

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Minutes of the August 15, 2023, Stated Meeting

Ruling Elder Iris Wallace, Moderator
Rev. C. Anderson James, Stated Clerk

Hosted by Shallowford Presbyterian Church
2375 Shallowford Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345

Call to Order

Following prelude music shared by Jinhee Kim, organist at Shallowford Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta was called to order and opened with prayer at 9:31 A.M. by Moderator Iris Wallace.

Host's Words of Welcome

Rev. Anna George Traynham, pastor of Shallowford Presbyterian Church, shared words of welcome and oriented the members and guests to the church space and community.

Call to Worship and Opening Hymn

Inquirer A.J. Shortley of Northwest Presbyterian Church offered the call to worship, which was written by Candidate Courtney Henry from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery then joined in singing the first three verses of the opening hymn, "Let Us Build a House."

Declaration of Quorum

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk regarding a quorum for the meeting. Rev. C. Anderson James reported that registration indicated that a quorum was present of at least 10% of the eligible elder commissioners, representing at least 10% of the congregations, and at least 10% of the eligible minister members. The attendance report can be found at Attachment A.

Omnibus Motion

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk to bring the omnibus motion, consisting of the following items:

- the docket for the meeting (included in the bulletin for the meeting in Attachment B);
- the minutes of the May 2, 2023, stated meeting;
- the action items in the Council Report;
- the admit to record items in the Operations Committee Report;
- the admit to record items in the Committee on Ministry Report;
- the admit to record items in the Communications Report; and
- the admit to record items in the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report.

The omnibus motion was moved and seconded. Following opportunity to do so, no items were removed from the omnibus motion. The omnibus motion was approved by a voice vote. The items approved under the omnibus motion are listed under the appropriate report below, with those items related to a committee that did not make any other report shown following the Communications Report.

Corresponding Members

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk, who noted that the Presbytery welcomed several minister members of other presbyteries and persons who serve the larger church as guests at today's meeting. The Moderator entertained a motion to receive the following persons as corresponding members:

Rev. Julie Bailey, minister member of Mid South Presbytery
Rev. John Harrison, minister member of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy
Rev. Ally Lee, minister member of the Presbytery of San Gabriel
Rev. Oscar McCloud, minister member of the Presbytery of New York City
Rev. Ann Henley Nicholson, minister member of Coastlands Presbytery
Rev. Kathryn Threadgill, minister member of South Alabama Presbytery
Rev. Buz Wilcoxon, minister member of Foothills Presbytery
Ruling Elder Valerie Young, Synod Executive of the Synod of the South Atlantic

After motion and second, the motion to enroll these persons as corresponding members was approved on a voice vote.

Greetings from the Synod Executive

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder Valerie Young, Synod Executive of the Synod of South Atlantic, to bring a brief greeting to the Presbytery.

Communications and Stated Clerk's Report

The Moderator recognized Rev. Andy James to give the Communications and Stated Clerk's Report as presented in the Commissioners Handbook. He offered a summary of the following items that were printed in the meeting materials.

The Clerk reported the receipt of the following deadline dates for the 226th General Assembly from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly:

December 28, 2023	Election of Commissioners and Advisory Delegates
February 26, 2024	Overtures with Constitutional Implications
April 26, 2024	Overtures with Financial Implications
May 11, 2024	All Other Overtures and Concurrences

The Clerk shared the following deadlines for receipt of proposed overtures by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

January 3, 2024	Overtures with Constitutional or Financial Implications
March 29, 2024	All Other Overtures and Concurrences

The Clerk requested that clerks of session complete the 2022-2023 Necrology Report of ruling elders who died between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, by September 30. He also noted that the Committee on Ministry has updated the checklist for the annual review of session minutes for 2023 and beyond. Both forms are available on the Presbytery website.

The Clerk introduced Caitlin Reeves Greenamyre from the C. Benton Kline, Jr. Special Collections & Archives at Columbia Theological Seminary and encouraged congregations to talk with her at the break about how she and the archives can support congregations in the long-term storage of records.

The Clerk reported that the offering from the May Presbytery meeting to support the Caring Hands Offering of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia totaled \$1,119.69.

The Clerk reported receipt of the review of the 2021 minutes of the Presbytery by the Stated Clerk of the Synod of South Atlanta, which found no exceptions. The full communication regarding this review is included at Attachment C.

The Communications Report also included the following Admit to Record items approved in the omnibus motion:

1. That the minutes of the commission to install **Lucy Strong** as associate pastor at **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta**, be admitted to the record.
2. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Katie Archibald-Woodward** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
3. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Irene Choi** as minister of the Word and Sacrament at a service on Sunday, July 9, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church:

Rev. David Lower, Saint Luke's (moderator)
Elder Janice Henry, Hillside
Rev. Andy James, Presbytery Staff
Elder Mary Martin, Saint Luke's
Elder Kathleen McCloud, Central
Rev. Jihyun Oh, Office of the General Assembly

The following persons were approved as guests of the commission:

- Rev. Emily Choi, Member at Large
Rev. Jung Hoon Son, Korean Community
Rev. Jonathan Spencer, Open Circle Community Church
4. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Irene Choi** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
 5. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Mary Moore Driggers** as associate pastor at **Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church** at a service on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church:

Elder Iris Wallace, Radcliffe (moderator)
Rev. Joy Fisher, Presbytery Staff
Rev. James Goodlet, LaGrange First
Rev. Morgan Hay, Peachtree City First
Elder Tom Kassin, Peachtree City First
Elder Marcia White, Peachtree City First

The following persons were approved as guests of the commission:

Rev. Brandi Casto-Waters, Northeast Georgia Presbytery
Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane, Covington First

Council Report

The Council did not make a verbal report to the meeting, but the following action items from Council were approved as part of the omnibus motion:

1. Elect the following persons to the indicated classes of the Nominating Committee (all names in **bold** are those that are being nominated):

Class of 2023

1. **Debra Durden** (2021) RE Philadelphia

- | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|----|----------------|
| 2. Kyung-Hwa Kim | (2021) | RE | Korean Central |
| 3. Emily Wilmesherr | (2021) | TE | Decatur |

Class of 2024

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------|----|----------------------|
| 1. Barbara Leath | (2022) | RE | Church of the Master |
| 2. Karen Turney | (2022) | RE | Covenant |
| 3. Billy Wade | (2020) | TE | Retired |

Class of 2025

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 1. Kate Colussy-Estes | (2023) | TE | Carrollton |
| 2. Davis Bailey | (2023) | TE | McDonough |
| 3. Cecelya Taylor | (2023) | TE | Member at Large |

2. At the request of the Office of the General Assembly and the Synod of South Atlantic, approve the following communication to the Synod of South Atlantic regarding the boundaries of the Presbytery to provide a consistent and clear record of our current boundaries:

The district of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta consists of twenty counties in the state of Georgia: Butts, Carroll, Clayton, Coweta, DeKalb, Douglas, Fayette, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Heard, Henry, Lamar, Meriwether, Newton, Pike, Rockdale, Spalding, Troup, Walton. The Presbytery also includes Austell Presbyterian Church at 5895 Love Street in Austell, Cobb County, which would otherwise be in Cherokee Presbytery.

3. Approve the following schedule for stated meetings of the Presbytery through 2025, with the format and location as appropriate for each meeting to be determined by Council:

- Saturday, February 3, 2024
- Tuesday, April 30, 2024
- Tuesday, August 6, 2024
- Saturday, November 9, 2024
- Saturday, February 8, 2025
- Tuesday, May 13, 2025
- Tuesday, August 12, 2025
- Saturday, November 8, 2025

Operations Committee Report

The Operations Committee did not make a verbal report to the meeting, but the following admit to record items from the Committee were approved as part of the omnibus motion:

1. On June 9, 2023, the Operations Committee, acting as the Board of Directors, approved a Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program loan for Newnan Presbyterian Church for \$200,000 to replace the HVAC in the education wing. The term of this loan is 20 years at 4.25%, adjustable every five years.
2. On February 13, 2023, the Operations Committee, acting as the Board of Directors, elected the following officers for 2023:
 - a. As required by the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.:
 - Chairman of the Board of Directors – Brent Adams
 - Corporate Secretary – Rev. C. Anderson James, Stated Clerk
 - Recording Secretary – Rev. Chris Hooker
 - Treasurer – Andrew B. Hill, Director of Finance and Property
 - b. As required by the Georgia Secretary of State:
 - Chief Executive Officer – Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter

Secretary – Rev. C. Anderson James, Stated Clerk
Chief Financial Officer – Andrew B. Hill, Director of Finance and Property

Registered Agent – Andrew B. Hill, Director of Finance and Property

3. On February 13, 2023, the Operations Committee, acting as the Board of Directors, approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Operations Committee, acting as the Board of Directors of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc., authorizes Andrew B. Hill, Director of Finance and Property and CFO, to negotiate terms on matters related to Presbytery property transactions, and to sign any documents related to such transactions.

The Operations Committee also submitted financial reports for the current fiscal year through June 30, 2023 (Attachment D).

Committee on Ministry Report

The Committee on Ministry did not make a verbal report to the meeting, but the following admit to record items from the Committee were approved as part of the omnibus motion:

1. Dismiss **Douglas Alan Hicks** to Charlotte Presbytery, effective February 11, 2023.
2. Dismiss **Peter Thornton** to Northeast Georgia Presbytery, effective February 25, 2023.
3. Renew the commission of **Tom Whitworth** to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder, preach and administer the sacraments, perform pastoral services, officiate at marriages, and moderate the session at **Bremen First Presbyterian Church**, effective April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, for 20 hours per week.

Cash salary	19,500
Mileage and auto expenses as vouchered	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
4. Update the terms of the existing contract call associate pastor relationship between **Beverly Markham** and **Alpharetta Presbyterian Church**, effective April 16, 2023, through November 15, 2023, for 25 hours per week.

Cash salary	47,750
Minister’s Choice	4,775
SECA allowance	3,653
Continuing education	1,000
Professional expenses	5,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
5. Grant permission for **Julie Ferguson** to labor outside the bounds to serve as a bridge interim pastor during a pastoral sabbatical at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Cherokee Presbytery, effective May 15, 2023, through August 15, 2023.
6. Change the status of **Rachel Breyer** to member-at-large, effective May 19, 2023, and approve her to labor outside the bounds as Mission Integration Fellow at Holy Cross Health in Silver Spring, Maryland, effective June 12, 2023, for up to one year, upon the approval of National Capital Presbytery for her to labor within their bounds.
7. Approve **Mary Moore Driggers** as associate pastor for children and youth at **Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church**, effective June 11, 2023.

Cash salary	30,000
Housing allowance	25,000
Board of Pensions dues (with Pathways to Renewal)	12,100
SECA allowance	4,208
Continuing education	1,790
First Call Program	800
Professional Expenses	3,000
Dental	310
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical of twelve weeks after seven years	

8. Renew the interim pastor relationship between **Pam Driesell** and **Kairos Presbyterian Church**, effective June 15, 2023, through December 31, 2023. (Amounts are prorated for this period from an annual salary.)

Cash salary	34,814
Housing allowance	16,644
Board of Pensions dues	paid in full at current rate
SECA allowance	7.65% of salary
Continuing education	1,000
Dental	542
Additional continuing education	635
Business expenses	1,625
2.5 weeks of vacation	
One week continuing education	

9. Dissolve the associate pastor relationship between **Jasiel Hernandez Garcia** and **Central Presbyterian Church** and dismiss him to Mission Presbytery so that he can take up a call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Kerrville, Texas, effective June 30, 2023.

10. Approve the contract call pastor relationship between **Ed Hoard**, a Southern Baptist minister, and **Jackson Presbyterian Church**, effective July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, for 25 hours per week to offer preaching and pastoral care. **George Rogers** will serve as moderator of session, and ruling elders have been trained and authorized to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Housing allowance	25,000
SECA allowance	1,925
Mileage/auto expenses	3,900
Professional expenses	1,500
Book allowance	1,575
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

11. Approve **Shannon Kershner** as pastor at **Central Presbyterian Church**, effective July 1, 2023.

Cash salary	123,000
Housing allowance	72,000
Housing loan made by the church, with terms approved by the Session and congregation	
Board of Pensions dues	54,500
SECA allowance	14,918
Continuing education	3,000
Professional expenses	7,000
Actual moving expense	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

Sabbatical of three months after six years of service

12. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Patrick Day** and **Northminster Presbyterian Church**, effective August 31, 2023, and place him on the member at large roll, with previous salary and benefits continued through December 31, 2023.
13. Renew the commission of **Brandon Douglas** to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder, preach and administer the sacraments, perform pastoral services, officiate at marriages, and moderate the session at **Bethany Presbyterian Church**, effective September 15, 2023, through September 14, 2026, for 20-25 hours per week.

Total compensation package	31,500
Benefits deducted from compensation package as desired	
Mileage and auto expenses as vouchered	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
14. Renew the commission of **Jane Hubbard** to serve as Commissioner Ruling Elder in a validated ministry as **Coordinator of the Pastor-to-Pastor Team for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**, with the authorization to moderate sessions, officiate at marriages, and administer the Sacraments, all in the course of her care for the ministers and congregations of the Presbytery, effective September 15, 2023, through September 14, 2026.
15. The following congregations have completed the annual review of session records required under G-3.0108a, with the noted status of that review:
 - Atlanta First, without exception
 - Austell, with exception
 - Buford, without exception
 - Central, without exception
 - Church of the Master, with exception
 - Clairmont, without exception
 - Conyers, with exception
 - Covenant, without exception
 - Covington First, without exception
 - Crossroads, without exception
 - Dallas Dodd, with exception
 - Druid Hills, without exception
 - Eastminster, with exception
 - Ebenezer, with exception
 - Emory, without exception
 - Fairview, with exception
 - Fayette, with exception
 - First Afrikan, with exception
 - Good News Garden, without exception
 - Good Shepherd, without exception
 - Grace Korean, with exception
 - Gum Creek, with exception
 - Hamilton Mill, with exception
 - Hanbit, without exception
 - Hillside, with exception
 - Johns Creek, with exception
 - Jonesboro First, without exception
 - Kelley, without exception
 - Korean Central, without exception

Korean Community, without exception
LaGrange First, with exception
Lawrenceville, without exception
McDonough, without exception
Morningside, without exception
Morrow, without exception
Mount Vernon, without exception
New Life, with exception
New Presbyterian Church of Georgia, without exception
Norcross, with exception
North Avenue, without exception
North Decatur, with exception
Northminster, with exception
Northwest, without exception
Oakhurst, with exception
Oglethorpe, with exception
Peachtree, without exception
Peachtree City First, without exception
Philadelphia, without exception
Pleasant Hill, with exception
Radcliffe, without exception
Saint Luke's, without exception
Shallowford, without exception
Smyrna, with exception
St. Andrews, with exception
Stockbridge, with exception
Timberidge, without exception
Trinity, Atlanta, with exception
Trinity, Decatur, without exception
Westhills, with exception
Westminster, without exception

The Committee also reported updates to its Policy 16 on Boundaries Training to reflect changes to G-3.0106 in the *Book of Order* that went into effect in July and simplify its implementation across the Presbytery. The updated policy is as follows:

In accordance with G-3.0106, all ministers of the Word and Sacrament and commissioned ruling elders, including members at large, ministers serving in a validated ministry, and retired ministers serving a church in any Presbytery-approved relationship, shall take the Presbytery's Boundaries Training class once every three years.

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's Boundaries Training will include the topics of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention training. It will be offered at least three times a year at a cost of \$25 for up to two hours of training.

No other boundaries training programs beyond those offered directly by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will be considered as fulfilling this requirement.

Ministers who are not current with these boundaries training requirements will not be approved for temporary or permanent pastoral relationships or other validated ministries and will not be transferred to other presbyteries until they have completed the required training.

Ministers will have until December 31, 2024, to become current with Boundaries Training before the final paragraph of this policy will be enforced.

Finally, the Committee noted that it is reviewing the Presbytery's policies and procedures related to new *Book of Order* requirements for a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave for installed pastors and associate pastors, with plans to have these policy updates completed by this fall. In the meantime, the Committee recommended that congregations plan to include approval of the required twelve weeks of paid family medical leave in their pastors' terms of call when the congregation next reviews the pastors' terms of call (G-2.0804).

Executive Presbyter's Report

The Moderator recognized Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson to give the report of the Executive Presbyter (Attachment E). She lifted up the seventh mark of the Vital Congregations Initiative, "Ecclesial Health," by pointing the Presbytery to principles for pruning and propagating plants. She offered up advice from the apostle Paul in his first letter to the church in Corinth: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." In addition, she described several events that she has participated in recently, including the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, a visit with mission co-workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather, several ordinations and installations, the 200th anniversary of the Fairview church, and the NCDC Founder's Cohort. In all these things, she reminded the presbytery that "some may plant, others may water, but God gives the growth."

Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Passing the Peace

Candidate Jeanine Fulton of Eastminster Presbyterian Church led the Presbytery in a prayer of confession and offered an assurance of pardon, both written by Candidate Courtney Henry of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery then shared the peace of Christ with one another.

Nominating Committee and Committee on Representation

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elders Debbie Durden and Cyndi Smith to bring a report from the Nominating Committee and Committee on Representation. Elders Durden and Smith offered a brief presentation to encourage the Presbytery to submit names for potential service on Presbytery committees and commissions for the coming year.

Following the presentation, Elder Durden moved on behalf of the Nominating Committee the election of the following persons to the commissions and classes indicated:

Rev. Laura Neely (LaGrange First) to the Examinations Commission, class of 2025
Ruling Elder Prue Swerlick (Shallowford) to the Examinations Commission, class of 2025
Ruling Elder Wales Barksdale (Conyers) to the Permanent Judicial Commission, class of 2028

Following opportunity for nominations from the floor, the Moderator declared that nominations were closed. The election of these persons to the Examinations Commission and the Permanent Judicial Commission was approved.

Hymn

The Presbytery joined in singing verses 4-5 of "Let Us Build a House."

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

The Moderator recognized Rev. Emma Neishloss to give the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. On behalf of the Committee, she moved that the Presbytery approve an alternate means of assessing the readiness of Gina Brown and Courtney Henry in all areas of examination as necessary, in accordance with G-2.0610. These two candidates took the Winter 2023 Exegesis exam, the selected text and format of which were harmful and did not assist the committee in evaluating their readiness for ministry. After conferring with these candidates about their experience and their call to ministry, the committee agrees that this exam format is no longer a valuable tool in evaluating these two candidates' readiness for ministry.

After opportunity for questions, ***the Presbytery approved the motion for an alternate means of assessing the readiness of Gina Brown and Courtney Henry in all areas of examination as necessary, in accordance with G-2.0610, on a voice vote with the required three-fourths vote.***

The Committee's report also included the following Admit to Record items approved in the omnibus motion:

- The following persons were enrolled as inquirers as of the date shown:
 - a. Dana AbuGhazaleh (Alpharetta), May 25, 2023
 - b. Christian Antwi (Central), May 25, 2023
 - c. Ben Fletcher (Atlanta First), May 25, 2023
 - d. Shari Freeman (Mount Vernon), May 25, 2023
 - e. AJ Shortley (Northwest), May 25, 2023
- The following candidate was certified ready to receive a call:
 - a. Karen Fletcher (North Decatur), July 27, 2023
- The following candidates received a call:
 - a. Donghyun Jeong (Korean Central) has received a call to serve as assistant professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
- The following annual consultations took place:
 - a. Allison Arsenault (North Decatur), April 20, 2023
 - b. Rachal Little (Atlanta First), June 15, 2023
 - c. Melva Lowry (Rice Memorial), March 7, 2023
 - d. Nikki Zimmerman (Peachtree), July 16, 2023
- The following inquirer was approved for transfer to another presbytery as indicated, pending their receipt of her:
 - a. Marissa Carver (Columbia), to Transylvania Presbytery, effective July 27, 2023

Scripture, Sermon, and Hymn

The Rev. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, offered a sermon entitled "The Sower and the Seed" based on Matthew 13:1-9. He challenged the Presbytery to consider the ways in which each person might be called to sow seeds in the world, look at the ways that the different places the seeds landed might be present in different seasons of life, and in all things embody the generosity of the sower in scattering seed with abandon.

Following the sermon, the Presbytery joined in singing the hymn "You Are Holy" in English and Spanish.

Presentations from Educational Institutions

The Presbytery heard presentations from the following education institution representatives:

Rev. Drew Wilmesherr, UKirk Atlanta

Jeff Arnold, Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities

Rev. Buz Wilcoxon, Presbyterian College

Recess, Break, and Special Music

In keeping with the adopted docket, the Presbytery stood at recess beginning at 10:59 A.M. Refreshments during the break were provided by Presbyterian College.

At the conclusion of the break, Rob Rogers of the Atlanta Pipe Band offered selections on bagpipes to welcome the Presbytery back into the meeting. The Shallowford Joy Chorale from Shallowford Presbyterian Church shared the anthem “I Will Joyfully Sing in the Morning” by Mary McDonald.

Presbyterian Foundation Report

The Moderator called the Presbytery back to order at 11:33 A.M. and recognized Robert Hay from the Presbyterian Foundation to offer a brief report.

Examinations Commission

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder David York to give the report of the Examinations Commission. He introduced two ministers of the Word and Sacrament who had been received by the Examinations Commission on behalf of the Presbytery and invited each to offer a brief introduction.

Rev. Mary Moore Driggers was approved by the Commission for transfer from Foothills Presbytery to serve as associate pastor at Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church, effective June 11, 2023. Her faith journey and statement of faith can be found at Attachment F. (Her terms of call for this position are included with the Committee on Ministry report.)

Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner was approved by the Commission for transfer from Chicago Presbytery to serve as pastor at Central Presbyterian Church, effective July 1, 2023. Her faith journey and statement of faith can be found at Attachment G. (Her terms of call for this position are included with the Committee on Ministry report.)

After these introductions, Elder York turned the Presbytery’s attention to the examination of **Donghyun Jeong**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, who has been called to a validated ministry as associate professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, effective upon his ordination. His faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment H. Donghyun offered a brief introductory statement, then Elder York posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin Donghyun’s examination for ordination. After an opportunity for questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examination was complete and asked the candidate to step out of the room.

Elder York moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Donghyun Jeong’s** examination be sustained and she be approved for ordination and received into membership. After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. ***The motion to sustain the examination of Donghyun Jeong, approve him for ordination, and receive him into membership passed*** on a voice vote.

Elder York then turned the Presbytery’s attention to the examination of **Sam Phillips**, a candidate under care of East Tennessee Presbytery, who has been called to a validated ministry as chaplain resident at Emory University Hospital, effective upon his ordination. His faith journey and statement of faith can be

found in Attachment I. Sam offered a brief introductory statement, then Elder York posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin Sam's examination for ordination. After an opportunity for questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examination was complete and asked the candidate to step out of the room.

Elder York moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Sam Phillips'** examination be sustained and she be approved for ordination and received into membership. After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. ***The motion to sustain the examination of Sam Phillips, approve him for ordination, and receive him into membership passed*** on a voice vote.

The Moderator welcomed the candidates back into the room and announced the results of the vote to them. The Presbytery offered gestures of congratulations and good wishes for the ministry ahead as the conclusion of the report.

Offering

The Moderator introduced the offering for the meeting, supporting the work of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partnerships in South Sudan through mission co-workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather. They are minister members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta working in validated ministries as mission co-workers jointly commissioned by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Reformed Church in America. The Presbytery viewed a brief video with an update on the work of the RECONCILE Peace Institute in the face of continuing conflict in South Sudan.

Following the video, the Presbytery received the offering. During the offering, Virginia Respass Fairchild shared "Louree" by J.S. Bach for violin. The Moderator then offered a prayer of dedication.

New Church Development Commission

The Moderator recognized Rev. Lindsay Armstrong to give the report of the New Church Development Commission (Attachment J). She described the continuing work of the commission and introduced Rev. Sarah Vungsuanching Lane, leader of the Zo Presbyterian Church new worshipping community to share an overview of the ministry of the community.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

The Presbytery then celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, with Rev. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary; Rev. Drew Wilmesherr, Campus Minister at UKirk Atlanta; and Rev. Sarah Hooker, Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at Agnes Scott College, presiding.

During communion, violinist Virginia Respass Fairchild played "Ashokan Farewell" by Jay Ungar.

Closing Hymn

The Presbytery joined in singing "The Church's One Foundation" to close its time of work and worship.

Benediction, Blessing, and Adjournment

Seeing that there was no other business, the Moderator invited Rev. Anna George Traynham to give instructions about sharing lunch. Following a benediction by Rev. Victor Aloyo, the Moderator offered a closing prayer and blessing for the meal to adjourn the meeting at 12:33 P.M. The Presbytery then

enjoyed postlude music by organist Jinhee Kim on the way to a sumptuous lunch shared by the congregation of Shallowford Presbyterian Church.

C. Anderson James
Stated Clerk

List of Attachments:

- A. Attendance Report
- B. Bulletin and Docket
- C. 2021 Minutes Review Letter
- D. Financial Reports through June 30, 2023
- E. Executive Presbyter's Report
- F. Mary Moore Driggers Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- G. Shannon Johnson Kershner Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- H. Donghyun Jeong Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- I. Sam Phillips Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- J. New Church Development Commission Report

Attachment A: Attendance for the August 15, 2023, Stated Meeting

Minister Members in Attendance (126)

Paul Abell	Present	Randolph S. Calvo	Retired
Barrett Abernethy	Present	Leigh Campbell-Taylor.....	Present
Fahed Abuakel	Present	Letitia Campbell.....	Absent
Andy Acton.....	Present	John J. Carey	Retired
Elizabeth Acton	Absent	Robert Lindsay Carroll.....	Retired
Ann Clay Adams.....	Excused	Michael B. Chaney.....	Excused
Joanna Adams	Retired	Heather Chase	Excused
Dorothy Akoto (temporary).....	Absent	Grace Cheptu.....	Absent
Edwin Albright	Retired	Hyunsung Cho	Absent
Lucy Aldridge.....	Retired	Jae Wuk Cho	Absent
Steven Allen.....	Absent	Moongil D. Cho	Excused
Benjamin Allward-Theimer.....	Absent	Irene Choi.....	Present
Victor Aloyo	Present	Ji (Emily) Choi.....	Present
Mary Gillespie Amos.....	Retired	Gloria Nam Chough	Absent
Jo Ewing Anderson.....	Absent	Carolyn B. Christie	Absent
Jody Andrade	Present	James Caleb Clarke.....	Absent
Katie Archibald-Woodward.....	Present	Martha J. Clinkscales	Absent
Lindsay Armstrong	Present	Henry T. Close	Retired
Amy Anderson Arnold	Absent	Ernestine Cole	Retired
Frank Leonard Arnold	Retired	Will Coleman	Absent
Katie Aumann	Present	Jerome F. Coling.....	Retired
Stephen Austin.....	Retired	Kate Colussy-Estes	Present
Jennifer Ayres	Present	Joseph Watts Conyers	Retired
Sung Sik Baek.....	Absent	Joannah Cook.....	Present
Davis Bailey.....	Present	Mary Jane Cornell.....	Retired
Rebecca Johnson Baker	Absent	Mary Prather Cox.....	Retired
Jonathan W Ball.....	Excused	Lara Kate Culver.....	Present
Shannon Ball.....	Absent	Elinor Perkins Daniel	Retired
Bobbie Wrenn Banks	Retired	F. Harry Daniel	Retired
Carrie Barnes	Excused	Brian Daoust	Present
Dennis Hamilton Barnes.....	Present	F. Barry Davies	Retired
Harry Barrow	Present	Prince Davies-Venn	Present
David Barstow	Retired	Jeffery Earl Davis.....	Absent
Harry Beverly	Retired	Kathy Lynn Dawson	Absent
Chip Blankinship	Present	Katie Day	Present
Susan Boardman-McKissack.....	Retired	Kevin Michael Day	Absent
Sarah Bogue.....	Absent	Patrick Day.....	Present
Leigh Bonner	Present	Nelson Albert DeBrosse.....	Retired
Adam Borneman.....	Absent	Wendy Renee Dewberry	Absent
David B. Bowie	Retired	Shannon Dill	Absent
Mark Allan Brewer	Retired	Landon Dillard	Present
Rachel Grace Breyer.....	Excused	Louise Rita Dixon	Absent
Tyler Brock.....	Excused	Nelson Donado.....	Present
Aisha Brooks-Johnson	Present	Laura Dorsey.....	Retired
Raleigh Hugh Burns	Retired	Mark Douglas.....	Absent
Jamie Gail Butcher	Absent	Pamela Driesell	Absent
John Callahan.....	Absent	Mary Moore Driggers	Present

William J. Drummond	Present	Linda W. Hawthorne.....	Retired
Kerry P. Duncan	Absent	Louly Fowler Hay	Retired
Frank Mason Eldridge	Retired	Mary Campbell Hay.....	Retired
P.C. Enniss.....	Retired	Morgan Hay	Present
Donald Eshleman.....	Retired	Trace Haythorn	Present
Andrew Esqueda.....	Absent	Jasiel Hernandez Garcia.....	Absent
Jasmine Evans.....	Present	Bridgette N. Hector.....	Absent
Robert David Evans.....	Retired	Hugh A. Henderson.....	Retired
Jane Fahey	Present	Juan Herrera	Present
Elizabeth Fairleigh.....	Retired	Nell Herring	Absent
Richard Allen Farmer (temporary)	Absent	Alice Hickcox	Retired
Thomas K. Farmer.....	Absent	Douglas Alan Hicks	Absent
Virginia Felder.....	Retired	Kevin Hicks.....	Present
Julie Ferguson.....	Excused	Ross Thomas Hightower.....	Retired
Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum.....	Present	Louise Ann Hill.....	Present
Joy Fisher.....	Excused	Richard G. Hill.....	Absent
Tully Fletcher.....	Present	Christopher T. Holmes.....	Present
Anna Carter Florence.....	Absent	Jenelle Holmes	Absent
Catherine Foster.....	Present	Billy Michael Honor	Excluded from Office
Sally Foster	Absent	Christopher A. Hooker.....	Present
Vicki H. Franch	Present	Sarah Hooker.....	Present
Dave Fry	Retired	Leah M. Horton.....	Retired
Matthew M. Fry	Present	Martin Huggins	Retired
David E. Furlough	Retired	Mary Huie-Jolly	Retired
Anne Fyffe.....	Absent	Stephen M. Huntley	Retired
Barry Keith Gaeddert.....	Present	Jae Eun Hwang.....	Absent
Zulema García de Rojas.....	Absent	Iain Inglis	Retired
Mary Jane Gardner	Absent	James H. Irwin	Retired
Francis Githieya.....	Present	Randon H. Jackson.....	Retired
Glenn Goldsmith.....	Present	C. Anderson James.....	Present
James Goodlet.....	Present	David Janzen	Absent
Thelma Goodrum (temporary).....	Present	Robbye A. Jarrell	Absent
Carole Goodspeed.....	Retired	Alan Davis Jenkins.....	Absent
Cheryl Gosa	Retired	Gerald P. Jenkins.....	Retired
John Allan Graham	Retired	Ryan Jensen.....	Present
Vernon R. Gramlin	Retired	Young Jeon	Present
Joan Gray	Retired	Sun Ki Jeong	Absent
Lloyd Green	Retired	Yeonkwon Jeong.....	Absent
Sharon Gregory.....	Retired	Laura Jernigan.....	Present
Robert L. Griffin.....	Retired	Carlton David Johnson.....	Absent
Tom Hagood	Present	E. Elizabeth Johnson	Retired
John D. Hambrick.....	Absent	Julie Ann Johnson	Excused
Byeong Han	Present	Megan Lee Johnson	Excused
Suk Won Han.....	Retired	Ronald Johnson (temporary).....	Absent
Jung M. Han.....	Absent	David Jones	Absent
Sunghee Han.....	Present	Jill Joyner	Excused
Maisha Handy.....	Absent	Sharon Junn.....	Present
Marsha S. Haney.....	Retired	Jane Kagia.....	Absent
Marinda Harris.....	Retired	Richard R. Kannwischer	Absent
Saranell Harman	Absent	Amanda Kemery	Present
Tim Hartman.....	Absent	Bridgette Kemink.....	Present

Kyounghun Keum.....	Present	Bruce McRae.....	Present
Elizabeth Bradley Kibler	Present	Stephanie A. Medlin	Absent
Gyeong Kim.....	Absent	Jeff Meyers.....	Present
Jaehong Kim.....	Absent	Martha Moore-Keish.....	Excused
Joshua Hak Chin Kim.....	Absent	Erin Morgan.....	Excused
Ki Man Kim.....	Absent	John B. Morgan.....	Absent
Kwang Woong Kim.....	Absent	Robert R. Morris.....	Retired
Nayoung Kim.....	Present	Alex Moses	Excused
Sae Hee Kim.....	Retired	Kate McGregor Mosley	Absent
Sam Kim.....	Present	Gad Mpoyo	Absent
Simone Sunghae Kim	Excused	Deborah Mullen	Retired
Katharine Givens Kime	Absent	Cecil B. Murphey.....	Retired
John R. King.....	Retired	Samuel Mwaniki (temporary).....	Present
Kevin Knab.....	Absent	Albert A. Myers	Retired
Daniel S. Kreiss	Absent	Jacob D. Myers	Absent
Calvin W. Kropp.....	Retired	Rick Neale.....	Excused
Neal Kuhlhorst.....	Absent	Laura Neely.....	Present
Jerald B. Landrey.....	Retired	Emma Neishloss.....	Present
Neeley Lane.....	Present	Charles L. Newton	Absent
Sarah Vungsuanching Lane	Present	Bill Nisbet	Excused
Caroline Leach.....	Retired	Erin Noh.....	Absent
Connie Lee.....	Present	C. Gray Norsworthy.....	Present
Jae Hyoung Lee	Absent	Jill Oglesby-Evans	Retired
Joseph E. Lee.....	Retired	Jihyun Oh.....	Absent
Jun Young Lee.....	Present	Lonnie J. Oliver.....	Present
Mun Gye Lee	Present	David Omerod.....	Present
Yil Bong Lee.....	Retired	Jonier A. Orozco-Usuga.....	Present
Young Han Lee.....	Retired	Carol Osner	Retired
Fitzhugh M. Legerton	Retired	W. Larry Owens.....	Retired
Rebekah LeMon.....	Present	Song Yin Paik	Absent
Margaret Leonard	Absent	Chanmi Park.....	Present
Kimberly LeVert.....	Retired	John R. Park	Retired
David Lewicki	Present	Jun Su Park	Present
Nicole Lock	Present	Kevin Park.....	Absent
Eugene T. Locke.....	Retired	Sue Kim Park	Absent
Mark Lomax	Absent	Timothy Park	Absent
Eduard N. Loring.....	Retired	Rebecca Parker.....	Excused
David Lower	Present	Rachael Whaley Pate	Absent
Catherine Ellis Lukens.....	Present	David Pearce	Retired
Elisabeth Lunz	Retired	Victor D. Pentz.....	Retired
Olive Mahabir.....	Absent	Gail Ruth Perkins	Retired
Lisa Majoros	Retired	Sarah Perkins.....	Absent
Beverly Markham	Present	Allison Per-Lee	Present
Sandra N. Martin	Retired	David L. Petersen.....	Retired
Benjamin C. Mathes	Retired	Caitlin Foley Phillips	Excused
Vern E. McCarty.....	Retired	Wendell B. Phillips	Retired
Sandra K. McDonald	Retired	Ashley Devore Pieper	Excused
Elliott Watson McElroy.....	Retired	Jose Waldo Pinilla.....	Retired
William F. McKissack.....	Retired	Lauren Wright Pittman.....	Absent
Greg McMinn	Present	Carol B. Pitts	Absent
Melissa McNair-King	Present	Samuel H. Pope.....	Retired

George Harvey Porter	Retired	Robert Sparks	Present
Camille LeBron Powell	Present	Geraldine Speed	Retired
Brian S. Powers	Excused	Todd Speed	Present
Christopher A. Price	Retired	Meda Stamper	Excused
Loren D. Pugh	Retired	Richard E. Stenhouse	Retired
Brady Radford	Absent	Andrew Stephens	Absent
Diana Rosa Ramos	Absent	Mary Rebecca Stewart	Retired
Kristy Ray	Present	Mary A. Stoops	Absent
Timothy T. Read	Retired	Lucy Strong	Present
Holly Reimer	Present	Gibson P. Stroupe	Retired
Benjamin Reyes	Retired	Katherine B. Sundermeier	Present
Arthur Reynolds	Retired	Norman Anthony Sundermeier	Present
Seung-eun Rhee	Absent	Erin Katrina Swenson	Retired
Katie Ricks	Present	Claude Tatro	Present
George Rinker	Absent	Catherine E. Taylor	Retired
Adrian Milton Riviere	Retired	Cecelya Taylor	Present
John H. Roark	Retired	Sharon Lynn Taylor	Excused
Kristina C. Robb-Dover	Absent	Thomas K. Tewell	Retired
Chuck Roberts	Present	Jannan W. Thomas	Absent
Paul Roberts	Absent	Yolanda Evette Thompson	Absent
Cas Marshall Robinson	Retired	Peter Thornton	Absent
Alex Rodgers	Present	Rix Threadgill	Absent
David W. Rogers	Present	Holly Tickle	Absent
George O. Rogers	Retired	Jan Tolbert	Present
Mark Dudley Rose	Retired	Isaac Toney-Schmitt	Present
Michael Sanchez	Present	Anna George Traynham	Present
Marthame Sanders	Present	William Blake Traynham	Absent
Joe W. Sandifer	Retired	Scott Tucker	Present
Ivette Sanjines del Llano	Absent	Betsy Turner	Present
Jennie Sankey	Present	Margaret Turney-Ayer	Retired
Steven James Sankey	Absent	Jill Ulrici	Present
Anne Sayre	Retired	Leanne VanDyk	Absent
Trisha L. Senterfitt	Retired	Cheryl L. Vaughan	Absent
Seokhoon Seo	Absent	Robert E. Veley	Retired
John Richard Short	Retired	Rafael Viana	Absent
Marvin Lee Simmers	Retired	Donald D. Wade	Excused
Irving Simon	Retired	William B. Wade	Absent
James Simpson	Present	Oliver Wagner	Present
Jeanne Simpson	Excused	Mary Beth Walker	Absent
Thomas A. Sizemore	Retired	David Wallace	Present
Lyndsay L. Slocum	Present	Elizabeth Waltemath	Present
Donald W. Smith	Retired	Peter Ward	Absent
H. Andrew Smith	Retired	Marilyn Washburn	Retired
Sarah Smith	Excused	James O. Watkins	Retired
Theodore A. Smith	Absent	Carrie Weatherford	Absent
Nancy Smith-Mather	Excused	Jerry Weber	Excused
Shelvis Smith-Mather	Excused	Russ Weekley	Excused
Emily Smith-Purcell	Present	D. Scott Weimer	Retired
Richard N. Sommers	Absent	David D. Weitnauer	Retired
Junghoon Son	Absent	Donna Wells	Excused
Soon Son	Present	Dan C. West	Retired

John E. Westlund, Sr.	Retired	Roosevelt Winfrey	Retired
John Westlund, Jr.....	Present	George B. Wirth.....	Retired
Shayne Wheeler	Absent	W. Frederic Wise	Retired
Charles Wiley	Present	Irene Wong.....	Present
Hodari Williams.....	Absent	Joshua Woodsmith.....	Present
Emily Wilmesherr.....	Present	Jerry Wright	Retired
Kenneth R. Wilmesherr	Retired	Christine Yoder.....	Absent
Robert Andrew Wilmesherr.....	Present	Hee Dong Yoo	Excused
Sandra S. Wilmesherr	Retired	Fred Eugene Young	Absent
Sylvia Wilson.....	Present	Moon Su Yun.....	Retired

Ruling Elder Commissioners (103, from 46 congregations)

Church	Commissioner	Church	Commissioner
Alpharetta	Jodie Barger	Druid Hills	Anne Townsley
	Jeffrey Hyde	Eastminster	Ricke Adle
Atlanta First	Dale Dewberry		Bill Chittick
	Elizabeth Fogartie	Ebenezer Brazilian	(none)
	Duggan Lansing	Ebenezer	(none)
	Mike Tillman	El Nazareno	(none)
Atlanta Taiwanese	(none)	Emory	Tom Peterman
Austell	Kemie Brown-Vansant	Fairview	Janet Russell
	Nick Vansant	Fayette	(none)
Barnesville	(none)	Fellowship	(none)
Bethany	(none)	First Afrikan	(none)
Bremen First	(none)	Friendship	(none)
Buford	(none)	Good News Garden	(none)
Carrollton	Jim Carter	Good Shepherd	(none)
Central	Vicki Collier	Grace Korean	(none)
	Beth Grashof	Greenville	(none)
	Judy Kisla	Gum Creek	(none)
Church of the Master	Lauren Fields	Hamilton Mill	Leslie C. Sainovich
	Kendra Matthews	Hanbit	(none)
Clairmont	Andrew Pepper	Hemphill Memorial	(none)
	Patricia Sale	Hillside	(none)
Columbia	Helen Woods	Jackson	(none)
Conyers	Ann George	Johns Creek	Jeff Arnold
	Anita Payseur		Rebecca Eldridge
Covenant	Mary Allen		Alice Ann Nilsen
	Justin Colussy-Estes		Tom Traylor
Covington First	(none)	Jonesboro First	(none)
Cristo Para Todos	Eliot Lawrence	Kairos	(none)
Crossroads	John Matthews	Kelley	(none)
	Deloris Rose	Korean Central	(none)
	Maggie Stewart	Korean Community	(none)
Dallas-Dodd	(none)	LaGrange First	Scott Landa
Decatur	Anne Fayssoux	Lawrenceville	(none)
	Jim Hudgins	Loyd	(none)
	David Hughes	Manchester First	(none)
	Barbara Morris	McDonough	(none)

Church	Commissioner	Church	Commissioner
Monroe First Morningside	(none) Joe Floyd Leslie Prince	Pleasant Hill	Michael Armstrong Kristen Ching Jake Newenton
Morrow	(none)		Shannon Sligar
Mount Vernon	David Barclift David M. Hill Malinda Holmes	Radcliffe PC of Resurrection	Paula Jarrett-Coleman Carrell Kallan
New Life	Gail Parker Dwight A. Parker	Rice Memorial Roswell	Zenda Bowie Mark Roberson
New PC of Georgia	(none)	Saint Luke's	Jean Cronan Becky Loftis
Newnan	William Hearnburg		Nancy Moore
Norcross	Bob Norman		Deborah Parkes
North Avenue	Anne Barron Dan Heller William McClatchey	Shallowford	Brad Bryant Brian DeBragga Kate Robinson
North Decatur	Kip Duchon Rusty Godwin Anne Topple		Joe Smith-Purcell Dianne Smith
Northminster	Michelle Doiron Steward Hackler Michael Page Gwynne Shepherd	Smyrna St. Andrews	Susan Wofford Margaret Ellison Cynthia Weimer
Northwest	Anne McClatchey	Stockbridge	Thomas Baxter
Oakhurst	Paula Couch Kathy Hancock Mary Smarr	Tallapoosa Timberidge	(none) (none)
Oglethorpe	(none)	Trinity Atlanta	Meredith Daniel Roxanna Erwin Jay Harris
Peachtree	Julie Mann Chris Southerland Dana Tucker Michael Wren Elizabeth Zielinski		Jon McRae Mary Kelly Speed Allen Spetnagel
Peachtree City First	Glen Grizzle David Gulick	Trinity Decatur Westhills	Vivian Granger (none)
Philadelphia	Eliot Lawrence	Westminster	Wade Lipsey Rosanne Lowe Wanda Mangum Cliff Sarrett

Ruling Elder Commissioners — Ex Officio/Parity

Moderator	Iris Wallace
Council Members	John Fountain Hiram Pérez-Cordero
PGA Exempt Staff	Cassandra Morrow

Corresponding Members

Certified Members of APA	Gay Alston
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Visitors/Guests (34)

Name	Church/Organization
Pepe Bowman	Presbyterian Women
Buz Wilcoxon	Presbyterian College
Ann Henley Nicholson	Columbia Theological Seminary
Oscar McCloud	New York City Presbytery
Kathy McCloud	Central Presbyterian
Al Stacer	Eastminster Presbyterian
Jennifer Cuthbertson	Columbia Theological Seminary
Debra Durden	Philadelphia Presbyterian
Greg Durden	Philadelphia Presbyterian
Valerie Young	Synod of South Atlantic
LaVerne Byas-Smith	St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Cyndi Smith	North Decatur
Bettie Durrah	Radcliffe
A.J. Shortley	Northwest
David York	Central
Leslie Pope	Central
Katy Burger	Austell
Julie Bailey	Columbia Theological Seminary
Faye Cashwell	Saint Luke's
Jeanine Fulton	Eastminster
Andrew Hill	PGA Staff
Robert Hay	Presbyterian Foundation
Toni Fields	Church of the Master
Rob Schoonover	Columbia Theological Seminary
Diane Baier	Hamilton Mill
Donghyun Jeong	Korean Central
Shinyoung Ko	Korean Community
John Harrison	Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery
Nancy Phillimore	SPC
Abby Lee	San Gabriel Presbytery
Sandra Diaz	El Nazareno
Sam Phillips	Emory Hospital
Maggie Johnson	Shallowford
Clark Simmons	Board of Pensions

Other Excused Absences

Sheryl McGee
Sonja McMullen
Ross Mullins
Angela Naphin
Susanne O'Neal



- 9:20 Pre-Presbytery Music Jinhee Kim, organist
Charles Callahan
arr. Dan Miller
arr. Dan Miller
Fantasy-Prelude on AMAZING GRACE
Great is Thy Faithfulness
How Great Thou Art
- 9:30 Opening Prayer Moderator Iris Wallace
Welcome by Host Pastor Anna George Traynham
Call to Worship A.J. Shortley
We gather here to worship and fellowship together.
God has called us to this holy place.
We gather to learn, share ideas, and dream.
God has called us to this nurturing place.
We gather to discern what is next for our communities.
God has called us to this growing place.
Let us journey with the living God!
- Opening Hymn #301 (v. 1-3) “Let Us Build a House”
Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine, and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, 1994
- 9:40 Declaration of Quorum Andy James
Omnibus Motion (Handbook p. 9)
Communications and Stated Clerk’s Report (Handbook p. 22-23)
- 9:50 Executive Presbyter Report (Handbook p. 25) Aisha Brooks-Johnson
- 10:00 Prayer of Confession Jeanine Fulton
Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you, allowing ourselves to shy away from authentic community. For all the times we are reluctant to see the beauty blooming all around us, forgive us. When we forget the “end of humanity is to glorify God and enjoy God forever,” forgive us. When we fail to see the rich diversity of our communities and neighborhoods, forgive us. When we ignore your extravagant wisdom, forgive us. As we work to cultivate our ministry and spaces, may your Spirit dwell deep within us, a reminder of your ever constant grace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Passing the Peace

10:05 Nominating Committee and Committee on Representation (Handbook p. 26-27)

Hymn #301 (v. 4-5)

“Let Us Build a House”

**Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
all are welcome; all are welcome; all are welcome in this place.**

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, 1994

10:10 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Handbook p. 28)

Emma Neishloss

10:20 Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9

Victor Aloyo

Sermon: “The Sower and the Seed”

Victor Aloyo

Hymn #596

“You Are Holy”

**You are holy, you are whole.
You are always ever more
than we ever understand.
You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near.
Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread,
raised from soil, raised from dead.**

**Eres santo, eres Dios
por toda la eternidad:
siempre tú muy cerca estás
de tu pueblo, buen Señor.
Te alabamos hoy aquí,
te adoramos con fervor.
A tu iglesia en vino y pan
nueva vida así le das.**

**You are holy,
you are wholeness;
you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest!
Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!**

**Eres santo,
eres Dios.
Te sentimos.
La creación te dé loor.
¡Di hosanna en el cielo!
¡Di hosanna! ¡Di hosanna al Señor!**

*Text: Per Harling, 1990; Spanish trans. Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon, 1991, alt.
Music: Per Harling, 1990*

10:50 UKirk Atlanta

Drew Wilmesherr

Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities (Handbook p. 29-30)

Jeff Arnold

Presbyterian College (Handbook p. 31-32)

Buz Wilcoxon

11:05 Break

11:30 Regathering

Rob Rogers, Atlanta Pipe Band

Special Music: “I Will Joyfully Sing in the Morning” by Mary McDonald

Shallowford Joy Chorale

11:35 Presbyterian Foundation

Robert Hay

- 11:40 Examinations Commission (Handbook p. 33-41) David York
Examinations of Candidates for Ordination
- Donghyun Jeong, Assistant Professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
 - Sam Phillips, Chaplain Resident at Emory University Hospital
- 12:05 Call for Offering, benefitting PCUSA Mission in South Sudan Moderator Iris Wallace
Contributions to the offering may be placed in the baskets in the narthex following the service or made online at the presbytery website or via the QR code on the final page of this bulletin.
- Offertory: *Louree* by J.S. Bach Virginia Respress Fairchild, violin
 Prayer of Dedication Iris Wallace
- 12:15 New Church Development Commission (Handbook p. 42-44) Lindsay Armstrong
- 12:25 Communion Victor Aloyo, Drew Wilmesherr, and Sarah Hooker
 Communion Music: *Ashokan Farewell* by Jay Ungar Virginia Respress Fairchild, violin
- 12:35 Closing Hymn #321 “The Church’s One Foundation”
- The church’s one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord.
 She is his new creation by water and the word.
 From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride.
 With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**
- Elect from every nation, yet one o’er all the earth,
 her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
 and to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.**
- Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
 by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
 yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: “How long?”
 And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.**
- Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
 she waits the consummation of peace forevermore:
 till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**
- Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
 and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
 O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
 like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.**
- Text: Samuel John Stone, 1866, alt.
 Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864*
- Benediction and Blessing Victor Aloyo and Moderator Iris Wallace
- 12:40 Postlude Jinhee Kim, organ
Litany of Praise Franklin Ashdown
- Lunch



Leaders in Today's Meeting and Worship Service

Jinhee Kim, Organist, Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder Iris Wallace, Moderator, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Rev. Anna George Traynham, Pastor, Shallowford Presbyterian Church
A.J. Shortley, Inquirer for Ministry, Northwest Presbyterian Church
Rev. Andy James, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Jeanine Fulton, Candidate for Ministry, Eastminster Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder Debbie Durden, Chair, Nominating Committee
Ruling Elder Cyndi Smith, Co-Chair, Committee on Representation
Rev. Emma Neishloss, Chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Rev. Victor Aloyo, President, Columbia Theological Seminary
Rev. Drew Wilmesherr, Campus Minister, UKirk Atlanta
Ruling Elder Jeff Arnold, Executive Director, Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities
Rev. Buz Wilcoxon, Chaplain and Dean of Spiritual Life, Presbyterian College
Rob Rogers, Atlanta Pipe Band
Shallowford Joy Chorale, Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Ruling Elder Robert Hay, Senior Ministry Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation
Ruling Elder David York, Examinations Commission
Virginia Respass Fairchild, Violin, Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Rev. Lindsay Armstrong, Executive Director, New Church Development Commission
Rev. Sarah Hooker, Chaplain and Director of Religious & Spiritual Life, Agnes Scott College

Acknowledgements

The liturgy for today's meeting was written by Courtney Henry, Candidate for Ministry, Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church.
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"You Are Holy": Text and Music © 1990 Ton Vis Produktion AB (admin. Augsburg Fortress), Spanish Trans. © Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon
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Valerie Young,
Synod Executive and Stated Clerk

June 9, 2023

Rev. Andy James, Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
1024 Ponce de Leon Avenue NE
Atlanta, GA 30306-4216

Re: 2021 Presbytery Minutes & Records Review

Attestation of Minutes & Records

The 2021 Minutes of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta were peer reviewed on March 1, 2023, and reviewed by me on June 9, 2023.

The minutes were found to have no exceptions, with the following comments:

- The presbytery's commitment to inclusiveness and representation is clear in its structure and actions. However, there are no specific reports of its acts toward these goals in the minutes.
- While the minutes were provided for review in electronic format, it was done in seven separate files with no table of contents. This made it very difficult to read.

We are grateful to God for the life and strong relational ministry and mission shared in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Valerie Young".

Valerie Young
Synod Executive & Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.
Monthly Benevolence Report
February to June 2023

Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)
Revenues			
Support and Revenue			
Budgeted Designated			
Budgeted General Assembly			
100-403000 - One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,891.70	\$13,758.64	\$12,582.51
100-403020 - Christmas Joy Offering	\$0.00	\$6,851.33	\$5,195.08
100-403030 - Pentecost Offering	\$850.65	\$1,233.65	\$417.00
100-403040 - Theological Education Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
100-403050 - Peacemaking Special Offering	\$442.42	\$670.98	\$2,956.91
100-403200 - Designated for Missionaries	\$1,550.00	\$9,358.35	\$7,525.02
Total Budgeted General Assembly	<u>\$5,734.77</u>	<u>\$31,872.95</u>	<u>\$29,926.52</u>
Budgeted Presbytery			
100-403510 - Designated Thornwell Home & School	\$712.50	\$2,725.00	\$3,103.50
100-403520 - Columbia Seminary	\$0.00	\$1,789.88	\$337.50
100-403550 - Johnson C. Smith Seminary	\$0.00	\$375.00	\$362.49
100-403580 - Presbyterian Homes	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,099.65
Total Budgeted Presbytery	<u>\$712.50</u>	<u>\$5,089.88</u>	<u>\$4,903.14</u>
Total Budgeted Designated	<u>\$6,447.27</u>	<u>\$36,962.83</u>	<u>\$34,829.66</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>\$6,447.27</u>	<u>\$36,962.83</u>	<u>\$34,829.66</u>
Total Revenues	<u>\$6,447.27</u>	<u>\$36,962.83</u>	<u>\$34,829.66</u>
Disbursements and Expenses			
Benevolent Disbursements			
100-500100 - G. A. Budgeted Benevolence	\$5,734.77	\$31,872.95	\$29,374.02
100-500500 - Designated for Presbyterian Homes	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$1,099.65
100-504030 - Designated for Thornwell	\$712.50	\$2,725.00	\$3,103.50
100-506010 - Designated for Columbia Seminary	\$0.00	\$1,789.88	\$337.50
100-506020 - Designated for JC Smith Seminary	\$0.00	\$375.00	\$362.49
Total Benevolent Disbursements	<u>\$6,447.27</u>	<u>\$36,962.83</u>	<u>\$34,277.16</u>
Total Disbursements and Expenses	<u>\$6,447.27</u>	<u>\$36,962.83</u>	<u>\$34,277.16</u>
Net Total	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$552.50

THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA
2023 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS
6/30/23

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$28.35	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS <small>(Column 5 + Column 6 & 7)</small>
PEACHTREE			\$202,305.60		\$0.00			\$0.00
ROSWELL	\$23,450.00	\$7,816.66	\$67,643.10	\$22,547.67	\$30,364.33			\$30,364.33
First PRES-ATLANTA			\$49,102.20	\$49,102.00	\$49,102.00	\$50.00	\$3,620.00	\$52,772.00
TRINITY ATLANTA			\$44,651.25		\$0.00		\$2,776.00	\$2,776.00
KOREAN COMMUNITY		\$35,000.00	\$40,540.50		\$35,000.00		\$160.00	\$35,160.00
SHALLOWFORD	\$3,412.00	\$1,456.00	\$28,038.15	\$14,019.00	\$15,475.00			\$15,475.00
ALPHARETTA		\$11,552.26	\$23,105.25	\$11,552.26	\$23,104.52	\$4,306.00	\$1,325.00	\$28,735.52
DECATUR		\$5,230.58	\$20,922.30	\$21,584.00	\$26,814.58	\$4,475.00	\$2,737.50	\$34,027.08
ST LUKES	\$30,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$20,270.25	\$20,213.55	\$27,713.55	\$1,492.06	\$690.33	\$29,895.94
NORTH AVENUE		\$8,338.35	\$20,270.25	\$13,227.50	\$21,565.85	\$2,083.35	\$50.00	\$23,699.20
MCDONOUGH		\$5,079.84	\$14,571.90	\$14,571.90	\$19,651.74	\$3,009.50	\$1,587.50	\$24,248.74
First PRES-LAGRANGE	\$5,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$14,430.15	\$7,215.08	\$9,715.08	\$2,818.00	\$60.00	\$12,593.08
CENTRAL	\$14,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$14,118.30	\$14,118.30	\$21,118.30	\$1,137.56	\$114.27	\$22,370.13
JOHNS CREEK	\$0.00		\$12,955.95	\$3,042.90	\$3,042.90			\$3,042.90
NEWMAN			\$11,283.30	\$6,581.75	\$6,581.75			\$6,581.75
BUFORD	\$0.00		\$11,113.20	\$7,705.60	\$7,705.60		\$721.99	\$8,427.59
MORNINGSIDE			\$10,971.45	\$10,971.00	\$10,971.00			\$10,971.00
MOUNT VERNON		\$4,000.00	\$10,914.75	\$4,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$950.00		\$9,450.00
NORTHMINSTER		\$13,000.00	\$10,801.35	\$10,279.38	\$23,279.38			\$23,279.38
First AFRICAN			\$10,262.70		\$0.00			\$0.00
PLEASANT HILL	\$11,000.00	\$5,131.34	\$10,262.70	\$10,262.70	\$15,394.04			\$15,394.04
NORTH DECATUR	\$20,000.00		\$9,497.25		\$0.00			\$0.00
OAKHURST	\$3,000.00		\$9,383.85		\$0.00	\$2,841.43		\$2,841.43
NEW LIFE			\$8,675.10	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00			\$2,700.00
WESTMINSTER	\$0.00		\$8,618.40	\$2,154.60	\$2,154.60	\$728.00		\$2,882.60
EASTMINSTER	\$0.00		\$8,079.75	\$3,231.92	\$3,231.92	\$1,059.00		\$4,290.92
FAYETTE			\$7,682.85	\$2,415.20	\$2,415.20			\$2,415.20
CLAIRMONT	\$0.00		\$7,030.80	\$3,590.71	\$3,590.71			\$3,590.71
GOOD SHEPHERD	\$0.00		\$6,860.70	\$3,416.00	\$3,416.00			\$3,416.00
COVINGTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	\$10,000.00	\$4,999.98	\$6,548.85	\$3,252.58	\$8,252.56		\$300.00	\$8,552.56
CARROLTON		\$500.00	\$6,237.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,900.00	\$481.00		\$3,381.00
RADCLIFFE	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$5,726.70	\$5,726.70	\$7,326.70	\$1,092.00		\$8,418.70
ST ANDREWS	\$2,500.00	\$1,250.00	\$5,670.00	\$5,400.00	\$6,650.00	\$615.00		\$7,265.00
NORTHWEST		\$5,000.00	\$5,471.55	\$5,471.55	\$10,471.55			\$10,471.55
MORROW			\$5,386.50	\$5,208.00	\$5,208.00	\$1,039.00		\$6,247.00
CONYERS			\$5,301.45	\$2,662.55	\$2,662.55	\$490.00		\$3,152.55
First PRES-PEACHTREE CITY			\$5,131.35		\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$470.00	\$2,470.00
KOREAN CENTRAL	\$1,000.00		\$5,103.00		\$0.00			\$0.00
COVENANT	\$4,000.00	\$1,666.67	\$4,876.20	\$2,031.75	\$3,698.42			\$3,698.42
LOYD			\$4,819.50	\$4,819.50	\$4,819.50			\$4,819.50
CROSSROADS	\$1,250.00	\$312.50	\$4,536.00		\$312.50	\$375.00		\$687.50
LAWRENCEVILLE	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,507.65	\$2,254.00	\$3,754.00	\$960.43		\$4,714.43
KAIROS			\$3,628.80	\$4,100.96	\$4,100.96			\$4,100.96
STOCKBRIDGE	\$2,000.00		\$3,487.05	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00			\$1,200.00
DRUID HILLS	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,487.05	\$3,487.05	\$7,987.05		\$250.00	\$8,237.05
HILLSIDE		\$3,125.00	\$3,373.65	\$3,527.96	\$6,652.96			\$6,652.96
HAMILTON MILL	\$5,000.00		\$3,118.50		\$0.00			\$0.00
CHURCH OF THE MASTER			\$2,835.00		\$0.00			\$0.00
OGLETHORPE	\$2,900.00	\$738.50	\$2,806.65	\$688.00	\$1,426.50	\$130.00		\$1,556.50
AUSTELL	\$1,500.00		\$2,778.30	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$1,614.88	\$1,539.88	\$3,224.76
RICE MEMORIAL			\$2,778.30	\$2,778.30	\$2,778.30	\$246.70		\$3,025.00
SMYRNA			\$2,693.25	\$2,563.10	\$2,563.10			\$2,563.10
COLUMBIA			\$2,636.55		\$0.00			\$0.00
FAIRVIEW			\$2,523.15	\$1,261.58	\$1,261.58	\$220.00		\$1,481.58
First PRES-MONROE	\$0.00		\$2,296.35		\$0.00			\$0.00
PHILADELPHIA	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$2,239.65		\$500.00	\$1,924.00	\$200.00	\$2,624.00
GOOD NEWS GARDEN			\$2,239.65		\$0.00			\$0.00
BETHANY	\$0.00		\$2,182.95	\$550.00	\$550.00			\$550.00
First PRES-JONESBORO	\$5,000.00	\$3,250.00	\$2,154.60	\$1,675.00	\$4,925.00	\$1,455.00		\$6,380.00
TIMBERRIDGE	\$0.00		\$2,154.60	\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54			\$1,969.54
TRINITY DECATUR		\$500.00	\$2,041.20	\$1,996.52	\$2,496.52	\$175.00		\$2,671.52
GUM CREEK			\$1,899.45	\$1,899.45	\$1,899.45			\$1,899.45
NORCROSS	\$0.00		\$1,871.10	\$467.77	\$467.77			\$467.77
PRESBY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECT'N			\$1,786.05		\$0.00			\$0.00
EMORY	\$1,500.00	\$750.00	\$1,729.35	\$1,729.35	\$2,479.35	\$750.00		\$3,229.35
ATLANTA TAIWANESE			\$1,672.65		\$0.00			\$0.00
HANBIT			\$1,530.90	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA
2023 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS
6/30/23**

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$28.35	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS <small>(Column 5+Columns 6 & 7)</small>
JACKSON	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,445.85	\$1,445.85	\$3,445.85			\$3,445.85
CRISTO PARA TODAS LAS NACIONES			\$1,417.50		\$0.00			\$0.00
GRACE KOREAN	\$300.00		\$1,077.30	\$1,275.75	\$1,275.75			\$1,275.75
KELLEY			\$1,077.30	\$1,077.30	\$1,077.30			\$1,077.30
HEMPHILL MEMORIAL			\$935.55	\$935.55	\$935.55			\$935.55
EL NAZERENO			\$850.50		\$0.00			\$0.00
FRIENDSHIP	\$3,000.00		\$708.75		\$0.00			\$0.00
BARNESVILLE			\$623.70		\$0.00			\$0.00
DALLAS-DODD			\$623.70		\$0.00			\$0.00
GREENVILLE			\$510.30		\$0.00			\$0.00
NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GA.		\$2,000.00	\$510.30	\$917.32	\$2,917.32			\$2,917.32
WESTHILLS			\$481.95		\$0.00	\$226.65		\$226.65
First PRES-MANCHESTER WM SPRGS.			\$396.90		\$0.00			\$0.00
EBENEZER	\$703.10	\$703.10	\$396.90	\$396.90	\$1,100.00			\$1,100.00
First PRES-BREMEN	\$0.00		\$396.90	\$396.90	\$396.90			\$396.90
FELLOWSHIP			\$226.80		\$0.00			\$0.00
TALLAPOOSA			\$170.10	\$305.00	\$305.00	\$40.00		\$345.00
BENEVOLENCE TOTAL	\$161,815.10	\$148,500.78	\$857,474.10	\$336,444.80	\$484,945.58	\$38,784.56	\$16,602.47	\$540,332.61
INDIVIDUAL GIVING TOTAL				\$240.54				\$4,182.75
* OVERALL TOTAL		\$148,500.78		\$336,685.34				\$544,515.36

COLUMN (1) Benevolence Pledges from church sessions.

COLUMN (2) All funds for basic benevolence support of GA, Synod & Presbytery Missions. Not included here are special designations, which are reported in Column 5.

COLUMN (3) Per Capita due by April 1, 2023 is \$28.35 per member based on the active membership of the congregation as of January 1, 2022 as reported in the Assembly statistics for Dec. 31, 2021.

COLUMN (4) Per Capita received at Presbytery.

COLUMN (5) Total Receipts to Presbytery Budget.

COLUMN (6) Designated amounts that support the budgeted work of the governing bodies and institutions of the church.

COLUMN (7) Designated amounts that support non-budgeted work of institutions of the church, such as E.C.O.'s, Disaster Relief & Capital Funds Campaign, etc.

COLUMN (8) Total of all receipts.

MEMBERSHIP - Shown for 12/31/22; per capita based on 12/31/21 membership.

If there is an error, please send a written request for correction to Gwen Hairston, Financial Support Specialist, at the Presbytery Office via email at ghairston@atipcusa.org
Your written request will expedite our ability to respond. If you have any questions, contact Gwen Hairston at 404-898-0711, ext 125.

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.
Preliminary Statement of Financial Position
Operations Fund
As of June 30, 2023

Assets

Cash		\$366,443.55
Investments		\$672,188.35
Accounts Receivable		
Allowance for Accounts Receivable	(\$46,400.00)	
A/R--Operations	\$1,778.70	
A/R-Due from Clifton Sancturary Min.	\$0.00	
A/R Memorial Drive PC	\$26,367.50	
A/R - Atlanta Korean	(\$46,548.61)	
A/R- Ormewood Park	\$42,228.24	
A/R - Church of the New Covenant	(\$17,663.54)	
A/R - Luther Hays PET	\$20.10	
A/R-Georgia Avenue Building/Site	\$53,324.92	
A/R -Church os St. Andrew	\$56,074.89	
Total Accounts Receivable		\$69,182.20
Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	\$700,000.00	
Discount on Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	<u>\$467,335.83</u>	
Total Pledges Receivable		\$232,664.17
Prepaid Expenses		\$18,110.25
Property & Equipment		\$1,211,919.27
Land, Buildings and Property (Net)		\$8,608,207.39
Total Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(\$1,520,397.92)</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>\$9,658,317.26</u></u>

Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

Liabilities		
Prepaid Income		\$0.00
Non-Budgeted Benevolence		\$100.00
Due to PCEA		\$0.00
A/P Operations		(\$79.02)
A/P - Insurance W/H		(\$7.88)
HFSA		\$5,195.23
Accrued Vacation		\$9,972.20
GA Ave. Bldg Agency Funds		\$12,090.46
Total Liabilities		\$27,270.99
Total Restricted Funds		\$902,117.05
Fund Principal		
Fund Balance-Operations	\$8,641,676.12	
Net Income Year-to-Date	\$87,253.10	
Total Fund Principal and Net Income Year-to-Date		<u>\$8,728,929.22</u>
Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds		<u><u>\$9,658,317.26</u></u>

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
Operations Fund Revenues and Disbursements-Preliminary
Period Ending June 30, 2023

	Actual Period Ending <u>6/30/23</u>	Actual Period Ending <u>6/30/22</u>	Annual Budget <u>FYE 01/31/2024</u>
Operation Support	\$ 140,162.43	\$ 182,446.54	\$ 534,000.00
Per Capita	\$ 322,560.38	\$ 279,546.79	\$ 600,000.00
Budgeted Designated	\$ 31,872.95	\$ 29,926.52	\$ -
Budgeted Presbytery	\$ 5,889.88	\$ 5,903.14	\$ 3,000.00
Total Designated	<u>\$ 500,485.64</u>	<u>\$ 497,822.99</u>	<u>\$ 1,137,000.00</u>
Interest Income	\$ 2,302.72	\$ 1,881.18	\$ 10,000.00
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Ops	\$ -	\$ (3,884.43)	\$ 12,000.00
Realized(Gain) & Loss-Ops			
Designated for Presbytery Only	\$ 25,156.56	\$ 27,313.35	\$ 46,500.00
Interest-Presbyterian Foundation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Other Income	<u>\$ 274,525.95</u>	<u>\$ 168,154.78</u>	<u>\$ 330,500.00</u>
Total Revenues before Transfers	<u>\$ 802,470.87</u>	<u>\$ 691,287.87</u>	<u>\$ 1,536,000.00</u>
Transfers			
Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 12.34	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Other Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Transfers	<u>\$ 12.34</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 286,996.62	\$ 264,509.54	\$ 516,361.64
Program Expenses			
Committees & Partnerships	\$ 3,981.89	\$ 1,374.05	\$ 11,150.00
Salary and Benefits	\$ 368,532.17	\$ 367,259.23	\$ 849,697.59
Administrative Costs	\$ 55,694.75	\$ 57,869.51	\$ 158,790.77
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 428,208.81</u>	<u>\$ 426,502.79</u>	<u>\$ 1,019,638.36</u>
Total Transfers and Disbursements	<u>\$ 715,205.43</u>	<u>\$ 691,012.33</u>	<u>\$ 1,536,000.00</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ 87,253.10</u>	<u>\$ 275.54</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Revenues	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Operating Total	\$ 87,253.10	\$ 275.54	\$ -

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT



"Pruning & Propagating"

Vital Congregations Initiative – Mark #7 – Ecclesial Health

*For when one says, "I belong to Paul," and another, "I belong to Apollos," are you not all too human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and each will receive wages according to their own labor. **For we are God's coworkers, working together; you are God's field, God's building.** 1 Corinthians 3:4-9 NRSVue*

When I think of ecclesial health, I am always drawn to the lessons learned by caring for my plants. I have a large monstera, named Annie, in honor of my late maternal grandmother. I came home from my summer classes at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary to find that Annie had grown to the point where she needed some support. It is not always easy to make the decision to prune a plant, but it was the healthiest choice to make. I have learned from those with green thumbs that pruning is an act of love and wisdom as you consider where to cut for the sake of new growth and sustaining the life of the plant. Annie the monstera has been pruned multiple times and her propagations have found new homes among neighbors, strangers, and friends. I get a kick out of seeing my friends post pictures of their newly repotted monstera's flourishing and spouting signs of new life.

As we consider what it means to be healthy congregations, I pray that we discern where God is calling us to cut back or let go of practices that keep us from growing. I pray that we seek the Lord's wisdom to consider when and how to make space for new ministries and new ideas to grow in new ways. I also pray that we recognize the connection between healthy leaders and healthy churches. I pray that we continue to commit to those in our midst who have gifts for leadership in the church and in the world. I pray that we nurture the next generation of leaders so they are able to hear God's call on their own lives to be agents of hope, justice, love, and peace.

May we remember that as we work together to be healthy leaders and healthy congregations, it is God who gives the growth. Hallelujah, Amen!

ABJ

#YouAreVital #YouAreLoved

Faith Journey – Mary Moore Driggers

I have always been drawn to the story and imagery of John 15:1-11, the passage in which Christ identifies himself as the vine and his people as branches. When I was growing up, my happy place was First Presbyterian Church of Greer, where I heard stories like this one. I felt comforted, nurtured, seen, and rooted. I cannot remember when I did not know I was seen and loved by God. In these formative years, I did not grow up going to school in the same town in which I went to church. In some ways, I felt a bit like Hannah Montana, living two separate lives, but it was always at church that I felt my true self and closest to the Divine. I loved Sunday School, Wednesday night programming, youth group, and community activities so much that when I got in trouble as a child, my punishment would be *not* attending church. My congregation was this little oasis where friendships and fellowship flourished. It was where stories of Christ in communion with all people drove my passion for service to others. It was where art and music blended into the fabric of my life, where I came alive, and it was the place and the people I yearned for when I was older and moved away to college, a service year in Los Angeles, seminary, and still to this day.

Beginning when I was seven years old, I had the privilege of attending weeklong sessions at a sleep-away camp in the mountains of North Carolina, where the feelings of wonder and curiosity, fostered through my congregation came to fruition. Each summer I attended, there was a service project that we participated in, and through those projects, the passion for service stirred within me. By the time I was in middle school, I was hooked on going to the community soup kitchen with my mom in the summers. I enjoyed participating in my congregation's "Mission Madness" event, where we would go around the city learning about our town's non-profits and volunteering. Then in high school, I went on a mission trip to Tennessee, where I deepened my knowledge of Christ's love for the most vulnerable in our country. A lesson that remains with me is to embody the messages found in Isaiah 1:17 to uphold the widows, orphans, and poor, and in Matthew 25 to provide for "the least of these."

These messages continued to stir as I attended Presbyterian College, where its motto hung from every banner, *Dum Vivimus Servimus*, "while we live we serve." My first choice of college, PC, was filled with warmth and growth, and I grew closer to God through theology and service. I sang in the choirs, joined a sorority, gave tours, cheered every football and basketball game, taught dance, and learned with some of the best people that God is at work in this place, and God is at work in me. I knew that God was love and remembered my pastor's favorite verse from Romans 8, that nothing in life nor death could separate us from that love. I give thanks every day for that education that led me to a difficult discernment year in Los Angeles with the YAV (Young Adult Volunteer) program, during which I worked in a shelter with people experiencing homelessness. That year led me to further my theological education at Union Presbyterian Seminary. In those years, I worked part-time as a youth leader with a local congregation. I worked with the kids on awareness and organizing, Bible study and fellowship, and grace and gratitude, for we were rooted and reaching together.

I was amazed how everything was connected from my studies to my spiritual practice, to my yearning for what was next. I am grateful for God's abounding love and patience with me through that process, as it led me to additional units of Clinical Pastoral Education with Emory University Hospital. During this season, I have been fortunate to practice what I preach with people who hold pieces of the image of God within them. I am excited to take my learnings to my first ordained ministry call with First Presbyterian Church of Peachtree City, working with children, youth, and families. I have greatly missed the parish side of ministry and am looking forward to this continued journey with God and the Body of Christ.

Statement of Faith – Mary Moore Driggers

I believe I am on a life-long journey of discipleship in which the promises made for me at my baptism guide and nurture me by word and deed while encouraging me to follow Christ and be a faithful member of the Church. I have known from an early age that I am God's beloved Child. I believe the God who reveals Godself is the same God who creates and guides. Through the goodness and grace of God, I have been justified through faith. It is my faith that strengthens me into a continual life of discipleship.

God has broken into reality from the beginning and has given Godself through the face of Christ. The only true redeemer of God's elect is Jesus Christ, the eternal son of God who became human by taking a body and soul conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born without sin. Christ, in his life, holds the three offices of prophet, priest, and king. It is through Jesus that we have the body of Christ, the Church. The Church is not just a means to advance our walk with God, but a divinely appointed institution that seeks justice, loves mercy, and walks humbly with God.

God is over us, for us, and at work in all creation. Humanity participates in the great deeds of creation, reconciliation, and transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit, which enables us to share in the life and activity of the Triune God. The Spirit is the One who initiates and nurtures faith into fruition. The Spirit is God at work within us and active in the world bringing forth human wisdom, culture, and creativity. The Spirit opens our eyes and gives us the gift of faith. It is the Spirit who makes the work of Christ authentic to us by testifying and witnessing to God's work in sending Christ to live, die, and be raised again for our salvation (1 Cor. 12:3).

Scripture is a glimpse at God's character. Through Scripture, we have been given the story of God's activities in the created world. Through the Hebrew Scriptures, we see what the people of faith in the nation of Israel believed God was doing. God chose Israel to be a special people to carry out the divine purposes in the world, telling stories of faith through relationships. Through the New Testament scriptures we see the climax of God's divine revelation in the personhood of Jesus Christ, who is the Messiah. We rely on the Holy Spirit to guide our interpretation of the Bible and prayerfully ask the Spirit to lead us into God's truth, helping us better understand God's scripture as the ultimate authoritative source. We begin with Scripture, and our faith is drawn from what God's Word teaches.

We are taught through the sacraments, which, when rightly administered, are characteristics of the Church that begin with faith, are nourished, and continually grow. The people whom God has called to be the body of Christ, the people of God, are a fellowship of believers who partake in these signs and seals of faith. Our faith is strengthened and nourished by God's gifts in our two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. They are visible signs of God's invisible grace. The Church administers these gifts as a part of the large community of faith - the people of God who are drawn together across all lines of nationality, gender or status with the work of God's Spirit. It is the body of believers called by God and drawn together by the Holy Spirit to live as God's people and disciples of Jesus Christ. We are the Body of Christ, the people of the covenant who hear the gospel message. The Church is open to all who confess Jesus as Lord, seeking to be reconciled to God and sent into the world as God's reconciling community for the common good (The Confession of 1967).

Faith Journey: Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner

I wish that I had a dramatic call story that I could tell you—one like Samuel, Mary, Paul, or Mary Magdalene. My story, however, is not very dramatic. It is full of ordinary people and ordinary activities that have combined into the gift of the life I get to live.

My mother and father parented me out of my baptism from the very beginning. I knew that I was deeply loved, no matter what. But I also knew that I was not the only one deeply loved; rather, that God loves all people. From what I heard around the dinner table, as well as from my father in the pulpit, I also grew to understand that my baptism linked me with all God's children as family. I lived out my baptism in many ways, but particularly through my involvement with the church. One reason I was so involved was because I was the preacher's kid. A bigger reason, though, was because church and Presbyterian camps felt like home to me. Church was a holy space of freedom to me. I was allowed to be myself—no more and no less.

But although I loved the church and was very active, I was not about to enter ordained ministry. My father did it and it was an odd vocation. And yet, as a new high school graduate, I found myself on the Mo Ranch Acting Team embodying a character named Hope. And those moments of being Hope offered the most dramatic sense of call I have ever received. I felt more myself as Hope than I ever had felt before and seriously considered ordained ministry.

My parents, however, wisely suggested that I slow down and fully engage the collegiate experience. I followed their advice, and those moments of clarity were shoved into the back of my mind as I explored who I was and who I was not. Yet during that church break, I discovered I deeply missed the community of faith and I deeply missed living out my faith. I began to pray again and occasionally attend worship. At that same time, I was enrolled in a religion class. The professor, who was nominally Presbyterian, once asked me if I had ever considered using my gifts from within the Church. My sense of call came flooding back and I decided to stop denying the Hope that was within me.

In the meantime, Greg and I had met at that same church camp when we were in high school. We married in December 1994 and I worked in a church full-time to make sure I felt called into ordained ministry. And indeed, every experience I had served to confirm that sense of call. In 1996, we entered Columbia Theological Seminary together.

My first call was to serve as an Associate Pastor near Houston, primarily working with youth and young adults. In 2001, while we were in Houston, we had our daughter Hannah and Greg stopped working outside the home to become a full-time stay at home parent. We then moved to Irving, Tx where I served in ministry for 7.5 years, during which our son, Ryan, was born. Following that time, our family moved to Black Mountain, NC where I served as the pastor for five years before saying "yes" to the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Honestly, I was not looking to leave BMPC, and I did not think I was the one for whom Fourth were looking. Yet in the mystery of God's grace and providence, I have faithfully served as the Pastor/Head of Staff at Fourth Presbyterian Church for nine years.

Over the past nine months, I have sensed that my work of redevelopment and leadership at Fourth Church were coming to an end. And in that pregnant time, the PNC from Central, Atlanta asked me to engage in conversation. I realized how much I enjoyed visiting with them and imagining the possibilities; how similar Fourth and Central are in their commitments to the city; and, how I would also be able to be more fully a pastor at Central in a way that is not possible at Fourth, given its size. For while I have deeply enjoyed administrative ministry and have been challenged and grown a great deal in my nine years, at this stage of my ministry, I also feel called to re-engage with the joy of being a pastor and knowing more of the stories of the people with whom I am in ministry. I also believe my experience will be a good match with Central. I look forward to reminding them who and whose they are; helping them to discern which parts of their strong legacy we want to continue; as well as imagining together what God hopes for us in the next season of our collective life.

Statement of Faith – Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner

I believe in the one Triune God, traditionally described as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe God is the Creator of all we can see, yet more than we can possibly fathomⁱ. I believe God is the very definition of love, justice, power, mercy, and grace. I believe God knew my name before I was formed in my mother's womb and called me "daughter" before I was placed in my parents' armsⁱⁱ.

I believe God passionately loves us and desires fellowship and relationship with us. God also clearly sees our weaknesses and our frailties, our desire for power and our willingness to be completely self-centered. God clearly sees our brokenness and the ways we live as if we were still held in bondage. And God loves us far too much to let us get away with our own sinⁱⁱⁱ. And so, God sent God's very self to be one of us, one with us, in all our pain, suffering, joy, and love.

Through the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, God took into Godself what it means to be human on earth. There is nothing that we experience that God has not already taken into God's own heart through Jesus. And Jesus has saved us from the powers of death, isolation, emptiness, and despair^{iv}. With his life as recorded in Scripture, Jesus shows us what it means to live and love fully into who God calls us to be. And on the cross, Jesus set us free from the dominion of death^v. Through the empty tomb, Jesus calls us to move out of our fearfulness and into our hope.

I believe the Holy Spirit is ever present in and around us. The Spirit is always at work. The Spirit sustains us in our deepest despair and celebrates with us in our greatest joy. The Spirit prays our prayers before we can even articulate our thoughts^{vi}. The Spirit opens the words of Scripture, unveiling God's face and connecting our story with God's story^{vii}. The Spirit enables us to live out of hope, leading us out of the shadows and into the light.

For those who are baptized, being a part of the Church, Christ's body, is not just another optional activity. It is a call. It is God's mandate. Because of our baptism, we are the body of Christ together, even when it is difficult^{viii}. We celebrate this family relationship at the Table when, through the Lord's Supper, we are mysteriously joined with Christ in the feast that is promised and will be all in all. The bread and wine give us the nourishment and spiritual sustenance to continue our journey as people of God, loving one another, working for justice and reconciliation, and proclaiming that God's arms are long enough to embrace the whole world^{ix}.

Ultimately, I believe God is the One in control and will live up to God's name. We are invited to joyfully participate in God's mission and work in the world. I also believe, however, that our hope rests securely in who God is and in God's actions, and not in who we are nor in what we can do. I do believe that one day there will be no more weeping, pain, nor sorrow. The shroud will be lifted (Isaiah 25) and we will all live together as whole people, rejoicing in the One whose other names are Mercy and Love. But until that day comes, God continues to call us into deeper faithfulness, never abandoning us merely to ourselves^x.

ⁱ Apostles Creed

ⁱⁱ Brief Statement of Faith, Lines 47-51

ⁱⁱⁱ BSF, Lines 27-39

^{iv} C67, Section 2, "The Sin of Man"

^v Declaration of Barmen, #2

^{vi} BSF, Lines 65-71

^{vii} C67 – Section regarding the authority of Scripture and the work of the Spirit

^{viii} C67 – "The Ministry of Reconciliation", paragraph under "Direction"

^{ix} C67 – "The Ministry of Reconciliation," paragraph under "The Lord's Supper"

^x C67 – "The Fulfillment of Reconciliation"

Faith Journey: Donghyun Jeong (7/12/2023)

I was born and raised in a Christian family in Seoul, Korea. My parents, my grandparents on both sides, and almost all extended family are members of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK-TongHap), which shaped my childhood and Christian faith. In addition, my home church laid the foundation for my faith journey. With the help of my Sunday school teachers, I began thinking seriously about Christianity. Active participation in children and youth choirs in the church and interactions with my peers also encouraged me to grow my faith in Christ communally. Supported by both my biological family and my family in Christ, I was baptized as an infant (1984) and was later confirmed (1999). Now I continue to learn from and with my wife (married in 2011) and two children (11 and 8 years) about God's faithful love and presence at each moment of life and through various challenges.

Two additional experiences shaped my faith journey. The first was a Pentecostal spiritual experience. The growth of Korean Protestantism in the mid- and late-twentieth century has been largely driven by Pentecostally-influenced megachurches—Presbyterian churches were also not an exception to this. During the 1990s (my teenage years), especially at summer Bible camps which were like revival meetings, I witnessed and experienced elements of Pentecostal spirituality, such as the confession of sin, an intense feeling of forgiveness, prophetic utterances, and speaking in tongues. I do not emphasize charismatic manifestations these days, but during this formative period of faith, they enabled me to see that God is alive and still working among God's people who seek God sincerely. The second experience is a benign hematological disease, which started in 1994. Living with a disease helps me realize how fragile my existence is and what amazing grace it is that God sustains every moment of my life.

I felt a call to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament when I was in college. It was not a charismatic experience, but rather a prayerful discernment process that I entered with my mentors and family members. I found myself happiest and fullest when I had conversations with others about God, assisting them in their spiritual journeys, and served the congregation in worship. Through my theological training in the MDiv program in Korea and ministry in several churches, I discovered my passion for the New Testament and for helping others interpret it faithfully in diverse contexts. Upon the completion of MDiv (2014) at Presbyterian University and Theological Seminary (Seoul, Korea), I moved to the USA for advanced study (STM) at Yale Divinity School. Since then, studying and teaching the New Testament has been an integral part of my faith journey. The academic study of the New Testament opened my eyes to see how God concretely revealed Godself in Christ at a particular time and place in history and how God's Spirit worked to create a new social-communal reality in Christ. My doctoral dissertation work at Emory University, focusing on New Testament passages including baptism among Pauline communities, led me to further explore the significance of baptism (and sacraments in general) for the Christian life.

Since 2014, I have attended and served PC(USA) congregations (first in New Haven, CT, and then in Atlanta, GA). In the Korean Central Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, I served the young adult group, taught Bible classes, and led the worship music for Sunday and Wednesday services, gratefully participating in God's mission in this resilient immigrant community. I entered the ordination track in the PC(USA) in 2019 under the supervision of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. In fact, I had begun and nearly completed the process of ordination back in Korea, but my decision to study abroad halted the process and eventually I had to start it anew in the US. I sometimes questioned whether I should continue to pursue ordination. Yet, whenever I was in doubt, my mentors in the Korean Central Presbyterian Church, including Rev. Han, and the members of the CPM encouraged me with care and prayers. I am convinced that I stand here not because of my personal qualities but because of God's gracious call.

As an assistant professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, I am responding to God's call to a teaching ministry with thankfulness and joy. As I read the Bible with this beloved community, worship God and participate in the Lord's Supper in chapel, and share my life with the members of the seminary, God is deepening my sense of the divine beauty reflected in scripture and nourishing me by allowing me to witness how the diverse members of this community embody the gospel of Christ. I believe the completion of the ordination process for the ministry of the Word and Sacrament will further help me find novel ways to serve my seminary, local congregations in Greater Atlanta and the Austin area, and the church-at-large for the mission of the triune God in response to God's grace.

Statement of Faith: Donghyun Jeong (July 12, 2023)

I believe in the triune God—Father, Son, Spirit—who dwells in loving, trustful, and eternal communion and also establishes relationships with all of creation. I believe the triune God always works in unity for the creation, redemption, and transformation of the world. The grace of God in Christ is communicated to us—God’s people—through the proclamation of the Word and the celebration of the Sacraments, which calls us to respond to God’s grace individually and communally to the glory of God.

I believe in God the Father, who is both paternal and maternal. God created heaven and earth in ways that reflect God’s goodness and sustains all of creation with providence. Humans are created in God’s image, but broken and alienated from God due to sin. God, who established a covenant with Israel and sent his Son as the culmination of Israel’s hope, makes the new covenant with us in Christ, showing God’s salvific love to us through Christ—from this nothing can separate us. By the grace of God who sent the Spirit of the Son into our hearts, we are adopted and become God’s children. God also sends us out to participate in God’s mission of justice, peace, and care for creation.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s eternal Word and revelation, fully divine and fully human. The incarnate Word lived as a Jewish man in first-century Palestine, proclaiming the kingdom of God, teaching in word and deed, healing the afflicted, and becoming friends with the marginalized. Under unjust political and religious authorities, Jesus Christ was arrested, crucified, and buried. God raised Christ on the third day, destroying the power of death and seating him at the right hand of God. As the Head of the church and the one who unites and reconciles all things, Christ is also my Lord and Savior, through whose life, death, and resurrection I am forgiven, accepted, and given new life, and in whose name I pray. Christ will return to judge the living and the dead, and the whole creation will be set free.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the Father and the Son. God’s love is poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who dwells in believers and believing communities. The Holy Spirit effectuates the triune God’s ministry of redemption and transformation by sanctifying us, interceding within us, assigning spiritual gifts for the building up of the church, and empowering us all to participate in God’s mission of reconciliation. I believe in the resurrection of the body, which will be brought about by the power of the Holy Spirit, who also enables us to live out the reality of resurrection in the present.

I believe Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are God’s gifts and the signs of God’s new covenant. Baptism into Christ enacts and seals God’s grace. We are washed, born from above by the Spirit, united with Christ and his death, and awaiting resurrection. Through Baptism, we publicly become members of Christ’s body, beginning a new life for God and for others. The Lord’s Supper enacts and seals God’s grace. We are nurtured by God who enables us to share life with others, feeding those in need. At the eucharistic table, where Christ is present by the power of the Spirit, we give thanks to God for the past, present, and future of God’s redemptive work in Christ, foretasting the heavenly banquet. As “visible words” and the means of God’s grace, the Sacraments are inseparable from the proclamation of the Word.

I believe the Bible—the written word of God—bears unique witness to Jesus Christ, the Word of God. All scripture was inspired by the Holy Spirit and has the authority for Christian life and practice. As a polyphonic but harmonious witness by various authors and communities, the Bible is also inspiring God’s people here and now to fulfill God’s call creatively. The same Spirit who inspired biblical authors also guides us in our context, so that we do not use the Bible to harm others but to share the life-giving grace of God with them. The proclamation of the Word, which is based on the scripture’s witness to Christ, is carried out in eschatological hope, since we ourselves do not have the final word.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church that the triune God gathers, rules, and sends. The Presbyterian church is a part of the Church universal, thus cooperating with diverse siblings in Christ. Our church is a worshiping, hermeneutical, and missional community. It glorifies God by responsibly proclaiming the gospel in Word and Sacrament and by participating in God’s mission as God’s covenantal partner. All the ordered ministries—compassion and service, discernment and governance, and teaching and pastoral care—are Christ’s ministry and do not belong to any individual. God’s Spirit equips members of the church with resources and spiritual gifts to fulfill Christ’s ministry. In all teaching, worship, ministry, decisions, and disciplines, the reformed church is guided by confessions, subject to the witness of scripture, and continuously reformed according to the will of the living God.

Faith Journey

When I think about my faith journey, my usual response would be that I grew up in the Church and my faith started there! My father was a pastor in the PCUSA for 30 years, and I was an avid Church goer, youth group participant, and a good backrow, frozen chosen Presbyterian. While this may be the start of my faith journey, it has become more nuanced over the years and is only part of my story.

I remember, around my senior year of high school, wanting to break away from the Church, as I knew it. I actively denied the Church and did not want to be associated with the harmful past that I was learning many people had attributed to the Church. But as I went to college, I was seeking something greater than what I was finding. In my growing separation from the Church, I realized I was searching for what the Church had already given me: a sense of community to grow and change with. So, I transferred from East Tennessee State University to Maryville College, where my faith was reignited not just from a more faithful sense of community, but in the academic study of Religion.

It was the academic study of Religion that made me realize how little that I know. Wrestling with this curiosity, mixed with continued group building, Montreat going, and Church leadership, I felt the call to seminary to keep learning, growing, and being challenged. I decided on Columbia Theological Seminary because of the strong sense of social and ecological justice that I feel a calling towards. Although I was excited about the educational and communal aspects of seminary, my work in churches, during this time, made me consider alternative settings to “traditional” Church. So, I relied on my previous passions and where that I felt God was calling me, so I went back to what I knew which was camp and conference ministry. I struggled with my sense of call, in seminary, and questioned whether I wanted to complete the ordination process. After my post seminary plans fell through, I decided to do the one thing that I pushed off during seminary: CPE.

Sometimes the things that we push off or are scared of, may be the things God is calling us to. I fell in love with CPE. It felt like the perfect opportunity to put into reality God’s grace and love that I have always felt. A year of residency will help nourish the part of me that wants to continue to learn and grow academically, while being able to live into my call as a servant leader for the Church and God’s world. I see myself continuing to serve the Church, traditionally and at large, as I see it as my life’s vocation. To what ends that may take place, I will continue to listen and trust where God is leading me.

Statement of Faith

I believe in the triune God who, out of love, created the heavens and the earth. I believe that humankind was made in the image of God to be caretakers and stewards of the earth and all of its inhabitants. I believe that Creator, Redeemer, and Eternal God came to earth, in and through Jesus Christ, to redeem us from our sins and show humanity proper relationship with the world and God. Our sin, whether individual or communal, puts up a barrier between us and God. Although we often miss the mark of God's intentions for us, such as peace, harmony, mercy, and justice, willingly or through ignorance; the triune God, as one being, empowers us through the example of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit to repent from our individual and communal sin and to discover new life with one another and God. Unable to bring this about ourselves it is only through God's grace revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ which we find salvation and are able to live as free, generous, and loving beings like our Creator God. I believe Jesus Christ is truly God and truly human because he shows us who God is and who we are to be. Jesus was crucified on the cross, suffering with all of humanity, and raised by God for the purpose of new life, shalom, and to conquer death. I believe the Bible is the unique and authoritative witness to God and the way of the world. As the Holy Spirit has been working throughout history, so too, God's people have been recording their interactions and liberative moments with God. It is important to continue listening to the Holy Spirit, alongside the continued study of the Bible, so we may apply the Biblical witness to our lives today. The witness of Jesus Christ that we see in the Bible is the prime example of what it means to be and practice church. I believe that the church is a community of believers called to engage in life of growth, discipleship, and service to the world. The Church is any place where people gather for communion, fellowship, and worship of Almighty God. Baptism is the sign of beginning one's life in the church. It is a sign of a new life with Christ, our belonging to God, and our call to be his disciples in the world around us. The Eucharist is the sign that we are in communion with the risen Lord. Jesus shared his body and blood as a sign of a new covenant. This feast is a reminder of the gifts and grace from God, the life and death of Jesus Christ for our sins, and the continuing power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the world. This continuing spirit, I believe, is the coming reign of God's kingdom and kin-dom. I believe in the power of God's kingdom as a counter narrative to other forms of domineering "kingdoms" in the world. I also believe that the coming kin-dom of the world, meaning unifying and total liberation of all people, is the work of the Holy Spirit.

New Church Development Commission

For Information:

As we enter a new ecclesial and social imaginary, your PGA Start-Up Studio remains in high demand, as we both catalyze and support leadership of church based social enterprise, including the start of new churches. We align ourselves with the overall denominational movement of 1001 New Worshiping Communities (NWCs) and are leaders in it as well as on the ground here in greater Atlanta. As you may have seen at the 2023 national 1001 conference featuring our work, your start-up studio model of catalyzing and supporting leaders of emerging church communities is now being considered by dozens of the PCUSA's 166 presbyteries. We are humbled by and grateful for what God is doing.

Toward that end, here's a *year-to-date* snapshot of your startup studio's day-to-day work. In short, this is an overview of the major things you as a Presbytery have done this year to equip new initiatives and their leaders to thrive. You are providing the following start-up studio **LINCSS**:

L – Leadership Coaching: 113 hours

I – Infrastructure Development Support, such as

- Obtaining **501c3 status**
 - NWCs with a current 501c3 letter on file: 18
- Establishing and Managing **Online Giving Links**
 - 9 NWCs to date
- Providing **Financial Oversight**
 - 14 NWCs
- Startup **Payroll Services**
 - 31 NWC leaders
- Homeland Security **Visas: 9**
- Financial **Policy Development: 3 NWCs**
- Opening **Bank Accounts:**
 - 3 NWCs
- Receiving, Processing, and Reporting **Tax Deductible Contributions:**
 - 14 NWCs
- **Insurance** quotes, acquisition, renewals, and/or verification: 8 NWCs
- NWC leaders in the **ordination process: 4**
- **Incorporation: 18 NWCs**
- **Crafting By-Laws: 1 NWC**
- **Chartering:** *see the note below about our Founder's Cohort*

N - Networking Events: 5

C – Church Consulting: 85 hours

- Additionally, discernment work with 9 potential NWC leaders, considering their call

S - Startup Training

- # of workshops/retreats offered - 13
- # of officer training or additional specific trainings offered - 4

S - Strategic Grants

- Amount of grant money distributed to # of new worshipping communities – *information not available by the time of the handbook deadline.*
- # of additional facilitated grants – *information not available by the time of the handbook deadline.*

Additionally, your NCDC reports the following **highlights**:

1. Led by Aisha Brooks-Johnson and Lindsay Armstrong, we began a Founder's Cohort on August 9-10, with an overnight retreat. Designed for leaders of new worshipping communities working to charter within the upcoming 14-18 months and meeting monthly for the upcoming 10 months, we are delighted by the energy and large number of new worshipping communities looking to charter. Stay tuned for announcement of upcoming chartering services happening in 2024!
2. Led by Michael Gerhling (Associate, 1001 New Worshipping Communities) and Lindsay Armstrong (Executive Director, NCDC), Atlanta will be hosting leadership assessments crafted for those considering their call to start a new worshipping community. Registration is required, and space is limited. The Discerning Missional Leadership Assessments will be held October 8-12 on the campus of Columbia Theological Seminary. [Register here.](#)

A few of our latest curiosities and questions:

1. After leading advocacy on this for 8+ years, we now have a PCUSA overture passed, and a denomination-wide task force now appointed to address pressing questions regarding ordination and leadership. With that underway and in capable hands, what are the next barriers to entry into the PCUSA that we are called to address?
2. The start-up studio model is particularly effective for providing early-stage infrastructure development support such as payroll services, contribution statements, etc. We're starting to wonder if smaller churches of all ages (new and old) would benefit from shared administrative services for the long haul. Would it help with sustainability and workload?

New Worshipping Community Highlight: Zo PC

A Word from Your Organizing Pastor: Sarah Vungsuanching Lane

I am the Reverend Sarah Vungsuanching Lane, Organizing Pastor and founding member of Zo Presbyterian Church. I was the first woman to have been elected to lay leadership of Zo PC back in 2017. By God's grace (and a lot of hard work), I graduated with my M.Div. from Columbia Theological Seminary and was called to serve the Zo PC faith community

as their Pastor in 2022. Prior to serving as their Pastor, I served as a chaplain during the pandemic and am currently serving as a Hospice Chaplain even as I work alongside this new community of believers.

Since our founding in October of 2016, we have seen God at work in our midst through joy as we came together as new citizens of the US, originally living in Clarkston. We have seen God work in our midst through sorrow as we face individual losses and as we faced the loss of our founding Pastor on January 8th, 2017. God sustained us as we received love and support from you through the Reverend Dr. Lindsay Armstrong, the NCDC, and the Presbytery. The church began to grow, thrive, and eventually split under lay leadership. But that led to an answering of our heart's desire, "to have an ordained minister," as our Pastor was ordained in March of 2023—the first woman pastor in our Zo Tribe's history. We are pioneers. Thanks be to God.

Zo Presbyterian Church is a missional church. Our mission is to become the hands and feet of Christ as we try to reach Zo people back home in Myanmar, India, and the USA. In Myanmar, we have sponsored a seminarian currently serving as Probationary Pastor after completing his theological education. In Georgia, Mr. Thang from our community had legal problems without anyone to help; his sister asked our Pastor to assist with her brother's case. Our Pastor, with the church's support through prayer, helped secure his freedom. Mr. Thang started his new beginning by becoming a member of our church in 2022.

As a church, we see ourselves as one big family and care about each other. We enjoy sharing meals quite often after Sunday service. Our Saturday prayer meetings often become gatherings which literally last the entire day. High holy days are spent together in overnight vigils and worship. We enjoy Sunday School, learning the Bible, and teaching it to others. We host annual revivals, with speakers from Myanmar and elsewhere. We hope to become the first Zo Presbyterian Church in the PCUSA, and we plan to become the mother church for other diaspora Zo Presbyterian churches in the United States. We like to hang out and do things together, and others are always welcome. We are the body of Christ, who is not without blemishes. Our hope lies upon the resurrected Savior and not in and of ourselves or the good deeds we do.