

**Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Minutes of the February 11, 2023, Stated Meeting**

*Rev. Juan Herrera, Moderator  
Rev. C. Anderson James, Stated Clerk*

Hosted by Covington First Presbyterian Church  
1169 Clark Street SW, Covington, GA 30014

***Call to Order***

Following prelude music shared by Alice Walker, organist at Covington First Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta was called to order and opened with prayer at 9:01 A.M. by Moderator Juan Herrera.

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

Rev. Neeley Rentz Lane, pastor of Covington First Presbyterian Church, shared words of welcome and oriented the members and guests to the church space and community.

***Call to Worship, Liturgical Dance, and Congregational Chorus***

Ruling Elder Shirley Wright Davis from Trinity Decatur offered a call to worship and remembrance of baptism composed by Brittany Fiscus-Van Rossum. The New Life Presbyterian Church Dance Ministry offered a liturgical dance to the music of "Water" by Anthony Brown and Group Therapy. Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson then led the Presbytery in a verse and chorus of "Wade in the Water."

***Declaration of Quorum***

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk regarding a quorum for the meeting. Rev. C. Anderson James reported that registration indicated that a quorum was present of at least 10% of the eligible elder commissioners, representing at least 10% of the congregations, and at least 10% of the eligible minister commissioners. The attendance report can be found at Attachment A.

***Omnibus Motion***

The Moderator Pro Tem recognized the Stated Clerk to bring the omnibus motion, consisting of the following items:

- the docket for the meeting (included in the bulletin for the meeting in Attachment B);
- the minutes of the November 12, 2022, stated meeting;
- the admit to record items in the Communications Report;
- the admit to record items in the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report;
- the admit to record items in the Committee on Ministry Report;
- the admit to record items in the Operations Committee Report; and
- the admit to record items in the Council Report.

The omnibus motion was moved and seconded. Following opportunity to do so, no items were removed from the omnibus motion. The omnibus motion was approved by a voice vote. The items approved under the omnibus motion are listed under the appropriate report below.

## *Communications Report*

The Moderator Pro Tem recognized Rev. Andy James to give the Communications Report as presented in the Commissioners Handbook.

As part of his verbal report to the Presbytery, the Clerk introduced Ruling Elder Valerie Young, the new executive and stated clerk of the Synod of South Atlantic. He reminded clerks of session of the upcoming deadlines for submission of the Session Annual Statistical Report. He invited attendees to complete an online evaluation of the meeting and to review announcements and handouts in the commissioner handbook.

In his written report, the Clerk reported that the offering from the November Presbytery meeting to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance totaled \$1,021.56.

He also reminded the Presbytery of the requirements of W-4.0402 regarding the scheduling of services of ordination and/or installation for ministers of the Word and Sacrament:

*The ordination and/or installation of a minister of the Word and Sacrament shall take place at a time that enables substantial participation of the presbytery.*

The Communications Report also included the following Admit to Record items approved in the omnibus motion:

1. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Melissa McNair-King** as designated pastor at **Fairview Presbyterian Church** on September 11, 2022, at 11:00 A.M.:
  - Rev. Catherine Foster, associate pastor at Shallowford
  - Rev. Rafael Viana, validated ministry at Casa Brazil/On the Way
  - Rev. Davis Bailey, member at large
  - Elder Chris Crooker, Fairview
  - Elder Trey Futch, Lawrenceville
2. That the minutes of the commission to install **Melissa McNair-King** as designated pastor at **Fairview Presbyterian Church** be admitted to the record.
3. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Dana Gray** as minister of the Word and Sacrament at a service on September 11, 2022, at 4:00 P.M. at Emory Presbyterian Church:
  - Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter
  - Rev. Amanda Kemery, Morningside
  - Rev. Andy Acton, Emory
  - Elder Debbie Grosse, Emory
  - Elder Sue Sandell, Emory
  - Elder Scott Grosse, Emory

The following people were guests of the commission:

- Rev. Nicole McDonald, Baptist, Chaplain at Children's Hospital of Atlanta
  - Rev. Camile Josey, Cherokee Presbytery
4. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Dana Gray** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
  5. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to ordain **Nell McNeely Herring** as minister of the Word and Sacrament at a service on September 16, 2022, at 3:00 P.M. at the Presbyterian Center in Louisville, Kentucky:

Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter  
Elder Lisa Turney, Shallowford  
Elder Hannah Collins, Shallowford  
Elder Ken Whitehurst, Trinity Decatur  
Elder Jane Hubbard, North Avenue

The following people were guests of the commission:

Elder Dave Doehnert, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery  
Rev. Tyler Domske, Pittsburgh Presbytery  
Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, Presbytery of San Juan  
Rev. Jim Kirk, Peace River Presbytery  
Rev. Laurie A. Kraus, Mid-Kentucky Presbytery  
Elder Mark McNeely, Salem Presbytery  
Elder Paul Stubbs, Presbytery of the Peaks  
Rev. Jocelyn Wildhack, Presbytery of Arkansas

6. That the minutes of the commission to ordain **Neil McNeely Herring** as minister of the Word and Sacrament be admitted to the record.
7. The following people were appointed to serve on the commission to install **Michael Andrew Sanchez** as associate pastor for youth ministry at **Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church** at a service on October 16, 2022, at 10:30 A.M.:

Rev. Rachel Breyer, validated ministry as chaplain  
Rev. Tyler Brock, associate pastor at Newnan  
Rev. Martha Moore-Keish, validated ministry at Columbia Theological Seminary  
Elder Ray Johnston, Westminster (moderator of the commission)  
Elder Julia Strickland, Saint Luke's  
Elder Drew Wilmesherr, Decatur

### *Executive Presbyter's Report*

The Moderator recognized Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson to give the report of the Executive Presbyter (Attachment C). She lifted up the fifth mark of the Vital Congregations Initiative, "Spirit Inspired Worship," by leading the Presbytery in a brief lectio divina on Revelation 4 in preparation for her sermon later in the meeting. She also updated the Presbytery on her pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry in spiritual direction from Garrett Theological Seminary.

### *Committee on Preparation for Ministry*

The Moderator recognized Rev. Emma Neishloss to give the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. On behalf of the Committee, she moved that LoAnn Nguyen, inquirer from North Avenue Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective October 27, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment D, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll LoAnn Nguyen as a candidate, effective October 27, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

Rev. Neishloss then moved on behalf of the Committee that Victoria Robinson, inquirer from Johns Creek Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective October 27, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment E, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was

arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll Victoria Robinson as a candidate, effective October 27, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

Rev. Neishloss then moved on behalf of the Committee that Nikki Zimmerman, inquirer from Peachtree Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective October 27, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment F, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll Nikki Zimmerman as a candidate, effective October 27, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

Rev. Neishloss then moved on behalf of the Committee that Allison Arsenault, inquirer from North Decatur Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective November 17, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment G, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll Allison Arsenault as a candidate, effective November 17, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

Rev. Neishloss then moved on behalf of the Committee that Kalecia Wright, inquirer from Atlanta First Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective November 17, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment H, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll Kalecia Wright as a candidate, effective November 17, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

Rev. Neishloss then moved on behalf of the Committee that Jeanine Fulton, inquirer from Eastminster Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective December 15, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment I, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll Jeanine Fulton as a candidate, effective December 15, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

Finally, Rev. Neishloss moved on behalf of the Committee that Courtney Anne Henry, inquirer from Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church, be enrolled as a candidate, effective December 15, 2022. In addition to her personal statement of faith journey found in Attachment J, the inquirer offered a brief introduction and statement of her sense of call, then the Presbytery was invited to pose questions to her. The examination was arrested, and the Moderator called for a vote. The motion *to enroll Courtney Henry as a candidate, effective December 15, 2022*, was approved on a voice vote.

The Moderator asked the candidates to affirm the Presbytery's decision. Noting that all seven candidates approved were women, Rev. Neishloss offered a charge and a prayer based on Numbers 27.

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

- The following persons were enrolled as inquirers as of the date shown:
  - a. Eirene Lee, Atlanta First, October 27, 2022

Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson then led the Presbytery in a verse and chorus of "Wade in the Water."

### ***Examinations Commission***

The Moderator recognized Rev. Jeanne Simpson to give the report of the Examinations Commission. She first announced that the committee had reviewed the statement of faith and faith journey of Rev. Joan

Gray, an honorably retired minister of the Word and Sacrament, and received her into the Presbytery by transfer from Cherokee Presbytery without examination, in accordance with Committee on Ministry Policy 8. Her faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment K. She will be introduced at the May meeting.

Rev. Simpson then turned the Presbytery’s attention to two candidates for ordination to be examined by the Presbytery. First she introduced **Katie Archibald-Woodward**, a candidate under care of San Gabriel Presbytery, who has been called to a validated ministry as resident assistant at Villa International, effective upon her ordination. Her faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment L. Katie offered a brief introductory statement, then Rev. Alex Moses posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin Katie’s examination for ordination. After an opportunity for questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examination was complete and asked the candidate to leave the room.

Rev. Simpson moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Katie Archibald-Woodward’s** examination be sustained and she be approved for ordination and received into membership. After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator called for a vote. *The motion to sustain the examination of Katie Archibald-Woodward, approve her for ordination, and receive her into membership passed* on a voice vote.

Rev. Simpson then introduced **Robert Andrew “Drew” Wilmesherr**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, who has been called to a validated ministry as campus minister at UKirk Atlanta, effective upon his ordination. His faith journey and statement of faith can be found in Attachment M. Drew offered a brief introductory statement, then Rev. Moses posed a question from the Examinations Commission to begin Drew’s examination for ordination. After questions from the Presbytery, the Moderator declared that the examination was complete and asked the candidate to leave the room.

Rev. Simpson moved on behalf of the Examinations Commission that **Robert Andrew “Drew” Wilmesherr’s** examination be sustained and he be approved for ordination and received into membership. After opportunity for discussion, the Moderator Pro Tem called for a vote. *The motion to sustain the examination of Robert Andrew “Drew” Wilmesherr, approve him for ordination, and receive him into membership passed* on a voice vote.

Katie Archibald-Woodward and Drew Wilmesherr returned to the meeting, and the Moderator Pro Tem announced the results of the vote to them. The Presbytery offered gestures of recognition and congratulations to these approved candidates, and Rev. Simpson offered a prayer for their ministry.

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

The Committee on Ministry did not make a verbal report to the meeting, but the following Admit to Record items from the Committee’s report were approved in the omnibus motion:

1. Grant permission for all ministers of the Word and Sacrament serving in currently validated ministries to administer the sacraments in the context of their ministry for the calendar year 2023.
2. Validate the ministry of **Sarah Hooker** as Julia Thompson Smith Chaplain and Director of Religious and Spiritual Life at **Agnes Scott College**, effective August 1, 2022.
3. Renew the contract call pastor relationship between **Cecelya Taylor** and **Church of the Master Presbyterian Church**, effective October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, at 32 hours per week, preaching 40 Sundays per year.

Cash salary	17,690
Cash elections in lieu of Minister’s Choice	10,840
Housing allowance	26,530

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| Continuing education                                 | 1,000 |
| Four weeks vacation (no rollover)                    |       |
| Two weeks continuing education (no rollover)         |       |
| Up to two weeks sick leave as requested and approved |       |
4. Appoint **Gray Norsworthy** as interim pastor at **Northwest Presbyterian Church**, effective October 17, 2022, through October 16, 2023, serving full time.

Cash salary	63,000
Housing allowance	17,000
Cash in lieu of Board of Pensions dues	20,000
SECA allowance	7,650
Board of Pensions post-retirement dues	12,000
Continuing education	2,000
Cell phone	600
Professional Expenses (reimbursed)	3,600
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
  5. Appoint **Jan Tolbert** as pulpit supply and moderator of session at **Loyd Presbyterian Church**, effective November 6, 2022, for two months, renewable.
  6. Appoint **Ron Johnson**, a Cooperative Baptist minister, as contract call pastor and moderator of session at **Friendship Presbyterian Church**, and enroll him as a temporary member of the Presbytery during this term of service, effective November 13, 2022, through November 12, 2023.
  7. Renew the contract call associate pastor relationship between **Beverly Markham** and **Alpharetta Presbyterian Church**, effective November 16, 2022, through November 15, 2023, at 20 hours per week.

Housing allowance	38,195
Minister's Choice from the Board of Pensions	3,820
SECA allowance	2,922
Professional expenses	5,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
One week denominational service	
  8. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Shayne Wheeler** and **North Avenue Presbyterian Church**, effective November 20, 2022, and place him on the member at large roll, with the following terms of dissolution:
    - Continuation of current compensation and benefits for six months from the date of dissolution, subject to reduction if he secures a new pastoral calling during this time.
    - Continuation of current benefits for an additional three months after the initial six month continuation period, if needed.
    - Payment for accrued but unused vacation time at his current salary rate.
    - Coverage for the cost of clergy counseling.
    - A general release of claims in favor of North Avenue and other standard separation agreement terms.
  9. Appoint **Jasmine Evans** as moderator at **North Avenue Presbyterian Church**, effective November 21, 2022.
  10. Dissolve the co-pastoral relationship between **Beth Waltemath** and **North Decatur Presbyterian Church**, effective November 30, 2022.

11. Approve **Suk Won Han** to labor outside the bounds of the Presbytery as interim pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Madison, Wisconsin, in John Knox Presbytery, effective December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023.

12. Renew the contract call associate pastor relationship between **Erin Noh** and **Alpharetta Presbyterian Church**, effective December 1, 2022, through November 30, 2023, at 25 hours per week.

Housing allowance	35,690
Minister’s Choice from the Board of Pensions	3,569
SECA allowance	2,731
Professional expenses	5,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
One week denominational service	

13. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between **Mike Watson** and **Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church** and dismiss him to the Presbytery of the James so that he can take up a call as associate pastor of Fairfield Presbyterian Church in Mechanicsville, Virginia, effective December 31, 2022.

14. Grant permission to **Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church** to invite **Yunhan Gwo** as a guest preacher for the months of January-March 2023.

15. Appoint **Linda Hawthorne** as moderator at **Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church**, effective January 1, 2023.

16. Validate the ministry of **Trace Haythorn**, moving to serve as Coach and Consultant at Potentials Coaching and Consulting, effective January 1, 2023.

17. Renew **Brady Radford** as contract call pastor at **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Decatur**, effective January 1, 2023, through April 9, 2023, serving full time.

Cash salary (14 weeks)	6,731
Housing allowance	8,077
Board of Pensions Pastor’s Participation	5,479
SECA allowance	1,133
403b match	up to 1,333
Dental	400
Continuing education	250
Cell phone	300
Mileage/auto expenses	600
Professional expenses	375
One week vacation	
One week continuing education	

18. Approve **Joffre Tyler Brock** as pastor at **Loyd Presbyterian Church**, effective January 9, 2023, serving full time.

Cash salary	28,000
Housing allowance	27,000
Additional contribution to retirement	5,000
Board of Pensions Dues	23,400
SECA allowance	4,590
Continuing education	1,000
Additional continuing education	1,000
Cell phone	400
Professional Expenses	500

Other vouchered expenses	2,200
Actual moving expenses	
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	
Four weeks paid family leave	
Sabbatical after 7 years	

19. Appoint **Katie Ricks** as interim pastor at **Oakhurst Presbyterian Church**, effective January 15, 2023, through January 14, 2024, serving full time.

Cash salary	59,000
Housing allowance	25,000
Board of Pensions Pastor’s Participation	32,760
SECA allowance	6,426
Continuing education	1,000
Professional expenses	2,000
Four weeks vacation	
Two weeks continuing education	

20. Appoint **Jasiel Hernandez Garcia** as moderator of session at **Central Presbyterian Church**, effective February 1, 2023.
21. Validate the ministry of **Drew Wilmesherr** as Director of **UKirk Atlanta**, effective upon his ordination.
22. Place **Frank Irvin “Chip” Blankinship III** on the honorably retired roll, effective March 1, 2023.

***Special Music***

The Covington First Presbyterian Church Joyful Noise Choir and Hallelujah Kids Choir sang and played “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee” as part of the Presbytery’s exploration of spirit inspired worship.

***Intergenerational Moment with Scripture***

The Puppet Ministry of Covington First Presbyterian Church shared an intergenerational moment with scripture in a skit entitled “Yes, Peter!”

***Scripture and Sermon***

Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter, shared a message on Revelation 4:1-11 entitled “Wading in the Waters of Worship.” Her sermon explored the gift and challenge of Spirit-inspired worship in the church. She noted how the images of worship in Revelation 4 focused all the vibrancy and energy on the Holy One seated on the throne and invited the Presbytery to look for a similar power and reorientation in its own experiences of worship. She described how worship helps us to be engaged in the broader life of faith in our heart, mind, body, and soul. She concluded the sermon with a list of spiritual practices for spirit-inspired worship, including to prepare for worship, to pray over the experience and the participants, to plan creatively and collaboratively, to pause, and to remember that there is power in the worship we share.

In preparation for returning to the business of the meeting, the Presbytery joined in another verse and chorus of “Wade in the Water.”

***Board of Pensions***

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder Clark Simmons from the Board of Pensions to share a brief informational report about potential changes to the benefits plan of the Board in 2024 and beyond.



### ***Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program***

The Moderator recognized Ruling Elder Clare Lewis from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for a brief report. She recognized the following churches for being loan and investment participants in the program and presented them with rebate checks: Covenant, Korean Central, Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton Mill, Good Shepherd, Peachtree City First, and St. Andrews.

### ***Break and Gathering Music***

In accordance with the docket approved for the meeting, the Presbytery took a morning break beginning at 10:39 A.M. Following fellowship and refreshments provided by the Covington First Presbyterian Church, the Presbytery reconvened at 11:00 A.M. with a musical offering of “O Worship the King” by the Covington First Presbyterian Church Carillon Handbell Choir.

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

The Moderator recognized Rev. Richard Allen Farmer to give the report of the New Church Development Commission (Attachment N). He described the continuing work of the commission and introduced Corey Lee from Convergence Church of Stone Mountain, a new worshiping community that shares the building with Crossroads Presbyterian Church. Corey shared information about the work of Convergence and their relationship with Crossroads.

### ***Offering***

The Moderator called for the Presbytery to receive the offering to benefit the New Church Development Commission. During the offering, the Covington First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir shared the anthem “Praise the Lord!” by Hal Hopson. The Moderator then offered a prayer of dedication.

### ***Operations Committee***

The Moderator recognized Rev. Chip Blankinship to bring the report of the Operations Committee. On behalf of the Committee and the Council, he moved approval of the proposed budget for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year (February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024), found in Attachment O.

Following opportunity for questions and discussion, the motion ***to approve the proposed budget for the 2023/24 Fiscal Year (February 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024)***, was approved on a voice vote.

Rev. Blankinship then moved on behalf of the Operations Committee the following resolution:

**RESOLVED**, that the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta request The Presbyterian Foundation to deposit all proceeds dispersed from the Ruth M. Jones Memorial Fund, a permanent endowment fund, to the Compassion Endowment Fund account held by the New Covenant Trust Company, effective immediately.

The motion was approved on a voice vote.

The following Admit to Record items from the Operations Committee were approved in the omnibus motion.

1. The Operations Committee received from Carr, Riggs, & Ingram, LLC, the report of the audit of the presbytery’s fiscal year ending January 31, 2022. They issued a qualified opinion based on the fact that the New Church Development Commission’s finances are separate from those of the presbytery’s operations and are, therefore, not included in the audit. They went on to state, “In our opinion, except for the effects of not consolidating its wholly-owned subsidiary, as discussed

in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the financial statements referred to in the first paragraph present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc. as of January 31, 2022, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

2. Upon the dissolution of the Atlanta Korean Presbyterian Church in 2022, the ownership of the former congregation’s property was transferred to the presbytery. An existing loan with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) was paid in full at that time. Consequently, PILP has notified the presbytery that our guarantee of the same loan has been satisfied.

The financial report as of December 31, 2022, was also included in the materials for the meeting and is shown as Attachment P.

### ***Council***

The Moderator recognized Jay Lanners from the Personnel Committee to speak to the following Admit to Record items from the Council that were included in the omnibus motion.

1. Upon recommendation of the Personnel Committee, the Council approved the hiring of Andrew (Andy) Benjamin Hill as the Director of Finance and Property, with a salary of \$66,000, full benefits, at 30 hours per week, effective February 1, 2023.

Andy holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Washington, and will be awarded a Master of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in May 2023. His experience is varied with careers on Wall Street in Finance and Compliance, as a community organizer in New York City, and most recently as Operations Manager at the Ormewood New Church Development in Atlanta. The Search and Personnel Committees were impressed with his high energy level, his experience working with volunteers, and his strong business acumen, and believe that he will serve the Presbytery Office and congregations well.

2. The Council approved a motion to express gratitude to God and appreciation to Rev. Chip Blankinship for his service to the Presbytery as Director of Operations and Congregational Consultant. Chip joined the staff on October 12, 2012, and will retire effective March 1, 2023.

After the introduction of Andy Hill, the Moderator and Executive Presbyter led the Presbytery in a litany of celebration for the ministry of Chip Blankinship (Attachment Q).

Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson then led the Presbytery in a verse and chorus of “Wade in the Water.”

### ***Book of Order Amendments***

The Moderator Pro Tem recognized Ruling Elder Kathy McCloud from the Bills and Overtures Committee to present 28 proposed amendments to the *Book of Order* for the Presbytery’s consideration and action. One amendment (22-GG) had previously been approved by the Presbytery at its November 12, 2022, stated meeting. The Committee’s report with the full list of amendments and their recommendations can be found in Attachment R.

Following opportunity for discussion, the Presbytery voted as follows on these proposed amendments:

- Amendment 22-A: F-1.0302c THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH ***approved on a voice vote***  
*Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*

- Amendment 22-B: F-1.0404 OPENNESS **approved on a voice vote**  
*Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*
- Amendment 22-C: G-1.0501 MEETINGS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Establishes Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) as the default parliamentary authority for congregational meetings, and authorizes electronic congregational meetings*
- Amendment 22-D: G-1.0503 BUSINESS PROPER TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds receiving a disciplinary decision against a church member (as opposed to a minister) to the list of proper business at a congregational meeting*
- Amendment 22-E: G-2.0503 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP **approved on a voice vote**  
*Removes "honorably" before "retired" as the category for retired ministers*
- Amendment 22-F: G-2.0505a(1) TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds the requirement to consult with the community served when receiving immigrant pastors without otherwise acceptable PC(USA) ordination educational requirements*
- Amendment 22-G: G-2.0603 PURPOSE OF INQUIRY **approved on a voice vote**  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training during the inquiry phase of preparation for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament*
- Amendment 22-H: G-2.0605 OVERSIGHT **approved on a voice vote**  
*Adds a requirement of sessions to "report to the presbytery of any matters of sexual misconduct" of their members who are enrolled as inquirers or candidates*
- Amendment 22-I: G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL **approved on a voice vote**  
*Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors*
- Amendment 22-J: G-2.1001 FUNCTIONS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds language clarifying that Commissioned Ruling Elders may be commissioned to more than one validated ministry at a time*
- Amendment 22-K: G-2.1002 TRAINING, EXAMINING, AND COMMISSIONING **approved on a voice vote**  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training for those seeking to be Commissioned Ruling Elders*
- Amendment 22-L: G-2.1103 CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS **approved on a voice vote**  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be certified as Christian Educators*
- Amendment 22-M: G-3.0104 OFFICERS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds language that "it is appropriate" to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings*
- Amendment 22-N: G-3.0105 MEETINGS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds provision that all councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically*

- Amendment 22-O: G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION **approved on a voice vote**  
*Adds language regarding boundary training, including child sexual abuse prevention training, to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils*
- Amendment 22-P: G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds the requirement of an antiracism policy to the required policies of councils, and clarifies other language in that list*
- Amendment 22-Q: G-3.0303c RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS **approved on a voice vote**  
*Authorizes presbyteries to establish minimum requirements for severance packages, temporary relationships, and certified Christian educators in terms of call*
- Amendment 22-R: G-3.0401 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Authorizes synods to enroll those serving terms in elected offices of the synod as additional members of the synod as a way to fulfill principles of participation and representation*
- Amendment 22-S: G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY **approved on a voice vote**  
*Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors*
- Amendment 22-T: W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship*
- Amendment 22-U: W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized*
- Amendment 22-V: W-3.0414 COMMUNION **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord’s Supper liturgy*
- Amendment 22-W: W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds a sentence about “signs and symbols of blessing” to the section on ordination and installation services*
- Amendment 22-X: W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition*
- Amendment 22-Y: W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship*
- Amendment 22-Z: W-5.0201 THE CHURCH’S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH **approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion**  
*Adds “discipleship” to a list of the Church’s ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity*

- Amendment 22-AA: W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE *approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion*  
Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties
- Amendment 22-BB: W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE *approved on a voice vote as part of an omnibus motion*  
Adds clarifying language in a section on “services of wholeness” to better express a Reformed understanding of those services

The Moderator thanked Elder McCloud for the Committee’s work.

Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson then led the Presbytery in a final chorus of “Wade in the Water.”

### ***Installation of Moderator Iris Wallace***

Moderator Juan Herrera led the Presbytery in a litany and prayer for the installation of Ruling Elder Iris Wallace as Moderator of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta. He declared that she was installed to this new service and presented her with the moderatorial cross.

### ***Recognition of Outgoing Moderator***

Moderator Iris Wallace recognized Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson and Stated Clerk Andy James to offer a prayer of thanks for the service of Rev. Juan Herrera as the Presbytery’s Moderator. They presented him with a replica of the moderatorial cross.

### ***Closing Hymn***

The Presbytery joined in singing “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” led by musicians from Covington First Presbyterian Church.

### ***Benediction and Adjournment***

Seeing that there was no other business, the Moderator offered a benediction, closing prayer, and meal blessing to adjourn the business meeting at 12:15 P.M. Members of the Presbytery then enjoyed a festive luncheon provided by Covington First Presbyterian Church.

C. Anderson James  
Stated Clerk

List of Attachments:

- A. Attendance Report
- B. Bulletin and Docket
- C. Executive Presbyter’s Report
- D. LoAnn Nguyen Faith Journey
- E. Victoria Robinson Faith Journey
- F. Nikki Zimmerman Faith Journey
- G. Allison Arsenaault Faith Journey
- H. Kalecia Wright Faith Journey
- I. Jeanine Fulton Faith Journey
- J. Courtney Henry Faith Journey

- K. Joan Gray Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- L. Katie Archibald-Woodward Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- M. Robert Andrew “Drew” Wilmesherr Faith Journey and Statement of Faith
- N. New Church Development Commission Report
- O. 2023 Proposed (and Approved) Budget
- P. Financial Reports as of December 31, 2023
- Q. Litany of Celebration for the Ministry of Chip Blankinship
- R. Bills and Overtures Committee Report

**Attachment A: Attendance for the February 11, 2023, Stated Meeting**

*Minister Members in Attendance (95)*

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

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



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

Kristy Ray.....	Present	Lucy Strong.....	Absent
Timothy T. Read.....	Honorably Retired	Gibson P. Stroupe.....	Honorably Retired
Holly Reimer.....	Present	Katherine B. Sundermeier.....	Absent
Benjamin Reyes.....	Honorably Retired	Norman Anthony Sundermeier.....	Absent
Arthur Reynolds.....	Honorably Retired	Erin Katrina Swenson.....	Honorably Retired
Seung-eun Rhee.....	Absent	Claude Tatro.....	Present
Katie Ricks.....	Present	Catherine E. Taylor.....	Honorably Retired
George Rinker.....	Absent	Cecelya Taylor.....	Present
Adrian Milton Riviere.....	Honorably Retired	Sharon Lynn Taylor.....	Excused
John H. Roark.....	Honorably Retired	Thomas K. Tewell.....	Honorably Retired
Kristina C. Robb-Dover.....	Absent	Jannan W. Thomas.....	Absent
Chuck Roberts.....	Present	Yolanda Evette Thompson.....	Excused
Paul Roberts.....	Absent	Peter Thornton.....	Absent
Cas Marshall Robinson.....	Honorably Retired	Rix Threadgill.....	Absent
Alex Rodgers.....	Present	Holly Tickle.....	Absent
David W. Rogers.....	Honorably Retired	Jan Tolbert.....	Excused
George O. Rogers.....	Honorably Retired	Isaac Toney-Schmitt.....	Present
Mark Dudley Rose.....	Honorably Retired	Anna George Traynham.....	Present
Michael Sanchez.....	Absent	William Blake Traynham.....	Present
Marthame Sanders.....	Present	Scott Tucker.....	Present
Joe W. Sandifer.....	Honorably Retired	Betsy Turner.....	Absent
Ivette Sanjines del Llano.....	Absent	Margaret Turney-Ayer.....	Honorably Retired
Jennie Sankey.....	Present	Jill Ulrici.....	Absent
Steven James Sankey.....	Present	Leanne VanDyk.....	Absent
Anne Sayre.....	Honorably Retired	Cheryl L. Vaughan.....	Absent
Trisha L. Senterfitt.....	Honorably Retired	Robert E. Veley.....	Honorably Retired
Seokhoon Seo.....	Absent	Rafael Viana.....	Absent
John Richard Short.....	Honorably Retired	Donald D. Wade.....	Excused
Marvin Lee Simmers.....	Honorably Retired	William B. Wade.....	Present
Irving Simon.....	Honorably Retired	Oliver Wagner.....	Present
Jeanne Simpson.....	Present	Mary Beth Walker.....	Absent
Thomas A. Sizemore.....	Honorably Retired	David Wallace.....	Present
Lyndsay L. Slocum.....	Absent	Elizabeth Waltemath.....	Excused
Donald W. Smith.....	Honorably Retired	Peter Ward.....	Excused
H. Andrew Smith.....	Honorably Retired	Marilyn Washburn.....	Honorably Retired
Sarah Smith.....	Excused	James O. Watkins.....	Honorably Retired
Theodore A. Smith.....	Absent	Mike Watson.....	Absent
Nancy Smith-Mather.....	Excused	Carrie Weatherford.....	Absent
Shelvis Smith-Mather.....	Excused	Jerry Weber.....	Absent
Emily Smith-Purcell.....	Absent	Russ Weekley.....	Present
Richard N. Sommers.....	Absent	D. Scott Weimer.....	Present
Junghoon Son.....	Absent	David D. Weitnauer.....	Honorably Retired
Soon Son.....	Honorably Retired	Alan B. Wells.....	Honorably Retired
Robert Sparks.....	Absent	Donna Wells.....	Present
Geraldine Speed.....	Honorably Retired	Dan C. West.....	Honorably Retired
Todd Speed.....	Present	John E. Westlund.....	Honorably Retired
Meda Stamper.....	Excused	John Westlund.....	Absent
Richard E. Stenhouse.....	Honorably Retired	Rachael Whaley-Pate.....	Absent
Andrew Stephens.....	Present	Shayne Wheeler.....	Absent
Mary Rebecca Stewart.....	Honorably Retired	Hodari Williams.....	Absent
Mary A. Stoops.....	Present	Emily Wilmesherr.....	Present

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

*Ruling Elder Commissioners (111, from 49 congregations)*

<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
Alpharetta	Jim Gray	Fairview	Alice Hinton
	Lynn Reiman	Fayette	Mike Blackburn
Atlanta First	(none)		George Cleek
Atlanta Taiwanese	(none)	Fellowship	(none)
Austell	Cathryn Gazaway	First Afrikan	(none)
	Tom Whitworth	Friendship	(none)
Barnesville	(none)	Good News Garden	(none)
Bethany	(none)	Good Shepherd	Melissa Broussard
Bremen First	(none)		Owen C. Harris
Buford	(none)	Grace Korean	(none)
Carrollton	Bennett A. Brown	Greenville	(none)
	Linda Handyside	Gum Creek	(none)
Central	Kathy McCloud	Hanbit	(none)
Church of the Master	Lauren Fields	Hamilton Mill	(none)
	Kendra Matthews	Hemphill Memorial	(none)
Clairmont	Kay Carr	Hillside	Alice M. Moore
	Sandy Luster	Jackson	(none)
Columbia	(none)	Johns Creek	Dawn Melin
Conyers	Ann George	Jonesboro First	Ala Bergmann
	Richard Weimar	Kairos	(none)
Covenant	Jennifer Manning	Kelley	(none)
	Karen Turney	Korean Central	(none)
Covington First	Pat Harper	Korean Community	(none)
	Bob Tabb	LaGrange First	Sue Duttera
Cristo Para Todos	(none)		Anita Holle
Crossroads	John Matthews		Jeff Todd
	Nancy Scott	Lawrenceville	Ben Davis
Dallas-Dodd	(none)		Wayne Harrison
Decatur	Mike Allen	Loyd	(none)
	Jan Bedol	Manchester First	(none)
	Lacy Bedol	McDonough	Tim Engelbracht
	Lee Danielson		Greg Hammonds
Druid Hills	(none)		Eddy Smith
Eastminster	Glen Andrews	Monroe First	James Withers
	Al Stacer	Morningside	(none)
Ebenezer Brazilian	(none)	Morrow	Joseph Floyd
Ebenezer	(none)		Romy Moriles
El Nazareno	(none)	Mount Vernon	Deborah Venizelos
Emory	(none)		David M. Hill

<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>
New Life	Gail Parker	Radcliffe	Edward McFitts
New PC of Georgia	(none)		Laverne Wyche
Newnan	Tom Moynahan	PC of Resurrection	Carrell Kallan
Norcross	Bob Norman	Rice Memorial	Dianne Bryant
North Avenue	Emily Curtin	Roswell	Lisa Wiley
	Elizabeth Gizseking	Saint Luke's	(none)
	Kameron Joelson	Shallowford	Steve Benise
North Decatur	Virginia Pribbenow		Brad Bryant
Northminster	Nicole Adams		Kenneth Livey
	Chris Barker		Kate Moore
	Sherri Bozardt		Joe Smith-Purcell
	Gwynne Shepherd	Smyrna	Arthur Vaughn
Northwest	(none)	St. Andrews	Mary Evans
Oakhurst	Kathy Nomaela		Cindy Weimer
	Jackie Randolph	Stockbridge	Terry Holmes
	Virginia Richards		Kim Seal
	Dorrie Toney	Tallapoosa	(none)
Oglethorpe	Ric Paterson	Timberridge	Leigh Harrison
Peachtree	Rick Barnes	Trinity Atlanta	Lindsey Greene
	Steve Bush		Julie Hope
	James Cross		Kristin Hunter
	Ed Easterlin		Mary-Elizabeth Jackson
	Tim Gartland		Lane Rhoden
	Liz Head		Allen Spetnagel
	Spence McClelland		Drew Timmons
	Margaret Young	Trinity Decatur	Uma Granger
Peachtree City First	Julie Reagan		Kenneth Whitehurst
	Marcia White	Westhills	Judith Paisley
Philadelphia	Jennifer Rohrbach	Westminster	Julia Johnston
Pleasant Hill	Laura Huffman		Ray Johnston
	Barbara Langdon		Wade Lipsey
	Douglas Langdon		Cindy Wood
	Marcia Miller		

*Ruling Elder Commissioners — Ex Officio/Parity*

GA Commissioners	Brad Bryant
	Cheryl Hartman
PGA Exempt Staff	Cassandra Morrow

*Corresponding Members*

El Buen Pastor Hispanic Ministry (unreadable signature)

*Visitors/Guests (25)*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Church/Organization</b>
Destiny Williams	McDonough
Marie B. Brown	Radcliffe
Peggy M. Bolton	Radcliffe
Theron Bolton	Radcliffe
J. Oscar McCloud	New York City Presbytery

Henna Davis	Radcliffe
Shirley Leaphart	Radcliffe
Phillip Davis	Radcliffe
Shari Freeman	Mt. Vernon
Anyeka Wallace	Radcliffe
Courtney Anne Henry	Pleasant Hill
Clark Simmons	Board of Pensions
Pepe Bowman	Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery Moderator
Clare Lewis	Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program
Phyllisa G. Thomas	Radcliffe
Paula Coleman	Radcliffe
Samuel L. Thomas	Radcliffe
Drew Wilmesherr	UKirk Atlanta
Dwight A. Parker	New Life
Victoria Robinson	Johns Creek
Melvin Robinson	Johns Creek
Jay Lanners	Covington First
Valerie Young	Synod of South Atlantic
Maiysa Wallace	Radcliffe
Anita Marchman	Conyers
Jeanine Fulton	Eastminster
Allison Arsenault	North Decatur
Nikki Zimmerman	Peachtree
Nicole Jiskoot	Decatur
Paul Hinton	Fairview
Katie Archibald-Woodward	North Decatur
Kalecia Wright	Atlanta First
Andrew Hill	PGA Staff
Jane Hubbard	PGA Staff
Miriam Woleder	Covington First
Anne Blankinship	Central
Shirley Wright-Davis	Trinity Decatur

*Other Excused Absences*

Faye Cashwell, Saint Luke's



*Revelation 4* by Lauren Wright Pittman, minister member of PGA and founding creative partner of *A Sanctified Art*.

8:50	Pre-Presbytery Music Prelude and Fugue in B-Flat A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN'FESTE BURG Toccata on HYFRYDOL	Alice Walker, organist J. S. Bach arr. Joel Raney Matthew F. Walicke
9:00	Opening Prayer Welcome by Host Pastor Call to Worship and Remembrance of Baptism Liturgical Dance Congregational Chorus <b>Wade in the water, wade in the water children,</b> <b>Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.</b>	Moderator Juan Herrera Neeley Lane Shirley Wright Davis New Life Presbyterian Church Dance Ministry
9:15	Declaration of Quorum Omnibus Motion (Handbook p. 13) Communications Report (Handbook p. 14-16)	Andy James

- 9:20 Executive Presbyter Report (Handbook p. 17) Aisha Brooks-Johnson
- 9:25 Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Handbook p. 18-27) Emma Neishloss  
*Examinations of Inquirers for Candidacy*
- LoAnn Nguyen, North Avenue
  - Victoria Robinson, Johns Creek
  - Nikki Zimmerman, Peachtree
  - Allison Arsenaault, North Decatur
  - Kalecia Wright, Atlanta First
  - Jeanine Fulton, Eastminster
  - Courtney Henry, Pleasant Hill
- Congregational Chorus
- Wade in the water, wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water, God’s gonna trouble the water.**
- 9:55 Examinations Commission (Handbook p. 28-34) Jeanne Simpson  
*Examinations of Candidates for Ordination*
- Katie Archibald-Woodward, Resident Assistant at Villa International
  - Drew Wilmesherr, Campus Minister at UKirk Atlanta
- 10:05 Special Music Covington First Joyful Noise Choir and Hallelujah Kids Choir  
Intergenerational Moment with Scripture: Psalm 150 Covington First Puppet Ministry  
Scriptures: Revelation 4:1-11 Aisha Brooks-Johnson  
Serrmon: “Wading in the Waters of Worship” Aisha Brooks-Johnson
- Congregational Chorus
- Wade in the water, wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water, God’s gonna trouble the water.**
- 10:30 Board of Pensions (Handbook p. 38-39) Clark Simmons
- 10:35 Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program Clare Lewis
- 10:40 Break
- 10:55 Gathering Music Covington First Carillon Handbell Choir
- 11:00 New Church Development Commission (Handbook p. 40-43) Richard Allen Farmer
- 11:10 Call for Offering, benefitting the New Church Development Commission  
Offertory Covington First Chancel Choir
- Contributions to the offering may be placed in the baskets in the narthex following the service or made online at the presbytery website or via the QR code on the final page of this bulletin.*
- Prayer of Dedication Juan Herrera
- 11:15 Operations Committee (Handbook p. 44-53) Chip Blankinship  
Introduction of Director of Finance and Property (Handbook p. 54) Jay Lanners
- 11:20 Celebration of the Ministry of Chip Blankinship Juan Herrera and Aisha Brooks-Johnson
- For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to pluck up what has been planted; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to let go.*
- So too there is a time for coming together and a time for parting. As Chip Blankinship begins the well-deserved season of retirement, we celebrate our time together and the many and varied gifts he has shared as a leader in this Presbytery.**

*Thank you, Gracious God, for leading Chip to St. Andrews Presbyterian College and to Columbia Theological Seminary, which equipped him for service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since his ordination in August 1995, Chip has served the church of Jesus Christ in parish ministry in Altamonte Springs, Florida and Lawrenceville, Georgia, and in mid-council ministry in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.*

**We give thanks to God for the teachers, mentors, and colleagues who have nurtured Chip in faith and ministry.**

*We celebrate Chip's ten years at the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta as Director of Operations and Congregational Consultant, and the many ways he has built up the body of Christ in this place.*

**Chip has provided thoughtful, compassionate, and knowledgeable servant leadership to the individuals, groups, and churches with whom he has worked. We thank God that he has been our “go-to” person on myriad topics. His God-given gifts have served Chip and the Church so well.**

*In anxious situations and difficult transitions, Chip has received the passions, fears, frustrations, and hopes of people and churches with a pastor's heart and helped them find paths forward.*

**Chip has steadily served this Presbytery with integrity, humility, and creativity. We will miss his warm and trusted presence.**

*The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta is delighted to express its profound gratitude to God for the life and ministry of the Reverend Frank Blankinship, for God's providence in bringing Chip to serve among us, and our love and affection for him as pastor, friend, and partner in ministry.*

**We are confident that God will continue to open to him fresh and exciting opportunities for Christian service in his retirement. We pray that God will uphold Chip, Anne, and their family in faith, support them in hope, and establish them in peace and joy forever. Amen.**

Congregational Chorus

**Wade in the water, wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.**

11:30 Amendments to the Constitution (Handbook p. 57-111)

Kathy McCloud

Congregational Chorus

**Wade in the water, wade in the water children,  
Wade in the water, God's gonna trouble the water.**

12:30 Installation of Moderator Iris Wallace

Moderator Juan Herrera

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

*As many of you as were baptized into Christ  
have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

**There is no longer Jew or Greek,  
there is no longer slave or free,  
there is no longer male and female;  
for all are one in Christ Jesus.**

*Lead a life worthy of the calling  
to which you have been called,  
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit  
in the bond of peace.*

*There is one body and one Spirit,  
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,*



**one Lord, one faith, one baptism,  
one God and Father of all,  
who is above all and through all and in all.**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

*We are called by God  
to be the church of Jesus Christ,  
a sign in the world today  
of what God intends for all humankind.*

**The great ends of the Church are  
the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;  
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;  
the maintenance of divine worship;  
the preservation of the truth;  
the promotion of social righteousness;  
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

INSTALLATION PRAYER

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Recognition of Outgoing Moderator

Aisha Brooks-Johnson and Andy James

12:40 Closing Hymn #339

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Benediction and Blessing

Moderator Iris Wallace

12:45 Lunch

Postlude

Alice Walker, organist  
Charles Marie Widor

Toccata from Fifth Symphony, Op. 42



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

Alice Walker, Organist, Covington First Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Juan Herrera, Moderator, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. Neeley Lane, Pastor, Covington First Presbyterian Church  
Ruling Elder Shirley Wright Davis, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Decatur  
New Life Presbyterian Church Dance Ministry  
Rev. Andy James, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. Aisha Brooks-Johnson, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Rev. Emma Neishloss, Chairperson, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Rev. Jeanne Simpson, Co-Moderator, Examinations Commission  
Puppet Ministry of Covington First Presbyterian Church  
Children's Choir of Covington First Presbyterian Church, Alicia Taylor, director  
Ruling Elder Clark Simmons, Senior Consultant, Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Ruling Elder Clare Lewis, Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program  
Carillon Handbell Choir, Covington First Presbyterian Church, Alicia Taylor, director  
Rev. Richard Allen Farmer, Moderator, New Church Development Commission  
Chancel Choir, Covington First Presbyterian Church, Alicia Taylor, director  
Rev. Chip Blankinship, Director of Operations, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Ruling Elder Jay Lanners, Member, Personnel Committee  
Ruling Elder Kathy McCloud, Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly (2022)  
Ruling Elder Iris Wallace, Moderator-Elect (2023), Presbytery of Greater Atlanta



## EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Aisha Brooks-Johnson



*And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing,*

*“You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were created.”*

*Revelation 4:9-11*

From the time I was a child, I have always loved worship. I have had the honor of experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit in Mainline worship experiences, Pentecostal spaces, Black church services and conferences, Catholic retreat centers, and in the gift of silence in Quaker meeting houses. I have often imagined that on Sunday mornings we are joining our voices with the creatures in heaven to give all praise and glory to the one true God who has made us, named us, claimed us, called us, and saved us for God’s own purpose.

Worship is the space and place to offer our communal glory to God. *Spirit Inspired Worship* is the fifth mark in our *Vital Congregations Initiative*. This reminds us that we cannot plan or participate in worship without being deeply rooted in God. Worship is not about our efforts. It is centered on being connected to God and one another so we may hear where the Spirit is leading us as we respond to God’s love with our adoration, confession, assurance, offering, sacraments, proclamation, and praise. Our *Directory for Worship*, in the *Book of Order*, encourages us to begin worship at home and in the sanctuary of our hearts as we learn to worship God in spirit and in truth, no matter where we find ourselves.

For the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday, Andy James and I were invited to participate in worship leadership for an ecumenical service in partnership with our Lutheran, Methodist, and Episcopal siblings as well as other members of the community. The diversity of gifts, music, culture, and worship expressions was a reflection of all God’s children offering praise for God’s glory, honor, and power among us. Spirit inspired worship encounters carry us forward so that our daily living may bring God glory through our words and actions.

May our next presbytery gathering be a time of worship that fills our hearts with hope, stirs us to listen ever more closely to the Spirit’s leading, and inspires us as we lead God’s people on the journey of faith and service.

Much love and deep peace,

ABJ

#YouAreVital #YouAreLoved





**Biography of LoAnn Nguyen**

I grew up in a poor village in Vietnam. I never heard or knew about God till my second year of college. I met an American missionary family in Hanoi who told me about Jesus. Then their God became my God and I began working for Samaritan's Purse Vietnam and later for business. I became active at a church in Hanoi in different areas of teaching and leading while successfully pursuing a career in business. I loved my work and interfaith in the business world. In 2010, an American friend whom I met in Hanoi, told me about Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) in Decatur, Georgia, where I could be spiritually equipped to return to business. It took me three years of seeking God's will, but I finally surrendered my life and came to the USA to be equipped for ministry at CTS. Being a stranger in a new country was much harder than I could have imagined or expected. I fell into depression because of culture shock, loneliness, language barriers, and other things. Through God's grace, mercy, and help as well as that of my mentor, I survived. While I was an international student at the seminary, God called me to do ministry with fellow international students. I started the International Student Ministry at CTS. In 2014, I visited North Avenue Presbyterian Church and felt in love with their biblical teachings and loving community. In May 2016, when I graduated from CTS with a Master of Divinity degree, God still strongly called me to serve Him with international students. He patiently affirmed me day by day while I did an internship with the Atlanta Ministry with International Students. In addition, He revealed to me that more than a million international students are in the USA and 60-80% of them have never heard about Jesus. Then in May 2017, I accepted a call to serve God in the International Student Ministry through InterVarsity at Emory University.

Victoria Robinson  
Faith Journey  
September 2022

I am a lifelong Presbyterian and grew up going to Johns Creek Presbyterian Church each week, dressed in my Sunday best (which for me included ruby red sparkly shoes and ruffled socks) while proudly carrying my Bible around in its flowery case. My parents raised me in the church, where I was baptized at four months old, confirmed in the seventh grade, and married in July 2020; in short, I have never known a life without church in it. My understanding of faith and my call to ministry started at a young age as I was an active member in children's Sunday school and youth group. I remember some of my Sunday school teachers and youth mentors telling me I would be a pastor someday. I thought they were crazy! It's funny to look back at all the times someone said, "Victoria, you're going to seminary, right?" or "You'd make a great preacher!" and realize they knew of my calling before I did.

Growing up in the church, however, I was pretty much under the impression to believe everything anyone taught me, and it wasn't until college when I really started digging into tough questions and finding myself through faith formation, where I was the one 'in charge' of my own beliefs. I went to Furman University, a small liberal arts college, and majored in music and religion. My musical passion is playing the trumpet, and my religious passion, I have learned, is helping others grow in their faith, whatever that looks like. While at Furman, I was a member and then president of UKirk, the PCUSA campus ministry, which led me to visit churches in the Greenville area. As a result, I got a nursery job at First Presbyterian Church of Greer. I didn't know it then, but FPCG quickly became a pivotal part of my faith journey. While working at FPCG throughout college, it became clear to me that this line of work was where I was being called. Everything seemed to be aligning from what I was learning in my religion classes to what I was experiencing in my job. From nursery worker to 'Wee-Kirk' Sunday school teacher, to summer intern and in 2020, after graduating, becoming the Director of Youth Ministry, I have found a real passion working with people of all ages and helping them find out *who* they are and *whose* they are.

I am so thankful for my experiences of faith formation at FPCG and while I have seen the value and purpose in church work, I also have seen the immense struggles of a church leader. I was working during the COVID-19 pandemic, and obviously this brought uncertainties and worries. Through those uncertain times, I recognized that people wanted to cling to what felt 'normal' and 'comfortable' for them. For some people, the church was that safe space and they wanted to hear uplifting sermons telling them how everything will be okay. I can relate this type of thinking to how I thought while growing up in the church and believing everything anyone said. But through my own reflection, I know this thinking will not bring us to action. And isn't that what God calls us to do? I have begun asking more and more 'why' questions as of late, and I can thank Columbia Theological Seminary for encouraging my questions and helping me to articulate my questions better.

I know my faith journey to be a lifelong process. I can relate this to the Presbyterian USA church, where we often say we are ‘reformed and always reforming’ in our theological beliefs and understandings. Because my faith journey is lifelong, I also think there must be an actionable component to this work. Currently, I am working as the seminary intern at North Decatur Presbyterian Church as part of my Supervised Ministry requirement for CTS. After only a few weeks of working, I know North Decatur to be an action-based church, craving real changes in this world. They work hard to uphold the PCUSA values of affirming LGBTQIA+ people, dismantling racism, trusting women, welcoming all, and loving their neighbors. This is my faith journey, and I am both excited and anxious to see what comes next.

Nikki Zimmermann  
Faith Journey

If my faith has been one specific journey, then it has most resembled the climb that is Mt. Kilimanjaro. Etched into my memory from my own haphazard crawl up the mountain is the irrationally diverse terrain that unfolded before us each and every day. On day one, a lush, sprawling forest revealed itself to us while the next was characterized by cracked, dry desert. On and on we climbed, from alpine desert to arctic summit, witnessing the unfolding of seemingly every climate zone between and beyond these two.

Similarly, this journey of faith upon which I have embarked has sported distinct and diverse seasons through the chapters of my life. The years of my childhood were rife with the paradoxical pulls of desire for faith and, simultaneously, shame. For nearly two decades, I believed both that I wanted to be in relationship with God while also thinking that my passionate personality presented a stumbling block for faithfulness. Throughout my childhood, adolescence, and youngest adulthood, I wafted through seasons of intimacy with God that were somehow also infused with a sense of shame, contorting myself to fit into a cramped mold of what I thought a good Christian woman should be: sweetly soft spoken and warm agreeability. For this reason, I kept faith at arm's distance for many years, never feeling that this landscape allowed me to be me in my fullest and most whole self.

Little did I know that this terrain would turn itself inside out during my two years in the Teach for America program. During those two grueling years, faith became my refuge; prayer my constant companion; worship my lifeline. And, as lay people and theologians alike have noted throughout the arc of human history, it was in and through those two grueling years—those dark nights of the soul—that my faith erupted into vibrancy. But despite the electricity that accompanied this newfound love, I was still being asked to contort myself into a convoluted version of myself for the sake of the comfortability of the community of faith where I worshiped. Along with the robust pastoral support they provided to me in and through these turbulent years, this small nondenominational church leaned upon a Biblical hermeneutic that emphasized traditional gender roles. I was instructed that my God-given passion was a God-given test to see just how God-ordained submissive I could become. Watching an impassioned women preacher was the catalyst toward my application to seminary and, thus, the step onto the most foreign ground that I had yet to experience.

Seminary was, without a doubt, the alpine desert: the ground was charred, yet some of the world's rarest creatures call it home. Within a month of my classes and conversations with my cradle-to-grace-Presbyterian-peers, the pillars upon which my faith once stood disintegrated before me. From Job's opening Hebrew phrase to the two creation stories in Genesis 1 and 2, the Bible seemed—for a moment—to have been snatched away from me. For my first year, the ground below my feet presented cracked, dry ground where it seemed that no life could and would flourish. As the months passed and my relationships with my professors deepened, I was awakened to the possibility of life where it had once seemed improbable. In the end, the rarest of organisms revealed itself to me in this land: a faith that is not threatened by paradoxes, but is strengthened by their complexities.

And thus leads us to the current chapter of my faith: serving at Covenant Presbyterian Church. The land here is lush, but it is not perfect. My faith here has resembled much of the paradoxical pulls of seminary—finding life in a strange land—but while doing so in community with folks who share similar worldviews and values. In this season, I've relied heavily upon spiritual disciplines and routine: quiet time, no-technology hours, carved out contemplative space. For the first time in my life, I have dedicated a space in my living area to these practices, a nook in the corner of my attic apartment that I call my prayer chair. When I sit each morning, sometimes I listen, sometimes I read, sometimes I pray aloud. And sometimes, every so often, I glimpse the rarest animal off at a distance on the mountain's crest.

I grew up in PC(USA) congregations around the country. As my family moved every few years, the local Presbyterian Church was always the first place where we found community. As a child, my experience of church dominated much of my life from memorizing Bible verses, attending church camp, and writing “practice” sermons after Sunday service. I had many opportunities to see the larger church at work as co-moderator of my Presbytery’s Youth Connection Council and as a delegate at Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Beyond this active participation, I yearned for more, especially the depth of learning that would come from joining the church as an adult member. Going through confirmation class at age 13 was my first introduction to the study of theology, and the questions of faith and belief I wrestled with 20 years ago have underlined my search for meaning and purpose ever since.

As a college student, I was adamant I would not pursue courses in Religious Studies - I was afraid of challenging, and thus losing, my faith. This was somewhat a self-fulfilling prophecy as I found myself in an Intro to Religious Studies class my sophomore year. In learning about other faiths, I became disillusioned with Christianity. But in conversations with peers of other religious traditions, I envied how easily they shared the parts of their tradition that called them to serve others and work toward justice, the pieces that infused their life with meaning. Because I spent so much time being critical of Christianity during my college years, I wasn’t able to recall anything within my tradition that I held personally meaningful.

I embarked, then, on a process of reconstruction in my senior year and beyond. I studied Christian social justice movements, liberation theologies, and signed up for a Young Adult Volunteer year. My year spent as a YAV in Nashville showed me the goodness of the Church and the way the Church can be influential both in the lives of people and the life of the community. I was able to articulate the things about my faith that mattered to me - the call to radical hospitality, caring for the least of these, and justice for the marginalized.

It was this renewed energy for my Christian faith and the work of the Church that allowed me to hear God’s call to seminary. In my years at Candler School of Theology, I struggled to connect what I was learning in the classroom with a practical, lived theology. Depression and fear led me to avoid that which I came to seminary to find - meaning and purpose through Christian ministry.

After graduation, I worked in nonprofit fundraising for organizations in the Atlanta area. Due in large part to my dissatisfaction in these jobs and a nagging feeling that God wasn’t done with me yet, I spent a year doing Clinical Pastoral Education while working full-time. Despite CPE being the hardest thing I’ve ever done in my life, it was exactly what I needed. It was the practical engagement and application of theology that I craved in seminary. It was the opportunity to understand my faith in new, deeply meaningful ways. And it was the chance to finally, once in for all, stop avoiding ministry and try it on for real.

What developed over those months was a renewed perspective on God, ministry, call, purpose and much more. I recognize that I’ve been either blessed or cursed with many twists and turns in my pursuit of vocation, which has led me into my current work as a program manager at Forum for Theological Exploration. In this role, I have the opportunity to accompany young adults who are asking the same questions I did throughout my formative years. Every day, I see God’s mystery, grace, and work in the world through the inspiring people I encounter.

In addition to my involvement at North Decatur Presbyterian Church, I also serve on the Board of Directors of Memorial Drive Ministries and on the Alumni Board of my alma mater, Millsaps College. Beyond my faith and vocational journey, I have seen God at work in my personal life. My husband, Matt, and I met here in Atlanta during my graduate school years and married in 2016. This year we welcomed our first daughter, Coralie Grace, and fulfilled perhaps the greatest call of my life. What I look forward to most is introducing her to the love of God, the faith of her ancestors, and the experience of Christian community.



*“There is something in every one of you that waits and listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself. It is the only true guide you will ever have. And if you cannot hear it, you will all your life spend your days on the ends of strings that somebody else pulls.”*

*-Howard Thurman*

The words of the late Howard Thurman embody the crux of my faith journey. Having been born into a Black Baptist religious tradition, I grew up under the fiery strings of hellfire and brimstone. The “good” God that my grandmother served was the same God I thought was cruel, disconnected from the world, and did little to bring me peace. Rather, this God stirred up malice in the hearts of men and left little girls like me, as unprotected as Ruth before she was plucked by her kinsman. By the time I was twenty, I had experienced several traumas including sexual molestation, the divorce of my biological parents, and my sister only two years my senior died from a tumultuous battle with cancer at the age of twenty-two. I was all tapped out of being faithful; whatever that was.

At the onset of turning twenty-one, I had managed to marry. Following family tradition, I subsequently became the mother of two beautifully inspiring children. However, the religious folk of my mother’s generation had little advice on how to keep a healthy marriage. After a grueling decade, I found myself divorced, financially unstable, raising children primarily on my own, and for the first time realized I had lived as a “functional” alcoholic for longer than I cared to admit. I was stumbling through life. That was until I began to experience the revelation of God in my life.

I can best describe my inclination towards Christ as a relentless and polarizing magnetism up and out of the deep, dark, pit I had been living. Consciously deciding to strip my negative concept of God to imagine a world of forgiveness, empathy, and compassion. As much as I wanted to let go of the hurt, I had endured; I had carried it so long, I did not know if I would survive without the pain. Slowly, and intentionally, I felt God meeting me in places I least expected and speaking through people I called strangers. These encounters led me to myself and that is where I met the God I have come to know, love, and rely. The illumination of Jesus the Christ within me and the source of light that saved me is what led me on a quest for spiritual fulfillment.

As a matter of Theology, I have learned it is insufficient to declare the goodness of God without acknowledging the trauma, turmoil, and depravity of the human experience. Furthermore, to absolve God of any culpability during these difficult experiences; particularly when a faith tradition makes claims that God is all powerful; diminishes the revelation and presence of God. The intersection of trauma and goodness is where my faith journey has led me thus far. It is the way I make sense of all the “bad” that took place in my life and that has grips on the world. But the meaning making is not meant to dismiss the reality of harsh consequences in this life in trade for eschatological promises.

Thus, the genuine in yourself as Thurman describes, is tantamount to the very essence of who God is. So then if I cannot hear it (*God*), I am bound to that which I wish not. Today, my life and the pursuit of this great call is but a small measure of the faithfulness I embody. The true gift, is having the freedom to hold on to “self”, yet choosing to surrender to something greater.

### C. Jeanine Fulton Autobiographical Statement

Throughout my life, I have been afforded the opportunity to have multiple roles: adjunct college professor, piano teacher, beauty industry consultant, business owner, and care giver. While the roles were fulfilling and rewarding, I always felt called to do something different, something more. After hearing the call to ministry while caring for my parents who were ill, I began the MAPT program at Columbia. Immediately, I felt as though I'd finally found a place where I belonged. The internal call to ministry had led me to the right place to discern my new role.

Since graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary in 2019, God has allowed me to use my gifts and talents to create a unique edutainment space for Christian Education. Through my website, CJeanine.com, I've facilitated women's retreats, taught Bible studies, created weekly inspirational Facebook posts, performed stand up Christian comedy for multiple churches, served as a substitute musician for church services, and begun writing a Christian non-fiction self-help book for women. Currently I'm working at Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain, GA as the director of spiritual formation. At Eastminster I teach Sunday school, assist with the pastoral care needs of the church, preach at least once a month, lead Wednesday night programs, plan trips and special events. I am also enrolled at Columbia Theological as a full-time student working toward a Master of Divinity degree.

My goals are to always bring God's message of hope and to encourage people in their faith walk. People have indeed encouraged me through mine. Since being at Eastminster I've heard the external call to pastor from multiple church members. God is graciously allowing me to work in an area that I absolutely love, an area that fits. I welcome this lifelong commitment and look forward to serving as a minister of the Word and Sacrament in a pastoral role.

## Faith Journey Statement Courtney Henry

For my entire life I have called Atlanta and its suburbs home. I grew up nourished by eating Fellini's pizza every Mother's Day, experienced joy in cheering on the Jackets at home Georgia Tech football games, staring in wonder at the holiday lights at Lake Lanier every Christmas, and importantly, grew in faith between the pews at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church.

For most of my life, I have considered the church to be a place of not only comfort but one of joy and celebration. I often reflect upon how lucky I am to have grown up in a progressive church that has strived to welcome people from all walks of life, backgrounds, identities, and beliefs to its pews. I grew up as an active member at Pleasant Hill Presbyterian where I was baptized as an infant, confirmed in eighth grade, and later on ordained as a ruling elder the summer before my senior year of high school. During this time, I could be found doing everything from participating in local mission with Family Promise, to creatively serving in Youth Sunday, jumping at every chance to attend a conference at Montreat (I still do), and even interning for a year as part of the Gwinnett County QUEST Gifted Internship Program. My childhood and youth years in the church are true highlights of my life which have helped to shape who I am today

My first summer in college I had the privilege of interning for Memphis Youth Mission (part of Youth Mission Co). I had opportunity week after week to work alongside people who were experiencing homelessness, communities with food insecurity, and new faith traditions. As the summer wore on, I began to not only learn the names of my new city neighbors but learn their stories. Their stories of how the racially discriminatory systems in the United States had failed them. Stories of children who have big dreams but are unsupported by the education system. Story after story that not only challenged my world view but taught me to sit in discomfort and reconsider my own privileges in the world.

My sophomore year of college I joined the Episcopal Campus Ministry, an organization where I would later serve as President my senior year. Serving in that role was incredibly joyful but also difficult. As an openly out lesbian, my leadership was questioned by my campus peers as GCSU is situated in the middle of the conservative Bible Belt. Coming into this position, I knew that I would be faced with criticism, but I was quite unprepared for those closest to me to voice their concerns about a gay person also holding the identity of "Christian." I was seen as an outsider and one not worthy of God's calling to ministry.

I would then go on to begin seminary at Columbia in the fall of 2020. Columbia had been a long-time goal of mine ever since high school where one of my Montreat Youth Conference small group leaders (a current Columbia student at the time) left a lasting impression on me. My start to seminary was unlike what I had ever imagined as the pandemic forced the institution to make the decision for all of us to begin our degrees online rather than coming to campus. For an entire year we learned at a distance rather than in community with one another. However, when we were finally granted the ability to come to campus in the fall of 2021, I found myself being swept up in the joy of meeting friends in person, joining Imago Dei (the queer student group) and taking leadership within it, getting to know my professors, and feeling the joy of sitting in the classroom again.

All while getting to experience the joy of being in person at Columbia, I worked for a year at Ormewood Church for my Supervised Ministry. I fell utterly in love with this small East Atlanta congregation where I got to learn about NCDC, serve as a youth leader, regularly read and wrote liturgy, and even had the opportunity to explore creative means of liturgical arts through silk banner painting and photography. Ormewood was a life changing and soul-fulfilling internship so much so that I continue to worship regularly with them despite my internship having formally ended.

Lastly, and most recently, I have completed my CPE internship at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (Egleston). Not knowing much about CPE before I entered the program, I quickly found myself experiencing a life-giving joy unlike anything else as I quickly felt at home serving as a pediatric chaplain intern. Working at CHOA gave me an entirely new perspective on what community and pastoral care looks like so much so that I now dream of returning for residency one day post-graduation from Columbia. I am grateful every day for all of the children I got to know and my mentor who always encouraged me to be brave in taking on new challenges in the every day.

Faith Journey  
Joan S. Gray

I probably “came to faith” in the womb because I was born to a devout Christian mother who, if prayer counts for anything, had my name on the glory roll before I was born. I never remember a time when God and church (Baptist) were not front and center in our lives. This was in spite of the fact that I have no memory of my father ever stepping foot into the church except when me or my sisters were in the spotlight for some reason. Even this stopped after a while, but Mom persevered. My two sisters and I were active in everything offered to us in church, accepted Christ as our Savior, and were baptized by immersion – me at age eight.

I got out of the Baptist church as soon as I could, but I will say that many good gifts came to me from that communion. One was memorizing scripture. Starting at age seven I participated in church programs that encouraged and rewarded regular Bible reading and memorization of chapters of the Bible. By the time I left for college I had a well of scripture deep inside of me. It bubbles to the surface to this day. It also came in very handy when I had to take the Bible Content Exam and in pastoral ministry through the years.

My life was very much shaped by my three-year sojourn at Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC. I fell in love with Presbyterian-style religion and never went back. I am deeply thankful to men like Tom Stallworth, Pete Hay, and especially my advisor, Jim Skinner. When I came to talk with Dr. Skinner about changing my major, he suggested I consider a religion major because “the church needs people who can think.” I also met my husband there, and second to becoming a Christian, he is the best thing that ever happened to me.

We came to Atlanta in 1973 for graduate school. In January of my senior year at Columbia Seminary I started preaching every Sunday for about 40 people that today would probably be called a “new worshiping community.” The Presbytery of Georgia (UPCUSA) shut us down about a year later, and I was without call for a year. Then I became pastor of a small country church an hour from Atlanta and was ordained there in 1978. Since that time I have served in two ten-year installed pastorates and done twelve interims. My most recent call was as interim executive presbyter of Cherokee Presbytery.

In retirement I am looking forward to serving on the presbytery Pastor-to-Pastor team in the new year. I enjoy supply preaching, and I teach some at North Avenue Presbyterian where my husband is a member. He wants to see the world before he dies, so we travel a lot. I also am the family member responsible for overseeing the care of my 94 year old father who is at Presbyterian Village. I have very much enjoyed being a volunteer in the ministry to people without housing at First Presbyterian Atlanta.

No matter what happens in the future I know that the God who has brought me safe thus far will take me safely home.

Thanks be to God. Amen

## **FAITH STATEMENT**

**Joan S. Gray**

Growing up, I learned in home and church that God knew me and had business with me. It was personal. So before understanding, before commitment, before theology, before words, God was a presence in my life and a force to be reckoned with. I have experienced God in many good things including beauty, calling, blessed human relationships, and provision for my needs. But our relationship has grown and deepened most when life threw me down and stomped on me or took away what I treasured or when I shot myself in the foot and had to suffer the consequences. Through all this I have found God to be faithful, though not always in ways I would have preferred or predicted. I believe that instead of giving me what I want, God is at work weaving all things together for good somehow. The Bible and history tell me that there are a lot of other people who have experienced this too. This faith does not make everything easy, but it does mean I know there is solid ground under my feet and a place to go when my back is against the wall.

I believe the Word became flesh and did all the things the scriptures tell about so that I and everyone else can have this relationship with God. The more I come to recognize my own failings, the more I understand what Jesus has done and why. In these later years, I have reappropriated the blood of Jesus (which we sang about ad nauseum in the Baptist church) as a comfort and an assurance that nothing can separate us from God, not even our own sloth, self-centeredness, hatefulness, and cold-heartedness. "Under the blood of Jesus" is a very powerful phrase for me and at times is the main thing holding me back from despair about myself and the world. How can we ever be cut off from God if the Son of God went to all that trouble for us?

The promise of Jesus that is closest to my heart is in Luke 11:13: "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask?" The Spirit is the power source that makes the life of faith possible. Without the Spirit, it's all just a do-it-yourself religious project. Jesus did everything by the Spirit and expects us to do the same. No matter how hard we try to live a Godly life, without the Spirit we fail. When the Holy Spirit is in the mix, things happen that are abundantly far more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Which brings me to the Church. I believe the Church was meant to be a God-powered partnership working toward the end that God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. God-powered means that the Holy Spirit guides us where we need to go, provides resources that we do not have, and in the process of all this is at work transforming us, individually and corporately, into the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). I am grieved that many churches do not live intentionally in the Spirit, but instead settle for what they can do with their own human strength, wisdom, and resources. I want to spend the rest of my ministry encouraging Christians to open themselves to everything God has for us.

I also believe in the tenants of the Apostle's Creed (including the Virgin Birth) and would be glad to talk about that if anyone is interested.

Faith Journey  
Katie Archibald-Woodward

Since birth, Christianity has been woven into the fabric of my life. I had my first spiritual experience at the age of 5, where I felt God's presence. Since then, through thick and thin, closeness and disconnect, I have found God to be persistent in being my loving companion, friend, support and guide.

I grew up simultaneously attending a Presbyterian Church(USA) (where I was baptized as an infant) and a United Church of Christ congregation (where I was confirmed). My parents decided it was more important for them to participate in communities that resonated with their expressions of faith than participate in one community together. This was a rich and wonderful opportunity for me because from a young age I experienced a variety of theologies of God, expressions of faith, and responses to that faith in relationship with God.

The values of openness, inclusivity, mystery, wonder and discernment have remained with me since those formative years. When I graduated from Willamette University with my Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, I knew I wanted to continue learning, and found my way to Columbia Seminary. I was drawn to the Southeast because I wanted to live in a new part of the country and learn more about African American experiences, racial reconciliation, human rights, and nurturing a harmonious society. I also knew I wanted to be ordained in the Presbyterian denomination, largely because of my admiration for my great, great, great, great grandfather, John Rankin, who was a Presbyterian minister, abolitionist, and significant participant in the underground railroad. It was deeply important to me to carry on this family legacy of clergy focused on justice, liberation, human dignity and equity, and now that I am doing this, I feel a confirming fullness and restfulness within me.

While in seminary, I studied abroad at Bossey, the Ecumenical Institute for the World Council of Churches in Switzerland, which influenced the course of the rest of my life. At Bossey I met a Palestinian Christian who introduced me to the contemporary realities in the Holy Land. That experience motivated me to further understand the current struggles, get involved in education and advocacy concerning the region within the PC(USA) and create opportunities for more Americans, particularly Christians, to learn the critical history not included in most formal Christian education settings.

It was also during seminary that I was introduced to spiritual direction. My life was transformed by the opportunity to fully express my spiritual experiences and questions, be deeply listened to and lovingly supported, and all on a consistent basis. I discovered how powerful these dynamics were for deepening and expanding one's life and relationship with God. I knew I wanted to offer this to others and so I pursued my Certification in Spiritual Companionship with the Shalem Institute.

To my great delight I have now found a place where the confluence of my gifts and experiences are needed and whole-heartedly welcomed. As the Resident Assistant at Villa International, I get to nurture hospitality, healing, and communal wellbeing in a magnificent microcosm of the world. This is the most wondrous calling and I am thrilled to do so on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in the Synod of the South Atlantic.

## Statement of Faith

Katie Archibald-Woodward

I believe in God, the loving, creating, triune Presence who has brought all into being. Who connects all things in beautiful rhythm and harmony. Whose very essence is woven into the fabric of all life. Who forms and reforms, ever redeeming and making all things new and free, that all may be their true essence as made the image of God: Love.

I believe in Jesus the Christ, the unique and universal embodiment of God's Presence in human form. Who bears witness, through his life, death and resurrection, to the loving promise and invitation for all to enjoy living our Christ nature: in union with God. To enjoy the life discovered by living out Jesus' teachings and example—as teachers, healers, justice-makers, creators, and bearers of the Good News of unconditional love and life abundant.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the wondrous, wise source of connection, awareness, and inspiration. Who enables people to understand each other beyond spoken language, who reminds us of our divine nature within our human form, and enables us to know and communicate with the Creator of our lives.

I believe in baptism, the magnificent sign and seal of unconditional love and belonging to God. Baptism embodies the affirmation that we are wholly embraced, before any merit or commitment of our own, and rather by the grace of simply being created and existing within the family of things.

I believe in communion, the mysterious meal, both simple and sacred, that affirms through cup, the eternal welcome of God, and through bread, the enduring nourishment for the living of our lives.

I believe in the Bible as the holy Word of God to help guide, nurture, and illuminate our lives. I believe in its stories and wisdom to provide revelation and testimony to who God is, who we are, and how to live in relationship with all, for the fullness of life and thriving of us all.

I believe in the Church, the community of faith with whom we discover, grow, and transform as we live into the promise of the kingdom of God on Earth. Together we deepen in love, open to dreams, live into visions, practice justice, hospitality, mercy, and forgiveness, and are liberated into an experience of greater and greater life.

## Drew Wilmesherr Faith Journey

I'm a cradle-presbyterian and pastors' kid, so I've never been far away from the church doors. This means that my faith has been this ever-present part of my life that I practiced and rehearsed for much of my childhood. When I was in high school, my faith exploration became more ecumenical as I was encouraged to be a part of a congregation at which my parents were not serving as ministers. My parents wanted me to experience my faith formation without the expectations of being the pastors' kid. I helped lead worship music with the methodist youth group down the street from my house as a teenager. It was there I was introduced to the concept of leading others in their own faith formation. I was a part of a team that took seriously the notion of putting theology in the minds and mouths of my friends as we sang songs about God. What was it we were actually saying? Was it faithful? Was it helpful? Was there anything harmful in the ideas we were putting to fun melodies?

In college I pursued education around music production and the recording industry while I also volunteered at the Presbyterian Student Fellowship at Middle-Tennessee State University. Rev. John Westlund was my campus minister. He invited me to put together worship services much like I had been doing, but he also invited me to create music that spoke to our time and place as college students trying to articulate our faith independent of our home churches and families. It was during this time I realized the power of community-building through shared experiences. Even beyond music and fellowship, we formed an identity unique to our campus yet under the umbrella of the church universal and the PC(USA). I learned to engage more with scripture and to see where I could find the similarities in my day-to-day life in the passages within the Bible. I learned how to talk about my faith in ways that could be understood outside of the church, and I learned how to honor the faith of others even when it looked so different from my own.

After college, my time in seminary felt like reverse engineering my faith and theology. I took apart everything I believed and examined it, I examined myself, and I learned how to put it all back together. I learned more about my own learning style in seminary and how to humbly accept how little I actually know. During this time, I interned as a youth director and worship leader. I learned how to educate and tried to inspire curiosity.

After seminary, I found my continued love of campus ministry in a part-time assistant leadership position in UKirk Atlanta working with Rev. Sarah Hooker. She and I worked together on weekly gatherings, retreats, and service projects. We worked on campus outreach and community development. We did a number of fundraising campaigns, and we even navigated ministry through quarantine conditions during the pandemic.

Having experienced such crucial personal development through my college years, I have such a tender place in my soul for college students. The joys and pains of emerging adulthood, the self-discovery of independence, the setbacks of failure and the growth that comes from perseverance. It took me eight years to complete my undergrad degree but only three years to complete my M.Div. Because of this, I like to tell my students that I know how to get through college. My wisdom was hard-earned. The unchanging constant throughout my life and education has been the community of faith. At times, it has been the only source of stability. I feel a responsibility to help facilitate that same community of faith for students at a time when their schedules, their peer groups, their families, and even their housing can change every three-to-six months. If at least one thing can remain constant in their lives, I would like it to be the present of the church, even if it only looks like a campus minister coming to visit their campus twice a week.

As I seek to lead students in their faith, I maintain faith practices of my own through prayer, regular engagement with scripture, and personal reorienting through daily meditations and devotionals. I also currently see a pastoral and clinical counselor once a week to maintain my emotional health so that I can be present and available to my students.

I am excited to see how my faith journey continues as my professional and personal life continues to change.



## **Drew Wilmesherr Statement of Faith**

I believe in the Creator God, creative and good in every sense of the word, who looked out at Nothing and said, "I can work with that." I believe God created the world and all within it, proclaiming it Good.

I believe humanity was tempted and through our disobedience sin entered the world. I believe that sin means rejecting reality as God made it and assuming the position of God; an arrogance to believe we can do better on our own. I believe God desires a living relationship with humanity and was willing to overcome the corruptive nature of sin to keep that relationship alive.

I believe Jesus, the Son of God, is God's answer to sin; not that we are bad people made good but rather we are separated people reconciled back to God. I believe Jesus was both human and divine and managed to reconcile all of creation, past and present, living and dead, humanity and divinity. I believe in the birth, life, work, death, and ultimately resurrection of Jesus Christ as the example and the path to follow. I believe that it is Jesus' resurrection from death, in particular, that reconciles all of humanity back to God.

I believe in the Holy Spirit of God working as the counselor and advocate on our behalf and the behalf of all who need liberation from oppression, whether social, political, or spiritual. I believe the Holy Spirit is at work in the world, beckoning us to follow and join in the creative and redemptive work of God and Jesus Christ to see God's will on Earth the same way God's will is done in Heaven.

I believe in God the Creator, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit as the mysterious and inexplicable Trinity that is God.

I believe the whole of human experience can be found in the First and Second (Old and New) Testament Scriptures. I believe the Word of God can be found and understood within and through the Scriptures with the help of the Holy Spirit, sincere communal engagement with the scriptures, and humble study that seeks wisdom and not just confirmation.

I believe that God created us for holy community to support one another in our faith development, protect and take care each other, and make each other better. I believe the Church universal is called to be that holy community through communal study of scripture, advocating and providing for each other's physical and emotional care, and holding each other accountable.

I believe that Baptism and Communion are not merely physical practices but holy and mysterious sacraments of our active faith that should be taken seriously and with reverence.

I believe Baptism is the outward symbol of the Holy Spirit's inward work on our lives. Just as Jesus was baptized at the beginning of his ministry on Earth, so we too are baptized into the life of the Church and family and Kingdom of Heaven. I believe it is the symbol of the new birth we have as children of God as well as a symbol of the cleansing and redemption we are afforded through Christ.

I believe Communion is a communal celebration of the life and community of believers as we gather to a point of unity around the table. I believe the eucharist elements remind us of the unity we have internally with Jesus, the bread and the wine, the body and the cup of salvation, nourishing us and becoming a part of us like the Holy Spirit nourishes are discipleship and becomes a part of who we are in our identity.

**New Church Development Commission (NCDC)**

**For Information:**

NCDC is pleased to report faithful and steady work of leaders and partners throughout this Presbytery. For a **2022 year in review**, please know that you have equipped new worshipping communities and their leaders to thrive by providing the following startup services:

**LINCSS** (*pronounced links*):

**L – Leadership Coaching:** 271 hours

**I – Infrastructure Development Support**

- Obtain **501c3 status:** 6 New Worshipping Communities (NWCs)
- NWCs with a current 501c3 letter on file: 18 NWCs
- Establish and Manage **Online Giving** Links: 9 NWCs
- Provide **Financial Oversight:** 14 NWCs
- Startup **Payroll** Services: 31 NWC leaders
- Homeland Security **Visas:** 9
- Financial **Policy Development:** 3 NWCs
- Open **Bank Accounts:** 3 NWCs
- Receive and Process **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:** 1 NWC

**N - Networking Events:** 3

- Additionally, 3 new church partner relationships brokered

**C – Church Consulting:** 205 hours

**S - Startup Training**

- 29 workshops, 2 retreats offered

**S - Strategic Grants**

- # of NCDC grants awarded: 17, totaling **\$249,400**
- # of additional facilitated grants: 29, totaling \$419,200
- **Total Number of Grants: 46**
- **Total Grant Money: \$668,600**

**New Worshiping Community (NWC) and NWC Leader Grant Recipients:**

Adore Brazilian PC  
Atlanta Oikos  
Atlanta Good Church  
Casa Brasil PC  
Convergence Church  
El Buen Pastor  
El Nazareno PC

Faith Studio  
Iglesia Horeb PC  
Junction Ministries  
La Esperanza PC  
On the Way PC  
Ormewood  
WAYS

Angela Wyatt  
Armandee Drew  
Benjamin Reyes  
Chris Drew  
Corey Lee  
Eben Alonge  
Fabiana Araujo  
Gina Brown  
Jade Lee

Jenelle Holmes  
Liz Johnson  
Nick Johnson  
Noemi Reyes  
Rafael Viana  
Ricardo Lira  
Sam Kim  
Wilson Fernandez Junior  
Yeonkwon Jeong

**Upcoming Highlight:**  
It's conference time!



*What's the*  
**SECRET SAUCE?**

Featuring:

- 1001 New Worshiping Communities
- The New Church Development Commission
- The Accents

April 25-27, 2023  
North Avenue Presbyterian Church

The U.S. is undergoing two slow motion demographic turning points, both of which will be fully realized within 7 years.

- a. First, by 2030, all baby boomers will be retirement age (65 and older), and 1 out of every 5 Americans is projected to be retirement age.
- b. Second, because of population aging, immigration is projected to overtake natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) as the primary driver of population growth for the country.

For the church, this means we need fantastic ministries for older adults; it also means that the face of church growth is the immigrant church.

***What's the Secret Sauce?*** is a conference designed to lead us in engaging the second of those two demographic changes: celebrating and *skillfully* welcoming new immigrant churches and leaders. We hope you'll join us!

When?

*April 25-27, 2023*

Where?

*North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta*

*Sponsored by Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and the Presbyterian Mission Agency.*

*Register [here](#) or via the NCDC or PGA website.*

### **New Worshiping Community Highlight: Convergence Church Co-Pastors: Corey and Jade Lee**

Both established pastors, Corey and Jade Lee are Presby-curious, having begun their exploration of the PCUSA and their work with the NCDC through their connections with Crossroads Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain, the Reverend Dr. Richard Allen Farmer, and Fuller Theological Seminary.

Together, Jade and Corey are loving spouses, engaged neighbors, and dedicated parents to Sarah-Elizabeth, Samuel-Emmanuel, Alexxus, and Corey II. Corey and Jade co-pastor Convergence Church in Stone Mountain and co-direct the Convergence Movement, which serves Historically Black Colleges, Universities, Churches, and communities through prayer, discipleship, mentorship, and community development. Together Jade and Corey have launched several ministries and travelled the world coaching, training, and ministering to leaders from all backgrounds.

Convergence is focused on developing strong families and compelling emerging leaders. In Corey's words, "Convergence aims to harness the power of the emerging generation of action driven leaders by modeling and establishing healthy relationships and displaying the values of Integrity, Faithfulness, Relationship, Compassion and Excellence."

Jade testifies, “We are a Prayer and Missions Movement launching Generational Influencers to Campuses, Cities and the Ends of the Earth. We serve impoverished marginalized communities from the black urban core to the streets of Pakistan. It is our mission to share Christ’s love with single moms, orphans and widows worldwide.”

For the past three years, Convergence and Crossroads PC have been discerning whether God is calling the two churches together in an official and formalized way that goes beyond networking and partnership. The question is still live and very much undecided, but the journey is a faithful and exciting adventure.

**Admit to Record:**

As of January 17, 2023:

1. The following 2022 annual reviews are complete:
  - 4Pointes
  - Adore Brazilian PC
  - aijcast
  - Atlanta Good Church
  - Atlanta Oikos
  - Atlanta Mizo Christian Fellowship
  - Casa Brasil PC
  - Centro Familiar Cristiano
  - Church in Motion
  - Convergence
  - Crossings Community PC
  - David’s Court
  - El Buen Pastor PC
  - Faith Ghanaian PC
  - Faith Studio
  - Iglesia Presbiteriana Horeb
  - Junction Ministries
  - La Esperanza PC
  - On the Way PC
  - Ormewood
  - Rize Community
  - Shalom International
  - Soul Soup
  - Spiritual Wellness Center
  - Transformation Covenant
  - WAYS
  - Zo PC
  - Zo American PC
2. The following 2022 annual review is still expected:
  - Chin PC
3. Early Stage Discerners, with no 2022 annual review:
  - Breathing Space/Sum Teo
  - New Jerusalem Church
  - Pistus Fellowship
  - Swahili Evangelical Refugee Fellowship

## 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNTS	2021 ACTUAL	2022 YTD *	2022 BUDGET	2023 PROPOSED
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Shared Ministry Support	\$ 456,210.16	\$ 391,860.79	\$ 535,000.00	\$ 534,000.00
Per Capita Receipts	\$ 570,473.40	\$ 479,585.25	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 600,000.00
Calvin Center	\$ 3,563.37	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Unrealized (Gain)Loss	\$ 5,963.99	\$ (51,747.97)	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Interest Income	\$ 15,431.81	\$ 7,205.25	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Interest - Presbyterian Foundation	\$ 0.01	\$ 1.15	\$ -	\$ -
Income Designated for Presbytery	\$ 20,012.04	\$ 16,676.70	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Per Capita Presbytery	\$ 24,010.83	\$ 19,124.07	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
Per Capita Synod	\$ 1,390.50	\$ 1,078.50	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Honoraria/Grants	\$ 3,227.67	\$ 6,249.96	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Clergy Gifts	\$ 16,780.94	\$ 7,003.76	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
Miscellaneous Contributions	\$ 3,330.00	\$ 1,433.42	\$ 6,500.00	\$ 5,000.00
Cell Tower	\$ 58,658.85	\$ 61,081.09	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
Use of Endowment Income	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 82,500.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 110,000.00 #
Revitalization Support	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 59,170.00	\$ 71,000.00	\$ 63,500.00 +
Trans. From Admin. Reserve	\$ 104,000.00	\$ 64,170.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00 ~
Misc. Income	\$ 2,099.05	\$ 1,952.32	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,348,152.62</b>	<b>\$ 1,148,344.29</b>	<b>\$ 1,539,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,536,000.00</b>
Transfer to Pilgrimage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Interfund Transfers</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 1,348,152.62</b>	<b>\$ 1,148,344.29</b>	<b>\$ 1,539,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,536,000.00</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS AND EXPENSES</b>				
GA Undesignated Benevolence	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
Synod Undesignated Benevolence	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Public Policy Advocacy (P4BG)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Transfer to Calvin Center	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 47,500.00	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 57,000.00
Transfer to NCD	\$ 128,075.00	\$ 106,735.79	\$ 128,075.00	\$ 128,075.00
Grant to Campus Ministry	\$ 55,575.00	\$ 46,312.50	\$ 55,575.00	\$ 55,575.00
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	<b>\$ 276,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 231,798.29</b>	<b>\$ 276,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 276,150.00</b>
GA Per Capita	\$ 190,098.67	\$ 159,058.30	\$ 199,257.88	\$ 208,465.61
Synod Per Capita	\$ 33,250.63	\$ 27,736.31	\$ 33,395.18	\$ 31,746.03
<b>Total Per Capita Payments</b>	<b>\$ 223,349.30</b>	<b>\$ 186,794.61</b>	<b>\$ 232,653.06</b>	<b>\$ 240,211.64</b>
Crisis Counseling	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
COM Training	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Leadership Sexual Abuse Prevention	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Pastor to Pastor/Educators	\$ 644.97	\$ 857.12	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Committee Expense - COM	\$ 510.19	\$ 316.65	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
First Call Pastors Program	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
First Head of Staff Program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Validated Ministers	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
<b>Total COM</b>	<b>\$ 1,655.16</b>	<b>\$ 2,173.77</b>	<b>\$ 5,150.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,150.00</b>
Career Development Ctr Fees	\$ 2,880.00	\$ 1,555.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Scholarship/Emergency Aid	\$ -	\$ 2,925.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Candidate Travel	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Training for CPM Members	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Other Expense - PFM	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNTS	2021 ACTUAL	2022 YTD *	2022 BUDGET	2023 PROPOSED
<b>Total Committee on Prep for Ministry</b>	<b>\$ 2,880.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,480.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
Salaries and Housing	\$ 575,063.92	\$ 487,510.38	\$ 581,830.42	\$ 569,015.76
Social Security Allowance	\$ 27,703.44	\$ 23,362.38	\$ 26,532.89	\$ 20,981.69
Employer SS Expense	\$ 15,348.26	\$ 12,884.06	\$ 17,977.14	\$ 22,548.01
Benefits - Pension	\$ 46,154.29	\$ 39,222.23	\$ 46,508.64	\$ 45,953.19
Benefits - Auto-Accountable	\$ 4,835.63	\$ 7,122.67	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Benefits - Medical	\$ 150,885.67	\$ 120,346.32	\$ 142,557.32	\$ 141,384.81
Benefits - Death/Disability	\$ 5,429.92	\$ 4,614.36	\$ 5,471.60	\$ 5,406.26
Benefits - Temp. Death/Disability	\$ 3,540.26	\$ 3,000.15	\$ 3,797.57	\$ 3,764.90
Benefits - Vision Eyewear	\$ -	\$ 566.34	\$ 463.36	\$ 601.57
Benefits - Dental	\$ 7,685.20	\$ 5,910.38	\$ 7,932.05	\$ 6,271.40
Benefits - Employer Match 403(b)	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,040.00	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,520.00
Benefits - Cont. Ed.	\$ 8,500.16	\$ 5,750.12	\$ 7,250.00	\$ 7,750.00
Benefits - Other	\$ 4,568.87	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00	\$ 4,400.00
Prof and Business Exp - EP	\$ 2,962.49	\$ 2,130.99	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Prof and Business Exp - Morrow	\$ 423.72	\$ 406.29	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
Prof and Business Exp - Blankinship	\$ 703.99	\$ 248.61	\$ 700.00	\$ -
Prof and Business Exp - Stated Clerk	\$ 67.87	\$ 748.76	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Prof and Business Exp - Fisher	\$ 554.39	\$ 517.37	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,300.00
Prof and Business Exp - Dir. Fin. & Prop.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
<b>Total Program Staff</b>	<b>\$ 856,948.08</b>	<b>\$ 720,781.41</b>	<b>\$ 865,540.99</b>	<b>\$ 849,697.59</b>
<b>Total Program Services</b>	<b>\$ 861,483.24</b>	<b>\$ 727,435.18</b>	<b>\$ 876,690.99</b>	<b>\$ 860,847.59</b>
Office Equip. Lease	\$ 3,291.53	\$ 2,011.87	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
Maintenance Agreements	\$ 6,552.39	\$ 6,343.26	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 5,500.00
Insurance - Liability	\$ 5,871.82	\$ 5,237.24	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Insurance - Worker's Comp	\$ 1,944.40	\$ 474.40	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Telephone	\$ 10,753.54	\$ 7,883.01	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 9,600.00
Postage/Shipping - Administration	\$ 1,114.01	\$ 930.08	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Food/Beverage	\$ 655.72	\$ 970.32	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Office Supplies	\$ 1,781.98	\$ 1,130.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Audit/Accounting Fees	\$ 23,400.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 23,000.00	\$ 23,000.00
New Equipment	\$ 3,581.54	\$ 2,137.86	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Legal Advice	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Memorials/Special Occasions	\$ 650.00	\$ -	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
Bank Charges	\$ 3,109.76	\$ 2,448.63	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Miscellaneous - Presbytery Office	\$ 10.00	\$ -	\$ 105.95	\$ 390.77
<b>Total Presbytery Office</b>	<b>\$ 67,716.69</b>	<b>\$ 59,566.67</b>	<b>\$ 64,705.95</b>	<b>\$ 65,490.77</b>
GA/Synod Meetings	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Presbytery Meeting Expenses	\$ 1,619.45	\$ 2,131.25	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,500.00
Council Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Ops Ministry Team Expenses	\$ -	\$ 30.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Nominating Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Administrative Commissions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Bills and Overtures Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Committee on Representation	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Permanent Judicial Commission	\$ 4,014.90	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Personnel Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Dismantling Racism Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Presbytery Engagement Team Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Special Events	\$ -	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Meeting Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 5,634.35</b>	<b>\$ 2,686.25</b>	<b>\$ 10,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,800.00</b>

2023 PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNTS	2021 ACTUAL	2022 YTD *	2022 BUDGET	2023 PROPOSED
Insurance - Property	\$ 14,988.33	\$ (16,683.97)	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
Presbytery Office - Utilities	\$ 5,508.21	\$ 6,699.07	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Presbytery Office - Cleaning and Maint.	\$ 22,381.42	\$ 20,568.44	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 24,200.00
Building Repairs - Add'n to Reserve	\$ 9,999.96	\$ 7,499.97	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Other expenses - Property	\$ 96.00	\$ 28.09	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
<b>Total Property Management Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 52,973.92</b>	<b>\$ 18,111.60</b>	<b>\$ 57,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 59,500.00</b>
Presbytery Website/Technology	\$ 22,336.13	\$ 21,719.97	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 23,000.00
<b>Total Communication/Promotion Exp.</b>	<b>\$ 22,336.13</b>	<b>\$ 21,719.97</b>	<b>\$ 21,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 23,000.00</b>
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$ 148,661.09</b>	<b>\$ 102,084.49</b>	<b>\$ 153,505.95</b>	<b>\$ 158,790.77</b>
<b>Total Disbursements and Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 1,509,643.63</b>	<b>\$ 1,248,112.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,539,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,536,000.00</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$ (161,491.01)</b>	<b>\$ (99,768.28)</b>	<b>\$ (0.00)</b>	<b>\$ (0.00)</b>

\* Through November 30, 2022

# Adams/McDonald Fund - \$3,000 (CPM Scholarships)  
 Grider Fund - \$2,000 (Dismantling Racism)  
 Compassion Fund - \$15,000 (Pastor to Pastor Director/Program)  
 Compassion Fund - \$90,000 (NCDC and Campus Ministry Benevolence)

+ 25% of Congregational Consultant Compensation

~ 5% of Expense Budget



Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.  
Monthly Benevolence Report  
December 2022

Attachment P

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

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (Last Year)
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>Support and Revenue</b>			
<b>Budgeted Designated</b>			
<b>Budgeted General Assembly</b>			
100-403000 - One Great Hour of Sharing	\$892.73	\$21,037.27	\$23,829.16
100-403020 - Christmas Joy Offering	\$2,127.43	\$8,945.01	\$20,120.40
100-403030 - Pentecost Offering	\$0.00	\$2,918.51	\$3,766.90
100-403040 - Theological Education Fund	\$0.00	\$6,250.00	\$7,900.00
100-403050 - Peacemaking Special Offering	\$270.84	\$4,940.51	\$4,430.58
100-403200 - Designated for Missionaries	\$7,808.34	\$28,016.04	\$26,200.04
<b>Total Budgeted General Assembly</b>	<u>\$11,099.34</u>	<u>\$72,107.34</u>	<u>\$86,247.08</u>
<b>Budgeted Presbytery</b>			
100-403510 - Designated Thornwell Home & School	\$1,077.50	\$6,444.15	\$7,028.03
100-403520 - Columbia Seminary	\$839.70	\$1,852.20	\$1,350.00
100-403550 - Johnson C. Smith Seminary	\$362.50	\$1,087.49	\$1,500.00
100-403580 - Presbyterian Homes	\$0.00	\$2,636.30	\$2,783.73
100-403590 - Villa International	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Budgeted Presbytery</b>	<u>\$2,279.70</u>	<u>\$12,270.14</u>	<u>\$12,661.76</u>
<b>Total Budgeted Designated</b>	<u>\$13,379.04</u>	<u>\$84,377.48</u>	<u>\$98,908.84</u>
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<u>\$13,379.04</u>	<u>\$84,377.48</u>	<u>\$98,908.84</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>\$13,379.04</u>	<u>\$84,377.48</u>	<u>\$98,908.84</u>
<b>Disbursements and Expenses</b>			
<b>Benevolent Disbursements</b>			
100-500100 - G. A. Budgeted Benevolence	\$11,099.34	\$72,107.34	\$86,247.08
100-500500 - Designated for Presbyterian Homes	\$0.00	\$2,636.30	\$2,783.73
100-504010 - Designated for Villa International	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00
100-504030 - Designated for Thornwell	\$1,077.50	\$6,444.15	\$6,315.53
100-506010 - Designated for Columbia Seminary	\$839.70	\$1,852.20	\$1,350.00
100-506020 - Designated for JC Smith Seminary	\$362.50	\$1,087.49	\$1,500.00
<b>Total Benevolent Disbursements</b>	<u>\$13,379.04</u>	<u>\$84,377.48</u>	<u>\$98,196.34</u>
<b>Total Disbursements and Expenses</b>	<u>\$13,379.04</u>	<u>\$84,377.48</u>	<u>\$98,196.34</u>
<b>Net Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$712.50

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA  
2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS  
12/31/22**

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$26.98	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS  <small>(Column 5 + Columns 6 &amp; 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/21	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/20
PEACHTREE			\$187,753.82		\$0.00			\$0.00	7136	6959
ROSWELL		\$45,000.00	\$64,239.38	\$64,239.39	\$109,239.39			\$109,239.39	2386	2381
First PRES-ATLANTA		\$22,500.00	\$51,450.86	\$51,451.00	\$73,951.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,000.00	\$76,201.00	1732	1907
KOREAN COMMUNITY		\$35,000.00	\$48,779.84		\$35,000.00			\$35,000.00	1430	1808
TRINITY ATLANTA		\$79,603.00	\$45,056.60	\$45,045.60	\$124,648.60			\$124,648.60	1575	1670
SHALLOWFORD	\$3,781.14	\$3,781.00	\$27,168.86	\$27,169.00	\$30,950.00	\$125.00		\$31,075.00	989	1007
ALPHARETTA	\$22,400.00	\$22,400.00	\$22,393.40	\$22,400.00	\$44,800.00	\$2,076.00	\$1,400.00	\$48,276.00	815	830
DECATUR		\$28,959.47	\$21,341.18	\$21,584.00	\$50,543.47	\$18,250.00	\$3,750.00	\$72,543.47	738	791
ST LUKES	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$19,830.30	\$19,749.36	\$54,749.36	\$4,073.12		\$58,822.48	715	735
NORTH AVENUE		\$20,012.04	\$19,398.62	\$12,963.57	\$32,975.61	\$5,300.04	\$1,030.00	\$39,305.65	715	719
JOHNS CREEK			\$18,022.64	\$9,234.00	\$9,234.00			\$9,234.00	457	668
MCDONOUGH	\$11,097.18	\$11,097.00	\$14,380.34	\$14,380.34	\$25,477.34	\$2,891.00	\$3,200.00	\$31,568.34	514	533
First PRES-LAGRANGE	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$13,948.66	\$14,257.00	\$19,257.00	\$3,902.29		\$23,159.29	509	517
CENTRAL	\$19,000.00	\$19,000.00	\$13,732.82	\$13,732.82	\$32,732.82	\$540.21	\$270.10	\$33,543.13	498	509
First AFRICAN			\$12,950.40		\$0.00			\$0.00	362	480
BUFORD	\$0.00		\$10,738.04	\$11,168.00	\$11,168.00	\$239.44	\$1,171.72	\$12,579.16	392	398
NEWNAN			\$10,738.04	\$9,808.29	\$9,808.29			\$9,808.29	398	398
MOUNT VERNON		\$15,000.00	\$10,603.14	\$10,700.00	\$25,700.00	\$2,636.00	\$532.00	\$28,868.00	385	393
MORNINGSIDE			\$10,441.26	\$10,441.26	\$10,441.26	\$4,575.69	\$2,244.16	\$17,261.11	387	387
NORTHMINSTER	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$10,360.32	\$10,360.32	\$36,360.32			\$36,360.32	381	384
PLEASANT HILL	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$10,252.40	\$10,252.40	\$21,252.40			\$21,252.40	362	380
NORTH DECATUR		\$20,000.00	\$8,984.34	\$9,550.92	\$29,550.92	\$5,718.89	\$44,150.00	\$79,419.81	335	333
CLAIRMONT			\$8,687.56	\$8,686.92	\$8,686.92		\$910.00	\$9,596.92	248	322
OAKHURST	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,660.58	\$8,660.58	\$10,660.58	\$1,485.00	\$275.00	\$12,420.58	331	321
WESTMINSTER	\$0.00		\$8,417.76	\$8,417.76	\$8,417.76	\$633.81		\$9,051.57	304	312
NEW LIFE			\$8,363.80		\$0.00			\$0.00	306	310
FAYETTE			\$7,311.58	\$3,655.79	\$3,655.79			\$3,655.79	271	271
EASTMINSTER			\$6,825.94	\$6,826.00	\$6,826.00			\$6,826.00	285	253
GOOD SHEPHERD	\$0.00		\$6,583.12	\$6,556.14	\$6,556.14			\$6,556.14	242	244
COVINGTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	\$10,000.00	\$9,166.63	\$6,286.34	\$5,762.68	\$14,929.31		\$500.00	\$15,429.31	231	233
CARROLTON	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$6,178.42	\$5,486.00	\$6,486.00	\$609.43		\$7,095.43	220	229
NORTHWEST		\$10,000.00	\$6,151.44	\$6,152.00	\$16,152.00			\$16,152.00	193	228
RADCLIFFE	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$5,800.70	\$5,800.70	\$7,300.70	\$2,725.00	\$220.00	\$10,245.70	202	215
LOYD			\$5,746.74	\$5,962.58	\$5,962.58			\$5,962.58	170	213
ST ANDREWS	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$5,719.76	\$5,719.76	\$8,219.76	\$283.00		\$8,502.76	200	212
First PRES-PEACHTREE CITY		\$2,000.00	\$5,449.96	\$5,449.96	\$7,449.96		\$13,445.00	\$20,894.96	181	202
CONYERS			\$5,207.14	\$3,905.25	\$3,905.25	\$545.00		\$4,450.25	187	193
MORROW			\$5,207.14	\$5,207.14	\$5,207.14	\$1,648.26	\$3,000.00	\$9,855.40	190	193
COVENANT	\$12,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$5,072.24	\$5,072.00	\$16,072.00			\$16,072.00	172	188

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA  
2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS  
12/31/22**

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$26.98	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS  <small>(Column 5 + Columns 6 &amp; 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/21	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/20
LAWRENCEVILLE	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,018.28	\$5,018.00	\$8,018.00	\$1,871.52	\$1,698.10	\$11,587.62	159	186
KOREAN CENTRAL			\$4,856.40	\$4,856.40	\$4,856.40			\$4,856.40	180	180
CROSSROADS	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$4,235.86	\$4,235.86	\$5,485.86	\$1,449.99		\$6,935.85	160	157
KAIROS			\$4,100.96	\$4,100.96	\$4,100.96			\$4,100.96	128	152
STOCKBRIDGE	\$4,000.00	\$800.00	\$3,642.30	\$4,800.00	\$5,600.00	\$310.00		\$5,910.00	123	135
DRUID HILLS	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$3,372.50	\$3,372.00	\$7,872.00	\$845.00	\$400.00	\$9,117.00	123	125
HAMILTON MILL	\$5,000.00	\$4,090.92	\$3,264.58	\$2,671.02	\$6,761.94			\$6,761.94	110	121
HILLSIDE	\$2,500.00	\$1,875.00	\$3,264.58	\$3,210.62	\$5,085.62	\$5,200.14	\$317.79	\$10,603.55	119	121
EMORY		\$1,500.00	\$3,210.62	\$3,211.00	\$4,711.00	\$2,796.67	\$211.33	\$7,719.00	61	119
AUSTELL	\$0.00	\$2,485.30	\$3,021.76	\$293.98	\$2,779.28	\$5,629.47	\$510.53	\$8,919.28	98	112
RICE MEMORIAL	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,832.90	\$2,832.90	\$5,332.90	\$261.01	\$49.59	\$5,643.50	98	105
SMYRNA			\$2,751.96	\$3,183.64	\$3,183.64			\$3,183.64	95	102
OGLETHORPE	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,751.96	\$2,752.00	\$6,752.00	\$865.33	\$30.67	\$7,648.00	99	102
CHURCH OF THE MASTER			\$2,724.98		\$0.00			\$0.00	100	101
COLUMBIA			\$2,563.10	\$2,563.12	\$2,563.12	\$1,685.09		\$4,248.21	93	95
FAIRVIEW		\$1,000.00	\$2,482.16	\$2,482.16	\$3,482.16	\$932.50	\$43.75	\$4,458.41	89	92
PHILADELPHIA	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$2,401.22	\$2,401.22	\$2,501.22	\$1,059.20		\$3,560.42	79	89
GOOD NEWS GARDEN			\$2,401.22		\$0.00			\$0.00	79	89
First PRES-MONROE			\$2,212.36	\$2,212.36	\$2,212.36			\$2,212.36	81	82
First PRES-JONESBORO	\$7,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$2,104.44	\$1,675.90	\$5,675.90		\$600.00	\$6,275.90	76	78
BETHANY	\$0.00		\$2,077.46	\$2,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$779.00		\$2,979.00	77	77
TRINITY DECATUR		\$500.00	\$1,996.52	\$2,182.95	\$2,682.95	\$686.80	\$31.25	\$3,401.00	72	74
TIMBERRIDGE	\$0.00		\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54			\$1,969.54	76	73
PRESBY CHURCH OF THE RESURRECT'N	\$0.00		\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54	\$1,969.54			\$1,969.54	63	73
GUM CREEK			\$1,861.62	\$1,996.52	\$1,996.52	\$135.00		\$2,131.52	67	69
NORCROSS	\$1,258.28		\$1,726.72	\$1,726.70	\$1,726.70	\$1,071.00	\$132.00	\$2,929.70	66	64
ATLANTA TAIWANESE			\$1,672.76	\$1,672.76	\$1,672.76			\$1,672.76	59	62
HANBIT			\$1,349.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00			\$1,500.00	54	50
CRISTO PARA TODAS LAS NACIONES			\$1,349.00		\$0.00			\$0.00	50	50
JACKSON	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,295.04	\$1,295.04	\$3,295.04	\$100.00		\$3,395.04	51	48
GRACE KOREAN			\$1,106.18	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00			\$1,200.00	38	41
KELLEY	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,106.18	\$1,106.18	\$2,106.18			\$2,106.18	38	41
HEMPHILL MEMORIAL	\$450.00		\$890.34		\$0.00	\$450.00		\$450.00	33	33
ATLANTA KOREAN			\$647.52	\$647.52	\$647.52			\$647.52	28	24
FRIENDSHIP	\$3,000.00		\$647.52		\$0.00			\$0.00	25	24
First PRES-MANCHESTER WM SPRGS.			\$620.54	\$620.54	\$620.54	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$670.54	14	23
BARNESVILLE			\$593.56		\$0.00			\$0.00	22	22
DALLAS-DODD			\$566.58	\$566.58	\$566.58			\$566.58	22	21
WESTHILLS			\$512.62	\$533.70	\$533.70	\$735.00		\$1,268.70	17	19

**THE PRESBYTERY OF GREATER ATLANTA  
2022 BENEVOLENCE GIVING RECORDS  
12/31/22**

CHURCH	COLUMN 1 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT PLEDGE	COLUMN 2 OPERATIONAL SUPPORT RECEIVED	COLUMN 3 PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT \$26.98	COLUMN 4 PER CAPITA RECEIVED	COLUMN 5 TOTAL RECEIPTS TO PRESBYTERY BUDGET <small>(Column 2 + Column 4)</small>	COLUMN 6 SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 7 NON-BUDGETED DESIGNATIONS	COLUMN 8 TOTAL OF ALL RECEIPTS <small>(Column 5 + Columns 6 &amp; 7)</small>	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/21	MEMBERSHIP 12/31/20
GREENVILLE			\$485.64		\$0.00			\$0.00	18	18
EBENEZER	\$514.36	\$514.36	\$485.64	\$485.64	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00	14	18
NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GA.	\$1,000.00		\$458.66		\$0.00			\$0.00	18	17
First PRES-BREMEN	\$0.00		\$377.72	\$377.72	\$377.72			\$377.72	14	14
TALLAPOOSA	\$0.00		\$377.72		\$0.00			\$0.00	6	14
FELLOWSHIP			\$215.84		\$0.00			\$0.00	8	8
EL NAZERENO		\$325.50		\$674.50	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		
<b>BENEVOLENCE TOTAL</b>	<b>\$204,750.96</b>	<b>\$473,960.22</b>	<b>\$850,328.66</b>	<b>\$564,407.10</b>	<b>\$1,038,367.32</b>	<b>\$86,369.90</b>	<b>\$81,172.99</b>	<b>\$1,205,910.21</b>	<b>30244</b>	<b>31646</b>
INDIVIDUAL GIVING TOTAL				\$539.18				\$19,632.52		
* OVERALL TOTAL		\$473,960.22		\$564,946.28				\$1,225,542.73		

**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, 2022 is \$26.98 per member based on the active membership of the congregation as of January 1, 2021 as reported in the Assembly statistics for Dec. 31, 2020.

**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 12/31/21; per capita based on 12/31/20 membership.

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

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, Inc.  
Preliminary Statement of Financial Position  
Operations Fund  
As of December 31, 2022

**Assets**

Cash		<b>\$89,542.58</b>
Investments		<b>\$987,951.19</b>
Accounts Receivable		
Allowance for Accounts Receivable	(\$46,400.00)	
A/R--Operations	\$1,778.70	
A/R-Due from Clifton Sancturary Min.	(\$4,271.60)	
A/R Memorial Drive PC	\$6,509.00	
A/R-Hanbit PC	\$20,875.24	
A/R - Atlanta Korean	\$32,083.37	
A/R- Ormewood Park	\$42,139.24	
A/R - College Park PC	\$19,292.76	
A/R - Church of the New Covenant	(\$16,719.56)	
A/R - Luther Hays PET	\$20.10	
A/R-Georgia Avenue Building/Site	\$46,519.83	
A/R -Church os St. Andrew	\$49,801.24	
Total Accounts Receivable		<b>\$151,628.32</b>
Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	\$725,000.00	
Discount on Pledges Receivable (Ground Lease)	(\$490,759.85)	
Total Pledges Receivable		<b>\$234,240.15</b>
Prepaid Expenses		\$18,135.25
Property & Equipment		\$1,206,393.49
Land, Buildings and Property (Net)		\$9,834,743.89
Total Accumulated Depreciation		(\$1,676,108.43)
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$10,846,526.44</b>

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

Liabilities		
Prepaid Income		\$2,693.25
Non-Budgeted Benevolence		\$0.00
Due to PCEA		\$0.00
A/P Operations		\$1,492.06
A/P Tree of Life Ministries		\$19,600.00
HFSA		\$67.85
Accrued Vacation		\$20,051.81
Promise to Give	\$0.00	
GA Ave. Bldg Agency Funds		\$16,894.91
Long-term Debt		
Due to Wachovia (CSM)	\$28,386.42	
Total Long-term Debt		\$28,386.42
Other Liabilities	\$7,742.44	
		<u>\$7,742.44</u>
Total Liabilities		\$96,928.74
Total Restricted Funds		\$1,038,085.43
Fund Principal		
Fund Balance-Operations	\$9,815,369.24	
Net Income Year-to-Date	(\$103,856.97)	
Total Fund Principal and Net Income Year-to-Date		\$9,711,512.27
<b>Total Liabilities, Fund Principal, &amp; Restricted Funds</b>		<b>\$10,846,526.44</b>

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta  
Operations Fund Revenues and Disbursements-Preliminary  
Period Ending December 31, 2022

	Actual Period Ending <u>12/31/22</u>	Actual Period Ending <u>12/31/21</u>	Annual Budget <u>FYE 01/31/2023</u>
Operation Support	\$ 453,948.18	\$ 446,481.18	\$ 535,000.00
Per Capita	\$ 543,297.81	\$ 564,478.96	\$ 600,000.00
Budgeted Designated	\$ 72,107.34	\$ 86,247.08	
Budgeted Presbytery	\$ 13,270.14	\$ 16,225.13	\$ 3,000.00
Total Designated	<u>\$ 1,082,623.47</u>	<u>\$ 1,113,432.35</u>	<u>\$ 1,138,000.00</u>
Interest Income	\$ 7,486.05	\$ 10,385.66	\$ 10,000.00
Unrealized Gain (Loss) - Ops	\$ (51,747.97)	\$ 4,614.49	\$ 12,000.00
Designated for Presbytery Only	\$ 41,662.53	\$ 45,413.37	\$ 46,500.00
Interest-Presbyterian Foundation	\$ 1.15	\$ 0.01	\$ -
Other Income	\$ 320,982.49	\$ 214,310.62	\$ 332,500.00
Total Revenues before Transfers	<u>\$ 1,401,007.72</u>	<u>\$ 1,388,156.49</u>	<u>\$ 1,539,000.00</u>
Transfers			
Transfer from Other Funds	\$ 3.42	\$ -	\$ -
Total Transfers	<u>\$ 3.42</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Benevolent Disbursements	\$ 560,851.32	\$ 585,969.85	\$ 508,803.06
Program Expenses			
Committees & Partnerships	\$ 6,678.77	\$ 3,881.46	\$ 11,150.00
Salary and Benefits	\$ 792,453.89	\$ 786,146.37	\$ 865,540.99
Administrative Costs	\$ 144,877.29	\$ 139,086.01	\$ 153,505.95
Total Program Expenses	<u>\$ 944,009.95</u>	<u>\$ 929,113.84</u>	<u>\$ 1,030,196.94</u>
Total Transfers and Disbursements	<u>\$ 1,504,861.27</u>	<u>\$ 1,515,083.69</u>	<u>\$ 1,539,000.00</u>
Change in Net Assets	<u>\$ (103,856.97)</u>	<u>\$ (126,927.20)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Revenues	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 1,851,000.00</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Other Expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Net Operating Total	\$ (103,856.97)	\$ 1,724,072.80	\$ -

Litany Celebrating the Faithful Service of

Frank I. Blankinship, III, Director of Operations and Congregational Consultant

Presbytery of Greater Atlanta

February 11, 2023

Leader: For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven; a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant, a time to pluck up what has been planted; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to let go.

**All: So too there is a time for coming together and a time for parting. As Chip Blankinship begins the well-deserved season of retirement, we celebrate our time together and the many and varied gifts he has shared as a leader in this Presbytery.**

Leader: Thank you, Gracious God, for leading Chip to St. Andrews Presbyterian College and to Columbia Theological Seminary, which equipped him for service as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Since his ordination in August 1995, Chip has served the church of Jesus Christ in parish ministry in Altamonte Springs, Florida and Lawrenceville, Georgia, and in mid-council ministry in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.

**All: We give thanks to God for the teachers, mentors, and colleagues who have nurtured Chip in faith and ministry.**

Leader: We celebrate Chip's ten years at the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta as Director of Operations and Congregational Consultant, and the many ways he has built up the body of Christ in this place.

**All: Chip has provided thoughtful, compassionate, and knowledgeable servant leadership to the individuals, groups, and churches with whom he has worked. We thank God that he has been our "go-to" person on myriad topics. His God-given gifts have served Chip and the Church so well.**

Leader: In anxious situations and difficult transitions, Chip has received the passions, fears, frustrations, and hopes of people and churches with a pastor's heart and helped them find paths forward.

**All: Chip has steadily served this Presbytery with integrity, humility, and creativity. We will miss his warm and trusted presence.**

Leader: The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta is delighted to express its profound gratitude to God for the life and ministry of the Reverend Frank Blankinship, for God's providence in bringing Chip to serve among us, and our love and affection for him as pastor, friend, and partner in ministry.

**All: We are confident that God will continue to open to him fresh and exciting opportunities for Christian service in his retirement. We pray that God will uphold Chip, Anne, and their family in faith, support them in hope, and establish them in peace and joy forever. Amen.**



## BILLS & OVERTURES COMMITTEE

The Bills & Overtures Committee consists of the commissioners to the previous General Assembly and serves to support the Presbytery's discernment of proposed amendments to the Constitution sent for the Presbytery's vote and potential overtures to the next General Assembly.

The 225th General Assembly (2022) sent 33 amendments to the Book of Order to the presbyteries for consideration and vote. The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta considered one of these, Amendment 22-GG on replacing the current "Rules of Discipline" with a new "Church Discipline" section, at our November 2022 stated meeting.

The Bills & Overtures Committee is bringing recommendations for the consideration of 28 amendments to the February 2023 stated meeting. Four additional amendments concern proposed changes to the current "Rules of Discipline" that will be moot if Amendment 22-GG is approved, so the committee will bring those amendments to the May 2023 stated meeting only if needed.

The committee has reviewed the proposed amendments and has grouped and ordered them for the Presbytery's consideration as shown below. Nineteen amendments are to be considered first in a single motion, with the remaining nine amendments presented in several groups to follow. *For the first motion, any commissioner or minister member in attendance at the stated meeting may ask that an item be removed from that motion so that it might be discussed separately.* Any amendments removed from that motion would then be considered separately following discussion on all other amendments. The full text of all amendments is found on the pages following this report, in the order of their listing here. Since these proposed amendments have been sent to the presbyteries by the General Assembly, no amendments to them are in order.

Commissioners and minister members to the stated meeting are encouraged to prayerfully review these proposed amendments prior to the meeting. Additional information about these amendments and their effects is available in [the recording of the January 7 Conversations with the Clerk](#).

### Amendments for Omnibus Consideration (19)

The Bills & Overtures Committee recommends that the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta approve the following amendments as a single omnibus motion:

- Amendment 22-A: F-1.0302c THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH  
*Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*
- Amendment 22-B: F-1.0404 OPENNESS  
*Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*
- Amendment 22-C: G-1.0501 MEETINGS  
*Establishes Robert's Rules of Order (RONR) as the default parliamentary authority for congregational meetings, and authorizes electronic congregational meetings*
- Amendment 22-D: G-1.0503 BUSINESS PROPER TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS  
*Adds receiving a disciplinary decision against a church member (as opposed to a minister) to the list of proper business at a congregational meeting*
- Amendment 22-F: G-2.0505a(1) TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS  
*Adds the requirement to consult with the community served when receiving immigrant pastors without otherwise acceptable PC(USA) ordination educational requirements*

- Amendment 22-J: G-2.1001 FUNCTIONS  
*Adds language clarifying that Commissioned Ruling Elders may be commissioned to more than one validated ministry at a time*
- Amendment 22-M: G-3.0104 OFFICERS  
*Adds language that “it is appropriate” to adopt procedures for electronic session meetings*
- Amendment 22-N: G-3.0105 MEETINGS  
*Adds provision that all councils and their commissions and committees may meet electronically*
- Amendment 22-P: G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION  
*Adds the requirement of an antiracism policy to the required policies of councils, and clarifies other language in that list*
- Amendment 22-R: G-3.0401 COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
*Authorizes synods to enroll those serving terms in elected offices of the synod as additional members of the synod as a way to fulfill principles of participation and representation*
- Amendment 22-T: W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS  
*Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship*
- Amendment 22-U: W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER  
*Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized*
- Amendment 22-V: W-3.0414 COMMUNION  
*Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord’s Supper liturgy*
- Amendment 22-W: W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP  
*Adds a sentence about “signs and symbols of blessing” to the section on ordination and installation services*
- Amendment 22-X: W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP  
*Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition*
- Amendment 22-Y: W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP  
*Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship*
- Amendment 22-Z: W-5.0201 THE CHURCH’S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH  
*Adds “discipleship” to a list of the Church’s ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity*
- Amendment 22-AA: W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE  
*Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties*
- Amendment 22-BB: W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE  
*Adds clarifying language in a section on “services of wholeness” to better express a Reformed understanding of those services*

### **Amendments Related to Sexual Misconduct (6)**

The 225th General Assembly considered a number of items related to sexual misconduct prevention and response. The following six proposed amendments would make changes to the Book of Order to support the church's continued work in this regard. The committee recommends approval of the following six amendments, three to be considered individually and three as a single group:

1. Amendment 22-H: G-2.0605 OVERSIGHT  
*Adds a requirement of sessions to "report to the presbytery of any matters of sexual misconduct" of their members who are enrolled as inquirers or candidates*
2. Amendment 22-O: G-3.0106 ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION  
*Adds language regarding boundary training, including child sexual abuse prevention training, to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils*
3. Amendment 22-S: G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY  
*Expands and clarifies "confidentiality" requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors*
4. The following three proposed amendments will be presented and voted on together, as they are all three required to accomplish the goal of requiring boundary training for all church leaders.  
  
Amendment 22-G: G-2.0603 PURPOSE OF INQUIRY  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training during the inquiry phase of preparation for ordination as a minister of the Word and Sacrament*  
  
Amendment 22-K: G-2.1002 TRAINING, EXAMINING, AND COMMISSIONING  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training for those seeking to be Commissioned Ruling Elders*  
  
Amendment 22-L: G-2.1103 CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS  
*Adds the requirement of boundary training for those elders seeking to be certified as Christian Educators*

### **General Amendments for Individual Consideration (3)**

The committee recommends approval of the following amendments, to be considered individually:

1. Amendment 22-E: G-2.0503 CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP  
*Removes "honorably" before "retired" as the category for retired ministers*
2. Amendment 22-I: G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL  
*Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors*
3. Amendment 22-Q: G-3.0303c RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS  
*Authorizes presbyteries to establish minimum requirements for severance packages, temporary relationships, and certified Christian educators in terms of call*