

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**  
**Minutes of the November 4, 2023, Stated Meeting**

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

Hosted by North Decatur Presbyterian Church  
611 Medlock Rd, Decatur, GA 30033  
with online participation via Zoom

***Call to Order***

Following prelude music shared by David Leonard from North Decatur Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta was called to order and opened with prayer at 9:01 A.M. by Moderator Iris Wallace.

***Host's Words of Welcome***

Rev. David Lewicki, pastor of North Decatur Presbyterian Church, shared words of welcome and oriented the members and guests to the church space and community.

***Call to Worship and Opening Hymn***

Rev. David Lewicki of North Decatur Presbyterian Church offered the call to worship. The Presbytery then joined in singing the first two verses of the opening hymn, "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout."

***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.

***Meeting Orientation***

The Stated Clerk offered an orientation to the hybrid meeting configuration and the processes to be used for seeking recognition and voting. A test vote was conducted.

***Omnibus Motion***

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk to present 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 August 15, 2023, stated meeting;
- the action items in the Council Report;
- the admit to record items in the Grants Committee Report;
- the admit to record and action items in the Operations Committee Report;
- the admit to record items in the Communications Report;
- the admit to record items in the Committee on Ministry Report;
- 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. 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. John Harrison, minister member of Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery  
Rev. Jerrod Lowry, minister member of Coastal Carolina Presbytery  
Rev. Oscar McCloud, minister member of the Presbytery of New York City

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

### *Sharing the Peace*

Rev. Sylvia Wilson, pastor of Hillside Presbyterian Church, led the Presbytery in sharing the peace of Christ.

### *Stated Clerk's and Communications Report*

The Moderator recognized Rev. Andy James to give the Stated Clerk's and Communications Report as presented in the Commissioners Handbook. The Clerk reminded clerks of session to be on the lookout for the mailing regarding annual statistical reports in early December.

The Clerk reported receipt of the review of the 2022 minutes of the Presbytery by the Stated Clerk of the Synod of South Atlantic, which were approved with the following exceptions:

- List of attendees is not clear regarding CRE.
- Installation of minister at 11 a.m. on Sunday does not follow W-4.0402.
- List of previous Permanent Judicial Commission members is not in order.

The full letter of attestation is included as Attachment C.

The Clerk reported that the offering from the Summer Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to support PCUSA ministry in the Sudan and South Sudan, split between the RECONCILE program and disaster relief for the church's response to the ongoing conflict in the Sudan and South Sudan, totaled \$4,176.49.

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 **Mary Moore Driggers** as associate pastor at **Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church** be admitted to the record.
2. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Davis Bailey** as designated pastor at **McDonough Presbyterian Church** at a service on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. at McDonough Presbyterian Church:
  - Rev. Patrick Day, member at large
  - Elder Robert Hay, Jr., Peachtree City First
  - Rev. Kristy Ray, Stockbridge
  - Rev. Alex Rodgers, Timberridge

Elder Tracey Tomme-Patterson, McDonough

The following person was approved as a guest of the commission:

Rev. Julie Bailey, Mid-South Presbytery

3. That the minutes of the commission to install **Davis Bailey** as designated pastor at **McDonough Presbyterian Church** be admitted to the record.
4. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Jamie Butcher** as pastor at **Covenant Presbyterian Church** at a service on Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.\* at Covenant Presbyterian Church:
  - Elder Iris Wallace, Radcliffe (moderator)
  - Rev. Adam Borneman, Ministry Collaborative
  - Rev. Sharon Junn, Columbia Theological Seminary
  - Rev. Kate MacGregor-Mosley, member at large
  - Rev. Olive Mahabir, member at large
  - Elder Charlie Copp, Oakhurst
  - Elder Adele Shepherd, Atlanta First

The following person was approved as a guest of the commission:

Rev. Emily Krause-Corzine, Scioto Valley Presbytery

\*While this time will be challenging for “substantial participation of the presbytery” as required by W-4.0202, the Clerk recognizes this happening in the composition of the commission and availability of livestream and recording.

5. That the minutes of the commission to install **Jamie Butcher** as pastor at **Covenant Presbyterian Church** be admitted to the record.
6. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Samuel Charles Phillips** as a minister of the Word and Sacrament on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at Central Presbyterian Church:
  - Rev. Emma Neishloss, Morningside (moderator)
  - Elder Joe Floyd, Morningside
  - Elder Susan Landrum, Central
  - Rev. Martha Moore-Keish, Columbia Theological Seminary
  - Rev. Sue Kim Park, Columbia Theological Seminary
7. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Samuel Charles Phillips** be admitted to the record.
8. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Joffre Tyler Brock** as pastor at **Loyd Presbyterian Church** at a service on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at Loyd Presbyterian Church:
  - Elder Iris Wallace, Radcliffe (moderator)
  - Rev. David Jones, Newnan
  - Elder Mike Pauley, Loyd
  - Elder Erik Swindlehurst, Newnan
  - Rev. Jan Tolbert, Retired

The following person was approved as a guest of the commission:

Elder Emily Parrish, First Presbyterian Church of Eufaula, Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery

9. That the minutes of the commission to install **Joffre Tyler Brock** as pastor at **Loyd Presbyterian Church** be admitted to the record.

10. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **L. Kate Culver** as designated associate pastor at **Central Presbyterian Church** at a service on Sunday, November 12, 2023, at 2:00 P.M. at Central Presbyterian Church:

Rev. Rebekah LeMon, Trinity Atlanta (moderator)  
 Rev. Jamie Butcher, Covenant  
 Rev. Jasmine Evans, North Avenue  
 Elder Beth Grashof, Central  
 Elder Stephanie Lane, Atlanta First  
 Elder Iris Wallace, Radcliffe

The following persons were approved as guests of the commission:

Elder Ted Brothers, Central  
 Rev. Shannon Kershner, Central

11. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Ryan Jensen** as associate pastor at **Roswell Presbyterian Church** at a service on Sunday, November 26, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.\* at Roswell Presbyterian Church.

Elder Iris Wallace, Radcliffe (moderator)  
 Rev. Joy Fisher, Presbytery Staff  
 Rev. Jill Joyner, member at large  
 Elder Linda Massey, Clairmont  
 Elder Brandon Smith, Roswell  
 Rev. Rob Sparks, Atlanta First

The following persons were approved as guests of the commission:

Anna Rose, University Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
 Rev. George R. Sinclair, Presbytery of South Alabama

\*While this time will be challenging for “substantial participation of the presbytery” as required by W-4.0202, the Clerk recognizes this happening in the composition of the commission and availability of livestream and recording.

### ***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. Direct the Stated Clerk to maintain the membership rolls of dissolved congregations for two years following the date of dissolution.
2. Elect the following persons to the indicated classes of the Nominating Committee (all names in **bold** are those that are being nominated):

*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. David Jones	(2023)	TE	Newnan
2. Davis Bailey	(2023)	TE	McDonough
3. Cecelya Taylor	(2023)	TE	Member at Large

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Debra Durden</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b>
<b>2. Kyung-Hwa Kim</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Korean Central</b>
<b>3. Emily Wilmesherr</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Decatur</b>

The Council also reported the following dates, formats, and locations for Presbytery stated meetings in 2024:

- Saturday, February 3, 2024:** in-person at Roswell Presbyterian Church
- Tuesday, April 30, 2024:** Zoom (leadership in-person)
- Tuesday, August 6, 2024:** in-person, with a preference for a site with hybrid capability
- Saturday, November 9, 2024:** in-person at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church

***Grants Committee Report***

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

1. On October 5, 2023, the Grants Committee met to discuss applications for the Fall PATH and Diaconal grant awards. The Grants Committee is thrilled to announce that six recipients will receive a total of \$29,500 for their proposals to alleviate hunger and suffering for the greater Atlanta community.

***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 September 21, 2023, the Operations Committee, acting as the Board of Directors, approved the installation of solar panels at Memorial Drive Ministries to fulfill a commitment from a major gift received in 2022. MDM plans to install solar panels on the roofs of the gymnasium and sanctuary.
2. On October 9, 2023, the Operations Committee was presented with the draft report of the FY2023 audited financial statements. The full report by the independent auditors Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC, will be available on the presbytery website under Resources > Financial Reporting by October 31, 2023, and included in the annual volume of permanent minutes.

The following action item from the Committee was approved as part of the omnibus motion:

1. Set the presbytery per capita rate for 2024 at \$17.50 per active member.

This represents a 3% increase from 2023. This increase would set total per capita for 2024 at \$28.80, to be paid on membership on record as of December 31, 2022. The total includes \$1.50 in synod per capita (unchanged from 2022), and \$9.80 in General Assembly per capita (a \$0.05 decrease from 2023). Synod and General Assembly numbers are established by the respective bodies and are not subject to Presbytery approval.

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

***Executive Presbyter's Report***

The Moderator recognized Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson to give the report of the Executive Presbyter (Attachment E). She celebrated the Presbytery's work in the Vital Congregations Initiative over the last two years and thanked the staff and other leaders who were involved in guiding the Presbytery's work

through the program: Katie Day, Ken Whitehurst, Joy Fisher, Jane Hubbard, and Cassandra Morrow. She recognized the congregations that had been on the VCI journey over the last two years: Decatur, Good Shepherd, Hamilton Mill, Hillside, North Decatur, Mount Vernon, Peachtree City First, Pleasant Hill, Radcliffe, Rice Memorial, St. Andrews, and Stockbridge.

In other areas, she invited the Presbytery to attend the Matthew 25 Summit being convened by the Presbyterian Mission Agency at New Life Presbyterian Church in January. She described some of the work she has been doing within and beyond the Presbytery to support the Presbytery's ministry.

Finally, she invited attendees to take a light, be a light, and join in prayers for peace around the world.

### *Vital Congregations Testimonies*

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, associate pastor of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Kristy Ray, pastor of Stockbridge Presbyterian Church, offered brief statements of testimony about their experiences in the Vital Congregations Initiative over the past two years.

### *Examinations Commission*

The Moderator recognized Rev. Jeanne Simpson to give the report of the Examinations Commission. She 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. Renée Meyer was approved by the Commission for transfer from Cherokee Presbytery to serve as pastor at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, effective September 17, 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. Myung Jin Chae was approved by the ECKAM Examinations Commission for transfer from Trinity Presbytery to serve in a validated ministry as operations director of Daniel Prayer Garden, effective October 6, 2023. His faith journey and statement of faith can be found at Attachment G.

After these introductions, Rev. Simpson turned the Presbytery's attention to the examination of **Ming Chen Lo "Grace" Rohrer**, a minister of the Reformed Church in America, who has been called to serve as pastor at **Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church**, effective November 1, 2023. Her faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment H. Rev. Rohrer offered a brief introductory statement, then Rev. Simpson posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin Rev. Rohrer's examination for temporary membership in the presbytery. After an opportunity for questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examination was complete.

Rev. Simpson moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Ming Chen (Grace) Lo Rohrer's** examination be sustained and she be approved as pastor at Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church and received as a temporary member of the Presbytery during the period of her service, in accordance with G-2.0506, effective November 1, 2023. After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator called for a vote.

***The motion to sustain the examination of Ming Chen (Grace) Lo Rohrer, approve her as pastor at Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church, and receive her as a temporary member of the Presbytery during the period of her service, in accordance with G-2.0506, effective November 1, 2023, passed.*** The terms of call for her service are as follows:

Cash salary	24,555
Housing allowance	27,600
Board of Pensions dues	20,340
SECA allowance	3,990
Continuing education	1,000

Additional reimbursable expenses	4,100
Actual moving expenses	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Twelve weeks paid family medical leave	

Rev. Simpson next introduced Ruling Elder **Kenneth Whitehurst**, a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Decatur, who has been called to serve as a commissioned ruling elder at Westhills Presbyterian Church, effective November 5, 2023, through November 4, 2024. His faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment I. Elder Whitehurst offered a brief introductory statement, then Rev. Simpson posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin his examination. After an opportunity for questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examination was complete.

Rev. Simpson moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Kenneth Whitehurst's** examination be sustained and he be approved as commissioned ruling elder at Westhills Presbyterian Church, effective November 5, 2023, through November 4, 2024, with permission to preach and administer the sacraments, perform pastoral services, officiate at marriages, and moderate meetings of the session and congregation. After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. ***The motion to sustain the examination of Kenneth Whitehurst and appoint him as commissioned ruling elder at Westhills Presbyterian Church, effective November 5, 2023, through November 4, 2024, with permission to preach and administer the sacraments, perform pastoral services, officiate at marriages, and moderate meetings of the session and congregation passed.*** The terms of call for this service are as follows:

Weekly cash salary (two Sundays per month)	220
Moderating meetings (each, as required)	75
Visitation (per hour, plus mileage)	20

Rev. Byeong Chul Han of the ECKAM Examinations Commission presented the next person for examination by the Presbytery. **Rev. Ho-Young Peter Moon**, a minister in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, has been called to serve as contract call associate pastor at Korean Community Presbyterian Church, effective November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024. His faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment J. Rev. Moon offered a brief introduction of himself and his ministry, then Rev. Han posed a question from the ECKAM Examinations Commission to begin the examination. After an opportunity for questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examinations was complete, and Rev. Moon was asked to step out of the room.

Rev. Han moved on behalf of the ECKAM Examinations Commission that **Rev. Ho-Young Peter Moon's** examination be sustained and he be approved for transfer from another denomination to serve as contract call associate pastor at Korean Community Presbyterian Church, an immigrant congregation, effective November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024, an immigrant congregation, with the requirement that he complete courses in Greek and Hebrew languages and exegesis, Reformed theology, and Presbyterian polity at the Columbia Theological Seminary within three years, in accordance with G-2.0505a(1).

After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. ***The motion to sustain the examination of Rev. Ho-Young Peter Moon and approve him for transfer from another denomination to serve as contract call associate pastor at Korean Community Presbyterian Church, an immigrant congregation, effective November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024, an immigrant congregation, with the requirement that he complete courses in Greek and Hebrew languages and exegesis, Reformed theology, and Presbyterian polity at the Columbia Theological Seminary within three years, in accordance with G-2.0505a(1) passed.*** Rev. Moon was invited back into the room and informed of the result of the vote. The terms of call for this service are as follows:

Cash salary	30,000
SECA offset	2,295
Minister's Choice	3,000
Continuing education	9,500
Cell phone	600
Mileage/auto expenses	6,000
Professional expenses	18,000
Book allowance	3,000

Rev. Simpson then turned the Presbytery's attention to the examination of **Kevin Lacson**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery, who has been called to a validated ministry as chaplain at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital, effective upon his ordination. His faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment K. Kevin offered a brief introductory statement, then Rev. Simpson posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin Kevin'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.

Rev. Simpson moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Kevin Lacson's** examination be sustained and he 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 Kevin Lacson, approve him for ordination, and receive him into membership passed*** on a voice vote. The Moderator welcomed the candidate back into the room and announced the results of the vote to him.

Ruling Elder Kenneth Whitehurst was commissioned as commissioned ruling elder for Westhills Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Ho-Young Peter Moon answered the constitutional questions for membership in the Presbytery. The Presbytery joined in prayer for these new ministries at the conclusion of the report.

### ***Scripture and Sermon***

Rev. Katie Day, pastor of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church and one of the Presbytery's facilitators for the Vital Congregations Initiative, offered a sermon on Isaiah 43:10-21 and Ephesians 2:1-10 entitled "Do a New Thing." She encouraged the Presbytery to recognize God's action in the world as we look back on our past and trust that God is about to do something new. She reminded the Presbytery of the work in the Vital Congregations Initiative that has supported our congregations in doing small, unseen things that transform our communities.

### ***Communion***

The Presbytery joined in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, led by Rev. Katie Day and Commissioned Ruling Elder Kenneth Whitehurst, who were key leaders in the Presbytery's work with the Vital Congregations Initiative.

### ***Break***

Following communion, the Presbytery recessed for a break at 11:05 A.M. to enjoy the hospitality of North Decatur Presbyterian Church.

### ***Nominating Committee***

The Moderator reconvened the Presbytery at 11:25 A.M. and recognized Ruling Elder Debbie Durden to bring the report of the Nominating Committee. She presented the committee's nominations for Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery and for service on presbytery committees and commissions. The



Moderator opened the floor for nominations, and the committee brought several additional names that had emerged from its own process after the completion of its report. After opportunity for further nominations, the Moderator declared that nominations were closed, and the election of nominees for Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery and members of presbytery committees and commissions was approved.

The chart below reflects the membership of Presbytery committees and commissions for 2023 following the elections at this meeting. **Names in bold print** were nominated in the committee’s report, and *names in italics* were nominated from the floor.

***Moderator of the Presbytery (2025): Rev. Tully Fletcher***

***Committee on Ministry***

*Class of 2024*

1. Julie Ferguson	(2019)	TE	At Large	Caucasian
2. Guerry Mashburn	(2019)	RE	Atlanta First	Caucasian
3. Gretchen Turner	(2019)	RE	St. Andrews	Caucasian
4. Brenda Gales	(2021)	RE	Resurrection	Racial/Ethnic
5. Gad Mpoyo	(2022)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
6. David Rogers	(2022)	TE	Retired	Caucasian

*Class of 2025*

1. Kathy McCloud	(2020)	RE	Central	Racial/Ethnic
2. Katie Owen Aumann	(2023)	TE	Morningside	Caucasian
3. Jonathan Ball	(2023)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
4. Gail Funderburk	(2023)	RE	Pleasant Hill	Caucasian
5. Michael Sanchez	(2023)	TE	Saint Luke’s	Caucasian
6. Lucy Strong	(2023)	TE	Trinity Atlanta	Caucasian

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Sherri Bozardt</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Northminster</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Hodari Williams</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>New Life</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>3. Nayoung Kim</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>4. Aaron Roberts</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Stockbridge</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<i>5. Ray Johnston</i>	<i>(2024)</i>	<i>RE</i>		
<i>6. Carrie Barnes</i>	<i>(2024)</i>	<i>TE</i>		

***Committee on Representation***

*Class of 2024*

1. Cynthia Smith	(2019)	RE	North Decatur	Caucasian
2. Samuel Mwaniki	(2022)	TE	North Avenue	Racial/Ethnic

*Class of 2025*

1. Sue Kim Park	(2021)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
2. Gay Alston	(2023)	LP	New Life	Racial/Ethnic

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Jane Kagia</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Dorothy Lott</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Hillside</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>

## **Council**

### *Class of 2024*

1. Brady Radford	(2019)	TE	At Large	Racial/Ethnic
2. Faye Cashwell	(2022)	RE	Saint Luke's	Caucasian
3. Nicole Lock	(2022)	TE	At Large	Caucasian

### *Class of 2025*

1. Beverly Markham	(2020)	TE	Alpharetta	Caucasian
2. Marthame Sanders	(2020)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
3. John Fountain	(2023)	RE	Conyers	Caucasian

### *Class of 2026*

<b>1. Brenda Gales</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Church of the Resurrection</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Ken Whitehurst</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Trinity Decatur</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
3. Jan Tolbert	(2024)	TE	Retired	Caucasian

## **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

### *Class of 2024*

1. Joannah Cook	(2019)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
2. Yeonkwon Jeong	(2019)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
3. Emma Neishloss	(2019)	TE	Morningside	Caucasian
4. Erin Morgan	(2021)	TE	Covington First	Caucasian
5. Davis Bailey	(2022)	TE	McDonough	Caucasian
6. Rachel Breyer	(2022)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
7. Ann Hunter	(2022)	RE	Central	Caucasian
8. Karen Shim	(2022)	RE	Korean Community	Racial/Ethnic
<b>9. VACANCY</b>				

### *Class of 2025*

1. Barry Gaeddert	(2020)	TE	Atlanta First	Caucasian
2. David Lower	(2020)	TE	Saint Luke's	Caucasian
3. Seung-eun Rhee	(2020)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
4. Emily Choi	(2023)	TE	At Large	Racial/Ethnic
5. Kristy Ray	(2023)	TE	Stockbridge	Caucasian
<b>6. Justin Colussy-Estes (2023)</b>		<b>RE</b>	<b>Covenant</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>7. VACANCY</b>				
<b>8. VACANCY</b>				
<b>9. VACANCY</b>				

### *Class of 2026*

<b>1. Jill Joyner</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Mark Ribbens</b>	<b>(2023)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. Cindy Ferguson</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Trinity Atlanta</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>4. Sally Foster</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>5. Laura Jernigan</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>6. Kendra Matthews</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Church of the Master</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>7. Kartrina Thomas</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Trinity Decatur</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
8. Tyler Brock	(2024)	TE	Loyd	Caucasian

## 9. VACANCY

### *Examinations Commission*

#### *Class of 2024*

1. Joe Floyd	(2019)	RE	Morningside	Racial/Ethnic
2. Cheryl Hartman	(2019)	RE	Good Shepherd	Caucasian
3. Lativia Ray-Alston	(2022)	RE	Pleasant Hill	Racial/Ethnic
4. Destiny Williams	(2022)	RE	McDonough	Caucasian
5. Tom Whitworth	(2022)	RE	Bremen First	Caucasian

#### *Class of 2025*

1. Martha Moore-Keish	(2020)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
2. Jeanne Simpson	(2020)	TE	Philadelphia	Caucasian
3. Laura Neely	(2023)	TE	LaGrange First	Caucasian
4. Prue Swerlick	(2023)	RE	Shallowford	Caucasian
<b>5. David York</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

#### *Class of 2026*

<b>1. Neeley Lane</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Covington First</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Sam Phillips</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. Jim Simpson</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Johns Creek</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>4. Cecelya Taylor</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>5. VACANCY</b>				

### *Grants*

#### *Class of 2024*

1. Christine Roy Yoder	(2019)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
2. Laverne Wyche	(2022)	RE	Radcliffe	Racial/Ethnic

#### *Class of 2025*

1. Heidi Gleason	(2020)	RE	North Decatur	Caucasian
2. Inho (Alex) Sonu	(2023)	RE	Korean Community	Racial/Ethnic

#### *Class of 2026*

<b>1. Tyler Brock</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Loyd</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Isaac Toney-Schmitt</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Mount Vernon</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

### *New Church Development Commission*

#### *Class of 2024*

1. Jenelle Holmes	(2019)	TE	Ormewood (NCD)	Caucasian
2. Julian Wade	(2019)	RE	Eastminster	Caucasian
3. Lauren Fields	(2022)	RE	Church of the Master	Racial/Ethnic
4. Sun Ki Jeong	(2022)	TE	Korean Community	Racial/Ethnic
<b>5. Amanda Kemery</b>	<b>(2023)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Morningside</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

#### *Class of 2025*

1. Sam Kim	(2020)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
2. George Tatro	(2022)	TE	At Large	Caucasian

3. Sandra Diaz	(2023)	RE	El Nazareno	Racial/Ethnic
4. Sharon Junn	(2023)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
5. Jonier Orozco	(2023)	TE	Austell	Racial/Ethnic

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Hiram Perez-Cordero (2021)</b>		<b>RE</b>	<b>Shallowford</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Steve Sankey (2021)</b>		<b>TE</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. Dan Walden (2021)</b>		<b>RE</b>	<b>Covington First</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>4. Prince Davies-Venn (2024)</b>		<b>TE</b>	<b>North Avenue</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>5. Melissa McNair-King (2024)</b>		<b>TE</b>	<b>Fairview</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

***Operations Committee***

*Class of 2024*

1. Jerry Leath	(2019)	RE	Church of the Master	Racial/Ethnic
2. Catherine Foster	(2021)	TE	At Large	Caucasian
3. Paul Kwak	(2022)	RE	Korean Community	Racial/Ethnic
4. Todd Speed	(2022)	TE	Decatur	Caucasian
5. Cy Wolverton	(2022)	RE	Covington First	Caucasian
6. Esther Stokes	(2022)	RE	Trinity Atlanta	Caucasian

*Class of 2025*

1. Frans Christ	(2020)	RE	North Avenue	Caucasian
2. Chris Hooker	(2020)	TE	Validated	Caucasian
3. Alice Moore	(2020)	RE	Hillside	Racial/Ethnic
4. Ginger Jeffries	(2023)	RE	Atlanta First	Caucasian
5. Chris Keyser	(2023)	RE	Pleasant Hill	Caucasian
6. Mary Martin	(2023)	RE	Saint Luke's	Caucasian

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Iris Wallace (2021)</b>		<b>RE</b>	<b>Radcliffe</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Barrett Abernethy (2024)</b>		<b>TE</b>	<b>Mount Vernon</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<i>3. Irene Wong (2024)</i>		<i>TE</i>	<i>Validated</i>	<i>Racial/Ethnic</i>
<i>4. Juan Herrera (2024)</i>		<i>TE</i>	<i>Hamilton Mill</i>	<i>Racial/Ethnic</i>
<b>5. VACANCY</b>				
<b>6. VACANCY</b>				

***Personnel Committee***

*Class of 2024*

1. Paula Coleman	(2019)	RE	Radcliffe	Racial/Ethnic
2. Melissa Schmitz	(2019)	RE	Alpharetta	Caucasian
3. Julie Johnson	(2022)	TE	Validated	Caucasian

*Class of 2025*

1. Bobbie Wrenn Banks	(2020)	TE	Retired	Caucasian
2. Jay Hah	(2021)	RE	Korean Central	Racial/Ethnic
3. Beth Waltemath	(2023)	TE	Validated	Caucasian

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Camille LeBron Powell (2023)</b>		<b>TE</b>	<b>St. Andrews</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
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<b>2. Kendra Matthews</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Church of the Master</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>3. Rob Sparks</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Atlanta First</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

***Racial Healing Committee (previously Dismantling Racism Committee)***

*Class of 2024*

<b>1. Chanmi Park</b>	<b>(2023)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Korean Central</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Betti Jo (BJ) Steele</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Norcross</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. Jasmine Evans</b>	<b>(2023)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>North Avenue</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>

*Class of 2025*

<b>1. Tom Hagood</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Columbia</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. SungHee Han</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>3. Carrell Kalland</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Resurrection</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Chris Holmes</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Atlanta First</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Lindsay Slocum</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. John Hambrick</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>At Large</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

***Worship Committee***

*Class of 2024*

<b>1. Shirley Davis</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Trinity Decatur</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Brittany Fiscus-van Rossum</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. Drew Wilmesherr</b>	<b>(2022)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Validated</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

*Class of 2025*

<b>1. Andy Acton</b>	<b>(2020)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Emory</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Jackie Randolph</b>	<b>(2020)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Oakhurst</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>3. Becky Loftis</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Saint Luke's</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

*Class of 2026*

<b>1. Charlton Allen</b>	<b>(2021)</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>St. Andrews</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>2. Jennie Sankey</b>	<b>(2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Pleasant Hill</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. VACANCY</b>				

On behalf of the committee, Elder Durden then moved the election of commissioners to the 226th General Assembly (2024) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

***Ruling Elders:***

<b>1. Brenda Gales</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Church of the Resurrection</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Allie Hay</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Covington First</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. John Fountain</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Conyers</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>4. BJ Steele</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>Norcross</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

***Teaching Elders:***

<b>1. Jasmine Evans</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>North Avenue</b>	<b>Racial/Ethnic</b>
<b>2. Tully Fletcher (M2025)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Decatur</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>3. David Lewicki</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>North Decatur</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>
<b>4. Alex Rodgers (M2024)</b>	<b>TE</b>	<b>Timberridge</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>

Their biographies as presented to the Presbytery can be found at Attachment L. The commissioners to General Assembly were approved.

The committee then reported that it had not been able to confirm a young adult advisory delegate to the General Assembly in time for this meeting. Noting that the deadline for reporting this person is before the next meeting of the Presbytery, Elder Durden moved on behalf of the committee that the Presbytery authorize the Nominating Committee to continue its search for a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the General Assembly and to elect that person on behalf of the presbytery. After opportunity for discussion, the motion was approved.

### ***New Church Development Commission***

The Moderator recognized Rev. Lindsay Armstrong to give the report of the New Church Development Commission (Attachment M). She described the continuing work of the commission and introduced Rev. Gad Mpoyo, organizing pastor of the Shalom International Ministries new worshipping community, to share an overview of their work.

### ***Vital Congregations Testimony***

Commissioned Ruling Elder Jane Hubbard offered a brief statements of testimony about her experiences in the Vital Congregations Initiative over the past two years.

### ***Committee on Ministry***

The Moderator recognized Rev. Julie Ferguson to give the report of the Committee on Ministry. On behalf of the committee, she moved adoption of the following policy on family medical leave to describe the Presbytery's requirements for this leave under G-2.0804.

#### ***Policy 20: Paid Family Medical Leave***

##### **Eligibility**

All ministers of Word and Sacrament serving in an installed relationship with a congregation (pastors and associate pastors) are required to have a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave (G-2.0804). Congregations are encouraged but not required to provide these benefits to other ministers of Word and Sacrament. The provisions of this policy outline the minimum requirements for paid family medical leave for pastoral calls in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

##### **Types of Leave**

Paid family medical leave may encompass any of the following:

- *Parental Leave:* Within one year of birth or adoption by a pastor or the pastor's spouse, a pastor may take up to twelve consecutive or intermittent weeks of paid family medical leave.
- *Caregiver Leave:* In times when an immediate family member requires care due to a major illness or disability, a pastor may take up to twelve weeks' paid family medical leave, either consecutively or intermittently.
- *Medical Leave:* In the event of a serious health condition that causes major illness or disability, a pastor may take up to twelve weeks paid family medical leave.

##### **Leave Parameters**

- A pastor may use up to twelve weeks (including Sundays) of paid family medical leave in any rolling twelve-month period. Should more than one precipitating event or circumstance permitting the use of paid family medical leave arise in a particular twelve-month period, the

session and pastor are encouraged to be gracious and generous in granting paid family medical leave and caring for one another.

- A pastor provides as much advance notice as possible for potential paid family medical leave.
- Paid family medical leave may be used—in accordance with need—consecutively or intermittently. Paid family medical leave may also be used as a time offset that allows the pastor to move temporarily to part-time service. Whether used consecutively, intermittently, or as an offset, the total amount of leave time permitted is equal to the equivalent of twelve weeks of work hours as regularly scheduled prior to the beginning of the leave.
- Eligibility for paid family medical leave begins on the first day of installed service and concludes upon dissolution of the call.
- During paid family medical leave, the pastor will continue to receive all benefits in their terms of call, including dues paid to and benefits provided by the Board of Pensions.
- Use of vacation time or other forms of paid leave is not required but may be used to extend leave time at the discretion of the pastor.
- Any questions about eligibility for paid family medical leave are referred to the Committee on Ministry for interpretation.

Following the period of paid family medical leave, the pastor is expected to return to the same position with the same title, terms of call, hours worked, and job description, unless the pastor requests such a change due to circumstances that have arisen during the time on leave.

### **Church Support**

- While the individual congregation is responsible for the funding and administration of paid family medical leave, state-provided disability and paid leave benefits and Board of Pensions financial protection programs may be considered in order to help offset income continuation costs.
- Communication of mutual needs and planning is vital to minimize disruption for the congregation. Pastors are encouraged to anticipate leave with sensitivity around the needs of the congregation, including but not limited to temporary replacement and fulfillment of duties.
- Paid family medical leave is not intended to be a burden but rather a source of joy as congregations encourage pastors to take time for the good of their families. In the spirit of the connectional church, councils of the PC(USA) are encouraged to work together to assist individual congregations in the development of funding paid family medical leave in order to best serve God. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, through its congregational consultants and the COM, will work to support congregations as their pastors use paid family medical leave.

Rev. Katie Aumann offered a brief presentation of the policy from the committee. The policy was approved.

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

1. The 2024 minimum compensation for full-time installed pastors and associate pastors has been updated in accordance with COM Policy 12. The three-year rolling average of the Social Security Administration's Cost-of-Living Adjustment used to calculate these changes is 5.93% for 2023. The complete breakdown is shown in the attached update to COM Policy 12 (found at Attachment N).
2. In coordination with the New Church Development Commission, reclassify **Rafael Viana** as organizing pastor at new worshiping communities **On the Way** and **Casa Brasil**, effective November 14, 2022.
3. Transfer retired minister **Robert Evans** to Grace Presbytery, effective June 6, 2023.

4. Place **Jae Eun Hwang** on the member at large roll upon conclusion of his service in validated ministry at the Emory DeKalb Operating Unit to take up post-graduate studies, effective July 26, 2023.
5. Approve the contract call pastor relationship between **Connie Lee** and **Rice Memorial Presbyterian Church**, effective August 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024, for 13-15 hours per week.
 

Monthly cash salary	1,300
SECA allowance	99
Two weeks vacation	
One week continuing education	
6. Transfer validated minister **Lauren Wright Pittman** to East Tennessee Presbytery, effective August 12, 2023.
7. Place **Jae Hong Kim** on the member at large roll upon conclusion of his service in validated ministry at New Blessing Church, effective August 31, 2023.
8. Appoint **Julie Ferguson** as moderator of session at **Northminster Presbyterian Church**, effective September 1, 2023.
9. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Ryan Jensen** and **Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church**, effective September 3, 2023.
10. Appoint **Jeff Davis** as moderator of session at **Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church**, effective September 4, 2023.
11. Dissolve the associate pastor relationship between **Catherine Foster** and **Shallowford Presbyterian Church**, effective September 10, 2023, and place her on the member at large roll.
12. Approve **Renée Meyer** as pastor at **Druid Hills Presbyterian Church**, effective September 11, 2023.
 

Cash salary	8,000
Housing allowance	80,000
Board of Pensions dues	34,320
SECA tax allowance	6,732
Continuing education	2,000
Mileage, vouchered	3,000
Professional expenses	1,000
Actual moving expenses	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical for ten weeks after five years	
Twelve weeks paid family medical leave	
13. Renew the interim pastor relationship between **Kate Colussy-Estes** and **Carrollton Presbyterian Church**, effective September 13, 2023, through March 13, 2024, working 40 hours per week.
 

Cash salary	20,000
Housing allowance	17,500
Full Board of Pensions	13,875
SECA tax allowance	2,869
Continuing education (unused, carried over)	1,000
Cell phone	300
Mileage/auto expenses	2,400
Professional expenses	500
Other vouchered expenses	400
Three weeks vacation	



Two weeks continuing education

14. Dissolve the associate pastor relationship between **Andrew Esqueda** and **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta**, effective September 17, 2023, and dismiss him to Donegal Presbytery so that he can take up a call as pastor of First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, Pennsylvania.
15. Approve the contract call pastor relationship between **Jill Ulrici** and **Smyrna Presbyterian Church**, effective September 17, 2023, through March 17, 2024, for 16 hours per week.

Weekly cash salary	400
Session meetings (each, as required)	150
16. Approve **Kate Culver** as associate pastor for a two-year designated term at **Central Presbyterian Church**, effective September 18, 2023, through September 17, 2025.

Cash salary	30,000
Housing allowance	45,000
Board of Pensions dues	29,250
SECA tax allowance	5,738
Continuing education	1,000
Cell phone	800
Mileage, vouchered	1,000
Professional expenses	3,500
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Twelve weeks paid family medical leave	
17. Approve the contract call pastor relationship between **Xavier Coombs**, a licensed Baptist minister, and **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Decatur**, effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, for 19 hours per week. In this role, he will preach, lead worship, provide pastoral care, attend session meetings, and participate in liturgy at table with other persons authorized to preside over the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Cash salary	26,050
SECA tax allowance	1,993
Two weeks vacation, plus every fifth Sunday off	
One week continuing education	
18. Approve the contract call associate pastor relationship between **Barry Gaeddert** and **Atlanta First Presbyterian Church**, effective October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, working 40 hours per week as Contract Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Global Mission.

Cash salary	82,500
Board of Pensions Pastor's Participation	32,175
SECA tax allowance	6,311
Dental	496
Continuing education	3,000
Cell phone	780
Mileage/Travel	1,500
Professional expenses	1,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
19. Approve **Ryan Jensen** as associate pastor of congregational care at **Roswell Presbyterian Church**, effective October 1, 2023.

Cash salary and housing allowance	68,000
Board of Pensions dues	26,520
SECA tax allowance	5,202

Continuing education	1,000
Additional continuing education as needed	
Cell phone	480
Mileage, vouchered	1,100
Dental	465
Professional expenses	2,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Sabbatical after seven years	
Twelve weeks paid family medical leave	
20. Approve the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Presbytery's Small Church Gathering on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at Jonesboro First Presbyterian Church, with Joy Fisher presiding.	
21. Approve <b>Cecelya Taylor</b> as interim pastor at <b>Northminster Presbyterian Church</b> , effective November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2024, working full time.	
Cash salary	52,100
Housing allowance	60,000
SECA offset	8,576
Employer contribution to retirement savings	22,500
Continuing education	1,000
Cell phone and travel	4,300
Professional expenses	1,000
Book allowance	500
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
22. Place <b>Peter Ward</b> on the retired roll, effective November 4, 2023.	
23. Renew the contract call associate pastor relationship between <b>Beverly Markham</b> and <b>Alpharetta Presbyterian Church</b> , effective November 16, 2023, through November 15, 2024, working 25 hours per week.	
Cash salary	49,183
Minister's Choice	4,918
SECA tax allowance	3,763
Professional expenses	5,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
One week denominational service	
24. Approve <b>Fred Foy Strang</b> , a member of Central Florida Presbytery, to labor in the bounds as interim pastor at <b>North Avenue Presbyterian Church</b> , effective December 4, 2023, through December 3, 2024, working full time.	
Cash salary	73,750
Housing allowance	73,750
Board of Pensions dues	50,350
SECA tax allowance	11,284
Continuing education	4,000
Cell phone (non-vouchered)	1,500
Mileage (non-vouchered)	4,500
Dental and vision	1,767
Professional expenses	5,000

Book allowance  
Actual moving expenses  
Four weeks vacation  
Two weeks continuing education

300

25. Place **Carol Pitts** on the retired roll, effective December 30, 2023.
26. Following receipt of an annual report for 2022, the Committee on Ministry completed the required annual review of the following ministers of the Word and Sacrament engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation (G-2.0503a):  

Shelvis Smith-Mather  
John Westlund, Jr.

### *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 MJ Kim, inquirer from Korean Community Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective September 28, 2023. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment O, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll MJ Kim as a candidate, effective September 28, 2023*, was approved.

The Moderator asked MJ to affirm the Presbytery's decision. Rev. Neishloss offered a charge and a prayer.

On behalf of the committee, Rev. Neishloss then moved the following overture to the 226th General Assembly.

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta overtures the 226th General Assembly (2024) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendment to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

Shall G-2.0610 be amended as follows: (text to be deleted is ~~struck through~~)

When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-fourths vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. ~~A full account of the reasons for any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.~~

#### **Rationale**

Those persons who respond to the call to serve as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in the church have embarked on a sacred journey, accompanied by their home congregation and presbytery of care. Along the way, the presbytery and the inquirer or candidate develop a relationship of accountability and trust that enables and empowers the whole church to be a part of this journey of faithful response to God's call. Placing a detailed record of a potentially traumatic encounter in the permanent records

of the presbytery does little to further this relationship of accountability and trust and only provides an opportunity to increase and intensify harm.

Removing this requirement for this full account of the reasons for a waiver of examination requirements for those under the care of a presbytery clarifies that the detailed record of a person's preparation for ministry process is independent from the long-term story of that person's faithful service as a minister. This amendment simplifies the text of the Constitution by making it less of a manual of operations and gives voice to emerging understandings of learning differences, cultural competency, and neurodivergence that are increasingly common within and beyond the church. The proposed amendment allows for greater pastoral sensitivity by presbyteries in their care of those preparing for ministry and encourages presbyteries to trust one another in their work with those preparing for this sacred calling.

Following opportunity for discussion, the overture was approved.

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

- The following person was enrolled as an inquirer as of the date shown:
  - a. Emily Avant (Trinity Atlanta), September 28, 2023
- The following candidates were certified ready to receive a call:
  - a. Jeanine Fulton (Eastminster), September 28, 2023
  - b. Kevin Lacson (Trinity Atlanta), September 28, 2023
- The following candidates received a call:
  - a. Amanda Osenga (Oglethorpe) was ordained as associate pastor at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Denver, Colorado, by Denver Presbytery on October 8, 2023.
  - b. Kevin Lacson (Trinity Atlanta) has received a call as chaplain at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital.
- The following annual consultations took place:
  - a. MJ Kim (Korean Community), September 13, 2023
  - b. Kevin Lacson (Trinity Atlanta), August 7, 2023
  - c. Eirene Lee (Atlanta First), September 15, 2023
  - d. Dorrie Toney (Oakhurst), July 18, 2023
- The following persons were elected to read ordination exams in February 2024:
  - a. Rev. Rachel Breyer (member at large)
  - b. Elder Bobbie McCrackin (Morningside)
  - c. Rev. Emma Neishloss (Morningside)
  - d. Elder Mark Ribbens (Roswell)
  - e. Rev. Jennie Sankey (Pleasant Hill)
  - f. Elder Sandra Ward (Morningside)

### *Necrology of Ruling Elders and Ministers*

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, pastor of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Barrett Abernethy, pastor of Mt. Vernon Presbyterian Church, led the Presbytery in a remembrance of those ruling elders and ministers who died between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. The full list of these persons is included in the worship bulletin for the meeting at Attachment B.

### ***Offering***

The Moderator introduced the offering for the meeting, supporting scholarships for persons from the Presbytery to attend the Matthew 25 Summit and the Association of Smaller Congregations Annual Conference. The Matthew 25 Summit, sponsored by the Presbyterian Mission Agency, will be held January 16-18, 2024, at New Life Presbyterian Church here in the presbytery, with the goal of bringing together those who are leading the church in the continued exploration of the Matthew 25 initiative to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism, and eradicate systemic poverty. The Association of Smaller Congregations Annual Conference will be held February 29-March 4 at Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, focusing on the theme “The Gift of Small.” Following an introduction to the various methods of contributing to the offering, the Moderator offered a prayer of dedication.

### ***Closing Hymn***

The Presbytery joined in singing the final two verses of “My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout” to close its time of work and worship.

### ***Benediction, Blessing, and Adjournment***

Seeing that there was no other business, the Moderator offered a closing prayer and benediction to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 P.M.

C. Anderson James  
Stated Clerk

#### List of Attachments:

- A. Attendance Report
- B. Bulletin and Docket
- C. 2022 Minutes Review Letter
- D. Financial Reports through September 30, 2023
- E. Executive Presbyter’s Report
- F. Renée Meyer Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- G. Myung Jin Chae Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- H. Ming Chen (Grace) Lo Rohrer Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- I. Kenneth Whitehurst Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- J. Ho-Young Peter Moon Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- K. Kevin Lacson Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- L. General Assembly Commissioner Biographies
- M. New Church Development Commission Report
- N. COM Policy 12 on Minimum Compensation Standards
- O. MJ Kim Faith Journey

**Attachment A: Attendance for the November 4, 2023, Stated Meeting**

*Minister Members in Attendance (123)*

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

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

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



Loren D. Pugh.....	Retired	Richard E. Stenhouse .....	Retired
Brady Radford .....	Absent	Andrew Stephens .....	Absent
Diana Rosa Ramos.....	Present	Mary Rebecca Stewart .....	Retired
Kristy Ray.....	Present	Mary A. Stoops .....	Present
Timothy T. Read.....	Retired	Lucy Strong.....	Present
Holly Reimer .....	Absent	Gibson P. Stroupe .....	Retired
Benjamin Reyes.....	Retired	Katherine B. Sundermeier.....	Absent
Arthur Reynolds.....	Retired	Norman Anthony Sundermeier.....	Excused
Seung-eun Rhee .....	Excused	Erin Katrina Swenson .....	Retired
Katie Ricks.....	Present	Claude Tatro.....	Present
George Rinker.....	Present	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	Rix Threadgill .....	Absent
Alex Rodgers .....	Present	Holly Tickle .....	Present
David W. Rogers .....	Retired	Jan Tolbert.....	Excused
George O. Rogers .....	Retired	Isaac Toney-Schmitt .....	Present
Mark Dudley Rose.....	Retired	Anna George Traynham.....	Present
Michael Sanchez.....	Absent	William Blake Traynham.....	Absent
Marthame Sanders .....	Present	Scott Tucker .....	Present
Joe W. Sandifer.....	Retired	Betsy Turner.....	Present
Ivette Sanjines del Llano .....	Absent	Margaret Turney-Ayer .....	Retired
Jennie Sankey .....	Present	Jill Ulrici .....	Absent
Steven James Sankey.....	Present	Leanne VanDyk .....	Absent
Anne Sayre.....	Retired	Cheryl L. Vaughan.....	Absent
Trisha L. Senterfitt.....	Retired	Robert E. Veley.....	Retired
Seokhoon Seo .....	Present	Rafael Viana.....	Absent
John Richard Short .....	Retired	Donald D. Wade.....	Excused
Marvin Lee Simmers .....	Retired	William B. Wade.....	Retired
Irving Simon .....	Retired	Oliver Wagner.....	Present
James Simpson.....	Present	Mary Beth Walker.....	Absent
Jeanne Simpson .....	Present	David Wallace.....	Present
Thomas A. Sizemore .....	Retired	Elizabeth Waltemath .....	Present
Lyndsay L. Slocum.....	Absent	Peter Ward.....	Present
Donald W. Smith .....	Retired	Marilyn Washburn .....	Retired
H. Andrew Smith.....	Retired	James O. Watkins.....	Retired
Sarah Smith.....	Excused	Carrie Weatherford .....	Absent
Theodore A. Smith.....	Absent	Jerry Weber .....	Absent
Nancy Smith-Mather .....	Excused	Russ Weekley.....	Present
Shelvis Smith-Mather .....	Excused	D. Scott Weimer.....	Retired
Emily Smith-Purcell .....	Present	David D. Weitnauer .....	Retired
Richard N. Sommers.....	Absent	Donna Wells.....	Present
Junghoon Son.....	Present	Dan C. West .....	Retired
Soon Son.....	Absent	John E. Westlund, Sr.....	Retired
Robert Sparks.....	Absent	John Westlund, Jr.....	Absent
Geraldine Speed.....	Retired	Shayne Wheeler .....	Absent
Todd Speed.....	Present	Charles Wiley.....	Excused
Meda Stamper .....	Excused	Hodari Williams.....	Absent

Emily Wilmesherr.....	Present	Irene Wong.....	Absent
Kenneth R. Wilmesherr .....	Retired	Joshua Woodsmith .....	Excused
Robert Andrew Wilmesherr.....	Present	Jerry Wright .....	Retired
Sandra S. Wilmesherr .....	Retired	Christine Yoder.....	Present
Sylvia Wilson.....	Present	Hee Dong Yoo .....	Present
Roosevelt Winfrey .....	Retired	Fred Eugene Young .....	Absent
George B. Wirth.....	Retired	Moon Su Yun.....	Retired
W. Frederic Wise.....	Retired		

*Ruling Elder Commissioners (102, from 48 congregations)*

<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
Alpharetta	Katee Whitfield	Emory	Willa McGriff
Atlanta First	(none)	Fairview	Janet Russell
Atlanta Taiwanese	(none)	Fayette	Marian Speight
Austell	Kemie Brown-Vansant		Mitchell C. Conley
	Cathryn Gazaway	Fellowship	(none)
Barnesville	(none)	First Afrikan	(none)
Bethany	(none)	Friendship	(none)
Bremen First	(none)	Good News Garden	(none)
Buford	(none)	Good Shepherd	(none)
Carrollton	Amy Ellis	Grace Korean	(none)
	Bill Hodge	Greenville	(none)
Central	Gary Cornell	Gum Creek	(none)
	Mary Sidney Harbert	Hamilton Mill	Mary Kaitlin Merwin
Church of the Master	Lauren Fields	Hanbit	(none)
	Kendra Matthews	Hemphill Memorial	(none)
	Judy Armstrong	Hillside	Sonja McMullen
Clairmont	Tim Fenbaer	Jackson	(none)
	Carson Kennedy	Johns Creek	Jeff Arnold
Columbia	(none)		Alice Ann Nilsen
Conyers	Ann George		Jaywanth Winfred
	Richard Weimar	Jonesboro First	(none)
Covenant	Jennifer Manning	Kairos	(none)
Covington First	(none)	Kelley	Suzanne Kelley
Cristo Para Todos	(none)	Korean Central	(none)
Crossroads	Judie Morgan	Korean Community	(none)
	Nancy Scott	LaGrange First	Caroline Davidson
	David W. Scott		Jerry Fulks
Dallas-Dodd	(none)	Lawrenceville	Diane Nowakowski
Decatur	Elizabeth Webb	Loyd	(none)
	Steve Crow	Manchester First	(none)
	Lee Smith	McDonough	Kelli Elliott
	Amy Pelissero		Robert Hull
Druid Hills	Anne Townsley	Monroe First	(none)
Eastminster	Scott Uthlaut	Morningside	David Lowery
	Marty Hillman		Bobbie McCrackin
Ebenezer Brazilian	(none)		Tish Woolley
Ebenezer	(none)	Morrow	Deborah Venizelos
El Nazareno	(none)		

<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
Mount Vernon	Beppie Lever	PC of Resurrection	Heather Potter
	Malinda Holmes	Rice Memorial	Dianne Bryant
	David Hill	Roswell	(none)
	Gloria Gillespie	Saint Luke's	Sally Joyce
New Life	Gail Parker		Shawn Hamlin
	Dwight A. Parker		Sally Harvey
New PC of Georgia	(none)		Jason Lee
Newnan	Dale Bowers	Shallowford	Brad Bryant
Norcross	Betti J. Steele		Trent Vigar
North Avenue	Dan Riggs		Pamela Blass
	Emily Curtin		Gary Budd
North Decatur	Matt Eby	Smyrna	Helen Livsey
Northminster	Sherri Bozardt	St. Andrews	Mary Evans
	Janice Simpson		Cynthia Weimer
	Fred Millard	Stockbridge	Annetta Harper
	Lisa Sills		Aaron Roberts
Northwest	Ellen Carrington	Tallapoosa	(none)
Oakhurst	Jacqueline Randolph	Timberridge	Jennifer Gunter
	Virginia Richards	Trinity Atlanta	Rebekah Groover
	Magnolia Walker		Paige Keller
Oglethorpe	Linda Morris		Dean Cleaveland
Peachtree	Joseph King		Richard O'Donnell
	Rebecca Coppedge		Helen Slawson
	Angela Naphin		Chris Suh
	Tim Gartland	Trinity Decatur	Trey Reese
	Linda Schaeffer	Westhills	Kenneth Whitehurst
	Stephanie Sparkman		Stephen Ross
	Dana Tucker		Judith Paisley
Peachtree City First	(none)	Westminster	Robertta Gesung
Philadelphia	Greg Durden		Shane Donaldson
Pleasant Hill	John Reineking		Kevin Morton
Radcliffe	(none)		Steve Gooding

*Ruling Elder Commissioners — Ex Officio/Parity (6)*

Moderator	Iris Wallace
Council Members	John Fountain
	Hiram Pérez-Cordero
	Cyndi Smith
PGA Exempt Staff	Cassandra Morrow
CREs	Jane Hubbard

*Visitors/Guests (31)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Church/Organization</b>
Charlton Allen	St. Andrews
Faye Cashwell	Saint Luke's
Bettie Durah	Radcliffe
Ed Easterlin	Peachtree
MJ Kim	Korean Community
Al Stacer	Presbyterians for a Better Georgia
Matlynn Yeoman	Chestnut Street Presbyterian Church
Felicia Hardy	Davie Street Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC
Jerry Leath	Church of the Master
Frances Scott	Kelley
Jeff Morris	Oglethorpe
Brenda Gales	PC of the Resurrection
Rena J. Marroyuin	Peace and Global Witness Partnership
Grace Lo Rohrer	Atlanta Taiwanese
Jim Simpson	Philadelphia
Ray Johnston	Westminster
Debbie Durden	Nominating Committee
Peter Moon	Korean Community
Shari Freeman	Mt. Vernon
Kevin Lacson	Trinity Atlanta
Kathy McCloud	Central
Oscar McCloud	Presbytery of New York City
Destiny Williams	McDonough
Zoe Price	UKirk Atlanta
David York	Central
Andrew Hill	PGA
Lucretia Lampkin	Westhills
Linda Alexander	Westhills
Charlotte Stone	North Decatur
John Harrison	Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery
Haruko Ward	Northeast Georgia Presbytery

*Other Excused Absences*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Church/Organization</b>
Paula Coleman	Radcliffe
Ruling Elder Commissioner	Fairview
Patrick Miller	



8:50	Pre-Presbytery Music	David Leonard
9:00	Opening Prayer	Moderator Iris Wallace
	Welcome by Host Pastor	David Lewicki
	Call to Worship	David Lewicki
	<i>The Lord says: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.</i>	
	<b>When we pass through the waters, God is with us; when we walk through the fire we will not be burned.</b>	
	<i>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.</i>	
	<b>God is about to do a new thing; now it springs forth!</b>	
	Opening Hymn #100 (v. 1-2)	“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”
	<b>My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?</b>	
	<b>My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.</b>	
	<b>Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.</b>	
	<b>My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn. Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.</b>	
		<i>Text: Rory Cooney, 1990 Music: Irish melody, arr. Rory Cooney</i>
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9:15	Declaration of Quorum	Andy James
	Zoom Orientation	
	Omnibus Motion (Handbook p. 10)	
	Passing the Peace	Sylvia Wilson
9:25	Communications and Stated Clerk’s Report (Handbook p. 18-21)	
9:30	Executive Presbyter’s Report (Handbook p. 22-23)	Aisha Brooks-Johnson
9:40	Vital Congregations Testimonies	Isaac Toney-Schmitt and Kristy Ray
9:50	Examinations Commission (Handbook p. 25-38)	Jeanne Simpson
	<i>Introductions of Transferring Ministers</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rev. Renée Meyer, transferring from Cherokee Presbytery to serve as Pastor at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church</li><li>• Rev. Myung Jin Chae, transferring from Trinity Presbytery to serve as Operations Director of Daniel Prayer Garden</li></ul>	

*Examinations of Ministers from Other Denominations, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Candidates*

- Rev. Grace Rohrer, a minister in the Reformed Church of America, called to serve as pastor at Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church
- Ken Whitehurst, a ruling elder at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Decatur, called to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder at Westhills Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Ho-Young Peter Moon, a minister in the Christian and Missionary Alliance, transferring into the presbytery to serve as contract call associate pastor at Korean Community Presbyterian Church
- Kevin Lacson, a candidate of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, called to serve as chaplain at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital

*Commissioning of Ken Whitehurst as Commissioned Ruling Elder at Westhills*

**God of grace, in baptism you have called us to a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all. Amen.**

10:30 Scripture: Isaiah 43:10-21 and Ephesians 2:1-10 Katie Day

Sermon: "Do a New Thing" Katie Day

10:55 Communion Katie Day and Ken Whitehurst

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise....**

*singing the hymn of your everlasting glory:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

11:05 Break

11:25 Regathering  
Special Music

11:30 Nominating Committee (Handbook p. 39-47) Debbie Durden

11:35 New Church Development Commission Lindsay Armstrong and Gad Mpoyo

11:45 Vital Congregations Testimony Jane Hubbard

11:55 Committee on Ministry (Handbook p. 54-61) Julie Ferguson

12:05 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Handbook p. 62-64) Emma Neishloss

12:20 Necrology of Ruling Elders and Ministers Barrett Abernethy and Camille LeBron Powell

**We remember...**

*teachers and storytellers who made God's stories come alive for us, and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*choir members, praise bands, organists, and all the musicians who sang and played your praises, and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*preachers and lay leaders who led our worship through the years, and we call them by name:*

William M. Schotanus	February 4, 2022
Woodrow McKay, Jr.	March 11, 2022
J. Phillips Noble	March 12, 2022
Clifford A. Sandell	June 1, 2022
Nancy Kinzer	June 28, 2022
Paul O. Ard, Jr.	August 8, 2022
Glenn W. Small, Jr.	October 17, 2022
Martin J. Buss	November 8, 2022
Stephen A. Bacon	November 20, 2022
Karen Smathers Miller	December 9, 2022

*And together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters, brothers, and siblings who sat with us on Sundays and lived out their faith all week long, and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*our church family connections and all whom we have loved in our presbytery, synod, denomination, and world. We remember all who have been part of our global family of faith, and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*our ancestors in the faith whose courage enables us to be here today. We call them by name:*

Atlanta First	Armand Hende	January 5, 2023
	Donna Tabaka	January 12, 2023
	William Lyons	March 26, 2023
	Martha Kollme	April 12, 2023
	Wendell Harsh	March 17, 2022
	Elizabeth Cook	April 24, 2022
	Samuel Hudgins	April 29, 2022
	Deborah Finkle	August 12, 2022
Austell	Ann Jackson	April 16, 2022
	Terry Schade	May 5, 2022
	Phylliss Ray	July 17, 2022
Clairmont	Reid Hartsfield	February 11, 2023
Conyers	Bob Boggus	July 14, 2022
Covenant	Alan Robert Colussy	March 20, 2023
Decatur	Elinor Howard Cook	January 2, 2022
	Robert Jakes McDonough, Sr. (Bob)	January 15, 2022
	A. Harley Smith, Sr.	January 31, 2022
	John Henry Per-Lee, Sr.	April 24, 2022
	William Hixson Breen, Jr. (Bill)	August 28, 2022
	Alick Douglas Bruce Elliott	September 11, 2022
	Charles Arthur Orth (Charlie)	September 12, 2022
	Benjamin Boyd Okel (Ben)	November 30, 2022
	Candler Murphey Broom	December 4, 2022
	H. G. Pattillo (Pat)	February 18, 2023
	Elizabeth Jane Boswell (Jane)	May 1, 2023
	John Harrison Guess	June 10, 2023

*and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember:**

*and we call them by name:*

Emory	Betty Harrell	November 16, 2022
	Billy Harrell	September 9, 2022
Fairview	Charles Boome	January 23, 2022
	Dennis Moon	April 26, 2022
	Louise Phillips	February 1, 2023
Good Shepherd	Gene Rucker	September 9, 2022
	George Kessler	February 25, 2023
	Richard Folger	March 7, 2023
	Meg Duly	July 23, 2023
Hemphill Memorial	Charles Roseberry	February 18, 2023
	Betty Bowen	May 26, 2023
LaGrange First	Page Sargent Holle	August 24, 2022
	Thomas F. Slagle	September 8, 2022
	“Jenny” Virginia Trammell Copeland	October 14, 2022
	Gary Alan Mayer	April 29, 2023
Lawrenceville	Gary Yetter	August 8, 2022
	Sissy Routh	November 8, 2022
McDonough	AJ Upchurch	May 2, 2022
	Willene Stewart	April 21, 2023
	Paul Seckinger	May 3, 2023
	Johnny Rucker	July 1, 2022
	Mary Jane Owen	November 10, 2022
	George Ketner	January 10, 2023
	David Humphries	May 28, 2022
	Claudette Gallman	February 28, 2023
Monroe First	Janiene Glenn	July 11, 2023
	Barbara Wilmoth	February 9, 2023
Morningside	Elaine Tomkinson	January 12, 2022
Morrow	Lacita Larven Robinson	April 3, 2022
	Eric Asare	April 13, 2022
Mount Vernon	Ann Addison	April 14, 2022
	Laura Snipes	August 29, 2022
	Louis Baine	November 17, 2022

*and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*and we call them by name:*

New Life	Robert "Bob" Bryant	August 27, 2022
	George O. Lawson, Jr.	May 28, 2023
Norcross	Laura Lankford	February 19, 2022
North Avenue	Joe Craver	June 2, 2022
	Wink Davis	January 29, 2023
	Al Valerius	June 25, 2023
North Decatur	Kathleen Allen	February 26, 2022
	Max Walker	May 8, 2022
	George Reeves	June 5, 2022
	Jo Anne Godwin	March 28, 2023
	Barbara Jung	May 9, 2023
Northwest	Charlie Hull	February 13, 2022
	Frances Persons	May 15, 2022
	Billie Thorington	September 4, 2022
	Richard Wilbanks	January 14, 2023
	Benjamin Persons	January 14, 2023
	Gordon Thompson	January 28, 2023
	Jean Carol Mundy	March 31, 2023
Oakhurst	Lorraine (Lorri) Mills	May 14, 2022



Nancy Buss  
Hazel McDaniel

May 18, 2022  
October 6, 2022

*and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*and we call them by name:*

Peachtree City First	Rollene Elder	April 12, 2023
Rice Memorial	Horace A. Tory	November 5, 2022
Saint Luke's	John A. Bradley, Sr.	April 28, 2022
	Louis C. LaMotte, Jr.	July 15, 2022
	Karleen Bucholz	May 15, 2023
Shallowford	William (Bill) Pendergrast	February 3, 2022
	Helen Sessions	September 6, 2022
	Mary Ellen Pendergrast	June 13, 2023
Smyrna	Beulah Boozer	December 9, 2022
Trinity Atlanta	Gloria Warren Johnston	January 20, 2022
	Linda Parramore Bath	June 16, 2023
	George H. Johnson	April 25, 2022
	Kenneth P. Lynch, Jr.	July 13, 2022
	Richard K. Phillips	July 16, 2022
	Virginia Sandidge Williams	August 8, 2022
	Sarah Patterson French	October 23, 2022
	Lebby Rogers Neal	November 6, 2022
	James Stanley Balloun	February 25, 2023
Trinity Decatur	Agnes Fowler	July 18, 2022
	Lawrence Carr	Unknown
Westminster	Donald Shearl	January 16, 2022

*and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We remember...**

*our siblings in the faith who have been forgotten and whose names are remembered only by God...*

*and together:*

**We give thanks!**

**We hope and dream...**

*for our leaders of today and our change agents of tomorrow. May they be empowered by God as servant leaders in their homes, the Church, and communities near and far. May their lives be filled with energy, intelligence, imagination, mercy, justice, and love. And together:*

**We give thanks! Alleluia and Amen!**

*Adapted from liturgy by Rev. Susannah DeBenedetto as shared on liturgylink.net.*

12:30 Call for Offering

Moderator Iris Wallace

*Today's offering supports scholarships for the upcoming Matthew 25 Summit and Association of Smaller Congregations Annual Conference.*

*Contributions to the offering may be placed in the baskets in the narthex following the meeting or made online at the presbytery website or via the QR code on the final page of this bulletin.*

Prayer of Dedication

Iris Wallace

12:40 Closing Hymn #100 (v. 3-4)

"My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout"

**From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.**

**Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.**

**The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;**

**there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

**Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.**

*Text: Rory Cooney, 1990*

*Music: Irish melody, arr. Rory Cooney*

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Benediction and Blessing

Moderator Iris Wallace



### Leaders in Today's Meeting and Worship Service

*Worship leaders in today's meeting are from congregations that have participated in the Vital Congregations Initiative.*

David Leonard, Music Leader, North Decatur Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Iris Wallace, Moderator, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. David Lewicki, Pastor, North Decatur Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Andy James, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. Sylvia Wilson, Pastor, Hillside Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Kristy Ray, Pastor, Stockbridge Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Jeanne Simpson, Co-Chair, Examinations Commission  
Rev. Katie Day, Pastor, Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church  
Elder Ken Whitehurst, Commissioned Ruling Elder Candidate for Westhills Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Debbie Durden, Chair, Nominating Committee  
Rev. Lindsay Armstrong, Executive Director, New Church Development Commission  
Rev. Gad Mpoyo, Organizing Pastor, Shalom International Ministry  
Elder Jane Hubbard, Commissioned Ruling Elder and Pastor-to-Pastor Coordinator, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. Julie Ferguson, Co-Chair, Committee on Ministry  
Rev. Emma Neishloss, Chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Rev. Barrett Abernethy, Pastor, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church





Valerie Young,  
Synod Executive and Stated Clerk

September 29, 2023

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

Re: 2022 Presbytery Minutes & Records Review

### **Attestation of Minutes & Records**

The 2022 Minutes of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta were peer reviewed on September 25, 2023, and found to have the following exception(s):

- List of attendees is not clear regarding CRE.
- Installation of minister at 11 a.m. on Sunday does not follow W-4.0402
- List of previous Permanent Judicial Commission members is not in order.

Comment(s):

- *Multiple sets of page numbers makes it difficult to read.*

I am exceedingly grateful for your work in the peer review process.

We are grateful to God for the life and strong relational ministry and mission shared in and with 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**  
**September 2023**

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

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
<b>Budgeted Designated</b>			
<b>Budgeted General Assembly</b>			
100-403000 - One Great Hour of Sharing	\$4,689.00	\$28,808.04	\$17,390.30
100-403020 - Christmas Joy Offering	\$4,620.00	\$12,306.38	\$6,592.58
100-403030 - Pentecost Offering	\$258.78	\$3,780.49	\$2,077.15
100-403040 - Theological Education Fund	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$6,250.00
100-403050 - Peacemaking Special Offering	\$0.00	\$1,004.32	\$3,506.91
100-403200 - Designated for Missionaries	\$916.67	\$16,500.03	\$15,066.03
<b>Total Budgeted General Assembly</b>	<u>\$10,484.45</u>	<u>\$67,399.26</u>	<u>\$50,882.97</u>
<b>Budgeted Presbytery</b>			
100-403510 - Designated Thornwell Home & School	\$712.50	\$3,437.50	\$4,662.34
100-403520 - Columbia Seminary	\$244.66	\$3,044.82	\$675.00
100-403550 - Johnson C. Smith Seminary	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$362.49
100-403580 - Presbyterian Homes	\$347.00	\$547.00	\$1,831.99
100-403590 - Villa International	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
<b>Total Budgeted Presbytery</b>	<u>\$1,304.16</u>	<u>\$8,029.32</u>	<u>\$7,781.82</u>
<b>Total Budgeted Designated</b>	<u>\$11,788.61</u>	<u>\$75,428.58</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<u>\$11,788.61</u>	<u>\$75,428.58</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>\$11,788.61</u>	<u>\$75,428.58</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>
<b>Disbursements and Expenses</b>			
<b>Benevolent Disbursements</b>			
100-500100 - G. A. Budgeted Benevolence	\$10,484.45	\$67,399.26	\$50,882.97
100-500500 - Designated for Presbyterian Homes	\$347.00	\$547.00	\$1,831.99
100-504010 - Designated for Villa International	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$250.00
100-504030 - Designated for Thornwell	\$712.50	\$3,437.50	\$4,662.34
100-506010 - Designated for Columbia Seminary	\$244.66	\$3,044.82	\$675.00
100-506020 - Designated for JC Smith Seminary	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$362.49
<b>Total Benevolent Disbursements</b>	<u>\$11,788.61</u>	<u>\$75,428.58</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>
<b>Total Disbursements and Expenses</b>	<u>\$11,788.61</u>	<u>\$75,428.58</u>	<u>\$58,664.79</u>
<b>Net Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA  
2023 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS  
9/30/23**

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&amp;7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/22
PEACHTREE			\$202,305.60		\$0.00			\$0.00	7396
ROSWELL	\$23,450.00	\$7,816.66	\$67,643.10	\$45,095.34	\$52,912.00			\$52,912.00	2415
First PRES-ATLANTA			\$49,102.20	\$49,102.00	\$49,102.00	\$50.00	\$3,620.00	\$52,772.00	1755
TRINITY ATLANTA		\$33,977.25	\$44,651.25	\$33,977.25	\$67,954.50		\$4,965.00	\$72,919.50	1598
KOREAN COMMUNITY		\$35,000.00	\$40,540.50		\$35,000.00		\$160.00	\$35,160.00	1423
SHALLOWFORD	\$3,412.00	\$2,184.00	\$28,038.15	\$21,028.50	\$23,212.50			\$23,212.50	967
ALPHARETTA		\$17,328.52	\$23,105.25	\$17,328.52	\$34,657.04	\$4,306.00	\$1,650.00	\$40,613.04	749
DECATUR		\$10,461.16	\$20,922.30	\$21,584.00	\$32,045.16	\$8,950.00	\$3,675.00	\$44,670.16	727
ST LUKES	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$20,270.25	\$20,213.55	\$35,213.55	\$1,911.06	\$690.33	\$37,814.94	702
NORTH AVENUE		\$15,009.03	\$20,270.25	\$13,227.50	\$28,236.53	\$3,750.03	\$50.00	\$32,036.56	700
MCDONOUGH		\$7,385.43	\$14,571.90	\$14,571.90	\$21,957.33		\$2,771.50	\$28,795.83	464
First PRES-LAGRANGE	\$5,000.00	\$3,750.00	\$14,430.15	\$10,822.62	\$14,572.62	\$3,318.00	\$60.00	\$17,950.62	456
CENTRAL	\$14,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$14,118.30	\$14,118.30	\$21,118.30	\$1,137.56	\$114.27	\$22,370.13	487
JOHNS CREEK	\$0.00		\$12,955.95	\$6,085.90	\$6,085.90	\$8,966.00		\$15,051.90	322
NEWNAN			\$11,283.30	\$9,402.50	\$9,402.50			\$9,402.50	402
BUFORD	\$0.00		\$11,113.20	\$9,057.80	\$9,057.80		\$1,234.84	\$10,292.64	390
MORNINGSIDE			\$10,971.45	\$10,971.00	\$10,971.00	\$770.00		\$11,741.00	402
MOUNT VERNON		\$9,500.00	\$10,914.75	\$7,500.00	\$17,000.00	\$1,202.00		\$18,202.00	383
NORTHMINSTER		\$13,000.00	\$10,801.35	\$10,279.38	\$23,279.38			\$23,279.38	299
First AFRICAN			\$10,262.70		\$0.00			\$0.00	360
PLEASANT HILL	\$11,000.00	\$7,697.01	\$10,262.70	\$10,262.70	\$17,959.71			\$17,959.71	312
NORTH DECATUR	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$9,497.25	\$9,497.25	\$29,497.25	\$12,314.50	\$1,836.00	\$43,647.75	348
OAKHURST	\$3,000.00		\$9,383.85		\$0.00	\$2,841.43		\$2,841.43	332
NEW LIFE			\$8,675.10	\$2,700.00	\$2,700.00			\$2,700.00	298
WESTMINSTER	\$0.00		\$8,618.40	\$6,463.80	\$6,463.80	\$1,225.60		\$7,689.40	290
EASTMINSTER	\$0.00		\$8,079.75	\$6,463.84	\$6,463.84	\$1,059.00	\$5,000.00	\$12,522.84	239
FAYETTE			\$7,682.85	\$2,415.20	\$2,415.20			\$2,415.20	258
CLAIRMONT	\$0.00		\$7,030.80	\$5,310.76	\$5,310.76			\$5,310.76	245
GOOD SHEPHERD	\$0.00		\$6,860.70	\$3,416.00	\$3,416.00			\$3,416.00	222
COVINGTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	\$10,000.00	\$6,666.64	\$6,548.85	\$4,344.06	\$11,010.70		\$900.00	\$11,910.70	190
CARROLTON		\$500.00	\$6,237.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,900.00	\$514.00		\$3,414.00	161
RADCLIFFE	\$1,600.00	\$1,600.00	\$5,726.70	\$5,726.70	\$7,326.70	\$1,092.00		\$8,418.70	192
ST ANDREWS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,670.00	\$5,400.00	\$7,900.00	\$615.00		\$8,515.00	193
NORTHWEST		\$5,000.00	\$5,471.55	\$5,471.55	\$10,471.55			\$10,471.55	190
MORROW			\$5,386.50	\$5,208.00	\$5,208.00	\$1,039.00	\$1,000.00	\$7,247.00	184
CONYERS			\$5,301.45	\$3,342.95	\$3,342.95	\$490.00		\$3,832.95	187
First PRES-PEACHTREE CITY		\$2,000.00	\$5,131.35		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$470.00	\$4,470.00	194
KOREAN CENTRAL	\$1,000.00		\$5,103.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	185
COVENANT	\$4,000.00	\$2,333.33	\$4,876.20	\$3,250.80	\$5,584.13			\$5,584.13	167
LOYD			\$4,819.50	\$4,819.50	\$4,819.50			\$4,819.50	165
CROSSROADS	\$1,250.00	\$625.00	\$4,536.00	\$4,536.00	\$5,161.00	\$750.00		\$5,911.00	153
LAWRENCEVILLE	\$3,000.00	\$2,250.00	\$4,507.65	\$3,381.00	\$5,631.00	\$960.43		\$6,591.43	169
KAISOS			\$3,628.80	\$4,100.96	\$4,100.96			\$4,100.96	128
STOCKBRIDGE	\$2,000.00		\$3,487.05	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00			\$1,800.00	128
DRUID HILLS	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,487.05	\$3,487.05	\$7,987.05		\$250.00	\$8,237.05	120
HILLSIDE		\$3,125.00	\$3,373.65	\$3,527.96	\$6,652.96	\$1,038.90	\$1,044.24	\$8,736.10	117
HAMILTON MILL	\$5,000.00		\$3,118.50		\$0.00			\$0.00	111
CHURCH OF THE MASTER			\$2,835.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	89
OGLETHORPE	\$2,900.00	\$1,477.00	\$2,806.65	\$1,376.00	\$2,853.00	\$295.00		\$3,148.00	98
AUSTELL	\$1,500.00		\$2,778.30	\$70.00	\$70.00	\$2,859.82	\$2,544.82	\$5,474.64	95
RICE MEMORIAL			\$2,778.30	\$2,778.30	\$2,778.30	\$246.70		\$3,025.00	92
SMYRNA			\$2,693.25	\$2,693.25	\$2,693.25			\$2,693.25	82
COLUMBIA			\$2,636.55		\$0.00	\$2,090.05		\$2,090.05	57
FAIRVIEW			\$2,523.15	\$1,892.37	\$1,892.37	\$415.00		\$2,307.37	85
First PRES-MONROE	\$0.00		\$2,296.35		\$0.00			\$0.00	80
PHILADELPHIA	\$200.00	\$500.00	\$2,239.65	\$1,119.83	\$1,619.83	\$2,038.00	\$200.00	\$3,857.83	78
GOOD NEWS GARDEN			\$2,239.65		\$0.00			\$0.00	79
BETHANY	\$0.00		\$2,182.95	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00			\$1,100.00	78
First PRES-JONESBORO	\$5,000.00	\$3,250.00	\$2,154.60	\$1,675.00	\$4,925.00	\$1,455.00		\$6,380.00	72
TIMBERRIDGE	\$0.00		\$2,154.60	\$2,154.60	\$2,154.60			\$2,154.60	66
TRINITY DECATUR		\$500.00	\$2,041.20	\$1,996.52	\$2,496.52	\$329.00		\$2,825.52	67
GUM CREEK			\$1,899.45	\$1,899.45	\$1,899.45			\$1,899.45	70
NORCROSS	\$0.00		\$1,871.10	\$1,403.31	\$1,403.31	\$208.34	\$66.66	\$1,678.31	66
PRESBY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECT'N			\$1,786.05		\$0.00			\$0.00	62
EMORY	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,729.35	\$1,729.35	\$3,229.35	\$1,750.00		\$4,979.35	56
ATLANTA TAIWANESE			\$1,672.65	\$1,672.65	\$1,672.65			\$1,672.65	59
HANBIT			\$1,530.90	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00	50
JACKSON	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,445.85	\$1,445.85	\$3,445.85			\$3,445.85	54
CRISTO PARA TODAS LAS NACIONES			\$1,417.50		\$0.00			\$0.00	50
GRACE KOREAN	\$300.00		\$1,077.30	\$1,275.75	\$1,275.75			\$1,275.75	45
KELLEY			\$1,077.30	\$1,077.30	\$1,077.30			\$1,077.30	42
HEMPHILL MEMORIAL			\$935.55	\$935.55	\$935.55			\$935.55	33
EL NAZERENO			\$850.50		\$0.00			\$0.00	35
FRIENDSHIP	\$3,000.00		\$708.75		\$0.00			\$0.00	24
BARNESVILLE			\$623.70		\$0.00			\$0.00	22

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA**  
**2023 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS**  
**9/30/23**

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 &amp; 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/22
DALLAS-DODD			\$623.70		\$0.00			\$0.00	22
GREENVILLE			\$510.30		\$0.00			\$0.00	18
NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GA.		\$2,000.00	\$510.30	\$917.32	\$2,917.32			\$2,917.32	18
WESTHILLS			\$481.95		\$0.00	\$226.65		\$226.65	17
First PRES-MANCHESTER WM SPRGS.			\$396.90	\$396.50	\$396.50	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$496.50	13
EBENEZER	\$703.10	\$703.10	\$396.90	\$396.90	\$1,100.00			\$1,100.00	19
First PRES-BREMEN	\$0.00		\$396.90	\$396.90	\$396.90			\$396.90	14
FELLOWSHIP			\$226.80		\$0.00			\$0.00	6
TALLAPOOSA			\$170.10	\$305.00	\$305.00	\$40.00		\$345.00	5
<b>BENEVOLENCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$161,815.10</b>	<b>\$248,139.13</b>	<b>\$857,474.10</b>	<b>\$453,899.84</b>	<b>\$702,038.97</b>	<b>\$76,371.07</b>	<b>\$32,352.66</b>	<b>\$810,762.70</b>	<b>29793</b>
<b>INDIVIDUAL GIVING TOTAL</b>				<b>\$387.54</b>				<b>\$9,375.13</b>	
<b>* OVERALL TOTAL</b>		<b>\$248,139.13</b>		<b>\$454,287.38</b>				<b>\$820,137.83</b>	

**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@atlpcusa.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  
 Operations Fund Revenues and Disbursements-Preliminary  
 Period Ending September 30, 2023

	Actual Period Ending <u>9/30/23</u>	Actual Period Ending <u>9/30/22</u>	Annual Budget <u>FYE 01/31/2024</u>
Operation Support	\$ 233,130.10	\$ 356,907.78	\$ 534,000.00
Per Capita	\$ 437,634.39	\$ 452,814.96	\$ 600,000.00
Budgeted Designated	\$ 67,399.26	\$ 50,882.97	\$ -
Budgeted Presbytery	\$ 8,829.32	\$ 8,781.82	\$ 3,000.00
Total Designated	<u>\$ 746,993.07</u>	<u>\$ 869,387.53</u>	<u>\$ 1,137,000.00</u>
Interest Income	\$ 4,476.82	\$ 4,850.40	\$ 10,000.00
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Ops	\$ 1,097.07	\$ (40,081.50)	\$ 12,000.00
Realized(Gain) & Loss-Ops	\$ 430.63		
Designated for Presbytery Only	\$ 34,355.27	\$ 33,763.68	\$ 46,500.00
Interest-Presbyterian Foundation	\$ -	\$ 0.53	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 387,378.30	\$ 238,574.44	\$ 330,500.00
Total Revenues before Transfers	<u>\$ 1,174,731.16</u>	<u>\$ 1,106,495.08</u>	<u>\$ 1,536,000.00</u>
Transfers			
Transfer to Other Funds	\$ 23.58	\$ -	\$ -
Transfer from Other Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Transfers	<u>\$ 23.58</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 438,077.18	\$ 422,523.98	\$ 516,361.64
Program Expenses			
Committees & Partnerships	\$ 4,726.89	\$ 5,439.12	\$ 11,150.00
Salary and Benefits	\$ 578,602.22	\$ 578,374.78	\$ 849,697.59
Administrative Costs	\$ 116,573.61	\$ 110,962.59	\$ 158,790.77
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 699,902.72</u>	<u>\$ 694,776.49</u>	<u>\$ 1,019,638.36</u>
Total Transfers and Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,137,979.90</u>	<u>\$ 1,117,300.47</u>	<u>\$ 1,536,000.00</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ 36,727.68</u>	<u>\$ (10,805.39)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Revenues	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Operating Total	\$ 36,727.68	\$ (10,805.39)	\$ -

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

**Assets**

Cash		<b>\$256,899.62</b>
Investments		<b>\$525,873.03</b>
Accounts Receivable		
Allowance for Accounts Receivable	(\$44,621.30)	
A/R--Operations	\$0.00	
A/R-Due from Clifton Sanctuary Min.	\$0.00	
A/R Memorial Drive PC	\$47,803.25	
A/R - Atlanta Korean	(\$52,900.73)	
A/R- Ormewood Park	\$42,317.24	
A/R - Church of the New Covenant	(\$11,534.05)	
A/R - Luther Hays PET	\$20.10	
A/R-Georgia Avenue Building/Site	\$132,327.92	
A/R -Church os St. Andrew	\$59,410.89	
Total Accounts Receivable		<b>\$172,823.32</b>
Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	\$675,000.00	
Discount on Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	(\$444,069.41)	
Total Pledges Receivable		<b>\$230,930.59</b>
Prepaid Expenses		\$4,178.82
Property & Equipment		\$1,206,801.83
Land, Buildings and Property (Net)		\$8,608,207.39
Total Accumulated Depreciation		<u>(\$1,703,256.45)</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b><u><u>\$9,302,458.15</u></u></b>

**Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds**

Liabilities		
A/P Operations		(\$79.02)
A/P - Insurance W/H		(\$7.88)
HFSA		(\$1,110.70)
Accrued Vacation		\$11,492.81
Lease Liabilities		\$13,735.20
GA Ave. Bldg Agency Funds		\$2,098.95
Total Liabilities		\$26,129.36
Total Restricted Funds		\$836,115.25
Fund Principal		
Fund Balance-Operations	\$8,403,485.86	
Net Income Year-to-Date	\$36,727.68	
Total Fund Principal and Net Income Year-to-Date		<u>\$8,440,213.54</u>
<b>Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		<b><u><u>\$9,302,458.15</u></u></b>





*The Story Shepherds of Northern Ireland*

*You Are Vital! Your Story is Vital!*

Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter

For the past two years, we give thanks for the churches and leaders who have participated in our Vital Congregations Initiative. We are grateful for the staff and our VCI facilitators, Katie Day and Ken Whitehurst, who offered support, insight, and wisdom in our cohorts. We began with twelve congregations and finished with eleven congregations on the journey. Each congregation has their own story of understanding how God may be inviting them to consider a new way forward or to let go of programs and practices that no longer fit with the mission of the church. The purpose of VCI was to keep our congregations engaged in what it means to be the church in an ever-changing and ever-evolving world.

The one thing that stands out to me in this process is the power of sharing our stories. In our pastor and elder/deacon cohorts, participants continued to share their visions, dreams, challenges, concerns, and prayers as a community of believers. I have loved hearing stories of God's activity in our lives and having our eyes open to God's leading and direction. In October, I had the opportunity to participate in a retreat on story sharing led by David LaMotte at the William Black Lodge in Montreat, NC. David and his colleague Laurie invited a group from Northern Ireland known as the Story Shepherds. They are a collective of storytellers who shared their experiences of being caught in violent divide between Protestants and Catholics. Once enemies, they process their experiences with others as a way to offer another example of healing and hope for our world.

It is my prayer that we will be a people who share our stories with one another in ways that inspire. I pray that our stories will be a reminder that God is at work even when the world seems to be torn apart. May we share stories that renew, restore, rejuvenate, and give us rest for our souls.

ABJ

#YouAreVital #YouAreLoved



**To Our Vital Congregations Initiative Participants,**



We have been on the Vital Congregations Initiative journey for two years. I give thanks for our VCI facilitators, Rev. Katie Day and Elder Ken Whitehurst. I give thanks for staff members, Joy Fisher, Jane Hubbard, and Cassandra Morrow, who led our elder and deacon cohorts. I give thanks for our own Carlton Johnson and the staff of the Office of Vital Congregations at the Presbyterian Mission Agency. I give thanks for the churches who have joined us along the way:

Decatur, Good Shepherd, Hamilton Mill, Hillside, North Decatur, Mt. Vernon, Peachtree City, Pleasant Hill, Radcliffe, Rice Memorial, St. Andrews, and Stockbridge.

I offer a special thanks to our pastors, elders, deacons, and congregations who have walked this way together. While the official journey has come to an end, we celebrate all the ways congregations have walked together with a spirit of discernment, curiosity, and openness to God's leading in our lives. May we remember all the ways we continue on the path of discovery and wonder as disciples of Christ.

Blessings,

ABJ

## Spiritual Journey: Renee Meyer

I was raised in a nominally religious home. When my family attended church, we went to a Cumberland Presbyterian Church nearby. I was baptized at age ten and soon thereafter my family stopped attending worship due to disillusionment with the community of faith because of conflict within the church.

When I was fifteen, I attended a church retreat with my best friend. The keynote speaker was a missionary. Soon afterwards I began to feel a call to ministry. I started attending a Cumberland Presbyterian church again and my father went with me. I met with the pastor to discuss my feelings of call. At age seventeen, I came under the care of Nashville Presbytery of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. At the time I discerned the call to be in the field of medical missions therefore when I went off to college, I decided nursing would be an appropriate track. After getting my BSN I worked for a year in Nashville at St. Thomas Hospital to get some nursing experience before heading off to attend Memphis Theological Seminary. While in seminary I continued to work as a nurse for the income. My discernment of the call changed during my first year in seminary and I felt God calling me to serve in the parish. Upon graduation, I received a call as an Associate Pastor to a congregation in East Texas. Ten months into the call, I went through a divorce. I had a toddler at the time and being a pastor for children and youth was not compatible with my single mother status due to the expected work hours, so I began working as a nurse again for a few years until my daughter was older. However, I preached every Sunday filling various pulpits in the area where I lived.

My next call was as solo pastor to a Cumberland Presbyterian Church in a small college town. After almost five years of serving that congregation, I felt like I was no longer in step with the theology of my denomination therefore I began serving a PCUSA congregation for 18 months before becoming a minister member of the PCUSA in Heartland Presbytery. I completed my D. Min. from Memphis Seminary in 2002. I then served a congregation for seven years. While serving that congregation I began teaching Religious Studies at the University of Central Missouri. In 2007 I became a student in the Interdisciplinary Ph.D. program at the University of Missouri, Kansas City. Eventually the church I was serving at the time became so conflicted that I resigned and focused on my academic program and the classes I was teaching. I had three teaching fellowships at UMKC in which I taught Comparative World Religions as well as Gender and Religions. I was given the opportunity to teach a new course which I entitled "Christianity." I was also teaching Comparative World Religions at the University of Central Missouri.

I truly enjoyed teaching and felt like my call to serve the Church had ended and a new calling was emerging. When I got to the dissertation stage it was clear to me that tenure track faculty positions for generalists in Religious Studies were few and far between, therefore I went into a discernment period. My husband was nearing retirement as a family practice physician, so I circulated my PIF without any geographical restrictions. The confirmation that the parish was where I belonged came loud and clear when First Presbyterian Church of Murray, Kentucky issued a call. It was an hour from where I grew up and my aging mother, sister, and niece still lived in my hometown.

Although I had a year left on the academic clock, I decided not to finish the degree. Therefore, I joined the ranks of the multitude of those distinguished by three letters: ABD. After seven years at Murray, I accepted the call to Westminster in Rome. I think the folks at Westminster have ministered more to me than I have to them over my two years with them as Head of Staff. They have been supportive of me during some very significant family health crises.

It is clear to me that there is a theological mismatch between myself and Westminster which has made executing some new initiatives difficult. There has also been significant conflict between the session and the daycare leadership requiring mediation. These issues have taken a toll on my ministry therefore I began a new period of discernment after meeting with my General Presbyter. I decided I needed to try to serve a progressive congregation which aligned with my own values and so I self-referred my PIF to Druid Hills. It feels like I have arrived "home" since I began talking with them. Our theology and core values match so I am very excited about our future relationship and the work that we can accomplish together.

## Faith Statement: Renee A. Meyer

I believe in the Divine Life Force that is all embracing, all encompassing, persuasive Love. We speak of this generative force for good as God, the Creator of all that is and ever will be. The whole creation is alive and sustained by the presence of God's Light and Holy Spirit. It is through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that human beings have fellowship with God. The Creator desired intimacy with the creation and so breathed life into human form. The Spirit of God in each of us reflects the light and beauty of this Divine Love. This Love gives human beings the capacity to have a deep and broad compassionate concern for neighbor that is inclusive and welcoming. No one is outside of God's grace and compassion and to think otherwise says more about us than it does about God.

In the fullness of time, Jesus was born of Mary and lived among us. Jesus incarnated Love and he reflected the Light of the Divine in a way that inspired others to follow him. I, like Richard Rohr, understand Jesus of Nazareth as a "manifestation of God in time."<sup>1</sup> The Christ is universal, unlimited, and cosmic—the One who always was, who became incarnate in a particular moment in time, and who continues to be revealed through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus of Nazareth was tied to his own religious tradition of Judaism within a particular historical moment, but the work of the Universal Christ involves the more expansive work of the Divine found in all the world's religious/spiritual traditions and within every spiritual seeker who strives to follow the Way of love, justice, compassion, and peace. The Cosmic Christ is not limited by time or space, or any sort of boundary.

The Holy Spirit of the Trinity is the power of the Divine that inspires faith, spiritual transformation, and is the force that gives humanity a vision for what true community should look like. The Spirit continuously works to renew, restore, and reconcile the whole of creation in order that the reign of God may be evident across all time and space.

Scripture is the story of God's people in community and is a witness to their understanding of the Triune God and how this Divine Force interacts in and through the world. The writings of the Bible reflect a particular historical context and although the writers lived in a pre-industrialized and patriarchal culture, these stories still have the capacity to be God's Word for us in all times and places. The timeless character of Scripture is that which enables us to have a deeper understanding of God and our role in the world. Jesus, the Christ, is God's Word to humanity and as such is the measuring rod by which all of scripture is rightly interpreted.

Worship is the center of life for God's people, and it is where the community of faith is nurtured, challenged, and given hope for the future. Worship inspires and transforms believers into the likeness of Christ, so that they may be collaborators with God in extending the realm of Shalom into every crevice of creation.

Central to worship are the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both are visible signs of Divine, invisible grace. Through baptism we are sealed in the faith, remembering the Way we are called to follow. Baptism is the initiation rite into the faith we profess as new creations in Christ. The Lord's Supper nourishes and sustains the life and faith of the people and should always be seen as a central element of the worshipping community. Communion reminds us that we do not live by our own strength, but we receive vital sustenance for the spiritual journey so that we may be agents of the risen Christ in the world.

The Church exists to be the hands and feet of Christ, who sought to extend God's realm here on earth. The Church is charged with reconciliation and peace; compassion for the whole of creation; care of those oppressed by systems of domination; and the pursuit of justice so that all might have an opportunity for an abundant life. The Church is called to pray for the world which wholly belongs to God and to offer God its praise, glory, and honor for God's sovereign and compassionate care which is infused throughout the universe.

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<sup>1</sup> Richard Rohr, *The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality can Change Everything We See, Hope for, and Believe* (New York: Convergent, 2019), 19.

I met Jesus Christ personally when I was 16 years old and attended 'Shinhung Presbyterian Church in South Korea. After I met Jesus, I followed His leading of my life step by step. When Holy Spirit came to me, I could believe all things in the Bible as truth and understand. The reason and purpose of my life was changed. I don't live for myself anymore but for only Jesus Christ.

I love my Jesus Christ. And also by my Jesus, I could love my God more. One day, my Jesus called and asked me to go to the end of the earth with the love that He gave me. I couldn't reject his calling because my sovereignty of life is not in me anymore but in Him. Through the cross, Jesus solved my sin issue that I couldn't solve by myself. Now He became my best friend, brother, husband, and shepherd. He wants me to obey to this calling and go to the end of the earth with heart of God.

I was afraid of my weakness but Jesus comforted me with the word. "But he said to me, my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." -2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:9-

Therefore, with thankful heart I decided to go this way with strong obedience and confidence. Since my lovely Jesus wanted and called me, I will be His true disciple with bearing my cross. I believe my lovely Holy Spirit will be with me and encourage and help me to take this mission given by God. Jesus is my savior, the reason of my life, and my vision for I believe in the name of Jesus Christ. So, I decided to go to Columbia Theological Seminary 2012. I graduated on 2016 majored in M.Div. According to God's calling, I started internship ministry at 'Good News Garden Presbyterian Church in Norcross, GA' from 2012-2018. I was ordained at same church on 2018 by Greater Atlanta Presbytery and served the church as associate pastor until December 2019. And then I served Korea Community Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina from January 2020 to June 2023. When I served the KCPC, I transferred my status to 'Trinity Presbytery' in South Carolina. Now, I was called by very special ministry, 'Daniel Prayer Garden in Alpharetta GA.' I am serving this prayer garden as the executive director. It means, I will take care of this prayer garden, give pastoral care to those who need comfort and love, share the word of God on Wednesday and Sunday regular service. Around 5000 people visit this prayer garden every year for personal prayer, group prayer and retreat. It means I should meet so many multi-cultural, ethnics, nations, races and another denominational Christians here. God called me at the path of blessing. Amen.

I believe the Church of God is the body of Christ. Jesus is only the head of the church. Therefore, I will build up His church together with all this people under Jesus' authority. I am just a part of body of Christ. I will do my best to be humble and stand people to take their position well as the church. I will hide behind of Christ and only my Jesu will be revealed. This is my goal. I will build the church of God together with them and only Jesus should be glorified.

Lastly, I remember what God said to me when I was ordained. God wants me to mourn with mourning people. I will not ignore the lost one. I will stand with the weakest one. I will share their pain and suffering and have empathy to them. As Jesus loved me, I will do my best to love them until the end. This is what I learned from Jesus and the way I seek. I want to fulfill the true disciple of Jesus role. Whenever and wherever, if my God calls me, I will say Amen and be there with Him.

I believe God created whole world with eternal word of God. All creations are created well in His hand and I believe God is preserving all the creations with His spirit.

I was a sinner but not know anymore. Even though God created human as good creation, human made a sin by disobedience. I believe that only the way I can be free from my sin is in Jesus Christ. When I repent and receive Jesus Christ as my savior, Jesus took my sin and I got salvation.

I believe that I became a child of God by Jesus' salvation. The relationship between God and me was enemy but now, we have relationship of parent and child. I love my Father God and obey to Him completely.

I believe eternal life that is prepared by my Jesus Christ for me. When my life is done, I will go to Father's house and live together with Him in His grace forever.

I believe Jesus sent Holy Spirit when he rose up to the heaven and He is with me through Holy Spirit. My Holy Spirit is eternal God with Father and Son. I believe that Holy Spirit makes me participate to the mission for Jesus Christ, comforts me and will be with me forever.

I believe Jesus called me and made me as His disciple. My mission is sending Gospel to the end of the earth with Jesus' heart, love and His gospel. For this mission, Jesus called me as His disciple. I believe that I should be humble and obey to Him at any situations. At anytime and anywhere, I will obey to Him.

Ming Chen Lo Rohrer  
Personal Journey

I grew up in Taiwan, in a traditional Hakka family. My parents were poor and rented a small house in a rural area. They worked very hard, and our lifestyle was quite simple. My childhood memories revolve around gatherings with relatives to worship our ancestors and prayers to the Chinese gods at the local temple. I often played with friends in fields, ponds and temples.

I was eleven when I first heard about Jesus. A classmate attended church with her aunt and shared with me the stories she heard. She told me the story of Jesus nailed to the cross for my "sin." I didn't understand it, but such love deeply moved me, and the seed of the gospel was planted deeply in my heart. I began to watch a half-hour evangelistic TV series every Saturday afternoon, and learned a simple prayer that I began to recite constantly. I had no church and no Bible, but I began to talk daily to Jesus and sensed that he was truly present with me. It filled me with joy! Looking back on this time, I am convinced that every step I took in my faith was a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit. Rather than saying that I found God, it should be said that He found me.

Five years later I left home to attend Jr. College and earned a degree in Business Administration. At that time, I had the opportunity to attend church weekly. On campus, I met a group of brothers and sisters who earnestly loved the Lord. I became very active in the student fellowship and was baptized. I next was hired as an Administrative Assistant at a Presbyterian Bible College and became active in the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan. My supervisors encouraged my dream of ministry and I enrolled at Taiwan Theological College, eventually earning a BAR, an M.Div. and being designated an Evangelist in the Presbyterian Church (the first stage towards ordination in Taiwan). I also earned an MA in Bible from Fu Jen Jesuit University, and soon became a Bible Teacher and counselor at Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu. During all this time my heart was bent towards ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament and leadership of a Taiwanese Presbyterian congregation.

My path took a different direction when I married a missionary colleague who soon took a job teaching Religion at Northwestern College, an RCA affiliated school in Iowa, and I found myself separated from my denomination and working with international students at an RCA school, attending an RCA church, and raising a family in a foreign land. Still later, I experienced the heartbreak of divorce and the need to shoulder parenting two little boys as a single working mom. During all this time I never forgot my dream of ordained ministry, but it had to wait until my sons were raised and God would open a door in my new circumstances in America.

Eventually my sons grew up and now they have jobs in Minneapolis and Chicago. With much prayer and spiritual direction, I decided to go back to school and pick up again my call to ministry. With the support of my RCA church, I completed my required refresher courses at Western Seminary, and accepted a call to pastor a Taiwanese Presbyterian Congregation in New Jersey. There are Taiwanese diaspora churches scattered across North America, and I believe the Lord was preparing me to understand the special circumstances and struggles of these sisters and brothers in America, and to minister to them.

The Lord is truly amazing, working through every experience in our lives even when we cannot see or understand the path. I have found joy in ministry and feel that I am doing exactly what God has prepared me to do during many years of sometimes painful waiting and sculpting. I am excited and energized by my calling and look forward to the next step of the journey with my brothers and sisters in Atlanta.



## Ming-Chen Lo Rohrer's Faith Statement

**Scripture:** I believe that the entire Bible, Old Testament and New Testament, is inspired and authoritative revelation, and the essential basis for Christian doctrine. As human productions the biblical texts reflect the cultural and historical contexts in which they were written and it is important to employ the tools of literary and historical criticism in discerning their original message and applying them to our contemporary world. Although all scripture is useful for teaching, as Christians we profess Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh, to be Lord and we must evaluate all scripture in the light of that Word.

**God:** I affirm One, Holy, and sovereign God who creates, sustains, and redeems the creation. God is an eternal communion of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, transcendent and providentially governing all things, yet immanent throughout nature and present to us at all times. God is ever beyond our rational grasp, yet truly known to us in his mighty acts throughout time, through the prophets of Israel, through scripture and most fully in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word made flesh. We belong to God in life and death, for all that we have comes from his gracious will.

**Jesus Christ:** I confess Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, the unique incarnation of the Word of God, to be my Lord and Savior. Jesus identified fully with our suffering humanity and for our sake endured death. He inaugurated the Kingdom of God and called disciples to be Kingdom people in the midst of a broken world, perfectly embodying in his own life the way of peace and reconciliation. Condemned by both the political and religious authorities of his age to the cross, God raised him from the dead, and he now holds dominion over heaven and earth. He will come again to judge the world with mercy and justice.

**The Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit, the presence of God in our World, exists in eternal communion with the Father and the Logos. The Spirit dwells within us, bringing us comfort and guidance, keeping us connected to our risen Lord Jesus, knitting all believers together into the body of Christ, illuminating the scriptures, gifting us for ministry, and empowering our participation in God's mission of healing and redemption.

**The Church:** The Church is God's elect people, called from eternity into a priestly community to proclaim the Word of God, to embody the Kingdom of God in the here and now, and to continue Christ's ministry of healing and reconciliation in a broken world. The Church stands in unbroken union with the elect from all times and places, including especially the covenant community of Israel. The Church is one, holy, catholic and apostolic. This remains true despite the divisions that have separated Christians into many different institutional fellowships. Our oneness and catholicity is grounded in the reality that all the faithful across time and space are united in Christ and share the same empowering Holy Spirit. In the Reformed tradition we understand apostolic to mean that Christians must always allow themselves to be taught and corrected by the Apostles as we have their teachings in the inspired and authoritative scriptures. So "Apostolic" essentially means *biblical*. When Christians embrace philosophies or ideologies that are not found in Scripture, they cease to be Apostolic. The true Church always derives its life from the Word of God.

**Sacraments:** In the Reformed Tradition the marks of the true Church are that the Word is faithfully proclaimed and the sacraments rightly administered. The Reformed Tradition recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and Holy Supper. In Baptism we are washed by the blood of Christ and by the Spirit and grafted into the covenanted community of faith. Infants as well as adults are included in God's covenant and people, and they, no less than adults, are promised deliverance from sin through Christ's blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith. In the Lord's Supper believers call to mind Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and find assurance that they share in Christ's death and resurrection. Through the Holy Spirit Christ becomes truly present with us in the sacrament, so that we are taking spiritual nourishment into ourselves that strengthens our faith and commitment and connects us more closely to Jesus Christ.

## Faith Journey – Kenneth L. Whitehurst

I grew up in a Baptist church family in eastern North Carolina with deep history in the Baptist tradition. Right after the Civil War, my great, great-grandparents were among founding members of Sycamore Hill Baptist Church in Greenville NC, a historic church with much involvement in the struggle for Civil Rights. I was born on a Sunday morning in August 1952, and I often tell folks that I was born in time to go to Sunday School. Sunday School was indeed a major part of my upbringing along with the traditional Vacation Bible School, and Sunday evening Baptist Training Union (BTU). Our household included weekly Sunday morning Bible readings, songs, and prayers. All of this led surprisingly to my election as Superintendent of the Sunday School of St. John MB Church when I was only 14 years old. My first time in the pulpit to deliver a message was at the invitation of my uncle to speak to a Sunday afternoon youth program at his AME Zion church. I was twelve years old and felt right at home with speaking from the pulpit. As a young adult, I received invitations to preach for homecomings, Men's Day, and other worship services in Baptist and United Church of Christ churches in North Carolina.

I began attending the Presbyterian Church in my hometown with close family friends as a young adult in my post undergraduate years while teaching at the local high school. When the long time pastor transitioned to the Church Triumphant, the Sunday morning message was delivered by members of the church with a Stated Supply Pastor preaching on Communion Sundays. Although I was not a member, I was occasionally invited to deliver the Sunday morning message over the 5 years between his death and the call of a new pastor. After the new pastor arrived and was installed, I chose to move my membership to Ebenezer Presbyterian Church and found my spiritual niche because of the theology and polity espoused by the denomination (we were United Presbyterian Church USA). My membership remained with Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (USA) from 1981 to 2009 when I joined Trinity Presbyterian Church of Decatur GA. I was ordained an elder in 2010, a deacon in 2016, elected Clerk of Session in 2016, and assistant Clerk of Session in 2020 where I continue to serve. I have also served as moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and PGA commissioner to the 221<sup>st</sup> and 222<sup>nd</sup> PCUSA General Assemblies to discern the will of God. I passionately enjoy following where Christ leads me.

In 2012, I wanted to better serve the needs of the pastor Rev. Cecelya A. Taylor and the Trinity PC congregation where I occasionally preached by gaining some training through a seminary. Consequently, I enrolled in and completed the yearlong Certificate of Theology at the Interdenominational Theological Center. Then in 2020 at the onset of quarantining due to COVID, I decided to explore a course in Biblical Exegesis at Union Presbyterian Seminary's Pathways to Leadership online program. Following that course, I ventured further until, in 2022, I completed the entire sequence which prepares individuals to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elders/Commissioned Pastors. Along the way in 2021 and after completing the Polity course and Worship and Sacraments course, I was appointed by the Presbytery to moderate the Session and administer the Sacraments for Westhills Presbyterian Church. The Session also invited me to preach on the first and third Sundays of each month. It continues to be my greatest joy to work with the Session and Congregation of Westhills PC. During my time with them, I've led the Session/Church to become a Matthew 25 congregation, restored the rotation of elders on Session to conform with the Book of Order, and represented them with the Black Church Collective (a Presbytery of Greater Atlanta initiative to assist congregations in post-COVID wellness). I also serve as a coordinator for a pastor's group that meets monthly as part of the Presbyterian Church's Vital Congregations Initiative. It is my great joy and pleasure to serve with the Synod as a commissioner, and as a member and committee chairperson of the board of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. To God be the glory for the great things God has done in my life, and I look forward to the ordering of my steps with Westhills Presbyterian Church of Atlanta as their Commissioned Ruling Elder.

September 11, 2023

## Statement of Faith – Kenneth L. Whitehurst

### I believe...

... *that* God is Triune and has revealed God's self in Scripture as One God eternally existing in three persons as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Further, I believe from the New Testament gospel of John, chapter 1 that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. There is one true God, the Creator and Redeemer of humanity. Through God's offer of Grace can we be saved, and Jesus died for us on the Cross that we might receive God's Grace. Through our Savior's resurrection we may obtain eternal life.

... *that* God is the Creator bringing all things into existence including mankind and charging men and women with the care of His creation, and that we are charged with managing our resources to preserve them from depletion, destruction, overuse, misuse, and pollution. Further, I believe from the Old Testament that God's charge to mankind is recorded in Genesis 1 as "God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'"

... *that* Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became incarnate in human form and gave His life for the remission of our sins that we might be wholly restored to receive the Grace of God. The gospel of John best describes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter my firm belief that "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." I acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

... *that* the Holy Spirit is ever present among us, transcending time and place to bestow gifts, inspire their use, and unify us in service to God. God as Holy Spirit calls us to go out to do the work as seen with the commissioning of Barnabas and Saul in Acts 13: 4, "So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus." So the Holy Spirits call us to go out, spread the good news of the Gospel, and make disciples.

... *that* the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and of Baptism are to be observed and celebrated as Jesus commanded in Luke 22: 19-20 and John 3: 5. Because we are all born into sin, we receive baptism without regards to age and the Lord's table is open to all.

... *that* the Church is the seed planted by Jesus Christ to proclaim the good news of grace and salvation freely given to man through profession of faith evidenced by good works, and predestined for mankind from the beginning of Creation. The Church is called upon to be reformed and always reforming, to discern the will of God in every time and place, to continue to demonstrate a commitment to social justice, and to live as Jesus Christ tells us in Matthew 25: <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

... *that* the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to me; that I must live my life in relationship with my fellow man, with my family, with my community, and with my Church such that as Christ has commanded in Matthew 5:16, "...In the same way, **let your light shine** before others, **so** that they may see **your** good works and give glory to **your** Father in heaven." My daily walk is one of servant leadership to uplift, to encourage, to show compassion" and from Micah 6:8, "**to do** justice, and **to love** kindness, and **to walk** humbly with your God."

## **My Faith Journey – Peter Moon**

One of the main events in my life happened when I was around five years old. My parents got divorced while we were living in Korea. Divorce was considered a social taboo in our culture, especially at that time. This didn't allow me to continue my relationship with my mom. Even though my father remarried quickly, growing up without my mom played a significant role in my foundation as a person. Throughout my adolescent years, I struggled a lot with loneliness, feeling rejected, and considered myself unlovable. However, through this pain and hurt, God was preparing my heart to see the love of God that is in Jesus Christ.

I became a Christian when I was 13 years old. That was the year I moved to America. It was during this time I was most vulnerable and open to changes. Through various people and events, God led me to faith in Jesus. I had doubts about God's existence, but when I considered the possibility of Jesus loving me, the unlovable, to the point of dying on the cross, God gave me the faith to believe and accept that love. Since then, the vital youth ministry at Lakeview Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) and college ministry at Covenant Fellowship Church (PCA) at the University of Illinois significantly influenced me. During those years, I found my new identity as a disciple of Christ and began to consider entering full-time ministry. After a long period of praying and with many affirmations from pastors and friends, my calling became firm during my fifth year in college.

Right after this time, I had my second true encounter with the gospel. After graduating college, I remained at Covenant Fellowship Church to learn and serve. It was also during this time that I met my wife. Our relationship started with much prayer and consideration for ministry together. However, our relationship quickly turned physical. For the next four years, we struggled with our relationship and conscience as we continued to serve the church and prepare for ministry. In April of 2004, my wife, then girlfriend, discovered she was pregnant. We quickly made plans for a wedding. It was then that I thought my pursuit of ministry was over. I felt embarrassed, exposed, hypocritical, and, most of all, unsure of my relationship with God. After we got married, as we were expecting a child, we spent many nights in prayer for our new child. During those times of prayer, God began to remind us again of His grace. It was in those moments that we discovered again that not only are we saved by grace, but the only way we can live is by the grace of God that is in Jesus Christ.

After a few years, I entered ministry with the blessing and support of my family and the local church. Since then, I have spent over 15 years in ministry to youth and adults, both in States and overseas, to share the gospel so that many will find their identity and purpose in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I received my ordination from the Christian and Missionary Alliance in 2011; the church I served at that time was under C&MA. Recently God has led our family to serve at Korean Community Presbyterian Church as the Lead Pastor of the English Ministry. I want to transfer my ordination to PCUSA, so I can fully administrate God's grace through the means of preaching and sacraments in accordance with PCUSA's book of order.

## Statement of Faith – Peter Moon

I believe that God is perfect and that He is self-existing. He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, sovereign, perfect in love, and holy. Because our God is perfectly self-existing and fully glorious, He created the world not to add any values he didn't already have; instead, He created the world to display His glory. Therefore, all creation exists to glorify our God.

I believe in the Triune God – There is one God who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct persons; each person is fully God.

I believe Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, truly God and truly man. No one can come to the Father except through Jesus Christ. He died upon the cross as a substitutional sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead and is now at the right hand of God the Father as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His kingdom of righteousness and peace.

Though Jesus Christ came 2000 years ago into human history, we can know Him through the written testimony of Jesus in the scripture, the help of the Holy Spirit, and the witness of Christ by the church.

I believe that the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and that the Holy Spirit is present in the world to guide, comfort, and empower the followers of Jesus Christ for godly living and service. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit, we are incapable of understanding and putting our faith in Christ.

I believe the Bible is the written word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible is the revelation of God's truth, a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. All scripture speaks of Jesus Christ and is infallible and authoritative in all matters of faith and practice.

I believe in the reformed tradition view on the sovereignty of God, salvation by grace, the authority of scripture, and of the Sacraments. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are signs of God's covenant with us. Baptism symbolizes accepting Jesus Christ as the savior, allowing us to join the community of God's covenant. Lord's Supper is a seal of our communion with the crucified and risen Lord. I believe God is at work in the acts of the Sacraments through the Holy Spirit to remind us of Jesus Christ, our savior.

## Faith Journey Statement

**My name is Kevin Lacson.** I am the son of Filipino immigrants, a younger brother, and an uncle. I played with Legos as a child and took electronics apart; I wanted to be an engineer. I studied Philosophy in college and then worked in a restaurant, as one does as a Philosophy graduate. Kidding aside, it was this work in the service industry that opened my eyes to relating with other people. Perhaps these biographical points loosely represent the most prominent theme one could use to summarize my identity: the dialogue between left brain and right brain, head and heart. As far back as I can remember, I perceived life through the relatively certain structure of logic and rationality on the one hand, and on the other, less calloused hand, was sensitive to the pangs and pleasures of a bare heart. The only variable throughout my life was with which I used to make sense of God, of love, of life.

In the Philippines, my mom grew up United Methodist and my dad Catholic, but my brother and I were raised in a United Methodist Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia where I was born. I was very involved in my home church's youth group and praise band, and looking back, it was this community as well as my parent's encouragement that shaped my sense of call into ministry. My pastor at the time and a deaconess that worked with our praise band were enthusiastic supporters of this path and have advocated for me ever since. This church family nurtured my spiritual growth as a teen. It was around this time In high school that I was diagnosed with depression. From this point forward, my natural inclination toward introspection fostered (or perhaps necessitated) an ability for me to work toward becoming more emotionally robust as the breadth and depth of my ponderings on life began to exacerbate. As a consequence, depression has proven to be an apt companion as I have developed mentally and spiritually. In light of faith and my relationship with God, these experiences have illuminated the terrain of what it means to be human and its inherent fragility.

Growing up in the United Methodist church and then making the choice to join the PCUSA has been a formative journey. While attending Union Presbyterian Seminary as a United Methodist, discerning my spiritual identity in terms of how my embedded and learned theologies collaborated was ongoing. Exploring the various theological nuances and politics of the denominations and setting them up against what I found to be true in my heart was less a process of becoming Presbyterian than it was of discovering I was Presbyterian.

My sense of call is stirred toward a ministry of presence and has been further affirmed in my work of hospital chaplaincy where I am able to sit with the sick and suffering and their families and support the staff that I work alongside. I have been working as a chaplain at Emory St. Joseph's hospital since 2020. It was then when I was overwhelmingly compelled to not sit idly but to respond to the need of the time, i.e. being present for people where suffering was prevalent. This response was a surprise even to myself, for at the time I was pursuing academic work, and it was a telling indication to the readiness and eagerness for me to do the ministry I merely wrote about. Since working there, I have continually grown in my practice of and dedication to ministry, and I don't anticipate the work to ever stop educating me and strengthening my faith.

## **Statement of Faith**

I believe in one true, living, just, triune God who is infinitely and qualitatively other than God's own creation, absolutely sovereign, and is in relationship to the world and humanity as creator, redeemer, and sustainer.

I believe that despite God's "infinite qualitative difference," God made God's self known in the person of Jesus Christ – God's self-revelation – thereby intimately relating with creation and humanity.

I believe that Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine, "the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation," the Word that was in the beginning, the head of the Church, who fulfills the offices of prophet, priest, and king as Redeemer.

I believe that God continues to be at work, and therefore a sustaining and inspiring presence, within the whole of Creation by the power of the Holy Spirit which imbues the proclamation of the Word and the Sacraments.

I believe in the authority and inspiration of Scripture attested by the tradition of its apostolic witness which has been inherited in each generation since the days of Jesus. I believe it is the living Word of God written and proclaimed.

I believe that the Sacraments are "outward and invisible sign[s] of an inward and invisible grace," signs and seals of God's grace and God's call to respond to that grace; One Baptism as a sign of God's covenant and union with Jesus Christ, the Lord's Supper as thanksgiving, remembrance, and communion with God and Jesus Christ. I believe it is through the Holy Spirit by which ordinary elements of bread, wine, and water become extraordinary elements of faith within the Sacraments.

I believe that the church is the body of Christ, of which Jesus is the head, a place to gather around the Word and Sacraments surrounded by the Holy Spirit, and is called to witness to the world by seeking justice and faithfully serving one another and God.

I believe that humanity is finite and flawed and ontologically estranged from God. As such, humanity is utterly dependent on God and God's grace from which justification and sanctification proceeds. I believe as individuals we are called to acknowledge our dependence on God and seek a faithful relationship with God and one another. In the face of the reality of suffering, the weight of doubt, and the daunting presence of injustices, I believe we are called to serve one another in love to reconcile these challenges.

I believe that I am fearfully and wonderfully made, a sinner and yet justified, susceptible to the deception that Grace does not abound and yet by Grace am able to attend to the miraculously ordinary as the creative and living work of God. I believe I am called by love, to love, and into love; I am called by the divine love that is and proceeds from God and called to exude it throughout my relationships with God, myself, others, and the world, thereby participating in the love that grounds my very existence.

## Attachment L: Biographies of the Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly

**Brenda B. Gales** is a Member/Elder at the Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection, Conyers, Ga. She was employed for 41 years as a mental health professional and is now retired. She obtained a M.Ed. and a NCTRS (national certified therapeutic recreation specialist). She served as Coordinator of Activity Therapy Services in the Department of Psychiatry at Grady Health Systems and was employed at Grady for 31 years. She has served as the PCUSA Chair of the Task Force on Serious Mental Illness and on the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy. The task force developed the draft for the current PCUSA policy “Comfort My People: A Policy Statement on Serious Mental Illness with Study Guide,” adopted by the 2018 General Assembly in 2008. She has also served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Serious Mental Illness Network, one of the ten networks of the Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association. She has been a consultant in the Office of Health Ministries. In the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, she has served in the following: Chair, Health Ministries; member, Peacemaking committee; member, the Task Force on Racism; Chair, Grants Committee; Chair, Penny Hill Impact Committee; member, Committee on Ministry; Co-Chair, Transitions; and a Congregational Liaison.

**Allie Hay** from Oxford, Georgia is a senior Sociology major and Religious Studies minor at Davidson College. She was raised in the First Presbyterian Church of Covington where she served as both an intern and a youth elder for two years. Before going off to college, she served as the co-chair of the Witness Committee and aided the church in transitioning to online worship during the COVID-19 pandemic. At Davidson, she serves on two committees at Davidson College Presbyterian Church: the Communications Committee and the Campus Ministry Capital Campaign Committee. Allie is also the president of Weekly College Worship, an ecumenical worship organization, and is an active member of Davidson UKirk, the PC(USA) campus ministry group. Outside of her responsibilities, Allie enjoys riding horses and serves as the president of the Davidson College Equestrian Team. She is excited about looking to life beyond college, including the opportunity to serve the presbytery that has given so much to her.

**John A. Fountain, M.D.** has served as an Elder at Conyers Presbyterian Church since 1974. He was a commissioner to the 219th General Assembly meeting in Minneapolis and served as Moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta 2013-14. He is currently a member of Council. Professionally, he is a dermatologist and Medical Director of Georgia Dermatology of Conyers. Since 1983, he has been a volunteer Clinical Associate Professor at Emory School of Medicine, serving primarily at Grady. He has served on many community boards, commissions and authorities and served two terms as an elected member of the Conyers City Council. He is presently a member of the Board of Counselors at Oxford College of Emory University, where he was the founding head coach of women’s soccer two decades earlier. John and Carol are in their 50th year of marriage and presently split their time between Conyers and Dillard. They have two children and three grandchildren.

**Betti Jo (BJ) Steele M.D.** is a Ruling Elder from Norcross Presbyterian Church where she has attended for 30 years. She is a Georgia native, and received an undergraduate degree from Mercer University (Macon, GA), and a Medical Degree from the Medical College of Georgia (Augusta). She has practiced Pediatrics within the Grady Health System in Atlanta for 3 decades,



and is now semi-retired. She was raised in the Church of the Nazarene, but chose to raise her two daughters in the Presbyterian faith. She has passion for “peace and justice” issues, and joined the Atlanta Presbytery Peacemaking Partnership in 2017 (now known as Peace and Global Witness Partnership) where she serves as Secretary. She joined the re-created Presbytery committee “Dismantling Racism” in 2021 (re-named “Racial Healing”). She has attended many Worship & Music Conferences in Montreat, NC, participating in the Choir and Handbells, enjoying Bible studies, and even chaperoning Youth. She has four grandchildren (ages 1 to 5 years), and has hope that the Presbyterian Church PCUSA will help guide future generations in a faithful life journey, and in creating more peace and justice in the world.

**Reverend Jasmine K. Evans** is an NC native who currently she serves as Associate Pastor for Young Adults and Acting Head of Staff at North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA. Her interests include college/young adult ministry, uplifting BIPOC Women seeking ordination in the PCUSA, the performing arts, and traveling for ministry as well as leisure. She holds a B.S. in Music Business with a concentration in Vocal Performance from Winston-Salem State University and an M.Div. with a concentration in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Wake Forest University’s School of Divinity. She is the proud co-parent of rising 9th grader, Haley. Together they enjoy impromptu trips to Target, drinking Boba Tea, and traveling.

**Tully M. Fletcher IV** grew up in Durham, North Carolina, and attended Columbia Theological Seminary. Over the past 15 years he has served Churches in Phoenix, AZ, Conyers, GA, and is currently an Associate Pastor at Decatur Presbyterian Church, in Decatur, GA. Tully has been an active leader in the PC(USA) denomination, serving on the General Assembly Nominating Committee, Multiple Presbytery level entities, commissions of the city council of Phoenix, AZ, was the secretary of the Board of directors for the Arizona Ecumenical Council, and is presently the Treasurer of PYWA (Presbyterian Youth Workers’ Association). Additionally, he has been part of the leadership in a variety of roles for the Montreat, Triennium, and Ghost Ranch Youth Conferences. Tully’s professional ministry has been mostly with Youth, but he also has gifts for polity and mid-council work. His youth group usually doesn’t like it when he talks about Parliamentary Procedure nor Presbyterian Polity, so if elected, he is looking forward to exercising those spiritual gifts as the 2025 Moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and as a commissioner to the 226th General Assembly.

**David Lewicki** has served North Decatur Presbyterian Church as a pastor since 2010. He entered ministry after working as a nonprofit professional, co-founding and running Urban Solutions, a youth and community development organization in New Haven, CT (1998-2001), where he was awarded the [Echoing Green Fellowship](#) for social entrepreneurs. He earned degrees from Yale University (BA ’97, American Studies) and Union Theological Seminary in New York (M.Div. ’04). David was previously the Associate Pastor for Young Adults at the Marble Collegiate Church in New York City (2004-2010). David is a commissioner for the Decatur Housing Authority and serves on the board for the political advocacy organization [Presbyterians for a Better Georgia](#). He is married to the Rev. Beth Waltemath, with whom David co-pastored NDPC from 2010-2022, and who currently works for the PCUSA in communications. They have three children, 7, 13, and 16.

**Alex Rodgers** is a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary who served churches and hospitals in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Kansas before coming to Georgia in 2016. Alex was Associate Pastor for Faith Formation and Congregational Care for Decatur Presbyterian Church from January 2016 until January 2022 and currently serves as pastor of Timberridge Presbyterian Church. She has served two terms on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and was the previous chair. She will serve as Moderator of the presbytery in 2024. She is also the current board chair for UKirk Atlanta. Alex is married to Keenan who is a Church Consultant with the Board of Pensions.

# NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NCDC)

## For Information:

In 2010, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta (PGA) came together with neighboring NE Georgia and Cherokee Presbyteries to form and deputize a separate non-profit, 501c3 to start new PCUSA churches. Now focused exclusively on greater Atlanta, we are your non-profit group called by God through the voice of this Presbytery to catalyze and support your new worshipping communities (NWCs) and their leaders. Partially (1/3) funded by the PGA budget and partially funded by your generosity as churches and individuals of the Presbytery who give directly to the NCDC, your commission is made up of 18 commissioners (Trustees) elected through the Presbytery's Nominating Committee, 4 staff members hired by the NCDC Board, 40 new worshipping community leaders (most of whom are legally employees of the NCDC), and 34 new worshipping communities.

Here is the listing of your current PGA new worshipping communities:

### Exploring:

*(This is the early discernment stage, where questions of call, purpose, identity, and match with the PCUSA are explored. Largely conducted with the NCDC Executive Director and/or 1001 New Worshipping Communities staff, this is the stage of testing ideas, researching, and exploring potential. New churches and/or new church based social enterprise may grow from these initial explorations; alternatively, it may become clear that God's call is elsewhere.)*

- Living Stones - Wilson Fernandes Junior, Organizing Pastor
- New Jerusalem Gospel Church - Balngelwa Mulumba, Organizing Pastor
- Pistis Fellowship - Oladotun Akinnubi, Organizing Pastor
- Swahili Evangelical Refugee Fellowship Church - Roger Waboi, Organizing Pastor
- UKirk Atlanta - Drew Wilmesherr, Organizing Pastor
- 4 others not in a public stages of discernment

### Incubating:

*(This is an early stage of imagining, exploring, and experimenting. At this point, those exploring ideas and call are leaning in, and the larger commission is aware that the conversations are underway.)*

- Breathing Space/Sum Teo - Sharon Junn and Nayoung Kim, Organizing Pastors
- Soul Soup - Armandee Drew and Chris Drew, Co-Organizers

### Building:

*(At this point, the new worshipping community is building buy-in and a community who feel called to the new mission and ministry. They continue testing ideas originated by a wide range of stakeholders; learning from "failure;" building collaborative leadership; and experimenting with creative financing and ways of measuring impact. They have met with the NCDC Board, are telling their story in more and more compelling ways, and are focused on building the emerging new worshipping community.)*

- aijcast - Marthame Sanders, Organizing Pastor
- Atlanta Mizo Christian Fellowship – Nutei Hmar and Ruata Hmar, Organizing Pastors
- Atlanta Oikos - Sungwoo Sam Kim, Organizing Pastor
- Chin PC - Joseph L. Sang, Organizing Pastor

- Church in Motion - Joshua Kim, Organizing Pastor
- Convergence Church - Corey Lee and Jade Lee, Organizing Pastors
- David's Court Ministry - Ebenezer Alonge, Organizing Pastor
- Faith Studio - Gina Brown, Organizing Leader
- On The Way Church - Rafael Viana and Ivette Llano, Co-Organizing Pastors
- Spiritual Wellness Center - Angela Wyatt, Organizing Pastor
- WAYS (With All Your Strength) - Nick Johnson and Liz Johnson, Co-Organizers
- Zo American Presbyterian Church - Khai Samte, Organizing Pastor

**Chartering:**

*(The new worshipping communities at this stage of development are reaching the point where they have the leadership, membership, ministry, financial sustainability, and more needed to become a chartered church of the PCUSA. While not all will charter, each new worshipping community is considering their call and coming to an end of their time with the NCDC.)*

- Atlanta Good Church - Yeonkwon Jeong, Organizing Pastor
- Casa Brasil PC - Rafael Viana and Ivette Llano, Co-Organizing Pastors
- Centro Familiar Cristiano - Claudia Lopez, Organizing Leader
- Crossings Community PC - Kiman Kim, Organizing Pastor
- El Buen Pastor Hispanic Ministry - Marluvia Crispim, Organizing Leader
- Faith Ghanaian Presbyterian Church - Kwasi Aye-Addo, Organizing Pastor
- Iglesia Presbiteriana Horeb - Benjamin Reyes and Noemi Reyes, Co-Organizing Pastors
- Junction Ministries/Junction ATL - Amanda Kemery, Organizing Pastor
- La Esperanza PC - Zulema Garcia de Rojas, Organizing Pastor
- Ormewood Church - Jenelle Holmes, Organizing Pastor
- Rize Community Church - Maisha Handy, Organizing Pastor
- Shalom International Ministry - Gad Mpoyo, Organizing Pastor
- Transformation Covenant Church - Francis Githieya, Organizing Pastor
- Zo Presbyterian Church - Sarah Lane, Pastor

**Moving Off PGA Rolls:**

- Adore Brazilian PC – Fabiana Araujo, Organizing Leader. ABPC has relocated and consequently transferred to Cherokee Presbytery

Thank you for supporting and praying for your new worshipping communities; we see you welcoming them with deep faith, honest collegiality, and keen interest. Because of your support and involvement, we continue to empower those just beginning with a start-up studio model of support which provides LINCSS:

***L*** – Leadership Coaching

***I*** – Infrastructure Development Support, such as

- Obtaining **501c3 status**
- Establishing and Managing **Online Giving Links**
- Providing **Financial Oversight**
- Startup **Payroll Services**
- Homeland Security **Visas**
- Financial **Policy Development**
- Receiving, Processing, and Reporting **Tax Deductible Contributions:**

- **Insurance** quotes, acquisition, renewals, and/or verification
- **Incorporation**
- **Crafting By-Laws**
- **Chartering**

*N* - Networking Events

*C* – Community Consulting

*S* - Startup Training

*S* - Strategic Grants

**New Worshiping Community Highlight: Shalom International Ministry  
A Word from Your Organizing Pastor: Gad Mpoyo**

Shalom International Ministry in Clarkston, GA has a rich 10+ year ministry, and at this meeting of the Presbytery, the Reverend Gad Mpoyo will verbally share some recent updates and highlights. In this written report, however, we overview, starting with a brief history of Shalom International Ministry, giving thanks to the churches and leaders who have gone before. Their faithfulness, generosity, and vision join the leadership of today, as a foundational part of the story of what God continues to do in and through Shalom International Ministry.

***The Back Story***

"We desire to pass on the baton of faith to the next generation..." This was the first line of the Vision Statement of the Midway Presbyterian Church in Decatur, GA. This vision came as the Midway members faced the reality that their time was nearing the end as a viable congregation. Declining membership and declining member health contributed to declining financial support of an aging ministry and building. Average Sunday attendance was between 25-35. Average age of the members was 74. In November 2007, the session -- faced with a bid of \$50,000 to fix the sanctuary ceiling -- faced the question of whether God was still leading them forward as a congregation, or whether God was leading them to close the church.

After a month of intense prayer and discernment the elders agreed God was calling Midway PC forward, not just to fix their ceiling, but to reach out in mission to the community. The calling and the passion were there, but the way forward was unclear. Where to start? The congregation continued to pray for God to show them where, how, and whom to serve.

Later that December, their pastor, Joy Fisher, had a dream. "I was awakened one night, knowing I had been visited. In the dream I was kneeling to pray in the sanctuary of Midway, and as I turned around, I saw the church was full -- black, white, brown, young, old. And the Holy Spirit was there. In the dream there was no question of, 'who are these people?' or 'where did they come from?' They were *my* people; I knew that they were part of Midway."

Pastor Fisher shared her dream with the church, asking them to pray for God to show them how to prepare for the coming of the Spirit. Then one day the Spirit came knocking! Brother Wilson Arimi, the pastor of an immigrant fellowship came knocking on the door, saying that his congregation needed a church home.

Shalom International Ministry began as a Sudanese fellowship, but when their founding pastor had to go back to Sudan, he asked Wilson to be the pastor. Wilson was Kenyan. Because of the language barrier between Kenyans and Sudanese, they began to worship together in English. Wilson began to invite neighbors of the Sudanese members, inviting them to "Come learn English; Come learn about Jesus." Taking bread donated by local grocery stores, he and the Shalom leaders went into the refugee resettlement apartments in nearby Clarkston, GA, where refugees come from all over the world to begin their lives in the U.S. These apartments are said to make up the most densely populated, most diverse square mile in the world! Shalom quickly became a multicultural church with members from Burma, Thailand, Bhutan, Nepal, Sudan, Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi, and India. All found hospitality and healing as they were welcomed and embraced by the Body of Christ at Midway PC. Picture 25-35 older, white Presbyterians living in Midway near Clarkston, GA, now interspersed with 30-70 refugee children, youth, and young adults from around the world.

Fast forward to 2008 when Brother Wilson left Georgia to pursue his education. This felt like a terrible blow to the momentum, and yet the groups trusted in God. Within a week of Wilson's announcement, a new pastor, Brother Gad Mpoyo from the Democratic Republic of Congo, stepped forward to accept leadership of Shalom.

"We are definitely in the birthing stage," commented Pastor Joy Fisher at that time. "This is all so new, in a congregation that hasn't done anything new in decades! We know that 'we' -- Midway -- need to move over and become 'us' -- Shalom and Midway together. A Covenant Council, made up of members of Midway and Shalom, began meeting together to increase communication and power-sharing as decisions are made as to what this partnership would be. We are working on ways to increase Shalom participation and influence in worship and on committees -- building on the beginnings of new friendships and community. We are overwhelmed with the tremendous needs they bring, but are also aware that they bring so many gifts to us, as well. We are definitely seeing God's mutual blessing as God answers the deepest prayers of this church."

It was the hope of Midway PC that as Midway decreased, Shalom would increase and that they would join into one multicultural church: brown, black, white, young, and old, with the Holy Spirit in their midst. Midway PC closed their life as a congregation praying and working such that Midway would be "a people meeting one another mid-way in God's love."

### ***Today's Shalom International Ministry (Shalom)***

Located in the heart of the diverse city of Clarkston, GA, on the outskirts of Atlanta, Clarkston is nationally recognized as one of the most diverse square miles in the U.S. This is largely due to the number of refugees from all over the world who have been resettled there, and today, most members of *Shalom* are themselves recently arrived refugees and immigrants from Africa who are adjusting to a new country, language, and way of life.

Jeremiah 29:7 is the core verse of the church: "seek the shalom of the community, because it is in its shalom that you will find your shalom." The word *shalom*, from the Hebrew, means not only peace, but wholeness, wellness, healing, reconciliation, justice, community, and freedom from oppression. Each refugee family carries stories of pain and persecution as they enter a land of opportunity. Often, they find themselves lost and overlooked. Shalom International Ministry is a place of reconciliation, safety, healing, and peace.

## Sunday Worship

Each Sunday morning, the congregation of Shalom gathers in person as well as online. We strive to find innovative ways to incorporate both African and Western styles of worship and reflect the cross-cultural setting in which the congregation resides. Praise and worship songs come from diverse places including countries throughout Africa, from the U.S. (usually given an African beat), and from other faith communities such as Taize in France. At times, prayer is loud and extemporaneous; at times, it is more structured and subdued. Worship happens in multiple languages and with shared leadership. In a typical service, one sees adult members preaching and leading liturgy; youth reading scripture, running the technology, and participating in the praise team; children singing; and even preschoolers helping to collect the offering. Our worship always includes conversations about our participation in the work of God outside the sanctuary's walls, as we act as agents of God's peace, healing, and wholeness in the community. Worship is not only what we do when we are gathered on Sundays; it is the work of our entire lives as we live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

## Youth / Young Adults

Every Friday, the youth of the congregation gather for their weekly Youth Group. In African culture, "youth" is a term that generally refers to people who are not married, including both teenagers and young adults. We have focused much of our leadership development and discipleship efforts on the youth. They are some of the most consistent and committed members of the church. They demonstrate comfort and interest in the church's multicultural environment and have time to invest more deeply in the church community than their parents who work long hours. As we disciple the youth, we encourage them to relate to Christ and to develop spiritual practices such as prayer, scripture reading, and meditation in their daily lives. We are intentional about knowing each person as an individual, recognizing where each person is in the journey of faith, and accompanying each person in the next steps to where God wants them to be as followers of Christ. In our weekly youth group meetings, we develop leaders and provide opportunities for the youth to reflect on their life experiences, to express themselves, and to think and speak regarding matters of faith. We also encourage and constantly fundraise for them to find ways to connect with the larger church at Montreat and beyond. Several of the youth have described the time at Montreat as life changing, something that gave them increased self-confidence.

## Children's Ministry

On Saturdays, Shalom holds its Children's Ministry program for children in Clarkston, providing a safe and affordable (free) environment. The program currently draws between 20 and 30 children to the church from nearby apartment complexes. We offer a fun and safe place to play, to interact with friends, and to hear the Word of God. We also provide a meal and snack bags for the children. These activities give us a deeper sense of what being a disciple of Jesus Christ means as we cross cultural barriers and interact with children from around the world.

## Outreach

We engage with our neighbors through other forms of community outreach as well, including food provision and delivery, visiting regularly with church members in their homes to assist with confusing cultural adaptations and required school and other forms. During these visits, we listen to personal stories, meet friends and neighbors, and assist families as they navigate their new

contexts (helping them with immigration concerns, teaching them how to use public transportation, etc.). Discipleship happens as we lift celebrations and concerns together in prayer.

*Inspire: A Shalom Afterschool Initiative* is our signature outreach and is a direct response to the needs of refugee and immigrant youth in the Clarkston community. Many refugee and immigrant youth in Clarkston have experienced little or interrupted formal education. As English Language Learners, they face the challenge of adjusting to middle school while also navigating a new educational system, a new language, a new cultural context, and unsafe neighborhoods. Inspire responds to these young people's needs, knowing that:

- without a safe, constructive place to spend their afternoons, they waste their time in front of screens or wander the streets.
- without help in understanding the language and academic content of their classes, they remain grade levels behind in school.
- without positive relationships across cultural and language groups, conflict in this diverse community is rife.
- without confidence, a sense of self, and a sense of belonging, they lack the hope that can spur them on to greater things.
- without support of the parents as well, families can grow apart as parents work long hours and have little opportunity to engage US culture and adapt while young people learn English and U.S. customs quickly.

In October of 2023, we welcomed a new Inspire Director and continue to have waiting lists of diverse middle school youth and their families from around the world hoping for a place in Inspire, Shalom's after-school ministry. By providing homework assistance, learning activities to build basic reading and math skills, and opportunities for creative expression and physical health, we help students grow as critical thinkers, self-confident young adults, excited learners, and socially responsible community members. We also work to empower family members to become engaged in their student's academic success through regular home visits.

At Shalom our call remains to "seek the Shalom of the community," and we remain focused on our mission and grateful to all alongside us as we move forward.



## Minimum Compensation Standards for 2024

**COM Approval:** June 16, 2022 (2024 calculations made October 16, 2023)

**PGA Approval:** N/A

These **Minimum Compensation Standards** apply to all churches with full-time pastoral services of a minister of the Word and Sacrament (teaching elder) and full-time educators. All terms of call shall meet or exceed these Minimum Compensation Standards. They should also be considered as guidelines to prorate compensation for part-time calls, except that paid time off for vacation and continuing education leave should not be prorated for part-time calls. These standards are written for the situation of a congregation calling a minister to fill a vacancy. Calls, terms of call, and annual changes in either or both are approved by the Committee on Ministry.

The compensation guidelines are based on the average of starting salaries for a first-year teacher with a master's degree in county school systems in the counties where PGA has a church with an installed pastor. They are adjusted annually based on a three-year average of the Cost of Living Adjustment published by the Social Security Administration.

Ministers called by congregations are considered by the IRS to be "employees" for income tax purposes, and yet "self-employed" for purposes of Social Security taxation. Ministers are exempt from withholding for income taxes or for Social Security taxes. Instead, they are required to pay quarterly estimated income taxes and self-employment Social Security taxes (SECA). At the end of the year, one's salary and certain cash allowances are reported in Block 1 of a W-2, upon which both income and SECA taxes must be paid. One's housing allowance is reported in Block 14 of a W-2, upon which only SECA taxes must be paid (to the extent that the Housing Allowance is used specifically for this purpose). Both income and SECA taxes must then be paid on any Housing Allowance received in excess of what the IRS allows. The following six categories and annual amounts are required parts of these standards for calendar year 2022:

### I. Salary and Housing:

NOTE: The cash amounts for Salary plus Housing Allowance is the effective salary for a pastor serving a congregation. For 2023 the minimum effective salary for a minister with no experience is \$49,623.62. The minimum effective salary is increased by 1% for each year of service compounded beyond ordination, for up to 30 years of service.

The pastor may adjust how the salary and housing will be divided, so that the Pastor receives the maximum tax benefit of a housing allowance. For more information, see VI.2. below.

### II. Benefits

1. Full Pension (including death and disability coverage) and Medical Benefits through the Board of Pensions. Dues for 2024 for installed pastors are 39% of the total of Salary, any deferred compensation (such as employer contributions to a 403 (b) Plan), and Housing Allowance as a minimum ("Effective Salary"). Professional Expenses above and other benefits may be included also. SECA amounts in excess of 50% must also be included as part of Effective Salary for calculating benefits dues. For further information and publications, see [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).
2. At least one-half of Social Security (SECA) based on Salary and Housing Allowance.
3. Four weeks paid vacation.
4. Two weeks of Continuing Education per year, which can be accumulated up to six weeks.
5. Moving expenses (actual).
6. Expenses for First Call program, if applicable. (See VI.6. below.)
7. Twelve weeks paid family medical leave, in accordance with G-2.0804 and COM Policy 20.

### **III. Continuing Education Expenses:**

Continuing Education and Professional Books expense minimum of \$1,000.

This expense should be set up under an Accountable Reimbursement Plan and substantiated by adequate documentation before reimbursement by the church. (See below for further information.)

### **IV. Professional Expenses:**

Any combination of the following, minimum \$4,100:

1. Dental coverage
2. Church Business Travel Expenses
3. Additional Continuing Education Expense
4. Cell Phone
5. Other Church Business and Professional Expenses

These expenses should be set up under an Accountable Reimbursement Plan and substantiated by adequate documentation before reimbursement by the church. This is beneficial to the pastor since Professional Expense Allowances paid directly to ministers are reportable as taxable income in Block 1 of a W-2, and deductible only to the extent they exceed 2% of adjusted gross income. It is also beneficial to the church because cash allowances are included in effective salary for purposes of calculating Board of Pensions dues. The church should set up an accountable reimbursable plan for the church business use of a minister's personal car. The published IRS business mileage rate will be used and can be found at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

### **V. Annual Review**

1. Consideration of a merit increase, cost of living increase and changes in Fair Rental Value of the Manse.
2. In 2024, the annual review must include the addition of twelve weeks paid family medical leave, in accordance with the requirements of G-2.0804 and the Presbytery's COM Policy 20.

### **VI. Additional Standards**

1. Any additional agreements shall be in writing and shall become part of the terms of call when approved by the presbytery.
2. The designation for Housing or Manse Allowance shall be approved before the calendar year begins in order to meet Internal Revenue Service requirements. From Church Treasurer Alert, October 2002: "Relevance to church treasurers: The tax code now limits the nontaxable portion of a church-designated housing allowance for ministers who own their home to the annual fair rental value of the home (furnished, plus utilities), beginning in 2002. As a result, ministers who own their home will not pay federal income taxes on the amount of their compensation that their employing church designates in advance as a housing allowance, to the extent that A) the allowance represents compensation for ministerial service, B) is used to pay actual housing expenses, and C) does not exceed the annual Fair Rental Value of the home (furnished, plus utilities)."
3. Churches may want to consider leasing an automobile for a minister. All personal use shall be included as income to the minister.
4. The budgeted amount for travel is an estimate and should be negotiated on a yearly basis in light of the current IRS rate and the miles a pastor drives on church business.

5. Churches are encouraged to develop creative ways to compensate clergy, such as extra vacation time, a Sunday off each quarter, use of a parishioner vacation home in the mountains, beach, etc.
6. If it is a first call situation, the church will allocate sufficient money in the pastor's Continuing Education allowance to cover the cost of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta's First Call Program (\$400.00 annually) and will allow for the necessary time commitment of 5 days annually above the required 2 weeks of Continuing Education.

**Total 2024 Minimum Annual Compensation Package for a Full-Time Installed Pastor with No Experience**

Effective Salary*	\$52,566.30
(includes salary and housing)	
SECA Allowance	\$4,021.32
(7.65% of Effective Salary)	
Board of Pensions Dues	
Medical	\$15,244.00
Pension	\$4,468.14
Death & Disability	\$525.66
Temporary Disability	\$262.83
Total	\$20,500.63
Continuing Education and Books	\$1,000.00
Professional Expenses	\$4,100.00
(dental, travel expense, etc.)	
<b>Total Minimum Compensation</b>	<b>\$82,188.25</b>

\* The minimum effective salary is increased by 1% (compounded) for each year of service in an ordained position.

The minimum is adjusted annually based on the three-year rolling average of the Social Security Administration's Cost-of-Living Adjustment.

2021	5.9%
2022	8.7%
2023	3.2%
<b>Average</b>	<b>5.93%</b>

## Faith Journey

I was born into a Buddhist family in Korea in 1974. My grandparents were devout Buddhists, and they were adamant about us not attending church, even on Christmas. Even as a young child, I often pondered the concepts of life, death, and the meaning of existence. These thoughts, though vague, instilled in me a sense of unease, particularly when contemplating "death," which led me to embark on a profound search for the existence of God. I had a chance to go to church since my aunt got married to a pastor and she wanted her family converted. But I still had a thirst for existential purpose and understanding. At the age of 23, after getting through finding the meaning of life and truth, I came to believe in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for me and Jesus as my Savior. I realized God's sovereignty to my life and feel the presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit. From that moment on, the clear purpose of my life became embedded in my body, mind and spirit: to lead people to God, who, like me, lost their purpose in life and seek the truth and meaning.

I got married to Kyu-sang Lee, who worked as an assistant pastor while attending a seminary to become an ordained pastor. My husband became a Republic of Korea army chaplain in 2006 after he was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor. We moved to different army bases every two years. It allowed me different roles depending on each church's circumstances. I fulfilled my roles as a teacher, leader, helper, preacher, counselor, server, cook, and cleaner. Whenever I witnessed the expansion of God's Kingdom through my service, and when my fellow brothers and sisters found joy and solace in God, I felt an indescribable happiness and gratitude. It was then that I recognized God's extraordinary work compared to what I had accomplished. Throughout this journey, I continually strived to be led by the Holy Spirit, hoping to walk in step with God at every moment of my life.

During my time serving and assisting in military churches, my aspiration was to become more proficient in ministry. In 2016, I made the journey to the United States with my children. I finished the MDiv program at Columbia Theological Seminary last year. Through this pursuit, God graciously imparted valuable lessons about me as well as God, and deepened and widened my understanding. It became evident that my path led to answering God's call to ministry. This realization stemmed from acknowledging my own weaknesses, yet also recognizing the strength bestowed upon me by God.

As I fulfill my calling as a hospital chaplain, I carry with me a profound sense of purpose and a commitment to serving those in need. I have come to understand that my perceived weaknesses are opportunities for God's strength to shine through, and my limitations are overcome by God's abundant provision. My journey continues, and I am eager to walk this path of ministry, sharing the love and grace of God with all those I encounter.