



## 2024 Winter Stated Meeting Highlights

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta gathered for its Winter Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at Roswell Presbyterian Church. Over 250 people from across the Presbytery and beyond gathered for this time of fellowship, sharing, worship, and work as we introduced our theme for 2024, “Finding Meaning: Inside and Out” and welcomed the Co-Moderators of the General Assembly as our guest preachers and worship leaders.



Revs. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis, Co-Moderators of the 225th General Assembly (2022) were our special guests for this meeting. They brought greetings on behalf of the commissioners of the General Assembly and shared a message based on Psalm 139:1-4 and Acts 2:40-47 entitled “The Ins and Outs of Searching.” They joined with Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson and Stated Clerk Andy James to lead the Presbytery in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. [Read more from the Presbyterian News Service about their visit to Atlanta and their stop at Memorial Drive Ministries.](#)

Roswell Presbyterian Church provided generous hospitality for the Presbytery’s work and worship in their traditional and modern worship spaces. Their worship and music leaders offered beautiful reflections in word and song throughout the meeting that deeply enriched our work of discernment.

In her report, Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson introduced the Presbytery’s theme for 2024, “Finding Meaning: Inside and Out.” Over the course of the year, guided by *Finding Meaning* by David Kessler and *Turning Ourselves Inside Out: Thriving Christian Communities* by Russell Daye and Robert Fennell, we will seek to move into a season of finding meaning (the sixth stage of grief) and embodying the virtues of hope, humility, love, courage, integrity, and kenosis.

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

- **Daesong Kim**, transferring into the Presbytery from the Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad to serve as contract call pastor at Good News Garden Presbyterian Church



- **Allison Arsenault**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery, being ordained to serve in a validated ministry as Director of Community Engagement at the Forum for Theological Exploration

The Presbytery also approved **Daniel Kwon**, a member of Korean Community Presbyterian Church, as a candidate for ministry.

At the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery approved six ruling elders from Trinity Presbyterian Church, Decatur, to preside at the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Rev. Richard Allen Farmer was recognized and celebrated upon his retirement as pastor at Crossroads Presbyterian Church.

The Council presented the Presbytery's budget for the 2024 fiscal year, which included a 5% raise for Presbytery staff (the first since 2020) and a deficit to be closed by transfers from reserves and the sale of property already owned by the Presbytery. The budget was approved, and the Council will be leading a process of unified conversations to create a plan for financial sustainability over the next six months, with a presentation to the Summer Stated Meeting on August 6.

At the request of the Synod of South Atlantic, the Presbytery approved proposed changes to the synod's plan for election to allow it to elect six additional commissioners to increase opportunities for diversity and representation. The Presbytery also requested that the Synod begin the process of changing the Presbytery's boundaries to move Lamar County to Flint River Presbytery so that Barnesville Presbyterian Church might be transferred to their jurisdiction.

The meeting offering supported the work of Mercy Community Church, a grassroots ecumenical congregation that meets on the campus of Druid Hills Presbyterian Church and works to intentionally provide hospitality and sanctuary for people who are experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in the surrounding neighborhood.



At the conclusion of the meeting, Rev. Alex Rodgers, contract call pastor at Timberridge Presbyterian Church, was installed as the Presbytery's moderator for 2024. The Presbytery celebrated the faithful service of Ruling Elder Iris Wallace as moderator in 2023.

The Spring Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, beginning at 9:00am, via Zoom.