



Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

One Presbytery ~ Three Covenant Communities

807 W. King Street ~ Elizabethtown, NC 28337-9587

910-862-8300 ~ www.presbycc.org



September 21, 2023

Come for Worship, Stay for Business

You are cordially invited to the 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina on October 7, 2023

Commissioners will be able to participate either by gathering in-person at [St. Andrews University's Avinger Auditorium](#) in Laurinburg or by Zoom. This meeting will be called to order at 9:30 AM. As part of our time together we will hear candidates for ordination preach during worship. We will commission youth to serve on the Presbyterian Youth Council and a team to work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) in Puerto Rico. The offering collected will support our PDA team in Puerto Rico and the work of PDA to help Maui, Hawaii, recover from wildfires. Offering checks should be made out to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.

All in-person participants including guests will be required to pre-register and reserve lunch by Monday, October 2, 2023. A boxed lunch will be provided by campus cafeteria services. The cost is \$10/person, payable with cash or check (make out to St. Andrews University). Lunch reservations can be made when registering for

in-person attendance. No money will be accepted prior to the meeting.

In-person participants may arrive as early as 8:30AM to enjoy refreshments provided by Scotia Village. **Register to attend in-person and sign up for lunch** by Oct 2 with the following link:

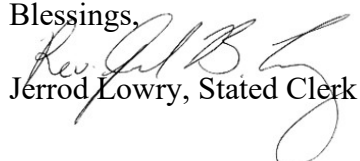
<https://forms.gle/XE8hvByeEgCLopLi9>

Virtual (Zoom) participants must register by Wednesday, October 4. Zoom enrolled participants will be limited to Presbytery

minister members, Elder Commissioners, Commissioned Ruling Elders, Committee Chairs, and persons needing Spanish language interpretation. **Zoom participants** may join the meeting at 9:15 AM. If you get disconnected, you rejoin by using the same link. Use the following link to register for Zoom www.PresbyCC.org/calendar/packets/. After your registration is approved, you will receive the zoom link by email.

This packet, a google link for directions, links for in person registration and the zoom registration, are all online at www.PresbyCC.org/calendar/packets/.

Blessings,


Jerrod Lowry, Stated Clerk

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
October 7, 2023
Stated Meeting

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|-------|-------|---|--|
| I. | 9:30 | Opening Prayer & Greetings | Helane Church, Moderator |
| II. | 9:45 | Agenda | Tim Havlicek, Chair |
| III. | 9:55 | Reports | |
| | | • Synod Report | Cassandra Thomas & Chip Stapelton, Commissioners |
| | | • New Church Development | Howard Dudley, Chair |
| | | • Nominations Committee | Kathryn Dudley, Chair |
| IV. | 10:45 | Central Community Announcements | Becky Durham, Chair |
| V. | 11 | Worship & Commission of Presbyterian Youth Council | |
| VI. | 12:15 | Lunch | |
| VII. | 1:00 | Commission Puerto Rico Team | Helane Church, Moderator |
| VIII. | 1:15 | West Community Announcements | Wendy Tomczak, Chair |
| IX. | 1:20 | Commission on Ministry Report | Rick Martindale, Chair |
| X. | 2:20 | East Community Announcements | Hank Bellomy, Chair |
| XI. | 2:25 | Commission Preparation Ministry | Pat Ramsden & Barrett Ingram, Chairs |
| XII. | | Mission Cabinet Report | Tim Havlicek, Chair |
| | | • Finance and Property Report | Barrett Payne, Chair |
| XIII. | 2:45 | Elder Ministries | T. Wes Moore, Chair |
| XIV. | 2:55 | Clerk's Report & Other Reports | Jerrod Lowry, Stated Clerk |
| XV. | 3:15 | Installation of Presbytery Moderator and Vice Moderator | |
| XVI. | 3:25 | Thanks Committee Report & Adjourn | |

**Synod of the Mid-Atlantic (SMA)
Presbytery Commissioners' Report
Submitted: August 21, 2023**

Your Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Synod Commissioners

TE Charles "Chip" Stapleton (2025)
SMA Grants Committee
Chipstapleton@gmail.com

TE Cassandra "Sandy" Thomas (2024)
SMA Emerging Ideas Committee
chcothomas@yahoo.com

Consultation in Richmond, VA August 30, 2023. As Co-Chair of Emerging Ideas, TE Cassandra Thomas, along with other Synod committees' chairs and staff, attended a Synod staff-led consultation in Richmond, VA on August 30, 2023, to address the following:

- Clarify synod policies and procedures related to grants and awards.
- Identify processes/procedures used to receive, review, evaluate, prioritize, and award grants.
- Explore possibilities of developing one single grant application and evaluation form.
- Examine creative ideas for marketing, mission interpretation and distribution of grants resources to appropriate bodies across the mid-Atlantic region.
- Identify ways in which the grants of each committee and its process address the Synod's Matthew 25 Initiatives.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina engaging the Matthew 25 Initiative

Thank you to the following Matthew 25 churches as identified by the Presbyterian Mission Agency website:

- Bethany (Lumberton),
- Brownson Memorial (Southern Pines),
- First Jacksonville,
- Haymount,
- Southport,
- Trinity (Laurinburg).

We are working with SPOR to encourage churches to sign up, and be recognized by the denomination, as Matthew 25 churches using the PMA link. Coastal Carolina Presbytery can sign up as a denominational Matthew 25 Mid-Council by encouraging 20% or more of our churches to become Matthew 25 churches.

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic 252nd Assembly was held on September 10-13, 2023, at Massanetta Springs Conference Center in VA. Both commissioners participated. The primary focus of the Assembly was to discuss and create strategic action plans for the Next Generation Initiative (NGI). This initiative seeks to respond to the critical shortage of African American Clergy in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the need within every presbytery to be served by able Black leadership. In response to this challenge, the synod would commit itself to identifying, nurturing, and serving as advocates for the next generation of African American clergy to serve congregations and councils of the church and throughout the Presbyterian structure. With the support of Presbytery staff and church leaders, TE Cassandra Thomas was the Presbytery's NGI Facilitator who gathered data from historically African American churches and submitted the data to the Synod staff in preparation for the Assembly's gathering. Presbytery leaders and members were invited to the Assembly to be part of focus groups: Presbytery staff: TE Jerrod Lowry,

General Presbyter; COM; PCM; African American church members; and African American Presbyterian Clergy. A Synod Assembly summary will be provided to each Presbytery for information and/or action. [Note: Add in the names who attended and their church or committee]

The following, within our Presbytery, are currently serving on Synod Committees:

- TE Cassandra Thomas, Emerging Ideas, Co-Chair, and Executive Committee
- TE Chip Stapleton, Grants
- QRE Teresa Page, Jubilee
- CRE George Wilson, Nominating
- TE William (Bill) Reinhold, Permanent Judiciary
- TE Jerrod Lowry, EP/Stated Clerk, on Synod Mid-Council

Respectfully submitted,

Chip Stapleton and Cassandra Thomas
Commissioners to the Synod of Mid-Atlantic

New Church Development Committee

The New Church Development Committee (NCDC) met for the first time in 2023. Our members, including new members, were introduced, and a basic overview of the scope and task of the council was given by committee chair Rev. Howard Dudley.

The committee responded to a request from Fuente De Agua Viva, a New Worshipping Community and chartered congregation that is currently constructing a building in Faison, NC. The congregation requests a grant of \$12,000 from the New Church Development Fund to support their building project. Currently, the Presbytery has around \$390,000 designated to support general new church development and over \$1,000,000 designated to support new church development in the Wilmington area. In keeping with the Presbytery's Asset Manual, the committee voted unanimously to grant \$12,000 from the New Church Development Fund to Fuente De Agua Viva for the support of their building.

The committee also voted to place a temporary moratorium of up to six months before entertaining any other grants and proposals. The committee will use this time to discern and propose guidelines and metrics for the support of new worshipping communities and new church development. Particular attention is being drawn to new worshipping communities that do not have the potential to become chartered congregations and yet still hold the gathering body of worship at the heart of their ministry (i.e., campus ministries, prison ministries, ministries with homeless, etc.).

Respectfully submitted,

Howard Dudley, Chair

Committee on Nominations

Nominees for General Assembly Commissioners, Alternates, and YAAD (2nd reading)

General Assembly Commissioners for 2024

RE Gary Galloway	M	East	Wilmington, Windemere PC
RE David Bailey	M	West	Sanford, Jonesboro PC
RE Lyle Swanger	M	East	Pollocksville, Pollocksville PC
TE Joanna Hipp	F	East	Southport, Southport PC
TE John Pflug	M	East	Wilmington, Windemere PC
TE Cassandra Thomas	F	Central	Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) for 2024

Trinidad E. Martinez Zarco	M	Central	Primera Iglesia Hispana de Fayetteville
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General Assembly Alternates for 2024

RE Linda Lamb	F	Central	Clinton, Graves Memorial
RE Kitty Green	F	East	Shallotte, Shallotte PC
RE Wendy Tomczak	F	West	Carthage, Priest Hill PC
TE Clarence Page	M	Central	Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
TE Richard “Hank” Bellomy	M	East	Beulaville, Beulaville PC
TE T. Wes Moore	M	West	West End, West End PC

Nominees for full committees and commissions of Presbytery

African-American Ministries

Chair: Katif Peay

Class of 2026

RE Rosia “Gerri” Freeman	Central	Fayetteville, Haymount PC
RE Connell Williams	Central	Red Springs, Panthersford PC
RE Sandra Johnson	Central	Red Springs, Panthersford PC

Bills and Overtures

Chair: TE Barbara Hager

Class of 2026

RE Elizabeth “Liz” Hill	West	Lillington, Lillington PC
TE N. Samuel “Sam” Murrell	East	Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Commission on Ministry

Chair: RE Jay Bender

COM (Central)

Class of 2024 (1 vacancy)

RE Jeffrey Cox	Central	Clarkton, Clarkton PC
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Class of 2025 (1 vacancy)

RE Karen VanZandt	Central	Red Springs, Red Springs PC
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Class of 2026

RE Fred McMillan	Central	Lumberton, Bethany PC
RE Joyce Peay	Central	Rowland, Mount Pelier PC
TE Dari Rowen	Central	Red Springs, Red Springs PC
TE Charles Elliott	Central	Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
RE Darlene Thomas	Central	Fayetteville, Haymount PC

COM (East)

Class of 2024

TE Hannah Vaughan	East	Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
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Class of 2025

RE Kaye Bledsoe	East	Jacksonville, First PC
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Class of 2026

TE Phillip Gladden	East	Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
RE Hilda Miller	East	Rose Hill, Mount Zion PC
RE Billie Stroud	East	Kenansville, Grove PC
TE Dan Lewis	East	Wilmington, First PC
RE Bill Landen	East	Wilmington, St. Andrews-Covenant

COM (West)

Class of 2024

RE John Baker	West	Carthage, First PC
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Class of 2026 (1 vacancy)

RE Linda Hayes	West	Dunn, First PC
RE Michael Fox	West	Sanford, Euphronia PC
RE John Stanley	West	Laurinburg, Laurinburg PC
TE John Taylor	West	Sanford, Jonesboro PC

Elder Ministries

Chair: T. Wes Moore, IV

Class of 2026

RE Julie Hughes	West	Sanford, Pocket PC
TE Katie Harrington	East	Wilmington, St. Andrews-Covenant PC

Preparation for Ministry

Co-Chairs: TE Patricia Ramsden, TE Barrett Ingram

Class of 2026

RE Michael Baker	West	Raeford, Philippi PC
RE Sinclair Chalmers	West	Broadway, Williams Chapel PC
TE David Smithey	West	Coats, Ebenezer PC
RE Cullen Edwards	West	Wagram, Montpelier PC

Representation

Chair: RE Robert (Bob) Fry

Class of 2026

RE Barbara Gomez	West	Carthage, John Hall PC
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Response Coordinating TeamClass of 2026 (1 vacancy)

RE James “Jim” Smith

Chair: RE Robert (Rob) Price

West Wagram, Montpelier PC

Self-Development of PeopleClass of 2025

RE Linda Lamb

Chair: RE Alice Baldwin

Central Clinton, Graves Memorial PC

Class of 2026

RE Alice Baldwin

West Laurinburg, Westminster

RE Robert “Bob” James

Central Fayetteville, College Heights PC

Strategic Planning and Organizational Review *Chair: Steve Fitzgerald*Class of 2026

TE Matthew Copple

Central Fayetteville, Westminster

TE Elizabeth Doolin

West Southern Pines, Brownson Memorial PC

TE Dayton Wilson

Central Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown PC

SynodCommissioner - Class of 2026

TE Charles “Chip” Stapleton, III Central Fayetteville, Highland PC

Jubilee Fund Committee - Class of 2026

RE Teresa Page

Central Clarkton, Central PC

Mission Cabinet*Chair: TE Tim Havlicek**Vice-Chair: TE Marie Cone***Presbytery***Moderator: TE Margaret (Meg) Dudley**Vice-Moderator: RE Robert Gordon***Vacancies remaining in full committees and commissions of Presbytery:**

2 – COM Central (classes of 2024 and 2025)

1 – COM West (class of 2026)

1 – Response Coordinating Team (class of 2026)

Volunteer or send recommendations to Kathryn Dudley at pastorkdudley@gmail.com.Please remember that a **person may serve on only one** full committee/commission of Presbytery at a time, and **only ruling and teaching elders** are eligible to serve on COM.

October 7, 2023

Kathryn Dudley, Chair

Central Community Steering Team Report September 2023

Officer/Leader Training 2023 - We will offer leaders in the Central Community (and other communities) the opportunity to attend “Turning Point” with Ann Jahnes on Saturday, November 4, from 9 to 12:30. The event will take place at Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church.

Winter Gathering 2024 - Our Winter Gathering is scheduled for January 28 and will feature our Faithful Saints recognition during the worship service. Nomination forms are available for churches in the Central Community to nominate one saint per church starting October 1. Nominations are due by December 11.

Central Steering Team Meeting is scheduled for September 19th via Zoom, 2 PM.

SPOR Evaluation - The Central Steering Team met with Nancy Gladden at our August meeting and completed the SPOR Evaluation.

SDOP is this Saturday, September 9, at 10:00 AM, via Zoom.

CAAM Gathering, August 12, was a wonderful fellowship.

Central Pastors – I have done individual visits.

Submitted by Clarence G. Page



Presbytery of Coastal Carolina at Worship

Gathering in God's Name

Gathering Music

Jim Morgan and David Buhler

*Sung Call to Worship: "Come All You People"

Come all you people, come and praise your Maker; (sing 3x)

Come now and worship the Lord.

*Greeting

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Thomas

This is the day the Lord has made;

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

* Opening Prayer

Lord, may our souls rise to meet you, as the day rises to meet the sun!

As we sing, pray, listen, and learn, let your wondrous love be known among us.

May our worship and work give you glory and

strengthen us to further your justice and peace on earth. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise: "Shout to the North"

**Please stand as you are able.*

*Congregation reads **bold type** responses.*

Invitation to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Holy and Loving God,
your Word brings us wisdom in a world saturated with too much talk.
Your Spirit gives us refreshment when our hearts are low.
Forgive us for neglecting our ever-present source of help.
Bring us again to the abundant and nourishing life we find in
Christ, our Lord and Savior, in whom we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Responding to God's Grace

Invitation to Offering

Our offering today will support Presbytery's Puerto Rico Mission Trip and PDA: Hawaii Recovery.

Offertory

The Prayers

Commissioning of Presbytery Youth Council

See the list below for those serving on the Council.

Commissioning Questions:

Helane W. Church

- Members of the Presbytery Youth Council: Will you serve this presbytery with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- Will you be a role model to youth and adults engaged in youth ministry, relying on the Holy Spirit, and following the example of Christ?
- *(To the Presbytery)* Do we as members of this presbytery, accept these young people and adults as representatives, chosen to extend our Christian love and concern to others?
- *(To the Presbytery)* Will we support them with our prayers – recognizing their special gifts in the work of God's kingdom?

Commissioning Prayer

*Hymn of Response: "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Insert)

During the hymn, some congregants move to a second worship space as instructed.

Hearing God's Word

Hebrew Scriptures

Isaiah 58:9-12	"God's Sustaining Power" (<i>Avinger Auditorium</i>)	Hannah Ostlund
Ezekiel 37:1-14	"The Breath of Life" (<i>Liberal Arts Building</i>)	Natalie Raygor

New Testament

2 Corinthians 4:7-10	"Do Not Lose Heart" (<i>Avinger Auditorium</i>)	Austin Vernon
2 Corinthians 4:16-18	"Inner Spiritual Renewal" (<i>Liberal Arts Building</i>)	Tommy Miller

Going With God's Blessing

*Closing Hymn: "Go to the World!" (Insert)

*Charge and Blessing

Worship Leaders

Musicians

Rev. Jim Morgan David Buhler

Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Cassandra Thomas

Presbytery Youth Council

Flora McRae	Samantha Jeffries	Ashton Oliver
Briana Gonzalez	Cristian Castro	Isaac Ramos
Alondra Cardenas	Araceli Ramos	Hector Cardenas
Melanie Ramos	Cassandra Thomas	Zac Phelps
Eva Samuelian	Jerusalem Martinez (Presbytery Youth Coordinator)	

Sung Call to Worship: *Come, All You People*

Come, all you people, come and praise your maker.
Come, all you people, come and praise your maker.
Come, all you people, come and praise your maker.
Come now and worship the Lord.

Hymn of Praise: *Shout to the North*

Men of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak; in your brokenness, complete.

Refrain

**Shout to the north and the south; sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.**

Rise up, women of the truth. Stand and sing to broken hearts
Who can know the healing power of our awesome King of love.

Refrain

We've been through fire; we've been through rain;
We've been refined by the power of your name.
We've fallen deeper in love with you.
You've burned this truth on our lips.

Refrain

Rise up, church with broken wings; fill this place with songs again
Of our God who reigns on high; by God's grace again we'll fly.

Refrain

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Hymn of Response: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father
There is no shadow of turning with Thee
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be

Refrain:

**Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside Refrain

Closing Hymn: *Go to the World!*

Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go struggle, bless, and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant church, you follow Christ's own way.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you till the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen."
Alleluia. Alleluia.

Thank you for your prayers and support for our team of 24 persons from our Presbytery who are traveling to volunteer in Puerto Rico, February 3-10. They will stay at two host sites operated by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), one in San Juan, one in Aguada. From these sites they will be assigned to work with partner agencies to help in the ongoing rebuilding of homes following the devastation caused hurricanes Irma, Maria and Fiona. We are hopeful that there will be future teams!



2024 Puerto Rico Team Roster (representing 17 churches):

Name	Church
Victor Andersen	Bethesda, Aberdeen
Ben Burrows	Cape Carteret PC (Pastor)
Gail McGirt	Cape Fear, Wilmington
Drew Curtiss	Carolina Beach Presbyterian
Krista Curtiss	Carolina Beach Presbyterian
Crystal Whisnant- Blue	Church in The Pines, Laurel Hill (Pastor) & Brownson MPC
David Smithey	Ebenezer, Coats (Pastor) Co-Leader of the Team
Jennifer Smithey	Ebenezer, Coats
Kathleen (Kath) Grib Novak	First, Wilmington
George Noel	Jonesboro, Sanford
Bonnie Cruickshank	Lillington Church
Jim Cruickshank	Lillington Church
Josh W Smith	Lillington Church
Patricia Ramsden	Montpelier, Wagram (Pastor)
Beth Ricci	Oak Plain, Rose Hill
Laura Lupton	Presbytery Staff (Pastor) Organizer/Co-Leader
Graciela Zarco Guzman	Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Fayetteville
Trinidad E Martinez Solis	Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana de Fayetteville (Pastor)
Elias Hedblom	Southport Church
Katherine L Tobin	Topsail, Hampstead
Mike Steed	Topsail, Hampstead
Barbara Carter	Westminster, Fayetteville
Greg Spivey	White Hill, Sanford
Tonya Brinkley	Williams Chapel, Broadway

West Community Report to Presbytery ~ October 7, 2023

Officer Training – Saturday, January 20, 2024

9:30AM to 3PM Book of Order Basics (Leader & Location TBD) and Ann Jahnes's Leadership Training,

Confirmation Retreat at Camp Monroe Friday, February 2 – Saturday, February 3, 2024. See Flyer in the packet.

Presbytery Wide Puerto Rico Mission Team Trip is February 3 to 10, 2024.

FOLLOW -UP REPORTS:

1. **Recent:** Saturday, September 23, was **4-D Discipleship Development Day** of the West Community including Treasurer's Training and 10 other classes. Over 75 people attended.
2. **West Community gathering was June 10, 2023** at Lillington Presbyterian Church. Time of worship with Dr. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer, Priscilla Burton, and Dina Chuc.
Followed by Two Enrichment Conversations: 1. with Dr. Elizabeth "Libbie" Schrader Polczer on understanding the scholarly wrestling that shapes our understanding of the Biblical text we have in the modern church. John 14. 2. Responding to a mental health crisis? Mary Neill Thompson, Scotland Family Counseling Center.
3. **Presbyterian Night at the Woodpeckers Ballgame 2023**
 - ✚ **Was Friday night, August 4th, 2023**, Fayetteville Woodpeckers vs the Carolina Mudcats of Zebulon,
 - ✚ The Presbytery was invited, 50 tickets sold; \$250 Plus \$70 (\$320 total) was raised for Children's Hope Alliance.
4. **5 pastors from the West attended the Ministers' Retreat** August 20-23, 2023. This is an increase from 2022.

Next West Steering Meeting: Monday, October 23, 4PM on Zoom

~ Wendy Tomczak, Chair

Full COM Report

Action Items

1. 2024 Terms of Call for Installed Ministers
2. Examination of Candidate for Ordination
 1. Thomas Miller - ordination as Teaching Elder and request to ordain on behalf of Tampa Bay Presbytery.
 2. Natalie Raygor – ordination as Teaching Elder and installation as Associate Pastor to First Presbyterian Church, Wilmington
 3. Austin Vernon – ordination as Teaching Elder and installation as Associate Pastor to Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church
3. Administrative Commission with Original Jurisdiction for Horseshoe PC

Information:

New Minister Members of the Presbytery:

1. Rev. Elizabeth DeSouza from Greater Atlanta Presbytery as chaplain for Lower Cape Fear Life Care Hospice.
2. Rev. Natasha Sudderth from St. Augustine Presbytery as pastor of West End PC.
3. Rev. Jake Young from St. Augustine Presbytery as Designated Pastor of First Morehead City PC.
4. Rev. Jeffrey Lee Shaver from Transylvania Presbytery as Associate Pastor of First Fayetteville PC.
5. Rev. Tracey Daniels from Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery as Associate Pastor of First Wilmington PC
6. Rev. Carrie Evans from Shenandoah Presbytery as Pastor of Southport PC
- 7.

Temporary Member: None

New/Renewed Relationships:

1. Rev. Richard C. Boyd, Stated Supply, and Croatan through 2023
2. Rachel Doll, CRE, and Winter Park through 2023
3. Rev. Steuart Wilson, Stated Supply, and First Maxton through 2023
4. Rev. Eugene Bach, Stated Supply, and Lumber Bridge through 2023
5. Rev. Jim Morgan, Stated Supply, and Trinity through 2023
6. Crystal Blue, CRE, and Church in the Pines through 2023
7. Rev. Keith Miller, Stated Supply, and Euphronia through 2023
8. John Baker, CRE, and St. Andrews through 2023
9. Rev. Fred Goins, Temporary Supply, and Blandonia through 2023
10. Rev. Jay Coker, Interim Stated Supply, and First Lumberton, September 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023
11. Rev. Joe Washburn, Stated Supply, and Chadbourn through 2023
12. Rev. Archie Barringer, Temporary Supply, and Sunnyside (dates)
13. Rev. Thomas Wesley Moore, Stated Supply, and Graves Memorial PC through December 31, 2023

14. Rev. Robbie Phillips, Stated Supply, and Grace PC Beaufort through December 31, 2023
15. Rev. Robb Lapp, Interim, and Wallace PC beginning August 28, 2023.
16. Rev. Steve Fitzgerald, Interim, and Sneads Ferry PC through December 31, 2024
17. Gracie Williams, CRE, and the Lillington Field of Churches – Spout Springs PC, Williams Chapel PC, and First Lillington PC through December 31, 2023
18. Rev. Dwight Jackson, Temporary Supply, and Philippi PC through December 31, 2024

Additions to the Supply List:

1. Rev. Barbara Hedin
2. Rev. Sue Hudson
3. Rev. Melanie Swofford

Moderators:

1. Rev. Dari Rowen moderating Big Rockfish PC
2. Rev. Dari Rowen moderating Parkton PC
3. Rev. Howard Whitehurst moderating Faith PC
4. QRE Jim Smith moderating Westminster Laurinburg

Retirements:

1. Rev. Miguel Aragon granted retirement effective March 7, 2023
2. Rev. Cindy Neal, granted retirement effective June 1, 2023

QRE Status: None

Dissolutions:

1. The pastoral relationship between Rev. Brad Simpson and First Sanford PC dissolved effective June 1, 2023

Dismissals:

1. Dismissal Rev. Jonathan Kelley to Northwest Coast Presbytery

Other:

1. Wallace PC approved to begin search for interim pastor
2. New Hope Presbyterian Church approved to waive rotation of officers for 3 years.
3. Rev. Jay Atkinson approved to continue as Minister At-Large status
4. Lakeview PC request to waive rotation of elders approved
5. Rev. Janice Hodges (Minister of Another Denomination) approved to administer sacraments at Mars Hill PC
6. Natalie Raygor, Candidate Certified and Ready for Ordination from the Presbytery of Charlotte was approved to begin working at First Wilmington PC on September 1, 2023. She will be examined by the presbytery at the October stated presbytery

- meeting for ordination and reception as a minister member in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.
7. Rev. Cynthia Williams as Moderator at Wallace, June 1-August 28, 2023
 8. St. Andrews-Covenant granted permission to form an associate pastor nominating committee
 - 9.

Commissions to Install or Commission:

Minutes from the following commissions were found to be in order and the individuals are thanked for their service.

1. The report from the Administrative Commission to commission CRE Cullen Edwards at Pleasant View Laurinburg was received and the commission was dismissed with thanks: TE:Elizabeth Forester, Patricia Ramsden, Jim Bumgardner, Jerrod B. Lowry, RE:Martha Strickland, CRE Crystal Blue, CRE John Baker

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Proposed 2024 Minimum Terms of Call
for full-time installed ministers

Financial Terms of Call

\$71,209 minimum (2% increase from 2022)

\$45,080 “effective salary”^{1,6}

\$16,680 **Board of Pensions required dues**²

\$3,449 one-half of minister’s SECA tax³

\$4,000 **professional expenses reimbursement**⁴

\$2,000 **additional salary, benefits, or reimbursement**⁵

Minimum terms of call assume a normal, full-time work week of 40 hours, with 2 days off each week.⁷

¹ **Effective salary** includes cash salary, housing allowance, and the value of the use of a manse, if provided.

° Effective salary also includes any optional Board of Pensions benefits (such as dental insurance), 403(b)(9) salary reduction contributions, medical reimbursement plans, annual bonus, and other compensation.

° See the Board of Pensions “total effective salary calculator” at www.pensions.org.

² **Board of Pension required dues of 37%** based on effective salary include medical coverage (27%), pension (8.5%), death and disability coverage (1%), and temporary disability (.5%)

³ **One-half** of SECA tax is 7.65% of salary and housing.

⁴ **Expenses reimbursement:** an amount set aside for mileage, continuing education, and other professional expenses, available only through monthly submission of mileage records and receipts. At the end of the year, unused funds remain in the church account – they are not part of the minister’s salary.

° Mileage should be reimbursed at the IRS rate. Continuing education (including details of content and cost) must receive prior approval of the Session.

⁵ **Additional** funds provide choices appropriate to each minister’s situation and needs, such as medical reimbursement, deferred compensation, manse equity, additional professional expenses, etc. Decisions about how to use these funds must be made before congregational approval of terms of call for the new year and spelled out in the minutes of the congregation.

NOTE: By allocating “Additional Funds” to Effective Salary items, premiums for BOP and SECA may increase. Take those increases into account when allocating the additional funds. Changes may also impact the minister’s tax burden.

⁶ **Churches must meet the minimum effective salary**, but staff and congregations may negotiate professional expenses and reimbursable expenses to better tailor these portions of the terms of call to suit their needs and budget. Staff should actively participate in the negotiation of the final terms of call and not expect that they be routinely applied.”

⁷ **Work schedule:** Since a minister’s actual schedule is unpredictable, work hours often vary week to week. Even on days off, the minister is usually still “on call.” Therefore, the Session and the minister must exercise flexibility, balancing work and rest to avoid pastoral burnout.

Important Notes:

1. The division of funds between Professional Expenses and Continuing Education should be determined by the session in consultation with the pastor. The division of funds can vary from year to year.

- **Accountable Reimbursable Expenses** are usual, customary and reasonable expenses incurred in support of the ministry provided to the congregation by the pastor. They do not include commuting from home to church/office. Expenses are reimbursed upon the submission of appropriate receipts or mileage logs and should not be paid in regular monthly installments. If Accountable Expenses are paid in monthly installments, then they must be counted as income and listed on the pastor's W-2 form. Pension, Disability, and Medical Dues would also have to be paid on them. It is up to the pastors to monitor their use of Accountable Expense funds so as not to run over by the end of the year. Any unused funds revert to the church treasury at the end of the year. Unexpended budgeted funds for Accountable Reimbursable Expenses are not available to a pastor as compensation.

- Since **Continuing Education** funds are provided by the church in order to equip the pastor to be a more effective leader in the congregation, it is the responsibility of the pastor to consult with the session about the content, location, and cost of any continuing education before taking time off or incurring costs. The expenses will be reimbursed (within the limits of the agreement) upon presentation of receipts. Accrued Continuing Education time and money are forfeited upon dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Unexpended Continuing Education money are not available to a pastor as compensation.

2. For negotiations for service **less than full-time**, a normal (full time) work week is considered as 40 hours. Vacation and continuing education for pastoral voices serving less than full-time be proportional to the number of Sundays preached/scheduled per month.

3. **Other benefits** (part of minimum terms of call):

- a. Vacation of 4 weeks including 4 Sundays.
- b. Study Leave of 2 weeks including 2 Sundays. The purpose of Study Leave will be planned in consultation with the Session.
- c. Holidays as established by Presbytery policy.
- d. Full usual, customary, & reasonable cost of moving to the field by a licensed carrier.
- e. **FAMILY LEAVE is required. Beginning July 10, 2023 the Book of Order (G-2.0804) will mandate Family Leave with the following language: "The call shall include provision for a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave and participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly."**

A. FAMILY LEAVE is a mutual agreement between the Session and Educator for the good and welfare of the whole of God's holy people. *A Covenant of Care and Compassion* is a formal opportunity to express agreement in family leave policies. Guidelines for *A Declaration of Family Leave Policy* and *A Covenant for Care and Compassion* are available at the Presbytery Office.

B. FAMILY LEAVE, may include such items below, is time released for medical care and treatment.

- Sick Leave shall accumulate at least 1 ¼ days each month to 90 days total. Sick Leave of 5 days shall be accrued to newly employed educators. When sick leave taken exceeds 5 days in a 6-month period, a church may require a statement from the attending physician.
- Maternity/Paternity Leave – 12 weeks with payment of salary and benefits, excluding reimbursable expenses. An additional two (2) weeks may be granted from accumulated sick leave if needed.

- Adoptive Leave – 12 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses.
- Caring for family members

PROPOSED 2024 minimum terms of call – reflects a 2% increase in 2022 Salary

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Full Time¹ Certified Christian Educators

Salary (including suitable health and retirement plans)	\$47,601.00
Reimbursable Expenses²	\$1,225.00
Additional Compensation³ (to be allocated in consultation with the employee)	\$600.00
Total Minimum compensation for 2024	\$49,426.00

Full Time¹ Certified Associate Christian Educators

Salary (including suitable health and retirement plans)	\$42,242.00
Reimbursable Expenses²	\$1,225.00
Additional Compensation³ (to be allocated in consultation with the employee)	\$600.00
Total Minimum compensation for 2024	\$44,067.00

Notes:

¹ For negotiations for service **less than full-time**, a normal (full time) work week is considered as 40 hours. Vacation and continuing education for Educators serving less than full time is proportional to the number of Sunday's scheduled per month.

² **Reimbursable expenses:** an amount set aside for mileage, continuing education, and other professional expenses, available only through monthly submission of mileage records and receipts. At the end of the year, unused funds remain in the church account – they are not part of the educator's salary.

◦ Mileage should be reimbursed at the IRS rate.

◦ Continuing education (including details of content and cost) must receive prior approval of the Session.

³ **Additional compensation** provides choices appropriate to each educator's situation and needs and should be added to salary, health coverage, retirement coverage, or expenses before a contract is approved.

Other benefits (part of minimum terms of call)

- a. Vacation of 4 weeks including 4 Sundays.
- b. Study Leave of 2 weeks including 2 Sundays. The purpose of Study Leave (Continuing Education) will be planned in consultation with the Session.
- c. Holidays as established by Presbytery policy.
- d. Full usual, customary, & reasonable cost of moving to the field by a licensed carrier.
- e. FAMILY LEAVE is required
 - A. FAMILY LEAVE is a mutual agreement between the Session and Educator for the good and welfare of the whole of God's holy people. *A Covenant of Care and Compassion* is a formal opportunity to express agreement in family leave policies. Guidelines for *A Declaration of Family Leave Policy* and *A Covenant for Care and Compassion* are available at the Presbytery Office.
 - B. FAMILY LEAVE, which may include such items below, is time released for medical care and treatment.
 - Sick Leave shall accumulate at least 1 ¼ days each month to 90 days total. Sick Leave of 5 days shall be accrued to newly employed educators. When sick leave taken exceeds 5 days in a 6-month period, a church may require a statement from the attending physician.
 - Maternity/Paternity Leave – 8 weeks with payment of salary and benefits, excluding reimbursable expenses. An additional two (2) weeks may be granted from accumulated sick leave if needed.
 - Adoptive Leave – 8 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses.
 - Caring for family members

At the September 2023 Full COM meeting the amendments below were approved. These proposed amendments to the 2024 Terms of Call will be presented to the presbytery when the 2024 Terms of Call are brought forward for second reading at the October meeting.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Proposed 2024 Minimum Terms of Call
for full-time installed ministers

Financial Terms of Call

\$71,209 minimum (2% increase from 2022)

\$45,080 “effective salary”^{1,6}
\$16,680 Board of Pensions required dues²
\$3,449 one-half of minister’s SECA tax³
\$4,000 professional expenses reimbursement⁴
\$2,000 additional salary, benefits, or reimbursement⁵

The congregation shall be responsible for covering full usual, customary, and reasonable moving expenses by a licensed carrier that will bring the pastor/associate pastor to the field. The pastor should consult their tax professional to understand the financial implications.

Minimum terms of call assume a normal, full-time work week of 40 hours, with 2 days off each week.⁷

¹ Effective salary includes cash salary, housing allowance, and the value of the use of a manse, if provided. Effective salary also includes any optional Board of Pensions benefits (such as dental insurance), 403(b)(9) salary reduction contributions, medical reimbursement plans, annual bonus, and other compensation. See the Board of Pensions “total effective salary calculator” at www.pensions.org.

² Board of Pension required dues of 39% based on effective salary include medical coverage (29%), pension (8.5%), death and disability coverage (1%), and temporary disability (.5%)

³ One-half of SECA tax is 7.65% of salary and housing.

⁴ Expenses reimbursement: an amount set aside for mileage, continuing education, and other professional expenses, available only through monthly submission of mileage records and receipts. At the end of the year, unused funds remain in the church account – they are not part of the minister’s salary. Mileage should be reimbursed at the IRS rate. Continuing education (including details of content and cost) must receive prior approval of the Session.

⁵ Additional funds provide choices appropriate to each minister’s situation and needs, such as medical reimbursement, deferred compensation, manse equity, additional professional expenses, etc. Decisions about how to use these funds must be made before congregational approval of terms of call for the new year and spelled out in the minutes of the congregation.

NOTE: By allocating “Additional Funds” to Effective Salary items, premiums for BOP and SECA may increase. Take those increases into account when allocating the additional funds. Changes may also impact the minister’s tax burden.

“Churches must meet the minimum effective salary, but staff and congregations may negotiate professional expenses and reimbursable expenses to better tailor these portions of the terms of call to suit their needs and budget. Staff should actively participate in the negotiation of the final terms of call and not expect that they be routinely applied.”

⁷ Work schedule: Since a minister’s actual schedule is unpredictable, work hours often vary week to week. Even on days off, the minister is usually still “on call.” Therefore, the Session and the minister must exercise flexibility, balancing work and rest to avoid pastoral burnout.

Important Notes:

1. The division of funds between Professional Expenses and Continuing Education should be determined by the session in consultation with the pastor. The division of funds can vary from year to year.
 - Accountable Reimbursable Expenses are usual, customary and reasonable expenses incurred in support of the ministry provided to the congregation by the pastor. They do not include commuting from home to church/office. Expenses are reimbursed upon the submission of appropriate receipts or mileage logs and should not be paid in regular monthly installments. If Accountable Expenses are paid in monthly installments, then they must be counted as income and listed on the pastor’s W-2 form. Pension, Disability, and Medical Dues would also have to be paid on them. It is up to the pastors to monitor their use of Accountable Expense funds so as not to run over by the end of the year. Any unused funds revert to the church treasury at the end of the year. Unexpended budgeted funds for Accountable Reimbursable Expenses are not available to a pastor as compensation.
 - Since Continuing Education funds are provided by the church in order to equip the pastor to be a more effective leader in the congregation, it is the responsibility of the pastor to consult with the session about the content, location, and cost of any continuing education before taking time off or incurring costs. The expenses will be reimbursed (within the limits of the agreement) upon presentation of receipts. Accrued Continuing Education time and money are forfeited upon dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Unexpended Continuing Education money are not available to a pastor as compensation.
2. For negotiations for service less than full-time, a normal (full time) work week is considered as 40 hours. Vacation and continuing education for pastoral voices serving less than full-time be proportional to the number of Sundays preached/scheduled per month.
3. Other benefits (part of minimum terms of call):
 - a. Vacation of 4 weeks including 4 Sundays.
 - b. Study Leave of 2 weeks including 2 Sundays. The purpose of Study Leave will be planned in consultation with the Session.
 - c. Holidays as established by Presbytery policy.
 - d. Sick Leave: Installed pastors have 12 days of sick leave per calendar year.
 - e. PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE is required. The Book of Order (G-2.0804) mandates “The call shall include provision for a minimum of twelve weeks paid family medical leave and participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly.”

1. **FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE** is a mutual agreement between the Session and the Teaching Elder for the good and welfare of the whole of God’s holy people. **The session may develop a policy to outline the use of Paid Family Medical Leave.**

2. FAMILY **MEDICAL** LEAVE is time released to care for family members' medical care, treatment, and **recovery**; it may include such items as
 - Maternity/Paternity leave
 - Adoptive leave

PROPOSED 2024 minimum terms of call – reflects a 2% increase in 2022 Salary

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Full Time¹ Certified Christian Educators

Salary (including suitable health and retirement plans)	\$47,601.00
Reimbursable Expenses²	\$1,225.00
Additional Compensation³ (to be allocated in consultation with the employee)	\$600.00
Total Minimum compensation for 2024	\$49,426.00

Full Time¹ Certified Associate Christian Educators

Salary (including suitable health and retirement plans)	\$42,242.00
Reimbursable Expenses²	\$1,225.00
Additional Compensation³ (to be allocated in consultation with the employee)	\$600.00
Total Minimum compensation for 2024	\$44,067.00

Notes:

¹ For negotiations for service **less than full-time**, a normal (full time) work week is considered as 40 hours. Vacation and continuing education for Educators serving less than full time is proportional to the number of Sunday's scheduled per month.

² **Reimbursable expenses:** an amount set aside for mileage, continuing education, and other professional expenses, available only through monthly submission of mileage records and receipts. At the end of the year, unused funds remain in the church account – they are not part of the educator's salary.

- Mileage should be reimbursed at the IRS rate.
- Continuing education (including details of content and cost) must receive prior approval of the Session.

³ **Additional compensation** provides choices appropriate to each educator's situation and needs and should be added to salary, health coverage, retirement coverage, or expenses before a contract is approved.

Other benefits (part of minimum terms of call)

- a. Vacation of 4 weeks including 4 Sundays.
- b. Study Leave of 2 weeks including 2 Sundays. The purpose of Study Leave (Continuing Education) will be planned in consultation with the Session.
- c. Holidays as established by Presbytery policy.
- d. Full usual, customary, & reasonable cost of moving to the field by a licensed carrier.
- e. FAMILY LEAVE is required
 - A. FAMILY LEAVE is a mutual agreement between the Session and Educator for the good and welfare of the whole of God's holy people. *A Covenant of Care and Compassion* is a formal opportunity to express agreement in family leave policies. Guidelines for *A Declaration of Family Leave Policy* and *A Covenant for Care and Compassion* are available at the Presbytery Office.
 - B. FAMILY LEAVE, which may include such items below, is time released for medical care and treatment.
 - Sick Leave shall accumulate at least 1 ¼ days each month to 90 days total. Sick Leave of 5 days shall be accrued to newly employed educators. When sick leave taken exceeds 5 days in a 6-month period, a church may require a statement from the attending physician.
 - Maternity/Paternity Leave – 8 weeks with payment of salary and benefits, excluding reimbursable expenses. An additional two (2) weeks may be granted from accumulated sick leave if needed.
 - Adoptive Leave – 8 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses.
 - Caring for family members

Thomas Miller
West Commission On Ministry
Statement of Faith

I believe in the Holy Triune God, one God in three persons; Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe in God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, who made all people equal in God's image. The God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all peoples of the earth. I believe that God delivered the children of Israel from bondage and redeemed humanity through Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became flesh to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. I believe that Jesus Christ is LORD and Messiah. I believe that he is the foundation through which we can know God's love, grace, and mercy. I believe the Holy Spirit is God's presence at work through believers, the church, and the world. I believe the Holy Spirit is God's unifying presence in all believers.

I believe that the Church is the body of Christ, called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. I believe that the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs and seals of God's invisible grace. The sacrament of Baptism is the entrance into the Christian life. It is a sign and seal of being buried with Christ, clothed with Christ, and circumcised with Christ. It is a public declaration of one's faith in Jesus Christ and is a sign of the forgiveness of sins. In the sacrament of The Lord's Supper, Jesus offers himself to us through the signs and seals of the bread and wine, as seen in Matthew 26:26-28: "Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Thomas Miller
West Commission On Ministry
Biographical Sketch

My father served in the United States Army Special Forces, and in June 2003 he passed away while attempting to summit Mt. Illimani in Bolivia. At the age of 10, I delivered a eulogy for my father at his memorial service in front of a crowd of grieving people. I did not know it at the time, but God gave my mother the strength and courage to raise two young boys on her own in North Carolina. After our family joined Bethesda Presbyterian Church in Aberdeen, NC, I began to learn more about who God is and how God was working through my life.

Through my grieving process after losing my father, I was able to grow in my faith and began to learn more about my Heavenly Father. It was in May 2017 when attending a worship service that I felt a conviction in my heart to pursue God further, and applied for seminary. I met my wife, Rebecca, during this time and we are now blessed with two sons, Michael (3) and Matthew (1). I graduated from Columbia Theological Seminary in May 2021.

In the summer of 2020, I completed my first unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) through the Training and Counseling Center of St. Luke's in Atlanta, GA. I completed my chaplain residency and fellowship through Tampa General Hospital in Tampa, FL in 2021-2023. Through supporting people through traumas, code blues, deaths, strokes, and fetal demises, I discerned a calling into chaplaincy. I believe that God has equipped me to come alongside people who are in the midst of their grief, sorrow, and suffering. In May 2023 I accepted a position as a Staff Chaplain at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. I am currently providing spiritual and emotional support to oncology patients, their families, and medical team members.

Thomas Miller
West Commission On Ministry
Ordination Responses

Question A: Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

I trust in Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I place my eternity in his hands, trusting in that he died as a sacrifice for my sins so that I can have the grace-given gift of eternal life. He is Lord of all, meaning that he is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the exclusive means by which I am saved. Jesus is the head of the church, as all believers, connected through the Holy Spirit, are the body of Christ. As the body of Christ, we are to carry out his will in the world.

God is One and made of Three Persons. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are the Holy Trinity. They are all equally the essence of God, serving in different roles. God the Father is the creator of all, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning, and the end. God the Son is the incarnation of God, whom we know to be Jesus Christ, the Messiah. He is how God chooses to redeem humanity to himself. God the Holy Spirit is the presence of God moving through the world and through each believer in the body of Christ.

Question B: Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ...?

Yes, I believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are the Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by humankind. When studying and reading the Bible, the Holy Spirit helps to discern meaning and understanding from God's Word. A passage that seems familiar may reveal more to the disciple once the Holy Spirit helps to connect the meaning. The scriptures are the authoritative witness to the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are "living documents" when studied within the cultural and historical context, they can still have applicable meaning to the reader of the 21st century.

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Detailed Info for PIF #: 100031420.1		
Professional ID:	100031420	
Name:	Thomas Lee Miller	
Phone:	813-290-1765	
Alternate Phone:		
Fax:		
E-Mail:	thomasmiller2727@gmail.com	
Address:	5131 Countryside Drive Tampa, FL 33624	
Actively Seeking?:	Yes, Actively Seeking	
Ecclesiastical Status:	PC(USA) Candidate	
Presbytery Membership:	COASTAL CAROLINA PRESBYTERY	
Ordination Date:		
Candidacy Date:	10/12/2019	
Formal Education:	Master of Divinity - Columbia Theological Seminary 2021 Master of Arts in Practical Theology - Columbia Theological Seminary 2021 Bachelor of Science, International & Comparative Politics - Appalachian State University 2014	
Continuing Education:	Chaplain Fellowship - Tampa General Hospital 2022-2023 CPE Chaplain Residency - Tampa General Hospital 2021-2022	
Employment Type:	Bi-vocational (able to provide employment through outside partnership)	
Minimum Effective Salary:	\$50,000 / Year	
Position Types and Experience Level	Youth Director (Non-ordained) Associate Pastor (Youth) Chaplain	2 to 5 Years No Experience 0 to 2 Years
Geographic Choices:	Florida Georgia North Carolina	

Languages:	English Spanish
Other Languages:	

Leadership Competencies:	Preaching and Worship Leadership
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Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

	Lifelong Learner Bilingual Public Communicator Technologically Savvy Culturally Proficient Interpersonal Engagement Motivator Personal Resilience Self Differentiation
Training / Certification:	(Not Specified)
Other Training:	Resolve Through Sharing - Perinatal Bereavement Training, February 2023, Gunders
Clergy Couple?	No
Housing Type:	Housing Allowance
Work Experience: Staff Chaplain Tampa, FL Hospital - 1000+ Tampa Community May 2023 - Present English Ministry and Youth Pastor Tampa, FL Church Size - 100 Korean American Community August 2020 - Present Chaplain Fellow Tampa, FL Hospital - 1000+ Tampa Community August 2022 - April 2023 Chaplain Resident Tampa, FL Hospital - 1000+ Tampa Community August 2021 - August 2022 Director of Children and Youth Ministries Snellville, GA Church Size - 250 American Community October 2017 - August 2020 Marketing Manager Tampa, FL Defense Contractor - VATC, Inc. August 2015 - August 2017 Director of SOFWOLF Park City, UT Non-profit Organization - SOFWOLF Gold Star Community August 2015 - August 2017	
Other Services: Staff Chaplain Tampa, FL Hospital - 1000+ Tampa Community May 2023 - Present English Ministry and Youth Pastor Tampa, FL Church Size - 100 Korean American Community August 2020 - Present Chaplain Fellow Tampa, FL Hospital - 1000+ Tampa Community August 2022 - April 2023 Chaplain Resident Tampa, FL Hospital - 1000+ Tampa Community August 2021 - August 2022 Director of Children and Youth Ministries Snellville, GA Church Size - 250 American Community October 2017 - August 2020	
Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment. I have been serving as the Youth Pastor for a small group of second-generation Korean Americans. In our group is a young man who has had a difficult upbringing and has experienced much violence and bullying in his life. I noticed that when he was visiting our church he was distant and not really connecting with anyone. I made it a priority to get to know him and his interests. I found that he really enjoyed making music, and connected with him on his music projects. I also connected him to members of the church who were also active in creating their own music projects. Over time he began to feel accepted and had made friendships and bonds within the church. He attended our annual youth retreat and I was able to have some deep discussions with him regarding his faith in God. I was able to explain to him some of our core faith tenets and beliefs, and provide some scriptural context to the questions that he had. A few weeks after the retreat he messaged me and explained to me that he was ready to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior. I consider this to be a fulfilling moment in my ministry. In ministry, we serve in many different ways that are not easy to measure, but through the grace of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit, I was able to witness a young man change his life by accepting Christ. He now attends church regularly and has begun to follow Jesus in his discipleship.	

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

I believe that God is calling me to serve in a bi-vocational ministry context. I believe that as the mainline churches have been slowly declining in membership in the United States, that God is calling me to serve the church in a congregational context as well as serve as a chaplain in a hospital context. I want to be able to preach and teach in a church setting, growing relationships and disciples through scripture-based curriculums. I also want to serve in a front-line ministry setting like a hospital where people are in need of spiritual care. I believe that God is calling me to develop a pastoral relationship that can grow over time with a congregation. I also believe that God has blessed me with the gifts to serve people in their times of trauma and crises. I believe that by serving in both of these contexts my experience and faith can grow as these two ministries feed into one another. Especially in the context of the pandemic, spiritual care is needed in many different settings at this time.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

There are a few areas of growth that I have identified in myself. The first is that I need to have more understanding, experience, and skills to provide spiritual care to others that are outside of my faith tradition and scope of being a Christian. In a hospital context, I will encounter people with a wide range of beliefs, and so I need to be able to provide spiritual care to them regardless of our different belief systems. The next area of growth is that I need to learn how to better balance my time, energy, and resources between ministry, hospital chaplaincy, and family. I understand that God is calling me to serve in these various ministry contexts and to also be a provider and protector of my family. I need to learn how to manage these areas of my life effectively. Another area of growth is that I need to learn how to leverage the influence of social media for ministry. Social media can be a powerful tool for spiritual care and sharing the gospel, and I need to learn how to incorporate it more deeply into outreach for the church.

Describe a time when you have led change.

There was a time in my seminary experience where a minority group of students felt that their voices were being marginalized on campus. The international student community was being impacted by an administrative decision that removed the International Office, the Director of the International Office, and additional layers of support that were important for their continued success while studying in the United States. As a friend to their community, I advocated for them on campus and helped lead multiple campus-wide discussions, forums, and student protests. Through our coordination and communication, we were able to gain international recognition for these students and their hardships. Through various steps, there were some changes made to better incorporate a variety of diverse voices when making future changes in the seminary. It was an important time in my faith journey to be able to be a leader for change, advocating for those who were marginalized, while also actively living out my faith in Jesus Christ.

Optional Links:

Statement of Faith:

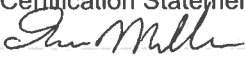
I believe in the Holy Triune God, one God in three persons; Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe in God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth, who made all people equal in God's image. The God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all peoples of the earth. I believe that God delivered the children of Israel from bondage and redeemed humanity through Jesus Christ. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who became flesh to die on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. I believe that Jesus Christ is LORD and Messiah. I believe that he is the foundation through which we can know God's love, grace, and mercy. I believe the Holy Spirit is God's presence at work through believers, the church, and the world. I believe the Holy Spirit is God's unifying presence in all believers.

I believe that the Church is the body of Christ, called to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. I believe that the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are visible signs and seals of God's invisible grace. The sacrament of Baptism is the entrance into the Christian life. It is a sign and seal of being buried with Christ, clothed with Christ, and circumcised with Christ. It is a public declaration of one's faith in Jesus Christ and is a sign of the forgiveness of sins. In the sacrament of The Lord's Supper, Jesus offers himself to us through the signs and seals of the bread and wine, as seen in Matthew 26:26-28: "Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

References:

# 1	Name	Dr. Kevin Park
	Relation	Mentor, Seminary Professor

Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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	Address	4201 N Peachtree Rd, Atlanta, GA 30341
	E-Mail	revkevinpark@gmail.com
# 2	Name	Dr. Bill Harkins
	Relation	Mentor, Seminary Advisor
	Phone	404-687-4574
	Address	CH308 / Box 10F, 701 S Columbia Drive, Decatur GA
	E-Mail	HarkinsB@ctsnet.edu
# 3	Name	Rev. David Hudson
	Relation	Pastor of Bethesda Presbyteria
	Phone	910-633-8723
	Address	1002 N Sandhills Blvd, Aberdeen, NC 28315
	E-Mail	hudson.davidl@gmail.com
# 4	Name	Rev. Allison Per-Lee
	Relation	Pastor of Westminster Presbyte
	Phone	770-979-9676
	Address	2208 Main St E, Snellville, GA 30078
	E-Mail	allison.per-lee@wpcsnellville.org
# 5	Name	Rev. Jenny Sumner Carswell
	Relation	CPE Educator, Tampa General Ho
	Phone	813-844-7063
	Address	The Center for Spiritual Health and Education. Tampa General Hospital P.O. Box 1289, Tampa, FL 33601
	E-Mail	jcarswell@tgh.org
# 6	Name	Rev. Jennifer Potter Buff
	Relation	Mentor, Team Member Chaplain
	Phone	813-601-9708
	Address	7421 Lagrange Dr, Raleigh, NC 27613
	E-Mail	jbuff@tgh.org
Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement:		I certify below that no civil, criminal, ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained or is pending against me for sexual misconduct; and I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.
		I have read this certification and release form and fully understand that the information obtained may be used to deny my employment or any other type of position from the employing entity. I also agree that I will hold harmless the employing or judicial authority or any other entity from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action for the legitimate release of any information related to sexual misconduct.
This PIF was last updated at 7/20/2023 10:45:32 PM.		
This PIF is in the Church Leadership Connection database		

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Commission on Ministry
**Recognition of Validated Ministry
Annual Report Form**

Name: Thomas Lee Miller

Address: 5131 Countryside Drive
Tampa, FL 33624

Phone: 813-290-1765 Email: ThomasMiller2727@gmail.com

Name of Agency/Institution/ Calling Body: Moffitt Cancer Center

Name of Ministry Position to be validated: Staff Chaplain

Nature of YOUR Ministry at this Agency/Institution/Calling Body: Providing spiritual and emotional support, bereavement support, and grief counseling for patients, families, and medical staff. There are requests for sacraments as well.

The *Book of Order* [G-2.0503a] requires that any validated ministry shall:

- 1) demonstrate conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order of this church;
- 2) serve and aid others, and enable the ministry of others;
- 3) give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word;
- 4) be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served; and
- 5) include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA) (G-5.0201).

Please indicate on a separate page(s) how YOUR ministry fulfills each of these conditions for validation and return to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery or to the Chairperson of the Commission on Ministry in your Community.

Stated Clerk of the Presbytery
807 W. King Street
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Or email to:
jankrause@presbycc.org

Thomas Miller
West Commission On Ministry
Validated Ministry Form

The Book of Order [G-2.0503a] requires that any validated ministry shall:

1) demonstrate conformity with the mission of God's people in the world as set forth in Holy Scripture, The Book of Confessions, and the Book of Order of this church;

In my ministry as a Staff Chaplain, I am serving God's people who find themselves in the hospital context. I am encountering people who are in spiritual and emotional distress, struggling with their faith in God, especially after receiving a poor prognosis/diagnosis. I help to serve as a reminder of God's presence, help them to reframe their situation and highlight how God is journeying alongside them. I help remind them that they are a part of the body of Christ, the church, and that their lives hold value and meaning. I am trained to meet people where they are in their faith journeys, and to help them to find meaning.

2) serve and aid others, and enable the ministry of others;

Each day I encounter patients and their family members, providing them with spiritual and emotional support. I am present with them when they are wrestling with "goals of care" discussions and lend a supportive presence when their loved ones pass away. I also support the medical team after traumatic events such as code blues, deaths, etc. I serve as a member of an ecumenical team, addressing the various spiritual needs of the patients in the cancer center.

3) give evidence of theologically informed fidelity to God's Word;

I believe that the Holy Bible is God's Word and rely on it as an authoritative text to illustrate to others how God is with them in the midst of their crises. Many times patients will seek out words of comfort and I help them to identify scripture that applies to their lives.

4) be carried on in accountability for its character and conduct to the presbytery in addition to any organizations, agencies, and institutions served; and

I represent the presbytery and the church through this ministry. There are multiple instances where a patient or family member will view my role as a "pastor in the hospital." I view my role as chaplain as a sacred privilege to support others during difficult times. I am held accountable to the hospital, the presbytery and the church based on my actions as a chaplain.

5) include responsible participation in the deliberations, worship, and work of the presbytery and in the life of a congregation of this church or a church in correspondence with the PC(USA) (G-5.0201).

I provide for the spiritual needs of patients, families and team members. As an extension of the church in a hospital setting I help to address spiritual and emotional concerns for patients when they are unable to be with their local church community. I view my role and service as a chaplain as an extension of the church's mission into the community.

Statement of Faith

I believe in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God created the universe out of God's boundless love, and reigns in power overall. God revealed God's love for us by being present with us throughout creation. God creates all things, sustains all things, knows all things, and loves all things. Through God's everlasting love, the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we serve and worship God alone.

In life and in death we belong to God. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Because God's love for creation was so great, God sent Jesus Christ, fully human, fully divine, to live on Earth, teaching, healing and revealing the grace of God. Through his crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus took on the sins of the world, redeeming us all by his sacrifice. Jesus, the living Word is revealed to us through Scripture, which is the Word written, through preaching, which is the Word proclaimed; and the Sacraments, which are the Word enacted.

The Sacrament of Baptism is the seal of our acceptance into the Body of Christ. In the waters of Baptism, we die to what separates us from God and are raised to new life in Jesus Christ.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper binds us in communion with all believers. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we partake in the Lord's Supper in remembrance of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. United with Christ at the table, we are strengthened to go out into the world as Christ's disciples, proclaiming the Good News and working for the reconciliation of all humanity.

The grace and love of God did not end at the resurrection, but continues to be at work in the world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit works within us and among us, calling us together as the community of faith to be the church in this world.

We are called as individuals and churches to be the church universal. By affirming what we believe, hearing the Word and participating in the Sacraments, we are united in our calling to do God's work here on Earth. It is our calling to proclaim the Gospel, to share the good news that the God who created and redeemed us is the God who sustains us throughout our lives. And so, we are to live out God's kingdom here on Earth, by loving and forgiving one another, working for justice, seeking reconciliation, and proclaiming the good news that we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

--Natalie Raygor

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Detailed Info for PIF #: 100032316.1																
Professional ID:	100032316															
Name:	Natalie Rose Raygor															
Phone:	919-610-1884															
Alternate Phone:																
Fax:																
E-Mail:	natalie.raygor@gmail.com															
Address:	8406 Peyton Randolph Drive Charlotte, NC 28277															
Actively Seeking?:	Yes, Actively Seeking															
Ecclesiastical Status:	PC(USA) Candidate															
Presbytery Membership:	CHARLOTTE PRESBYTERY															
Ordination Date:																
Candidacy Date:	07/09/2020															
Formal Education:	Batchelor of Arts in Regligious and Christian Education from Presbyterian College, 2000-2004. Masters of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary of Charlotte, 2014-2020.															
Continuing Education:																
Employment Type:	Full-time															
Minimum Effective Salary:	\$65,000 / Year															
Position Types and Experience Level	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Associate Pastor (Christian Education)</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate Pastor (Youth)</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Associate Pastor (Other)</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pastor (Other Temporary i.e. Supply, Student)</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chaplain</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>College/Seminary Faculty</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Campus Ministry</td> <td>First Ordained Call</td> </tr> </table>		Associate Pastor (Christian Education)	First Ordained Call	Associate Pastor (Youth)	First Ordained Call	Associate Pastor (Other)	First Ordained Call	Pastor (Other Temporary i.e. Supply, Student)	First Ordained Call	Chaplain	First Ordained Call	College/Seminary Faculty	First Ordained Call	Campus Ministry	First Ordained Call
Associate Pastor (Christian Education)	First Ordained Call															
Associate Pastor (Youth)	First Ordained Call															
Associate Pastor (Other)	First Ordained Call															
Pastor (Other Temporary i.e. Supply, Student)	First Ordained Call															
Chaplain	First Ordained Call															
College/Seminary Faculty	First Ordained Call															
Campus Ministry	First Ordained Call															
Geographic Choices:	Georgia North Carolina South Carolina															
Languages:	English															
Other Languages:																

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Leadership Competencies:	Compassionate Preaching and Worship Leadership Teacher Advisor Task Manager Decision Making Organizational Agility Strategy and Vision Collaboration Interpersonal Engagement
Training / Certification:	(Not Specified)
Other Training:	
Clergy Couple?	No
Housing Type:	Housing Allowance
Work Experience:	Director of Youth Ministry, Raleigh, NC, 4,000, 2004-2013 Assistant Director of Youth Ministry, Charlotte, NC, 1500, 2013-2018 Director of Youth Ministry, Charlotte, NC, 1500, 2018-2020 Exectutive Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, Charlotte, NC, 1500, 2020-present
Other Services:	Montreat Youth Conference Planning Team Member, 2010-2011 Montreat Youth Conference Co-Director, 2011-2013 CTS Center for Lifelong Learning S3 Cohort, 2013-2014 Co-lead Big Ideas Best Practices for Youth Ministry Conference at Columbia Theological Seminary, 2014 Montreat Youth Conference Co-Director, 2022-present
Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.	In recent years it has been a true gift to watch the youth grow in their faith as young adults who were once active in youth ministry while I served as director. Some have pursued seminary and have been ordained as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Seeing them serve in these leadership roles and fulfill their call to ministry has been a true joy and fulfillment in my own life. Additionally, some of the young adults that were once my youth have returned to their home church and are currently serving as youth leaders and advisors. What a gift and fulfillment it is in my life to watch these young adults share their faith and mentor other young people today.
Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.	

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Through one of my internships in seminary I had the opportunity to broaden my experience in pastoral care with members of all ages in the church. While I have had years of experience talking and listening with youth and their families, my internship allowed me to visit hospitals on a weekly basis, participate in the weekly pastoral care meetings, and help plan and lead funerals. These opportunities have been a true gift and one that I feel God is calling me to explore more. Over the years, I have found relational ministry is so important and I have thoroughly enjoyed the relationships that I have formed through ministry. I feel my gifts and greatest joy is making connections with people to share God's love and spread God's word. It is in these connections and relationships that we see God at work in the world. I feel my gifts are to equip the saints for the work of ministry, build up the body of Christ, administer the sacraments and give compassion and care to all God's people. I thoroughly enjoy teaching God's faith stories and helping others recognize and carry out their own gifts in ministry. I feel God is calling me to continue helping others deepen their faith formation and find their connection to the church while also pursuing pastoral care and showing compassion to all God's people.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

As Christians, we are all ministers of Jesus Christ. However, Ministers of the Word and Sacrament are called by the Holy Spirit through the church to the ministry of word and sacrament. Those ordained as ministers of the Word and Sacrament have been required to have theological education and oversee the gathering of a community of faith together in God's name. I am always seeking ways to grow in my faith and my call as a minister. I love participating as a liturgist in worship and helping to plan and lead various worship opportunities. However, one area of growth that I would like to have more experience in is writing liturgy of worship on my own. While I have plethora of resources to choose liturgy for various worship services, I have not had as much experience writing my own liturgy. Honestly, I feel that as I have more opportunities to do so, my confidence will grow, and I feel I will be more at ease.

Describe a time when you have led change.

Youth leadership has always been very important to me. This has been one of my biggest goals for the two churches I have served in the last 19 years. At White Memorial Presbyterian Church, I led a change in leadership of our youth. I created a Senior Leadership Team comprised of about 4-5 seniors that each year would lead our youth ministry program. Not only would they lead programs and events within youth ministry, I found it important for them to also have opportunities to show their leadership in the larger church. They attended Session and committee meetings monthly to give reports of what was going on in the life of Youth Ministry at WMPC and they also had the experience to learn and hear what was going on in the larger church outside of youth ministry. They were given opportunities and space to share their voice that they had never been given before. This change later led to the session ordaining youth as officers of the church. This is certainly a change that I am grateful for and hope other churches will pursue.

Optional Links:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GD1d4-csflkz-qdvWdFX345q9Z4oibGJ/view?usp=sharing>

Statement of Faith:

Church Leadership Connection

The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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References:

# 1	Name	Katelyn Cooke
	Relation	Former supervisor and Associat
	Phone	919-368-1113
	Address	Covenant Presbyterian Church of Augusta, GA
	E-Mail	kcooke@covenantaugusta.org
# 2	Name	Katherine Kerr
	Relation	Former colleague and Senior As
	Phone	704-651-4406
	Address	Covenant Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC
	E-Mail	katherinekerr@gmail.com
# 3	Name	Jim Tyndall
	Relation	Former colleague and Director
	Phone	704-905-1082
	Address	Unity Presbyterian Church of Fort Mill, SC.
	E-Mail	jtyndall@unityfortmill.org

Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement:	I certify below that no civil, criminal, ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained or is pending against me for sexual misconduct; and I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.
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Church Leadership Connection
The Call System for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

	I have read this certification and release form and fully understand that the information obtained may be used to deny my employment or any other type of position from the employing entity. I also agree that I will hold harmless the employing or judicial authority or any other entity from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action for the legitimate release of any information related to sexual misconduct.
<i>This PIF was last updated at 5/16/2023 1:57:32 PM.</i>	
<i>This PIF is in the Church Leadership Connection database</i>	

NATALIE RAYGOR

FAITH JOURNEY

I was born and raised in the PC(USA) Church and have had wonderful opportunities to learn and grow from many pastors and youth directors during my adolescent and young adult years. Growing up in Dalton, GA and being a very active member in a small church of First Presbyterian Church certainly helped shape my call to ministry. FPC Dalton affirmed the leadership of young people and recognized that youth are not just the future of our Church, but they are members of the church today. This encouragement led to many opportunities for me to serve in various leadership capacities of the church through worship leadership, serving on various committees, nursery and children's ministry opportunities and serving as a youth leader to my peers. The staff and adult leaders at FPC Dalton were extremely influential in shaping my faith and exploring my call to ministry. The most meaningful mentors were Jim and Ginny Holderness. Jim was the Senior Pastor and Ginny was the Director of Youth Ministry during my adolescent years. One of the greatest things they taught me was what it meant to belong. They showed me that no matter how far I may stray from God or how stretched my faith might be, I will always belong to God. In addition to belonging to God, they showed me and countless others what it meant to belong to a church family, the body of Christ. They showed us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ Jesus and that in life and in death we will always belong to God. These experiences have certainly shaped me as a person and my faith.

Following High School graduation, I attended Presbyterian College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Religion and Christian Education. It was certainly during my time at PC that my call to ministry was shaped even more through campus ministry leadership and opportunities to lead retreats, programs, and various events throughout the Presbyteries of South Carolina. The summer before my senior year of college, I had the opportunity to serve as the Summer Intern Youth Director in Aiken, SC. It was through this experience that I knew I wanted to continue this work with young adults. Following graduation, I began my first call as Director of Youth Ministry at White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, NC. This community taught me what it means to be part of a team, a staff and they too nurtured my call to ministry. It was during my time at WMPC that I felt a tug towards seminary. After 9 years at WMPC, my husband was offered a job opportunity which brought us to Charlotte, NC. I began a new call in Youth Ministry at First Presbyterian Church and began taking seminary courses part time at Union Presbyterian Seminary. I completed all my courses in December of 2019 and graduated in April of 2020.

Aside from many educational experiences and opportunities, the relationships that I have formed with colleagues, church members, and countless others in the PC(USA) denomination have shaped my call to ministry the most. The theological conversations that I have had with individuals of all ages and walks of life have given me glimpses of how God is at work in each of our lives. The gift of being in ministry with others has shaped my call over the years and I look forward to seeing how God is continuously at work in my life.

First, I want to express how important I think it is that when asked to answer the following questions, we are also asked to face the body of membership. I think that step alone begins to shape my practice of ministry.

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?

The scriptures of both Old and New Testament speak to us with the authority of God. As people of God, we seek to understand, love, follow, obey, and surrender to God's Word. By doing so, we practice our own discernment by way of the Holy Spirit. God's Word is both Jesus Christ as the living Word of God and Scriptures as the written Word of God which abide authoritative truth and witness to Jesus Christ. As we seek to know and understand God, I believe that scripture is an ongoing conversation between God and God's people. As we continue to meet God in scripture, we find ourselves joining this conversation. As a minister of word and sacrament, I believe that it is so important that we accept the scriptures to be the authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and God's Word to us and we are called to invite our congregation members to join this ongoing conversation between God and themselves. I also believe that as ministers of word and sacrament, we can learn and grow from our congregation members as we collectively deepen our faith and understanding of God's word through the discernment of the Holy Spirit.

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Practices of faith are extremely important parts of our ministry. If we want our work to be faithful and follow the greatest commandment that Christ calls us to – “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37) then we must engage in constant practices of faith like sabbath, prayer, leadership development or continued education, spiritual discipline and ways that deepen our love for other people. For we must learn how to take care of ourselves so we can better take care of others. I feel these practices of faith are not just to fulfill our own needs but to be shared with our congregation so that we are keeping them close to our hearts and prayers as we help to deepen their own faith and relationship with Christ.

Commission on Ministry
Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Pastoral Call Form for Ministers – Church Not Using a Manse

The _____ First _____ Presbyterian Church of _____ Wilmington, NC, of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, being well satisfied with your qualifications for ministry and confident that we have been led to you by the Holy Spirit as one whose service will be profitable to the spiritual interests of our church and fruitful for the Kingdom of our Lord, earnestly and solemnly calls you,

to undertake the office of

Associate Pastor for Youth and Children

of this congregation, beginning, August 21, 2023 promising you in the discharge of your duty all proper support, encouragement and allegiance in the Lord.

That you may be free to devote full time (part time) to the ministry with the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, we the _____ First _____ Presbyterian Church promise and obligate ourselves to provide you the following annually:

A. Salary

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 1. Cash Salary including Housing Allowance | \$ <u>70,000</u> |
| (Of the above salary, \$ <u>TBD</u> is designated as Internal Revenue Service housing allowance for costs of providing a home.) | |
| 2. SECA Allowance | \$ <u>5,355</u> |
| 3. Board of Pensions | \$ <u>27,300</u> |
| Includes Pension, Death and Disability, and Medical Insurance | |
| 4. Other (specify) if applicable | |
| a. Dental Insurance/Medical Deductibles | \$ <u>N/A</u> |
| b. Other | \$ <u>N/A</u> |
| Total: | \$ <u>102,655</u> |

B. Vouchered Professional Reimbursements

Reimbursements for Expenses	\$ <u>6,000</u>
(To include auto expense reimbursement [at the IRS business rate] and expenses for continuing education, professional literature, & other costs of ministry.)	

Total Salary and Professional Expenses	\$ <u>108,655</u>
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Plus: A one-time Relocation Allowance	= <u>5,000</u>
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Revised 10/2022

We will pay regularly in advance to the board responsible for benefits a sum equal to that requisite per cent of your compensation which may be fixed by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for participation in the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including pension, death, disability and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly, during the time of your being and continuing in the pastoral relationship set forth in this call to this church.

Additional Benefits:

- a. Vacation time: 4 weeks to include 4 Sundays.
- b. Continuing Education time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays, the use of which is to be planned in consultation with the session.
- c. Holidays as determined by Presbytery policy
- d. Full usual, customary & reasonable cost of moving to the field by a licensed carrier
- e. FAMILY LEAVE is required:
 - A. FAMILY LEAVE is a mutual agreement between the Session and Pastor for the good and welfare of the whole of God's holy people. A Covenant of Care and Compassion is a formal opportunity to express agreement in family leave policies. Guidelines for A Declaration of Family Leave Policy and A Covenant for Care and Compassion are available at the Presbytery Office.
 - B. FAMILY LEAVE may include such items below, is time released for medical care and treatment.
 - Sick Leave shall accumulate at least 1 ¼ days each month to 90 days total. Sick Leave of 5 days shall be accrued to newly installed pastors. When sick leave taken exceeds 5 days in a 6-month period, a church may require a statement from the attending physician.
 - Maternity/Paternity Leave – 8 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses. An additional two (2) weeks may be granted from accumulated sick leave if needed.
 - Adoptive Leave – 8 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses.
 - Caring for other family members.

Background Check/Boundary Training

The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina requires a criminal background check and Boundary Training Certification by Safe Gatherings. Information on how to register and take the training can be [found by clicking here](#).

In testimony whereof we have subscribed our names this _____ day of _____ 20____.
Members of the PNC Date of Congregational Meeting

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Having moderated this congregational meeting which extended this call for ministerial services, I do certify that the call has been made in all respects according to the rules laid down in the Form of Government, and that the persons who signed the foregoing call were authorized to do so by vote of the congregation.

_____, Moderator of the Congregational Meeting

Statement of Faith – Austin Vernon

I believe in the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Though God has three distinct persons, God has one essence. I believe God freely chose to create the universe, not out of need or necessity, but out of an overflow of love within God's very being. God desired to share divine love and community with something outside of Godself, so God created. While God may be a mystery in some ways, I also believe that God has revealed Godself completely and fully to humankind through the pages of Holy Scripture, most vividly in the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible depicts the Holy One of Israel as faithful, loving, just, holy, patient, compassionate, merciful, and forgiving. I believe the Bible is the authoritative source for knowledge about God and the basis for many of the principles which undergird Reformed theology and worship.

I believe Jesus Christ is God in human form – the Word made flesh – who came to live among us so that God and humanity could be in right relationship once more. Jesus' life and ministry serve as an example for Christians everywhere of what abundant life in full communion with God looks like. His life also represents who God identifies with most in the world: the poor, the marginalized, the outcasts, the oppressed. I believe Jesus' death by crucifixion and resurrection three days later means that humanity has been forgiven and redeemed from sin, which is eternal separation from God. Our salvation is not predicated upon any work or decision on our part, but rather is a wholly unmerited gift of grace offered to us by God through the work of Jesus Christ. As a result, we can experience eternal life with God. I believe Jesus Christ is God's ultimate demonstration of love for humankind.

I believe the Holy Spirit is God's presence with us in the world today. The Holy Spirit empowers and inspires us to worship and serve God. The Holy Spirit continues to reform and refine each of us as we seek to become more like Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit connects us with Christ and serves as our advocate. I believe the Holy Spirit pushes and challenges each of us to live out our Christian faith in the world.

I believe the church is not a building, but rather the universal body of believers who are called and gathered in Christ's name. Just as God sent Godself into the world through the incarnation of Jesus Christ, the church is sent out, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to be the hands, feet, eyes, ears, and heart of God in the world. The church, therefore, does not have a mission. The church is mission; namely, God's mission to redeem the entire world and fill the earth with God's glory. As the elected vehicle of God's grace and love in the world, the church universal is called to proclaim the good news of the gospel, embody the love of Christ through transformative discipleship, administer the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and follow the liberating and redeeming movement of the Holy Spirit that is always ahead of us preparing the way.

I believe sacraments are visible signs of God's invisible grace. In particular, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper utilize ordinary items – water, bread, and wine – to represent God's invisible grace. Baptism is a sign and seal of our adoption as sons and daughters into the family of God. It also represents cleansing, whereby we are washed clean from sin and baptized into new life in Christ. The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of God's redemptive work through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the giving of the bread and wine, we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, spiritually nourished by Christ's presence at the table, and sent out by the Holy Spirit to represent God's love in the world. At their core, sacraments symbolize and help us remember the power of God's grace in our lives.

Biographical Sketch – Austin Vernon

I grew up in Kannapolis, North Carolina, a former mill town about 30-45 minutes north of Charlotte. There was a brief, three-year period where my family moved to New Jersey, but I have always considered North Carolina home. Throughout most of my childhood, my family attended Baptist churches. Every Sunday we would attend church and then eat lunch at my grandmother or great-grandmother's house.

As I went through middle school, I was very involved with youth group activities, and I even went on a couple summer trips. By the time I started high school, I stopped going to youth group because I didn't feel very connected to the other kids. Instead, I focused my efforts on academics and extracurricular activities at school. Although I still went to church regularly and volunteered as a leader in the children's program, I didn't experience much spiritual growth until I started attending Young Life with my friends. The adult leaders shared many of the same messages I heard in church, but it connected with me in a different way. I developed a deep relationship with one of my Young Life leaders, who cared for me and helped me explore my faith in a deeper way.

During my time at Davidson College, I served as a volunteer Young Life leader at a local high school. I was fortunate to become good friends with my fellow leaders and I enjoyed being a youth leader for the high school kids. Although ministry was a bright spot for me in college, my time at Davidson was also extremely challenging. For most of my life, I had dreamed about becoming a pediatrician. After my freshman year, however, I realized that dream was not going to come true. It was hard to accept at first, but I was grateful for my Young Life friends who helped me get through that tough period. I felt aimless at times, but I trusted that God would show me the way. After several conversations with one of my religion professors, he encouraged me to consider seminary. I did some research, prayed about it for a long time, and eventually felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit to apply.

I decided to attend Princeton Theological Seminary and pursue a Master of Divinity. My time in seminary was very formative. My understandings of God expanded exponentially as I was introduced to different types of theology within and outside the Reformed tradition. I loved that I was encouraged to probe questions of faith deeply and I enjoyed the opportunity to examine my own presuppositions about God and what it meant to follow Christ. Through this time of questioning, learning, and preparation, I began to wonder how I would serve God with this degree. I hadn't gone into seminary seeking ordination because I thought I would pursue PhD work, youth ministry outside the church, or some other kind of non-profit work. As graduation approached, I came across a job opportunity at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church for the Director of Discipleship and Missions position. I was drawn to its emphasis on discipleship and mission, so I applied and was eventually offered the job.

My time at Brownson has been one of incredible growth. In my personal life, I moved to a new area and married my best friend, Abbey, shortly after starting at Brownson. Professionally, my role has afforded me so many opportunities and allowed me to discover new spiritual gifts. I've come to realize that I love leading adult Bible studies and small groups, I love leading groups of people on local and global missions projects, and I love creating ecumenical opportunities for learning and service, particularly in the area of racial justice. I have found preaching, leading in worship each Sunday, and leading collaborative, team efforts to be extremely life-giving. I also learned that I enjoy leading groups of people through visioning processes.

Through my work at Brownson, I felt God's Spirit calling me to pursue ordination. I was resistant at first, but after much prayer and consideration, I took that step of faith. From April 2020 to December 2021, I took classes at Union Presbyterian Seminary's Charlotte campus to fulfill my ordination requirements. Those classes, along with my continued work at Brownson, have affirmed my call to ordained ministry. I am grateful for my Brownson Church family and truly feel that God is calling me to serve here as an associate pastor.

Ordination Questions – Austin Vernon

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?

Yes, I will seek to follow Christ, love my neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world in my own life. Repeatedly throughout scripture, Jesus calls those who would be his disciples to follow him. Jesus' invitation to "come and see" is an invitation into a different way of living – the way of the cross. This lifelong journey with Jesus is not easy and it will require sacrifice along the way, but abundant life with Christ is what our souls long for because it is what we were created to experience. It is important to note that while I may stray from following Christ, Christ never stops pursuing me. In the gospels, Jesus asserts that loving God and loving your neighbor are the two greatest commandments in the Law. This means that loving our neighbors is of utmost importance in the Christian life. To love God is to love our neighbors and to love our neighbors is to love God. These two theological notions are inextricably intertwined; to demonstrate love for one is an extension of love for the other. In his Second Letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthian people that God reconciled the world to himself through Jesus Christ. Now we, as Jesus' disciples, have been entrusted with the message and ministry of reconciliation. We are to be Christ's ambassadors of reconciliation in the world. As God's hands and feet, we are to work toward bringing about God's reconciliation and justice in the world through our words and deeds. As a minister, it is essential that I continue to nurture my own spiritual life through these acts of faith. It is impossible to serve others well and give of myself if nothing is being poured into me.

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?

Yes, I commit to pray for the people in my ministry as I seek to serve them with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. As ministers, we have the privilege of walking alongside people during some of the most meaningful moments in their lives. We also have the privilege of walking alongside people during some of the most painful moments in their lives. Praying for and with people through the ebbs and flows of their lives creates opportunities for authentic trust, care, and love to be cultivated. Serving people, as modeled by Jesus, means that we tend to and care for the needs of others, especially those who are hurting and vulnerable, and point them to the love of God. The greatest act of service I can offer to anyone is to remind them how beloved they are by the God who created them, whether that take the form of a prayer, Bible study lesson, sermon, pastoral care visit, or one-on-one conversation. It is the love of God that ultimately transforms a person and leads them toward a life of deeper discipleship, so my service to the people must be characterized by this same love. Serving also means I commit to work with the people as we seek the will of Christ together. In our present moment, the church is confronted with a new reality that will require imagination. To be clear, we need God's imagination for this new world, not our own. The church needs people who are open to the movement of God's Spirit, even if that Spirit is pushing us to explore new avenues that challenge our preconceived notions. Serving the people in this time means leading through seasons of change and grief. It also requires a sense of collaboration and forbearance as we seek to discern where God might be calling us to new life in this time and place. With God's grace and mercy, I promise to serve the people with an openness to God's imagination and love.



TERMS OF CALL
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSIONS

On behalf of the congregation, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and the Session of Brownson Church, the Personnel Ministry Team would like to extend an offer for you to receive a call as our Associate Pastor for Discipleship and Missions.

Below are your terms of call. The effective start date will be based upon your ordination date which is to be determined.

Annualized Salary	\$70,000.00
(this includes housing allowance) prorated	
SECA	\$ 3,550.00
2023 Healthcare Contribution (prorated)	\$ 18,900.00
2023 Retirement Contribution (prorated)	\$ 5,950.00
2023 Death & Disability Contribution (prorated)	\$ 700.00
2023 Temporary Disability Contribution (prorated)	\$ 350.00
BLC Tuition (Fall 2024)	\$ 3,330.00
TOTAL	\$102,780.00
2023 Professional Allowance (prorated)	<u>\$ 3,000.00</u>
	\$105,780.00

Important Notes: 1. The division of funds between Professional Expenses and Continuing Education should be determined by the session in consultation with the pastor. The division of funds can vary from year to year.

• Accountable Reimbursable Expenses are usual, customary, and reasonable expenses incurred in support of the ministry provided to the congregation by the pastor. They do not include commuting from home to church/office. Expenses are reimbursed upon the submission of appropriate receipts or mileage logs and should not be paid in regular monthly installments. If Accountable Expenses are paid in monthly installments, then they must be counted as income and listed on the pastor's W-2 form. Pension, Disability, and Medical Dues would also have to be paid on them. It is up to the pastors to monitor their use of Accountable Expense funds so as not to run over by the end of the year. Any unused funds revert to the church treasury at the end of the year. Unexpended budgeted funds for Accountable Reimbursable Expenses are not available to a pastor as compensation.

• Since Continuing Education funds are provided by the church to equip the pastor to be a more effective leader in the congregation, it is the responsibility of the pastor to consult with the session about the content, location, and cost of any continuing education before taking time off or incurring costs. The expenses will be reimbursed (within the limits of the agreement) upon presentation of receipts. Accrued Continuing Education time and money are forfeited upon dissolution of the pastoral relationship. Unexpended Continuing Education money are not available to a pastor as compensation.



2. For negotiations for service less than full-time, a normal (full-time) work week is considered 40 hours.

3. Other benefits (part of minimum terms of call):

a. Paid Time Off of 4 weeks including 4 Sundays (PTO includes vacation and sick leave).

b. Study Leave of 2 weeks including 2 Sundays.

The purpose of Study Leave will be planned in consultation with the Session.

c. Holidays as established by our Employee Handbook.

d. Full usual, customary, and reasonable cost of moving to the field by a licensed carrier. Three bids will be secured, and the church will reimburse the lowest bid amount.

e. Sabbatical may be granted every five years with Session approval.

f. FAMILY LEAVE is required

A. FAMILY LEAVE is a mutual agreement between the Session and Pastor for the good and welfare of the whole of God's holy people. A Covenant of Care and Compassion is a formal opportunity to express agreement in family leave policies. Guidelines for A Declaration of Family Leave Policy and A Covenant for Care and Compassion are available at the Presbytery Office.

B. FAMILY LEAVE may include such items below, is time released for medical care and treatment.

- Maternity/Paternity Leave – 12 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses. An additional two (2) weeks may be granted from accumulated sick leave if needed.

- Adoptive Leave – 4 weeks with payment of salary and benefits excluding reimbursable expenses.

- Caring for other family members.

Sincerely,

Tim Lovin, APNC Chair

Larry Riggan, Personnel Ministry Team Co-Chair

David McNeill, Personnel Ministry Team Co-Chair

Signed: Austin Vernon

Date

Personal Information Form: General Information

This was last updated on 4/26/2023

Professional ID:	100032097
Name:	Austin Vernon
Preferred Phone:	(980) 521-6710
Alternate Phone:	(910) 692-6252
Fax:	
E-Mail:	discipleship@brownsonchurch.org
Address:	4 Harmon Drive Whispering Pines, NC 28327
Actively Seeking?	Open to receiving a call and moving within 9 months.
Advanced Search Matching?	No, I do not authorize CLC for presbytery advanced search matching
Ecclesiastical Status:	PC(USA) Candidate
Presbytery Membership:	COASTAL CAROLINA PRESBYTERY
Candidacy Date:	3/6/2021
Formal Education:	Bachelor of Arts, Davidson College (2015) Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary (2018) Limited Enrollment Student (Ordination Requirements), Union Presbyterian Seminary (2021)
Continuing Education:	Reformed Theology Certification Course, Montreat Conference Center Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators
Training / Certification:	(Not Specified)
Other Training:	

View Personal Information Form - Part II

◀ Cancel and go back | Update Form

This was last submitted on 4/19/2023

This was last updated on 4/19/2023 by 100032097

Professional ID: 100032097

Name: Austin Vernon

PIF ID: 100032097.1

Employment type: Full-time

Positions applied for:

- Head of Staff (Multi-Staff Pastor, who supervised two or more teaching elders and other staff)
- Head of Staff (who supervised one teaching elder and other staff)
- Associate Pastor (Christian Education)
- Associate Pastor (Other)

Experience

Level:

- No Experience
- No Experience
- First Ordained Call
- First Ordained Call

Geographic choices:

- Unlimited

Leadership Competencies

- Compassionate
- Preaching and Worship Leadership
- Teacher
- Communicator
- Strategy and Vision
- Collaboration
- Interpersonal Engagement
- Motivator
- Personal Resilience
- Initiative

Languages fluent:

- English

Other Languages:

Filing as clergy couples? No

Minimum effective salary: \$70,000 / Year

Willing to serve church of other race? Yes

Tell us more about you

Work experience:

Director of Discipleship & Missions | Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church | Southern Pines, NC | 1,134 members | Small Town | September 2018 – Present

- Oversee adult discipleship, local missions, and global missions programs.
- Lead visioning process for ministry teams, which resulted in new programs like Brownson U and new community partnerships.
- Serve as staff liaison for Bold Initiative Team, an ecumenical group geared toward addressing systemic racism and economic disparities in our local communities.
- Facilitate discussions for Sunday School classes, Bible studies, small groups, and other faith formation opportunities.
- Lead groups of volunteers in local and global missions service opportunities.

Youth Ministry Intern | Nassau Presbyterian Church | Princeton, NJ | 900 members | College Town | September 2016 – July 2018

- Assisted with weekly Sunday school class for middle schoolers and helped lead weekly youth group gatherings.
- Served as a leader on winter and summer retreats with the youth.

Family Advocacy Summer Intern | Christina Seix Academy | Trenton, NJ | Urban | June 2017 – August 2017

- Led and mentored students in their daily activities.
- Helped admissions staff evaluate applicants through developmental assessments and in-home interviews.
- Represented CSA at community outreach events and connected them with other organizations for future partnerships.

Summer Intern | Davidson College Communications Office | Davidson, NC | College Town | Summer 2013 & Summer 2014

- Helped complete the web redesign project for the Davidson College website.
- Worked within a content management system to properly format each webpage before publication.

Service to church or denomination for the past 10 years:

Participant | Princeton Seminars for Just Peace | September 2017 – May 2018

- Created conversations in the wider Princeton Theological Seminary community around issues of Islamophobia, immigration, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- Organized events, such as a DACA Table and a drone warfare discussion panel, to raise justice issues for the religious community.

Associate Editor | Princeton Theological Review | September 2017 – May 2018

- Evaluated papers with other editors to determine publishable work.
- Edited selected papers for final publication.

Participant | Courageous Conversations – 64 & Beyond Initiative | September 2017 – May 2018

- Engaged in group conversations regarding race, stereotypes, and power dynamics.

Team Leader | Young Life | May 2014 – May 2015

- Entrusted with all administrative duties of Young Life team.
- Organized a weekly team meeting to plan events and strengthen team dynamics.
- Involved with planning area-wide events in the Lake Norman Young Life area.
- Tasked with creating a safe environment to discuss group and individual spiritual health.

Volunteer Leader | Young Life | December 2011 – May 2015

- Devoted 20+ hours per week in planning and facilitating activities for large youth outreach events for 50-75 high school students.
- Mentored individual students in their personal faith journeys.
- Served as a leader for winter and summer retreats at Young Life camps.

Describe a moment in your recent ministry that you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

Last fall, Brownson's Local Missions Ministry Team restarted a program called Brownson Buddies, which offers reading assistance to 3rd-4th grade students at a local elementary school. The church created this program in January 2020, but it was suspended for two years because of COVID.

Shortly before we resumed the spring semester of Brownson Buddies, I went on parental leave. Consequently, elders and lay leaders assumed leadership responsibilities that I normally handled. After a few weeks of parental leave, I returned to a program that was succeeding far beyond my wildest dreams.

I witnessed genuine connection between students and volunteers. The seeds were planted in the fall, but the fruits of these relationships were now manifesting beautifully. The Holy Spirit used our tutoring relationships to express God's love, while also addressing a specific need. In addition to relational depth, I also observed an increased sense of ownership amongst our volunteers. Brownson Buddies was not my program or the church's program; rather, it was their program.

I consider this moment successful because of the genuine relationships on display. I firmly believe relationships are the most powerful conduit for mutual transformation to occur in a missional context. This experience was fulfilling because people in our church were empowered to lead. As a leader in the church, there is no greater feeling than creating space for God's people to lead and use their gifts in ways they never expected.

Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God is calling you.

I believe God is calling me to a ministry setting that is characterized by a spirit of openness and curiosity. In particular, I want to be in a ministry setting where people are actively seeking out who God is calling us to be and where God is calling us to go in our specific context.

One of the greatest revelations of the pandemic was how essential adaptability and experimentation are for healthy congregations. It is easy to become enamored with programs and cycles of church life that are familiar. This tendency is especially alluring after a period of global disorientation. Familiar feels safe and comforting.

The path of discipleship shown to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, however, is not marked by familiarity, safety, or comfort. On the contrary, it often requires sacrifice and a willingness to step into the unknown. It may even require us to let go of old things, so we can embrace new life.

I want to be in a ministry setting where people are open to trying new ideas. I want to be in a place where people are open to the movement of the Holy Spirit, even if that means we are being called into uncharted territory. I want to be in a place where I can share my gifts with the larger body of Christ and encourage others to do the same. I want to be in a place where I can continue to grow pastorally and spiritually. Ultimately, I want to be in a ministry setting that encourages intentional discernment and a sense of spiritual adventure.

What areas of growth have you identified in yourself?

Prior to my current job, I did not have much experience preaching to a congregation. Thankfully, I have been afforded numerous opportunities to preach during my time at Brownson. These preaching opportunities have helped me find my preaching voice, while also increasing my overall confidence behind the pulpit. I have identified a sermon preparation process that works well for me. I have also been able to try different sermon structures as I hone my preaching style. A task that once seemed daunting and overwhelming now excites me. Nevertheless, I have a strong desire to continue refining my preaching skills. I recognize that I will always be a work in progress when it comes to preaching.

Congregational care is another area of growth for me. Last year, I was invited to participate in a pastoral care rotation at Brownson. As with preaching, this is an area in which I did not have much previous experience, but I agreed to undertake for the sake of continued pastoral development. Although I had some initial reservations about my pastoral care abilities, I quickly realized that presence is the most important skill. God works through us in shocking and humbling ways when we show up for people during difficult and joyous occasions in their lives. Additionally, pastoral care visits have allowed me to experience deeper relationships with the people I serve. I would like to continue refining my pastoral care skills, as they will only make me a better pastor, disciple, and friend.

Describe a time when you have led change.

In 2021, the senior pastor at Brownson recommended each ministry team undergo a visioning process to assess where we had been, what had changed within the last year, and where we felt God might be calling us in this new season of ministry. I had never led a visioning process before, but I was eager to begin.

After creating a step-by-step guide with the senior pastor, we embarked upon a 6–8-month visioning process. Every month we worked through a new step in the guide. Some steps were completed quickly, while others took much longer. Throughout the process, we tried to focus on what we were learning and discerning, rather than artificial metrics of success. After much prayer, discernment, and hard work, we were able to articulate a mission statement and core values for each ministry team.

Some committee members admitted they were resistant to the idea at first, but ultimately, they were grateful for the journey. Others expressed a deep sense of pride about what we had created with God's help. I was surprised by how much I enjoyed the process. I did not realize I had a passion for visioning until I had to do ministry in a season of unprecedented change. It was truly a spiritual experience for all of us.

Those mission statements and core values keep us grounded in the activities and ministries of our church. Most importantly, though, it cultivated a culture of listening for God's Spirit on those teams. It has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my ministry thus far.

Statement of Faith:

I believe in the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), who exists as three distinct persons comprised of one essence. I believe this God freely chose to create the universe, not out of need or necessity, but out of an overflow of love and community within God's very being. Through the pages of Holy Scripture, God reveals Godself fully to humankind in the person of Jesus Christ. As such, the Bible is the authoritative source of our knowledge about God, and the basis for Reformed theology and worship.

I believe Jesus Christ is God in human form – the Word made flesh. Jesus came to live among us so that God and humanity could be in right relationship again. Jesus' life and ministry provide a clear picture of the abundant life God desires for us to experience. His life also demonstrates who God identifies with most in the world: the poor, the marginalized, the outcasts, the oppressed. I believe Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead redeemed humanity from sin, which is eternal separation from God. Salvation is not predicated upon any work or decision on our part, but rather is a wholly unmerited gift of grace offered to us by God. We can experience eternal life with God because of Jesus' great sacrifice for us.

I believe the Holy Spirit is God's presence with us in the world today. The Holy Spirit empowers us to worship and serve God. The Holy Spirit continues to reform each of us as we seek to become more like Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit connects us with Christ and serves as our advocate. Ultimately, I believe the Holy Spirit inspires us to live out our Christian faith in the world.

I believe the church is not a building, but rather the universal body of believers who are called and gathered in Christ's name. Just as God sent Godself into the world for the sake of divine love, the church is sent out to be God's incarnate love in the world. The church, therefore, does not have a mission. The church is mission. As the elected vehicle of God's grace and love, the church universal is called to proclaim the good news of the gospel, embody the love of Christ through transformative discipleship, administer the sacraments, and follow the liberating movement of the Holy Spirit.

I believe the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper utilize ordinary items – water, bread, and wine – to serve as visible signs of God's invisible grace. These signs remind us of the power of God's grace in our lives. Baptism is a sign and seal of our adoption as sons and daughters into the family of God. It also represents cleansing, whereby we are washed clean from sin and baptized into new life in Christ. The Lord's Supper is a sign and seal of God's redemptive work in Jesus Christ. In the giving of the bread and wine, we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross, spiritually nourished by Christ's presence at the table, and sent out by the Holy Spirit to be God's love in the world.

Optional Links:

<https://vimeo.com/791627853>

References:

#	Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
1	Rev. John Hage	7 Village Ln, Pinehurst, NC 28374	843-754-5419	Supervisor	john@brownsonchurch.org
2	Linda Pridgen	208 Haldane Dr, Southern Pines, NC 28387	910-638-5115	Brownson member - Bible study	pridgenlp@gmail.com
3	Sydrena Murchison	1015 S Carlisle St, Southern Pines, NC 28387	252-820-5838	Local community partner liasio	smurchison@ncmcs.org

#	Name	Address	Phone Numbers	Relation	Email
4	Dr. Jim Tart	514 E New Jersey Ave, Apt 5305, Southern Pines, NC 28387	910-638-9334	Brownson member - Adult Discip	tartja@earthlink.net
5	Ellie Collins	335 Driftwood Cir, Unit B, Southern Pines, NC 28387	910-692-8289	Brownson member - Bold Initiat	efc211@gmail.com
6	Rev. Debra Gray	1100 W Connecticut Ave, Southern Pines, NC 28387	910-585-3736	Local colleague in ministry	revgrayjordan1@gmail.com

I hereby authorize those inquiring into my suitability to contact my reference

Sexual Misconduct Self-Certification Statement:

I certify below that no civil, criminal, ecclesiastical complaint has ever been sustained* or is pending* against me for sexual misconduct; and I have never resigned or been terminated from a position for reasons related to sexual misconduct.

I have read this certification and release form and fully understand that the information obtained may be used to deny my employment or any other type of position from the employing entity. I also agree that I will hold harmless the employing or judicial authority or any other entity from any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action for the legitimate release of any information related to sexual misconduct.

Modify PIF



East Community Report

On June 10, 2023 the East Community gathered at St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church in Wilmington for our Gathering. Our focus this year was Walk the Talk. Walking out our faith in the community of Wilmington, NC as Christ calls us through Mark 6. Christ calls us, as He did the disciples that day, to meet the needs of those



journey to take the love of Christ to the community in Wilmington.

We partnered with many ministries on June 10, and the efforts of our ministries went beyond the Wilmington area into the East Community. We partnered with the Diaper Bank, NC Nourish, Camp Kirkwood, The Food Bank, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Homeless ministries (Vigilant Hope, Hope Mission), and other ministries in Wilmington, Southport, Morehead City, Wallace, among other places in Eastern NC. We were also able to reach across the world by partnering with the St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church mission team to Malawi by sending hygiene items with them. We increased awareness about mission opportunities in Wilmington by touring Eden Village, a homeless tiny home ministry, and Kids Making it, a store that sells the items young people create.

We were able to package a 1000 meals at the Food Bank, package over 300 hygiene kits with many items in surplus that were given to other organizations in Wilmington. We packaged over 200 breakfast bags ministering to students through NC Nourish. A group assisted Oak Grove

around us. So, we embarked on this

Presbyterian Church refurbish their playground. Another group visited Eden Village, the tiny home village built to assist in providing affordable housing to folks experiencing homelessness. They also visited Kids Making It a non-profit youth woodworking program that teaches valuable vocational, entrepreneurial and life skills to at-risk, low income and disadvantaged youth. We wrote cards in English and Spanish to be given to youth attending residential camp at Camp Kirkwood this summer.

One recipient of the hygiene kits was thankful for the gifts given and the size because it gave him the opportunity to share with others.

Through the work of the East Community Steering Team 80+ Presbyterians were able to partner in mission, striving to reach the world with the love of God in Christ Jesus. It was a day filled with empowering one another to share Christ's ministry and mission in a changing world. Thanks to all who participated. What a blessed day it was!

Thanks to all who came and participated. Thanks to those who contributed photos and thanks to Rev. Jonathan Watson for traveling to each



site to take photos for us.

Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Pat Ramsden and Barrett Ingram, co-chairs

Action:

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry brings before the presbytery, Candidate Hannah Ostlund, for examination as Certified and Ready for Ordination. Hannah's biography and faith statement can be found in the packet.

Hannah Ostlund graduated in May of 2020 from Salem College in North Carolina with majors in Religion and Nonprofit Management and Community Leadership. In May of 2023, she also graduated with a Masters of Divinity from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. During her time at Salem, Hannah found a deep interest in bridging the gap between the nonprofit community and the religious sector. At Salem, Hannah completed a two-semester study on mission work with a focus on breaking down the barriers of short-term trips as a way to open doors for long-term development. Emerging from these interests and experiences, Hannah enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

In her second year at the seminary, Hannah was selected as the Valentour Fellow studying the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on short-term missions and what it means for the future of mission in our world. Hannah traveled to Peru, Malawi, and the US/Mexico Border to conduct this research with mission partners and religious organizations last summer. Upon her return to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, Hannah completed an independent study with Dr. Hunter Farrell that culminated in a presentation on the adapted version of the short-term mission guidebook she created at Salem.

Hannah is currently a Lake Fellow in Parish Ministry through Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, IN. The Lake Fellow Residency is a unique, two-year developmental program for seminary graduates who are on track for ordination in the PC(USA). Under the direct supervision of the senior pastor at Second Presbyterian Church, Fellows gain invaluable experience in parish ministry, church leadership, continued academic study, and much more. While exploring her call, Hannah felt that this community of faith would welcome and support her as she gains and finetunes her skills for parish ministry.

I believe in One, triune God who is Master Gardener, Creator, and Sustainer of all. I believe in the trinitarian nature of God known in three persons as God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit, equally sharing in divinity and power, yet distinct. I trust in the sovereign Creator who breathed life into the earth. With the dust of God's creation and God's own breath, humanity was created. The vision of new life was born. While God is ruler of all, God is also a companion and guide to humankind, God calls each of us into community with one another, knowing that all of creation is called good.

God's love for us, God's own beloved creation, is God's reason for sending God's only son on our behalf. Jesus the Christ was conceived by the Virgin Mary and the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I believe Jesus is both fully divine and fully human. As the living incarnation of God sent to live among God's people, Jesus Christ acts as a physical and present reminder of the love and grace witnessed in the Word, the Holy Scriptures.

In his lifetime, Jesus Christ taught God's creation the power of love, justice, peace, and grace. It is the teachings of Jesus present in the divine and holy Scriptures that we are called to follow, called to emulate. Jesus welcomed children to his feet, fed the hungry, healed the sick, and ministered to the outcast. Through Jesus' teachings present in the Holy Scriptures, my ministry is encouraged and shaped. My faith and ministry is directly shaped by the actions, words, and exceptional love Jesus demonstrated in life and in the present to love thy neighbor, support the oppressed, and show grace to all of God's children.

I believe in the life-saving, redeeming power of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Having ministered so radically during his lifetime, Jesus was condemned to death and crucified for breaking the norm. In his death, Jesus descended into hell. However, as women prepared to anoint Jesus' body for burial, he was resurrected from the dead to sit on the right hand of God the Father. Jesus' resurrection reminds us of the power of the love and grace given to us by God. Through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are promised the forgiveness of sin and eternal life in our relationship with God. The works of our human lives do not justify this promise, but the promise is found in the sacrifice of Jesus alone.

I believe in the power and movement of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, sent by God and Christ, guides and encourages us through both the smallest, and the most grand gestures. The Holy Spirit is what guides us to emulate the love, compassion, hope, and healing of Jesus Christ that we are shown in the Holy Scriptures. The Holy Spirit not only guides us toward a life more in tune with that of Jesus Christ, but it also gives us the talents and skills to use along the way. Each of us is touched by the Spirit and

therefore pulled closer in relationship to God. The Holy Spirit is like the cement that holds the mosaic of the Christian family together. This Christian mosaic includes pieces that resemble Jesus Christ, God, the Holy Scriptures, and the body of believers. Together, with the glue of the Holy Spirit a beautiful image of love and hope prevails. Each piece of the mosaic creation needs the other; we need the comfort of God, the guidance and sacrificial promise of Jesus Christ, the Word of Scripture, the body of believers near and far, and the uniting glue of the Spirit creates a beautiful image where love and hope prevails.

I believe in the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. As physical reminders of the Trinity's presence and promise through the ordinary elements of water, bread, and wine. When we take part in the Sacraments, we are reminding ourselves of the commitment to claim our faith in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

I believe the Sacrament of Baptism reminds us God has called us into a relationship with God and the larger community of faith here on earth, before we even knew it. I believe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (or Holy Communion) acts as a reminder of the sacrifice made by Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of a new life he gave to each of us. As we take part in this Sacrament, we are reminded that at God's table, all are welcome, loved, and sent forth as disciples of Christ.

I believe in the power of the Church. I trust in the Church's mission to bring forth the teachings and love of the Trinity in all that it does. We are called to be good neighbors to all in the world whether they look like us, believe in what we do, or share in the same values. We are the hands, feet, and mouths of God as members of God's Church. Therefore, we are called to promote love, peace, justice, and compassion for all of God's creation. I trust in God's calling in my life to lead this community in these ways, toward a world that is more kind and just in the image of God, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

TERMS OF DISMISSAL
of the Olivia Presbyterian Church from the
Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, Presbyterian Church (USA)
As agreed to by the Congregational Gathering on September 10, 2023

1. The congregation now known as Olivia Presbyterian Church will be dismissed, with its property, to another Reformed body— the Evangelical Presbyterian Church—if at least 75% plus one of the active members of the congregation present during a consultative meeting called by the Presbytery in accordance with G-3.0301a concur with the Session’s request for such dismissal as a confirmation of the congregation’s will.
2. In recognition of our mutual history as laborers in the Kingdom, and in recognition of the Presbytery’s fiduciary responsibility to the Presbyterian Church (USA), the following financial terms shall be paid by the congregation now known as Olivia Presbyterian Church to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina on or before the effective date of dismissal:
 - a. **\$ 53,042** (5.56 NET acres). The per-acre amount of \$10,600 represents the value of the land ONLY, exclusive of any improvements, and is taken from the appraisal provided to the church by William C. Stafford, Jr., NC General Appraiser A1368. Excluded from all consideration is a half-acre non-contiguous lot deemed of \$0 value by the appraiser because of an unknown number of old graves on the site. The following adjustments were made to the total appraised value of the church’s land:
 - less per-acre value of the church cemetery (1.38 acres)
 - less 10% (a tithe) of the remaining amount in recognition of the church’s uninterrupted payment of per capita and mission support to the Presbytery
 - b. **\$ 0** – the total amount of unpaid per capita, not remitted by the congregation, but paid by the Presbytery
 - c. **\$ tbd** – the office expense (postage, envelopes, and labels) incurred by Presbytery during the discernment process. (*to be determined*)
 - d. **\$ tbd** – the reimbursed travel expense (mileage) of the Presbytery Stated Clerk, Pastoral Team, and Negotiating Team during the discernment process. (*to be determined*)

Items “a” through “d” will be due on or before the effective date of dismissal. The money received for the land will be used only according to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Policy for Distribution of Funds to benefit ministries like church revitalization and the development of new worshipping communities.
3. The congregation so dismissed will use the new name Olivia Evangelical Presbyterian Church to reflect the congregation’s new affiliation with a Reformed denomination that is not the PCUSA. (*Please send a sample of new church letterhead along with a photo of a new sign for the church indicating the new name.*)

4. The congregation so dismissed will sever all associations with the PCUSA, such as Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Men, etc.
5. The following obligations **should be met within 45 days** and must be completed within 180 days of the vote by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina to concur with the congregation's request for dismissal to another Reformed denomination, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. *(This time requirement is binding unless it is extended by mutual agreement between the congregation and the presbytery.)*
 - a. Notification from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that the congregation now known as Olivia Presbyterian Church will be received pending dismissal by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. *(Prior to the congregational consultative meeting, Stated Clerk Rev. Jerrod Lowry must receive a letter from the Stated Clerk of the receiving presbytery reflecting the intention to receive the church upon dismissal by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.)*
 - b. The providing of the originals of all congregational records to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina for transfer to the Presbyterian Historical Society. *(This includes, but is not limited to, minutes of the Session, minutes of any Boards of Deacons or Boards of Trustees, all membership rolls, and all registers. (G-3.0107). If it so desires, the departing congregation may make arrangements with the Presbyterian Historical Society to have copies made at the congregation's own expense.)*
 - c. Satisfactory evidence of the updating of all deeds, property and liability insurance policies, articles of incorporation, by-laws and any other legal documents which have previously included the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina and/or the Presbyterian Church (USA) with the name of the church updated on all documents.
 - d. Satisfactory evidence that any loan(s) which the Presbytery guaranteed for the church has (have) been paid and satisfied. *(not applicable)*
 - e. Release by the Presbytery of any claim or interest in the congregation's property, including release of Presbytery from any obligation for congregation's loans with any non-Presbyterian Church (USA) entity. However, a clause **shall** be placed into the deed of transfer of any property which a dismissed congregation is allowed to take into its new Reformed body that provides that if the congregation ceases to be a member of that denomination (or its successor) within a period of five (5) years that the presently held property would revert to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina (or its successor).
 - f. Mutual release of all claims that were or could have been made by the Presbytery against the congregation or by the congregation against the Presbytery. *(These documents will be drafted by the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina.)*
 - g. Closing out the congregation's financial and membership reports and submittal of those reports to the Presbytery.
 - h. Satisfactory evidence of communication with the Board of Pensions regarding cessation of payments at the time of dismissal as well as transfer of health

insurance coverage for ministers and any staff enrolled in the Medical Benefits Plan of the PCUSA. *(not applicable)*

6. **Within 30 days** of the Presbytery's vote approving dismissal of the congregation or members thereof to another Reformed denomination, the Presbytery will prepare a letter to members of the congregation informing them of their option to be dismissed with the congregation or to remain in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The congregation will mail the letter to all active members promptly and will bear all costs associated with this mailing. The letter will direct that responses are returned to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. The Presbytery will then ensure that contact is made with those members wishing to remain in the PCUSA and that they are assisted in joining a new congregation of their choice, if there is no continuing PCUSA congregation.
7. After all obligations are complete, the congregation to be known as Olivia Evangelical Presbyterian Church is encouraged to organize, and to invite representatives of the Presbytery to share in a service of worship of Almighty God and thanksgiving for the witness and ministry of the departing congregation.

7/24/23

Approved by Olivia Negotiating Team and
Presbytery's Negotiating Team

Updated 7/25/23

With new name of church provided

8/7/2023

Approved by Olivia Session

8/19/2023

Updated with date of congregational meeting



**The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Inc.
Finance and Property Committee Report to the Presbytery
October 7th, 2023**

Members: Barrett Payne, Hayes Petteway, Tonya Brinkley, Bruce Berry, Renee Paschal, Kimetha Moye, Jerrod Lowry and Lornette McCaskill

Chairperson: Barrett Payne

Secretary: Lornette McCaskill

At the end of August 2023, our deficit is -\$97,417.20 for the year-to-date.

Information Items:

1. **Fuente - New Church Development (NCD)** - New Church Development subcommittee of Finance and Property voted in favor of a \$12,000 grant for Fuente to assist with their electrical and building project. Finance and Property approved this motion.
2. **Renting Upstairs Office Space at the Presbytery Headquarters**— Vote approved to rent the upstairs of the PCC building with a triple net lease, approve funding not to exceed 10K to make the building ready for rental. PCC will have to update security, add cameras, locks and anything needed to make the building rent ready. It will be a one-year lease which will cost 10% fee of the year's lease to the rental agency Hilton Auction & Realty / Ryan Godwin.
3. **Pike Rocky Point Cemetery** – Vote approved to survey cemetery grounds. The funds will come from the Pike Rocky Point Church account in the amount of \$11,995 because the Cemetery funds do not have enough funds to pay this amount. The survey would show where existing plots are and then we would be able to sell more cemetery plots.

Account Balances as of 08/31/2023:

Checking-BB&T	37,714.59
Money Market-BB&T	181,934.35
Truist/BBT Investment	<u>1,899,582.17</u>
	2,119,980.52

New Covenant Funds

Benevolence Reserve 1017214	1,092,595.06
Campbellton Friendship 1017189	370,016.03
Capital Needs & Repl. 1017205	249,019.75
Church Development Fund 1028408	391,375.00
Disaster Fund 1029568	28,517.01

Gardner Edwards Cont. Ed1017090	61,759.18
PCC Scholarship Fund 1000027632	161,899.62
Church Revolving Loan 1017198	1,541,013.82
Wil Area NCD-Westmin. 1110300997	1,119,002.57
	<hr/>
	5,015,198.04

Outstanding Loans

Church In The Pines	980.00
Haymount FEMA Loan	40,000.00
St. Pauls Olivos	52,500.00
Monroe Loan Receivable	20,000.11
Haymount Loan Receivable	3,852.27
	<hr/>
Total Loans	\$117,332.38

Elder Ministries Committee Report

Action:

The Elder Ministries Committee submits to presbytery amendments to the Commissioned Ruling Elder Ministries Handbook for prayerful consideration and approval. The proposed Handbook is attached to this report.

Information:

- Elder Ministries organized a Christian Education Workshop with Elizabeth Eason Nix (DCE, West End PC, West End) on 2/25 via Zoom. The course was well attended.
- Elder Ministries examined Ruling Elder, Terry Morris of Highland Presbyterian Church to ensure all requirements were completed. Elder Ministries concluded that he has successfully completed all requirements and recommended to Central COM that he be examined and deemed a Qualified Ruling Elder (QRE).
- Elder Ministries examined Ruling Elder, Thalia Fleetwood of Shallotte Presbyterian Church to ensure all requirements were completed. Elder Ministries concluded that she has successfully completed all requirements of the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina in her training to be a CRE in the Huntingdon Presbytery. Additionally, her years of service as a CRE in Huntingdon Presbytery fulfilled the internship requirement of this presbytery. Elder Ministries recommended she be examined by the COM and deemed a Qualified Ruling Elder (QRE).

Becoming a
Qualified/Commissioned
Ruling Elder

Presbytery of Coastal
Carolina *August 2023*

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Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Commissioned Ruling Elder
**Program Steps to
Commissioning**

Note: Persons recognized as Qualified Ruling Elders (QREs) or Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) must

have been ordained as Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church (USA) for at least one year. Anyone can take the training outlined below, but cannot become a QRE or CRE unless they have been elected, examined, and ordained as a Ruling Elder. In addition QREs and CREs must be examined and approved by their Community Commission on Ministry.

1. Have a Personal Interest in Serving
2. *Complete course registration through approved seminary or program of your choice*
3. Take Phase One Classes Through Union Presbyterian Seminary (or other approved program)
4. Select a Mentor to be *approved and appointed* by the Elder Ministries Committee
5. **Before Year Two**
 - a. Complete Full Application Form (pg. 8-11) (*and obtain* session endorsement)
 - b. Undertake Psychological Evaluation (shared cost: candidate, session, presbytery)
See page 12 for details.
 - c. Have an Admission Interview led by Elder Ministries Committee
6. Take Phase Two Classes Through Union Presbyterian Seminary (*or other approved seminary or program*)
7. Complete Internship *during or after phase 2 found on pages 15-17*
8. Be Declared “Ready to Be Examined by *the Community COM*” by the Elder Ministries Committee

Candidate is now under the care of the Community COM

9. Prepare a Brief (One Page) Statement of Faith and answers to two Ordination Questions
10. Undertake QRE *Evaluation*, organized by *the Community COM*
11. Be Added to Preaching Supply List and Available for Potential Match with Congregation(s)

All further steps to be taken by those desiring to become a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)

12. Pastoral Relationship Approved by Community COM

13. Commissioned *in a worship service to a pastoral relationship by an administrative commission*

14. **Following Commissioning:**

- a. Fulfill Continuing Education Requirements: *20 hours annually for CREs and 10 hours annually for QREs*
- b. Undertake Annual Review (session & mentor)
- c. *Submit contract for review each year to the Community COM*

Pathways to Learning and Leadership”
CRE and Church Member Education at Union Presbyterian
Seminary

What is it? *Pathways to Learning and Leadership* is a program of online courses offered for church members who want to increase their knowledge and discipleship. Each course is five weeks long. **Foundational courses** (Phase I) are taught entirely online, using live instruction, readings, and peer discussion. **Practical ministry courses** (Phase II) for church members and those preparing to be Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) are taught online, with some practical exercises carried out in cooperation with the local presbytery. **Electives** for church members and for CREs who want continuing education are taught entirely online. Church members may receive a certificate of completion after successfully completing six courses; the CRE course requirements are directed by the presbytery.

How much time will it take? Participants will need about six (6) hours per week per course, including two hours at a specific time online, to complete the work.

Who is it for? People interested in learning more about the church, and interacting with seminary professors and top leaders. Pathways can be a way to supplement the adult education offered in your congregation. People preparing to be CREs will join interested church members in learning together. Courses will be taught from a Reformed (Presbyterian) perspective, but are open to all.

Who will teach the courses? Most will be taught by faculty from Union Presbyterian Seminary. Some will be taught by practitioners in their field.

How much does it cost? The cost per five week course is \$165. In addition there will usually be one book to purchase per course.

Are there prerequisites to taking the courses? No. Anyone can participate.

Will I earn college credit for the courses? No. These courses do not earn academic credit. At the end of the two years, you will meet the educational requirements of your

denomination toward becoming a Commissioned Ruling Elder (or your denomination's equivalent).

When can I get started? Courses will be ongoing. We recommend that the foundational courses (Phase I) be taken first, but other courses may be taken in any order.

What kind of computer do I need? You will need a desktop or laptop computer, or a tablet or smart phone in order to participate. You must have a microphone; a webcam is strongly recommended, but not required.

How do I register? Go to www.upsem.edu/pathways to register online.

Two Programs of Study

For **CRE education**, in order to meet the educational requirements of the presbytery or other middle governing body, students must take all four courses in Phase I and all five courses in Phase II, a total of nine courses.

For a **Certificate of Completion** for church members, they must take all four courses in Phase I, plus two additional courses, either in Phase II-a or II-b, for a total of six courses.

Others interested in education for discipleship are welcome in any/all of the courses offered. Phase I, II-a, and II-b courses are described below.

Phase I – Foundations (year 1) – required for both programs

This phase is open to anyone, CRE students and those seeking a certificate as well as church members who just want to take a class or two but are not seeking a certificate of completion. These four courses are foundational for both the CRE and Lay Education programs and required for both to successfully complete the course. Courses are taught completely online, with real-time contact with the instructor, interaction with other students online, and independent work. Each class includes 10 hours of instruction, 10 hours of peer interaction, and approximately 10 hours of reading/writing/other assignments.

The tuition for each five-week course is *\$165 (plus \$25 for late registration)* for Phase I, and students will purchase (or borrow from a library) one or two books for each course. Instructors will report whether or not each student did the required work, but will not assign a grade or write an assessment. Presbyteries or other middle governing bodies may do some sort of assessment if they wish, to make sure the student gained the knowledge and content desired.

All courses include practical reflection and application (case studies, projects, etc.) in relation to academic content prior to taking the courses students are encouraged

to take Bible Survey Courses. The four courses in Phase I are:

1. Biblical Interpretation, with some Bible content, but primarily focused on how to interpret the Bible
2. Reformed Theology and Church History
3. Christian Life – worship, spiritual practices, ethics
4. The Mission of the Church in the World – evangelism, mission

After taking these courses, Elder Ministries Committee will consult with CRE students who show promise to see if they are interested in continuing the process toward CRE. They would then take the next five courses. Because the courses in Phase I are foundational, they must be taken before Phase II courses.

At the end of each course, students completing the assignments will receive 3.0 CEUs (12.0 for all of the courses in Phase I).

Classes in Phase II are:

1. Preaching the Bible
2. Teaching the Bible
3. Pastoral Care – Care of persons
4. Administration – Care of Systems: leadership, polity, stewardship, redevelopment
5. Worship and Sacraments

At the end of each course, students completing the assignments will receive 3.0 CEUs (15.0 for all of the courses in Phase II-a).

Phase II – A Wider Look (year 2)

The courses in Phase II are offered completely online, with the same format as Phase I – ten hours of instruction, ten hours of peer interaction, and ten hours of independent work per course. The two courses offered each year in Phase II-b are topically based, and would change every year. These courses are electives for church members seeking a certificate of completion, but are also open for continuing education for CREs and any other interested people.

The cost of tuition in Phase II is *\$165 (plus \$25 for late registration)*.

Topics in Phase II will be areas of interest chosen by the instructors with the

requirement that they fall within one or more of the nine categories in Phase I and Phase II. At the end of each course, students completing the assignments will receive 3.0 CEUs.

Technical Requirements of Students

- An internet connection – broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE)
- Speakers and a microphone – built-in or USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth
- A webcam or HD webcam - built-in or USB plug-in
- Or, a HD cam or HD camcorder with video capture card

Pathways

to Learning and Leadership

Summary of Pathways Courses

CRE and Church member courses, Phase I:

- **Biblical Interpretation**
- **Reformed Theology and Church History**
- **Church History**
- **The Christian Life**
- **Mission and Evangelism**

CRE and Church member courses, Phase II (Thursdays):

- **Worship and Sacraments**
- **Teaching the Bible**
- **Polity and Administration**
- **Introduction to Pastoral Care**
- **Preaching**

Each five-week course costs *\$165 (plus \$25 for late registration)*, and requires the purchase of one book. Contact www.upsem.edu/pathways to read about the program and/or to register.

***More information in Appendix A**



**Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Elder Ministries Training
Program**

Application Form for CRE Candidates

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

_____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Email: _____ Mailing

Address: _____

Church Membership: _____

(Name of Church) (City/State)

Describe Your Activities in the Life and Mission of the Church:

(List churches to which you have belonged; dates of active membership; church activities you participated in; positions of responsibility you have held, etc. *Use an additional sheet of paper, if necessary.*)

Describe Your Service and Experience as an Ordained Elder:

Describe Your Community Activities:

(List organizations to which you have belonged; dates of active membership; activities you participated in; positions of responsibility you have held, etc. *Use an additional sheet of paper if necessary.*)

Employment:

(List all significant jobs you have held; dates of active employment; job or duty, and specifically, positions of responsibility you have held, etc. *Use an additional sheet of paper if necessary.*)

Educational Background:

School & Location Year Graduated: Diploma/Degree: (*start with High School*)

References:

List the name, address, telephone and occupation of three people (no relatives) who have known you for at least five years. One of these references should be a Minister of the Word and

Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

1. _____ Name Relationship to you

Mailing Address

Phone(s)

Email

2. _____
_____ Name

Relationship to you

Mailing Address

Phone(s)

Email

3. _____
_____ Name

Relationship to you

Mailing Address

Phone(s)

Email

_____ I hereby authorize those inquiring into my suitability to contact my references.
(Initial)

Statement:

“Why I would like to be involved in the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program.”

In your statement, please describe which phases of service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder you believe will be most difficult for you and which will be easiest for you. Also, please describe your most meaningful religious experience and why it was most meaningful to you.

Session Endorsement

NOTE: *You should take this completed form, together with your "Statement" (previous page) to the moderator of your session. The minister and session will talk with you about your interest in the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program. The clerk of session will then forward your application form and statement, to the Presbytery's **Elder Ministries** Committee.*

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SESSION

As the Session considers recommending a person to be enrolled in the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program, the following are among the criteria that should be considered:

- Is the person a committed Christian? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

- Is the person an active and effective member of the Congregation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

- Does the person relate helpfully and positively to others? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

- Is the person loyal to and enthusiastic about the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)? ☐ Yes

☐ No Comments: _____

- Does the person have strong leadership qualities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

- Does the person have good communication skills? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

Also, in considering your recommendation, are the Session and the Congregation willing to affirm and support this person in ministry? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

RECOMMENDATION

The Session of the _____
(Church)

in _____, North Carolina has met with _____
_____, (city)
(name)

who is a Ruling Elder in this congregation and after due deliberation recommends this person for the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program and pledges its affirmation and support as this person embarks upon and continues in this ministry.

Signed: _____

(date)

(Clerk of Session)

Elders *Ministries* Committee

Psychological Evaluation of CRE Candidates

As part of the evaluation of candidates for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina requires a basic psychological evaluation to be done before the candidate can be considered for qualification or commissioning as a Commissioned *Ruling Elder*.

Cost

In order to assist candidates with the cost of this process the presbytery will pay 1/3 of the cost up to \$50. We ask that the candidate's own congregation pay 1/3 (up to \$50) and that the candidate also pay 1/3.

Approved Providers

The following providers have agreed to perform a basic evaluation and submit a confidential report to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery for a fee of \$150. Candidates may request that the Elder Ministries Committee approve another licensed counselor but approval should be sought before going to another provider.

- Mr. Charles Wentz – Laurinburg, NC – dir@scotlandcounseling.org - (910) 276-7011

Appointment and Payment

It is the responsibility of the candidate to set up the appointment and to arrange for payment from you and your church.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Elder
Ministries Committee

Internship Process

Background: As part of the preparation for serving as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) the Elder Ministries Committee requires a brief internship guided by an Ordained Teaching Elder *or an established CRE approved by the Elder Ministries Committee*. The purpose of this internship is to assist the candidates for commissioning as CREs to experience first hand certain essential aspects of pastoral ministry and to have someone to reflect with them on their experiences.

Accountability: The intern will be accountable to a Minister of the Word and Sacrament and to the Commission on Ministry of Coastal Carolina Presbytery through the Committee on Elder Ministry.

Topics for Discussion and Instruction: The following are subjects to be addressed in the internship:

- ☐ Worship leadership through liturgy, sermons, scripture, and prayer
- Oversight and involvement in the education ministry of the church, including instruction in Bible study leadership, adult education, and small groups
- Effective pastoral care through sacraments and ceremonies of the church, including the Lord's Supper, Baptism, Weddings, and Funerals
- Effective pastoral care through visitation at hospitals, care centers, and in homes
- Techniques in Parish Administration, including organization for effective ministry, office etiquette, and committee leadership

Means of Addressing the Topics Above: Four primary methods will help accomplish adequate treatment of these subjects. One is an opportunity to lead worship and preach followed by reflection with the mentor. This can be "live" or based on a recorded worship/preaching experience. The second is through regular one-on-one discussion, including question and response periods. The third is by "shadowing" the pastor while s/he attends to the daily business of pastoral ministry. The fourth will involve assignments to be completed between visits, including reading suggestions and verbatim reflections on pastoral visits.

Expected Time Commitment: the intern and mentor will meet one hour every other week for discussion. The intern is welcome to "shadow" the mentor for up to two hours a week. The intern will likely need 2 hours a week to complete reading assignments, make visits, prepare verbatim reports on the visits, and reflection/prayer. If a weekly schedule is kept the content outline above should be able to be accomplished in about six weeks.

Report: The mentor/supervisor is asked to submit a report similar to the one attached below to the Chair of the Elder Ministries Committee in care of the Presbytery Office.

Agreement to This Process:

Intern _____ Pastor _____ Date _____

Presbytery of Coastal
Carolina Elder
Ministries Committee

Internship Report for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)

CRE Candidate's Name: _____

Mentor's Name: _____

Mentor's Address: _____

Please answer briefly the following questions. Additional comments may be written on the back.

How would you characterize this candidate's participation in the Internship?

Please evaluate briefly each of the key areas of the Internship: (use back for comments)

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Excellent</u>			<u>Needs Improvement</u>	
• Worship Leadership	5	4	3	2	1
• Education Ministry of the Church	5	4	3	2	1
• Sacraments and Ceremonies of the Church	5	4	3	2	1
• Pastoral Care	5	4	3	2	1
• Parish Administration	5	4	3	2	1

What are the major strengths of this Commissioned Ruling Elder's ministry?

In what areas of ministry would you encourage this Commissioned Ruling Elder to make improvements?

What areas of continuing education would you recommend for this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

Mentor's Signature _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to:

Elder Ministries, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, 807 West King Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337,
or scan and Email to: dls67@presbycc.org or by FAX to: 855-899-7210.

Elder Ministries
Committee Presbytery of
Coastal Carolina
Ready to Be Examined

Once a CRE candidate has completed the required course work (either through Union Presbyterian Seminary's Pathways program or another program approved in advance by the *Elder Ministries Committee*) there are a series of steps required to be recognized as a QRE, that is a Ruling Elder Qualified to be commissioned to particular pastoral service as defined in the *Book of Order* G-2.1002.

These steps include:

1. Completing the **Internship Process** and submitting the **Internship Report** to the *Elder Ministries Committee Liaison* (pages 13 to 14 above).
2. Completing a one-page **Statement of Faith** which outlines the candidate's views on the members of the Trinity, salvation, the church, and the sacraments. Samples of this statement can be found on our website where we introduce new members to the Presbytery.
3. Completing a one-page **Biographical Sketch** which traces the candidate's faith journey and call to and/or service in ministry. Samples of this statement can be found where we introduce new members to the Presbytery.
4. Completing a one-page (total) paper with answers to the **Ordination Questions**

asked of all presbyters at ordination, installation, and/or commissioning (2 x ½ page).

Ordination/Installation Vows

Please select 2 of the 9 following questions and write a half-page response to each question (total = one page). Use the question-bullets as a guide to your answer. It is not necessary to answer each bullet point.

1. *Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?*
 - What does it mean to you to trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior?
 - What does it mean to you that Jesus Christ is Lord of all? Head of the Church?
 - What does it mean to you to say that God is one yet made up of three persons? · What is the relationship between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
2. *Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you?*
 - What role does the Holy Spirit play in our interpretation of the Scriptures?
 - In what way are the Scriptures the “unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ”?
 - How are the Scriptures “God's Word to you”?
3. *Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?*
 - List some of what you understand to be the “essential tenets” of the Reformed faith.
 - Do you find any of them in conflict with what you think that “Scripture leads us to believe and do”?
4. *Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?*
 - What does it mean to you to be obedient to Jesus Christ?
 - What does it mean to you to be under the authority of Scripture? · What does it mean to you to be guided by our confessions?
5. *Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline. · What does it mean to you “to be guided by our church's polity”?*
 - What does it mean to you “to abide by our church's discipline”? · How does the church “discern the will of Christ”?

6. *Will you in our own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world?*
 - What is the hardest part of keeping this vow for you?
7. *Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?*
 - What is your role as aa elder to further the peace, unity and purity of the church?
Is that role different from that of any other member of the church?
 - What do you do when these three (peace, unity and purity) are in tension?
8. *Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?*
 - What does it mean to you to “serve the people”?
9. *Will you be a faithful ruling elder in this commission, serving the people by proclaiming the good news, teaching faith and caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?*
 - How do you see your role as commissioned ruling elder in this particular church?
 - If appropriate, how will you balance your service to the larger church to that of the congregation?
 - How do you balance showing “the love and justice of Jesus Christ”?

Commission on Ministry
Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

**Contract for Commissioned Ruling Elder Pastoral
Relationship**

The following contract is between _____ and the Session
of _____
_____ Presbyterian Church of
_____, North Carolina, for the purpose of providing pastoral
services for a period beginning _____
and ending on _____.

Accountability

A Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) will continue to be accountable to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina through the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery and will be accountable to the Session of the contracting church as concerns his/her ministry within this congregation.

Expectations of the Pastor (*please check all that apply*)

- ☐ Will lead worship and preach on a regular basis but with the option to have guest ministers on occasion and the session will be responsible for obtaining any supply pastor when this occurs;
- ☐ Will visit sick, shut-ins, new members, and the congregation as is appropriate and as is able with regular work schedule;
- ☐ Will provide leadership and guidance to committees as requested and time permitting;
- ☐ Will enhance spiritual life of the church through pastoral leadership;
- ☐ Will conduct funerals and weddings when called upon;
- ☐ Other: (explain) _____
- ☐ Other: (explain) _____

This contract is for an estimated _____ hours per week including the time to prepare sermons.

Expectations of the Session:

1. Will work collegially with the Pastor in the shared ministry of the congregation (*Book of Order*, G-2.0301);
2. Will review the Pastor's work and compensation annually (*Book of Order*, G-2.0804);

Termination or Extension Provisions/Considerations

1. This contract may be terminated at any time by the Session or Pastor with 30 days written notice or by action of the Commission on Ministry (COM).
2. This contract must be renewed by the COM each year.

Financial Terms

We will provide the following remuneration per **month**. (Fill in all appropriate figures on a **monthly** basis.

Salary	_____ (per month)
Housing or Manse	_____ Other _____
Benefits/Insurance/SECA	_____
Travel (amount budgeted) basis)	_____ (paid on reimbursement
Vouchered Professional Expenses	_____ (paid on reimbursement
basis)	
TOTAL	_____
Paid Vacation	4 Weeks including 4 Sundays
Continuing Education	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Sick Leave (explain)	_____

Background Check/Boundary Training

The Presbytery of Coastal Carolina requires the successful completion of the SafeGatherings course on boundary training and a background check run by them for all persons serving in a pastoral relationship with one or more of our congregations. Information on how to register and take the training can be found on the Presbytery's website: <http://presbycc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/08/Tutorial-Guide-for-SafeGatherings.pdf>

Certification of This Agreement

The compensation and position description shown here was reviewed and approved by the session on _____. (date)

Clerk of Session _____ Date: _____

I have reviewed and am agreeable to the terms of this agreement.

Stated Supply Pastor _____ Date: _____

The COM approves this agreement and authorizes _____

☐ Yes ☐ No To Administer the Sacraments

☐ Yes ☐ No To Moderate the Session beginning _____ (date) until _____

December 31, 20 ____ (date)

☐ West ☐ Central ☐ East

Commission on Ministry _____ Date: _____

Signed by Chair of appropriate COM

Commission on Ministry
Presbytery of Coastal
Carolina

Guidelines for Services of Commissioning of CREs

Ruling Elders may be commissioned to pastoral ministry either at a Presbytery (or Community) meeting or in the congregation where they will be serving. If you wish to be commissioned at the church, please follow these guidelines.

1. The *Book of Order* reference regarding Administrative Commissions can be found at G-3.0109b. Section W-4.4000 – W-4.4006 covers the commissioning of ruling elders for pastoral service; see especially W-4.4003 through W-4.4006.
2. The provisions in our Presbytery for an Administrative Commission to ordain and/or install include the following:
 - a. A minimum number of 5 persons; may be larger. The quorum is a majority of the commission's members.
 - b. Equal numbers of Teaching and Ruling Elders; or if there is an odd number of members, the additional member may be either a teaching elder or a ruling elder.
 - c. No more than one Ruling Elder from any one church. One Ruling Elder should be from the church where the service is being held.
 - d. You select the moderator of the Commission and assign the parts.
 - e. Please use the form provided to you to submit the names to the Presbytery office 20 days prior to the COM meeting, but not later than 5 days prior. Note: COM **must** approve the commission ahead of time! Plan accordingly.
3. The commission needs to include one Ruling Elder from the calling church who will propound the constitutional questions to the congregation (see W-4.4006b).
4. Presbytery is committed to the principle of inclusiveness, and appoints each commission to reflect at least gender inclusiveness and racial ethnic inclusiveness if at all possible.
5. Commission members need to be Teaching Elders (Ministers) who are members of this Presbytery and Ruling Elders from churches of this Presbytery. Others may be invited to take part in the service but technically they are not members of the commission.
6. You are asked to include the Mission Coordinator for your region of the Presbytery as a member (or a guest) of the commission:
 - East Community – Rev Nancy Gladden, (910) 284-0581; NancyGladden@presbycc.org
 - West Community – Rev. Laura Lupton, (910)-818-9938; LauraLupton@presbycc.org
 - Central Community – Rev. Clarence Page, (910) 301-1088; ClarencePage@presbycc.org
7. Any Community may invite
 - The Moderator or Vice Moderator of the Presbytery. Call the Presbytery office for information.
 - The General Presbyter.
8. Please invite pastors of neighboring churches to attend the commissioning service as a way to be a friend among your colleagues. Your mission coordinator can help with this information.
9. The Clerk of the Commission needs to use the [minutes form](#) (Word Document) and mail the signed form to the Presbytery Office following the Service of Commissioning.

Offering at Service – offering to be received at each commissioning service is designated for a Presbytery Ministers' Emergency Relief Fund to be administered by the Committee on Ministry.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina

Commissioned Ruling Elder's Annual Report

Name _____ *Home Church*

Church of *Service* _____ Dates: (from _____ to _____)
(Do you wish to continue to serve this congregation? _____ yes; _____ no; _____ with some changes to terms.)

Briefly answer the questions listed below. Additional comments may be written on the back of this form.

1. What are your major responsibilities in this congregation? _

2. What are the key ministry strengths you bring to this commission?

3. What are the key accomplishments of this pastoral relationship?

4. What have been some of the challenges in this pastoral relationship?

5. In what areas of ministry could you use additional training and support?

Note: Be sure to attach you **Continuing Education Report** to this form when you send to the Presbytery Office. Also, be sure that your Mentor submits his/her report.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Please return this form to:

Elder Ministries, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, 807 West King Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337,
or scan and Email to: dls67@presbycc.org or by FAX to: 855-899-7210.

Presbytery of Coastal
Carolina Elder Ministries
Committee

Mentor's Annual Report for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)

CRE's Name: _____

Commissioned to _____ (Church) until _____

Mentor's Name: _____

Mentor's Address: _____

Briefly answer the following questions. Additional comments may be written on the back.

How would you characterize your relationship with this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

Are you generally satisfied with the ministry of this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

What are the major strengths of this Commissioned Ruling Elder's ministry?

In what areas of ministry would you encourage this Commissioned Ruling Elder to make improvements?

What areas of continuing education would you recommend for this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

Mentor's Signature _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to:

Elder Ministries, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, 807 West King Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337,
or scan and Email to: dls67@presbycc.org or by FAX to: 855-899-7210.

Presbytery of Coastal
Carolina Elder Ministries
Committee

Session's Annual Report for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs)

CRE's Name: _____

Commissioned to _____ (Church) until _____

Briefly answer the following questions. Additional comments may be written on the back.

Are you generally satisfied with the ministry of this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

What are the major strengths of this Commissioned Ruling Elder's ministry?

In what areas of ministry would you encourage this Commissioned Ruling Elder to make improvements?

What areas of continuing education would you recommend for this Commissioned Ruling Elder?

Clerk of Session's Signature _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, 807 W. King St, Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Note: Be sure to submit with CRE's Annual Report and Continuing Education Report.

Please return this form to:

Elder Ministries, Presbytery of Coastal Carolina, 807 West King Street, Elizabethtown, NC 28337, or scan and Email to: dls67@presbycc.org or by FAX to: 855-899-7210.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Elder Ministries Committee Continuing Education Policy

Similarly to what is expected of ordained ministers, Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) and Qualified Ruling Elders (QREs) are expected to continue their education in order to better serve their congregations. The expectation is that *CREs* will undertake at

least 20 contact hours of continuing education each year *and QREs will undertake at least 10 contact hours each year*. A contact hour is the time spent in classes or seminars or the time spent in completing an approved directed study.

In order to assist you in this task, the Elder Ministries Committee arranges a series of continuing education events known as “CRE Saturdays.” Each of these events *offers continuing education credits based on the number of contact hours provided*.

Attendance at meetings of presbytery and community gatherings will each receive credit for four contact hours.

Other approved ways to complete continuing education are listed here. This list is not exhaustive – CREs and QREs can request that other educational events or individual programs of study be approved by contacting the chair of the Elder Ministries Committee.

Approved Courses of Study

1. Lecture Series provided by congregations or institutions in our area:
 - Memorial Bible Lecture – Laurinburg PC
 - Calvin Lectures – First PC of Fayetteville
 - Phifer Lectures – Community PC in Pinehurst
2. Pathways To Learning & Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary (on-line courses)
3. Wee Kirk or other regional/national conferences
4. Directed Study approved by the Elder Ministries *Committee*
5. Online courses through one of our seminaries – e.g. Union, Columbia, or Dubuque
6. Other online courses:
 - Theocademy: <http://www.theocademy.com/> (variety of courses on many topics)
 - Board of Pensions – e-learning courses:
<http://www.pensions.org/membersandemployers/boarduniversity/formembers/learnng/pages/default.aspx>
 - PCC – YouTube Course of Clerks of Session (led by Jay Bender)
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLnZ9v_TfRT6AC8CGzDQX68SbaDAtJkCc m
 - Campbell University <https://divinity.campbell.edu/church-relations/ministers-continuing-education-program/>
7. Webinars – e.g. Presbyterian Outlook
8. *Up to 3 books may be read with prior approval by the Elder Ministries Committee. Each book will receive 3 continuing education hours of credit.*

Reports on Continuing Education **are due** by the **end of October** each year and will be

considered by COM as part of the annual renewal process for Commissioned Ruling Elders.

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina Elder Ministries Committee
Commissioned Ruling Elder's Report on Continuing Education for 20_____

CRE Name: _____

Church Served: _____

1. Continuing Education Event/Program/Study: _

Location: _____ Cost of Event: \$ _____ Hours

_____ How did this event/program/course
of study contribute to your growth as CRE?

How did this event/program/course of study contribute to the congregation's mission?

2. Continuing Education Event/Program/Study: _____

_____ Location: _____

_____ Cost of Event: \$ _

_____ Hours _____

How did this event/program/course of study contribute to your growth as a CRE?

How did this event/program/course of study contribute to the congregation's mission?

Signature of CRE

Signature of Clerk of Session

(Additional copies made be used.)

Reports on Continuing Education **are due** by the **end of October** each year and will be considered by COM as part of the annual renewal process for Commissioned Ruling Elders.

Appendix A

2023-2024 PATHWAYS ONLINE COURSES

<https://www.upsem.edu/leadership-institute/pathways-learning-leadership-2/>

Please contact Theda Wortman for more information or assistance:
twortman@upsem.edu

Online Course Description

The Pathways Online Course Program is taught by faculty of Union Presbyterian Seminary and experienced practitioners. Courses are open to all, regardless of denomination affiliation or role in the church. These courses are designed to deepen and expand knowledge as well as support and promote leadership development within the church for those seeking to become a commissioned lay pastor / commissioned ruling elder within the PC(USA), as well as to anyone seeking edification.

The recommended order is to complete the Phase 1 courses prior to taking the Phase 2 courses. However, participants are able to register for courses as they deem fit. (Note: Prior to taking the Preaching course, it is highly recommended that the Biblical Interpretation course, or an equivalent, is completed).

The five foundational courses, Phase 1, are:

Biblical Interpretation | Also approved for Christian Educator (CE) Certification candidates of the PC(USA)

Church History Reformed Theology The Christian Life Mission and Evangelism

Following the foundational courses, five practical ministry courses, Phase 2, are offered:

Polity and Administration | Also approved for Christian Educator (CE) Certification candidates of the PC(USA)

Teaching the Bible

Preaching | Prior to registering for this course, completion of the

Biblical Interpretation course is highly recommended

Introduction to Pastoral Care Worship and Sacraments

Course Format

The face-to-face component of the Pathways program will be done using the Zoom video conferencing program. Please note that class meetings will not be recorded. You will NOT need to buy a subscription to Zoom to participate in the courses, but you will need access to the following technology:

- Internet Connection | Broadband Wired or Wireless (3G or 4G/ LTE)
 - Speakers and a Microphone | Built-in, USB Plug-in, or Wireless Bluetooth
 - A Webcam | Built-in or USB Plug-in
- The schedule is divided by Phase 1 and Phase 2 courses. Courses are six weeks in duration (with possible variations noted), and the course syllabus will outline the meeting dates. The meeting times are usually from 7-9 p.m. Eastern Time (with possible time

variations noted). If a course reaches maximum registration capacity, a waiting list will be started.

Course Tuition

The early registration price per course is \$165. Please note that early registration **per course** ends 2 weeks prior to the first class start date--at which point, the cost of a course will then increase by \$25. **Participants are able to cancel their registration any time prior to the start of the class for a refund, minus a \$25 cancellation fee.** Participants will also be sent a list of any required text(s) to purchase prior to the beginning of the course.

Registrations for each course will be accepted up until 7 a.m. on the day the course begins as space allows. Course capacity is limited. Be sure to **register early and save**, as the price change will occur, per course, on the following dates:

Polity and Administration, increased rate begins August 15, 2023

Biblical Interpretation, increased rate begins August 28, 2023 **Church History**, increased rate begins October 10, 2023 **Teaching the Bible**, increased rate begins October 12, 2023 **Reformed Theology**, increased rate begins December 25, 2023 **Introduction to Pastoral Care**, increased rate date TBD

The Christian Life, increased rate begins February 6, 2024

Worship and Sacraments, increased rate begins February 29, 2024

Mission and Evangelism, increased rate begins April 2, 2024 **Preaching**, increased rate begins April 11, 2024

SCHEDULE AND CLASS INFORMATION FOR COURSES OFFERED IN THE 2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR All times are Eastern Time

Polity and Administration - Rev. Carson Rhyne

Tuesdays, August 29-October 17, 2023 | See times below

Open to CRE, CE Certification, and Online Course Participants with General Interest
This course will meet for 8 weeks

There has been a change in this course format from what it originally was when registration opened. As of now, on week one (8/29) and biweekly after, everyone will meet:

Dates: 8/29, 9/12, 9/26, 10/10 6:00-8:00 p.m. Eastern Time

On the other weeks, there will be two separate sections and participants will be assigned to a section that will meet at different times during the evening. Depending on numbers, those with general interest may/may not be able to choose a preferable time.

Dates: 9/5, 9/19, 10/3, 10/17

6:00-7:15 p.m. for CRE candidates and those with general interest (Non-CRE and Non-Christian Educator)

7:30-8:45 p.m. for Christian Educator candidates and those with general interest (Non-CRE and Non-Christian Educator)

This course will engage the Presbyterian Church (USA) Book of Order, its underpinnings, and its implication for mission and ministry. As part of the course, participants will review administrative tasks which grow out of the Book of Order (e.g., session meetings, committee meetings, stewardship season, personnel matters and policies, financial matters, presbytery meetings, annual statistical reports).

This course will be suitable for CRE in training, as well as for Educators seeking certification for Presbyterian Polity and Mission.

Biblical Interpretation - Dr. John Carroll

Actual Course Dates are September 11-October 19, 2023 | Synchronous class meetings on Specific **Thursdays | 7-9 p.m. ET**

Open to CRE, CE Certification, and Online Course Participants Four synchronous class sessions on the following **Thursdays: 9/14, 9/28, 10/12, 10/19**

Asynchronous class work and discussion through Blackboard on other weeks

This course has as its primary goal the equipping of Christian leaders to interpret biblical texts faithfully. The course provides an overview of the ways in which the church has approached the work of biblical interpretation and then offers a practical guide for close reading of passages, featuring peer discussion of the meaning and message of selected biblical texts. In a final course project, students write a paper in which they present their exegesis (interpretation) of a biblical passage.

Persons seeking certification as Christian educators in the Presbyterian Church (USA) also prepare a presentation in which they draw from the fruits of their exegetical study for a teaching- and-learning event.

The course is designed to meet the educational goals and expectations of persons seeking certification as lay leaders in congregations or as Christian educators, as well as persons with general interest in enhancing their ability to interpret Scripture.

Church History - Dr. Christine Luckritz-Marquis

Tuesdays, October 24-December 5, 2023 | 7-9 p.m. ET | Class will not meet on November 21

This course is designed to provide an overview of and an appreciation for the history of Christian traditions, the broader contexts in which they are developed, and their continued significance for the life of the church. Participants will study select crucial historical moments (e.g., early Christian movements, church councils, Reformation, Christianity in America).

Teaching the Bible - Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito

Thursdays, October 26-December 7, 2023 | 7-9 p.m. ET | Class will not meet on November 23

This interdisciplinary course examines selected approaches to Bible teaching from the perspectives of biblical scholarship and Christian education. The purpose of this course is to equip participants to develop planning, implementation, and evaluation skills for teaching the Bible.

Reformed Theology - Dr. Rachel Baard

Mondays, January 8-February 12, 2024 | 7-9 p.m. ET | Asynchronous work only on January 15

This course is designed to provide students with knowledge of and appreciation for the Reformed theological tradition in which the PC(USA) is rooted. The course will explore the central tenets of the Reformed tradition, its contemporary significance for the life of the church, and its relationship to the broader ecclesial and social contexts.

Introduction to Pastoral Care -

Dates TBD, but anticipate it will be sometime in January/ February/ March

An introduction to the theories of pastoral care and counseling. The course offers various theological and psychological perspectives and tools to help participants develop confidence in responding to circumstances of pastoral care and counseling in the context of parish ministry and other institutional settings. Topics include the art of listening, loss and grief, pastoral care with couples and families, and the pastoral function of worship and the sacraments.

The Christian Life - Dr. Cindy Kissel-Ito

Tuesdays, February 20-March 19, 2024 | 7-9 p.m. ET

This course is designed to provide knowledge of Protestant perspectives on the Christian life. Participants will explore biblical and theological foundations that shape an understanding of the Christian life. Reflection on focused experiences of spiritual practices will engage students in critical analysis of their own spiritual lives and nurture opportunities for congregational ministry and leadership. Through assignments, online discussion, and class lectures, participants will engage in vital components of the Christian life.

Worship and Sacraments - Dr. Paul Galbreath

Thursdays, March 14-April 18, 2024 | 7-9 p.m. ET

Worship is the central act of the people of God and the community of faith. The sacraments provide a tangible witness to God's ongoing grace and presence in the world and in our lives. Together they enrich and enliven the life of faith for all God's people. This course will explore the meaning and practice of Worship, Baptism, and Communion as means and experiences of grace and commission.

Mission and Evangelism - Rev. Dr. Aram Feinberg

Tuesdays, April 16-May 21, 2024 | 7-9 p.m. ET

The overarching goal of this course is to develop a contextual framework for being a Reformed faith community in today's context. To be more specific, students will be invited to imagine the contours of evangelism in today's modern day context, which

necessarily involves a historically based understanding of evangelism as well as a sociological study of those who identify as SBNRs, which is a growing demographic in the larger religious landscape of the United States.

The practice of evangelism must address the needs of society in order for the church to continue its commitment to both the

gospel message (love God and love neighbor) and the great commission (go and make disciples).

Preaching - Dr. Rich Voelz

Thursdays, April 25-May 30, 2024 | 7-9 p.m. ET

Participants will consider the "why" of preaching and learn the "how" of basic elements of sermon preparation and delivery. The learning will then be put into practice by developing, delivering, and receiving feedback on a sermon preached in the context.

Stated Clerk's Report for Presbytery

October 7, 2023

Update on Minister 2022-A

The Investigating Committee continues to monitor the civil trial regarding Minister 2022-A. Upon conclusion of the trial, the IC will return to their investigation.

Update on Minister 2023-A

I have received a written accusation against a minister member of this presbytery. The minister will be referred to as Minister 2023-A. Helane Church, Presbytery Moderator, appointed the following to serve as the Investigating Committee for the accusations against Minister 2023-A:

- TE Ann Jahnes (HR),
- RE Virginia Hager (St. Andrews Covenant),
- RE Matrice Morrison (Chestnut Street),
- TE George Chapman (Shallotte),
- RE Paul Allbritton (Windermere)

The PJC met within the constitutionally mandated timeline to appoint members for the purpose of determining if administrative leave shall be enforced. The team has determined that no administrative leave will be enforced at this time. The Investigating Committee can impose paid administrative leave if they determine it necessary based on the accusation or information learned during their investigation.

Exum Lawsuit Update

The motion from the presbytery legal team to dismiss was granted yesterday. This means The Presbytery has been dismissed from the lawsuit. Plaintiff will have 30 days to appeal once the order is entered. I await further word from the lawyers whether this matter has been determined or more work needs to be done.

New Book of Order requirements:

The Book of Order has been updated with the following language:

"All councils shall adopt and implement the following policies: a sexual misconduct policy, a harassment policy, a child and youth protection policy, and an antiracism policy. Each council's policy shall include requirements for boundary training which includes the topic of sexual misconduct, and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members at least every thirty-six months."

Mission Cabinet has authorized the stated clerk to create a small team to assist in developing an antiracism policy and a harassment policy for presbytery consideration.

The stated clerk intends for the team to provide aids and resources for sessions as they develop their own policies.

Past Members of the PJC

Those who have served on the Permanent Judicial Commission and whose terms have expired within the past six years are: (D-5.0206b)

- 2016 Rev. Douglas W. Hix
- 2016 Rev. Robbie Phillips
- 2016 Rev. Kenneth P. Stealing
- 2018 Mr. Robert Price
- 2018 Mr. Troy Slaughter
- 2018 Mrs. Doris Dees
- 2019 Ms. Janet Smith
- 2020 Ms. Julie Stocks

Renunciation of Jurisdiction

- Renunciation of Jurisdiction by Bruce Lax was received by mail and became effective on May 8, 2023 in accordance with Book of Order G-2.0509.
- Renunciation of Jurisdiction by Stephen Gutridge was received by email and became effective on September 2, 2023 in accordance with Book of Order G-2.0509.

Commissioned Ruling Elders Anniversaries

It is my plan to recognize and encourage the celebration of pastoral voices that have reached certain milestones in their ministries. In March, I plan to recognize the Teaching Elders that will be celebrating some multiple of ten years of ordained ministry in the PC(USA) in 2024. It will take some digging, but I plan to come with a list of the pastors that in 2024 will have been ordained 10, 20, 30, even 40 years or more.

Today, I recognize the Commissioned Ruling Elders that have been commissioned to pastoral service for a multiple of five years to a congregation in the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina. According to the presbytery database, in 2023 the following Commissioned Ruling Elders have served continuously for either 5, 10, or 15 years:

- Scott Miller with Centre PC since 2018
- Michael Fox with Horseshoe PC since 2018
- Helane Church with Bethany PC (Lumberton) since 2018

Website Update

The presbytery website is in the process of being updated. A contract with the Synod of the Sun's web development ministry, Communication Service Plan, was agreed upon and development has begun. The new website will be launched before the end of the year.

2022 Review of Presbytery Minutes

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic has approved 2022 Minutes of Presbytery.

Preacher for March 2024 Presbytery Meeting

Dr. Jaqueline Lapsley, President of Union Presbyterian Seminary, has agreed to preach for the Presbytery of Coastal Carolina at our stated meeting in March 2024.

Travel Dates

- Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Gathering at Massanetta Springs, September 10-13
- PCUSA Polity, Benefits, and Mission Conference, St. Louis, MO, October 8-12
- Mid-Council Financial Conference, in Charlotte, NC, November 15-17

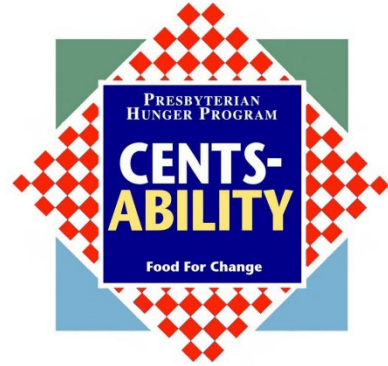
Special Offerings and Partnerships Sub-Committee of Mission Cabinet ~ October 2023

Cents-Ability Report

- Participation in the Presbytery has significantly increased with our publicity of this offering at the March Presbytery meeting! Thank you!

After a survey of churches, the 2023 Cents-Ability Distribution Formula is this formula has been updated as follows for 2023:

- Cents-ability-Faith Ministries (Mexico) 20%
- Cents-ability-Malawi 15%
- Cents-ability-Haiti Outreach Ministries 15%
- Cents-ability PCUSA Hunger Program 15% NEW
- Cents-ability-Local Grants 30%
- Cents-ability-Administrative 5%



The Committee has issued these 2023 local Cents-Ability grants

Agency	Grant Amount Approved
Brunswick Family Assistance Agency , Shallotte NC	\$1,500
Chadbourn Presbyterian (for Lunch Program)	\$1,500
Church & Community Services , Laurinburg, NC 28352	\$1,500
Good Shepherd Center , Wilmington NC 28401	\$1,500
Helping Hand Food Pantry at the Payable to: Wallace Presbyterian Church	\$1,500
	TOTAL \$7,500

When checks were issued, we enclosed a cover letter and our new grant reporting form. Church are invited to encourage additional agencies to apply for local grants.

Thank you to these churches who have sent in Cents-Ability (Two-Cents-A-Meal) Funds to the Presbytery **as of July 31, 2023:**

Acme Pres.
Beth Car Pres.
Bethesda Pres.
Beulaville Pres.
Biscoe Pres.
Bluff Pres.
Burgaw Pres.
Calypso Pres.
Cameron Pres.
Cape Carteret Pres.
Cape Fear Pres.
Clarkton Pres.
Ebenezer Pres.
Edgewood Pres.
Elise Pres.

First Pres. - Carthage
First Pres. - Lumberton
Grove Pres.
Jackson Springs Pres.
John Hall Pres.
Jonesboro Pres.
Lillington Pres.
Little Chapel On The
Boardwalk Pres.
Maple Hill Pres.
Midway Pres.
New Hope Pres.

Peace Pres.
Pink Hill Pres.
Potts Memorial Pres.
Second Pres. - Elizabethtown
Sherwood Pres.
Shiloh Pres.
Sneads Ferry Pres.
Spout Springs Pres.
St. Andrews-Covenant Pres.
Topsail Pres.
Wallace Pres.
West End Pres.
White Hill Pres.

The PCUSA Special Offerings

Two of our Churches have received the **Pentecost Offering for 25 years!**

- Laurinburg Presbyterian Church, Laurinburg
- Grace Presbyterian Church, Beaufort

World Communion Sunday: Remember the Presbytery's portion of the **Peace & Global Witness Offering** funds our annual **Mozell Howie Peacemaking Scholarship**.

We celebrate these congregations that participated in all four denominational offerings in 2022:

Bethesda Presbyterian Church, Aberdeen	 <p>CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE</p>  <p>Uniting Presbyterians in support of young people <i>sharing</i> their faith, ideas and gifts with the Church and the world.</p> <p>PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS CHILDREN • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS APRIL 10 - MAY 28, 2023 MATTHEW 25 PHOTO: ANCHORAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH</p>
Grace Presbyterian Church, Beaufort	
Bethel Presbyterian Church, Beulaville	
Carolina Beach Presbyterian Church	
Clarkton Presbyterian Church	
Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Coats	
Elizabethtown Presbyterian Church	
Lake Waccamaw Presbyterian Church	
Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church	
Laurinburg Presbyterian Church	
Mount Zion Presbyterian Church, Rose Hill	
First Presbyterian Church, Sanford	
White Hill Presbyterian Church, Sanford	
Shallotte Presbyterian Church	
Learn about the 4 PCUSA special offerings at https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/	 <p>PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY—FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.</p> <p>ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS HUNGER • JUSTICE • DEVELOPMENT OCTOBER 1-31, 2023 MATTHEW 25</p>



PEACE
BEGINS WITH EACH OF US.
SEPTEMBER 3 - OCTOBER 1, 2023
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

Next meeting – Sunday, Oct 22, 2023 at 2PM by Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted, **Eric Stewart, Chair**



CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Friday, February 2 - Saturday, February 3, 2024
CAMP MONROE ■ LAUREL HILL, NC



**OPEN TO ALL
PRESBYTERY
CONFIRMANDS
6TH-8TH GRADE**

Registration Deadline:
January 29, 2024

Cost = \$40/person

\$5/person Late Fee after 1/29

Cost underwritten by the
Presbytery's West & Central
Communities

Churches provide chaperones.

Registration Forms & Details online at
www.presbycc.org

Presbytery of Coastal Carolina
Email Registration Information to
Office@monroecamp.org
Make Payment to "Camp Monroe"

Retreat Leadership

Returning to lead are Howard & Meg Dudley. Both are pastors: Meg serves at Bluff Presbyterian Church and Howard serves at First Presbyterian - Dunn. Both have experience in national youth conference leadership and college campus ministry.

Howard is also an avid guitarist, music leader at Montreat, golfer and ECU Pirates fan. Meg enjoys traveling, crafting and music. They have two amazing daughters: Lindsay and Julia.

Meg and Howard are excited to share the weekend with the confirmands in the presbytery to teach about God's grace and love and joining the church.

Content

We will go over a little bit of the Bible, a little bit of Theology, a little bit about the Presbyterian Church, all while making a lot of new friends in the presbytery and figuring out what we believe about God! We *also* enjoy time at the Camp Fire Circle.

2024 Confirmation Retreat at Camp Monroe

INFO + PACKING LIST

Retreat Begins: Friday, February 2, 2024 @ 6:00pm Dinner is provided.
(Registration opens at 5PM) It **Ends**: Saturday, February 3 @ 8:00pm

***Attendees MUST have Required Forms Completed**

Retreat Cost: \$40/per person * Late Registration (After Jan 29): Add \$5

Participants should plan to bring linens and bedding warm enough for sleeping in winterized cabins and an outside trek to the bathroom.

What to Bring: Bible & Notebook and...

Shower Shoes	Towel	DEODERANT
Sleeping Bag/Linens	Pillow	Toiletries
Change of Clothes	Modest Pajamas	Flashlight
Sneakers	Refillable Water Bottle	Hoodie/something warm*
+ A GOOD ATTITUDE!		

IMPORTANT: On Saturday (weather permitting) we may have some recreational time to participate in some Camp Monroe's activities like gagaball!

* Weather at this retreat could be VERY chilly or rainy, dress accordingly!

PERMISSION FORMS – All are available online at www.PresbyCC.org

For Youth

- (1) Presbytery's Participant Emergency Medical Information Form;
- (2) Presbytery's Covenant & Permission to Use Likeness

For Adults

- (1) Presbytery's Participant Emergency Information Form
- (2) Presbytery's Covenant & Permission to Use Likeness
- (3) Evidence of Compliance with Presbytery's Youth Protection Policy (Complete pages 10 & 11):

EVERY ADULT must review the Presbytery's Youth/Child Protection policy and Complete:

- Child/Youth Worker Background Check Certification Form (Presbytery Policy, page 10)
↳ Requires pastor/staff/etc. signature;
Adults must have background checks COMPLETED to stay overnight with minors
- Child/Youth Worker Receipt of Policy Form (Presbytery Policy, page 11)

****DO NOT PROCRASTINATE VERIFYING FORMS >>**

Any youth or adult arriving WITHOUT required forms, must return home.

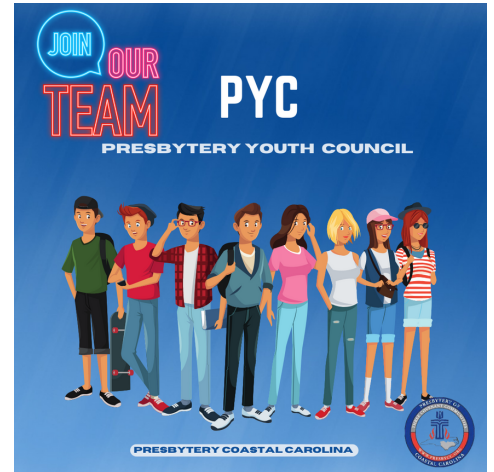


PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA YOUTH

PYC - APPLICATIONS

please email [@jmartinez@presbycc.org](mailto:jmartinez@presbycc.org)
for more information about what is PYC
or can your youth be involve

APPLY NOW!!



PYC - INSTALLATION

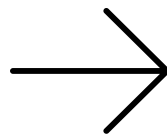
Instalation Service for our PYC of 2023
Will be October 7th, 2023 at our
Presbytery Meeting

NOVEMBER
2023

Senior High Retreat

9th - 12th Grade

REGISTER NOW!!!



MORE INFORMATION OF EVENTS TO
COME





PRESBYTERY OF COASTAL CAROLINA YOUTH

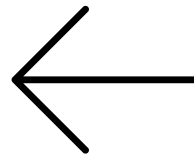
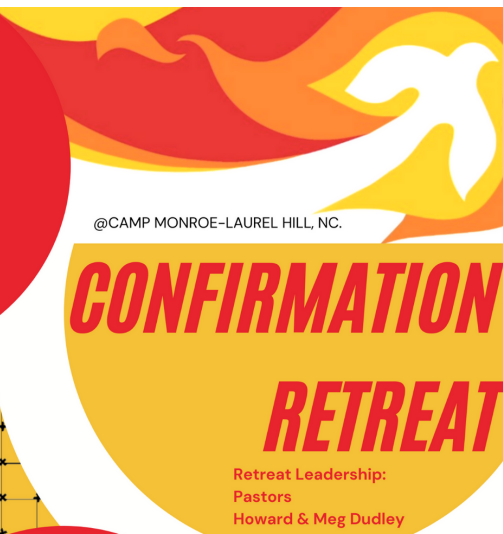
2024

COLLEGE CONFERENCE

@MONTREAT



FEBRUARY 2024



MORE INFORMATION OF EVENTS TO
COME





Camp Monroe is a leader in the Angel Tree Camping Program of Prison Fellowship which makes attending camp possible for children of incarcerated parents by providing scholarships and partnering with churches and camps. Camp Monroe started partnering with Angel Tree Camping in 2021 to offer the

opportunity for these campers across North and South Carolina to attend Monroe with no bias as to their ethnicity, background, or socioeconomic status. **Camp Monroe is proudly one of the largest Angel Tree attended camps in the United States.** Angel Tree camping is a chance for children of incarcerated parents to get away from their daily challenges and have fun in the great outdoors, making new friends and meeting caring adult counselors. At camp, children encounter the love of Jesus and discover hope for the future.

The Old Iron Pipes have finally failed in McKnight Lodge. *Over the summer multiple contractors, plumbers, and septic companies agree, the work that needs to be done to McKnight is extensive. The Work Project to replace pipes will be early 2024.* Reserved upwards of a year in advance, it's no secret that McKnight Lodge is one of Camp Monroe's most sought after buildings. It is commonly used every weekend by churches, schools, weddings, family reunions, leadership training, plus during the summer it is the housing for our onsite nurses, chaplains, and volunteers. This extensive repair means we be unable to use the building while contractors rip up major portions of the floors to install new plumbing. They will drill into concrete to remove old pipes, as well as replace some damaged floor joists. Once the plumbing problem is fixed, then reconstruction and redecorating will begin, including new flooring and patching walls, landscaping, etc. It looks like this will be a 4-5 week repair. **This project will be a financial challenge to camp operations, so your ongoing support is deeply appreciated.**



Heartfelt Camper Story ~ 2023

It began when parents Shalina and Mohammed met Gene Joiner, Director at Camp Monroe, at an Angel Tree Ministry Christmas toy drive, where the Salvation Army and Angel Tree teamed up to give out presents at a pickup location in Fayetteville. Gene handed out Camp Monroe flyers to families along with the presents, encouraging conversations about Camp Monroe and the possibility of a free weeks of camp for the children who have incarcerated parents. Shalina and Mohammed were intrigued, so after a family discussion and checking the website, they decided their daughter Victoria, 13, would benefit from being out of the house and away from family drama for a week to have the opportunity to grow, to learn about God, to experience the outdoors in a safe and nurturing environment.

Her parents knew all too well that Victoria was hesitant, typically a very shy, introverted child who preferred playing on her phone to talking. Typically a quiet child in school, they were finding it difficult to get Victoria to participate in family activities, school events, or even church. The social anxiety overwhelmed Victoria. Shalina mentioned this prior to Victoria coming to camp. Jennifer, the Camp Monroe Office Manager, reassured Shalina that the summer staff are trained to be supportive and inclusive, and to encourage individuality. While she worried that Victoria might not make it through the entire week of camp, she registered Victoria and prayed for the best. **Her prayer was answered.**

Because of her age, Victoria was placed into the same cabin as our CIT (Counselor in Training) girls who stay for 2 weeks instead of 1, CITs are learning about counselor responsibilities, helping the worship team, learning to work with children in Day Camp (typically ages 6-10), leading Bible Study, leading some group games and learning to be a role model to younger children by setting a good example and following Christ.



Near the end of the week, Victoria confided in her counselor, Abbey, that she was having an amazing time and wanted to join the CIT girls in her cabin for a second week of camp. Abbey was impressed, having watched Victoria open up, become involved with the girls in her cabin, express willingness to lead in games and worship. So Abbey reached out to camp staff to consider finding a way to fulfill Victoria's wishes.

Friday morning the leadership team reached out to Victoria's parents. Her mom, Shalina, was shocked and honestly couldn't believe that Victoria was so engaged - openly expressing her happiness, active in all activities *and* determined to stay at Camp Monroe for a second week. Shalina and Mohammed talked it over and wanted to see this unbelievable transformation in person; they were skeptical that Victoria truly wanted to stay (based on her behavior and attitude toward staying at the

beginning of the week) and her typically depressed responses to everything around her. Shalina and Mohammed took the rest of the day off work, drove down to Camp Monroe from Raleigh, because if Victoria truly wanted to stay, she'd also need additional medicine.

Shalina is physically limited in walking long distances, so upon arriving at Camp Monroe, Jennifer drove her down to the lake to watch Victoria playing and laughing openly among the campers during a game of capture the flag. *It brought tears to her eyes, Shalina couldn't believe that the girl laughing, running, playing, and interacting with children her own age and younger was her daughter.* Victoria was called out of the game so her mother could talk to her, and upon seeing her mom, Victoria burst out into tears and *begged to stay another week.* Shalina looked at Jennifer and said yes, she was staying another week. Victoria hugged her mom and wailed in excitement turning to the kids and screaming that she was staying next week, while the girls in her cabin screamed back in excitement.

Shalina openly cried after parting from Victoria. Jennifer drove her back up to the Camp Office to meet her husband Mohammed who was distressed upon seeing his wife crying. Once he heard she was crying *happy tears* and that Victoria was truly happy and interactive at Camp Monroe, **Mohammed also started crying because they hadn't been able to find a way to break through the walls that Victoria built around herself from the hard life she had grown up in.** While therapy and medicine had helped, they had been discouraged as to how to help Victoria have fun and grow in Christ, become comfortable in her own skin, and find something she was passionate about.

The following Friday, Victoria, Shalina, and Mohammed all left Camp Monroe in tears, because Camp Monroe helped the whole family and they'll definitely be back again. We give thanks to God for allowing Camp Monroe to be part of her life!

The additional money used to support Victoria and her family came from generous donations from you, our donors, and the Catawba scholarship. **With your support, Camp Monroe provided over \$9,000 in scholarships in 2023.**

Learn more & support Camp Monroe by attending our Gala & Auction

<p><i>Camp Monroe is honored to invite you to our 2nd Annual</i></p> <p><i>Gala</i></p> <p>October 21, 2023 5:00pm Dinner and Auction</p> <p>24501 Camp Road Laurel Hill, NC 28351 (910) 276-1654</p> <p><i>Church Best Attire</i></p>	<p><i>RSVP</i></p> <p>Please return this RSVP by October 9, 2023</p> <p>Attendance Options ____ Table (Seats 8) \$400 ____ Couple (Seats 2) \$110 ____ Individual (Seats 1) \$65</p> <p>Dinner Options <i>Please include entire party in selection</i> ____ Steak ____ Chicken</p> <p>Wine Purchase For Dinner \$40 (Per Bottle) <i>Number of Bottles</i> ____ White ____ Red</p> <p>Name: _____ Phone Number: _____</p>
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2022 Sessional Records - East Community

Church/year if different than above		Approved	Approved with exception	Not approved	Not submitted
Bethany (Wilmington)	2022		Approved with Exception		
Bethel (Beulaville)	2022	Approved			
Beulaville	2022	Approved			
the bridge	2022	Approved			
Burgaw	2022	Approved			
Calypso	2022	Approved			
Cape Carteret	2022	Approved			
Cape Fear (Wilmington)	2022	Approved			
Carolina Beach	2022	Approved			
Caswell	2021	Approved			
Caswell	2022	Approved			
Chestnut Street	2022	Approved			
Chinquapin	2015				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2016				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2017				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2018				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2019				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2020				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2021				Not Submitted Yet
Chinquapin	2022				Not Submitted Yet
Croatan	2022	Approved			
Faison	2022				Not Submitted Yet
First (Jacksonville)	2022	Approved			
First (Morehead City)	2022	Approved			
First (Wilmington)	2022	Approved			
Grace (Beaufort)	2022	Approved			
Grove (Kenansville)	2022	Approved			
Hallsville	2022	Approved			
Harper-Southerland	2022	Approved			
Hopewell	2015				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2016				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2017				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2018				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2019				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2020				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2021				Not Submitted Yet
Hopewell	2022				Not Submitted Yet
Little Chapel on the Boardwalk	2022	Approved			
Maple Hill	2022	Approved			
McClure Memorial	2022	Approved			
Mount Zion	2022	Approved			
New Hope	2022	Approved			
Oak Grove	2015				None submitted, clerk says they are unavailable.
Oak Grove	2016				None submitted, clerk says they are unavailable.

Oak Grove	2017			Not Approved	What was submitted does not meet requirements per Book of Order & Checklist
Oak Grove	2018			Had previously been disapproved in 2019	
Oak Grove	2019			Not Approved	What was submitted does not meet requirements per Book of Order & Checklist
Oak Grove	2020				None submitted, clerk says they are unavailable.
Oak Grove	2021			Not Approved	What was submitted does not meet requirements per Book of Order & Checklist
Oak Grove	2022			Not Approved	What was submitted does not meet requirements per Book of Order & Checklist
Oak Plain	2022	Approved			
Pink Hill	2017				Not Submitted Yet
Pink Hill	2018				Not Submitted Yet
Pink Hill	2019				Not Submitted Yet
Pink Hill	2020				Not Submitted Yet
Pink Hill	2021				Not Submitted Yet
Pink Hill	2022				Not Submitted Yet
Pleasant View (Albertson)	2022	Approved			
Pollocksville	2022	Approved			
Potts Memorial	2022	Approved			
Rockfish	2022	Approved			
Shallotte	2022	Approved			
Smith	2022	Approved			
Sneads Ferry	2022	Approved			
Southport	2022	Approved			
St. Andrews-Covenant	2022		Approved with Exception		
Stanford	2022		Approved with Exception		
Topsail	2022	Approved			
Trinity (Havelock)	2022	Approved			
Wallace	2022	Approved			
Warsaw	2021				Not Submitted Yet
Warsaw	2022				Not Submitted Yet
Wildwood	2022	Approved			
Windermere	2022	Approved			
Winter Park	2022	Approved			
Woodburn	2022	Approved			

updated 9/2/2023