



Presbytery OF Greater Atlanta

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

2023 SUMMER STATED MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Presbytery of Greater Atlanta gathered for its Summer Stated Meeting on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, at Shallowford Presbyterian Church. Over 270 people from across the Presbytery and beyond gathered for this time of fellowship, sharing, worship, and work. “Ecclesial Health,” the seventh mark of the [Seven Marks of Vital Congregations](#), provided the theme for the day and shaped our conversations on the way that we grow and thrive as the people of God together.



Throughout the day, the Presbytery enjoyed the deep and broad hospitality of Shallowford Presbyterian Church, who provided incredible space for the work of the day and the fellowship and conversation that bring life to our time together. Our worship was especially enriched by the musical gifts of Jinhee Kim on organ, Virginia Respess Fairchild on violin, Rob Rogers from the Atlanta Pipe Band, and the Shallowford Joy Chorale.

Our preacher for the day, Rev. Dr. Victor Aloyo, President of Columbia Theological Seminary, offered an exploration of the parable of the sower from Matthew

13. He reminded us that even as God sows new seeds around us we are also called to sow seeds ourselves with generous abandon in all the various places where we find ourselves. The Presbytery also welcomed other representatives from educational institutions and campus ministries during the meeting, several of whom led us in celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Along the way, we were reminded that the whole people of God flourish as we learn and grow and enable that learning and growth in others.



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

- **Mary Moore Driggers**, transferring into the Presbytery from Foothills Presbytery following her ordination to serve as associate pastor at Peachtree City First Presbyterian Church
- **Donghyun Jeong**, being ordained from candidacy in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta to serve as assistant professor of New Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

- **Shannon Johnson Kershner**, transferring into the Presbytery from Chicago Presbytery to serve as pastor at Central Presbyterian Church
- **Sam Phillips**, being ordained from candidacy in East Tennessee Presbytery to serve as a chaplain resident at Emory University Hospital Midtown

The Presbytery also approved alternative ordination exams for two candidates for ordination. The Committee on Representation and the Nominating Committee encouraged presbyters to submit their names for potential service on Presbytery committees and commissions, and the Presbytery elected four members to service on Presbytery committees. The New Church Development Commission offered a brief report on its work and lifted up the ministry of the Zo Presbyterian Church in serving the Zo community of refugees from Myanmar.

The meeting offering supported the work of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partnerships in South Sudan through mission co-workers Nancy and Shelvis Smith-Mather and will be divided between support for the RECONCILE Peace Institute and disaster relief for the church's response to the ongoing conflict in the Sudan and South Sudan.

The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be held on Saturday, November 4, 2023, beginning at 9:00am, in a hybrid format, with the in-person gathering at North Decatur Presbyterian Church.

