

**Foothills Presbytery Meeting #114
Called Virtual Meeting
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

August 8, 2020

Supplement

COVID-19
Report from the Stated Clerk
August 3, 2020

Greetings in Christ,

Our presbytery leadership continues to evaluate the effect COVID-19 is having on our state and local communities. The disease continues to spread at the highest level seen since it first appeared in [South Carolina](#). If you want reliable data on the influence of masks and distancing, and the projections for incidence, deaths, and peaks in the US (broken out by state and over time) click here: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>

The majority of our congregations continue to find ways to offer virtual worship (YouTube, Facebook live, etc.), parking lot worship (some using AM/FM radio), drive through worship, or worship on the lawn. One congregation has taken advantage of freeconferencecall.com to worship together; another congregation mails (USPS) worship packets to their members. Seventeen of our congregations are back in their Sanctuaries for in-person worship. Those congregations are using strict measures and [check lists](#) to defend members and leaders from contracting and spreading the virus.

As you work with your leadership and special COVID-19 committees to talk about ways to gather, I urge you and your committees to keep up to date with both state and county guidelines. This information changes frequently. Make use of the [CDC](#) and [DHEC](#) resources and recommendations. Be diligent in tracking [COVID gating measures](#) (p. 5), and be vigilant in [assessing risk](#).

I encourage each congregation to have both a [plan](#) and a covenant. A covenant is one way to ensure your members are all on board with the same practices of care. Here is a [link to a covenant](#) adapted from the Wisconsin Council of churches. Sessions can review, make revisions to this covenant, approve the covenant, and send to members. It is one way to reflect Paul's words to the people in Corinth:

¹⁴For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, ²⁴

Paul's words, guided by Christ, call us to "shout out" that our love is stronger than any pandemic. It is this love that binds us, **"so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another"** (1 Cor. 12:25).

Grace and peace, in Christ,
Debbie Foster, Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader

Committee on Shared Ministry
August 8, 2020

2020	2021	2022
Pressley Cox 2 (C)	Beth Burris 1	Craig Foster (VC) 2
Jane Frost 2	Mary Kathleen Duncan 1	Peggy Hayes 1
Ralph May 2	David Ellenburg 1	Jackie Putnam 1
Pat Shufeldt 2	Joseph Gaston 1	Noelle Read 1
Ken Schafer 2	Jessica Meggs 1	Natalie Schwartz 1
Debbie Foster (Ex-Officio)	Audrey Reese 1	Peggy Swann 1
	Cassie Wolfe 2	

Mission: To equip, connect, and nurture the churches of Foothills Presbytery.

Core Values: We will celebrate an adaptive environment where grace abounds while striving to strengthen our connectional church and share mission in a spirit of experimentation.

How: We will explore our mission by offering opportunities for faith formation, gatherings, fellowship, service, encouragement, resources, and support.

Since the May Presbytery meeting, the Committee on Shared Ministry has met twice (Tuesday, May 19 and Tuesday, July 21) via Zoom. The committee reports the following:

Leadership Development

The College and Vocation Discernment Team continues to explore grant options for the Intern Program for 2021. The team needs to recruit more members.

News about the postponed SC5 Leader of Leaders Event with John Roberto (Vital Faith) will be made available soon. The event will either take place virtually in the fall 2020 or in-person in spring of 2021.

There will be an SC Minister/Educator Retreat October 26-28 in Montreat with Dr. Sam Adams (Union Presbyterian Seminary), Old Testament Wisdom, The Bible and Politics.

The 50th anniversary of APCE is in 2021. We are hoping to find creative ways to celebrate our educators in Foothills. CSM would love to see a large contingency from Foothills at the Annual Event in Chicago. Scholarships application will be made available when registration opens and will be due to the committee by November 8, 2020.

The Committee approved a \$300 scholarship toward a Certified Spiritual Director program from the CSM Regional Training and Support budget.

Mission Outreach

During this time of pandemic the inability to meet together as congregations and groups has impacted missions yet the need for outreach to neighbors continues. The Cents-ability offering encourages participants to give a few cents for each meal as an offering of thanksgiving for blessings received. There was discussion of the impact donations made to the Cents-ability offering

can make as people struggle with increased need brought on by the economic impact of job losses and school closings. All of this offering is distributed to ministries working to alleviate hunger. These offerings are usually distributed to ministries and agencies at the end of the year. Following discussion, it was decided that best use of these funds would be to make a distribution during this time of increased need and encourage hunger ministries to apply. Congregations will be encouraged to send contributions to the Presbytery office so distributions can be made to ministries working to alleviate hunger during this time of great need.

The Foothills Presbytery/Greenville area collaborative Habitat for Humanity building project is on hold due to safety concerns in midst of the pandemic. A new start date of July has again been pushed back. It is hoped that building can begin in August. Westminster Presbyterian is the primary partner in this effort and nine other congregations have pledged support. The plan is for two homes to be deconstructed and rebuilt and it is hoped that the project can safely be undertaken in the near future.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is hosting a training for Presbyterian Women in South Carolina to become trainers. Foothills has one attendee.

The Committee approved dispersing the remaining funds from the PDA Grant monies for materials and supplies to assist in the rebuilding and repairing tornado damaged homes. The funds will be sent to Oconee County Habitat for Humanity.

Hospitality, Peer Ministry, and Joys and Concerns

The Hospitality team continues to explore best practices in welcoming people into Foothills Presbytery in meaningful ways.

The following peer groups are currently meeting via Zoom and supported by the CSM:

- Large Church Children's Educators
- Youth Leader Roundtable
- Church Music Directors/Leaders

The Committee is exploring ways to connect ministers, educators, and leaders through other peer groups and cohorts during this time when so many are not gathering in person.

Hospitality- The Committee welcomed Rev. Meg Flanagan and Rev. Adam Fisher to St. Giles

Joys and Concerns- For more info contact Mary Kathleen Duncan (Westminster)

Communications

The sub-team provided information to Mt. Zion Presbyterian for budget cameras and computer specs, as well as software for streaming. David Ellenburg assisted in setup, testing and training. He is available as a resource to other congregations who need assistance with the transition to recording or livestreaming worship.

Curriculum and Resources

Pat Shufeldt reported on a number of ways to access sources for digital and audio resources as well as changes and availability of resources from various publishers. Also reported was various resources available at the public libraries in the counties included in Foothills Presbytery.

Outdoor Ministry

A motion was made to support Camp Fellowship and the bold and courageous leadership shown during this difficult time by donating to the Summer Intern and Camp in a Box ministries. The committee voted to send \$3,000 for the summer intern ministry.

Kevin Cartee, Executive Director of Camping Ministries of the Carolinas, Inc shared the following Update from Camp Fellowship:

These past few months have been a whirlwind of activity. We have been busy responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, implementing our daily operations, and preparing for the future of the camping and retreat ministry at Fellowship Camp and Conference Center. We deeply appreciate your ongoing prayers and support through this critical time, and we humbly ask that you continue to pray for and support this essential ministry. As we remain committed to our work in support of faith formation for children, youth, and adults, we want to share some news and suggest a few ways you can support Fellowship.

The Imani Choir

As Camp Fellowship's normal operations remain suspended, we continue to operate as an emergency shelter for the Imani Milele Children's Choir. The choir arrived as our guests on March 17 as part of a planned two-night stay. With closures, cancellations, and stay at home orders, they found themselves happy to be at Fellowship. Now, the choir's 37 members are no longer guests; they are a part of our intentional Christian community. They continue to engage in daily worship, chores, school, and all other aspects of community living. The choir has performed virtually on Facebook Live and YouTube for thousands of people during their time at camp, and they have also hosted several virtual worship circles.

As an organization, we have continued our mission of providing hospitality and nurturing children, youth, and adults. For Fellowship staff, serving as an emergency shelter for the choir has been a blessing as we have been able to maintain staffing levels and provide for healthy and safe operation. We count as blessing the witness of strong faith, beautiful smiles, and heavenly sounds of the choir. And we have been further blessed by strong support from the community and many local churches that have enabled us to maintain healthy and safe operations during the pandemic.

Our current plan is to continue sheltering operations for the choir through the month of August, when they hope to resume their tour up the east coast.

Summer 2020 – Re-Imagined

The suspension of our traditional summer programs has been difficult for us physically, emotionally, and fiscally. However, in our plans to Re-imagine Summer 2020, we have never lost sight of our vital connection to camper families and the congregations we serve.

Through partnerships with local congregations and a grant from Foothills Presbytery, we have been able to honor our commitment to the six summer staff members hired before the outbreak of the pandemic. They have joined us on-site and have become a part of the community living, serving, and worship Christ in all we do. Though they do not have the responsibilities of traditional summer camp counselors, we have been exploring the role of intentional Christian Community in the camp and conference setting and implementing the Camp-In-A-Box Program.

Camp-In-A-Box

The Board and staff of Camp Fellowship made an initial commitment to supply a “Camp-In-A-Box” to every family that participated in our summer 2019 programs. In addition to these 200 families, and with the support of many congregations, we were able to expand the reach of this initiative to nearly 500 families!

Our Camp-In-A-Box program, designed by Associate Director Emily Kienker, engages children, youth AND their families in 5 activity-based packets centered on Bible study and camp themes.

Looking Ahead

As we look ahead to the future, we will continue to respond to the needs of our community as we provide camp and retreat ministry and support for faith formation with children, youth, and adults. Already, we are working with Trinity Presbytery’s Older Adult Committee to plan a virtual retreat in the fall. We are also making upgrades and revisions to our facilities and implementing new protocols that will enable us to welcome families and small retreat groups again soon. Remaining faithful to God’s design for Camp Fellowship, we are focused on the future of this ministry and invite you to stay involved. Your financial contributions are appreciated and remain key to our weathering the immediate crisis while strengthening our programs and offerings into the future. We invite you to visit campfellowship.org to learn more and to become involved.

Ways to Get Involved in Camp Fellowship Ministry

- Visit www.campfellowship.org
- Make a donation or pledge of support
- Plan a family or small group lake day in the fall
- Attend the “virtual” and small group fall adult retreat
- Volunteer for on-site projects to help us fully re-open in the fall

Youth Ministry

PYC Coordinator Joan Jones shared the following:

PYC 2019-2020 certainly ended the year differently than any of us could have imagined. However, the youth and adults who serve on PYC worked hard until the very end and celebrated our final meeting via Zoom and had an opportunity to give thanks for our outgoing seniors. We challenged each of them to get plugged into a Ukirk ministry on campus wherever they will be attending college.

Due to being unable to host our Spring Senior High Retreat, our interviews were held later to allow us to continue gathering applications. Interviews were held via Zoom on May 21 and 22. Adult leaders Lauren Slingerland and Becky Shafer, outgoing youth moderator Mary Fran Burnett and rising senior Mary Katherine Nelson and I participated in all 9 interviews. Each interview began with introductions and prayer led by one of the youth and then we all took turns asking questions. The youth being interviewed was encouraged to ask any questions that they may have of us as well. One of the youth closed us in prayer at the conclusion of the interview.

At the end of the interviews on Friday evening, the five member PYC interview team remained on Zoom and discussed the discussions, gifts and how we felt about who was being called to be a servant leader on PYC for the upcoming year. The following is youth 2020-2021 PYC

Seniors

Graycen Watson	Central
Mac Smith	Covenant
Augusta Roach	Easley
Grace Harshbarger	Fountain Inn
Mary Katherine Nelson	John Knox
Grace deMaine	John Knox
* Sarah Phillips	Fountain Inn

Adults

* Kelli Burnett	Easley
Joan Jones	Eastminster
Nelson Jones	Second
Becky Shafer	Greer
Lauren Slingerland	Westminster

Juniors

Max Gassner	Eastminster
Ben Sheorn	St Giles
Grace Short	Trinity
* Gracelyn Latham	Easley
* Emma Moore	John Knox
* Nevaeh Harden	Pickens

Sophomores

* Caroline Anthony	Easley
* Mary DuPre Pannell	Central
* Sophie deMaine	John Knox

Fall Planning Retreat- Our fall planning retreat is scheduled for **Saturday August 22** from 9:00-5:00. Plans are tentative at this point due to Covid but we are hopeful to be able to have our retreat in person, taking all social distancing precautions, so that we can begin to get to know one another, elect officers, look at planning a fall retreat and talk about what that might look like this year. Our retreat dates scheduled for the year are:

Middle School Retreat at Bonclarken- October 16-18, 2020

High School Retreat at Montreat- March 19-21, 2021

Items for further consideration:

The Committee discussed the possibility of providing a recorded worship service to be shared throughout the Presbytery to provide pastors time away from preparations, recording, and editing.

The Committee spent time discussing race reconciliation and conversation, recognizing that this is a long-term, multi-level effort. Ideas include diversity training, conversations on equity, and intentional dialogue with ministers, educators, and leaders from across the Presbytery.

The next meeting of the Committee on Shared Ministry will be on Tuesday, September 15 at noon. The meeting will be held via Zoom if in person meetings are still restricted at that time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pressley Cox- chair

CPM REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

August, 2020

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry *reports that:*

1. On April 23, 2020, we:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Given current CPE requirement limits and the delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, CPM requested the Vocational Development Subcommittee develop recommendation to amend or suspend the requirement to complete CPE by CPM in case-by-case exceptions, requiring a manual change and presbytery approval.
 - c. CPM reviewed ongoing CPM Manual updates and revisions – more work pending.
2. On May 28, 2020, we:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Approved a recommendation for modifying CPE requirements in the CPM manual and sent to Foothills Coordinating Council.
 - c. Approved the Annual Consultation for inquirer Martin Pruitt.
 - d. Approved enrolling Lindsay Odom as an Inquirer
3. On June 25, 2020, we met by ZOOM video conferencing:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Met (by ZOOM) with pre-Inquirer Ashley Brown, who will be enrolling at Austin Presbyterian Seminary. CPM will take up enrolling Ashley as an Inquirer, pending her receipt of her transcript and MDS report.
 - c. Presbytery Council added the CPM motion to the August 8th called Presbytery meeting for vote: *“Owing to the adverse impact of Covid-19 on CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education) programs and corresponding student participation, the CPM, acting in its reasonable discretion, and for good cause shown, reserves the right to (temporarily) modify for (fully) waive the CPE requirement for any particular student. This provisional addendum will expire on January 31, 2021, unless extended by the CPME before to that date.”*

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tedder, CPM Chair

Current Members of the Foothills CPM

RE = Ruling Elder TE = Teaching Elder

<i>Class of 2020</i>	<i>Class of 2021</i>	<i>Class of 2022</i>
TE Jennifer Fouse Sheorn*	RE Jennifer Biber*	RE John Byce
TE Dottie Metropol	RE Ed Irick	TE Leslie Lang*
RE Cherie Setzler	RE Judy Pearson*	TE Will Nickles*
RE Mary Strom	TE Terri Price*	TE Allen McSween*
RE Fred Tolly*	TE Stan Reid*	TE Dennis Tedder*
RE David Weneck		TE David Howell
TE Amos Workman*		

*LeAnne White, Staff and Debbie Foster, ex-officio; * denotes 2nd Term;*

List of Students Currently Under Care of Foothills CPM

Candidates (3)

<u>Date of Cand.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Educational Status</u>	<u>Liaison to CPM</u>
08.27.15	Ginger Shuler*	1 st Spartanburg	2017 Grad of Union Pres - Chlt	Judy Pearson
08.17.13	Landon Hammett	1 st Spartanburg	2017 Grad of Union Pres - Chlt	Dottie Metropol
01.28.16	Whitney Moss*	1 st Greer	2020 Grad of Union - Chlt	Fred Tolly

(* Signifies "Certified Ready" for a call)

Inquirers (5)

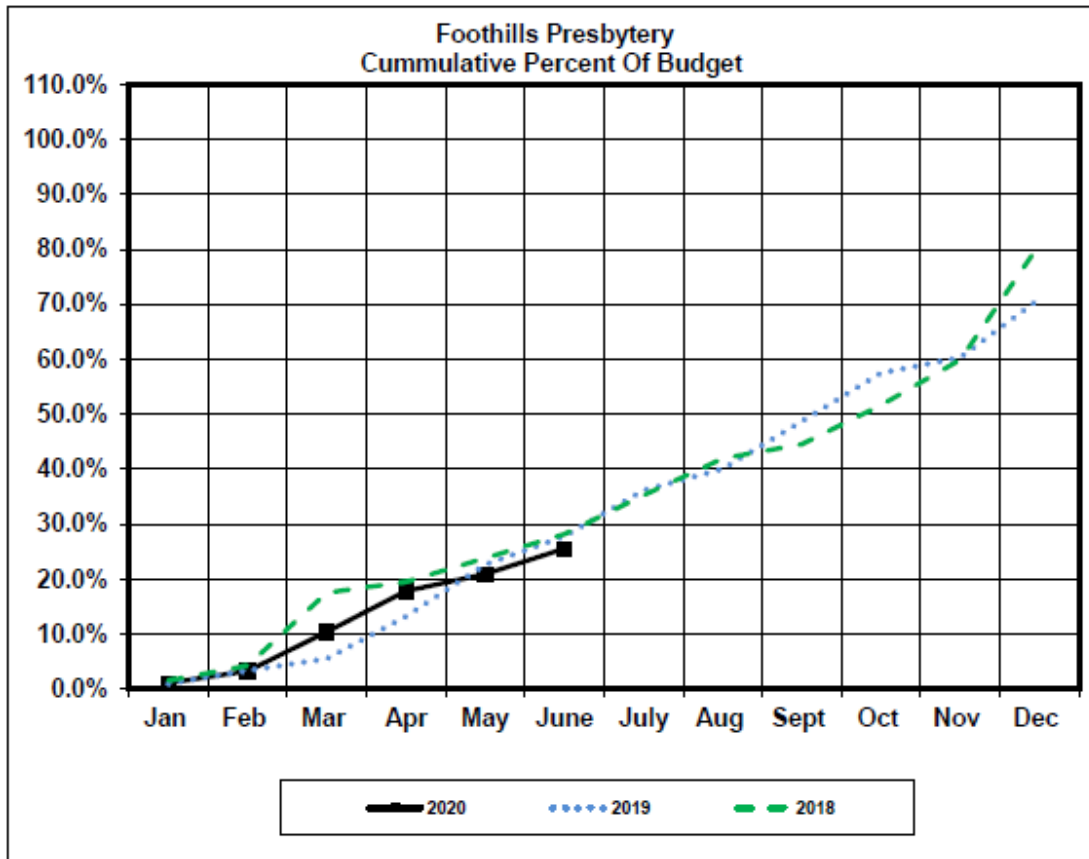
<u>Date of Inquiry</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Educational Status</u>	<u>Liaison to CPM</u>
02.23.15	Glenda Wickstrom	John Knox	Columbia Sem. (4 th Yr 17-18)	
12.15.16	John DuBose	Easley	Union - Chlt (4th Yr 19-20)	Allen McSween
03.23.17	Martin Pruitt	1 st Anderson	2018 Grad of Union - Chlt	Jennifer Biber
02.27.20	Mary Moore Driggers	1 st Greer	Union – Rchmd (1 st Yr 19-20)	Leslie Lang
05.28.20	Lindsey Odom	Easley	Union Charlotte	Jennifer F. Sheorn

Pre-Inquirers (4)

Sarah Cornell (Fair Play) Currently CRE at Belton - Dubuque
Ashley Brown (Westminster) – Austin Seminary
Eddie Hall (Covenant) – In the application process
Cyndi Banks (Pickens) – Union Charlotte

FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY ANNUAL COMMITMENT

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$513,559	\$534,142	\$582,366
From Prior Year Budget % Change	1.8%	4.01%	9.03%
End of Year Over/(Under) Bud	-\$81,576	-\$120,632	
End of Year % Budget Received	84.12%	77.42%	



	2018 Budget		2019 Budget		2020 Budget	
	Cumulative	Percent	Cumulative	Percent	Cumulative	Percent
January	\$ 8,440	1.6%	\$ 5,872	1.0%	\$ 6,488	1.1%
February	\$ 22,936	4.3%	\$ 19,795	3.4%	\$ 19,233	3.3%
March	\$ 93,614	17.5%	\$ 32,149	5.5%	\$ 60,767	10.4%
April	\$ 104,344	19.5%	\$ 77,163	13.2%	\$ 103,962	17.9%
May	\$ 127,299	23.8%	\$ 132,018	22.7%	\$ 121,865	20.9%
June	\$ 150,519	28.2%	\$ 161,842	27.8%	\$ 148,890	25.6%
July	\$ 188,466	35.3%	\$ 210,542	36.2%	\$ -	0.0%
August	\$ 224,086	42.0%	\$ 233,353	40.1%	\$ -	0.0%
September	\$ 238,064	44.6%	\$ 283,790	48.7%	\$ -	0.0%
October	\$ 276,067	51.7%	\$ 334,846	57.5%	\$ -	0.0%
November	\$ 320,058	59.9%	\$ 351,220	60.3%	\$ -	0.0%
December	\$ 431,983	80.9%	\$ 413,510	71.0%	\$ -	0.0%