

INFORMATION PACKET & DOCKET
Holston Presbytery Stated Meeting
August 2, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
First Presbyterian Church
119 W F St.
Elizabethton, TN 37643-3107

Go to www.holstonpresbytery.org for downloadable copies of the packet for commissioners, elders and church members.

Very limited printed copies will be available at the meeting.

Please see that each commissioner gets a copy of the information packet prior to the meeting.

Any new business for the meeting must be sent to statedclerk@holstonpresbytery.org.

Registration will be the day of the meeting, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM OF PARTICULAR INTEREST:

Todd Jenkins will be preaching on “Death and Rebirth”.

Communion will be celebrated.

There will be an offering taken for Five Cents a Meal.

Breakfast will be provided during registration. Freewill donations will be accepted.

No nursery or childcare will be provided.

There may be room for displays at this meeting. Contact statedclerk@holstonpresbytery.org if you desire display space.

Holston Presbytery

Moderator: Elder Kathi Carey

Vice Moderator: Elder Gary Helton

Stated Clerk: Rev. Collin Adams statedclerk@holstonpresbytery.org

Transitional Executive Presbyter: Rev. Karen Russell karen@holstonpresbytery.org

Transitional Treasurer: Bev Johnson bev@holstonpresbytery.org

Administrative Manager: Andi White andi@holstonpresbytery.org

Appendix 1 to the Information Packet contains information about who can speak and vote at Presbytery meetings, who can speak at Presbytery meetings, rules for debate for matters before the Presbytery, and guidelines for Presbyterians during times of disagreement. .page 22

Appendix 2 to the Information Packet notes future events, including dates of the upcoming
General Mission Board and Holston Presbytery Meetings, Committee Meetings, etc. ...page 25

Feed back form for Presbytery meeting.....page 26

Festival of Choirs Announcement.....page 27

DOCKET
HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
August 2, 2025 – Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethton, TN

9:00 AM **Registration**

10:00 AM **Call to Order**

Welcome & Introduction of Guests & First Time Commissioners

Introduction of New Business for Today's Docket

Consent Agenda

- Approve Enrollment
- Declaration of Quorum
- Approve granting voice to visiting teaching elders
- Approve minutes from the February 2025 Stated Meeting
- Appointment of Committee on Thanks
- Appointment of Bills and Overtures Committee
- Adoption of Docket

Transitional Executive Presbyter report

Stated Clerk's Report - First Greeneville has volunteered to host the November Presbytery Meeting.

There will be a session records review at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Saturday, August 9, 2025, 9:00 AM

Treasurer's Report – I finally got the loan at Strawberry Plains straightened out and the balance is correct.

Also, the cabin at Banner Elk has been sold. We received a total of \$637,983.13. We have reinvested \$600,000.00 into 3 \$200,000.00 CD's for 3 months with an interest rate of 4.3%. This was done at Eastman Credit Union.

As far as Bethany is concerned, the roof has been repaired. The total cost (which has been paid) is \$56,990.50. The roofing company was Omnia which is located in Piney Flats.

Reports Requiring Action, Part 1

- Committee on Ministry
 - Give Rev. Gary Eller voice and vote at Presbytery Meetings during his time serving at First Bristol.
- Administrative Commissions:
 1. That the Mt. Hermon Church be dissolved.
 2. That the Chuckey Church be dissolved.

3. That the Barton Springs Church be dissolved.
4. That Zion Church be dissolved.
5. That our meeting today include a litany of thanksgiving for the good and long ministry of the churches being dissolved.

10:10 AM **Worship** (*bulletin available in a separate document*) Rev. Todd Jenkins
preaching on “Death and Rebirth”

11:10 AM **Break**

11:20 AM **Business Meeting**

Presentations:

- Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions
- Erin Skinner, Presbyterian Foundation
- Disaster Relief Team

Reports Not Requiring Action

- Finance, Budget and Stewardship
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Nominations Committee
- Campus Ministry
- Administration and Personnel
- Bethel Administrative Commission

Reports Requiring Action, Part 2

- General Mission Board
 - First Reading: Family Medical Leave Policy
- Mission and Discipleship
 - Approve the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper for the Presbytery’s Fall Youth Retreat.

Presbytery Feedback Form and Report

Promotions

Committee on Thanks

Joys and Concerns

Adjournment

**Next Stated Meeting will be Tuesday, November 11 at First Presbyterian,
Greeneville, TN**

Stated Clerk's Report

I have been traveling to Session records reviews and meeting with some of our Clerks of session. Reviews are going well and the next review will be August 9 at Colonial Heights Presbyterian. I am working to develop a training for Clerks of Session. The Stated Clerk's job description is also being worked on.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Collin Blair Adams, Stated Clerk

Transitional Executive Presbyter Report to General Mission Board

July 15, 2025

The last three-plus months have been eventful in the life of Holston Presbytery, much of it related to property. Since my last report we have:

- Negotiated a sale of Holston Meadows Cabin, netting the presbytery enough money to consider new ways to help support churches within the presbytery;
- Worked with Barton Springs Presbyterian to wind down their ministry and how to use their property and assets for the good of small churches, including continuing a relationship with a small Baptist congregation that has been renting their space;
- Taken possession of the Chuckey Presbyterian Church and taken over the maintenance of that building;
- Worked to make sure the Mt Hebron building can retain insurance with their current provider, and talked with a potential buyer of the property;
- Negotiated a lease to purchase agreement for the former Bethany Presbyterian property and addressed several property issues with that building, including a new roof and repair from a water leak from an HVAC unit;
- Met with the Campus Ministry committee regarding Campus Ministry and the use of the house;
- Talked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Mennonite Disaster Recovery program about potential use of some of our property to serve as a "base camp" for their rebuilding efforts in the area for the next 2 to 3 years.

Upcoming property issues include:

- Negotiating a lease to purchase agreement for the Barton Springs property;
- Filing an insurance claim for water damage at the former Bethany property;
- Finalizing the sale of the Mt. Hermon property.

Other items and projects of note:

- Hosted Leaderwise (along with Abingdon Presbytery) to provide required boundary training for ministers, elders, and candidates;

- Finished up the first round of “expedited” CLP training (also along with Abingdon Presbytery) and the first “graduate” has been examined for commissioning by the COM;
- Launched a strategic planning team to make plans for the “next thing” for Holston Presbytery after the end of this year;
- Moderated one session;
- Worked with sessions on what comes next as long time pastors retire, leave, or other types of transitions;
- Worked with the Finance, Stewardship, and Budget committee, as well as staff to make improvements to the Financial reporting, and ongoing financial information between meetings;
- Had an initial meeting with women from the presbytery interested in launching some events or projects for women’s groups within the presbytery;
- Worked with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Disaster Response team to submit a grant proposal for a rebuilding project in conjunction with Appalachian Service Project (which was approved);
- Hosted the Director of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for a tour of the area to see progress since last fall and discuss grant proposal and potential use of property as Mennonite base camp;
- Worked with staff and committees on plans for a leadership change, and possible staffing restructure;
- Worked on a 2026 budget worksheet for a committee based budget process for next year;
- Continued work with EP’s from presbyteries in KY and TN on launching a residency/internship program that would focus on forming pastoral leaders and helping small churches pay a new pastor for up to two years, as well as provide opportunities for seminary students.

On a personal level:

- Attended my last Presbytery Leader Formation Residency in Seattle, WA (and combined that with a week long visit with my son);
- Completed the “Foundations of Church Consulting Course” to become “certified” as a church consultant;
- Continued monthly coaching sessions as part of the Presbytery Leader Formation program;
- Spent time with my grandchildren in Nova Scotia;
- Did a lot of ferrying paperwork back and forth to facilitate property resolutions;
- Attended the Synod of Living Waters board meeting.

Holston Presbytery COM Family Leave Policy

Eligibility

All ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in an installed relationship with a congregation (pastors and associate pastors) are eligible to have a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave (G-2.0804). Congregations are strongly encouraged but not required to provide these benefits to other pastoral leaders also. The provisions of this policy outline the minimum requirements for paid family medical leave for pastoral calls in Holston Presbytery.

Types of Leave

Paid family medical leave may encompass either of the following:

- *Parental Leave:* Within one year of birth or adoption by a pastor or the pastor's spouse, a pastor may take up to twelve consecutive or intermittent weeks of paid family medical leave.
- *Caregiver Leave:* In times when an immediate family member requires care due to a major illness or disability, a pastor may take up to twelve weeks' paid family medical leave, either consecutively or intermittently.

Leave Parameters

- A pastor may use up to twelve weeks (including Sundays) of paid family medical leave within any rolling twelve-month period. Ordinarily, this should not exceed more than twenty-four weeks within a sixty-month period. If more than one precipitating event or circumstance permitting the use of paid family medical leave arise within a particular twelve-month period, the session and pastor are encouraged to be gracious and generous in their care for one another.
- A pastor should provide as much advance notice as possible for potential paid family medical leave.
- Paid family medical leave may be used—in accordance with need—consecutively or intermittently. Paid family medical leave may also be used as a time offset that allows the pastor to move temporarily to part-time service. Whether used consecutively, intermittently, or as an offset, the total amount of leave time permitted should be equal to the equivalent of twelve weeks of work hours as regularly scheduled prior to the beginning of the leave.
- Eligibility for paid family medical leave begins on the first day of installed service and concludes upon dissolution of the call.
- During paid family medical leave, the pastor will continue to receive all benefits in their terms of call, including dues paid to and benefits provided by the Board of Pensions.
- Use of vacation time or other forms of paid leave is not required but may be used to extend leave time at the discretion of the pastor, in conversation with the Session.
- Any questions about eligibility for paid family medical leave are referred to the Committee on Ministry for interpretation.

Following the period of paid family medical leave, the pastor is expected, to return to a position with the same or comparable title, terms of call, hours worked, and job description,

unless circumstances that have arisen during the time on leave would make this prohibitive to the pastor or congregation.

Church Support

- While the individual congregation is responsible for the funding and administration of paid family medical leave, state-provided disability and paid leave benefits and Board of Pensions financial protection programs may be considered in order to help offset income continuation costs.
- Communication of mutual needs and planning is vital to minimize disruption for the congregation. Pastors are encouraged to anticipate leave with sensitivity around the needs of the congregation, including but not limited to temporary replacement and fulfillment of duties.
- Paid family medical leave is not intended to be a burden but rather a source of joy as congregations encourage pastors to take time for the good of their families. In the spirit of the connectional church, councils of the PC(USA) are encouraged to work together to assist individual congregations in the development of funding paid family medical leave in order to best serve God. Holston Presbytery, through the COM and our BOP congregational consultant, will work to support congregations as their pastors use paid family medical leave.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Finance, Budget & Stewardship Committee

Date of last meeting: June 18, 2025

ACTION ITEMS FOR GMB

None

ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY

None

INFORMATION

1. Monthly Income Statements and Balance Sheets were approved. We continue to make changes to improve and enhance these reports. Kudos to Beverly!
2. It was decided that a complete and formal 2025 audit will be conducted by an “outside” accounting firm, including process notes and recommendations, with money for this audit to be included in the 2026 audit.
3. It was decided that the Committee will meet on July 30, at Greeneville PC, for the purpose of interviewing representatives of financial services firms re: Presbytery investments.
4. It was decided that, due to recent and emergent changes in regard to Presbytery’s finances, we postpone to a later date our planned program emphasis scheduled for the August 2 plenary meeting of Presbytery.

Submitted 7.12.2025

Richard Raum

Income Statement (Profit and Loss)

Holston Presbytery

For the 6 months ended June 30, 2025

Account	Jan-Jun 2025
Income	
Campus Ministry Income	2,339.40
Holston Meadows Cabin Income	20,802.25
Unified Giving	90,195.82
Youth Program	1,958.45
Total Income	115,295.92
Gross Profit	115,295.92
Operating Expenses	
Administrative-Chuckey Church	4,635.30
Administrative-Presbytery Stated Meetings	270.00
Administrative: Amity Church Expenses	1,000.00
Administrative: Mt. Hermon expenses	888.20
Administrative:Accounting	4,971.40
Administrative:ADP Fees	738.81
Administrative:Bethany Expenses	15,415.83
Administrative:Communications	110.37
Administrative:Copy & Printing	397.04
Administrative:Dues/Memberships	1,050.48
Administrative:Insurance	3,960.52
Administrative:Internet Office	958.02
Administrative:Miscellaneous Administrative	1,448.02
Administrative:Office Supplies	824.57
Administrative:Office/General Administrative Expenses	349.74
Administrative:Payroll Taxes	1,621.92
Administrative:Security	270.00
Administrative:Service Contracts	23.17
Administrative:Software	84.00
Administrative:Staff Travel	623.35
Administrative:Telephone	343.89
Administrative:Utilities	(295.63)
Administrative:Zion Presbyterian Expenses	7,441.60
Bank Charges	(19.70)
Campus House - Lawn mowing	2,400.00
Campus House:Cleaning Service	1,800.00
Campus House:Electricity	1,666.67
Campus House:Internet	557.40
Campus House:Miscellaneous	48,770.00
Campus House:Programs	241.38
Campus House:Repairs & Maintenance	220.00
Campus House:Water	303.30
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Electricity	2,027.53
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Housekeeping - Cleaning	6,100.00
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Housekeeping - Other	760.87
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Interent	461.04
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Miscellaneous	1,648.50

Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Pest Control	198.00
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Propane	287.99
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Rental Fee:Holston Camp & Conference Center	7,277.97
Holston Meadows Cabin Expenses:Repairs & Maintenance	682.50
Holston Presbytery Committees:Background Checks	104.00
Ministries with Councils:Per Capita - Synod of Living Waters	17,420.46
Personnel-Administrative Manager expenses	491.76
Personnel: Stated Clerk Training	175.00
Personnel:Administrative Manager:Salary	8,276.63
Personnel:Assistant Stated Clerk:Salary	500.00
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:Board of Pensions	3,246.12
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:Cash Salary	28,025.00
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:Continuing Education	5,697.82
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:Housing Allowance	10,500.00
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:Professional Expenses	4,571.85
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:Retirement	5,675.00
Personnel:Executive Presbyterian:SECA	3,099.76
Personnel:Stated Clerk:Salary	6,000.00
Personnel:Treasurer:Salary	6,759.98
Youth Ministry	(700.00)
Total Operating Expenses	222,357.43
Operating Income	(107,061.51)
Other Income / (Expense)	
Interest Income	11,585.60
Interest Income - CPM	89.35
Interest Income-Strawberry Plains Loan	1,099.14
Transfer from Reserves	118,000.00
Total Other Income / (Expense)	130,774.09
Net Income	23,712.58

Balance Sheet

Holston Presbytery
As of June 30, 2025

Account		Jun 30, 2025	May 31, 2025	Apr 30, 2025
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalents				
	Bank of TN 7552 (Meadows Cabin)	82,004.61	84,064.95	82,231.32
	Citizens Bank 1696 (HP Checking)	43,367.00	40,000.00	41,721.53
	Citizens Bank 2071 (CPM Checking)	70,035.92	70,070.81	73,196.19
	Citizens Bank 6291 (Certified Deposit)	519,618.88	514,510.96	514,510.96
	Citizens Bank 8005 (Reserve Sweep)	379,982.22	375,335.11	405,016.63
	Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,095,008.63	1,083,981.83	1,116,676.63
	Accounts Receivable - Holston Presbytery	3,475.29	18,368.00	33,040.00
	Total Current Assets	1,098,483.92	1,102,349.83	1,149,716.63
Fixed Assets				
	Campus Ministry House	624,350.00	624,350.00	624,350.00
	Holston Meadows Cabin	649,903.11	649,903.11	649,903.11
	Total Fixed Assets	1,274,253.11	1,274,253.11	1,274,253.11
Long Term Assets				
	Hebron Presbyterian Church Loan	32,633.81	32,633.81	32,933.81
	New Covenant Mutual Funds	405,578.95	387,765.75	387,765.75
	Strawberry Plains Church Loan	219,925.59	225,323.05	225,929.33
	Tri-Cities Presbyterian Church Loan	73,943.08	73,943.08	73,943.08
	Total Long Term Assets	732,081.43	719,665.69	720,571.97
Total Assets		3,104,818.46	3,096,268.63	3,144,541.71
Liabilities and Equity				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Columbia Seminary	250.00	250.00	250.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Grandfather Home	0.00	486.00	486.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Hagan Endowmnet Fund	2,676.48	2,676.48	2,676.48
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Hope Alliance	93.00	93.00	93.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Least Coin	87.59	10.59	5.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Montreat College Conference	0.00	0.00	50.00

	Pass Thru Benevolence:OGHS	0.00	3,017.00	1,517.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:PCUSA Missionary Support	20,700.32	20,700.32	20,700.32
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Pentecost	(189.00)	(189.00)	(189.00)
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Sunset Gap	0.00	60.00	60.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Synod Support	0.00	0.00	200.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Theologian in Residence	800.00	800.00	800.00
	Pass Thru Benevolence:Union Seminary	400.00	400.00	400.00
	Pass-Thru Benevolence; World Missions	2,527.69	2,527.69	2,527.69
	Pass-Thru Benevolence:Thanksgiving	0.00	0.00	290.00
	Passs Thru Benevolence:Peacemaking	771.75	771.75	771.75
	Payroll Liabilities:403(b) Contributions	4,150.00	3,350.00	2,550.00
	Payroll Liabilities:Dental	337.86	263.60	189.34
	Payroll Liabilities:Longterm Disability	7.88	7.88	7.88
	Payroll Liabilities:Medical	591.26	591.26	591.26
	Payroll Liabilities:Vision	29.80	22.40	15.00
	Suspense	40.83	40.83	40.83
	Total Current Liabilities	33,275.46	35,879.80	34,032.55
	Long Term Liabilities			
	Church Mortgage Grants:Cedar Creek	7,500.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
	Church Mortgage Grants:Jennie Moore Memorial	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00
	Church Mortgage Grants:Old Kingsport	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
	Church Mortgage Grants:Tabernacle Greeneville	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
	Total Long Term Liabilities	29,500.00	29,500.00	29,500.00
Total Liabilities		62,775.46	65,379.80	63,532.55
Equity				
	5 Cents A Meal	22,263.65	19,962.15	18,403.87
	Braziel Scholarship	6,887.70	6,887.70	6,887.70
	Church Development Funds - New Covenant Funds	48,395.93	46,300.68	46,300.68
	Current Year Earnings	23,712.58	24,361.29	49,329.90
	Disaster Response	26,650.70	27,345.70	54,055.70
	Dixon Scholarship	6,797.71	6,797.71	6,797.71
	Equipment Reserve	697.02	697.02	697.02
	Evangelism	988.81	988.81	988.81
	Grigsby Scholarship	9,497.56	9,497.56	9,497.56
	Hattie Fathing Fund	1,314.78	1,314.78	1,314.78
	Honoraria	15,630.67	15,535.65	15,535.65
	Leesburg Fund	74,805.18	74,805.18	74,805.18
	Liberty Presbyterian	80,429.18	80,429.18	80,429.18
	Mount Zion Checking (3381)	56,885.69	56,885.69	56,885.69
	Mount Zion Checking (3392) Cemetary	31,626.31	31,626.31	31,626.31

		New Church Development Fund - New Covenant Funds	111,630.76	106,797.81	106,797.81
		Ninth Street Loan Fund - New Covenant Funds	18,932.20	17,858.50	17,858.50
		Pastoral Care	47.00	173.70	173.70
		PFSA Initial Investments	227,000.00	227,000.00	227,000.00
		Retained Earnings	1,646,151.12	1,657,910.06	1,657,910.06
		Robinson Fund	70.79	70.79	70.79
		Rosemont	55,284.16	55,284.16	55,284.16
		Small Church Fund - New Covenant	226,620.06	216,808.76	216,808.76
		Williams Fund	9,908.71	9,908.71	9,908.71
		Windsor Avenue Church	334,486.68	334,486.68	334,486.68
		Youth Triennium	5,328.05	1,154.25	1,154.25
	Total Equity		3,042,043.00	3,030,888.83	3,081,009.16
Total Liabilities and Equity			3,104,818.46	3,096,268.63	3,144,541.71

GENERAL MISSION BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: Personnel and Administration Subcommittee (update to previous May 28 submission)

Date of Meeting(s): July 10, 2025

ACTION ITEMS FOR GENERAL MISSION BOARD:

Nothing currently. However, upcoming and currently being worked on, in relationship to projected staffing changes:

1. New job descriptions which will include Presb. member assignments for writing
2. Date for review and editing of Personnel Policy and Procedures Manual (August 11 @ 10:30 in Presb. office)

ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY:

Nothing currently. However, upcoming and currently being worked on in relationship to projected staffing changes and in coordination with Strategic Planning Committee:

1. New job descriptions along with expected changes to administrative responsibilities.

INFORMATION:

In accordance to new job description and expected staffing changes, Staff review dates were changed to reflect writing of new job descriptions (Aug. 19) by staff and assigned Presb. members. Reviews will be completed no later than the November GMB meeting. The GMB will be responsible for receiving and reviewing these evaluations.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee on Ministry

Date of Meeting(s): May 13 and July 10, 2025

ACTION ITEMS FOR GENERAL MISSION BOARD:

1. To approve and adopt the Family Leave Policy

ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY:

2. To grant voice and vote to Gary Eller while he serves within the bounds of Holston Presbytery

INFORMATION:

- Approved the Interim Contract between First Bristol and Rev. Gary Eller.
- Approved the MDP for Jonesborough Presbyterian

GENERAL MISSION BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: Mission and Discipleship

Date of Meeting(s): June 23, 2025

ACTION ITEMS FOR GENERAL MISSION BOARD:

ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY:

If permission to serve Communion at the Youth Fall Retreat is needed, then it is thus requested.

INFORMATION:

Five Cents a Meal - application is online.

- follow-up letters from recipients must be received by July 31, 2025 in order to be eligible for the next cycle.

Small Church Gatherings - will next be held in the Kingsport area at the Kingsport Renaissance Center on Saturday, August 9, 11-2 pm.

- other areas to follow in September - most likely in the Johnson City and Piney Flats areas.

Youth - by the time of the Presbytery meeting the youth will have just returned from Triennium - therefore we REQUEST for the November meeting to allow time for youth to share their experiences during that Presbytery meeting.

- Youth "Back to School" skate party is to be held at the Johnson City Skate Park on Sunday, August 24, 4-6 pm.
- The Fall Youth Retreat is to be held at Camp Hebron November 14-16

Church Information - is still being gathered for beginning dates for congregations and missions that individual congregations are involved in.

Discipleship - "Go Bags" costing \$20 that includes a \$10 McDonald's card - various items the homeless could use that would include church information to be handed out by individuals is in process of commencing.

Three International Mission Initiatives - have been requested, Hopefully, since we are four members down, the Nomination Committee will bless us with those who will take these on.

Next meeting is a dinner meeting planned for Thursday, October 9.

GENERAL MISSION BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee: Campus Ministry Committee

Date of Meeting(s): 5/22, 6/18

ACTION ITEMS FOR GENERAL MISSION BOARD:

Pause Campus Ministry (UKirk ETSU) for the Fall 2025 semester as we prepare a comprehensive plan for the future of this ministry and a new director.

ACTION ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY:

INFORMATION:

After thorough discussion, we made the decision to pause campus ministry programming at ETSU for the fall semester. This decision was not made lightly but reflects our commitment to building a sustainable, forward-looking ministry.

Without a director and with limited interim staffing options, the committee agreed that a temporary pause would allow us to focus on developing a comprehensive strategic plan, secure appropriate resources, and prepare for new leadership.

We acknowledged the importance of communicating this decision clearly to students, partner congregations, and supporters, emphasizing that this is a season of preparation rather than withdrawal.

Potential partnerships with local congregations and campus organizations remain on the table and will be explored during this planning phase to ensure that support networks are ready when programming resumes.

The committee closed the meeting with a shared sense of responsibility and hope for the future of campus ministry. We affirmed our commitment to providing a strong foundation for the next chapter at ETSU and to nurturing a vibrant, welcoming space for students in years to come.

Trustees' report to the General Mission Board of Holston Presbytery as of July 14, 2025:

For general information:

1. Upper Meadows Cabin; sale has been finalized including the following:

Holston Presbytery approved the purchase from Holston Presbytery Camp and Conference Center of the 6.4-acre parcel of land on which Holston Meadows Cabin sits at a sale price of \$175,000. (Said sale accomplished and funds transferred to Camp.)

AND Holston Presbytery accepted an offer from Mr. David LaVoy to purchase Holston Meadows Cabin for \$825,000, contingent on a closing date prior to June 25. (Said condition being met and sale finalized).

(Note: \$600,00.00 has been invested in Eastman Credit Union CDs yielding approximately 4.30%)

2. **Mount Herman Presbyterian Church property – Continues in process:** Holston Presbytery accepted an offer of \$15,000 from Mr. James Rivers to purchase the building that formerly housed the Mt. Hermon Presbyterian Church in Big Stone Gap, VA. Trustees ask that two of the stained-glass windows and all of the furnishings and contents be retained by Holston Presbytery.

3. **Bethany Property – Continues in process**

Lease/sale negotiations continue. It should be noted that the structure required a roof replacement, which will be considered in sale negotiations.

4. **Other Matters:**

Under the jurisdiction of an Administrative Commission are **Barton Springs**; the locksmith changed the locks; at Zion, the land survey was scheduled.

Requested actions: None at this time.

Report of the Administrative Commission

August 2, 2025

The Administrative Commission continues its work in the following areas:

- Amity Presbyterian Church, Greeneville – The survey of the property has been completed. A title search and opinion on the property is currently underway and the Commission is waiting for the opinion from the attorney.
- Mount Hermon Presbyterian Church, Big Stone Gap – The Trustees have accepted an offer on the property. The closing on the sale if not already complete will be in the very near future. There are furnishings and windows that have yet to be removed from the facility.
- Zion Presbyterian Church, Greeneville – A title search and opinion on the two properties for Zion is currently underway and the Commission is waiting for the opinion from the attorney. The survey of the properties is underway and should be completed in the very near future. Research has continued which has helped in identifying additional information about members and those concerned about the care of the cemetery. There is much more work to be done in finalizing the process.
- The Commission met at the Chuckey Presbyterian Church building recently. A Greeneville realtor recently provided a market valuation for the Chuckey Presbyterian Church property. That report can be available by request. There has been interest in the purchase of the facility. Those churches and organizations that have expressed an interest in the property currently may not be in a position to finalize a purchase. We will continue to entertain offers and interest in the use of the facility.
- Barton Springs held its final worship service on Sunday, June 29, 2025. As you will see from the recommendations, the Commission is recommending the dissolution of this congregation. The treasurer of the church is finalizing the financial details for the church and will turn those records and funds over to the Presbytery. The Presbytery is also in possession of the other church records. Barton Springs had entered into a lease with a Baptist congregation. The Commission intends to honor the lease for the next several months in hopes of negotiating a new lease or a lease purchase for the Barton Springs property.

Recommendations:

1. That the Mt. Hermon, Chuckey, Barton Springs and Zion Presbyterian Churches be dissolved.
2. That our meeting today include a litany of thanksgiving for the good and long ministry of the churches being dissolved.
3. That the Presbytery authorize the Transitional Executive and representatives of the Commission to negotiate a lease/lease purchase for the Barton Springs and Chuckey properties subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
- 4.

FINANCE, BUDGET & STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Minutes of the June 18 Meeting

Attendance

- Members -- Richard Raum, Chair; Aaron Caton, Jeanne Stokes
- Staff – Karen Russell, Beverly Johnson

Opening Business

- Meeting convened at 6:15 PM with Psalm and Prayer
- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved

Financial Statements

- Johnson presented Income Statement and Balance Sheet (both through May 31). These were discussed at length and approved

Old Business

- Audit. After discussion it was decided to not proceed with an informal committee financial review, but that we resolve to conduct a formal “outside” audit for 2025, to include a process review and recommendations, and that the 2026 Budget include money for this audit.
- Campus House. Russell presented an update on various possibilities under consideration by other committees.

New Business

- Investments. After discussion, it was decided to interview three financial services firms re: strategies for investments.

A meeting for these interviews will be held on Wednesday, July 30, 4-7 PM, at Greeneville Presbyterian Church.

- Presbytery Engagement. After discussion, it was decided to go forth with a Finance, Budget & Stewardship Emphasis at the August 2 Meeting of Presbytery. This will include presentations to include: [1] Reflection and Conversation re: Stewardship; and [2] Information re: Presbytery budgeting for 2026.

A meeting to design and plan this event will be held on Thursday July 17, 6 PM, by ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at about 8:30 PM.

Minutes submitted by Raum on June 30, 2025.

Appendix 1 – Some Meeting Guidelines

Who can speak and vote at presbytery meetings:

- Teaching elders who are active members, which includes
 - Teaching elders engaged in validated ministry though installed or contracted congregational ministry in Holston Presbytery
 - Teaching elders engaged in approved validated ministries outside the congregation or outside the Presbytery
 - Teaching elders who have been designated retired
- Teaching elders who have been designated members-at-large
- Primary ruling elder commissioners
- Ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service by Holston Presbytery who are under contract with a congregation
- The presbytery moderator and vice-moderator, if ruling elders, for the term of office

Who can speak at presbytery meetings:

- Corresponding members
- Certified Christian educators
- Others permitted by the presbytery (e.g. committee moderators, staff, guests)

Rules for Debate for Matters before the Presbytery

(Adopted by Holston Presbytery, June 9, 1990)

- Up to (30) minutes will be allowed for debate for a given issue. The time can be extended if Presbytery votes to give additional time for debate.
- In debates on any pending matters, no member of the Presbytery shall be allowed to speak for more than three (3) minutes until all other members who desire to speak on the matter have been heard. The Moderator will balance debate between pro and con. The member presenting a motion or submitting a report has a right to open and close debate.
- At the end of the thirty minutes, Presbytery will proceed to vote on the matter at hand or extend the debate for a definite time.
- Distributing materials at a Presbytery meeting is a privilege, not a right.
- Materials should come from Presbytery committees, General Assembly or Synod, or one of our Institutions.

- Permission from Council is required to distribute materials at the Presbytery meeting that come from one of the various advocacy groups in the PC(USA).
-

Guidelines for Presbyterians during Times of Disagreement

- Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ;
- We will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
- We will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.
- Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
- State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding.
- Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.
- Focus on ideas and suggestions. We will not engage in name calling or labeling of others.
- Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
- Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
- Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
- Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:
 - Urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously
 - Seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement
 - Be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their freedom of conscience
 - Abide by the decision of the majority, working for change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.

Revised: September 11, 2007

Appendix 2 – Future Events

Dates for the General Mission Board and Presbytery meetings in 2025:

2025

General Mission Board

October 21, 2025 (Tues)

Presbytery

November 4, 2025 (Tues) – First Presbyterian,
Greeneville

General Mission Board Meetings ordinarily meet in person at Campus Ministry House,
1412 College Heights Rd, Johnson City, at 3:00 PM.

Dates for Committee Meetings:

COM 2025 Meeting Schedule: (typically the second Thursday of the month at 4pm)

August 14 on Zoom

Sept. 11 in person

Oct. 9 on Zoom

Nov. 13 on Zoom

*December business is carried out through email vote.

Mission and Discipleship:

Thursday, October 9, for a dinner meeting.

CPM –

September 2, 3pm

PRESBYTERY FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you!

1. What part of today's meeting was meaningful to you?

2. How can we improve the meeting?

3. How can Presbytery be more sensitive to the needs of your congregation?

4. Did you experience any issues with accessibility at the meeting?

5. Would you be willing to help with worship at a future Presbytery meeting: ____ Y
____ N
(If yes, please include your name and contact information below.)

6. Other comments:

Your name (optional) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

You may leave your completed form in the basket on the registration table or you may email your response to info@holstonpresbytery.org. Thank you for your feedback.



Second Annual Festival of Choirs

September 12-13, 2025

First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, Tennessee

The "Festival of Choirs" is open to all church choir directors & members and will explore accessible anthems specifically targeted towards small churches and small church choirs. Bring your choir and join the Mid-South region for this enriching experience full of fellowship & song!

Repertoire:

Abana - arr. Greg Scheer

Be Thou My Vision - arr. Alice Parker

Christ Has Broken Down the Wall - Mark Miller

Come, O Thou Traveler Unknown - arr. David Mennicke

O Give Thanks to the Lord - Jody Brown and Jeff McGaha

True Light - Keith Hampton

You Are Holy - arr. John Helgen

What is an "accessible anthem"? For the purposes of this conference we are defining an accessible anthem as having at least two of the following traits:

1. The anthem can be sung with as few as one or two singers per voice part.
2. The anthem features repeated material that shortens and simplifies the learning process.
3. The anthem contains substantial unison sections.