

Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting #115

Virtual Meeting

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Foothills Presbytery

2242 Woodruff Road
Simpsonville, SC 29681

864-288-5774

COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK
November 10, 2020 – 10:00 am

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Foothills Presbytery

Caring, Empowering and Celebrating the Churches in Foothills Presbytery

- Faith:** COM - Care and discipline of our Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders and Sessions
- Hope:** CPM - Guidance for those seeking ordination as a Teaching Elder in the PCUSA
- Love:** CSM - Empowering, connecting and celebrating the shared ministry of Foothill's Churches

MISSION

The identity, mission and ministry of Foothills Presbytery is rooted in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

1. G-3.03 "The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of the congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-10304).

In light of this charge, the presbytery has responsibility over **Ecclesial ministry** and the power to:

- a. Provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard;
 - b. Nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ;
 - c. Provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.
2. G-2.0201 **Diaconal ministry** "as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service sharing the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures or anyone in distress."

As the Council of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America for the congregations in the six Upstate Counties in South Carolina, by the Grace of God we gather to joyfully celebrate this Calling.



Foothills Presbytery

"Caring, Empowering, and Celebrating the churches in Foothills through shared ministry."

CORDINATING COUNCIL

(Worship, COM, CSM, CPM, Finance, Personnel, Bills & Overtures, Representation & Review, Nominations, REC)

CORE MISSIONAL COMMITTEES

Faithful

COM demonstrates care and discipline with our Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and Sessions.

Committee on Ministry (21)

- Triennial Visitation
- Pulpit Supply
- Work of the Minister/Terms of Call
- PNC Training and Liaisons
- Exam Commission
- Commission on Ruling Elders
- Certified Christian Educators
- Ethics and Boundaries Policies and Training

Loving

Our CSM facilitates ways to engage, connect, and celebrate the shared ministry of Foothills' Communities of Faith.

Committee on Shared Ministry (24)

- Leadership Development
- Mission: Local, National, Global
- Hospitality, Peer Ministry, Joys & Concerns
- Technology and Communication
- Resource Center
- Outdoor Ministry
- Youth Ministry
- Campus Ministry
- Child Advocacy & Awareness
- Presbyterian Women
- Small Church Connections

Hopeful

Our COM guides those seeking ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (18)

- Session Orientation
- Student Liaisons
- Education & Ordination
- Scholarships & Finance
- Career and Professional Development

Foothills Presbytery
115th Stated Meeting
Tuesday, November 10, 2020
10:00 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Orientation: Tuesday, November 2 at 5:30 p.m.

Order of the Day

Worship with Celebration of the Saints

Opening and Worship

- | | |
|---|-------|
| A. Call to Order, Establishing a Quorum and Opening Prayer:
Sidney Mize, Moderator | 10:00 |
| B. Welcome and Announcements | |
| C. Worship | 10:15 |

Business

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| D. Presentation and Approval of the Docket | 10:35 |
| E. Report of the Stated Clerk | 10:40 |
| 1. Communication | |
| 2. <i>Report from Commissioners – PC(USA) General Assembly</i> | |
| 3. <i>Report from Synod of the South Atlantic</i> | |
| F. Ecclesial and Diaconal Committees | |
| 1. Committee on Preparation for Ministry | Dennis Tedder 10:50 |
| 2. <i>Committee on Shared Ministry</i> | Craig Foster |
| 3. Committee on Ministry | Nath Briley |
| a. Committee Report | Gordon Turnbull 11:10 |
| b. Examinations Commission Report | Elizabeth Clayton 11:30 |
| G. Report of Coordinating Council | Mike Hoyt 11:50 |
| 1. Nominations | Dick Christopher 12:00 |
| 2. <i>Representation and Review</i> | Elizabeth Jones |
| 3. <i>Finance and Stewardship</i> | Dennis Latham |
| 4. <i>Racial Ethnic Cabinet</i> | Michael Sullivan |
| 5. <i>Bills and Overtures</i> | Bill Lancaster |
| 6. <i>Personnel</i> | Phil Lyles |
| 7. <i>Worship</i> | Holt Andrews |

H. New Business

12:10

I. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

12:15

Action on the Minutes: That the Stated Clerk, the Associate Stated Clerk, the Parliamentarian, and the Moderator be empowered to read and approve the Minutes.

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Report of the Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk

October 6, 2020

The Stated Clerk reports:

1. Foothills Presbytery received a robust “thank you” from LaShauna Harrison, the CEO of the United Way of Oconee County, for the \$8,300 sent for clean-up efforts after the Easter Tornado came through the greater Seneca area.
2. The final Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Grant Distribution of \$2,640 was sent to Habitat for Humanity. John Goyert, of Habitat for Humanity, is at the center of Habitat’s tornado recovery repair and rebuilding. He is a member of the Oconee County Long Term Recovery Group (OCLTRG) and heading up the rebuilding/repair work.
3. Council approved an offer from Anderson Ridge Development LLC for \$1,050,000.00 (\$50,000 in earnest money) on the West Georgia Rd property.
4. Support for pastors and church leaders during the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a priority of all the presbytery staff and the core missional committees of Presbytery. As spikes of COVID-19 cases rise, we need to remember to proceed with an abundance of caution.
 - a. As of Labor Day, 17 of the 58 churches in the presbytery hosted in-person/indoor worship. Over the last few weeks, six more have opened for in-person/indoor worship, and more are scheduled to start in November.
 - b. I was honored to work with the CSM, Worship Committee, and Music Director Peer Ministry to create a virtual worship service, hoping that it would provide a sabbath for pastors and church leaders.
 - c. Zoom check-in gatherings are taking place with pastors, educators, youth directors, and music leaders.

The Presbytery office continues to host virtual meetings (via Zoom) and has opened the large conference room for (up to nine) to meet w/masks and social distancing.

5. The PCUSA Board of Pensions invited a group of Synod and Presbytery Executives to participate (virtually) in CREDO. Created initially for pastors to cultivate wholeness (spiritual, vocational, health, and financial well-being), this year was the first cohort of Presbytery and Synod Leaders. I am thankful that I was invited to participate September 21- 24.
6. September 16th, the five Presbytery leaders in SC, invited Elliot Smith, Executive Director of Thornwell, to join us (via Zoom) Elliot provided an update on Thornwell’s response to recent press coverage about its founder, the Rev. Dr. William P. Jacobs, and its namesake, the Rev. James H. Thornwell. Thornwell preached a doctrine that claimed slavery to be morally right and justified by the tenets of Christianity. The Board of Trustees of Thornwell has formed a committee to determine how the board could be more diverse and how it could speak to the issues of structural and systemic racism in Thornwell’s history and consider how it informs their future. Elliot expressed appreciation for the conversation. The SC5 Executives are the first outside group that they have been in conversation with regarding Thornwell’s past.
7. Our new Associate Stated Clerk, Robin Morris, and I were invited to join other Presbytery Leaders in the Synod of the South Atlantic in a book study of the Robert Jones’ book, *White Too Long*. Jones

delivers a provocative examination of the relationship between American Christianity and white supremacy and issues an urgent call for white Christians to reckon with this legacy for the sake of themselves and the nation. It is recommended reading for all church leaders.

8. We have received and declined an offer on the Pelzer Church Property. We continue to support the Faith Church as they work through a punch list to close out the final details with the SC Secretary of State to close the Pelzer church (old) as a corporation.
9. The Richland Church (Art Williams, Moderator) continues to be in negotiations over a lawsuit demanding the church honor a right-away agreement.
10. Foothills Presbytery was contacted by the board of the Old Stone Church as they were in negotiations to sell a small portion of their cemetery/property. No action was needed by presbytery.
11. The Transition Think Tank continues its work focusing on Presbytery's new model, the issues of our current culture and context.
 - a. In September, we welcomed Tim Cargal, from the Office of General Assembly, who gave an in-depth presentation entitled the [Future Shape of Ministry](#). The information included leadership development, demographic changes, ministry context, and PC(USA) membership information.
 - b. The data from Tim will inform the Legacy Partnership Project's continued work. This project is designed for churches who would like to spend in-depth time considering their future. There will be study materials and 4-5 meetings during this time as the congregations consider their assets/liabilities and discern their future. Foothills Presbytery is a pilot presbytery and will be working closely with Olanda Carr, Senior Ministry Relations Officer (Presbyterian Foundation).
12. On behalf of Council, I offer a warm welcome to our new Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry, the Reverend Pressley Cox. Pressley started in her new role on October 1.
13. In her first ninety days, our new Associate Stated Clerk, Robin Morris, has been training and completing continuing education to ensure a solid foundation. Her onboarding began with Gordon Raynal and me with orientation around all things Foothills Presbytery. Robin also took a virtual *Polity Class* sponsored by OGA and taught by Joyce Lieberman (Exec/Stated Clerk of the Synod of South Atlantic), and the Board of Pensions webinar, *Just Compensation: Closing the Gender Gap*, taught by the Rev. Lori Neff LaRue. Since July, Robin's primary focus has been reviewing and updating all of our policy manuals, procedures, and tools. She continues to meet our presbytery leaders (virtually) and has already demonstrated why she is an asset to the mission and ministry of Foothills Presbytery.
14. We continue to work on updating the Manual of Operations. Two upcoming additions:
 - a. The Personnel Committee has completed its policy manual and has sent it to for a legal review.
 - b. The Coordinating Councils' decision to create a new Antiracism Ministry Team will need to be added to the Manual.

The Stated Clerk **recommends:**

1. Having received requests for an excuse for the November 10, 2020 Stated Meeting of Foothills Presbytery, and having found them in order, moves their approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Foster, Stated Clerk & Presbytery Leader

224th, General Assembly Report

Rev Mel Davis

Foothills Presbytery

I was so excited about going to Baltimore. It is my Mom's hometown. I have relatives that I had planned to visit and to re-connect memories. I was extremely excited about representing Foothills as a commissioner. I have served as a commissioner once before and it was such a wonderful experience, serving on a committee and seeing friends from over the years. It was truly a thrilling experience when we met in Cincinnati. But that was then, and this is now. What a drastic change has shaken us.

This assembly got what work it could do accomplished. It took patience and concentration. I sat at my computer and sat at my computer and sat some more. I am sure that I have never sat as long in one place for so long in my entire life. But you know what? We got it done, we hung in there, we listened, we reconsidered, we substituted motions, the parliamentarian was consulted often, and, in the end, we completed the tasks set before us. We stayed the course and we all survived.

Through the course of the meeting we realized in a new way how important it is for us as a national church to address our nation's social issues. We have work to do! Covid-19 did not stop us! We are called to be voices of hope in our sometimes-chaotic world. We are still the Church and the light of the world!

I would like to commend our other commissioners for their detailed reports from their experiences. I will not attempt to re-do what they have done so well. I would like for all to know how much it meant to have the support of our presbytery staff. They went beyond the call of duty to make sure we had what we needed to do our work. I am sure the host presbytery, Baltimore was extremely disappointed and I am grateful for their work. Much planning and effort went into the pre-planning. And last our GA staff and co-moderators were exceptional in making this as painless as possible.

224th GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORT (Week of June 19-27th, 2020)

Rev. Leslie Lang, Teaching Elder Commissioner

Foothills Presbytery

This General Assembly was one like no other before it, and I am praying to God that there will be no more like it in the future (10 hours on Zoom is exhausting!) Due to Covid-19, the Office of the General Assembly decided that the in-person gathering in Baltimore, MD, would be moved to a virtual format.

I was so excited and honored to be asked to serve as a commissioner, especially when I learned that roughly only 6.5% of the commissioners were under 35 years old (so a shout-out to Foothills Presbytery for sending one!). I was disappointed when the decision was made to hold the assembly online. I was sad to miss out on the in-person fellowship, worship, and overall experience of being physically together with hundreds of Presbyterians in one room for a week. After a stressful day with some technology and communication mishaps, I signed into the opening plenary on Friday, June 19th, stressed and weary before the meeting had even begun.

The June 19th meeting commenced with worship, where J. Herbert Nelson, stated clerk, spoke about the importance of gathering in this critical time in history, especially as a predominately white denomination. His wise words, even in the midst of everything going on in our world, was “Do not be sorrowful; we come with joy because God is with us and God has chosen us, by grace, to be the ones to lead the way.” I felt the power of being commissioned, even through a computer screen. It was the reminder I needed that God’s grace is enough, and that God had called each of us to this place and had equipped us to serve in this way and in this particular time.

After worship and the commissioning, outgoing co-moderators Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri and Cindy Kohlmann welcomed, gave their report, and led us through a voting orientation. All voting was done electronically through PC-Biz, while the assembly itself simultaneously convened over Zoom. Because of meeting electronically, the Assembly voted on special rules to conduct business. The evening also included voting on the agenda, which was split into three separate parts: Information to Receive that does not Require Action, Items to be Discussed and Voted on during this Assembly, and Items to Refer to the 225th General Assembly in 2022. After much discussion and debate, several changes were made to the agenda:

- An item to address systemic racism and racial injustice (00-29)
- An item to address Covid-19 (00-30)
- Two items removed from consent agenda to discuss during this assembly: Native American Coordinating Council report and the Native American Church property report

This meeting was running much later than anticipated, so there was a vote to move the Voting and Installation of the new Co-moderators to Saturday, June 20th at 7pm. That evening, Rev. Gregory Bentley from Huntsville, AL, and Elona Street-Steward from the Twin Cities were elected as the new co-moderators by an overwhelming majority. Both co-moderators are people of color, and Elona is the first ever Native American moderator of the General Assembly.

The next plenary sessions took place on Friday, June 26th and Saturday, June 27th. Friday morning opened with worship, with the theme, “From Lamentation, to Repentance, to Hope, to Action.” Outgoing co-moderators Cintrón-Olivieri and Kohlmann co-preached on the text Ephesians 3:14-21. There was pause to lament the violence of the Coronavirus, the violence of racist structures and white supremacy, and the poverty of our world. We must lament and acknowledge the ways we have contributed to these injustices. But lament is

accompanied by hope as we long for new beginnings. They reminded us of our vow “to pray for and serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.” This vow has always been important, but it is especially so now. We celebrated communion virtually.

We began the business portion of the meeting. Several motions were approved to approve nominations for leadership positions, including electing Jihyun Oh as Associate Stated Clerk.

There was a lot of debate and revisions on motion 00-29, “On the Church in This Moment in History.” Many believed that the original motion put forth by the Committee on the Office of General Assembly did not go far enough in addressing the current issues at hand; a substitute motion was presented and approved by the GA which went into more explicit detail about how we plan to address the issues of racism in our current time.

Motion 00-30 was also slightly amended and passed entitled, “Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic.” We also voted to approve the Native American Coordinator Council Report and the Native American Property Report (00-95 and 00-96). These reports call for funding for the buildings of Native Presbyterian churches, for the Church at all levels to develop partnerships with indigenous-led communities and groups, and for the sales of church properties to return land to indigenous people, among other things.

The Saturday Session opened with the Re-Election of J. Herbert Nelson as Stated Clerk for a second 4-year term. He was re-elected with 94% of the vote. J. Herbert Nelson reminded us that that church is not dying; it is reforming. He called for the church not to be an esoteric institution, but a movement, one that follows Jesus in answering the call of social justice. He also reminded us during this pandemic, “We have learned that the building is not essential to the work that we have to do to the church; it is not essential for sharing the love of Jesus Christ in the world. In fact, I don’t ever remember Jesus having a church house.” I was encouraged, inspired, and hopeful for the next 4 years under his continued leadership.

The Assembly voted and approved amendments to PCUSA Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy (00-05), as well as many other minor motions. There was much discussion over the budget for 2021-2022, but ultimately it was approved. The 2021 Budget is a 25% decrease from 2020 to account for anticipated effects of Coronavirus and expected drop in per capita giving.

In order to receive new business, there had to be a 2/3 vote approving to suspend the rules to discuss new motions. There were two attempts to do so: a motion to adopt a statement about black women and girls, and a motion to develop a taskforce to address issues of the pre-born. Both times, the motion to suspend the rules failed, so these items were not discussed. J. Herbert Nelson led us in prayer lamenting the mistreatment and the injustices of black women and girls at the end of the meeting.

We observed 8 minutes and 46 seconds of silence before closing, in accordance with the mended 00-29 motion, which stated, “Direct the Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly to facilitate a time of silent vigil of 8 minutes and 46 seconds as a symbolic representation in solidarity with our BIPOC siblings, and of corporate lament and personal introspection of our complicity in perpetuating systemic racism and racial injustice before adjourning the 224th General Assembly.” The Assembly closed with worship on Saturday evening.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Leslie Lang

Rev. Leslie Lang

Report to Foothills Presbytery of the 224th General Assembly

“Why have you forgotten us completely? Why have you forsaken us these many days? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old.” Lamentations 5:20-21. “From Lamentation to Hope” was the theme of the 224th General Assembly. Certainly, lamentation is something we are all experiencing during this time of global pandemic and renewed calls for an end to racial injustice and inequity. I was thrilled and honored to be asked to serve as a commissioner to the General Assembly! I am a life long Presbyterian and serving as a commissioner has long been on my bucket list. I was still excited to serve even when it became clear that this General Assembly would not be held in Baltimore, but via Zoom in my bedroom in Greenville. Please allow me a moment of whining-4 days of Zoom meetings lasting from 2 1/2-10 hours was exhausting. And I certainly missed the opportunity to meet and worship with fellow Presbyterians in person. To participate in the meetings and to vote required 2 devices (for me, 2 computers): 1 for the actual Zoom meeting with all the commissioners and attendees and 1 for PC-Biz. PC-Biz was the website where all of the business of the GA was done and which required a scheduled tutorial a couple of weeks before the GA.

The opening plenary began at 7:00 pm on Friday June 19th. I was ready with my 2 computers up and running and, gratefully, had no problems accessing the Zoom meeting and PC-Biz. The session began with a worship service. Although I was disappointed in not attending in person, I was surprised that the act of worship and the commissioning made me feel much more a part of this General Assembly than I had at the beginning of the evening. Next, Cindy Kohlmann and Vilmarie Cintron-Olivieri, outgoing co-moderators, began the business part of the meeting. We voted on the agenda and on special rules to conduct business electronically. The final item of business for the evening was to vote for new co-moderators. However, by the time we were ready to do that, it was 11:15 pm. Since this process usually takes a couple of hours (my usual bedtime is 9:00!) there was a vote to reconvene at 7:00 pm on Saturday evening. I thoroughly enjoyed this process! There were 3 pairs of potential co-moderators. Each spoke briefly about their goals and vision for the PCUSA, then there was time for questions. Elona Street-Steward, the first Native American moderator, and Rev. Gregory Bentley were elected as co-moderators.

Saturday June 20th was the Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington. This was a virtual event, not a physical march, and was supported by the PCUSA. The Poor People’s Campaign is addressing multiple issues affecting the poor: housing, health care, police brutality, hunger, racism. In this virtual march, individuals living in poverty told their own stories. It was a powerful reminder that we, as a rich nation, have millions of our citizens unable to access health care, healthy food or affordable housing. This “March” was a call to action for all who want to see equity and justice for all people.

The plenary session on Friday June 26th opened with worship at 11:00 am. We then proceeded to business. The most debate was on agenda item 00-29—On the Church in this Moment in History—which was a call to action to address racial injustice. Several amendments were added to affirm that Black lives matter and for action to remove systemic racism. Agenda item 00-30—On Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic—was amended to include care and advocacy for marginalized persons most afflicted by coronavirus: LGBTQ persons and Black, Indigenous and People of Color. Agenda items 00-95 and 00-96 addressed issues of Native American churches, particularly funding for repairs to church property.

On Saturday June 27th, the plenary session began with the election of J. Herbert Nelson as Stated Clerk for a second term. In his beautiful address, he reminded us that the roadmap is not clear and we walk by faith. He challenged us that the church building should not be where the work of the church happens. We are called to be the church Jesus Christ wants us to be.

I will admit that my eyes tend to glaze over during budgetary discussions and this was true on Saturday afternoon. The Office of the General Assembly received a Payroll Protection Program Loan of 8.8 million dollars to continue to pay staff during the pandemic. It was announced that there will likely be around \$14,000,000 in budgetary shortfalls over the next 2 years due to the pandemic. The budget for 2021 was approved but is decreased by 25% from 2020 due to the projected loss of income from the pandemic.

There were 2 attempts to suspend the rules to discuss new business. These motions dealt with concerns for black women and girls; particularly dealing with enslaved women being forced to bear children. The Young Adult Advisory Delegates were particularly frustrated that these attempts to suspend the rules were rejected. At the end of the business portion of the day, J. Herbert Nelson led a prayer in support of black women and girls and to challenge the church to work toward eliminating the injustices done to women of color. We then had 8 minutes 46 seconds of silent meditation and prayer to reflect on “our complicity in perpetuating systemic racism” and in “solidarity with our BIPOC siblings”.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Malvern

General Assembly notes and reflections From Jimmy Cheeks

The most important message is to love the poor. Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God!" (Lk 6:20)

Most Commissioners believe that the Church should focus on the poor and sick especially during this pandemic. Many cannot wait for the next Assembly to begin to address the poverty in our communities of many colors. Amendments that will prolong the Assembly were discussed, voted, and approved to address poor conditions of our Native American churches and poverty.

There was much dialogue on changing our white churches to reflect the world we live in. We must acknowledge the past, teach all history, and remove idols that teach bigotry and fear.

Some Commissioners stated that we should confess our past racism and admit to the pain and symbolism from slavery that continues to plague African Americans today.

And some said that we should acknowledge the displacement of Native Americans in order to SEE who is who, and who was here first.

The white race is a conundrum of many European countries who fled Europe to escape poverty and persecution only to inflict the same pain on persons of different colors or cultures. Many don't even know who they are? However, they managed to unite as one WHITE race.

I believe that we better understand each other by our associations with folks from all skin colors.

When we segregate our churches and our communities, we only see ourselves.

Appreciating different people's cultures is the vaccine to inoculate us from racism.

The Tower of Babel became our great distraction. We tried to build an edifice that distracted us; from 'God's gift of life'.

Now we need to appreciate our differences in order to see ourselves and love one another.

I was surprised at how candid some of the discussions were. This is my story.

- Of course I agree, but it is all happening so fast. I am 71 years old and I've lived in two worlds and not accepted in either, because I'm gay.
- I am so proud of PCUSA. Their focus is on the poor and the oppressed.
- I've been Roman Catholic, Baptist, Methodist; I have been negro, nigger, colored, black;
- I've been spit on by white supremacists because of my skin color; jim crow determined where I could live or work; school segregation was my reality; and being bullied for being different was administered by anyone who needed to feel better. (by any race.)
- The pain to become me has been a journey I would not want to repeat. I have arrived. I am me. I am alive. I am a child of God.
- I'm grateful for this opportunity to learn and to better understand our Presbyterian polity.
- I pray that we all live a life of peace. I pray we all will discern the best approach to share and show God's love. I pray for humankind to get it right.
- As a child of God... My life matters.

General Summary

- Young Rising event \$16,000 pledged.
- **From Lament to Hope**
 - Lamentations 5: 21-22: the theme for the 224th General Assembly (2020).
- My [Jimmy] lament and hope
 - **Lament:** Covid-19 and racism
1492 was the beginning of the displacement, enslavement and near- eradication of the indigenous population, whose numbers would drop over 90% from contact with Europeans that brought disease and warfare, slavery, confederate flag, confederate statutes, bullying, sin, pain, killings
 - **Hope:** peace, love, God, children, understanding, forgiveness
- Part of item: 00-29 – The Stated Clerk [J. Herbert Nelson] signed document/contract to support the Poor People's Campaign. Serious discussion on our commitment, voted on, and approved GA support of the "Poor People's Campaign."
- **Budget Orientation Report:** Much discussion due to Covid-19 decline in budget \$\$ for next two years. Missions, Per Capita, Unified Giving 2021 Minus 25%, 2022 Minus 20%
- **The Stated Clerk, J. Herbert Nelson was reelected.**
- Several Amendments to sexual abuse to children discussed, vote on, and approved. (Some Commissioners motioned to not approve any funds unless the PCUSA acknowledge black women and girls who were forced to have babies and suffer the indignation of slavery while having their babies sold as property.) (Assembly observed a time of silence)
- **This 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) declares that Black lives matter**

Poem commend to the entirety of the PC(USA), its members, congregations, presbyteries, synods.

**A knee on a neck
laying bare for all to see
the evil of
callous
soulless
entitled
power
choking the life from
God's beloved
just because.**

**We know what must change.
Will we, church?**

**We have written many
true, significant,
sometimes even sincere
words.**

**We have confessed:
Belhar, C'67, Barmen...**

**Enough words?
Never enough witness.**

**We know we must change.
Will we, church?**

Kairos.

Assembly observed a time of silence (8 minutes & 46 seconds)

**SYNOD OF SOUTH ATLANTIC
34th ZOOM STATED MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020**

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Rev. Kathi Parchem, Synod Moderator, welcomed first-time and returning Commissioners, Presbytery Leaders, Stated Clerks, Racial Ethnic Leaders, the Synod Presbyterian Women Leader, and guests gathered to conduct the business of the Synod. Due to the pandemic the May Stated Meeting was cancelled so the Synod held its first electronic meeting using ZOOM video conferencing.
- The Rev. Rick Douylliez of the St. Marys Presbyterian Church, Savannah Presbytery, led the Synod in worship using Matthew 14:22-33 as the scripture.
- During worship, the Synod Moderator, the Rev. Kathi Parchem, Savannah Presbytery, and the Synod Moderator-Elect, the Rev. Dr. David Shelor, Tampa Bay Presbytery, were installed with former moderator, Gloria Graham Boyd, asking the installation questions of the Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and the Synod.
- Joyce Lieberman, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, reported on the status of the Synod, including the membership, the Presbytery and Synod minutes approvals, and Permanent Judicial Commission decisions. She welcomed the new Presbytery leaders and Clerks to the Synod. She reflected upon the “new normal” of what it means to be the church in this time and place, with widespread COVID and widespread racism.
- The Executive Administrative Commission (EAC) presented a number of proposed Synod Manual of Operations changes and updates as a first reading.
- The Synod voted in favor of the 2021 Stated Meeting dates of April 22-23, 2021 at Epworth-By-The-Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia, as well as an electronic meeting on November 5, 2021.
- Jodi Dodge, Synod Treasurer, was elected to serve another four-year term. Her gifts, expertise and innovations have supported the Synod’s staff and the Budget and Finance Committee.
- William “Bill” Byars, Cherokee Presbytery, was elected as the Chair of the Administration and Relationships Committee (ARC). Ken Whitehurst, Greater Atlanta Presbytery was elected as the Chair of the Ministry Support Committee (MSC).
- The Synod audit for 2019 was completed and in order. The 2021 proposed budget was approved with per capita remaining at \$1.50 and suggested mission giving remaining at \$1.00.
- The Rev. Dr. Alan Baroody read the Ahmaud Arbery Statement from Savannah and Greater Atlanta Presbyteries, which was responded to by the other Georgia Presbyteries.

CPM REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

October 6, 2020

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports that:

1. On August 27, 2020, we:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Received reports of subcommittees.
- c. Met with Inquirer John DuBose and approved recommendation to move him to Candidacy pending approval at the November meeting of Foothills Presbytery.
2. On September 24, 2020, we:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Received reports of subcommittees.
 - c. Approved enrolling CRE Sarah Cornell as an Inquirer.
 - d. Approved recommendation for Leslie Lang and Lori Malvern to serve as ordination exam readers.

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
06.25.20	Ashley Brown	Westminster	Austin	David Weneck
09.24.20	Sarah Cornell	Fair Play	Dubuque	Stan Reid

Pre-Inquirers (1)

Cyndi Banks (Pickens) – Union Charlotte

Bio & Call Statement

I was welcomed into the community of faith at my baptism on May 14, 1989 at Easley Presbyterian Church. Through the love and wisdom both of my parents and the congregation at EPC, I came to know and experience the love of God. I was active in the church's many programs as a youth; I was part of the community's life. At every stage of my life, the church has made God's presence known to me. They continue to keep their baptismal vows as we grow together in the life of faith.

When I went to college, I became involved in the Presbyterian Student Association (UKirk). I was embraced by a new community of faithful Presbyterians under the care of the campus minister, Dottie Metropol. Dottie and the other students involved in Spartanburg PSA became a family to me, showing me what it meant to live into God's mission of love and service. As I moved into a leadership position at PSA, I became aware of God's gentle urging toward ordained ministry. This calling which I felt internally was affirmed over time by my friends and by Dottie's continued mentorship.

Despite these urgings and affirmations, I continued the path toward engineering that I had already set for myself. I went to Clemson for a master's degree in engineering with the goal of eventually finding a job in the field. All the while, God was still drawing me to ministry. While studying at Clemson, I continued to stay involved in the programs at Easley Presbyterian as a choir member and as an advisor to the Middle School Youth Group.

I eventually graduated from Clemson and got an engineering job at GE in Greenville. I married my wife, April, and we began our life together. It was not long, however, that I began to feel God's call more strongly than ever. I started having earnest conversations about this call with April, with my parents, with my supportive pastor Bill Seel, with my friend and mentor Ralph Boggess, and with Dottie Metropol. By God's grace and in affirmation of God's call, they all urged me to follow where God was leading.

After about a year at GE, I decided to enroll as an MDiv student at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte. This program allowed me to continue working full time while still studying. It has been more than 4 years since my seminary journey began. In that time, God has given April and me two beautiful children and has given me new opportunities for work outside GE. Since beginning my studies, I have learned the importance of setting realistic expectations for myself and have found the limits of my time management abilities. God continues to teach me what this calling will look like. April and I look forward to growing into the life toward which God calls us.

I believe that God exists in completeness as a perfect unity of three in one: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. In an outpouring of the perfect self-giving love of the trinity, God is continually creating, sustaining, and redeeming all things according to God's sovereign will. The humble power of God, exercised in love, is sovereign over all of creation, and only God can prevail over the evil that exists in the world.

Jesus Christ, the second person of the trinity, is God in human flesh; fully human and fully divine. Jesus Christ lived, taught, suffered, died, and was raised according to the will of God. In Christ, God emptied Godself and died a humiliating death upon a cross; taking upon himself our sin and brokenness. In his resurrection, God in Christ was victorious over sin and death. In him, God elected all of humanity for redemption. Christ is our life's example and our salvation. He came to preach good news to the poor and he calls us to lives of loving service in gratitude for his grace. We look to his second coming as a time when God's love will triumph over every evil. The work of the Kingdom that God inaugurated in Christ will come to completion, and God "will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the power of God at work in all times and places. The kingdom which Christ inaugurated is made present by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit lives, moves, and loves; gathering us to one another and to God. The Spirit opens the possibility for sinful humanity to be reconciled to one another and to God. In our baptism, the Spirit of God greets us. The Spirit walks with us in our lives, transforming us to become who we are called to be.

I believe that God revealed Godself most fully in the witness of Scripture. It is through Scripture, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we come to know God in Christ. The Scriptures record the experience of God's covenant people and their encounters with the God who loves them. These accounts, written by human beings, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, bear the marks of the cultural understandings of the times in which they were written. They should, therefore, always be interpreted in light of the witness of the love and grace of God in Christ.

I believe that Christ instituted two sacraments: Baptism and the Eucharist. John Calvin referred to sacraments as visible words. Making what is intangible tangible. Allowing us to experience with our bodies the reality of what we know in our hearts: the overwhelming grace of God. Sacraments give us a sense of the fact that God works and loves the physical world. God created, and it was good. The sacraments celebrate that goodness. They are our way of responding to God's grace in gratitude and in community.

I believe that Church, as Calvin said, is where the word is read and heard and the sacraments are administered according to Jesus Christ. This body, called to be Christ's hands and feet, have been tasked with proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed. The church, continually reforming through the power of the Holy Spirit, strives to participate in God's mission of love and service to all creation.

**Committee on Shared Ministry
November 10, 2020**

2020

Pressley Cox 2 (C)
Jane Frost 2
Ralph May 2
Pat Shufeldt 2
Ken Schafer 2
Debbie Foster (Ex-Officio)

2021

Beth Burris 1
Mary Kathleen Duncan 1
David Ellenburg 1
Joseph Gaston 1
Jessica Meggs 1
Audrey Reese 1
Cassie Wolfe 2

2022

Craig Foster (VC) 2
Peggy Hayes 1
Jackie Putnam 1
Noelle Read 1
Natalie Schwartz 1
Peggy Swann 1

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 August Presbytery meeting, the Committee on Shared Ministry met via Zoom on Tuesday, September 15. The committee reports the following:

Leadership Development

The College and Vocation Discernment Team used funds from the 2020 budget to support Camp Fellowship's summer staff leadership program. The team continues to explore grant options for the Intern Program for 2021.

The SC5 Leader of Leaders Event with John Roberto (Vital Faith) was postponed to the spring of 2021.

There will be a virtual SC Minister/Educator Retreat October 26-28 with Dr. Sam Adams (Union Presbyterian Seminary), Old Testament Wisdom, The Bible and Politics. This event is usually held at Montreat, but has shifted to a shorter, two-day virtual event.

<https://foothillspresbytery.org/events/virtual-retreat-october-27-28/>

The APCE annual event has shifted to a virtual retreat to be held in early February 2021. The event will cost around \$100 per person. Given the lower participant fee, Foothills hopes to support more participants for this Annual Event. The scholarship request form will be made available in early November. The 50th anniversary celebration will now happen at the 2022 Annual Event (Feb 9-12).

CSM approved an opportunity for some of our Presbytery pastors to work with Ministry Architects in a cohort setting. The cohort of 8-10 pastors will meet for a 5-week period creating tangible plans for the season of Advent. Each pastor will come away with an individualized plan for Advent based on their ministry setting. The plans may include virtual, in-person, or hybrid worship as well as educational components.

The total cost of the proposal is \$3,410. As there are varying size and financial abilities of congregations, the pricing would be a tiered approach.

The total cost of this Continuing Education Cohort is \$430 per person if there are 8 participants. Recognizing the financial burdens that some churches are feeling at this time, Foothills Presbytery is pleased to offer Investment Option pricing for pastors.

Green Option- Name your price! Does your church have extra money for continuing education? Any amount above \$430 will help support someone else.

Blue Option- \$430 This option covers the full price of the program.

Red Option- \$250 This option provides a discount for those who may not have as much in their 2020 continuing education budget.

Purple Option- \$50 This option provides a deep discount for churches that are facing significant financial burdens.

The venture will be subsidized by both CSM funds, as well as Presbytery funds designated for ministries of CSM.

Mission Outreach

Cents-Ability: Congregations participating in this ministry are encouraged to continue this offering given to help alleviate hunger. Ideas for promoting this ministry were shared.

Foothills Collaborative Habitat Build: Building is on hold until COVID-19 numbers are at levels mandated by Habitat for Humanity.

Foothills PDA A draft Disaster Preparedness and Response plan was presented to the committee to review. After CSM reviews the plan at a future meeting, it will be sent to Presbytery Council for review and approval before being shared with congregations.

South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Team (SC- PDAT) Rick Turner reported representatives from the five SC presbyteries have been meeting. Pressley Cox is representing Foothills Presbytery. Working with Presbyterian Women, PDA held virtual training sessions and eleven Disaster Preparedness Trainers were commissioned.

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.

Joys and concerns are still being shared with the presbytery.

Communications

If needed, help is available to assist with streaming and technology issues. A technology grant will be available from the Future Church Fund. Information about best practices is also being developed.

Curriculum and Resources

Pat Shufeldt is in the process of adding HOOPLA (public library program) to the Westminster Presbyterian library data base and will import to the Presbytery resource website.

Outdoor Ministry

The choir from Uganda at Camp Fellowship will be there through the end of November and questions were raised about what help may be needed. Report was given about the Fall Adult Retreat (virtual).

Youth Ministry

PYC Coordinator Joan Jones shared the following:

PYC met on Saturday, August 22 from 9-4 for our planning retreat. This was our first in person gathering since March. We welcomed our new members and spent time getting to know one another all while socially distancing outside at Eastminster Presbyterian.

Some of our Seniors led us in “get to know you” games and allowed us to learn some new games that we can use when we are able to gather with other youth groups.

We spent a great deal of time discussing the possibility of a fall middle school retreat at Bonclarken. While Bonclarken is willing to host a retreat, we realize that most of our churches are not meeting in person with their youth and are not comfortable with traveling with groups at this time. So, we began to think outside of the box about ways that we, as a PYC, could provide ministry opportunities to the youth of Foothills. PYC on the Road started to come to life. The youth began to get excited about the possibilities of sharing a theme with keynote, small group, energizers, and activities via Zoom or leading it in person! It could be done with individual churches or with one or more churches together.

PYC chose the theme “**Behind the Mask**” for this year! At our September meeting, we will begin working on a keynote, small group time, recreation, vespers, etc.! More information will be available to our churches very soon! Attached you will find scripture that the youth have chosen to help bring the theme to life. The youth began by discussing how difficult the beginning of quarantine was and how they felt they were missing out on so many things. The discussion led to great conversations about what we place importance on and the things that really matter in our lives. The youth all agreed that the longer Covid has continued, they have realized things that they thought were the most important in the beginning were not the things that matter the most.

The youth tossed around several ideas, we prayed and talked about each one. When someone mentioned “Unmasked” they all got excited. They agreed that there are so many masks that we all wear because society tells us we should be a certain way, friends tell us to act a certain way, schools tell us we must be a certain way to fit in, etc. and they even discussed how difficult it is to recognize people with masks on right now. Then we read the passages attached and focused on Romans 12 and realized that when the masks are removed and we are unmasked and are true selves that God created us to be that we are living into our calling. It was a gift to be able to watch the youth through this process.

Officers for the 2020-2021 year:

Mary Katherine Nelson – Moderator- Easley Presbyterian

Augusta Roach- Vice Moderator- Easley Presbyterian

Grace Harshbarger- Secretary- Fountain Inn Presbyterian

Campus Ministry

Most campus ministries continue to meet virtually, and some are beginning to meet outside.

Child Advocacy and Awareness

Beth Burris is working with First Spartanburg on their plan. There was discussion concerning online safety procedures.

Small Church Connections

A group had a virtual meeting with Olanda Carr about budget planning and work is being done on organizing small church cohorts.

Presbyterian Women

Encouraged to use the Horizons Bible Study and to access the online resources available for the study.

Budget

The budget was discussed including determination of any new needs.

Brainstorming

Pandemic restrictions continue to change ministry and there was discussion of ideas and some things being done in other presbyteries. It was also noted that care must be taken not to overwhelm people.

Nominations for CSM are needed, especially in the areas of Outdoor Ministry, Youth, and Presbyterian Ministry.

The next meeting of the Committee on Shared Ministry will be on Tuesday, November 17 at noon. The meeting will be held via Zoom if in person meetings are still restricted at that time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Craig Foster, Chair

Committee on Ministry Report

October 6, 2020

The Committee on Ministry reports:

1. The following Temporary Pastoral relationship contracts have been approved: Terri Price at Providence, Al Masters at First Greer, Bob Pettit at Glenn Springs, Robin White at North Anderson, Dan Sansbury at Limestone, Morton White at Walhalla and West Union Chapel, Charles Pratt at McCarter, Lerone Wilder at Mattoon, Noelle Read at Central, Jack Taylor at Roberts, Lewis Johnson at First Spartanburg, and Beth Templeton at Eastminster. Additionally, COM approved the contract for Pete Peery at First Greer to continue on a month to month basis.
2. The following Commissioned Ruling Elder covenants have been approved: Art Williams at Richland, Mike Turner at Unity.
3. The following Validated Ministry was approved: Jennifer Fouse Sheorn who is serving as Pastor and Executive Director at Triune Mercy Center.
4. That it conducted an Exit Interview with Jennifer Fouse Sheorn from St. Giles.
5. That Terri Price was appointed Moderator for the Faith Church.
6. That the following were appointed as liaisons to PNCs: Jacky Stamps at Central and Scott Berry at First Spartanburg.
7. That we received interim reports from Pete Peery at First Greer and Chris Jones at Trinity.
8. That we voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Tom Evans.
9. That we actively reached out to Pastors and Clerks to provide support during Covid-19.
10. That the following were dismissed: Cassie Wolfe to Western Reserve and Tom Evans to New York. Berry French was returned to Western North Carolina after serving within our bounds.
11. That we have focused some attention on documentation:
 - a. Revisions were completed for the Pastor Nominating Committee manual and a process flow diagram has been developed.
 - b. Revisions are underway for the Sexual Ethics and Misconduct Policy and Procedures.
 - c. Revisions are underway for definitions of Ministerial Positions.
 - d. The CRE Subcommittee is currently developing a CRE Manual.
12. That we sent out Annual Terms of Call and Annual Work of the Ministry (Validated). A report will follow.

COM recommends:

1. With sincere appreciation, Foothills Presbytery approves the request of Teaching Elders Frank Strickland, Tim Holland, and Gordon Raynal be granted the status of Honorably Retired.

Respectfully submitted,

Nath Briley, Chair

**Foothills Presbytery
Committee on Ministry
Recognition of Honorable Retirement
from the Ministry of Word and Sacrament**

Acknowledgement of Retirees

Call to Worship (from Psalm 90:1-2 and Psalm 103:1-5)

Leader: Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

People: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits,

Leader: Who forgives all your sins and heals all your infirmities

People: Who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness;

Leader: Who satisfies you with good things.

People: And your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

Celebrating the Retiree's Service

Fulfillment of Call

Closing Prayer

Biographical Information

I was born in Ozark, Alabama where my father served as a church musician. My parents moved our family to Bristol, TN, while my brother and I were still young. Our days were idyllic; we played in the horse pastures around our house, worked in the garden, and ate Sunday dinners with extended family. My father's professorship at a small Presbyterian college shaped our family's faith practices, education, and community. We were surrounded by Christians who demonstrated their faith in ordinary and kind ways.

After graduating from Furman University (Greenville, SC), I went to Belfast, Northern Ireland with the Young Adult Volunteer program. Working as a peacemaker on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was extraordinarily difficult and life-changing. I returned from Belfast to serve in the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery. Campus ministry and congregational worship reaffirmed a sense of call into ministry. Although I had not planned to attend seminary, when presented admissions forms, the essays practically wrote themselves. Thus, I followed the Spirit's energy and call to Columbia Seminary (Decatur, GA).

I served as Associate Pastor at both First Presbyterian Church (Dunedin, FL) then First Presbyterian Church (Clarksville, TN) before accepting a call to work on the *Glory to God* hymnal project (Louisville, KY). It was my privilege to serve as pastor and educator to the denomination, interpreting the committee's work to Presbyterians across the country. This unique opportunity used a number of my gifts and interests: music, teaching, writing, traveling, the larger church, and more. At its conclusion, however, I was glad to return to congregational ministry in the bounds of the Presbytery of Long Island (Melville, NY). The daily rhythm of parish life is one that I missed. From weekly prayer groups and Bible studies to monthly committee and Session meetings to local Presbytery gatherings, I truly relish my work as pastor.

While living in Louisville, KY, I met and married Rev. Adam Fischer. We have two young children, Huck (3) and Finch (infant). We enjoy adventuring outdoors and to new places, playing tabletop games, and watching binge-worthy shows. We are excited to work together as co-pastors and look forward to immersing our family in that of St. Giles!

Personal Faith Statement

I believe in the Triune God: Almighty God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Creator God. The world was formed by and subjected to this God. Each individual is created by and invited into relationship with God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, Immanuel – “God with us” – who became fully human. Jesus became incarnate out of the Triune God’s love for creation. He lived and died in order that all of creation might be redeemed from sin’s death and destruction.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is the continuous breath of God, flowing through the world as a sustainer, inspirer, protector, unifier, and nurturer.

I believe that while creation was formed from and in God’s goodness, sin now disrupts God’s goodness. All of creation suffers from sin and death. Sin is our state of being, not just something we do.

I believe in God’s overwhelming grace. We experience this grace in God’s forgiveness, the gift of new life, glimpses of peace, and opportunities for service and discipleship.

I believe that our role as Christians is to bring God’s grace and peace to earth. We must work to further the kingdom of God in realistic and tangible ways every day, with friend and stranger.

I believe that the Triune God has spoken through peoples of every generation, revealing God’s self in writings and Holy Scriptures. These words, images, ideas, and individuals are meant to inspire, guide, and challenge our daily lives.

I believe that God calls creation into community with one another and with God’s Triune self. Community models the dance between each of the three persons of God; their different gifts and tasks are complimentary of one another. Community reminds members of God’s love and promises, and holds one another accountable within those sacred boundaries.

I believe that, while we are called to be at work in the world today, we are also called to keep our eyes fixed heavenward, waiting for God’s return to earth. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Daniel Sansbury Bio & Call Statement

May 16, 2020

I was fortunate, in the providence of God, to be raised by parents who took seriously their baptismal vows. My father, a life-long member of the Darlington, SC Presbyterian Church, served there as Sunday School teacher, deacon and elder. My mother, a native of Anderson, SC, was a typical mom of four Baby Boomer children. She served in the Presbyterian Women, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, church retreats and much more. My father worked long-term as city attorney, plus his local law practice, and two terms in the state legislature. My mother, the former physical education teacher, taught Red Cross swimming lessons each summer for decades. Beyond our daily family devotions and every Sunday at church, we were taught that basic Presbyterian lesson: you are already loved and blessed by God, so share your blessings in service and witness to other people, in whatever opportunities come your way. I have always known “who made me,” and why God made us all – “for his own glory.”

For college, I attended USC in Columbia, as did my siblings, several cousins and future brothers-in-law. I knew throughout college that God had called me to the ordained ministry. I participated in the campus ministry led by the late Dr. Jerry Hammet, and worked three summers on staff at Camp Pee Dee, our presbytery camp. My next step was attendance at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA. There I earned my Doctor in Ministry “in sequence” over the next 4 years.

During my seminary years, I sought to weave together my personal experiences of Christ at work in my life with the “faith seeking understanding” of Calvin and his successors. I was blessed to spend a summer, and then an entire school year, at the Pasadena Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg, FL under the mentorship of Dr. Martin L. Harkey, Jr. “Marty” was a second career pastor. He had graduated from the University of Virginia with an electrical engineering degree, and worked for a time for General Electric. Then, in his 30’s, his call to the ordained ministry led him to a long, successful and inspirational career in Anderson, SC and St. Petersburg. He was a remarkable role model for me! His faith interwove personal relationship to Jesus Christ, Savior and Lord and academic understanding and articulation of Christianity. He led the congregation well, while also being deeply involved with his people out of genuine affection for them. I have sought to have a similar pastoral career.

My first pastorate was a traditional church on the north side of Salisbury, NC. I then served almost six years in new church development on the west side of Fayetteville, NC near Fort Bragg. Although I had not served in the military, I felt called to begin this work that provided worship, fellowship and witness to young military families and retirees. That was followed by a 20-year role as senior pastor of the 550-member Rivermont Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, and 7-plus years back in my home county as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, SC. Nearing retirement but looking for a different role in the Church, I served 13 months as interim pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Cheraw, SC. I will now be serving a second interim pastorate at Limestone Presbyterian Church, Gaffney. During that long tenure in Chattanooga, I went to Haiti three times. My life and ministry priorities were changed by the great needs as well as great opportunities for missionary service, there and in this state. I have now served our Lord and his Church as an ordained pastor in four presbyteries in three states for 39 years. That includes 15 years on the Committee on Ministry. I was also a General Assembly commissioner in 1995, a member of the national Committee on Theological Education 1996-2003, the moderator of East Tennessee in 2007, and a synod commissioner in 2019.

I am married to Joye Chapman, a native of Cheraw. We have three young adult children and three grandsons.

The adult years of my life have been filled with quite a variety of challenges and opportunities for faith and service. I give thanks again and again for God’s gracious goodness to us all!

Daniel Sansbury

May 16, 2020

Throughout my ministerial career, I have read books by gifted preachers and writers like Tom Long, Barbara Brown Taylor, Fred Craddock, Frederick Buechner, and William Willimon. I just finished reading Willimon's Accidental Preacher, which is sort of an autobiography. He writes of his upbringing near Greenville, SC, and then service as Methodist pastor, chaplain at Duke University and later bishop. He looks at life and faith somewhat sideways, as I also do. The chapter titles of his book include "Fortuitous Baptism," "Inadvertent Summons," "Unplanned Disruptions" and "Serendipitous Writer."

This lengthy introduction to my own faith statement is my roundabout introduction to a life constantly surprised by the gracious love of God. As I have said or preached hundreds of times, we did not and could not earn this grace, nor could we deserve it (it is grace, after all). Further, we cannot lose it, for God is determined to love us in spite of ourselves. We live into the gracious promise of our Lord when he said, "You did not choose me but I chose you." [John 15.16] All we can do is receive, trust and share the good news about this amazingly gracious, persistent love of God in Jesus Christ. We live in gratitude for what God has already done for us through Jesus Christ!

I find great joy in gathering with God's people for worship! Our hymns, prayers, scripture readings and messages inspire us to explore and live into this grace. We are invited to imagine a kingdom of God on earth, and to take steps in faith toward that kingdom reality. A highlight of every worship service is the assurance of pardon and a congregational response like, "We Are Forgiven." We are not called and forgiven for our own ends, but for the world. So, we also sing "Called as partners in Christ's service / called to ministries of grace . . ." While personal safety may be our over-riding concern, Jesus still calls us to go out and make a positive difference in his name. We respond to his call as best we can, while singing, "here I am, Lord . . . I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me."

I affirm with the Church the essential tenets of the Reformed and trinitarian faith: the sovereignty of our gracious God who rules over us; Jesus Christ, Son of God incarnate, crucified Savior and resurrected Lord; and, Holy Spirit as the transforming and indwelling Spirit of the Risen Christ. God's written Word, the Bible, narrates God's salvific history with his people, as well as offers ethical guidelines for Christ's modern-day disciples. The Church of Jesus Christ, incomplete though it may be, is still the body of Christ on earth. The sacraments of baptism and communion reveal the gracious life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and invite us together to follow our Lord faithfully. The simplest commandment is 2-fold: love God and love your neighbor. Thus, the Church of Jesus Christ is an inclusive, welcoming community of Christian hospitality to all people. Our Lord washed his own disciples' feet. He invites us to a similar life of downward mobility for ourselves in order to lift up people who might otherwise be downcast, discouraged and despairing. Despite the enormous challenges faced by Christians and the institutional Church today, we offer a joyful message of God's gracious love and inspiring hope to our community and the world. We long for the ultimate return of Christ and the world's recognition of him as Lord. In the meantime, every Christian and every congregation has untold opportunities to share God's forgiving and reconciling love.

I affirm our Presbyterian way of being church together and governing ourselves, as found in our constitution. I especially affirm the collaborative way that pastor and elders guide and govern the local church body. At the same time, I appreciate opportunities to do ministry and mission in collaboration with sisters and brothers in Christ of other denominations. Our requirement to listen to the Spirit of Christ and to listen to one another leads us closer to God's will for us all. I appreciate the "Six Great Ends of the Church" as clear statements of the overall purpose of God's Church. I seek to be an enthusiastic and faithful Presbyterian servant of our Lord.

Rev. Adam B. Fischer
Biography and Call to Ministry

I was born and raised in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, grew up in the Pacific Northwest, the middle of three sons, romping and roaming through the wild mountains, lakes, and forests. My favorite place to be was my grandparent's lake home where they maintained a more than 100-acre wildlife sanctuary on their property. I learned to admire God's creation and live as harmoniously with it as possible.

I have attended a Presbyterian Church since I was born and have always identified as a Christian. However, it wasn't until I was on a mission trip during my junior year at Albertson College that I began to feel a call to the ministry. In the streets of Tijuana, I awakened to the reality of inequality and injustice present in the world: it was clear that God's kingdom was not fully present and that there were many people seeking to build the Kingdom of God. Returning from that trip, I sought to embody Christ's call to serve the least and I began to see the face of Christ reflected in strangers, neighbors, friends, and foes. I was well supported and nurtured by a spiritual director, campus minister, and pastoral mentor who helped me recognize and understand my call to ministry.

I went to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary feeling strongly called and completely out of my league because I graduated college with honors in psychology having only taken a single religion class. I quickly discovered seminary nurtured my gifts and honed my skills. I volunteered and lived in Cape Town, South Africa for four months where I learned about forgiveness, reconciliation, and resurrection through the people's stories and the wisdom of Linda Biehl and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I was a Theological Advisory Delegate to 217th General Assembly in Birmingham. I was a candidate under care of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest. After graduating with an M.Div., I continued my education and earned a Master of Theology with a focus on environmental ethics and eco-theology. Throughout all of these experiences, I learned to listen and speak to people with different Biblical interpretations, theological perspectives, cultural backgrounds and practices, and life journeys. I continue to grow in understanding that the Body of Christ is one body with many members.

I have worked for the church in many ways. While earning my Th.M, I worked with the Presbyterian Hunger Program. I created the "Just Living" series to help people of faith embody the scriptures through practical living. I have written for Presbyterians Today, creating the 2012 Advent Calendar devotional, "Simple Gifts." I have worked with the Montreat Youth Conference leadership teams as a small group manual writer, small group trainer, and conference leader. I have served as a pastor in ordained ministry for more than a decade.

While living in Louisville and serving at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, I met the Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan. We married in 2015 and dreamed of one day working together in ministry. We moved to Long Island, New York where we have been serving two churches in transition. During this time we have grown our family and welcomed two boys, Huck and Finch who remind us to see the world with wonder. I attended interim ministry training to bolster my skills as a transitional pastor. With the help of the Presbyterian Foundation, I shepherded First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin through Project Regeneration to nurture church growth and renewal. I helped the church discover their identity by having intentional conversations and developing a mission statement to articulate God's call. I chair the Salt and Light Committee, the Presbytery of Long Island's mission committee; we strive to empower and lead the presbytery to put their faith in action.

My life has been filled with many adventures and experiences. The Spirit has led me around the world to learn about the depth and breadth of God's mercy and love. I am excited to continue to grow as a pastor and partner with the church to share the Light of Christ with the world.

Faith Statement

I believe there is a cost to proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; it is to live sacrificially. I believe that people are saved by God's grace, and our response to the gift of grace is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God in defiance of evil, greed, and temptations of power. I believe that sin is real and present in the world. Christ died as a sacrifice of love to free the world from the clutches of sin. In Christ's resurrection, we are all called to die to the life-draining ways of the empire and live as forgiven and forgiving disciples; we are called to share this good news with all.

I believe deeply in grace. We have all done wrong and fallen short of God's call in our lives. Christ is in the only position to condemn, yet it is Christ who sets us free. Therefore our task is to model and share this love with others through how we live. I don't believe we have the luxury of holding grudges or bearing a witness that would further separate ourselves or others from God's abounding love. The grace of God has set me free, so I strive not to imprison others.

I believe that the Spirit is the source of Wisdom and speaks to us still. The Spirit calls us to right action and stirs our hearts in the face of injustice. The Spirit allows us to hear the voice of God in the Bible and compels us to action so that we can be the church, Christ's hands and feet, to the world.

I believe that we encounter our living God in the sacraments. Ordinary elements of water, bread, and wine connect us with God as a part of a sacred ritual. We are sealed and claimed as God's own, reminded of God's grace and love poured out in living waters and overflowing cups. In the sacraments, we are woven afresh into the tapestry of the church where we are all one in Christ.

I believe in continually listening to where God is still speaking through prayer, meditation, and discernment. By studying the scriptures with others, we continue to discern God's will. The confessions enhance our understanding and guide the church further toward right action.

Christ's outreach to the poor, the downtrodden, the rejected, the oppressed, and those who do not have a voice, still serves as a prophetic witness to the entire church. I believe that the actions we take on a day-to-day basis reflect our commitment to God, testifying to our love for God and God's ability to work in and through us.

Christ has reconciled the world to God and God is working in our hearts to help us live as reconciled people, choosing love over hate, mercy over vengeance, generosity over greed, and to continually seek forgiveness. I am delighted to be a child of God and to share God's love with the world around me.

Foothills Presbytery Coordinating Council Report
October 6, 2020

The Foothills Presbytery Coordinating Council had a Called Meeting (Zoom) on August 11, 2020 and **reports** the following:

1. Heard and unanimously approved recommendation of the Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry Search Committee and the Personnel Committee, to hire the Rev. Pressley Cox as the Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry with starting date of October 1, 2020.
2. Heard and approved the recommendation from the Personnel Committee, a monetary gift for the Rev. Gordon Raynal's years of service to Foothills Presbytery.
3. Heard and unanimously approved the recommendation from the appointed working group, to establish a **Foothills Presbytery Antiracism Ministry Team**, with the following scope, composition, and accountability:

Scope:

a. Develop and recommend to Council:

- *Policy changes in the presbytery that will better reflect our commitment to antiracism*
- *Opportunities for congregations and members of Foothills Presbytery to engage in conversation, education, and action that lead to the development of antiracist policies and practices in our congregations and the local communities to whom we bear witness.*

b. Collaborate with presbytery committees to pursue the goals of antiracism in the scope of their work.

c. Explore our theology, anthropology, and sociology in light of the work of antiracism.

Composition: *9 members (3 classes of 3 members each, serving 3 years)*

*Co-chair, Person of Color, Co-chair, White, liaison to COM, liaison to CPM, liaison to CSM, liaison to the REC, 3 Members-at-large, and the Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry, serving ex-officio. **Accountability:** Permanent Committee of Council*

Members of the Task Force: *Mike Hoyt, Chad Wright-Pittman, Lerone Wilder, Nath Briley, Michael Sullivan, Ex Officio: Debbie Foster, Pressley Cox, and Robin Morris*

4. Heard and approved the following Presbytery Stated Meeting dates for 2021.
 - a. February 16, 2021
 - b. May 15, 2021
 - c. November 9, 2021

d. August 7, 2021 (if needed and virtual)

The Foothills Presbytery Coordinating Council met virtually for a Stated Meeting on October 6, 2020 and **reports** the following:

1. Heard a report from the Transition Think Tank updating Council on their continued efforts to think about the future shape of ministry. The TTT continues to partner with the Presbyterian Foundation on the Legacy Partnership Project. We were reminded that Foothills is a pilot presbytery for this work.
2. Council affirmed an email vote to enter into contract with Anderson Ridge Development LLC for the sale of the West Georgia Road property in the amount of \$1,050,000 with \$50,000 in earnest money. The contract is pending.
3. Heard and approved the recommendation that the Moderator elect be given a one-time exception from the policy in the Presbytery Manual of Operations, and be allowed to begin service one month early (February 2021).
4. Heard and approved the recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Team, to establish the *Staying Connected Grants*. Offered in two rounds, these grants will provide funds for (1) technology and (2) local missional ministry. The grant (up to \$2,500 per church) will be given to five churches in each category. A church may only receive one grant per cycle.

The Coordinating Council **recommends**:

1. The election of the following slate for the Officers for Presbytery:
 - a. Associate Stated Clerk: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2023: Robin Morris
 - b. Treasurer: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021: Stan Reid
 - c. Parliamentarian: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021: De Calvert
 - d. Recording Clerk: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021: Leland Burch
 - e. Assistant Recording Clerk: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021: Phil Lyles
2. Update the Foothills Presbytery Manual of Operations to include the new the Antiracism Ministry Team. (first reading)
3. Extension of the Administrative Commission powers granted Council May 16, 2020 through the next in-person meeting of Presbytery. The Administrative Commission powers granted May 16, 2020 end on November 10. They are:
 - A. *Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, approve Honorable Retirements*
 - B. *Upon the recommendation of the Examination Commission, approve the Ordination and Installation of Candidates for Ministry, and approve Ordination and/ or Installation Commissions*
 - C. *Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, approve those under care to be approved as Candidates for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.*

4. At the 112th meeting of Foothills Presbytery (February 2020) the presbytery approved the Coordinating Council's recommendation to designate funds from the Presbytery's Investments. \$250,000 was approved for "the Scholarship Fund." Expecting an average annual return of 5%, the fund should yield approximately \$12,000 a year for scholarship assistance.

In March of 2020, we established a Scholarship Task Force to determine best practices in administering and managing the presbytery's new fund.

Over the course of several meetings, the group explored:

- Existing funds available through local churches to support of ministry students
- Tuition expense of training for service in the church (M.Div programs, CRE Lay School programs, and Certified Christian Education programs).
- Other expenses associated with training (housing, textbooks, travel, psychological testing and assessment).
- Amount anticipated annually from the presbytery's scholarship endowment.

On October 6th, Coordinating Council heard and approved the Scholarship Task Force's recommendation.

The Coordinating Council **recommends:**

Proceeds of the scholarship fund are allocated

1. *50% for grants to all those "under care" of Foothills Presbytery (those preparing for service as minister of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Ruling Elder, or Certified Christian Educator). These grants are capped annually at \$500 for M.Div. students and \$300 for CRE and CCE students. Grant funds be allocated 75% to M.Div. students and 25% to CRE and CCE students, divided equally among all students under care during the year. Any grants not accepted will be added to the financial needs-based allocations.*

2. *The remaining funds are allocated for need-based financial aid.*

The current Scholarship Task Force will remain in place and oversee the 2021 distribution of funds and make recommendations on any policy revisions for the future.

The Coordination Council expresses gratitude for the faithful work of the Scholarship Task Force Members: Terri Price (TE/Chair), Stan Reid (TE), Fred Tolly (RE), Peggy Swann (TE), Art Williams (RE), Pressley Cox (TE), Gordon Turnbull (TE), Nath Briley (TE), and Debbie Foster (Staff)

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoyt, Chair

Members: Mike Hoyt, Chair; Sidney Mize, Past Presbytery Moderator; Dick Christopher, Phil Lyles, Dennis Tedder, Nath Briley, Elizabeth Jones, Tom Evans, Holt Andrews, Bill Lancaster, Dennis Latham, Craig Foster, and Michael Sullivan; **Ex Officio:** Debbie Foster, Presbytery Leader & Stated Clerk; Robin Morris, Associate Stated Clerk; Leland Burch, Recording Clerk; and Stan Reid, Treasurer

Nominations Committee Report November 10, 2020

Presbytery Moderator	Rev. Terri Price (Providence)	2020-2021
Moderator-Elect	Rev. Patrick Jinks (At-Large)	2021-2022

Coordinating Council		
Moderator	Rev. Nath Briley (Pickens)	2021-2022

Committee on Ministry (COM)

Chair: Rev. Gordon Turnbull, John Knox

Susan Oldham (First Spartanburg)	Class of 2023 (1)
Mark Taylor (St. Giles)	Class of 2023 (1)
Beth Meyer (Fourth)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Christi Brown (At-Large)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Gordon Turnbull (John Knox)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Nath Briley (Pickens)	Class of 2023 (2)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Chair: Rev. Dottie Metropol, (Honorably Retired)

Rev. Mel Davis (Fair Play)	Class of 2023 (1)
Jan Ellis (Nazareth)	Class of 2023 (1)
Rev. Lauren Slingerland (Westminster Greenville)	Class of 2023 (1)
David Weneck (Nazareth)	Class of 2023 (2)
Cherie Setzler (Inman)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Dottie Metropol (Honorably Retired)	Class of 2023 (2)

Ordination Exam Readers:

Rev. Leslie Lang (First Spartanburg)
Lori Malvern (Townville)

Committee on Shared Ministry (CSM)

Chair: Rev. Craig Foster (First Spartanburg)

Pat Fuller (John Knox)	Class of 2023 (1)
April Swanson (Central)	Class of 2023 (1)
Rev. Michael Sanchez (Fort Hill)	Class of 2023 (1)
Bob Phillis (John Knox)	Class of 2023 (1)
Andrea Storie (First Anderson)	Class of 2023 (1)
Rev. Indy Dennis (At-large)	Class of 2021 (1)
Rick Turner (First Greer)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Ralph May (At-Large)	Class of 2023 (2)
Minnie Thomas (Fourth)	Class of 2023 (2)

Bills & Overtures

Chair: Rev. Bill Lancaster (Honorably Retired)

Lori Malvern (Townville)	Class of 2023 (1)
Richard Caldwell (Seneca)	Class of 2023 (2)
Beverly George (Eastminster)	Class of 2023 (2)

Examinations:

Co-Chairs: Elizabeth Clayton (First Greer) and Rev. Amos Workman (Westminster Greenville)

Rev. Amos Workman (Westminster Greenville)	Class of 2023 (2)
Elizabeth Clayton (First Greer)	Class of 2023 (2)

Finance & Stewardship Committee

Chair: Dennis Latham (Easley)

Investment Committee *(Nominated by Finance & Stewardship)*

Russ Williams (Westminster Greenville)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Justin Cazel (At-Large)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Laura Conrad (Fort Hill)	Class of 2023 (2)
Rev. Jim Caprell (At-Large)	Class of 2023 (2)

Nominating Committee

Chair: Rev. David Howell (John Knox)

GINNA LISTER, (Easley)	Class of 2023 (1)
Sonya Dawson (Mattoon)	Class of 2023 (1)

Personnel Committee

Chair: Phil Lyles (Easley)

Fred Tolly (First Anderson)	Class of 2023 (1)
Angie Rodgers (Mt. Zion)	Class of 2023 (1)
Rev. Lud Weaver (Honorably Retired)	Class of 2023 (1)

Racial Ethnic

Chair: Rev. Michael Sullivan (Nicholtown)

Elizabeth Jones (Flat Rock)

Anti-Racism Ministry Team

Co-Chairs: Rev. Lerone Wilder (Mattoon) and Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan (Westminster Greenville)

Rev. Lerone Wilder, Co-Chair (Mattoon)
Rev. Mary Kathleen Duncan, Co-Chair (Westminster Greenville)

Rev. Mike Hoyt (Fourth)
Rev. Robert Bannan (First Spartanburg)
Elizabeth Jones (Flat Rock)
Rev. Bessie Black (Westminster Saxon)
Rev. Kathy Chamlee (Pickens)

Rep & Review

Chair: Susan Tompkins (First Greer)

Jeff Motes (Faith)	Class of 2023 (1)
Susan Tompkins (First Greer)	Class of 2023 (1)
Fred Hyslop (First Greer)	Class of 2023 (2)

Sexual Ethics Team

Rev. John Hartman (Seneca)	Class of 2023 (1)
Rev. Julie Meredith (At-Large)	Class of 2023 (1)
Mark Sucher (Eastminster)	Class of 2023 (1)

Worship Committee

Chair: Holt Andrews (First Spartanburg)

Cynthia Sims (Eastminster)	Class of 2023 (1)
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2020 Nominations Committee

Chair: Dick Christopher

Class of 2020
Rev. Kathy Chamlee
Russell Harris
Carol Kendall

Class of 2021
Dick Christopher
Jeff Gilstrap, CRE
Rev. Aaron. Ochart

Class of 2022
Fran Bagwell
Jimmy Cheeks
Rev. David Howell

Presbytery Staff:
Rev. Debbie Foster
Robin Morris
LeAnne White

Representation and Review Committee Report
October 20, 2020

Due to Covid-19 the Representation and Review Committee could not review 2019 Session Minutes in the spring in our normal manner. In our September meeting, we decided to ask the Clerks to drop off their minutes at the Presbytery Office.

As of October 20, our committee has reviewed the Session Minutes for 26 churches. We have done a second email asking for minutes to be dropped off and feel confident that additional churches will comply.

My committee and I appreciate the faithful service of all those involved in this important work.

May you be safe and well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Anne Morris Jones
Representation and Review, Chair

Committee members: Rev. Tandy Taylor, Rev. Michael Sullivan, Mr. Harold Gilbert, Mr. Fred Hyslop, Rev. Morton White, Debbie Foster, and Robin Morris

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

October 6, 2020

The Personnel Committee reports that:

1. On September 8, 2020, the committee met to review a final draft (hopefully) of the Foothills Personnel Policy Manual. The manual has been forwarded to a lawyer for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Lyles, Personnel Chair

WORSHIP TEAM REPORT

10/21/2020

The team has met, in whole or in part, several times via Zoom and has also had a number of email exchanges.

Our most time-sensitive project is well underway...providing a recorded worship service for the next presbytery meeting on November 10. The theme of the service will be taken from Hebrews 12:1-3 (...since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses...) and will feature a reading of the names of saints who have left us in the past year, plus contributions from the following:

The spoken word from Debbie Foster, Chad Wright-Pittman, Mary Kathleen Duncan, and Beverly Kelly.

Music from Central Pres. Anderson, First Pres. Spartanburg, and Mt. Zion Pres. Sandy Springs.

Testimonies from youth representing several churches in the presbytery.

We have also begun the planning process for an approximately 45 minute worship service designed for the Sunday after Christmas (Dec 27) that we hope will be useful for any congregation, but particularly those with small staffs who will have already done a great deal of work during Advent and Christmas and find themselves in real need of sabbath time for themselves and their families. The service will be led by your Presbytery staff and include music from many of the Foothills congregations.

We produced a similar kind of service over the summer that seems to have been well-received and used by many congregations throughout the Presbytery. We give thanks for the many voices and hands that made this virtual worship possible. A special thank you to Michael Sullivan for delivering the sermon.

Members of the team are Holt Andrews, chair, Jimmy Cheeks, Pressley Cox, Mandy Davis, Debbie Foster, Allyson Helvie, Beverly Kelly, and Chad Wright-Pittman.