	36,000.00	12,666.68	\$ 23,333.32	3,925.00	6,748.50	2,249.52	\$ 4,498.98	\$ 18,841.20
COVENANT, AUGUSTA	205	15,000.00	5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	467.00	4,192.25	1,397.40	\$ 2,794.85	\$ 6,864.40
DAHLONEGA	33			\$ -	58.00	674.85	674.85	\$ -	\$ 732.85
EATONTON	43	0.00		\$ -		879.35	879.35	\$ -	\$ 879.35
ELBERTON FIRST	10	600.00	200.00	\$ 400.00	111.00	204.50	204.50	\$ -	\$ 515.50
FRIENDSHIP	81	1,200.00	400.00	\$ 800.00		1,656.45		\$ 1,656.45	\$ 400.00
GAINESVILLE FIRST	760	19,458.00	8,107.50	\$ 11,350.50		15,542.00	6,475.85	\$ 9,066.15	\$ 14,583.35
GREENSBORO FIRST	55	1,000.00	1,000.00	\$ -		1,124.75	1,124.75	\$ -	\$ 2,124.75
HARTWELL FIRST	36			\$ -		736.20		\$ 736.20	\$ -
HEBRON	17			\$ -		347.65		\$ 347.65	\$ -
HELEN	40	500.00	500.00	\$ -		818.00	818.00	\$ -	\$ 1,318.00
HOMER	29			\$ -		593.05	593.05	\$ -	\$ 593.05
HOPEWELL	13			\$ -		265.85		\$ 265.85	\$ -
JEFFERSON	47	0.00		\$ -		961.15	869.40	\$ 91.75	\$ 869.40
LAVONIA	16	400.00	400.00	\$ -		327.20	327.20	\$ -	\$ 727.20
MADISON	349	3,000.00	750.00	\$ 2,250.00	690.00	7,137.05		\$ 7,137.05	\$ 1,440.00
MILLEDGEVILLE FIRST	138	4,000.00	1,299.90	\$ 2,700.10	655.00	2,822.10	2,822.10	\$ -	\$ 4,777.00
MONTICELLO	219		3,750.00	\$ (3,750.00)		4,478.55	4,478.55	\$ -	\$ 8,228.55
MOUNT HERMON	62		1,466.34	\$ (1,466.34)	1,315.00	1,267.90	1,267.90	\$ -	\$ 4,049.24
MOUNTAIN	39	1,200.00		\$ 1,200.00		797.55	797.55	\$ -	\$ 797.55
NACOOCHEE	254	17,000.00	5,668.00	\$ 11,332.00	400.00	5,194.30	1,731.40	\$ 3,462.90	\$ 7,799.40
NEW HOPE	20			\$ -		409.00		\$ 409.00	\$ -

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
CHURCH GIVING
APRIL 2023

CHURCH	MEMBERS 12/31/2021	SHARED MISSION COMMITMENT	SHARED MISSION RECEIPTS	REMAINING BALANCE	GENERAL ASSEMBLY BENEVOLENCES	PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT	PER CAPITA RECEIPTS	REMAINING BALANCE	TOTAL RECEIPTS
OCONEE	244	2,200.00	1,797.50	\$ 402.50		4,989.80	1,797.50	\$ 3,192.30	\$ 3,595.00
PLEASANT HILL	30	1,600.00	500.00	\$ 1,100.00		613.50	300.00	\$ 313.50	\$ 800.00
RABUN GAP	205	0.00		\$ -		4,192.25		\$ 4,192.25	\$ -
REID MEMORIAL	715	46,878.23	19,585.51	\$ 27,292.72	1,666.65	14,621.75	6,039.49	\$ 8,582.26	\$ 27,291.65
SAINT ANDREW	118	2,000.04	500.01	\$ 1,500.03		2,413.10	603.29	\$ 1,809.81	\$ 1,103.30
SARDIS	102	300.00		\$ 300.00		2,085.90		\$ 2,085.90	\$ -
TIMPSON	21			\$ -		429.45		\$ 429.45	\$ -
TRINITY	28			\$ -		572.60		\$ 572.60	\$ -
UNION POINT FIRST	26		800.00	\$ (800.00)	1,303.00	531.70	531.70	\$ -	\$ 2,634.70
WESTMINSTER	38			\$ -		777.10		\$ 777.10	\$ -
WESTSIDE	45			\$ -		920.25		\$ 920.25	\$ -
WILEY	36	300.00		\$ 300.00		736.20	531.70	\$ 204.50	\$ 531.70
WINDER FIRST	55			\$ -		1,124.75		\$ 1,124.75	\$ -
TOTAL:	6,235	226,534.27	\$ 84,763.64	\$ 141,770.63	\$ 12,959.88	\$ 127,505.75	\$ 52,230.81	\$ 75,274.94	\$ 149,954.33