

Commissioner Handbook

SUMMER STATED MEETING



August 15, 2023
9:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Shallowford Presbyterian Church

2375 Shallowford Road NE
Atlanta, GA 30345
Telephone: (404) 321-1844

STRATEGIC PURPOSE

To be a catalyst, creator and equipper of healthy, vital and growing congregations and equip healthy, innovative leaders in all regions of the Presbytery.

Information for the August 15, 2023, Stated Meeting

The August Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta will be held on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Shallowford Presbyterian Church, 2375 Shallowford Road NE, Atlanta, GA.**

Format: Upon the decision of the presbytery's Council, this meeting will be held fully in-person. A livestream of the meeting will be available on YouTube. Livestream viewers will not be able to speak, vote, or have their attendance recorded. You may visit atlpcusa.org/statedmeetings for a link to the livestream.

Theme, Worship, and Business: Our theme will be Ecclesial Health, the seventh mark of the Vital Congregations Initiative. We will be lifting up the many ways that we can build healthier and more faithful congregations over the course of our work and worship together. The Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, will be our preacher for the meeting. We will also welcome representatives from several initiatives that support ministry in higher education, including UKirk Atlanta and Presbyterian College. The business of the meeting can be found in this Commissioner Handbook. A worship bulletin with a summary of the docket and worship materials will be available at the meeting.

Pre-Registration: We ask that all who plan to attend the meeting [pre-register](#) by 5:00 P.M. on *Thursday, August 3, 2023*, so that our hosts at Shallowford can prepare to welcome us. You may register one or more persons from the same congregation on the same pre-registration form.

Lunch: Lunch will be served by our hosts at Shallowford at the conclusion of the meeting. The cost is \$15.00. [Pre-registration \(including any special dietary requests\) and prepayment is required by 5:00 P.M. on August 3, 2023.](#) If you do not pre-register for lunch, there is no guarantee that a meal will be available for you on the day of the meeting. Meal tickets will be issued on-site to those who pre-registered and pre-paid for lunch. Please visit the lunch tickets table in the registration area to pick up your ticket. Any additional lunches that are available for those who did not pre-register may be purchased at that time.

Childcare: Shallowford will provide childcare as needed for the meeting. Requests for childcare must be made by 5:00 P.M. on August 3, 2023 [through the pre-registration process](#). Upon arrival, parents are asked to drop off their children at the Nursery, located next to the Sanctuary.

Health and Safety: We encourage all attendees to use the time between now and the meeting to get current with covid and other vaccinations, and those who do not feel well on the day of the meeting should stay home. All are welcome to wear a mask throughout the meeting if they feel more comfortable doing so. The balcony of the sanctuary will be reserved for those persons who desire to wear masks, although unfortunately an elevator to that space is not available.

If you have any questions about the meeting, contact Stated Clerk Andy James at cajames@atlpcusa.org. We look forward to seeing you on August 15th!

Day-of-Meeting Information

Shallowford Presbyterian Church is located at 2375 Shallowford Road NE just east of I-85 (inside the Perimeter).



Directions: Use your preferred mapping service to get directions to 2375 Shallowford Road NE, Atlanta, GA 30345.

Parking: Please review the maps on the following pages for parking instructions. Church members will be on-site to direct you. Shallowford has a school on campus that will be in session on the day of the meeting. **School parents drop off their children between 8:15 and 8:45 a.m. Please help us keep everyone safe and *plan to arrive no earlier than 9:00 a.m.* to avoid additional traffic congestion.**

On-Site Registration: When you arrive, follow the signs to the registration area in the Atrium. Make your way to the appropriate table to check in. Coffee and refreshments will be available prior to the meeting in the Great Hall.

Internet Access: Wifi will be available.

Network Name: spcguest
Password: spcprayers

Pavilion



**SHALLOWFORD
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Church Office
404-321-1844

School Office
404-321-3061

Ball Field

 Parking

Playground

Ampitheater

Upper Lot


School & Education
Building Entrance

 Entrance

Great Hall

Education
Building



 Parking &
Entrance

Heritage Hall
1st Floor

Library
1st Floor

Sunday School
1st, 2nd, & 3rd Floor

School
2nd & 3rd Floor

SPS
Portico

Kitchen
1st Floor

Burney
Overton Room
1st Floor

Elevator
Access

Welcome Center
& Atrium

Main Entrance

 Entrance

Nursery
Upper Level

Elevator
Access

Chapel
Upper Level

Sanctuary
Upper Level

Youth
Center
Lower Level

Church Office &
Food Pantry
Lower Level

Choir Room
Lower Level

Memorial
Garden



Labrynth



YOU ARE
HERE

Lower Parking Lot

PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA....

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 PRESBYTERY AND PARTICIPATING IN THE VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE! (VCI)



Building Congregational Vitality

Dismantling Structural Racism

Eradicating Systemic Poverty



SAVE THE DATES FOR UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

- | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday, November 4, 2023
<i>Zoom/hybrid</i>
<i>(in-person at North Decatur Presbyterian Church)</i> | 9:00-12:30 | VCI Celebration:
Show Your Marks! |
| Saturday, February 3, 2024
Welcoming the Co-Moderators of the 225th General Assembly
<i>in-person at Roswell Presbyterian Church</i> | 9:00-12:30 | |
| Tuesday, April 30, 2024
<i>format TBD</i> | 9:00-11:30 | |
| Tuesday, August 6, 2024
<i>format TBD</i> | 9:00-12:30 | |
| Saturday, November 9, 2024
<i>format TBD</i> | 9:00-12:30 | |

OFFERING INFORMATION

Today's offering supports the work of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partnerships in South Sudan through mission co-workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather.

Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather are minister members of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta working in validated ministries as mission co-workers jointly commissioned by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Reformed Church in America.

Tragically, after surviving decades of civil war and achieving independence, South Sudan continues to endure cycles of ethnic, political, and resource-based conflict. This violence, however, does not reflect the hearts of the masses who long for a peaceful future for their children. While South Sudanese work diligently to address these issues, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Reformed Church in America have joined their efforts by sending Reverends Nancy & Shelvis Smith-Mather. Shelvis is the Principal of the RECONCILE Peace Institute (RPI). The RPI equips leaders to initiate sustainable peace in places of high conflict and trauma. Nancy is the Project Manager for the South Sudan education and peace building project, developing peace and advancing education in collaboration with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, Across, Yei Teacher Training College and RECONCILE International.

The offering will be divided between support for RECONCILE and for disaster relief for the church's response to the ongoing conflict in the Sudan and South Sudan.

To make a donation, use the QR code above, visit our website at www.atlpcusa.org and click on the green "Give" button found in the middle of the website, or use the link provided in the chat.



Please pray for...

Mission Co-workers
Rev. Shelvis and
Rev. Nancy Smith-
Mather

and the people of the Republic
of South Sudan

pcusa.org/shelvis-and-nancy-smith-mather
shelvis.smith-mather@pcusa.org
nancy.smith-mather@pcusa.org



Presbyterian Mission
World Mission

PASTORAL CARE CONCERNS

The Pastor-to-Pastor/Educator Team is available to minister to all clergy and educators. If you are sick or have any need to have a confidential conversation about personal matters, they will respond. Please contact any of the following people listed below. For more information about the Pastor-to-Pastor Team, visit www.atlpcusa.org/pastortopastor

To join email distribution of the monthly pastoral care reports, visit: www.atlpcusa.org/newsletter

[Jane Hubbard](#), Coordinator, 404-200-6283

[Ernestine Cole](#) 404-273-1394

[Brian Dauost](#) 303-475-3267

[Joan Gray](#) 404-403-8745

[Jerry Leath](#) 404-358-8002

[Nicole Lock](#) 678-628-4880

[Catherine Lukens](#) 404-285-4568

[Sam Pope](#) 501-984-1719

[Steven Son](#) 770-880-9485

[George Tatro](#) 404-784-0384

[Scott Tucker](#) 404-842-5800

[Jill Ulrici](#) 404-550-4812

[Mary Beth Walker](#) 404-545-1480

John Roark Emeritus P2P team member

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to join the email distribution list for weekly pastoral care reports, the Presbytery newsletter or to download the Handbook, please send your email /contact information to Mark Sauls at msauls@atlpcusa.org and indicate which of the three publications you would like to receive. For more information, please visit our website at www.atlpcusa.org/newsletter. Connect with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter @atlpcusa and use #atlpcusa to join the conversation.

CHURCH CONFLICT PHONE CONSULTS

Are you a leader struggling to find an appropriate response to a sticky situation or challenging issue in your church? Did you know members of the Presbytery's Shalom Team are available to provide brief (45-50 mins) conflict consultations? In most cases, they offer strategic perspective to help leaders balance both situations and relationships in the church. If you could benefit from this confidential service, please contact any of the following Shalom Team members to arrange a phone consultation:

Jody Andrade, andradecon@mindspring.com

Joy Fisher, jfisher@atlpcusa.org

Diane Duane, duane.diane.l@gmail.com

Julie Ferguson, revjulieferg@gmail.com

Sam Kim, sungwoo.samkim@gmail.com

Romona Lavender, rmlavender@bellsouth.net

Karen Mason, kmason55@gmail.com

Brady Radford, bradyradford@gmail.com

David York, chicdaddy@gmail.com

DOCKET

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
August 15, 2023 | Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Theme: VCI Mark 7: Ecclesial Health

9:00	On-Site Registration Opens	
9:20	Pre-Meeting Music	Jinhee Kim, organ
9:30	Opening Prayer Welcome by Host Pastor Call to Worship Opening Hymn (v. 1-3)	Moderator Iris Wallace Anna George Traynham #301 “Let Us Build a House”
9:40	Declaration of Quorum Omnibus Motion (p. 9) Communications and Stated Clerk’s Report (p. 22-23)	Andy James
9:50	Executive Presbyter’s Report (p. 25)	Aisha Brooks-Johnson
10:00	Prayer of Confession Assurance of Pardon Passing the Peace	
10:05	Nominating Committee and Committee on Representation (p. 26-27) Hymn (v. 4-5)	#301 “Let Us Build a House”
10:10	Committee on Preparation for Ministry (p. 28)	Emma Neishloss
10:20	Scripture Sermon: “The Sower and the Seed” Hymn	Matthew 13:1-9 Victor Aloyo #596 “You Are Holy”
10:50	UKirk Atlanta Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities (p. 29-30) Presbyterian College (p. 31-32)	Drew Wilmesherr Jeff Arnold Buz Wilcoxon
11:05	Break	
11:30	Reconvene with Special Music	Shallowford Joy Chorale
11:35	Presbyterian Foundation	Robert Hay
11:40	Examinations Commission (p. 33-41)	Alex Moses
12:05	Call for Offering (benefiting PCUSA Mission in South Sudan) Offertory Doxology Prayer of Dedication	Moderator Iris Wallace Virginia Respass Fairchild, violin Moderator Iris Wallace

12:15	New Church Development Commission (p. 42-44)	Lindsay Armstrong
12:25	Communion	Victor Aloyo, Drew Wilmesherr, and Sarah Hooker
12:35	Closing Hymn Benediction and Blessing	#321 “The Church’s One Foundation” Victor Aloyo and Moderator Iris Wallace
12:40	Postlude Lunch	Jinhee Kim, organ

PROPOSED OMNIBUS MOTION

The following items are proposed for approval in the omnibus motion:

- Docket for the Meeting (pg. 8-9)
- Minutes of the Stated Meeting of May 2, 2023 ([available on the presbytery website](#))
- Action items in the Council Report (p. 10)
- Admit to Record items in the Operations Committee Report (p. 11)
- Admit to Record items in the Committee on Ministry Report (p. 17-21)
- Admit to Record items in the Communications Report (p. 22-23)
- Admit to Record items in the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report (p. 28)

COUNCIL

For Action:

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

Class of 2023

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

Class of 2024

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

Class of 2025

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

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

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

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

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

For Information:

1. The Council has created a working group to review the Presbytery's manual and make recommendations for updates as appropriate in light of changes to the *Book of Order* and to better reflect the Presbytery's current practices.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Admit to Record:

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

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

For Information:

The financial reports for the current fiscal year through June 30, 2023, directly follow this report.

GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Grants Committee is pleased to announce that we are currently receiving applications for the Diaconal Ministry Grants, a grant opportunity which includes what were previously known as the Compassion and PATH grants. The application form is a fillable .pdf file that can be completed without printing and scanning. (If you are unable to complete the online application, please send a request to grants@atlpcusa.org and a text copy of the application will be sent to you.)

The application, which is available at www.atlpcusa.org/grants-and-funding, is due by midnight on Sunday, September 24. The committee will meet soon after that date to review grant submissions.

We look forward to receiving your applications, and to learning about the innovative and life-changing ministries taking place in our midst.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COLUMN (1) Benevolence Pledges from church sessions.

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

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

COLUMN (4) Per Capita received at Presbytery.

COLUMN (5) Total Receipts to Presbytery Budget.

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

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

COLUMN (8) Total of all receipts.

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

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

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

Assets

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

Liabilities, Fund Principal, & Restricted Funds

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

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

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

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

For Information:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Boundaries Training sessions are scheduled for the following dates (all for 12:30 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. via Zoom):

- Tuesday, October 17, 2023
- Tuesday, February 27, 2024
- Thursday, April 18, 2024
- Thursday, October 17, 2024

Register now at www.atlpcusa.org/boundaries.

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

Admit to Record:

1. Dismiss **Douglas Alan Hicks** to Charlotte Presbytery, effective February 11, 2023.
2. Dismiss **Peter Thornton** to Northeast Georgia Presbytery, effective February 25, 2023.

3. Renew the commission of **Tom Whitworth** to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder, preach and administer the sacraments, perform pastoral services, officiate at marriages, and moderate the session at **Bremen First Presbyterian Church**, effective April 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, for 20 hours per week.

Cash salary	19,500
Mileage and auto expenses as vouchered	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

4. Update the terms of the existing contract call associate pastor relationship between **Beverly Markham** and **Alpharetta Presbyterian Church**, effective April 16, 2023, through November 15, 2023, for 25 hours per week.

Cash salary	47,750
Minister's Choice	4,775
SECA allowance	3,653
Continuing education	1,000
Professional expenses	5,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

5. Grant permission for **Julie Ferguson** to labor outside the bounds to serve as a bridge interim pastor during a pastoral sabbatical at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church in Cherokee Presbytery, effective May 15, 2023, through August 15, 2023.

6. Change the status of **Rachel Breyer** to member-at-large, effective May 19, 2023, and approve her to labor outside the bounds as Mission Integration Fellow at Holy Cross Health in Silver Spring, Maryland, effective June 12, 2023, for up to one year, upon the approval of National Capital Presbytery for her to labor within their bounds.

7. Approve **Mary Moore Driggers** as associate pastor for children and youth at **Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church**, effective June 11, 2023.

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

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

Cash salary	34,814
Housing allowance	16,644
Board of Pensions dues	paid in full at current rate
SECA allowance	7.65% of salary
Continuing education	1,000

Dental	542
Additional continuing education	635
Business expenses	1,625
2.5 weeks of vacation	
One week continuing education	

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

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

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

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

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

12. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Patrick Day** and **Northminster Presbyterian Church**, effective August 31, 2023, and place him on the member at large roll, with previous salary and benefits continued through December 31, 2023.

13. Renew the commission of **Brandon Douglas** to serve as Commissioned Ruling Elder, preach and administer the sacraments, perform pastoral services, officiate at marriages, and moderate the session at **Bethany Presbyterian Church**, effective September 15, 2023, through September 14, 2026, for 20-25 hours per week.

Total compensation package	31,500
Benefits deducted from compensation package as desired	
Mileage and auto expenses as vouchered	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

14. Renew the commission of **Jane Hubbard** to serve as Commissioner Ruling Elder in a validated ministry as **Coordinator of the Pastor-to-Pastor Team for the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta**, with the authorization to moderate sessions, officiate at marriages, and administer the Sacraments, all in the course of her care for the ministers and congregations of the Presbytery, effective September 15, 2023, through September 14, 2026.
15. The following congregations have completed the annual review of session records required under G-3.0108a, with the noted status of that review:

- Atlanta First, without exception
- Austell, with exception
- Buford, without exception
- Central, without exception
- Church of the Master, with exception
- Clairmont, without exception
- Conyers, with exception
- Covenant, without exception
- Covington First, without exception
- Crossroads, without exception
- Dallas Dodd, with exception
- Druid Hills, without exception
- Eastminster, with exception
- Ebenezer, with exception
- Emory, without exception
- Fairview, with exception
- Fayette, with exception
- First Afrikan, with exception
- Good News Garden, without exception
- Good Shepherd, without exception
- Grace Korean, with exception
- Gum Creek, with exception
- Hamilton Mill, with exception
- Hanbit, without exception
- Hillside, with exception
- Johns Creek, with exception
- Jonesboro First, without exception
- Kelley, without exception
- Korean Central, without exception
- Korean Community, without exception
- LaGrange First, with exception
- Lawrenceville, without exception
- McDonough, without exception
- Morningside, without exception
- Morrow, without exception
- Mount Vernon, without exception
- New Life, with exception
- New Presbyterian Church of Georgia, without exception
- Norcross, with exception
- North Avenue, without exception
- North Decatur, with exception
- Northminster, with exception
- Northwest, without exception

Oakhurst, with exception
Oglethorpe, with exception
Peachtree, without exception
Peachtree City First, without exception
Philadelphia, without exception
Pleasant Hill, with exception
Radcliffe, without exception
Saint Luke's, without exception
Shallowford, without exception
Smyrna, with exception
St. Andrews, with exception
Stockbridge, with exception
Timberidge, without exception
Trinity, Atlanta, with exception
Trinity, Decatur, without exception
Westhills, with exception
Westminster, without exception

STATED CLERK’S REPORT

1. The Stated Clerk of the General Assembly has communicated deadline dates for the 226th General Assembly (2024), to be held June 25-July 4, 2024.

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

For overtures to be processed through to the General Assembly, *the following deadlines apply for receipt of proposed overtures by the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.*

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

For additional information on the process of submitting an overture to the General Assembly through the Presbytery, contact Stated Clerk Andy James.

2. Clerks of session are reminded to submit their 2022-2023 Necrology Report of ruling elders who died between January 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, by September 30. The form for this purpose is available on the Presbytery website at www.atlpcusa.org/clerks-corner. The Presbytery will celebrate the faithful ministry of these saints at the November 4, 2023, Stated Meeting.
3. The Committee on Ministry has approved an updated checklist for the review of session minutes for 2023 and beyond. Clerks of session should review the updated form to ensure that all required items are acted upon before the end of 2023. The updated form is available on the Presbytery website at www.atlpcusa.org/clerks-corner. For more information, contact Stated Clerk Andy James.
4. The Archives of Columbia Theological Seminary and the Presbyterian Historical Society are ongoing resources for the congregations of the Presbytery to house their long-term records. Any permanent records (such as session minutes) not in regular active use should be stored in a temperature and humidity controlled environment in accordance with G-3.0107. Caitlin Reeves Greenamyre from the C. Benton Kline, Jr. Special Collections & Archives at Columbia Theological Seminary will be in attendance at the stated meeting on August 15, and she will be available to answer questions about archival storage and records.

COMMUNICATIONS

For Information:

1. The offering from the May Presbytery meeting to support the Caring Hands Offering of Presbyterian Homes of Georgia totaled \$1,119.69.
2. The Stated Clerk of the Synod of South Atlantic has reported that the 2021 minutes of the Presbytery have been reviewed and found to have no exceptions. The full communication regarding this review follows this report.

Admit to Record:

1. That the minutes of the commission to install **Lucy Strong** as associate pastor at **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta**, be admitted to the record.
2. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Katie Archibald-Woodward** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.

3. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Irene Choi** as minister of the Word and Sacrament at a service on Sunday, July 9, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church:

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

The following persons were approved as guests of the commission:

Rev. Emily Choi, Member at Large
Rev. Jung Hoon Son, Korean Community
Rev. Jonathan Spencer, Open Circle Community Church

4. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Irene Choi** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
5. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Mary Moore Driggers** as associate pastor at **Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church** at a service on Sunday, August 27, 2023, at 4:00 P.M. at Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church:

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

The following persons were approved as guests of the commission:

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



Valerie Young,
Synod Executive and Stated Clerk

June 9, 2023

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

Re: 2021 Presbytery Minutes & Records Review

Attestation of Minutes & Records

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Valerie Young
Synod Executive & Stated Clerk

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT



“Pruning & Propagating”

Vital Congregations Initiative – Mark #7 – Ecclesial Health

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

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

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

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

ABJ

#YouAreVital #YouAreLoved

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

For Information:

The Nominating Committee strives to select those best able and available to perform the Presbytery's work as it also endeavors to use the available talents of as many people as possible. Presbytery committees and commissions are composed of ruling elders, teaching elders and lay leaders who work together to support, strategize, research, plan, and make decisions that guide our presbytery in accomplishing its mission. Please think about joining God's work at the presbytery level and complete a Volunteer Interest Form (VIF) found on the last page of this Handbook or online at <https://www.atlpcusa.org/committees>. By completing the VIF, you will help the Nominating Committee learn of your interests and special gifts. You will also find a list of committees and job descriptions at the link above. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Debbie Durden (dfdurden@gmail.com), Emily Wilmesherr (ewilmesherr@dpchurch.org) or Joy Fisher (jfisher@atlpcusa.org).

For Action: (all names in **bold** are those that are being nominated)

Examinations Commission

Class of 2023

1. Francis Githieya	(2018)	TE	Validated	Racial/Ethnic
2. Alex Moses	(2019)	TE	Fayette	Caucasian
3. Neeley Lane	(2021)	TE	Covington First	Caucasian
4. Erin Noh	(2021)	TE	At Large	Racial/Ethnic
5. David York	(2021)	RE	Central	Caucasian

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. Andrew Esqueda	(2021)	TE	Trinity Atlanta	Racial/Ethnic
4. Laura Neely	(2023)	TE	LaGrange First	Caucasian
5. Prue Swerlick	(2023)	RE	Shallowford	Caucasian

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2024

1. Jane Fahey	(2019)	TE	Retired	Caucasian
2. Rosalind McIntyre	(2019)	RE	Hillside	Racial/Ethnic

3. Bob Riordan	(2019)	RE	Central	Caucasian
4. Rita Sheffey	(2019)	RE	Mt. Vernon	Caucasian

Class of 2026

1. Marva Bryan	(2021)	RE	Eastminster	Racial/Ethnic
2. Megan Johnson	(2021)	TE	Clairmont	Caucasian
3. David Lewicki	(2021)	TE	North Decatur	Caucasian

Class of 2028

1. Morgan Hay	(2023)	TE	Peachtree City First	Caucasian
2. Russ Weekley	(2023)	TE	Good Shepherd	Caucasian
3. Wales Barksdale	(2023)	RE	Conyers	Caucasian

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Admit to Record:

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

For Action:

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery approve an alternate means of assessing the readiness of Gina Brown and Courtney Henry in all areas of examination as necessary, in accordance with G-2.0610. These two candidates took the Winter 2023 Exegesis exam, the selected text and format of which were harmful and did not assist the committee in evaluating their readiness for ministry. After conferring with these candidates about their experience and their call to ministry, the committee agrees that this exam format is no longer a valuable tool in evaluating these two candidates' readiness for ministry. *(Under G-2.0610, this recommendation requires a three-fourths vote, with the full rationale above included in the minutes of the Presbytery.)*

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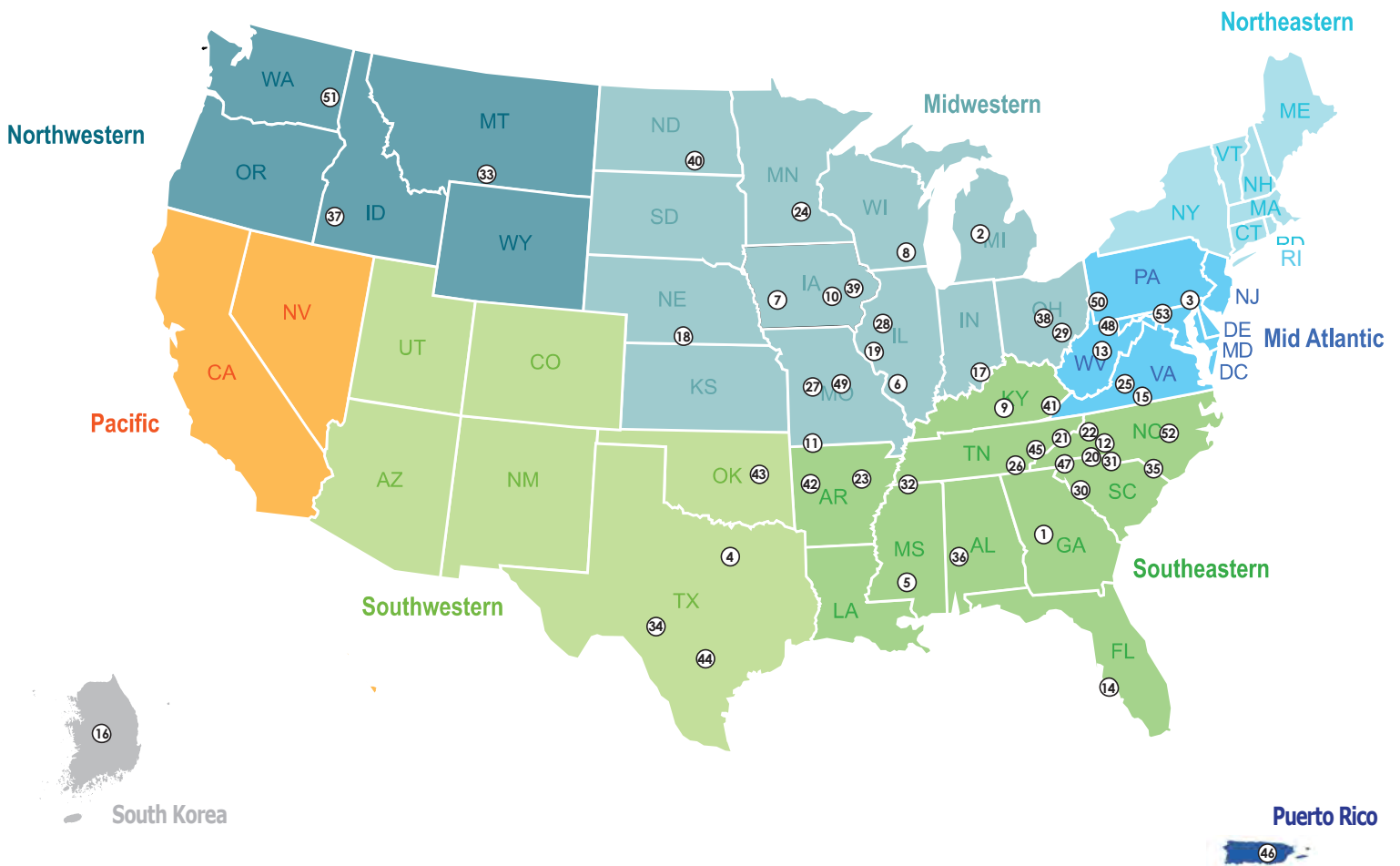


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Presbyterian Colleges & Universities



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- | | | | |
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| ② Alma College | ⑯ Hannam University | ⑳ Presbyterian College | ④④ Trinity University |
| ③ Arcadia University | ⑰ Hanover College | ⑳ Queens University of Charlotte | ④⑤ Tusculum University |
| ④ Austin College | ⑱ Hastings College | ⑳ Rhodes College | ④⑥ Universidad Interamericana |
| ⑤ Belhaven University | ⑲ Illinois College | ⑳ Rocky Mountain College | ④⑦ Warren Wilson College |
| ⑥ Blackburn College | ⑳ Johnson C. Smith University | ⑳ Schreiner University | ④⑧ Waynesburg University |
| ⑦ Buena Vista University | ㉑ King University | ⑳ St. Andrews University | ④⑨ Westminster College (MO) |
| ⑧ Carroll University | ㉒ Lees-McRae College | ⑳ Stillman College | ⑤① Westminster College (PA) |
| ⑨ Centre College | ⑳ Lyon College | ⑳ The College of Idaho | ⑤② Whitworth University |
| ⑩ Coe College | ⑳ Macalester College | ⑳ The College of Wooster | ⑤③ William Peace University |
| ⑪ College of the Ozarks | ⑳ Mary Baldwin College | ⑳ The University of Dubuque | ⑤④ Wilson College |
| ⑫ Davidson College | ⑳ Maryville College | ④① The University of Pikeville | |
| ⑬ Davis & Elkins College | ⑳ Missouri Valley College | ④② The University of the Ozarks | |
| ⑭ Eckerd College | ⑳ Monmouth College | | |

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AMERICA'S INNOVATIVE SERVICE COLLEGE

Presbyterian College has unveiled a new strategic plan that introduces our market position—*America's Innovative Service College*. The strategic plan includes seven pillars, one of which emphasises our Presbyterian church-relatedness. PC's distinctive approach uses innovative service as a tool of self-discovery, an amplifier of problem-solving skills, and a catalyst of curiosity. Some of the new church-related initiatives include:

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The Presbyterian Promise Scholarship is a commitment by Presbyterian College to recognize students for their merit and affiliation with the Presbyterian Church. PC seeks to develop students academically and spiritually in this signature scholarship. Students who are of members of Presbyterian churches, or who attend Presbyterian/Reformed secondary schools, will receive a scholarship for a minimum of \$20,000 per year for up to four years—that's an \$80,000 commitment to you.



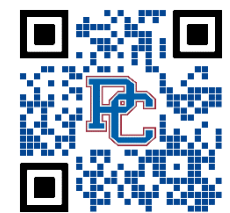
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SEMINARY ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

PC has been hard at work crafting articulation agreements with Columbia Theological Seminary, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and Pittsburg Theological Seminary, all of which are known nation-wide for their caliber of theological education. These agreements are flexible to meet the needs and callings of our students. Some may choose to move quickly through an accelerated track to shorten the time it takes to receive both a bachelors from PC and a masters degree from a partner seminary. Other students may choose the traditional 4-year approach at PC but enroll in masters courses or even spend a semester in seminary (similar to a semester abroad).

CENTER FOR SOUTH KOREAN AND EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Presbyterian College's expertise, relationships and experience in international education—particularly related to East Asia—will enable the launch of a new, nationally elite center focused on South Korea, a historic U.S. ally with a significant population of Presbyterians. The Center will also allow the college to realize some of its most closely-held PCUSA church-inspired values, including grace, service, hospitality, and justice. This innovation is timely in that it capitalizes on the surging popularity that South Korea is undergoing in the U.S.

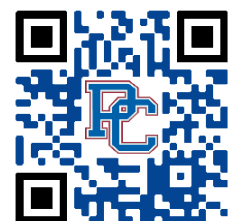


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Presbyterian College is proud to partner with **the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving** at the **Lilly Family School of Philanthropy (Indiana University)** to offer the **Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising (ECRF)**. The executive certificate program provides the research, tools, and customized training to meet the growing needs of leaders in religious communities and fundraisers of faith-based organizations. The focus of the ECRF is on the cultural, organizational, and philanthropic practices unique to religious institutions. These practices in turn enable donors motivated by spiritual and religious values to experience the joy of generous giving.

Program Details: September 18-20, 2023 (online components afterwards)
at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA



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Meet the Office of Spiritual Life Staff



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The Cornelson Family Director of Church Relations

Perrin Tribble Andersen '11

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We are happy to work with you to schedule guest preaching opportunities, retreat leadership, campus visits, or any other ways that we can be a resource for your church family.

EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION REPORT

August 15, 2023

For Information:

The commission reviewed the statements of faith and faith journeys of the following ministers of the Word and Sacrament, examined them, and received them into membership on behalf of the Presbytery. They will be introduced during the stated meeting. (Terms of call for these ministers, as appropriate, can be found in the Committee on Ministry Report.)

- **Mary Moore Driggers** has been received by transfer from Foothills Presbytery to serve as associate pastor at Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church, effective June 11, 2023.
- **Shannon Johnson Kershner** has been received by transfer from Chicago Presbytery to serve as pastor at Central Presbyterian Church, effective July 1, 2023.

Their faith journeys and statements of faith follow this report.

For Action:

1. **Donghyun Jeong**, a candidate of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, has been called to a validated ministry as assistant professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, effective upon his ordination. The Examinations Commission has examined him in the areas of polity, theology, and worship and sacraments and heard a brief sermon from him. His faith journey and statement of faith follows this report. The commission recommends that he be approved for ordination.
2. **Sam Phillips**, a candidate of East Tennessee Presbytery, has been called to a validated ministry as a chaplain resident at Emory University Hospital, effective upon his ordination. The Examinations Commission has examined him in the areas of polity, theology, and worship and sacraments and heard a brief sermon from him. His faith journey and statement of faith follows this report. The commission recommends that he be approved for ordination.

Faith Journey – Mary Moore Driggers

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

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

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

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

Statement of Faith – Mary Moore Driggers

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

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

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

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

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

Faith Journey: Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Statement of Faith – Rev. Shannon Johnson Kershner

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

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

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

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

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

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

ⁱ Apostles Creed

ⁱⁱ Brief Statement of Faith, Lines 47-51

ⁱⁱⁱ BSF, Lines 27-39

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

^v Declaration of Barmen, #2

^{vi} BSF, Lines 65-71

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

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

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

^x C67 – "The Fulfillment of Reconciliation"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Faith Journey

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

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

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

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

Statement of Faith

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

New Church Development Commission

For Information:

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

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

***L* – Leadership Coaching: 113 hours**

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

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

***N* - Networking Events: 5**

***C* – Church Consulting: 85 hours**

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

S - Startup Training

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

S - Strategic Grants

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

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

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

A few of our latest curiosities and questions:

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

New Worshipping Community Highlight: Zo PC

A Word from Your Organizing Pastor: Sarah Vungsuanching Lane

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

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

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

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

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

Leaders of small
churches, you're
invited!



Join us for worship,
fellowship, and workshops!

October 14

9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Jonesboro

\$20/person, lunch included, registration required

This is for pastors and leaders of smaller congregations. A day of worship, learning, sharing ideas, making new connections and who-knows-what-else-the-Spirit-has-in-store! Rev. Jihyun Oh will be our keynote speaker. Registration information coming soon.





Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

1

LIFELONG Discipleship Formation vs. Complacent “Christian” piety, simply teaching good morals, or offering the latest programs.

“The righteousness that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness of God based on faith.” (PHIL. 3:9B)

- From the cradle to the grave seeking to be formed for right living with God and with all people.
- Faith — seeking understanding, cultivating wisdom, and actively following Christ. It is not an extra-curricular activity nor merely head-knowledge.
- Discipleship awakened and engaged in issues facing today’s culture: injustice, inequality, divisive segregation, oppression, suffering, abuse of creation.
- Discipleship formed and strengthened in the community of Christ and permeates daily practices and daily living.

2

Intentional Authentic Evangelism vs. “Jesus freaks”; “Christian” Hypocrisy; A committee.

“We have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God.” (2 COR. 4:7)

- Intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just acts of kindness.
- Authentically sharing Christ because it is intrinsic to self-identity; overflow of Christ in our life.
- Relational, not programmatic or systematic

3

Outward Incarnational Focus vs. Inward Institutional Survival; Closed communities of assimilation/exclusion.

“The gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (MATT. 7:14)

- Outward exploration, awareness, and focus on neighbors and neighborhood.
- Beyond relationship with those who are like us, the incarnate Christ dwells among the lowly & least, the stranger & the suffering, the marginalized & majority.
- Missional focus on where Christ is already living and present and calling us to dwell.

4

Empower Servant Leadership vs. the Pastor’s job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young energetic pastor; burning out good volunteers.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers.” (MATT. 9:37–38)

- Identify, nurture, support the use of spiritual gifts of all people to serve; not monopolized cliques of power.
- All voices and people are necessary, and it is noticeable when people are absent/missing.
- Nurture and encourage those specifically called and gifted for pastoral ministry.

5

Spirit-Inspired Worship vs. *Self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship*

“These people draw near with their mouths and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their worship of me is a human commandment learned by rote.” (ISAIAH 29:13)

- Worship is about God. We get to come on holy ground, encounter God, and experience wonder.
- Worship is active participation in the living relationship of the triune God, thus all should feel welcome just as they are to come.
- Worship challenges, teaches, transforms, encounters, convicts, and sends people out different.

6

Caring Relationships vs. *Any other Social Club; façades, hypocrisy, and judgment of “church” and “religion.”*

“By this everyone will know that you are disciples, if you have love for one another.” (JOHN 13:35)

- Sharing in God’s true agape moves us beyond half-hearted programmatic participation, lukewarm faith, and pretending.
- Instead of a closed, judgmental community, people find freedom to share stories, encounter the Savior, and ask for help.
- Welcome and hospitality are not left to a committee, but, imperfectly, we strive for all people find identity, purpose, and belonging in the household of God.
- Confront conflict, seek reconciliation in all divisions, find ways to embrace all diversity, seek to be peace-makers and bridge builders together.

7

Ecclesial Health vs. *Unhealthy dysfunction; toxic environments; obsolete and irrelevant buildings*

“The body does not consist of one member but of many. God has so arranged the body that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another.” (1 COR. 12:14, 24B–25)

- Understanding of: Why we are a church community? How are we a church community in practice? Prayer permeates all life together.
- Clarity in mission, core values to ministry, passion and joy in being the church. Our budget reflects these values, vision, and ministries.
- Fiscally responsible — stewardship and tithing are taught, transparency in spending, continual assessment/discernment of a sustainable budget.
- All are aware of how decisions are made, stake-holders in the process and procedures, valued voices in the envisioning, open to changes, continual assessment of the “why” and “how” we are church together.
- Nurturing and supporting the health of pastor(s), staff, and all called to lead; fighting against burnout.

Partnership Info for August 2023 PGA Meeting Handbook

AMIS (Atlanta Ministry with International Students) is the French word for “friends” and describes our mission, which is to promote cultural and global understanding through friendship and hospitality with international students and scholars in the greater Atlanta area. We are currently looking for volunteers to welcome and connect with international students as Amigo friends. Our International Friendship program matches an international student with a volunteer in the local community for friendship and sharing of cultures. Your support can help an international student in their adjustment to American life, culture, and language, as well as introduce them to our city. We ask you to meet at least once for a meal, event, or outing and continue your friendship over the year as you have time and opportunity. Learn more at: amis-inc.org/amigovolunteer or email us at office@amis-inc.org.

Buckhead Christian Ministries' mission is to keep people from becoming homeless and to work to elevate their possibilities for economic empowerment. We provide emergency assistance, supportive housing, and financial education programs that strengthen our community and empower our neighbors. Learn more at: <https://bcmgeorgia.org>

Central Outreach and Advocacy Center's purpose is to open doors to overcome and prevent homelessness. Our vision is to be passionate advocates and invested partners for those experiencing homelessness. Central OAC serves downtown Atlanta from the lower level of Central Presbyterian Church. Our agency has developed from an emergency food pantry to a church outreach ministry into one of the most well-known nonprofits in the downtown area. Learn more at: <https://centrалоac.org>

Earth Covenant Ministry (GIPL) Georgia Interfaith Power and Light is an interfaith non-profit whose mission is to engage communities of faith in the stewardship of Creation as a direct expression of our faithfulness and as a religious response to global climate change, resource depletion, environmental injustice, pollution, and other disruptions in Creation. Learn more at: <https://gipl.org>

ECKAM (Evangelical Coalition of Korean American Ministries) is a partnership of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. It is formed by Korean congregations and fellowships within the bounds of Greater Atlanta Presbytery. ECKAM's focus shall be mission and ministry that specifically addresses the Korean cultural context and language needs. ECKAM is part of the Presbytery subject to all the policies and procedures of the presbytery and Book of Order, yet will have a certain degree of autonomy in addressing ministry in the Korean context, and in some process issues in the presbytery.

The mission of **Joining Hands for Justice in Palestine and Israel (JHJPI)** is to promote peace with justice in the Holy Land. We promote bringing an end to the Israeli Occupation and exploitation of land and resources by applying Christ's teaching through prayer, advocacy, and education.

Our hope is to build relationships on the basis of equality and human rights so that all may live in peace with dignity.

Join Us! We meet, via Zoom the third Monday of each month at 1:00 pm.

Support Our Work: donate online – jhjpi.com/support or send check to: P.O. Box 2123, Tucker, GA, 30085

Like our Facebook Page: Joining Hands for Justice in Palestine and Israel

Visit Our Website: www.jhjpi.com for more information and resource materials.

Or contact: Sarah Humphrey: sarah.h.humphrey@gmail.com

La Gonave Haiti Partners

Our Vision: A future where everyone on la Gonâve experiences thriving, abundant life.

Our Mission: Haitian and American partners, working side by side in mutually-transformative relationships, to build vibrant, hopeful, and resilient communities on the island of la Gonâve. For more than 30 years, la Gonâve Haiti Partners has been working in collaboration with the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to support programs that build capacity for an improved quality of life for Haitians living on la Gonâve island. Nineteen churches across eight states, individuals, and other institutions partner with our Haitian brothers and sisters to support pre K-12 education for over 1500 students, healthcare for thousands of patients, and economic development opportunities to families through micro finance loans and the Kid-for-a-Kid goat program. Recent initiatives include a new rural middle school that will open this fall, and a computer literacy curriculum for students attending the K-12 school with the arrival of the St. Francis computer lab, and creation of an integrated network of health care providers across the island that addresses maternal and infant health and childhood malnutrition. We welcome new churches to learn more about joining our partnership. Learn more at:

www.lagonavepartners.org.

Memorial Drive Ministries envisions the end of disconnectedness for refugees and the diverse community of Clarkston. This summer, Memorial Drive Ministries welcomed 3 new partners onto our campus to join our community: a new congregation worshipping in Burmese on Sundays, an International Rescue Committee summer camp for resettled refugee students, and the Center for Victims of Torture external relations staff. As we move into the fall, stay in touch by following Memorial Drive Ministries on Facebook, signing up for our E-newsletter through our website, or giving a gift through our Amazon Wishlist. Learn more at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MemorialDriveMinistries>

<https://mdmatl.org/sign-up-for-newsletter/>

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/1KZ6V7DYWQ4SP?ref=wl_share

The **Peace and Global Witness Partnership** is established to promote the efficacy of Peace throughout our global community and nation. To effectuate this process of Peace, the Partnership has incorporated several Ministries which range in service population to International Students (Ministry of Amis), The Prison Movement (Ncart), Local homelessness Service projects, El Refugio and detainee programs as well as the Sanctuary Movement located at Columbia Presbyterian Church. In addition, collaborations are underway to integrate the work of Mission Haven with local church ministries. Further the development of the Institute

for Public Theology under the auspices of Columbia Presbyterian Church has begun preliminary discussions with Columbia Seminary in an effort to develop a cross section of curricular designed to enhance public theology praxis with seminary training.

Presbyterians Caring for Federal Chaplains helps the PC(USA) endorsing agency, Presbyterian Federal Chaplaincies (www.pccmp.org), provide Presbyterian and reformed ministry to federal personnel with the mission, “That all may practice in peace.” We help recruit and support Presbyterian clergy who serve members and families of our Armed Forces worldwide, Veterans and their families receiving care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, inmates confined in Bureau of Prison facilities and their families, and members and cadets of the Civil Air Patrol. In 2023, the Chaplain Training and Credentialing events were held at Calvin Crest Conferences outside Oakhurst, CA on June 26-30 and at Montreat Conference Center in Montreat NC on August 7-11. Minister members of this Presbytery currently serving as Federal Chaplains are Patrick Day with the Georgia National Guard (to be deployed January 2023) and Michael Chaney in the US Navy. ALSO, we encourage congregations to become a “Veteran/Military Friendly Congregation,” a program of the Military Chaplains Association (<https://mca-usa.org>). For more information contact Rev. Bill Nisbet, retired Army Reserve Chaplain at wonisbet@bellsouth.net. Contributions from individuals or churches to support our Presbyterian Federal Chaplains can be made through the website above.

Presbyterians for a Better Georgia has been a voice for Presbyterians at the state capitol during the 2022 legislative session, working especially hard to achieve positive results on our two focus issues: 1) increasing affordable housing/ending homelessness and 2) increasing access to healthcare. Please visit our website (www.p4bg.org) or our Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter feeds to learn more about how you can partner with PBG.

Presbyterian Youth Ministry Collaboration of Atlanta brings together those working in youth ministry across the greater Atlanta area. Our group is composed of full-time, part-time and volunteer youth workers who serve in a variety of ordained and non-ordained positions at PGA churches. The mission of this partnership is to foster community and learning between the youth workers of the presbytery through idea sharing. For more information or to receive the email updates from the PYMCoA partnership please contact Rev. Jennie Sankey, jennie@pleasanthillpc.org or Rev. Tully Fletcher tully.fletcher@gmail.com

Street Grace is a faith-driven organization collaborating with faith, business and community leaders providing a comprehensive path to end the sexual exploitation of minors. CSEC involves the recruitment, harboring, transportation, and/or the obtaining of a child under the age of 18 for the purpose of a commercial sex act. Street Grace mobilizes community resources – financial, human, and material – to fight CSEC through **prevention, protection, policy and pursuit.**

MISSION: To eradicate the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC).

VISION: A world where all children are free from sexual exploitation.

Learn more at: <https://www.streetgrace.org/>

The mission of **UKirk Atlanta** is to energize, coordinate, and develop relationship-based ministries on Atlanta area college campuses and to build connections between college students and PC(USA) congregations. UKirk Atlanta strives to foster supportive, faithful communities of students who together seek to engage faith in their everyday lives, particularly for the students at Agnes Scott College, Emory University, and Georgia State University.

We are proudly a member of More Light Presbyterians and a Matthew 25 Faith Community. Our partnership as a More Light ministry gives us a foundation for the future of our ministry that we are proud to stand upon so that we can “be lovingly present for those who most need support in our communities, encouraging us to better attend to their spiritual needs.”

We are also called by our faith to stand against the systems of white supremacy and racism, seeking justice and wholeness in God’s beloved community. Learn more at:

www.ukirkatlanta.com

Westminster Christian Fellowship at Georgia Tech introduces students and Chinese scholars to Christianity and walks with Christians through this pivotal time of life. Our general student group meets weekly for fellowship, worship, prayer, and small group Bible studies. Our Chinese student group meets weekly to build community and study the Bible. Every year we serve over 300 Chinese students in August by welcoming them to Georgia Tech by offering transportation and temporary housing before the school year begins. We also have a weekly group for Chinese adult scholars and their families to learn about Christianity. The scholars group provide many adults with their first exposure to Christianity.

If you would like more information about our organization, you can visit our website (gt-wcf.org) or find us on Facebook or Instagram (@gtwcf). If you are interested in volunteering or becoming a financial supporter, you may email our director Jon Keyser (jon@gt-wcf.org).

ADDENDUM

Opportunities for Presbytery Service

During the Pandemic, all meetings are virtual until further notice.

*Committees/Commissions of the Presbytery need you! If interested and able, please submit a Volunteer Interest Form (and General Assembly Interest Form, if interest in GA) found with full descriptions of committees/commissions at <http://atlpcusa.org/committees>. Terms of service are typically 3 years, with eligibility for re-election, and maximum of 6 consecutive years. The * indicates that committee/commission members must be Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders in the PC (USA).*

***Bills and Overtures Committee/General Assembly (GA) Commissioner** – prepares for, attends, and participates in the General Assembly, reports to the Presbytery, and serves as the Presbytery Bills and Overtures Committee for two years following the General Assembly. Meetings are typically Monday, quarterly, 1-3 pm.

***Committee on Ministry (COM)** – provides care of congregations, pastors, and educators. Meetings are typically 3rd Thursdays, monthly, 5-7 pm, with subcommittees meeting from 4-5 pm.

***Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)** – works with inquirers and candidates as they discern calls to ministry and move through the requirements for ordination. Meetings are typically 4th Thursdays, monthly, 4:30-7:30 pm, alternating between in-person at Morningside PC and Zoom.

Committee on Representation (COR) – offers ways to live out the church's commitment to inclusiveness and representation. Meetings are typically 3rd Tuesdays, every other month, 10-11:30 am.

***Presbytery Council** – guides, plans and envisions staffing needs and directions to be taken by the Presbytery. Meetings are typically Monday, 5-6 times per year, 5-7 pm.

Dismantling Racism Committee (DRC) – looks at ways congregations may be more engaged in education and action around racism. Meetings are typically 4th Wednesdays, monthly, 5-6:30 pm.

***Examinations Commission** – examines all ministers who wish to be received into the Presbytery for membership. Meetings are typically 3rd Thursdays, monthly, 1-4 pm.

Grants Committee – reviews grant applications and awards grants each year to churches, other organizations, and/or seminarians. Meetings are typically twice per year in May and October.

***New Church Development Commission (NCDC)** – catalyzes and supports the development of new worshiping communities/new church developments throughout our presbytery. Meetings are typically 3rd Mondays, 2nd month of each quarter, 6:30-8:30 pm. Members also serve on committees, which meet at various times.

***Nominating Committee** – identifies and recruits volunteers for Presbytery committees/commissions. Meetings are typically Thursdays, 3-4 times per year, beginning at 10am, with the duration depending on the number of positions to be filled.

Operations Committee – manages financial and business processes of the Presbytery. Meetings are typically Mondays, quarterly, 2-4 pm.

***Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)** – exercises church discipline through judicial process. Meetings are as needed during the 6-year term of service.

Personnel Committee – provides guidance, expertise, and assistance to the Presbytery staff regarding matters of personnel. Meetings are typically 1st Mondays, quarterly, 12-1:30 pm.

***Synod Commissioners** – represent the Presbytery at 1-2 Synod meetings per year of a 2-year term.

Presbytery Worship and Planning Committee – assists in planning worship and order of business for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery. Meetings are typically on a Monday, approximately 6 weeks prior to each Stated Meeting, 11:30 am-2 pm, plus one joint meeting per year with Council to discuss themes for the coming year.

VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

Use this form to express interest in volunteering to serve on a Presbytery of Greater Atlanta committee/commission. The information you submit will be put on file for the Nominating Committee. The primary nominating meeting is in the fall. However, there may be a few vacancies to fill throughout the year.

The PGA is committed to giving full expression to the rich diversity of our membership in the structures of our committees/commissions and council. Providing information helps the Nominating Committee fulfill this commitment to inclusiveness and representation.

Please complete the questions below as you feel comfortable. Submitting a form does not guarantee nomination. If you are nominated, you will be contacted by a member of the Nominating Committee. If not nominated, your information will be kept for the next cycle.

Committee/Commission Info: <https://www.atlpcusa.org/committees>

Mail To: Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, 1024 Ponce de Leon Ave NE, Atlanta, GA 30306

To fill out this form online, visit <http://bit.ly/2xMq8bm> or Scan →



Today's Date

First Name

Last Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Preferred Method of Communication

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

I am a:

____ Ruling Elder (Once a Ruling Elder, always a Ruling Elder!)

____ Teaching Elder

____ Lay Person

Church of Affiliation and City (Ex. First Presbyterian in Covington)

If Teaching Elder, are you:

____ Validated Minister Member

____ Honorably Retired

____ Member At Large

____ Parish Pastor

--Turn Over--

Thank you for your interest in serving.

I am interested in serving on the following committees/commissions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Assembly Commission/Bills
& Overtures Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> New Church Development
Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Preparation for
Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Operations Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Representation | <input type="checkbox"/> Permanent Judicial Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dismantling Racism Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Synod Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examinations Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship and Planning Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grants Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Where Needed |

I offer the following gifts/qualities/skills to a committee/commission: (*Examples: Financial Planning, Multilingual, Funds Development, Bookkeeping, Musician, Liturgist, Listener, etc.*)

In the Presbytery, I have served in the following ways (any presbytery):

Age:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 25 and Under | <input type="checkbox"/> 46-55 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26-35 | <input type="checkbox"/> 56-65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 36-45 | <input type="checkbox"/> Over 65 |

Gender Identity: _____

Cultural/ Ethnic Heritage: _____

Physical Limitations: _____

What else would you like us to know about you that would be helpful?

--Turn Over--

Thank you for your interest in serving.