



# Presbytery OF Greater Atlanta

*Growing Healthy, Vital Congregations  
Equipping Healthy, Innovative Leaders*

## 2024 SPRING STATED MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta gathered for its Spring Stated Meeting on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, via Zoom. Over 285 people from across the Presbytery and beyond gathered online for this time of fellowship, sharing, worship, and work under the theme of “Hope and Humility.”

The meeting was shaped around the words of Romans 5:1-5 as we shared deep encouragement with one another for the hope that we have together in God’s love through the power of the Spirit. Rev. Emily Choi, leader of The Story New Worshiping Community, and Rev. David Lower, pastor of Saint Luke’s Presbyterian Church in Dunwoody, each offered reflections on this text as the proclamation of the Word for the meeting.



The Presbytery’s communications staff and tech deacons offered their gifts to organize the online space for the meeting. Grace Korean Presbyterian Church and Hamilton Mill Presbyterian Church served as virtual co-hosts for our time together, and Hamilton Mill musicians offered their gifts to lead us in music. Other worship leaders included members of the Presbytery’s Worship and

Presbytery Planning Committee and the campus ministers at UKirk Atlanta, WCF at Georgia Tech, and Atlanta Oikos. The full recording of worship and the meeting is available [on the Presbytery’s YouTube channel](#).

In her report, Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson introduced the Presbytery to the virtues of hope and humility as described in *Turning Ourselves Inside Out: Thriving Christian Communities* by Russell Daye and Robert Fennell. For this season, hope is an openness of heart to all the new things that God is doing in our midst, and humility is the practice of continuing learning and spiritual growth that flows in and out of this hope. She invited and encouraged the Presbytery to join in this work of letting go so that we can take up something new.

In the business of the meeting, the Presbytery welcomed five new minister members:

- **Richard Dalton**, received as a retired minister by transfer from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery
- **Kari Pellegrino**, transferring into the Presbytery from Heartland Presbytery to serve in a validated ministry at Wellstar Health Systems
- **Sue Riggle**, transferring into the Presbytery from Utica Presbytery to serve as contract call pastor at Kelley Presbyterian Church

- **Ally Lee**, transferring into the Presbytery from San Gabriel Presbytery to serve as interim pastor at Fayette Presbyterian Church
- **Morgan Burge**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery, being ordained to serve as contract call associate pastor at Roswell Presbyterian Church

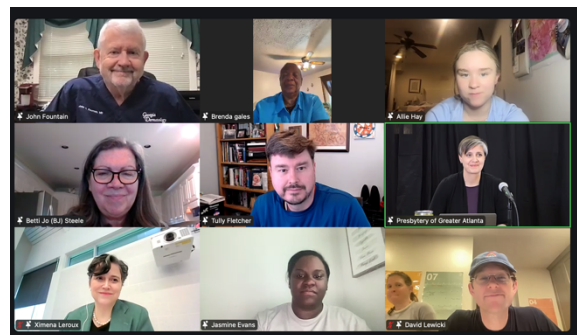
The Presbytery also approved **Dana Abughazaleh**, a member of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, as a candidate for ministry. She is one of the first Jordanian Palestinian women to move forward in the ordination process.

The Presbytery heard a report from Iris Wallace, chair of the Presbytery’s Council, on the Unified Conversations around financial sustainability that are gathering leaders from various entities across the Presbytery to explore the changes in finance, property, and personnel to continue the Presbytery’s mission in this emerging season. [The slides from her presentation are available on the Presbytery website.](#) The plan that emerges from this work will be presented at the Presbytery’s Summer Stated Meeting on August 6 at Radcliffe Presbyterian Church and online.

The Presbytery considered two additional overtures to the 226th General Assembly this summer. [“An Overture Calling for Action so that Children May Live Free from Gun Violence”](#) from the session of Oakhurst Presbyterian Church and in concurrence with Chicago Presbytery was approved. The Presbytery did not approve a request for a concurrence with an overture on directing the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to utilize the Gospel of Love as a guiding principle in its advocacy and humanitarian efforts, submitted by the session of Hillside Presbyterian Church.

The meeting offering supported the work of three campus ministries at work within the Presbytery: UKirk Atlanta (serving the students of Emory University and Agnes Scott College), WCF at Georgia Tech, and Atlanta Oikos (serving the international student community at Emory University).

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Presbytery commissioned its commissioners and advisory delegates to the 226th General Assembly this summer: Ruling Elder Commissioners John Fountain, Brenda Gales, Allie Hay, and BJ Steele; Teaching Elder Commissioners Jasmine Evans, Tully Fletcher, David Lewicki, and Alex Rodgers; Young Adult Advisory Delegate Isabelle Adams; and Theological Student Advisory Delegate Ximena Leroux.



The Summer Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, beginning at 9:00am, in a hybrid format, with the in-person gathering at Radcliffe Presbyterian Church.