



Presbytery OF Greater Atlanta

*Growing Healthy, Vital Congregations
Equipping Healthy, Innovative Leaders*

2023 FALL STATED MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta gathered for its Fall Stated Meeting on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at North Decatur Presbyterian Church and on Zoom. Over 260 people from across the Presbytery and beyond gathered for this time of fellowship, sharing, worship, and work as we celebrated the two-year journey through the [Seven Marks of Vital Congregations](#).

Our hosts at North Decatur Presbyterian Church offered warm hospitality on site and provided a wonderful setup for the Presbytery to come together in this hybrid format. Their technology equipment and expertise made the meeting possible! David Leonard offered musical leadership for the meeting, and countless others from the congregation made the Presbytery feel welcome.

Our preacher for the day, Rev. Katie Day, Pastor of Pleasant Hill Presbyterian Church in Duluth, offered a sermon entitled “Do a New Thing” based on Isaiah 43:10-21 and Ephesians 2:1-10. She encouraged the Presbytery to recognize God’s action in the world as we look back on our past and trust that God is about to do something new. After the sermon, she joined newly-commissioned Commissioned Ruling Elder Kenneth Whitehurst to lead us in celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper as the culmination of their leadership in the Presbytery’s efforts of the Vital Congregations Initiative. The Presbytery also remembered the ministers and ruling elders of the Presbytery who have died in recent years in lifting up the annual necrology report.

Executive Presbyter Aisha Brooks-Johnson shared gratitude for the Presbytery’s staff and other leaders who guided the work of the Vital Congregations Initiative, particularly Katie Day, Ken Whitehurst, Joy Fisher, Jane Hubbard, and Cassandra Morrow. She also recognized the congregations that were a part of the VCI journey: Decatur, Good Shepherd, Hamilton Mill, Hillside, North Decatur, Mount Vernon, Peachtree City First, Pleasant Hill, Radcliffe, Rice Memorial, St. Andrews, and Stockbridge. (Beth Waltemath from the Presbyterian Mission Agency [shared a wonderful article about this celebration](#) following the meeting.)

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

- **Renée Meyer**, transferring into the Presbytery from Cherokee Presbytery to serve as pastor at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church
- **Myung Jin Chae**, transferring into the Presbytery from Trinity Presbytery to serve in a validated ministry at Daniel Prayer Garden
- **Ming Chen (Grace) Lo Rohrer**, serving as a Reformed Church of America minister within our bounds as pastor at Atlanta Taiwanese Presbyterian Church
- **Ho-Young Peter Moon**, transferring into the Presbytery from the Christian and Missionary Alliance to serve as contract call associate pastor at Korean Community Presbyterian Church

- **Kevin Lacson**, a candidate under care of the Presbytery, being ordained to serve in a validated ministry as chaplain at Emory St. Joseph's Hospital

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

At the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery approved a [policy on Paid Family Medical Leave for installed pastors and associate pastors](#). Sessions and congregations should take this policy into consideration in planning terms of call for pastors in 2024.

The Presbytery approved a recommendation from the Operations Committee to set the Presbytery's per capita rate for 2024 at \$17.50 per member. The total per capita for 2024 (General Assembly, Synod, and Presbytery) totals \$28.80 per member.

The Presbytery heard the report of the Nominating Committee and elected 50 ruling elders and ministers to the Presbytery's committees and commissions for service in the coming years. Rev. Tully Fletcher was elected as Moderator-Elect of the Presbytery and will serve as Moderator in 2025.

In preparation for the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) next summer in Salt Lake City, the Presbytery elected its eight commissioners:

Ruling Elder John Fountain (Conyers)	Rev. Jasmine Evans
Ruling Elder Brenda Gales (Resurrection)	Rev. Tully Fletcher
Ruling Elder Allie Hay (Covington First)	Rev. David Lewicki
Ruling Elder BJ Steele (Norcross)	Rev. Alex Rodgers

The Nominating Committee will be electing a Young Adult Advisory Delegate on behalf of the Presbytery to join them. The Presbytery also approved an overture proposed by the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to change the recording requirements when a candidate is approved for an alternative method of assessment for ordination exams.

The New Church Development Commission offered a brief report on its work, and Rev. Gad Mpoyo from Shalom International Ministries shared information about the important work they are doing in supporting recently-arrived immigrants and refugees from Africa in Clarkston.

The meeting offering supported scholarships for persons from the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to attend two upcoming events that support our congregations and leaders in their work: the [Matthew 25 Summit](#) and the [Association of Smaller Congregations Annual Conference](#).

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2024, beginning at 9:00am, at Roswell Presbyterian Church.