# MINUTES

# STATED MEETING OF HOLSTON PRESBYTERY

# AUGUST 5, 2023

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Call to Order, Opening Worship and Land Acknowledgment 4513

Enrollment 4513

Declaration of Quorum and Consent Agenda 4513 and 4520

General Mission Board Report 4520

New Committee Structure Approval 4533

Small Group Reports on New Committee Structure 4534

General Mission Board Report, Part 2 4535

Update to Covenant Partner Relationship with Tusculum University Approval 4535

Presentation by Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions 4535

Reports by Holston Presbytery Staff 4535

UKirk ETSU Director 4535

Transitional Stated Clerk 4536

Transitional Executive Presbyter 4537

Financial Reports Update 4538

Administration and Budget Committee 4538

Approval of Financial Reports 4538

Mission and Evangelism Committee Report 4538

Discipleship Committee Report 4538

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report 4539

Annual Consultation with Candidate Emily Morrell 4539

Enrollment of Russ Pearson as a Candidate 4539

Waiver of Time Requirements and Certification of Justin Miller as Ready To Receive

A Call 4540

Nominations Committee Report 4542

Election of 2024 Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator 4542 and 4543

Committee on Ministry Report 4543

Commissioning of Ruling Elders Nancy Johnson and Rebecca Wilcox 4544

New Business 4544

Committee on Thanks 4544

Joys and Concerns 4545

Appendices 4545

Appendix 1 – Committee on Ministry - Handout from Board of Pensions 4546

Appendix 2 – Administration and Budget - Financial Reports

Appendix 3 - Mission and Evangelism - Five-Cents-A-Meal Grant Applications

Appendix 4 - Nominations Committee Self-Nomination Form

Adjournment

**M****INUTES**

**STATED MEETING OF HOLSTON PRESBYTERY**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**600 W. MAIN STREET**

**MORRISTOWN, TENNESSEE**

**AUGUST 5, 2023**

Holston Presbytery met for its stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, Tennessee at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was opened with worship and a Land Acknowledgement as part of the Prayers of the People. The worship service focused on healing and wholeness and anointing with oil was offered as part of the service. The Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman preached and the Rev. Kaye Florence assisted him in celebrating communion. An offering was taken for Five-Cents-A-Meal in the amount of $432.00. After worship, there was a ten-minute break. The meeting reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Moderator Norris recognized Rev. Sam Schaus, pastor of First Presbyterian Morristown, who welcomed commissioners to the church. Moderator Norris welcomed first time commissioners and guests. New pastors, the Rev. Dr. Bishop Greene and the Rev. Dr. Ramy Marcos, were introduced to the presbytery. A quorum was present.

**ENROLLMENT:**

TEACHING ELDERS PRESENT/ABSENT:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| **Adams, Collin** | **X** | **X** |
| **Alderman, Brian** | **X** |  |
| **Allen, William E.** |  | **X** |
| **Amstutz, Sharon** | **X** |  |
| **Anderson, William** | **X** |  |
| **Armistead, Robert L.** |  | **X** |
| **Askew, Catherine Clasen** |  | **X** |
| **Austin, Richard C.** |  | **X** |
| **Barron, Earle** |  | **X** |
| **Bement, Gary** |  | **X** |
| **Bier, Tom** |  | **X** |
| **Blackwelder, Andy** | **X** |  |
| **Bohn, Christine** | **X** |  |
| **Cartwright, Gregory** |  | **X** |
| **Cave, Payne** |  | **X** |
| **Chapman, Alan** |  | **X** |
| **Christian, H. Martin** |  | **X** |
| **Clark, Dan** |  | **X** |
| **Clements, Lee** | **X** |  |
| **Cobb, Harrell L.** | **X** |  |
| **Coggin, Mitch** |  | **X** |
| **Davis, Brandon** | **X** |  |
| **Donaldson, Dan** | **X** |  |
| **Fifield, Richard L.** |  | **X** |
| **Florence, Kaye** | **X** |  |
| **Greene, Bishop** | **X** |  |
| **Hazelwood, Deven** |  | **X** |
| **Helphinstine, Paul** |  | **X** |
| **Hollingshead, Glenda** | **X** |  |
| **Hopper, Barron** |  | **X** |
| **Huff, Allen** | **X** |  |
| **Hutchison, Ralph** |  | **X** |
| **Hyers, William D.** |  | **X** |
| **Jenkins, Todd** | **X** |  |
| **Johnson, Khayla** |  | **X** |
| **Jordan, Greg** |  | **X** |
| **Kestner, C. Phillip** |  | **X** |
| **Knisley, Mark** | **X** |  |
| **Locke, Patricia** |  | **X** |
| **Marcos, Ramy** | **X** |  |
| **Martin, James** |  | **X** |
| **Martin, John L.** |  | **X** |
| **Mays, James** |  | **X** |
| **Meredith, Tim W.** |  | **X** |
| **Moore, Diana** | **X** |  |
| **Norris, Rodney** | **X** |  |
| **Randolph, J. David** | **X** |  |
| **Raum, Richard** | **X** |  |
| **Ray, Richard** |  | **X** |
| **Rolling, George L.** |  | **X** |
| **Russell, Karen** | **X** |  |
| **Rust, Maggie** | **X** |  |
| **Scruggs, Glenn** |  | **X** |
| **Schaus, Samuel** | **X** |  |
| **Sharrett, Lawrence** |  | **X** |
| **Shaw, Angus** | **X** |  |
| **Shelton, Mike** |  | **X** |
| **Steinle, Marshall** | **X** |  |
| **Sutherland, Terry** |  | **X** |
| **Weddington, Sam** |  | **X** |
| **Weisz, Stephen R.** |  | **X** |
| **Welch, David** | **X** |  |
| **White, Katherine** |  | **X** |
| **White, Ray** |  | **X** |
| **White, Robert** | **X** |  |
| **Whitesides, Davis** |  | **X** |
| **Willard, Pat** |  | **X** |
| **Wintringham, John** |  | **X** |
| **Wyatt, Brian** |  | **X** |
| **Young, William** |  | **X** |
|  |  |  |

MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS PRESENT/ABSENT:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| **Diddle, Mark** |  | **X** |
| **Kizer, Lew** |  | **X** |
| **Playl, Steve** |  | **X** |

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS PRESENT/ABSENT:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Present** | **Absent** |
| **Austin, Jim** | **X** |  |
| **Ballinger, Calvin** |  | **X** |
| **Barnette, Anthony** | **X** |  |
| **Cagle, Tracy** | **X** |  |
| **Catts, John** |  | **X** |
| **Cobb, Marci** | **X** |  |
| **Culbertson, Mike** |  | **X** |
| **Dalton, David** |  | **X** |
| **Farmer, Mary Jane** |  | **X** |
| **Freshour, TJ** |  | **X** |
| **Helton, Gary** |  | **X** |
| **Johnson, Nancy** | **X** |  |
| **Light, David** | **X** |  |
| **Morelock, Jeff** |  | **X** |
| **Rice, Cheryl** |  | **X** |
| **Stevens, Betty** |  | **X** |
| **Tucker, John** | **X** |  |
| **Wilcox, Becky** | **X** |  |
| **Wise, Scott** |  | **X** |
| **Wright, Kathleen** |  | **X** |

RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Congregation** | **Principal** | **Alternate** | **Visitor/Other** |
| **Amity** |  |  |  |
| **Barton Springs** | Elizabeth Tucker |  |  |
| **Bethel, Dandridge** |  |  |  |
| **Bethel, Kingsport** | Donna Sade | Nancy Johnson |  |
| **Blountville** |  |  |  |
| **Bristol, First** | Laura Ong |  |  |
|  | Han Ong |  |  |
| **Cedar Creek** | Becky Wilcox |  |  |
| **Cedarview** |  |  |  |
| **Chuckey** |  |  |  |
| **Clinton** |  |  |  |
| **Cold Spring** | Suzi Hooyboer | Lorie Fleenor |  |
| **Colonial Heights** | Sharon Pugh |  |  |
| **Cove Creek** |  |  |  |
| **Covenant** | Stacy Larsen | Kathi Cary |  |
| **Cross Anchor** |  |  |  |
| **Elizabethton, First** | Jim Austin | Paul Gabinet |  |
| **Erwin** | Mike Reese | Grace-Kathleen Bowen |  |
| **Greeneville, First** | W. Jay Oberfeitinger |  |  |
| **Hebron** | Marty Allen |  |  |
| **Hopewell** | Jane Schule |  |  |
| **Jefferson City, First** | Linda Noonkesser | Martha Sanders |  |
| **Jennie Moore** |  |  |  |
| **Johnson City, First** |  |  |  |
| **Jonesborough** | Doug Hillmutt |  |  |
| **Keystone** |  |  |  |
| **Kingsport, First** | Allen Wright |  |  |
| **Leesburg** |  |  |  |
| **Magill Memorial** |  |  |  |
| **Morristown, First** | Suzanne Harrison | Sharon McAnear |  |
| **Mountain City** |  |  |  |
| **Mt. Hermon** |  |  |  |
| **New Bethel** |  |  |  |
| **New Ebenezer** |  |  |  |
| **New Market** |  |  |  |
| **New Providence** | Michael Garrison |  |  |
| **Newport** |  |  |  |
| **Oakland** |  |  |  |
| **Old Kingsport** |  |  |  |
| **Philadelphia** |  |  |  |
| **Piney Flats** |  |  |  |
| **Preston Hills** | R. Gale Manley | Carolyn Russ | Val Manley |
| **Reedy Creek, Bristol** |  |  |  |
| **Reedy Creek, Kingsport** |  |  |  |
| **Rock Creek** |  |  |  |
| **Rogersville** | Jason Hobbs |  |  |
| **Salem** |  |  |  |
| **Shady Valley** |  |  |  |
| **Shenandoah** | Dave Light |  |  |
| **St. Paul** | David Turner |  |  |
| **Strawberry Plains** |  |  |  |
| **Tabernacle** |  |  |  |
| **Timber Ridge** |  |  |  |
| **Tri City Korean** |  |  |  |
| **Watauga Avenue** |  |  |  |
| **Waverly Road** | Betsy Preston |  |  |
| **Weaver Union** |  |  |  |
| **West Ridge** |  |  |  |
| **Zion** |  |  |  |

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR: Rodney Norris

PRESBYTERY VICE-MODERATOR: Kathi Cary

PRESBYTERY STAFF: John Golden, Diana Moore, Karen Russell

COMMITTEE CHAIRS: Paul Gabinet, General Mission Board

VISITING/CORRESPONDING TEACHING ELDERS/MINISTERS: Rev. Youngho Lee, Atlantic Korean American Presbytery

VISITORS: Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions, Mark Brown, St. Paul and Hebron, Justin Miller, First, Bristol, Chris Shumate, Chaplain, Tusculum University

First Presbyterian Church, Morristown: Denver Bennett, Judy Bennett, Carol Collinn, Owen Colvin, Rachel Colvin, Barbara Hale, Bill Hale, Paul McAnear, David Tilson, and numerous other greeters and hosts

The below consent agenda was adopted.

Consent Agenda:

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be in the normal course of business by the Presbytery and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. If discussion is required from the floor of Presbytery, the item in question will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

* Approve enrollment
* Declaration of quorum
* Approve giving visiting ministers voice
* Appointment of Kaye Florence and Stacy Larsen as Committee on Thanks
* Appointment of Dan Donaldson and Angus Shaw to Bills & Overtures Committee
* Adoption of Docket

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS**: None.

**GENERAL MISSION BOARD** report was given by Paul Gabinet and Transitional Executive Presbyter Karen Russell.

### General Mission Board

### July 18, 2023

### Draft Minutes

In person at Campus Ministry House, 1412 College Heights Rd, Johnson City, at 3:00 PM.

The meeting was called to order with an opening devotional and prayer by Moderator Paul Gabinet at 3:00 PM.

Present: Paul Gabinet; Rodney Norris; Kathi Cary, Bill Anderson: Chris Bohn; Greg Cartwright; Todd Jenkins; ~~Dave Light~~; Maggie Rust; ~~Donna Sade, Sam Schaus; Marshall Steinle~~; Dave Welch; Gwen Hunter; John Golden; Kaye Florence, Karen Russell, and Diana Moore.

**Reports/Recommendations to the General Mission Board:**

Moderator’s Report Rodney Norris

Vice-Moderator’s Report Kathi Cary

Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman will preach at the August 5th meeting. The service will include communion and anointing.

**SESSION RECORDS REVIEW EXTENSION**

The presbytery is mandated by our *Book of Order* (G-3.0108) to annually review the proceedings and actions of sessions within its jurisdiction—commonly referred to as a review of the session minutes. For Holston Presbytery, the administrative review of the session records is under the auspices of the General Mission Board.

and reported in the minutes of this calendar year, the General Mission Board determined that the review be held during the summer months in geographic clusters so that the results can be reported by November. The first records review session has been completed (July 8 at First Presbyterian Church Johnson City). A second will be held on July 22 at First Presbyterian Kingsport. The initial session that was scheduled for June 24 (Hopewell Presbyterian Church) had to be cancelled. Re-scheduling the session at Hopewell to Saturday, September 23, will still ensure that the session records review will be completed within the calendar year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the General Mission Board extend the time for Session Records Review and re-schedule the review session at Hopewell Presbyterian Church to Saturday, September 23, 2023. APPROVED.

Transitional Stated Clerk’s Report Diana Moore

1. Retirement of Transitional Stated Clerk as of December 31, 2023.
2. Empowered the Administration and Budget Committee to hire an Assistant Stated Clerk as of October 15, 2023, for remainder of 2023. This individual would be nominated in November to be elected by the Presbytery as Transitional Stated Clerk for one year beginning January 1, 2024. Salary of $1,000 per month; SECA allowance equal to 7.65% of effective salary. APPROVED.
3. Updated job description APPROVED (attached at pages 6-8).

Transitional Executive Presbyter’s Report Karen Russell

1. Moving the office – plans
   1. Internet/phone
   2. Arrange to move stuff in office and in storage room
   3. Need conference table and chairs (Bill Anderson will donate a two-drawer locked filing cabinet.)
2. Working in conjunction with Administration and Budget on Manual revision and proposed Standing Rules
   1. Change in committee structure proposed to be approved at August presbytery meeting with effective date January 1, 2024, so Nominating Committee can work with new structure (see Recommendation from Administration and Budget below)
   2. First reading of Manual revisions at November presbytery meeting/second reading and approval at February 2024 presbytery meeting
   3. Proposed Standing Rules adopted by GMB in October and approved by presbytery in November. There will probably be Zoom Town Hall meetings to discuss the proposed revisions.
   4. Additional policies/manuals still needed (COM, Personnel policies, Dissolution policy, Financial policies and procedures)
3. Task Force for new required policies and training mandated by *Book of Order* changes
   1. Synod Executive Greg Goodwiller possibly providing training on new Church Discipline when he is here in November
4. Board of Pension changes for 2024-2025
5. Updated Covenant Agreement with Tusculum University APPROVED with RECOMMENDATION to refer updated agreement to the Presbytery for approval (attached at pages 9-12).

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Administration and Budget

1. Financial Reports for the first two quarters of 2023 are included in the Presbytery packet. *(These are included as Appendix \_\_\_\_)*
2. Recommendation on Proposed Change to the Committee structure

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE GENERAL MISSION BOARD**:

Whereas, the General Mission Board of Holston Presbytery hired a Transitional Executive Presbyter (TEP) to provide transitional ministry leadership to Holston Presbytery, the General Mission Board, committees, leadership and staff, leading Holston Presbytery toward a vibrant

future, moving it toward its vision, undertaking its mission and accomplishing its ministry goals. The goals for the TEP included the following:

* 1. Assist Mission Priorities Commission in discerning the mission and vision for Holston Presbytery
  2. Update committee structure based on new mission priorities
  3. Manual of Operations revision based on new mission priorities
  4. Help develop new staffing plan (design for what is needed for Holston Presbytery which might include a shared executive with another presbytery)
  5. Assist in relationship building which fosters ministry.

Because this work is multi-phased, the Administration and Budget Committee and the General Mission Board believe these goals could best be accomplished by first updating the committee structure. By updating the committee structure, individuals throughout the presbytery can find opportunities to serve and spread the good news of Jesus Christ in fresh and energizing ways in the presbytery. The Administration and Budget Committee and the General Mission Board recommend the following:

1. That the following actions be approved August 5, 2023;
   1. The proposed committee structure outlined below be adopted as of January 1, 2024; and

* The Presbytery (aka “The Assembly”)
  + - General Mission Board (aka “The Board”) \*
      * + Subcommittee on Administration & Personnel
        + Presbytery Goals and Vision; Strategic Planning
        + Overall Coordination of Holston Presbytery
        + Commission on Ministry (COM) \*

Pastoral and Leadership Transitions

Terms of Call

CRE/Commissioned Pastor commissioning

* + - * + Committee on Preparation (CPM)

Nurture and training of candidates for Ministry

CRE/ Commissioned Pastor training

* + - * + Committee on Representation and Nominations (Representation)
        + Committee on Finance, Budget & Stewardship

Financial policies & procedures

Budget preparation

Expense Approval

* + - * + Committee on Discipleship & Evangelism

Subcommittee on Campus Ministry

Youth, Young Adult Ministry

Older Adult Ministry

Chistian Education

Congregational Vitality

* + - * + Committee on Mission & Outreach

Shared Mission programs (Five Cents a Meal, Special Offerings)

Shared Mission grants

Church development grants (Rosemont Fund)

* + - * + Trustees \*

\*denotes some responsibilities with direct supervision of/reporting to the Presbytery (The Assembly)

* 1. The proposed committee structure changes to the Holston Presbytery *2021 Manual of Administrative Operations* be approved at the August 5, 2023, stated presbytery meeting. APPROVED.

**RECOMMENDATION TO THE PRESBYTERY:**

1. That the presbytery, upon its adoption of committee structure, and the proposed changes in the *2021 Holston Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations*, in order to facilitate the new committee structure and in accordance with §10 Parliamentary Authority and Amendments, suspend the method of amending the *Manual of Administrative Operations*, requiring two presbytery meetings, for the August 5, 2023, stated presbytery meeting by two-thirds vote. APPROVED.

**Actions Referred to the General Mission Board by Presbytery:** None

**Proposed Docket with changes and Reports for the August 5, 2023, Stated Meeting of Holston Presbytery, to be held at First Presbyterian Church, Morristown. APPROVED.**

9:15 AM Registration

10:00 AM Call to Order/Opening Worship

12:30 PM Lunch

3:00 PM Adjournment

Presentation by Keenan Rodgers, Board of Pensions

Healing and Wholeness Worship led by the Rev. Dr. Brian Alderman, King University

Communion and Anointing

Small Group Leaders

1. Chris Bohn

2. Karen Russell

3. Greg Cartwright

4. Todd Jenkins

**Other Business**

**Sharing of Concerns and Prayers**

**Future Dates for the General Mission Board and Presbytery meetings in 2023, 2024 and 2025:**

**2023**

General Mission Board Presbytery

October 24, 2023 (Tues) November 7, 2023 (Tue) First Presbyterian, Jefferson City

**2024**

General Mission Board Presbytery

January 16, 2024 (Tues) February 3, 2024 (Sat) Rogersville Presbyterian

April 16, 2024 (Tues) May 7, 2024 (Tues) Jonesborough, TN

July 16, 2024 (Tues) August 3, 2024 (Sat) First Presbyterian, Kingsport

October 22, 2024 (Tues) November 12, 2024 (Tues) Holston Presbytery Camp and

Retreat Center

**2025**

General Mission Board Presbytery

January 14, 2025 (Tues) February 1, 2025 (Sat) - Vacant

April 15, 2025 (Tues) May 6, 2025 (Tues) - Vacant

July 15, 2025 (Tues) August 2, 2025 (Sat) – First Presbyterian, Elizabethton

October 21, 2025 (Tues) November 4, 2025 (Tues) - Vacant

**Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM with prayer by Dave Welch.**

The **General Mission Board Minutes Committee** approved the minutes. (Paul Gabinet, Todd Jenkins, Maggie Rust, ~~Donna Sade~~, and Diana Moore)

**ASSISTANT STATED CLERK/TRANSITIONAL STATED CLERK**

**PERSON/POSITION DESCRIPTION**

**Holston Presbytery**

1. **PURPOSE:** To fulfill the functions of Stated Clerk as set forth in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and other specific responsibilities as assigned by Holston Presbytery.
2. **ACCOUNTABILITY AND EVALUATION:** The Stated Clerk is elected and employed by the Presbytery during the term of employment. This person is accountable to the Presbytery through the Personnel Committee in conjunction with the General Mission Board of the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall operate in accordance with all personnel policies of the Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall have a connectional relationship with the Synod of Living Waters and the General Assembly. The Personnel Committee will conduct an initial performance review at the end of the first six months and annually thereafter.
3. **PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND CHARACTERISTICS:**
4. Is an elder or minister able to serve within the bounds of Holston Presbytery.
5. Holds an abiding commitment to the Presbyterian Church (USA)**.**
6. Is knowledgeable of polity and constitution (Book of Order and Book of Confessions) and able to be a resource to those who seek input regarding interpretation of the Book of Order and other ecclesiastical matters.
7. Upholds the highest ethical standards to which all officers of the church are held, including, but not limited to: Trustworthiness, confidentiality, integrity, fairness and inclusivity.
8. Has strong administrative skills:
   1. Works collaboratively and cooperatively within and across staff, the General Mission Board, commissions, committees, synods and other presbyteries and/or other entities as deemed necessary to do the work of being a Stated Clerk with a holistic view of the role each plays in the church of Jesus Christ.
   2. Is organized.
   3. Helps guide in times of ambiguity, transition and change.
   4. Excellent in communication skills.
9. Exhibits strong interpersonal skills:
   1. Flexible, compassionate, patient, self-aware, and practices active listening.
   2. Is approachable, personable, and collegial.
10. **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. **ECCLESIASTICAL OFFICER**
   1. Serves as an officer and corporate secretary of the Presbytery in accordance with all duties stated in the Book of Order and in accordance with those of the Presbytery Manual of Operation, as well as the By Laws of Holston Presbytery, Inc.
2. **PRESERVATON OF CORPORATE HISTORY**
   1. Records, produces and preserves minutes of the Presbytery.
   2. Reports annually to the Synod and General Assembly all required statistics, pertinent information, and records and participates in processes to review records as required by the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.
   3. Works with other staff of the Presbytery as the Clerk deems necessary for fulfillment of these responsibilities.
3. **RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES**
   1. Serves as a resource to those involved in the administrative and judicial disciplinary process of the Presbytery, in accordance with the Rules of Discipline.
4. **COMMUNICATIONS**
   1. Reports as needed to the appropriate governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
5. **ADVICE AND COUNSEL**
   1. Offers constitutional opinions and/or rulings related to Presbytery such as decisions of Permanent Judicial Commissions and Administrative Commissions as deemed appropriate.
   2. In cooperation with the Executive Presbyter (or equivalent) provides information to the Presbytery related to GA matters such as overtures, polity changes, Book of Order and Book of Confession changes.
   3. Serves as parliamentarian and polity advisor at meetings of COM, General Mission Board, and the Presbytery.
   4. Provides support to all other appropriate commissions and committees as needed**.**
6. **CORPORATE OFFICER**
   1. Fulfills the responsibilities of the corporate office as stated in the bylaws of the Presbytery.
7. **MEMBER OF PRESBYTERY STAFF**
   1. Works in collaboration with a staff team headed by the Executive Presbyter.
8. **CONSULTANT FOR COMMISSION ON MINISTRY**
   1. Advises and assists in the PNC process.
   2. Develops contracts and Terms of Call.
   3. Provides year to year administrative consistency.
9. **TERM OF OFFICE AND COMPENSATION:**

The Assistant Stated Clerk is hired for a two-and one-half month time period. The Transitional Stated Clerk is elected by Holston Presbytery for a one- year term. This position is 10 hours a week. Salary is $1000 per month and SECA allowance equal to 7.65% of effective salary.

**A COVENANT BETWEEN HOLSTON PRESBYTERY, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) AND TUSCULUM UNIVERSITY**

1. **PURPOSE**  
   The purpose of this covenant is to define the nature and scope of the relationship mutually agreed to by Tusculum University and Holston Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
2. **HISTORY OF THE RELATIONSHIP**  
   Tusculum University was founded by the Presbyterian Church. A Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Hezekiah Balch, established Greeneville University, which was chartered on September 3, 1794. In 1818, Tusculum Academy was established by another Princeton graduate and Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Samuel Doak. In 1844, Tusculum Academy became Tusculum University. In 1868, the two Universities consolidated on the Tusculum campus under the name of Greeneville and Tusculum University, and, in 1912, the name was officially changed to Tusculum University. Throughout the over two hundred years of its existence, Tusculum University has had a continuing relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and, in particular, with Presbyterian churches in the region which is now known as Holston Presbytery.
3. **MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY**

Building on a rich Presbyterian heritage and a pioneering spirit, Tusculum University provides and active and experiential education within a caring Christian environment to inspire civic engagement, to enrich personal lives, and to prepare career ready professionals.

1. **NATURE OF THE UNIVERSITY**  
   Tusculum University takes seriously its heritage as a daughter of the Presbyterian Church. The liberal arts tradition with which the name, Tusculum University, is uniquely associated was formulated by Cicero at his academy in Tusculum, Italy, and brought to East Tennessee by Samuel Doak by the way of the University in New Jersey (Princeton University). The tradition emphasizes closeness of faculty-student involvement, both within and without the classroom, in order to cultivate citizenship, Christian character and practical wisdom among members of the University community. That tradition is very much in keeping with the heritage of the emphasis on the formation of strong Christian character as an essential ingredient of citizenship and practical wisdom. Tusculum University is committed to strengthening its relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) so that the University can bring its services to the Church, and the Churches can learn of and benefit from the distinctive mission and education offered by Tusculum University. In the curriculum of Tusculum University and through opportunities for worship and service, the University’s Presbyterian heritage will be highlighted. Specific examples are included in the section on “Responsibilities Under the Covenant.” Religious studies occupy a central place in the general studies curriculum, in order for students to study the religious and biblical heritage of the country in the context of larger issues of humankind. Tusculum desires its heritage as a Presbyterian University to be woven throughout all that the University does, not just through a prescribed set of courses that every student is required to take. Tusculum University seeks to instill in its graduates a sense of the world in which they live and to develop skills to make sound decisions that are based on the common good. In short, Tusculum wants to graduate students who not only do well, but do good. An important part of Tusculum University’s educational mission is to recruit a fertile mix of students from different ethnic, national, racial, cultural, religious, and geographical backgrounds. Learning from fellow students resulting from such a campus-cultural mix is an essential part of fostering an emphasis on practical wisdom. Active discussion of different perspectives on life resulting from varied cultural experiences enhances each student’s maturation and understanding of the world culture in which they live. Such diversity of student background should be actively used to enrich the educational environment of the University.
2. **PARTIES TO THE COVENANT**  
   The Parties of this covenant, Tusculum University of Greeneville, Tennessee, operating under its governing board, the Board of Trustees, and Holston Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) operating as a governing body, are separate entities. They are independent, neither being controlled by the other. They are, however, interdependent in that they must work together to accomplish their common purposes.
3. **RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE COVENANT**
   1. Tusculum University affirms its commitment to:  
      – offer a program of quality education in the liberal arts and sciences with the concept of the wholeness of life as interpreted by the Christian faith;  
      – conduct an educational program in which a large majority of the faculty are Christians, while insisting on freedom of inquiry for the faculty and students;  
      – create a campus climate in which the Christian faith is reasonably and persuasively presented without undue pressure for acceptance;  
      – maintain a campus minister and a set of course offerings in religion;  
      – through the Commons courses in the Civic Arts curriculum and the competency requirements for graduation, require religious studies of all students;  
      – offer weekly opportunities for corporate worship for the entire campus community;  
      – provide opportunities for the exploration of the relationship between religion and other facets of life, while preparing students for Christian service in all walks of life;  
      – establish standards of excellence and maintain accreditation by appropriate academic associations and agencies;  
      – share in the development of professional and lay leadership for the Church;  
      – serve as a host for church governing bodies, congregations, and their agencies, providing leadership and facilities for conferences, retreats, workshops, and training sessions for Church groups and offer services to the Church such as supply ministers and special programs of music and drama;  
      – provide opportunities for continuing education for Presbyterian ministers;  
      – to refer to its Presbyterian heritage in its literature;  
      – use University educational resources to enrich the churches (such as Stokes Theologian-In-Residence program);  
      – effectively recruit persons of racial and ethnic diversity to serve on the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and support staff as well as in the student body;  
      – demonstrate active concern for social justice and human mercy among the entire campus community, fostering a keen spirit of volunteerism;  
      – maintain Christian governance and leadership by maintaining the practice that a large majority of trustees and administrators be Christians;  
      – make an effort to insure that the President of Tusculum University be a Presbyterian;
   2. Holston Presbytery affirms its commitment to:  
      – undergird the University spiritually by praying for its trustees, administrators, faculty, students, and friends;  
      – promote understanding of the educational opportunities offered at the University through Presbytery publications and communications;  
      – promote attendance at the University by encouraging youth in the Presbytery to consider enrolling as students;  
      – offer a source of ministers and laity as speakers for regularly scheduled chapel services, retreats, and conferences at the University;  
      – encourage churches in the Presbytery to consider holding some of their conferences, retreats, meetings, and training events in the University facilities periodically;  
      – encourage individuals and congregations within the bounds of the Presbytery to provide financial support to the University;  
      – provide annually for the receiving of a report from the University, with such details as may prove useful for purposes of promotion and funding support;  
      – publish an Annual Report of the University in the Minutes of Presbytery.
4. **MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND ACCOUNTABILITY**
   1. Board of Trustees of Tusculum University  
      Realizing the importance of its relationship with the Presbyterian Church, the Board of Trustees of Tusculum University commits itself to:  
      – maintain a standing committee of the Board of Trustees which addresses church relations and has the responsibility of reviewing and developing the University’s relationship with the Church;  
      – ensure that at least one member of the trustees be a Presbyterian.   
      – ensure the University maintains a standing committee which addresses church relations, campus ministries, and strengthening the relationship between the University and the Church.
   2. Accountability and Communication  
      Both parties agree to provide regular and formal channels of communication to ensure accountability and to address issues of mutual interest and concern.
      1. Tusculum will provide Presbytery with a report of the campus ministry program and activities of the University in its Annual Report to Presbytery and other significant documents.
      2. The Presbytery will provide Tusculum with copies of its Minutes of Presbytery meetings and other significant documents.
      3. The Presbytery through its General Mission Board and the University through the Sub-Committee on Church Relations of its Board of Trustees will review the covenant annually, beginning in 2024.
      4. The text of this covenant shall be printed in the Minutes of Holston Presbytery, and references made to it in appropriate publications of the Presbytery which highlight its institutions and agencies.
      5. This Covenant between Holston Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and Tusculum University shall be posted on the Tusculum University website and made available to members of the administration, faculty, staff, and to other constituencies as deemed appropriate.
      6. The President of the University shall be responsible for seeing that all provisions of this covenant regarding the institution’s responsibilities are presented to the Board of Trustees.
      7. The Stated Clerk of Holston Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) shall be responsible for seeing that all provisions of this covenant regarding the Church’s responsibilities are fulfilled.
      8. The University shall inform the Presbytery of its other formal covenant relationships with other Presbyterian church bodies. Currently, the University has a covenant with the Synod of Living Waters, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery of East Tennessee, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
   3. Review and Amendment of the Covenant
      1. A comprehensive review of this Covenant shall be reviewed every five years by members of the Holston Presbytery and Tusculum University. It is expected that the President of the University and the Executive Presbyter of Holston Presbytery or equivalent will be involved in such reviews.
      2. This Covenant may be amended or renewed by action of the Board of Trustees of Tusculum University and Holston Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
5. **FORMAL APPROVAL**  
   This Covenant shall be effective upon formal approval by the Board of Trustees of Tusculum University and by Holston Presbytery, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and signed by the Moderator and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, by the Chairman and Secretary of the University’s Board of Trustees, and the President of the University. This Covenant recognizes that Tusculum University may develop other covenant relationships with other governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or with other church bodies with which our denomination is in correspondence.
6. **APPROVED October 13, 2023.**

For action and discussion, the **GENERAL MISSION BOARD** report was divided into two parts. The first part related to the change in the committee structure. The Presbytery **APPROVED** the recommendation of the General Mission Board that in accordance with §10 Parliamentary Authority and Amendments, that the method of amending the *Manual of Administrative Operations*, requiring two presbytery meetings to propose and make changes, to the *2021 Holston Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations* be suspended only for the purpose of making changes to the committee structure. The Presbytery approved the recommendation by two-thirds vote.

The Presbytery **APPROVED** the recommendation from the **GENERAL MISSION BOARD** that the proposed committee structure be adopted and take effect as of January 1, 2024. The Nominations Committee will utilize the new committee structure in filling nominations to bring to the presbytery at the November meeting.

At 11:35 a.m., the Presbytery broke into small group discussion groups to discuss mission priorities and the new committee structure. At the conclusion of the small group discussion time, the assembly gathered for lunch.

At 1:15 p.m., the Presbytery reconvened to hear feedback from the small group discussions. The feedback from the different groups is as follows:

Group 1

- Main priority -- that committee structure and task assignments clearly respond to the Mission Priorities of communication and resourcing congregations.

\* These priorities should be clearly and explicitly reflected in the task assignments of the various committees.

\* For example:

      Will the Discipleship & Evangelism Committee be able to provide congregations with samples of curricula?

      Will the Discipleship & Evangelism Committee assist churches in sharing curricular resources?

\* Will a physical office space assist with the priority of resourcing congregations?

\* Updating the website: Who is responsible?  One of the committees?  A staff person?  Could the website have a separate tab for each committee, including information, resources, and contact info?

\* A physical newsletter is a must.  Which committee does this?  A staff person?

Another item of discussion - questions about "Representation"

\* What does that mean?

\* Can this committee be more proactive and programmatic?

Miscellaneous other comments

\* Has there been any consideration of merging presbyteries?

\* Great appreciation for Saturday presbytery meetings; need more of them.

\* Perhaps consider 2-year committee assignments instead of 3-year.

\* Need more education about what every committee does and what is involved in serving.

\* Strong affirmation for electronic committee meetings to eliminate burdensome/prohibitive travel requirements.

Group 2

Wider representation

Communications director

Top down and bottom up

More investment in work of the presbytery

Clarity of tasks and responsibilities

Group 3

A new model and it is a model for now

Pressure on General Mission Board

Communication, mentoring, and training for pastors

Training for clerks of session, new session members

Written digest of what happened at meetings

Coming together

Group 4

Connect basic description to details in presbytery manual

COM – bullet addition promote services as presbytery-wide events

How do we support our smallest congregations?

(kitchen)

COM sub-committee to worship with small congregations

Pair small congregations

Discipleship and Evangelism

!Congregational Vitality! Doesn’t necessarily mean bodies in the pews and dollars in the plates

COM sub-committee on promoting vitality in congregations

Promote local mission projects between multiple congregations – larger and smaller working together

COM – regional elder training

Group 4 Poet Pastor Todd Jenkins closed this portion of the meeting with a haiku.

*People talked a lot.*

*Wonderful ideas were shared.*

*Hope and dreams abound!*

The **GENERAL MISSION BOARD** recommended in the second part of its report that the updated Covenant Agreement with Tusculum University be approved. Rev. Chris Shumate, Tusculum University Chaplain, and the Rev. Dr. Dan Donaldson, member of the Tusculum University Board of Trustees, provided greetings and appreciation on behalf of Tusculum University to Holston Presbytery for the work done on the Covenant Agreement. The updated Covenant Agreement was **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**Keenan Rodgers** made a presentation on behalf of the Board of Pensions. Handout at Appendix 1.

Reports were provided by the Presbytery Staff.

**UKirk ETSU Director John Golden** provided a report.

**Director’s Report (last updated 7/7/2023)**

**Activities Since Last Mission Board Meeting (4/18/2023)**

* Pulpit Supply at:
  + Piney Flats Presbyterian Church on April 23, June 4, and July 2
  + Preston Hills Presbyterian Church on May 21
  + Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church on May 7
  + Jonesborough Presbyterian Church on June 18
  + First Elizabethton on June 25
* Minute for Mission at:
  + First Kingsport on April 30
  + Cold Springs Presbyterian Church on June 11

The Presbyterian Campus Ministry House has been used for the following purposes:

* Hosting First Johnson City Young Adult Group on May 7
* Hosting a UKirk ETSU Cookout on June 2 and June 23

Summer Campus Ministry Related Activities:

* Drafted/Designed a Website for UKirk ETSU
* Attended Student Orientations for Freshman Recruiting on June 8, June 9, June 22, and June 23
* Attended UKirk National Gathering at Massaneta Springs from June 12-16
  + Received “Soul Shop: Ministering to Suicidal Desperation” training on June 13
* Mowed and Maintained Yard on a biweekly basis
* Deep cleaned the kitchen ovens and refrigerator
* Reached out to several churches asking if they had service/mission events scheduled during the fall.
* Drafted a Plan for Fall Semester
* Maintained connections and provided pastoral support for students in the area and who have returned home for the summer.

Service / Mission Activities:

* Meal Train for Stacy Larson on May 10
* Helped student move on May 10
* Volunteer Hospital Chaplaincy at JCMC on May 11 and June 27
* Gardening with Jonesborough Presbyterian Church on Wednesdays

**Transitional Stated Clerk Diana Moore** provided a report.

**INFORMATION:**

1. Because of an injury to the Stated Clerk, Minutes of the May 2, 2023, Stated Presbytery meeting are not yet complete. They will be provided at the November 7, 2023, meeting.

2. The review of session records continues on Saturday, September 23, 2023, at Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Dandridge. Session moderators or clerks of session (or designees) are invited to bring their session’s minutes for review at Hopewell.

**Transitional Executive Presbyter Karen Russell** provided a report.

Activity since last meeting:

* Work restarted on the Tri City Korean building (and Presbytery office space) on May 9; work is almost complete
  + Total expenditure to date on renovation total approximately $20,000, which does not include the amount lent to Tri City Korean to complete the purchase of the building
  + Move into office space anticipated by September 1; hope to get some office furniture donated or purchased inexpensively
* Significant cosmetic work done inside the campus house while we could not work on the Tri City building
  + New paint throughout the main floor; new light fixtures
* Our financial system is running fairly well; we have numbers we can trust, and can explain those things that still need adjustment
  + There are still some issues, mainly related to classification and recording of income and expenses
  + Met twice with bookkeeping service and had 3 phone calls
* Attended Presbytery Leadership Forum in Baltimore
* Took vacation time in IL and Canada (but still working on a work/life balance)
* Process to hire part time Administrative Manager is ongoing
* We have had someone express interest in the Stated Clerk’s position once the current Stated Clerk retires at the end of the year
* Plans underway for a January Pastors’ Retreat
* Plan to begin having monthly pastoral leadership lunches in various locations around the presbytery; the first one will be Thursday, August 17, at Bayou Boys in Johnson City; more information will be forthcoming; future dates and locations will be announced
* Participated in two helpful zoom meetings: one on rural churches which may turn out to be very helpful moving forward; and one on helping sessions develop the policies and procedures required by Book of Order changes
* Working with Stated Clerk to refine the Stated Clerk job description to better fit the compensation
* Will work with incoming moderators to update the expectations of moderators and their involvement with the work of the presbytery
* Work continues on an overall approach to leadership through committees that will improve decision making transparency and lines of accountability; new committee structure will be a big help and a big step away from staff driven work
* Budget preparation process should begin as soon as possible – program budget requests will need to be to the Admin and Budget Committee no later than September 30 in order to have a budget ready to present at the November Stated Meeting; as a process, it’s still a work in progress, but we do have some better expense numbers to use as a guide
* Nomination committee work is already underway; we need YOU if you are interested in the work of the presbytery and making Holston Presbytery a value-add for our congregations

The **ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET COMMITTEE** report was provided by Dave Welch. The Financial Reports are at Appendix 2 and were accepted by the Presbytery.

The **MISSION AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE** report was provided by Marshall Steinle. He reminded people of the new form for Five-Cents-A-Meal grant applications and the new deadline (October 15,2023) for submissions. The application form is found at Appendix 3.

The **DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE** report is provided.

INFORMATION:

1. The Back-to-School Youth Event will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Johnson City, on Sunday, August 27th, from 3-6 PM. Join us for fun, food (cooking out), fellowship, games, music, and devotion. For more information, email Greg Cartwright at revgreg@me.com.

2. The Fall Presbytery Youth Retreat will be held at Holston Presbytery Camp and Retreat Center in November. For more information, contact email Greg Cartwright at revgreg@me.com.

The **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY** was provided by Sam Schaus.

INFORMATION:

1. The committee conducted the annual consultation with Candidate Emily Morrell (Timber Ridge Presbyterian Church). She has completed her Masters in History at West Virginia University and will begin her PhD in the Department of Religious Studies at Princeton University in the fall. As part of her program, Emily will have the opportunity to teach both undergraduate history and religious studies courses and MDiv courses at Princeton Seminary. Emily will serve as the Theologian-in-Residence at Tusculum University in 2024.

2. Under Holston Presbytery’s CPM Policy and Procedures, “It is ordinarily expected that the preparation for ministry process will be completed in no less than two and no more than six years time, with no less than one year and no more than four years spent in either the inquiry or candidacy phase. Exceptions to this require the approval of the CPM.’ Because Emily’s continuing education studies and the discernment of her call to ministry have caused her to exceed six years, the committee granted an exception to this CPM policy. Emily will continue to be scheduled for an annual consultation.

3. The committee reviewed the status of Inquirer Russ Pearson and enrolled Russ as a Candidate. (See attached “Narrative of Faith, Call and Service” and “Statement of Faith”.)

4. The committee reviewed the status of Candidate Justin Miller and certified Justin as Ready to Receive a Call, pending the action of the presbytery in the proposed recommendation at the end of this report, which is explained in more detail in #5 below

5. Justin was enrolled as an Inquirer in December 2021. Although Justin requested to be enrolled as a Candidate at his annual consultation in November 2022, the committee requested more information from him before moving him to candidacy. That information was provided and Justin was moved to candidacy in January 2023. As part of the request to certify Justin as Ready to Receive a Call, Justin requested and the committee recommended that the presbytery grant a waiver of the time requirements found in Book of Order (BOO) G-2.0602 (“The inquiry and candidacy phases shall continue for a period of no less than two years, including at least one year as a candidate.”) The committee considered the criteria in BOO G-2.0607a (“a candidate’s wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment”) in its decision to certify Justin as Ready to Receive a Call and to ask for a waiver of the time requirements under the provisions of BOO G-2.0610 Accommodation to Particular Circumstances. (“When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d.”) G-2.0607d relates to the ordination exams, and Justin has passed all of these, as well as fulfilling all the other requirements from Holston Presbytery and the requirements set forth in BOO G-2.06 PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

6. Under the provisions of Book of Order G-2.0610 Accommodation to Particular Circumstances, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the presbytery grant a waiver of the time requirements found in G-2.0602 and certify Justin Miller as Ready to Receive a Call. **APPROVED BY ¾ VOTE.**

**Narrative of Faith, Call, and Service - Charles Russell Pearson**

First Presbyterian Church, Kingsport, TN

My faith journey began at my baptism at First United Methodist Church in Winnsboro, SC long before I knew God's presence in my life. I grew up in a small, dedicated congregation that nurtured me through Sunday school, worship, and vacation Bible school. I remember a feeling of warmth walking into the Sunday school wing of my church. As I grew up in church, I had different opportunities to serve as liturgist and as a weekly acolyte during my middle school years. In high school, I had the opportunity to help out with vacation Bible school. I believe these moments began to wake me up to God's calling to ministry.

One of my mentors in my youth was my pastor, Bundy Bynum. He showed me what kind of pastor I want to be someday. He was always present and had a calming personality that made you feel at home around him. He was my confirmation teacher and was the first to talk to me about ministry. Bundy made the Bible real through storytelling that kept my youth mind focused on his sermons.

My junior year at Presbyterian College I joined the chaplain's ministry team. This decision changed my life. The chaplain, David Lindsey, became a great mentor and friend. He was a great listener and had an open-door policy that allowed students to come in and talk about anything they felt they needed to. He also gave me plenty of room to explore my faith and leadership skills through the ministry team. I felt God's calling into full time ministry during a Christmas worship service led by the chaplain's office. After that worship service, I walked around campus in tears, praying to God for guidance. I had struggled with my future plans for some time and after that evening I had a clear direction. The next day I changed my major to religion and the for next 3 semesters I dove headfirst into my call. My senior year I accepted a call to be a full- time youth director, feeling seminary and ordination would come later.

The past 17 years I have worked at First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, TN. I have had the blessing of watching kids be baptized, leading them through confirmation, and blessing them when they go to college. Walking alongside children and youth as they grow in their faith is inspiring. Through the years at FPC I have had multiple opportunities to stretch my experience through leading sermons, planning worship services, and leading Bible studies. Each season of the church offers a new path of ministry and I enjoy encouraging others to use their gifts to God's glory.

At First Presbyterian Church I have the great opportunity to work alongside our Christian Education Committee. We plan events and oversee the education ministry of First Pres. My main focus here is our youth group. I oversee the middle school and high school ministries which includes weekly events, Presbytery youth gatherings, and summer retreats. I love the dynamic nature of youth ministry and feel at home leading the youth in their faith journey. One of my highlights outside of day to day church ministry is our relationship with Holston Camp. I love leading retreats with our congregation as well as the Presbytery youth. I believe retreat ministry is vital in this hurried existence. It invites the participant to slow down and focus on God's involvement in their life. I feel God's presence often when I lead Bible studies or camps or games. I see God as an active God, wanting a relationship with us. Working at FPC Kingsport has been a blessing and helped solidify my call to ordained ministry. The people are full of grace and support and without them I feel I would not be where I am today.

I look forward to the next steps of becoming ordained in the PCUSA. I feel God is calling me to this next adventure and am thankful for this opportunity.

**Statement of Faith Charles Russell Pearson**

First Presbyterian Church, Kingsport, TN

I believe that God creates, redeems, sustains, and finds joy in us.

As creator, I believe God is uniquely involved in our lives and the world. I believe humankind is created in the image of God, called to be stewards of the rest of God’s creation. I believe that God has never stopped creating and calls us away from our tendency to destroy towards a life that is in harmony with all of creation.

As redeemer, I believe God came down in the person of Jesus, who is fully human and fully God. Jesus came as Savior of the world, pointing to the coming Kingdom, and inviting us all to join him in sharing God’s love by loving our neighbors more fully. When we fail to follow Christ and sin, Christ is there to redeem us, wiping away our sin through his death and resurrection. I believe we must confess our sins often to remind us of our tendency to stray away from God, and we must hear that we are forgiven and free from sin. Our freedom from sininvites us to a new life founded and sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of our risen Lord, Jesus.

As sustainer, I believe God the Holy Spirit swept over the chaos and brought a beautiful order to creation. I believe God spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament, calling people to a new way of living, centered on worship of God and love of neighbor. I believe God the Spirit began the Church at Pentecost, ushering in a new way for us to be in relationship with God.

I believe God finds joy in our lives. I see a motif throughout the story of Scripture of God reaching out in new ways to be with humankind, as God was in the garden. God’s work of redemption continues, and we are called to join others to share the unconditional love of God to everyone through word and deed. I see this calling best fulfilled in the Church.

I believe the Church is the body of Christ for the world. In some mysterious way, Jesus trusted his disciples to continue what he started and calls us to continue his ministry today. We are called to love our neighbors and love God through worship, observing the sacraments, study, and service. We do these things not out of guilt or obligation. We do these things out of thanksgiving for all God has done for us and for the world.

The further in life I get, the more excited I am to be a part of God’s work in the world. I believe God equips us with holy gifts to be used, so all will come to know of the God who loves them.

The **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE** Report was provided by Bill Anderson.

INFORMATION:

1. The Nominations Committee is receiving nominations for various committees. The Nominations Form is found at Appendix 4.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. That Ruling Elder Kathi Cary, ruling elder at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Johnson City, be elected as the 2024 Holston Presbytery Moderator.

**There being no nominations from the floor, Ruling Elder Kathi Cary was elected as the 2024 Holston Presbytery Moderator.**

1. That the Rev. Collin Blair Adams be elected as the 2024 Holston Presbytery Vice-Moderator. Collin is the pastor of Waverly Road Presbyterian Church in Kingsport.

**There being no nominations from the floor, the Rev. Collin Blair Adams was elected as the 2024 Holston Presbytery Vice-Moderator.**

The **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT** was provided by Chris Bohn.

**INFORMATION**:

1. Extended the appointment of Rev. Richard Raum as moderator for Erwin Presbyterian Church until Rev. Ramy Marcos arrives.

2. Appointed Rev. Sharon Amstutz as moderator for Magill Memorial Presbyterian Church, effective 5/23/2023.

3. Appointed Rev. Andy Blackwelder moderator for Jennie Moore Presbyterian Church, effective 5/23/2023.

4. Granted permission to Rev. Karen Russell to labor outside the bounds to perform a wedding on 5/27/2023 and preach on 5/28/2023 in the Presbytery of SE Illinois.

5. Interviewed the Rev. Jamie Kent. Approved the part-time Temporary Supply Contract for a Minister of Another Denomination between the Rev. Jamie Kent and New Bethel Presbyterian Church, effective August 1, 2023, through July 31, 2024, with the following terms: 25 hours per week, Salary $25,000/year, Housing provided, Reimbursable Travel Expenses at the IRS professional rate not to exceed $1,000/year, Vacation 4 weeks/year, Continuing Education 2 weeks/year, Actual Moving Expenses (within reason), and authorized Rev. Kent to administer the Sacrament of Communion for New Bethel Presbyterian Church for the duration of the contract; provisional upon satisfactory completion of background check.

6. Interviewed the Rev. Bishop Greene and transferred her membership from Albany Presbytery to Holston Presbytery.

7. Approved the updated Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) for Strawberry Plains Presbyterian Church.

8. Approved the renewed part-time Temporary Supply Contract between CRE Tracy Cagle and Hopewell Presbyterian Church, effective July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with the following terms: Salary $2,180/month, Reimbursable Travel Expenses at the IRS professional rate not to exceed $200/month, Vacation 2 weeks/half year; Continuing Education 2 weeks/half year; and authorized CRE Cagle to administer the Sacrament of Communion for Hopewell Presbyterian Church for the duration of the contract.

9. Approved the part-time Temporary Supply Contract between the Rev. Melissa Tidwell and Strawberry Plains Presbyterian Church, effective July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with the following terms: Salary $700/month, Housing Allowance $700/month, Reimbursable Travel Expenses at the IRS professional rate, Vacation 4 weeks/year; provisional upon satisfactory completion of background check.

10. Approved the part-time Temporary Supply Contract between the Rev. Katherine White and Salem Presbyterian Church, effective July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, with the following terms: Salary $1083.33/month, Housing Allowance $1,000/month, Reimbursable Travel Expenses at the IRS professional rate not to exceed $200/month, monthly Board of Pension dues 10% pension + 1% disability, Vacation 1 week/quarter, Continuing Education 0.5 week/quarter; and appointed Rev. White moderator for the duration of the contract.

11. Authorized the Pastoral Leaders Team to develop a celebration liturgy for churches entering new relationships with temporary supply pastors and to assist Salem Presbyterian Church, and other churches as requested, in conducting such a celebration as part of a Sunday morning worship service.

12. Approved the request from the Rev. Mitch Coggin to re-validate his ministry and be given permission to engage in ministry outside the bounds of Holston Presbytery as the Transitional Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Victoria, British Columbia with the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

13. Conduct Service of Commissioning of Ruling Elders Nancy Johnson and Rebecca Wilcox (action approving commissioning taken at February 4, 2023, Stated Presbytery Meeting).

APPROVED.

A joyous Service of Commissioning for the Ruling Elders Nancy Johnson and Rebecca Wilcox was held at the conclusion of the Committee on Ministry Report.

**PREVIOUSLY DOCKETED NEW BUSINESS FOR TODAY**: None.

**PROMOTIONS** were shared with the presbytery.

**THE COMMITTEE ON THANKS** reported.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS** were shared with the Presbytery. The Presbytery congratulated Angus Shaw on the 65th anniversary of his ordination. Appreciation was given to Cedar Creek Presbyterian Church and Bethel Presbyterian, Kingsport, for their support of the Commissioned Ruling Elder program.

**APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Committee on Ministry - Handout from Board of Pensions

Appendix 2 – Administration and Budget - Financial Reports

Appendix 3 - Mission and Evangelism - Five-Cents-A-Meal Grant Applications

Appendix 4 - Nominations Committee Self-Nomination Form

**ADJOURNMENT**: Vice Moderator Kathi Cary closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Rodney Norris, Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Diana Moore, Transitional Stated Clerk