

Highlights of the November 9, 2021 Stated Meeting

We had a wonderful meeting with lots of great music and worship! Rev. Dr. Lisa Allen-McLaurin from Oakhurst Presbyterian Church played several piano pieces as the commissioners gathered before the 9:00 hour. Our co-hosts Rev. Tom Hagood (Columbia Presbyterian Church) and Rev. Amantha Barbee (Oakhurst Presbyterian Church) brought greetings to the body as well as officiated at the table as we celebrated communion together. Members from both churches enhanced our time with hymns, a duet, a litany of Thanksgiving and post Presbytery music. Our offering for the morning is to benefit Nicholas House, a ministry working with displaced families on Moreland Avenue.

The highlight of worship was the message delivered by Bishop Robert Wright from the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. His message which he entitled in the sermon itself, “A Choice to Make” challenged presbyters to think about the meaning of Christian maturity: In choosing the Lordship of Jesus Christ, we give up smallness, separateness, and superiority in all forms...we understand that we have enough, we have plenty and true affirmation in Christ’s love; we don’t have to prove that we are better than others. One message of Luke 14:7-14 shows that Jesus reverses the order...it is not about a race to the top, but a race to the bottom as we are always the guests of a good God who is host. You can hear the sermon by clicking on this [link](#).

We of course did business as well! Here are the highlights:

1. We welcomed 4 new members: Rev. Moongil Cho; Candidate (Lara) Kate Culver, Candidate Peter Thornton, and Rev. Seokhoon Seo
2. We passed a new plan for parity
3. We approved a Net Proceeds Policy (when a building is sold and how the funds are to be distributed)
4. We concurred with an Overture from Grace Presbytery entitled: Recognition that Israel’s Laws, Policies, and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People
5. We elected Commissioners to the next General Assembly convening in the summer of 2022
6. We elected the next class of those who will serve the Presbytery in Committees and Commissions beginning in 2022.
7. We heard of the wonderful ministry from the New Church Development Commission, of Faith Ghanaian Presbyterian Church led by Rev. Kwasi Aye-Addo.
8. 2022 Minimum Compensation Guidelines were shared with the Presbytery