

ONE HUNDRED FORTY-FIFTH STATED MEETING MINUTES OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

February 11, 2025

The One Hundred Forty-Fifth Stated Meeting of Salem Presbytery, held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church, North Wilkesboro was called to order by the Substitute Presbytery Moderator, Reverend R.C. Griffin at 9:00 a.m.

ENROLLMENT:

Commissioners		Commissioned Ruling Elders	6
Elders	48	Lay Pastors	1
Ministers	45	Executive Presbyter	1
		Presbytery Staff	1
		Stated Clerk	1
		TOTAL:	103
		(+Visitors - 23)	126

The following were present for this meeting of Presbytery:

Ministers (45):

Asher-Lawson, Marybeth	Hoyle, Bill	Milam, Travis
Blankinship, Joe	Johnson, John	Otterbacher, Glenn
Burleson, Thom	Kim, Seulki (John)	Perkins, Sam
Cannada, Jeremy	Kirby, Barrie	Phillips, Jon
Conley, Kevin	Kirby, Randal	Pitts, Wes
Crews, Evelyn	Kunkle, Lynn	Rigel, Jessica
Ealy, David	Lambeth, Jay	Rummage, Brian
Finch-Burriss, Carrie	Larsen, Eric	Schaick, Steve
Fletcher, Pat	Lawson, Scott	Smith, David
Goodman, Kyle	Layman, Debbie	Smith, Jay
Griffin, R.C.	Lee, Charlie	Steck, Stacey
Harper, Kate	Leshner-Thomas, Troy	Stevens, Courtney
Harris, Randy	Lingan, Jodi	Troyer, Liz
Harrison, Evan	McCain, Vicki	Vazquez, Jorge
Horan, Amanda	Milam, Jud	Wisner, Leigh

Ruling Elder Commissioners (48):

Alamance	Shores, Robert	Dellabrook	Coaxum, Thomas
Alamance	Wells, Katherine	Elkin	Miller, Brenda
Allen Temple	Hall, Leonard	Faith	Gibson, David
Asheboro 1st	Pugh, Ruth	Forest Hills	Roach, Lynnwood
Bethany, Graham	Allen, Chip	Greensboro 1st	Abraham, Leigh
Bethel	Deal, Jeff	Greensboro 1st	Parker, Paul
Bethesda, Statesville	Coker, Neva	Greensboro 1st	Peddrick, Rob
Burlington 1st	Matthews, Steve	Greensboro 1st	Pierce, Brian
Burlington 1st	Reeves, Betsy	Griers	Morris, William
Burlington 1st	Reeves, Paul	Guilford Park	Jennings, Rita
Calvary	Minkins, Sarah	High Point 1st	Osborne, Chris
Clemmons	Lowder, Steve	High Point 1st	Roberson, Daphne
Clemmons	Sanford, Beverly	Highland	Barksdale, John
Cleveland	Miles, James	Highland	Templeton, Scott
Concord	Woodard, Paul	Hills	Hill, Ann
Cooleemee	Spry, Mike	Jamestown	Miller, Kerry
Dellabrook	Glenn, Spencer	John Calvin	Curran, Mark

Logan
North Wilkesboro
Parkway
Pine Ridge
Pittsboro
Reid Memorial
Reidsville 1st
Shallowford
Springwood

Woods, Elaine
Pruitt, Polly
Tatum, Sheila
Taylor, Sally
Wereszynski, Virginia
Hall, Colby
Coleman, William
Weber, Sue
Ingle, Cynthia

St. James
Starmount
Taylorsville
Third Creek
Thyatira

Ward-Alexander, Lucia
Williams, Parks
Schronce, Martha
Pence, Janet
Hall, Ed

Commissioned Ruling Elders (6):

Beard, Jim
Blankenship, Jerry

Brooks, Rachael
Crunk, Sid

Harley, James
Langston, Shannon

Lay Pastors (CREs without current commission) (1):

Collier, Richard

Executive Presbyter (1):

De La Rosa, Tony

Stated Clerk, Salem Presbytery (1):

Sink, Paul

Presbytery Staff (1):

Ratledge, Christine

CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Stated Clerk presented the Substitute Presbytery Moderator, Reverend R.C. Griffin for approval, who then called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and constituted the meeting with prayer and worship.

MORNING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Salem Presbytery was led in worship and celebrated the Lord's Supper under the leadership of Rev. R.C. Griffin, Rev. Amanda Horan and a host of other worship leaders with the sermon based on the passages from Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23.

QUORUM

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Paul Sink, advised the Substitute Presbytery Moderator that a quorum was present for conducting the business of Presbytery, and the Substitute Presbytery Moderator declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The docket was presented by the Substitute Presbytery Moderator of Salem Presbytery, Reverend R.C. Griffin.

ACTION:

1. Presbytery approved the docket as amended to reflect a report from the Committee on Representation.
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WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE SUBSTITUTE MODERATOR AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Substitute Presbytery Moderator welcomed Salem Presbytery to the meeting and extended a special welcome to Elders attending a Presbytery meeting for the first time. Visitors and guests were also welcomed and recognized.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement statement was offered by Elder Beth Hooten, to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the original stewards of the lands on which we now live.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS Rev. Paul Sink and Rev. Courtney Stevens

The following amendments to the Book of Order were approved by the 226th General Assembly and recommended to the presbyteries for their vote: 24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E, 24F, 24G, 24H, 24I, 24J, 24K, 24L, 24M

ACTION:

2. Omnibus Motion passed to affirm the following constitutional amendments proposed by the 226th General Assembly: 24A, 24B, 24D, 24E, 24F, 24G, 24H, 24I, 24J, 24K, 24L, 24M
 3. Motion passed to affirm constitutional amendment 24C as proposed by the 226th General Assembly.
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STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE Rev. Kyle Goodman, Co-Moderator Rev. Kim Priddy, Co-Moderator

Rev. Kyle Goodman reminded Salem Presbytery of the necessity of filling out and turning in pledge cards for the upcoming year.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER CRE Tony De La Rosa, Executive Presbyter

Dear Friends:

As we gather at North Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church this coming Tuesday, we note a number of issues that confront—and often confound—us as communities of Christ in these challenging and anxious times. I want this report to serve as a helpful resource to sustain and secure your respective ministries throughout our Presbytery.

Our Church as Sanctuary

A number of Presbytery members have expressed their deep concern about actions undertaken at the federal level which may disrupt their ministries and place at risk vulnerable members of their congregations and worshipping communities using their facilities. Among the most affected constituencies are non-US citizens who find themselves being subjected to possible detention. While there is no specific information indicating that Salem Presbytery churches are being targeted at the time of this writing, I think it wise that pastors, ruling elders, and other church leadership and staff be made aware of their rights should Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) undertake any effort to access church facilities.

My executive presbyter colleague in Chicago Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, has compiled an exceedingly helpful and comprehensive list of resources for his presbytery's membership at <https://chicagopresbytery.org/2025/01/27/immigration-resources/>, and I commend this list to you for

your study and edification. Salem Presbytery staff are available to speak with anyone with specific concerns about their communities who may be in need of more local resources and advocacy.

2025 Benefits Plan Now in Effect

As I have indicated in my letters to the Presbytery in Salem Matters, new Benefits Plan for 2025 is now in effect, and churches have now experienced their first month's billing cycle under the new plan. Once again, I strongly counsel church administrative personnel, pastors, and staff plan beneficiaries to review their monthly dues statements under the new plan and ensure that all information shown on the invoice is accurate.

We expect that the vast majority of due statements in our Presbytery will be correct and in accordance with understandings reached with all eligible pastoral leadership and staff, but it surely will not hurt to check. Even Salem Presbytery's January invoice revealed a small coding error that could have resulted in dues overcharges of \$11,000 if not addressed early in the year, so be forewarned that errors do occur especially given the substantive changes undertaken in 2025. As always, both the Board of Pensions member services staff, Regional Church

Consultant Elizabeth Little, COM Task Force on Benefits members, and I are available to assist you should you encounter issues in resolving your benefits billing for the year.

Long Haul Helene Disaster Recovery

Although the television cameras have left long ago and media attention has shifted to other disasters (prayers for Los Angeles firestorms and air crash victims in Washington and Philadelphia), our mountain communities continue to be front and center in our concerns for their recovery from the flooding occasioned by Hurricane Helene early last fall.

Our continued prayers and support continue for all our seven affected congregations in Ashe and Watauga, including, Baird's Creek, First Boone, Glendale Springs, Lansing, Laurel Fork, Mount Jefferson, and Rumble Memorial. If your church is interested in supporting the extensive disaster recovery efforts either now or in the future, please let the Presbytery staff know, and we can direct you to entities coordinating external resources in the recovery effort.

A Word of Appreciation

My husband, Michael, and I want to extend our deepest appreciation and thanks for the heartfelt and overwhelming expressions of sympathy and prayers offered following his mother's recent passing. Sandra Bendgen welcomed me into her family with enviable grace and love. Both she and my mother even traveled to the Pittsburgh General Assembly in 2012 to hear me preach before that august body. Michael and I hold her memory dear, and we are ever grateful to be a part of this community of Salem Presbytery that shares Christ's love so freely and openly. We are truly blessed beyond measure!
In Christ,

Tony De La Rosa, Executive Presbyter

REPORT FROM DESIGNATED PRESBYTER Rev. Jodi Lingan

Epiphany Greetings Presbytery Siblings!

A new chapter of Salem Presbytery (Kairos or Chronos) is unfolding! As I reach the completion of visiting all 76 of our uninstalled churches, my experience includes a diverse set of situations from creative ministries to tenacious survival to vacant pulpits to non-practicing PCUSA churches. The importance of being relational and connectational has never been more consequential.





With continuing reports of financial shortfalls and the need to define the future of transformational ministry at a Presbytery level, in January I provided a **Presbytery Empowerment Assessment (PEA)** to a core group of leaders from Executive Council . This was intended to facilitate realistic conversations while honoring where the Spirit is leading. We are rowing hard and must remember to let the Spirit put energizing wind in our sails if we are to move forward.

As has been presented over the past year at Presbytery meetings, we must be aware of spending beyond our means amidst declining revenue trends. Additionally, we have a diverse understanding around key components of our vision - transformational ministry, vital mission and dynamic leadership - and how they are relevant in our current reality. Business as usual, approaches that once worked, are no longer moving us forward at appropriate speed.

This, Dear Ones, is where transformation lives and breathes – where God offers us incredible opportunities to write the next chapter of this piece of the kingdom in Salem Presbytery! We have some big decisions to make. Some of our committees have already begun important discussions around new approaches. Our starting point is the intentional discernment of putting the spiritual wind in our sails for what this next chapter of God’s story is to look like.



God chose us! God chose us in our brokenness to carry forward the message of eternal hope. As we prepare to walk the road toward Lent, let us not simply acknowledge our reality, but **trust and embrace where God may be calling Salem Presbytery.**

With a grateful heart to be serving with you, jodi

STATED CLERK REPORT
Rev. Paul Sink

For Information:

Appointed the Administrative Commission to Sandy Ridge Presbyterian Church at the request of the congregation to assist them in departing the denomination as well as to make decisions related to property matters related to the church. Members of this AC are Wes Pitts (Chair), Jay Smith, Scott Templeton, and Cindy Salter.

Appointed David Parker to serve as Chair of the Administrative Commission for Oakland Presbyterian Church following the sudden death of former Chair, Joanne Glaser.

Provided notice of 2024 Statistical Reporting requirements to all churches. Deadline for submitting reports is Feb. 15. Reminder letter is included in this packet.

Paul Sink
Stated Clerk
statedclerk@salempresbytery.org

PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE
Elder Beth Hooten, Committee Member

Elder Beth Hooten gave a reminder about Salem Presbytery’s Racial Equity Equipping. There are three upcoming sessions in 2025, February 25th (Alamance Presbyterian Church), May 31st (Location TBD) and September 18th (Location TBD). Salem Presbytery Matthew 25 Book Study will be reading *Creating a Culture of Repair: Taking Action on the Road to Reparations* by Robert Turner. This discussion will take place March 12th at noon.

EQUIP SUPPORT TEAM
Educator Donna Chase, Moderator

Christian Educator Donna Chase shared information regarding "Table Talks" for lunch on the topics of: Creative Ideas for Lent, Officer/Leadership Training, and New at APCE. She also mentioned that the groups for Buildings and Grounds and EarthCare Congregations would return at the May meeting. Donna then introduced Christy Clore from the Moravian Resource Center who shared a few updates and to promote the APCE Annual Share Event on March 6.

SALEM BLACK CAUCUS
CRE LaQreshia Bates-Harley, Co-Moderator
Rev. Dr. Alberta McLaughlin, Co-Moderator

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Salem Black Caucus seeks to cultivate a vibrant, thriving community of Salem Presbytery African American Congregations empowered by visionary leadership, spiritual vitality, and transformative ministry.

We are also dedicated to revitalizing African American Congregations, by recruiting and nurturing energetic clergy, fostering congregational vitality through collaborative partnerships. The Salem Black Caucus strives to create resilient and flourishing church community that reflect the love of God.

The question then becomes, How Do We Get There?

This important conversation was started by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic in 2023, and the Next Generation Initiative was created to focus on African American congregations and to start the conversation of the decline in AA leadership and membership. This decline is our current reality in several AA congregations.

The question has now become, How Did We Get Here and what are we going to do about it?

My hope is that Salem Presbytery, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and the PCUSA will continue to identify and nurture young Black leadership. I pray that the current African American Congregations will be refreshed and renewed and think outside the box as they witness in their perspective communities. The goal of the Salem Black Caucus is to align with the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, Next Generation Initiative to systematically address the unique challenges facing African American congregations and invest in the development of Black clergy and lay leadership, breathing new life into churches and building vibrant, lasting communities.

The Black Caucus meets bi-monthly on the 2nd Saturday of that month from 10am-12pm. The African American churches are asked to pay yearly \$100 per church and pay for two elders at \$50 per elder to be Caucus members. All are welcome to attend the Salem Black Caucus bi-monthly meetings whether you are a paid member or not. The meetings are a hybrid model and are conducted in person and via zoom.

In 2024, the host congregations for the bi-monthly meetings included: Lloyd on August 17, 2024, new officers were elected, Trinity on October 12, 2024, the learning corner speaker was General Presbyter Tony De LaRosa, and Mebane 1st on December 14, 2024, the learning corner speaker was Designated Presbyter for Transformational Ministry, Jodi Lingan.

Peace and blessings to all, as we do the work that God has called us to do within Salem Presbytery, within our congregations and beyond. We will continue to have the spirit to serve with energy and be creative with our fellowship and worship.

Peace and blessings my siblings in Christ,

LaQreshia A. Bates-Harley, CRE
Salem Presbytery Black Caucus Moderator

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Courtney Stevens, Co-Moderator

Elder Beth Hooten, Co-Moderator

Elder Alice Milam, Co-Moderator

The CPM offers the following report:

1. The CPM received Sophia Carter, a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and student at Wake Forest Divinity School, as an inquirer in the ordination process, on August 13.
2. The CPM received Grace Kim, a member of Korean First Presbyterian Church and student at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, as an inquirer in the ordination process on September 3.
3. The CPM received Leah Robinson, a member of Jamestown Presbyterian Church, as an inquirer in the ordination process, on January 7.

The CPM moves the following motion:

1. That Salem Presbytery examine Nolan Chilton, First Presbyterian Church of Burlington and a graduate student of Duke Divinity School, and that following his successful examination, he be enrolled as a Candidate for the office of Teaching Elder.

Nolan Chilton- Journey of Faith Statement

I vividly remember myself standing outside of FPC Burlington upon returning from a summer service trip to the local "Meals on Wheels prior to my sophomore year of High School. While waiting for my ride, I remember my youth pastor at the time approaching me and asking if I had an interest in being a Youth Elder and representing the youth group as an advisor in meetings. This was the moment for me that I felt my understanding of call begin. The thought that somebody within the church felt as if I would be a good fit to lead and wanted to hear what I had to say, shifted my experience of church and faith from something that I just did, because that was what everyone did, to something that became profoundly meaningful and a part of my identity. After this, I found myself increasingly involved in the life of the church, from asking my parents to go on Sunday mornings even when we were not planning on going as a family, to constantly finding myself in the mix of whatever youth ministry opportunities were available to me. It was through this increased exposure to the church that I truly felt like I was growing in faith and understanding. It was from this moment on, that I began to sense a call to a deeper involvement in the body of Christ.

When I left for college, I found myself wondering what the next step in my faith journey looked like in a place that was so unfamiliar to me. I bounced around from several different fields of study that I thought would point me in the direction of my future. In my time in sports science classes and communication classes, I couldn't help but find myself utterly disinterested in the material. During this time of exploration, it always felt like there was a calling to something more meaningful. Through conversations with professors, peers, and my church family back home, I came to recognize that God was calling me to ministry. Growing more dissatisfied with my current course of study, I finally met with my academic advisor. He shared with me a simple but profound thought, that "your field of study should meet at the intersection of what you're passionate about and what you're good at." For me, this instantly clicked. There is nothing at that time that I had felt more passionate about than my faith. The church was no longer just a place I had grown up; the church was where I was sharpening my faith and had found belonging. If what I am passionate about is my faith, then what does it mean to be "good" at it? Being someone who was raised in athletics, my mind synced that to be "good" at something is to practice it. This is when I began to embrace with God's calling of me towards ministry. To further explore this, I decided to pursue a theological education.

Upon graduating from Catawba College, I was blessed with an opportunity to serve at FPC Greensboro as their interim youth director. As someone who was wondering what their call looked like vocationally, the chance to serve in youth ministry was a gift of the Spirit. Serving at FPC Greensboro was an opportunity to answer God's call to serve the church in a way that had been extremely influential in my own journey. In that time, the spirit revealed to me a passion and a joy for youth ministry in particular. Since then, I have moved on and have been serving as the Director for Children and Youth at Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church in Durham for 2 years while completing my M.Div. at Duke Divinity School. This time in ministry and discernment among colleagues and classmates, has helped me to better understand my call. I feel that God is calling me, and the Spirit is moving me, to the work of youth ministry at this time. This calling has become evident to me

through my faith in God, my care and hope for the younger generation, and my commitment to the work of the church. For me, being “good” at faith means resting in my confidence in God, my calling, and my beloved-ness. It is through time spent in prayer and in discernment with the faith communities I have been a part of that my sense of calling has been shaped by God; by walking with others in their faith journeys, by seeing faith develop in their lives, and by ultimately joining them in knowing, trusting and believing in their beloved-ness also.

My prayer is now that, in this ordination process, I come to fully understand all the ways God is calling me into the ministry of the church and the world and finding the places where I can best and most effectively serve God’s kingdom. I feel God calling me to ordination in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and I look forward to further discernment of this call through continuing education, working alongside my fellow Presbyterians, and seeking God in the world.

ACTION:

4. Salem Presbytery examined and welcomed Nolan Chilton as a candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament in Salem Presbytery.

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
Rev. R.C. Griffin, Moderator

I. COMMISSION ACTION REPORTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF PRESBYTERY

A. SECURING A STATED SUPPLY

1. Concurred with the Session of **Shallowford Presbyterian Church**, Lewisville, North Carolina, in securing a Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Leigh Wisner** for a period of twelve months beginning January 1, 2025.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Logan Presbyterian Church**, Scotts, North Carolina, in securing a Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Olen Bruner** for a period of three months beginning January 26, 2025.

B. STATED SUPPLY RENEWAL

1. Concurred with the Session of **New Creation Community Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Gray Clark** for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Faith Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Fred Beck** for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.

C. SECURING A PARISH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church**, Burlington, North Carolina, in securing a Parish Associate Agreement with the **Reverend Lisa Mullen** for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.

D. SABBATICAL PLAN APPROVAL

1. That the sabbatical plan for **Rev. Marybeth Asher-Lawson** was approved.
2. That the sabbatical plan for **Rev. Katie Barrett Todd** was approved.

II. COMMISSION ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

A. MODERATOR OF SESSION

1. That the **Rev. Margaret Almeida** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Thyatira, Salisbury, North Carolina**.
2. That the **Rev. Pat Fletcher** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Mt. Airy Presbyterian Church, Mt. Airy, North Carolina**.
3. That the **Rev. Pat Fletcher** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Logan Presbyterian Church, Statesville, North Carolina**.
4. That the **Rev. Steven Schaick** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina**.
5. That the **Rev. Alicia Wilson** was appointed Moderator of Session for **John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Salisbury, North Carolina**.
6. That the **Rev. Dana Fruits** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Bixby Presbyterian Church, Advance, North Carolina**.
7. That the **Rev. Allison Simmons** was appointed Moderator of Session for **New Salem Presbyterian Church, Stony Point, North Carolina**.

B. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS

That **Rick Purcell** be commissioned as the Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor of **Bethany Presbyterian Church, Graham, North Carolina**, for a one-year period beginning December 1, 2024, and be granted permission to celebrate the Sacraments and moderate the Session.

C. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS (RENEWAL)

1. Concurred with the Session of **Third Creek Presbyterian Church, Cleveland, North Carolina**, in renewing the contract of **Jerry Blankenship** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning November 1, 2024.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Unity Presbyterian Church, Woodleaf, North Carolina**, in renewing the contract of **Sue Moore** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.
3. Concurred with the Session of **Wentworth Presbyterian Church, Reidsville, North Carolina**, in renewing the contract of **Marty Brim** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.
4. Concurred with the Session of **Lansing Presbyterian Church, Lansing, North Carolina**, in renewing the contract of **Mae Weed** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning January 1, 2025.

D. PULPIT SUPPLY LIST

1. Added the following individual to the pulpit supply list: **Reverend Travis Milam**

III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PRESBYTERY

A. ELDER TO CELEBRATE SACRAMENTS

That commissioned ruling elder **Richard Collier** be allowed to serve communion at **New Salem Presbyterian Church, Stony Point, North Carolina** on December 31, 2024.

ACTION:

5. Salem Presbytery approved that CRE Richard Collier be allowed to serve communion at New Salem Presbyterian Church on December 31, 2024.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Rev. Courtney Stevens, Co-Moderator
Rev. Jay Lambeth, Co-Moderator

The Executive Council met on December 12, 2024 and January 16, 2025.

The Executive Council received reports from Executive Presbyter Tony De La Rosa, Designated Presbyter Jodi Lingan and Stated Clerk Paul Sink. Committees and Commissions made reports as well.

Actions taken on behalf of Presbytery:

Approved the amended Investment Policy for Salem Presbytery on motion from the Budget and Finance Committee.

Recorded an approved motion to allow the Oakland PC Administrative Commission to negotiate for the sale of that property.

Approved dismissal with gratitude of the Administrative Commission for Immanuel Presbyterian Church. Also referred the proceeds from the closing of Immanuel PC to the Church Growth and Transformation Task Group for handling of suggestions from the AC.

Approved dismissal with gratitude of the Administrative Commission for Flat Rock Presbyterian Church.

Business of Executive Council:

Reviewed and gave recommendations for proposed Book of Order amendments. This includes approving for Salem Presbytery to handle amendment voting on February 11, 2025 by omnibus motion with the exception of amendment 24C, which was the only amendment to have divided opinion from our Salem committees.

Approved Minutes from previous EC meetings as well as the November 15, 2024 Presbytery meeting.

Received report and updates from the Administrative Commissions for Flat Rock PC, Immanuel PC, Oakland PC.

Elected Rev. Courtney Stevens as Moderator of Executive Council and Rev. Jay Lambeth as Vice-Moderator.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION
Rev. Sam Perkins, Moderator

For Information:

"Will you share in government and discipline, serving in councils of the church, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ?"

Our vows of ordination include a commitment to serve the wider church. If you are an elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., you answered the above question in the affirmative. And for those who are teaching elders – you signed your name to it in the Book of Ministerial Obligations. Let us not forget that we are "one Body with many parts... As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love." We really need all the parts working together; our health and our growth are at risk.

A description of many of our Presbytery committees may be found at the back of the packet for today's meeting - as is a nominating form. TEACHING ELDERS, please help us by referring names of ruling elders in your congregations who would be well-equipped for particular committee, commission or council work. ALL ELDERS, please contact Sam Perkins, Tony De La Rosa, or Paul Sink to let them know where your interests lie with regards to service to the larger church.

For Action:

The Committee on Representation nominates the following for service on Presbytery committees:
COM – Task Force on Ministry for the Changing Church

- Class of 2027: Rev. Amanda Horan (North Wilkesboro)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- Class of 2027: Rev. Olen Bruner (HR – Allen Temple)
- Class of 2027: Elder Judy Unatowski (Alamance)

Permanent Judicial Commission

- Class of 2030: Elder David Vaughan (Burlington 1st)

Committees and Commissions with Current Vacancies to be filled:

- Budget and Finance
 - COM – Task Force on Examinations
 - Committee on Representation
 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 - Permanent Judicial Commission
 - Personnel
-

ACTION:

6. Salem Presbytery elected the slate of nominees for committees.
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INVITATION TO LUNCH AND PRAYER OF BLESSING

Rev. R.C. Griffin led Salem Presbytery in a prayer of blessing for lunch.

ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The Substitute Presbytery Moderator adjourned the meeting with the benediction.

Recorded by:
Christine Ratledge, Administrative Assistant

Paul Sink, Stated Clerk

Appendix A

Ministers Absent from the February 2025 Presbytery Meeting (excluding HR, unless she/he is currently serving a congregation)

Austin, Taylor	*Hankins, Stephanie	Phillips, Caroline
Bates, Timothy	Hanlin, Maria	Porter, Timothy
Bates, William	Harper, Kathryn	Priddy, Kim
*Beach, Kathryn	Harris, Randy	*Pruitt, John
Beck, Frederick A.	Harrison, Evan	Purcell, Rick
Berry, Kent	Hazelrigg, Marti	Puryear, Sam
Bowers, Erin	*Henry, David	Robertson, Wayne
Braxton, Steven	*Heyward, William Bailey	Robison, Lee
Brim, Marty	Higgins, Cindy	Sandlin, Mark
Bruner, Olen	Hill, Julie	Sarvis, Michael
Bumgarner, Jeffrey	Hoffman, Kymberley	Schooley, Christopher
*Bussell, Matthew	Jordan, Stephen	Senior, John
Caldwell, Lynne	Joyce, Boyd	Sharp, Grant
*Campbell, Kathryn Grace	Kim, Ki Seok	Simmons, Allison
Choplin, Patty	Kunkle, Jacqueline Lynn	Smith, Jeffrey S.
Clark, M. Gray	LaDew, Richard	Speaks, Christopher
Coppage, Jeffrey A.	Lansden, Phanta	Stiles, Steven
Cowan, Daniel Newton	*Levens, Kristen	Sutphin, J. Grant
Davee Lomax, Amanda	Lunde II, James	Taylor-Troutman, Andrew
*Duffield, Jill	*Martin, Jon	Taylor-Troutman, Mary Virginia
Durham, Larry	Martin, Susanne	Tickle, Blake
Eads, Will	McClain, Christopher	*Todd, Mason
Fearing, Stephen	McFarland, Bryan	Tysinger, Laura
Florence Mullen, Lisa	McLaughlin, Alberta	Weed, Mae
*Fruits, Dana	Mitchell, Pamela	*Wilson, Alicia
Fulp, William	Moore, Robert	*Wilson, Emily
Gaither, Otto	Moore, Sue	Wood, Virginia
Gaska, Jonathan	Musser Gritter, Joshua	Wray, Tom
Gipe, Will	Musser Gritter, Lara	Zacarias, Rigoberto
Glaser, Timothy	Nesbit, Thomas	*Notes an excused absence
Godbey, Sarah	Oliver, (Gregory) Jones	
Greene, Patricia	Peters, Rebecca Todd	