

**ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH STATED MEETING  
MINUTES OF SALEM PRESBYTERY  
NOVEMBER 14, 2023**

The One Hundred Fortieth Stated Meeting of Salem Presbytery, held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Alamance Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina and by Zoom was called to order by the Presbytery Moderator, Elder Catreliia S. Hunter at 9:00 a.m.

**ENROLLMENT:**

Commissioners		Commissioned Ruling Elders	8
Elders	45	Lay Pastors	2
Ministers	90	Certified Christian Educators	2
		Presbytery Staff	2
		Presbytery Moderator	1
		Stated Clerk	1
		TOTAL:	151
		(+Visitors - 26)	177

The following were present for this meeting of Presbytery:

**Ministers (90):**

Anderson, Amanda	Heyward, Will	Patterson, Curtis
Asher-Lawson, Marybeth	Horan, Amanda	Perkins, Sam
Barrow-Ziglar, Kaye	Howell, Charles	Phillips, Caroline
Bates, Timothy	Hoyle, Felicia Stewart	Phillips, Jon
Beach, Kathy	Johnson, John	Pitts, Wes
Beck, Fred	Jones-Johnson, Vicki	Priddy, Kim
Blankinship, Joe	Jordan, Stephen	Pruitt, John
Burleson, Thom	Kim, Peter	Quandt, Boni
Campbell, Kathryn	Kirby, Barrie	Reynolds, Jeff
Conley, Kevin	Kirby, Randal	Rigel, Jess
Cowan, Newton	Kunkle, Lynn	Ritsch, Fred
Davee Lomax, Amanda	Lambeth, Jay	Rummage, Brian
Ealy, David	Lansden, Phanta	Sandlin, Mark
Fearing, Stephen	Lawson, Scott	Schafer-Coates, Suzanne
Fitch, Rachel	Layman, Debbie	Schlaman Larsen, Emily
Fletcher, Pat	Lee, Charlie	Sink, Paul
Fruits, Dana	Lenger, Ruth	Smith, David
Gaska, Jonathan	Lingan, Jodi	Smith, Jay
Glaser, Joanne	Martin, Jon	Smith, Jeff
Godbey, Sarah	Martin, Susanne	Snipes, Steve
Goodman, Kyle	McCain, Vicki	Sockwell, Jeff
Griffin, R.C.	McCutchen, Joseph	Stevens, Courtney
Hall, Randy	McFarland, Bryan	Styers, Barbara
Hamilton, Bill	Milam, Judson	Taylor-Troutman, Andrew
Hankins, Stephanie	Milam, Travis	Thompson, Ernie
Harper, Kate	Mims, Ray	Troyer, Elizabeth
Harris, Randy	Moss, Stephen	Tysinger, Arlo
Harrison, Evan	Mullen, Lisa Florence	Vazquez, Jorge A.
Hazelrigg, Marti	Musser-Gritter, Lara	Wilson, Alicia
Henry, David	Otterbacher, Glenn	Wisner, Leigh

**Ruling Elder Commissioners (45):**

Alamance	Dail, Graham	Mocksville 1st	Alexander, Fred
Alamance	Uniatowski, Judy	Mt. Jefferson	Hines, Donna
Asheboro 1st	Corsbie, Joanne	Mount Tabor	Hunter, Garrette
Baird's Creek	Miller, Mary "Jinx"	New Creation	Wright, Lynn
Bethany, Statesville	Harris, Deborah	North Wilkesboro	Worley, Karen
Bethel	Johnson, Lenore	Parkway	Childers, Linda
Boone 1st	Kesler, James	Pine Ridge	Taylor, Frankie
Burlington 1st	Bradberry, Martha	Pittsboro	Worel, Bobbie
Burlington 1st	Moffitt, Scott	Pleasant Grove	Jordan, Annette
Burlington 1st	Pinson, David	Reidsville 1st	Coleman, William
Calvary	Minkins, Sarah	Rumple Memorial	Rhyne, Johnathan
Chapel in the Pines	Crosby, Thomas	Saint Paul, High Point	Davis, Doris T.
Clemmons	Holt, Rebecca	Salisbury 1st	Cook, Elizabeth
Community in Christ	Elston, Dave	Shallowford	Rountree, Jackie
Elkin	Stewart, Susan	Starmount	Tiedeman, Paul
Faith	Rule, Betsy	Taylorsville	Dew, John
Greensboro 1st	Booker, Ginger	Third Creek	Steele, Gary
Greensboro 1st	Harrington, Betsy	Thyatira	Vaughan, Keith
Griers	Morris, Bill	Trinity, Salisbury	Cowan, Alfreda
Guilford Park	Owen, Kay	Trinity, W-S	Voelker, Jim
Guilford Park	Yelton, Donald	Unity	Fleming, Karen
Highland	Bass, Judy		
Jamestown	Shaw, Bruce		
Logan	Woods, Marva		

**Commissioned Ruling Elders (8):**

Beard, James	Glaser, Tim
Blankenship, Jerry	Harley, James
Brooks, Rachael	Moore, Sue
Crunk, Sidney	Purcell, Rick

**Lay Pastors (CREs without current commission) (2):** Bates-Harley, LaQreshia A.  
Collier, Richard

**Certified Christian Educators (2):**

Brummitt-Yale, Joelle  
Nance-Allbright, Charlotte

**Presbytery Moderator (1):**

Hunter, Catreliia

**Stated Clerk, Salem Presbytery (1):**

Vaughan, David

**Presbytery Staff (2):**

Carter, Renee  
Ratledge, Christine

### CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING PRAYER

The Moderator, Elder Catreliia S. Hunter, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and constituted the meeting with prayer.

## MORNING WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Salem Presbytery was led in worship by the Rev. Jess Rigel and Rev. Vicki McCain with a powerful sermon offered by Rev. Kyle Goodman using scripture readings from Luke 24:1-12. Commissioners were encouraged to challenge the "ghosts" that inhabit all of our churches. The talented musicians from Alamance led an engaging worship and the Lord's Supper was celebrated following the sermon.

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## WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

The governing body was welcomed by Rev. Kyle Goodman, Alamance Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina. Information regarding the arrangements for this meeting was presented. Rev. Sam Perkins and Rev. Jess Rigel spoke of ministry opportunities directed towards youth in Guilford County including the Greensboro Youth Collective.

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## QUORUM

The Stated Clerk, Elder David Vaughan, advised the Moderator that a quorum was present for conducting the business of Presbytery, and the Moderator declared a quorum present.

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## APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The docket was presented by the Moderator of Salem Presbytery, Elder Catrelia S. Hunter.

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## **ACTION:**

1. Presbytery approved the docket.
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## WELCOME AND REPORT FROM THE MODERATOR AND INTRODUCTIONS

The 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.

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## GREETINGS FROM ECUMENICAL GUEST

Salem Presbytery welcomed Scott Jones, the Founder and Executive Director of Tiny House Greensboro. He shared the work that Tiny House Greensboro is doing to help with poverty and homelessness in Guilford County.

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Land Acknowledgement statement was offered by Rev. Timothy Bates, to recognize Indigenous Peoples who are the

original stewards of the lands on which we now live.

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### SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR EXECUTIVE/GENERAL PRESBYTER

Rev. Stephen Fearing and Elder Donna Hines reported that the General Presbyter Search Committee recommended Elder Tony De La Rosa as the new General Presbyter. Tony shared his Faith Statement with the body before the vote took place. Tony will begin on January 1, 2024.

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#### ACTION:

2. Salem Presbytery voted to set aside the standing rule to elect, by written ballot, a presbytery executive.
  3. Salem Presbytery elected Tony De La Rosa as the new General Presbyter effective January 1, 2024.
  4. Salem Presbytery voted to dismiss the General Presbyter Search Committee.
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### REPORT FROM DESIGNATED PRESBYTER

Rev. Jodi Ligan

*Greetings Salem Presbytery!*

Our Synod of the Mid-Atlantic recognizes the crisis facing our Black churches, who are suffering a disproportionate leadership crisis across the denomination. At the September Synod meeting, the **Next Generation Initiative (NGI)** was rolled out identifying the hardships caused by the shortage of Black validated clergy to serve as pastors. In our Synod there are 14 Presbyteries and they mirror what we are observing here in Salem: **80% of Black churches struggle with uninstalled ministries**. Of the 4 Mid-Atlantic Presbyteries reporting shortages of Black clergy, 3 are from NC:

<u>Presbytery</u>	<u># Black Churches</u>	<u>Active Clergy</u>
Salem	19	10
Coastal	22	12
James	10	6
Western NC	8	4



The NGI mission is focused on identifying, nurturing, and coaching the next generation of African American leadership for churches, councils, agencies and beyond. You will hear more from every part of our Presbytery as we embrace addressing the deep decline in the health, ministry and vitality of our Black churches.



As a part of transformational ministry, I remain committed to helping us re-energize the **relational connectedness that is PCUSA; it is critical to the survival of all of our churches**. Attendance at September's Presbytery meeting revealed that about half of all churches in Salem had representation. A happy note is that ~26% of uninstalled churches had representation, which is up from 8% a year ago.

These calculations aren't meant to be a report card; they are meant only to provide a point of reflection. **At the broadest places, though, we need more than half of our Presbytery to be present as we prepare to begin a new chapter in the story of Salem Presbytery.**

At our September Presbytery meeting I asked our Teaching and Ruling Elders to **worship at, or connect with, at least one other PCUSA church in their parish just once before the next Presbytery meeting.** How did you all do with that? Don't hesitate to let me, or your Engagement Pastors, know if you need help connecting/worshipping at another PCUSA church in your Parish. **Every church needs to know it is loved by every other part of this Presbytery.** As we stand on edge of a new season in the life of Salem Presbytery, I am grateful to be on this adventure with you!



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STATED CLERK REPORT  
David Vaughan

**FOR INFORMATION:**

**Meetings of Presbytery - 2024**

The Executive Council has ordered 202 Presbytery meetings according to this schedule:

February 13, 2024 (Tuesday) - all on ZOOM

May 14, 2024 (Tuesday) - in person, **Host Needed**

August 6, 2024 (Tuesday) - in person, **Host Needed**

November 16, 2024 (Saturday) - in person, **Host Needed**

Please mark your calendars accordingly. Please expect us to return to our pre-pandemic meeting schedule - with worship and business in the morning, a time of lunch and table fellowship, and a return for business in the early afternoon.

**Annual Statistical Reporting and Salem documents**

Clerks of Session and pastoral leaders will soon receive an email from me regarding the annual statistical reporting process and the Salem documents that are needed from each of our chartered congregations. Please let me know if you have questions.

**Session Minutes Reviews**

Due to Covid-19, we suspended the annual review of Session minutes. This summer and fall, I reviewed Session minutes in six locations around the Presbytery. The churches marked in **red** below participated in this constitutionally-required exercise this year:

Alamance  
Allen Temple  
**Asheboro 1st**  
**Baird's Creek**  
Bethany, Graham  
**Bethany, Statesville**  
**Bethel**  
Bethesda, Ruffin  
**Bethesda, Statesville**  
Beulah  
Bixby  
Boone 1st  
Boonville 1st  
**Burlington 1st**  
Calvary  
**Cameron**  
Chapel in the Pines  
**Presbyterian Church of the Covenant**  
Church of the Cross

**Clemmons**  
**Cleveland**  
Collinstown  
**Community in Christ**  
Concord  
**Cooleemee**  
**Cross Roads**  
Danbury  
Dellabrook  
**Dogwood Acres**  
Eben-ezer  
El Bethel  
**Elkin**  
**Faith**  
Fellowship  
Fieldstone  
Fifth Creek  
**Flat Rock**  
**Forest Hills**  
Francisco

Freedom  
**Glendale Springs**  
Glenwood  
**Grace**  
Graham  
**Greensboro 1st**  
Greenwood  
Griers  
Guilford Park  
Gulf  
Hawfields  
High Point 1st  
**Highland Hills**  
**Immanuel**  
Jamestown  
**John Calvin**  
Joyce  
**Kernersville 1st**  
Korean First

Lansing  
Laurel Fork  
Lexington 1st  
Lloyd  
Logan  
Love Valley  
Madison  
Mebane 1st  
Milton  
Mocksville 1st  
Mocksville 2nd  
Mount Airy 1st  
Mount Jefferson  
Mount Tabor  
Mount Vernon  
Mount Vernon Springs  
New Creation  
New Hope  
New Salem  
North Wilkesboro  
Oak Ridge  
Oakland  
Oakview  
Old Providence

Parkway  
Piedmont  
Pilot Mountain 1st  
Pine Hall  
Pine Ridge  
Pittsboro  
Pleasant Grove  
Prospect  
Red House  
Reid Memorial  
Reidsville 1st  
Rumple Memorial  
Salisbury 1st  
Salisbury 2nd  
Sandy Ridge  
Sedgefield  
Shady Side  
Shallowford  
Shiloh, Burlington  
Shiloh, Statesville  
Siler City  
Smyrna  
Sparta  
Speedwell

Spencer  
Springwood  
St. Andrews  
Saint James  
Saint Paul, GSO  
Saint Paul, HP  
Starmount  
Statesville 1st  
Stony Creek  
Tabor  
Taylorsville  
Third Creek  
Thomasville 1st  
Thyatira  
Trinity, Elon  
Trinity, Salisbury  
Trinity, W-S  
Unity  
Vandalia  
Wentworth  
Westminster  
Yadkinville  
Yanceyville

David Vaughan  
Stated Clerk

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SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT  
Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle and Elder Lee Woods

Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle and Elder Lee Woods reported on the 252nd meeting of the Synod of the Mid Atlantic that took place September 10th to 13<sup>th</sup> at Massanetta Springs, Virginia. Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle shared that as part of the Matthew 25 initiative the Synod has determined to take the lead for the denomination in addressing issues related to Black congregations. The delegation of Salem Presbytery that participated in the Assembly have vowed to continue the work of transformation in Salem Presbytery congregations. Rev. Felicia Stewart Hoyle and Elder Lee Woods also shared a video celebrating the ministry and legacy of African-American churches, especially Catawba Presbytery.

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EQUIP  
Educator Donna Chase, Moderator

Educator Donna Chase announced Salem Presbytery's Winter Training Event for church leadership and officers on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at First Presbyterian Greensboro. Workshops include communion training for ruling elders, church leadership/officer training, technology, child protection, as well as church finances.

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PEACE AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE  
Elder Karen Worley, Moderator

Elder Karen Worley announced the next three books the Peace and Justice Book Club will be discussing. These include "Not a Crime to be Poor" by Peter Edelman, "Love Your Mother" by Mallory McDuff and "Dear White Christian" by Jennifer

Harvey. In 2024, the Peace and Justice Task Force Racial Equity Equipping Team will provide three opportunities for completion of the training requirement using the curriculum *What Lies Between Us*. The dates are February 24th, May 16th and September 28th. Locations will be announced in Salem Matters. Registration is now open for the first Matthew 25 Summit to be held in Atlanta January 16th through 18th hosted by the PCUSA. The seminar is entitled “An Invitation to Innovation.”

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CHURCH GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION  
Rev. Liz Troyer, Moderator

Rev. Liz Troyer announced that applications are being accepted to fund churches through a new grant process meant to fund initiatives that promote vitality and sustainability within the ministries of Salem Presbytery.

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COM TASK FORCE ON EXAMINATIONS  
Rev. Debbie Layman and Rev. Travis Milam, Co-Moderators

The Examinations Committee has successfully examined the following for service in Salem Presbytery. The COM has received all of these to membership in Salem Presbytery.

**For information:**

The COM Task Force on Examinations has successfully examined the following for service in Salem Presbytery:

**Faith Journey**

**James Kevin Dodd**

My earliest recollection of God comes in the form of bedtime prayers, illustrated bible stories, Sunday school classes and summer bible schools at Friedland Moravian Church in Winston-Salem. My father was in the Air Force. So, at the age of six, my world changed. We headed to the Pacific Coast. I sporadically got to attend a Presbyterian Mission Church on the Makah Indian Reservation in Neah Bay, Washington. I mostly remember services on the beach and sharing in “salmon bakes” with the Makah people. In a couple of years, we headed on to live in the small town of Swanton, Vermont. We attended a Methodist Church, there. Sundays were a little more ordered. I attended Sunday school in the morning, worship, and then youth group in the evening. I even took turns with my friend, Billy, being the Acolyte for the morning service. I was growing up but my understanding and faith in God was setting still. After seven years in Vermont, my father retired from the Air Force, and we returned to Winston-Salem. It was back to Friedland, just like I had never left. I went through confirmation classes with my cousins because that is “what you did”, when you turned fourteen. I even joined the church! To look back, it was an empty joining. I knew of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I would have told you I even believed but now I know that was only going on in my mind. My parents bought a house in Cooleemee, and I know this was nothing more than the Hand of God at work! At sixteen I met my sweetheart and some years later she would become my wife and after forty years still is. It was her that started me going to the local Presbyterian Church. I was still growing but this time my faith was growing right along with me. More and more, I started to understand what it was to be in the presence of a loving God. To truly realize what was done for me, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At an evening revival service on my seventeenth birthday, no less, my heart finally gave way, and I received Christ’s gift of Salvation.

My life as taken me to Greece, Kansas and then back to good ole’ Cooleemee. I can look back and see the Holy Spirit at work through all of it. Did I make some detours along the way? You bet I did! But my Savior was always there with open arms welcoming me back into the fold. When back in Cooleemee, we rejoined the Presbyterian Church. I never thought I would serve the Church. I was asked to be an Elder. I never ever thought I would stand in front of a group of people and talk about God. I was asked to teach a Sunday School class. I never ever never thought I’d stand in the pulpit and preach a sermon. I was asked to do that very thing. The more I filled in to preach the more I knew God was calling me to do this. As our Pastor retired, I asked the Session if they would like me to study to be a CRE for our congregation. I was accepted into the CRE candidacy. The required classes have deepened my faith in ways I never

thought possible. I stand on the verge of something daunting but exciting. I know God's Spirit will be with me every step of the way.

### **Statement of Faith**

**James Kevin Dodd**

I believe with awesome reverence in the mystery of a Triune God. I believe that God Almighty is my father in Heaven. I believe He calls me to have a questioning faith, but I realize in most of the questions that I will ask, I will never fully grasp or understand the true depth of His answers. I do feel that through the pondering of these questions, I am drawn into a deeper faith and communion with God. The apostle Paul tells me; "We see through a glass darkly, but one day we will come to understand and see face to face".

As I read in the Holy Scriptures, From the very beginning of time God has been singing a Song for everyone to hear. His Song of Love and Joy and Grace has always been with me, and it always will be. I hear and see parts of this Song repeatedly. I must be willing to just read, pray, and listen. From the inner workings of the smallest cell to the history and complexity of the universe, I hear God's Song. I see God's Fingerprints. As I was raised in the Christian tradition, my earliest memories of God and His Song are of bedtime prayers, Sunday school songs or bible lessons. The creation story, Adam and Eve, the Flood, the Patriarchs, the Exodus, the Prophets, God's Song! This Song goes on and on until its crescendo on a windswept plain in a small obscure Judean town. There is silence and then a wee baby cries out into the night and the Song of God's love begins again.

The Word of God tells me that Jesus was present with God from the very beginning of things. At the appointed time, Jesus took on the mantle of a man and in the book of Philippians it tells me He humbled himself before God. Jesus had all the attributes of God and all the attributes of a man at the exact same time. Perfection, what humanity should have looked like if sin had never entered the picture. This is wonderfully illustrated in Jesus's baptism. It is as if He looks up to himself in Heaven saying: "Here I am. I am ready. Thank you for letting me do this" and God looking down on his earthly reflection saying: "I am forever happy. I am ready. Thank you for doing this". God experiencing and touching his creation and his creation touching and experiencing him. Jesus did become and still is my Messiah, my High Priest, and my King. As the Messiah, He perfectly demonstrates the life God wants me to lead. In his crucifixion, He becomes the only perfect sacrifice for the atonement and remission of all my sins. In His triumphant resurrection, death is conquered once and for all. The veil in God's Holy Temple was ripped open from top to bottom. Salvation came down from God, alone. It always had to come from just him. God is saying: "The old ways are over! The gap separating you and me has just been voided and made whole! See my risen Son as proof! Believe! The Kingdom is waiting! Welcome HOME!"

Who calls to me out of the darkness of sin and despair? Who convicts me to stop what I am doing and listen to "God's Song" of Grace, Joy, and Love, if you will? Who causes me to read, hear, understand, believe, and commit myself to following the life of my Risen Savior? None other than the Spirit of God himself. The presence of God is right here with me right now. The Spirit urges me forward as an individual and as part of a church of believers, reminding me to listen and paving the way until my steps carry me into the very presence of God and Christ. Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost, Holy Comforter, call Him what you will, to me it is the very voice of God almighty. To which, I should always seek in reading, prayer, and meditation.

One of my most favorite things to do is to stand out in the freezing cold of a Winter's night and peer up into the universe with my telescope, a pair of binoculars or just my eyes. It gives me time to see and listen and to ponder the unfathomable depth of my God, Christ my Savior, and the Holy Spirit. To look out on the vastness of the universe and realize the creator of all this loves and worries about me. All this time, He has been singing to me. He has called me by name and personally saved me. He has welcomed me back into His kingdom and moreover back into His family. There is a very old Croat saying that states: "Be humble for you are a child of the dust...Be noble for you are a child of the stars..." I stand in awe of my God.

### **Faith Journey**

**Rev. Sarah Godbey**

I was born into a family with Christian values and beliefs. From an early age, I attended South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church with my family. My parents were active in the church and as a result we were at the church throughout the week. Being the youngest of three siblings, a brother and a sister, I was always watching what experiences they had growing up in their faith. My observations encouraged me to explore the world and helped me develop and shape my faith through life journeys.



In the church there were influential people including Sunday school teachers, confirmation teachers, youth leaders, pastors, and my peers. In this circle, I was allowed to explore my faith and learn the stories of the Bible, ask hard questions, and receive and provide support in times of need. This community of faith embraced and loved me, took interest in me. I served on the Presbyterian Youth Council for three years. I also went to Camp Grier and Bethelwoods, and attended many youth lock-ins, thirty-hour famine, retreats, Massanutten, Montreat, and Triennium youth conferences. By being involved in each of these communities, I developed leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills, while living in an intentional Christian community.

At The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, I went to Starmount Presbyterian Church, and participated in Ukirk activities as well as explored interfaith relations. I grow and learn in my faith journey as I walk in life with God by my side. I hope I will always be open to new ideas, constantly learning and evolving, and meeting people with God's unconditional grace, acceptance, and love daily. I felt the call to go to seminary to learn more about the Bible and grow in my faith. I felt a pull to be a Teaching Elder of the Word and Sacrament. I attended Columbia Theological Seminary where I graduated with two master's degrees, a Master in Divinity and Master in Practical theology in a concentration in Pastoral care. During my time in school, I had many different fields of context for ministry. I worked as a Youth Director for a Church in downtown Atlanta Georgia. I did a summer long internship also known as supervised ministry within the church. I was team lead for Christian Ministry in a National Park, out in South Dakota.

I have completed a yearlong residency in chaplaincy and have been a staff chaplain for going on two years. I am working on Board certification within chaplaincy and on track to receive this by the end of the year. I was ordained as Teaching Elder of the Word and Sacrament and look to continue learning and growing in my faith.

### **Statement of Faith**

**Rev. Sarah Godbey**

I believe that God created Heaven and Earth and all things seen and unseen. God provides for and sustains all creatures and responds to all human needs. Nothing is too small or too big for God to handle. There are three persons to God, called the Holy Trinity. God is God the provider, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. I am able to honor and glorify the Holy Trinity by understanding each individual person.

God sent God's only Son, Jesus Christ, to live and walk among the people. By having Jesus walk among us, we were able to learn from him. I believe that Jesus Christ walked among us full of grace and truth. God sent Jesus to earth to have a personal relationship with humankind, one on one. Jesus was crucified and died on the cross to save everyone, including people who have broken the law, and those who do not see themselves worthy of God's grace. I believe that in the resurrection, Jesus conquered death and ascended into heaven. This way we know that we are not walking through life alone, no matter how bad it might get. I believe that God's grace is given to us. In conquered death, Jesus opened Heaven for all to enter; therefore, there is no fear in death. Jesus has given us grace and new life. Sin separates us from God, but never separates God from us because of Jesus's sacrifice.

The Holy spirit is a part of the Trinity and is God's Spirit that dwells among us and brings us great comfort in times of need and conviction, encouragement, and listening to us. I believe God's grace is given freely to everyone. I believe this beautiful gift of grace is not earned by our works here on earth but given daily and freely as a gift from God.

I believe when we come to the table God has set for us (Eucharist) we are able and welcome to come with all of our hurt and pain. The Holy Eucharist is a place where we are provided with renewed grace by taking part in the holy meal. I believe that baptism is an outward sign of an invisible grace. I believe that humanity is called to do the work of liberation, reconciliation, and community building. I believe that we are called to care for the marginalized and the oppressed, to fight for justice and peace, and to love God with our whole being.

I believe that humanity is called to live, serve, and love the way that God has and does. I believe that we are free to choose between good and evil. I believe humanity is tasked with the responsibility of respecting creation, protecting creation, and having some authority over creation. Additionally, I believe that this gives humankind a responsibility to take care of all that God has created, just as God would take care of creation.

I believe that we come together to confess our sins through our confessions and the loving God forgives us through grace, mercy, and love. All of this I believe.

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COMMISSION ON MINISTRY  
Rev. Amanda Anderson and Rev. John Johnson, Co-Moderators

JOELLE BRUMMITT-YALE WAS WELCOMED AND CELEBRATED BY SALEM PRESBYTERY AS A CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATOR IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.).

**I. COMMISSION ACTION REPORTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF PRESBYTERY**

A. SECURING A STATED SUPPLY

1. Concurred with the Session of **Bixby Presbyterian Church, Advance**, North Carolina, in securing a Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend Boni Quandt** for a period of twelve months beginning September 1, 2023.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Pine Hall Presbyterian Church, Pine Hall**, North Carolina, in securing a Stated Supply contract with the **Reverend John Senior** for a period of twelve months beginning September 1, 2023.

B. STATED SUPPLY RENEWAL

Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro**, North Carolina, in renewing the Stated Supply contract with the Reverend Maria Hanlin for a period of one year beginning June 15, 2023.

C. SECURING A PARISH ASSOCIATE AGREEMENT

Concurred with the Session of **First Presbyterian Church, Greensboro**, North Carolina, in securing a Parish Associate Agreement with the **Reverend Doug McLeroy** for a period of one year beginning June 15, 2023.

D. VALIDATION/RE-VALIDATION OF MINISTRY

1. That the re-validation of the ministry of the **Reverend Grant Sutphin** at the **United States Navy** was approved for 2023.
2. That the validation of the ministry of the **Reverend Sarah Godbey** at **Novant Health**, Salisbury, North Carolina, was approved for 2023.

**II. COMMISSION ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY**

A. SECURING A COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER/LAY PASTOR

1. Concurred with the Session of **Hills Presbyterian Church, Pilot Mountain**, North Carolina in securing the contract of **Rachael Brooks** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of six months beginning September 1, 2023.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Cooleemee Presbyterian Church, Cooleemee**, North Carolina in securing the contract of **Kevin Dodd** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder-Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning October 1, 2023.

## B. COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS/LAY PASTORS (RENEWAL)

1. Concurred with the Session of **Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Pilot Mountain**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Rachael Brooks** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning September 1, 2023.
2. Concurred with the Session of **Siler City Presbyterian Church, Siler City**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Richard LaDew** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning September 1, 2023.
3. Concurred with the Session of **Third Creek Presbyterian, 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 September 1, 2023.
4. Concurred with the Session of **Cleveland Presbyterian, Cleveland**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Tim Glaser** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning October 1, 2023.
5. Concurred with the Session of **Laurel Fork Presbyterian, Laurel Springs**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Jeffrey Bumgarner** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning November 1, 2023.
6. Concurred with the Session of **Old Providence Presbyterian, Cleveland**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Jeffrey Bumgarner** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning November 1, 2023.
7. Concurred with the Session of **Love Valley Presbyterian, Love Valley**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Bill Bates** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning August 1, 2023.
8. Concurred with the Session of **Fifth Creek Presbyterian, Statesville**, North Carolina, in renewing the contract of **Bill Bates** to serve as their Commissioned Ruling Elder– Lay Pastor for a period of one year beginning November 1, 2023.

## C. TRANSFER MINISTER INTO SALEM PRESBYTERY

That the **Reverend Sarah Godbey**, a member of Presbytery of the James, was received by Salem Presbytery on September 28, 2023.

## D. MODERATOR OF SESSION

1. That the **Reverend Newton Cowan** was appointed Moderator of Session for **New Creation Presbyterian Church, Greensboro**, North Carolina.
2. That the **Reverend Fred Beck** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Faith Presbyterian Church, Greensboro**, North Carolina.
3. That the **Reverend Charlie Murphy** was appointed Moderator of Session for **Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Burlington**, North Carolina.

## E. DISSOLUTION OF PASTORAL RELATIONSHIPS WHERE BOTH PARTIES AGREE

1. Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Keith Curl-Dove** and **New Creation Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, effective August 15, 2023.
2. Dissolved the Pastoral relationship between the **Reverend Keith Curl-Dove** and **Faith Presbyterian Church**, Greensboro, North Carolina, effective August 15, 2023.

## F. TRANSFER MINISTER OUT OF SALEM PRESBYTERY

1. That the **Reverend Barbara Smith** was transferred to Peace River Presbytery effective November 1, 2023.

2. That the **Reverend Susan Moorefield** was transferred to Presbytery of Ohio Valley, pending their reception of her.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE ACTION OF PRESBYTERY

#### A. REQUEST FOR HONORABLE RETIREMENT

That the **Reverend Elinor Ware Wilburn** be granted the status of Honorably Retired effective September 1, 2023 and that Salem Presbytery recognize Reverend Wilburn with a service of Honorable Retirement.

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#### ACTION:

5. Salem Presbytery approved granting of the status of Retired to the **Reverend Elinor Ware Wilburn** effective September 1, 2023, and participated in a Liturgy of Retirement.

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EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
Rev. Jennie Hemrick, Moderator

The Executive Council (EC) met on October 19, 2023.

Regular reports were received from Barbara Smith (Transitional General Presbyter), Jodi Lingan (Designated Presbyter), and David Vaughan (Stated Clerk).

**For Information** – The Executive Council:

*Acting on behalf of Presbytery:*

- Approved the request of the Calvary Presbyterian Church to sell an inherited parcel of real estate, not contiguous with the church house, with the proceeds invested in capital improvements;
- Agreed to guarantee a \$30,000 PILP loan to Fellowship Presbyterian Church for HVAC improvements.

*Business of the Executive Council:*

- Received a regular, detailed financial report from the Budget and Finance Committee;
- Endorsed the 2024 budget proposal as presented by the Budget and Finance Committee;
- Bid farewell to Transitional General Presbyter Rev. Dr. Barbara A. Smith (whose term of service concludes on October 31, 2023);
- Heard that the Search Committee for a new Executive Presbyter has a candidate to put before the Presbytery at the November 2023 meeting;
- Acted to call for the November Presbytery meeting to be in person, and accepted the invitation of Alamance Presbyterian Church to host this meeting;
- Approved the docket for the November 2023 meeting of Presbytery;
- Ordered Presbytery meetings for 2024 as follows:
  - Tuesday, February 13, 2024 - all by ZOOM
  - Tuesday, May 14, 2024 - in person, **host needed**
  - Tuesday, August 6, 2024 - in person, **host needed**
  - Saturday, November 16, 2024 - in person, **host needed**.

## For Action –

1. The Executive Council asks the Moderator to recognize Elder Rhonda Tatum to speak before the Presbytery on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee;
  2. The Executive Council asks the Moderator to recognize the Rev. Kyle Goodman to speak to the Presbytery on behalf of the Stewardship Committee.
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## ACTION:

6. Salem Presbytery received a thorough financial report from Elder Rhonda Tatum and approved the 2024 Presbytery budget.
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### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Rev. Kyle Goodman and Rev. Kim Priddy, Co-Moderators

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

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### 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 or David Vaughan to let them know where your interests lie with regards to service to the larger church.

## For Action:

1. The Committee on Representation nominates the following for service as commissioners to the 226th General Assembly (2024):

Commissioned Ruling Elder Steve Braxton (*ex-officio* as Pby moderator) (Trinity, Elon)  
Ruling Elder Courtney Hunter (Mt. Vernon)  
Rev. Phanta Lansden (St. James)  
Rev. Wes Pitts (Reidsville, First)  
Ruling Elder Susan Stewart (Elkin)  
Rev. Liz Troyer (Concord)

2. The Committee on Representation nominates Caroline Beach-Verhey (Rumple Memorial) as Salem's Young Adult Advisory Delegate. Ms. Beach-Verhey is a sophomore at Davidson College.

3. The Committee on Representation nominates the following for service on Presbytery committees:

Budget & Finance:

Class of 2026: Elder Ernestine Merchant

Church Growth and Transformation:

Class of 2024: Rev. Timothy Bates

Class of 2026: CRE LaQreshia Bates-Harley, Rev. Liz Troyer

Commission on Ministry: Transitions in Ministry for Installed Positions

Class of 2026: Rev. John Pruitt

Commission on Ministry: CRE Training and Oversight

Class of 2026: CRE Rachael Brooks, Rev. R. C. Griffin, Elder Thomas Coaxum

Commission on Ministry: Examinations

Class of 2026: Rev. Matt Bussell, Rev. Jon Martin

Commission on Ministry: Ministry for the Changing Church

Class of 2026: Rev. Jon Gaska, Rev. Joanne Glaser, Elder Ursula Robinson

Commission on Ministry: Policy, Compensation, Mediation, and Church Officer Development

Class of 2026: Rev. Erin Bowers, Rev. Neil Dunnavant

Commission on Ministry: Care of Pastors and Retirees, Members at Large/Validated Oversight and Certified Christian Educator Oversight

Class of 2026: Rev. Barry Kirby

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Class of 2024: Rev. Peter Kim

Class of 2026: Rev. Kent Berry, Elder Beth Hooten, Elder Alice Milam

Executive Council:

Class of 2024: Elder John Carlson

Class of 2026: Rev. Stephen Fearing, Elder Betsy Harrington, Elder Catreliia Hunter

Personnel:

Class of 2026: Elder Julie Davis, Elder Andrew Spainhour

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**ACTION:**

7. Salem Presbytery elected the slate of nominees for commissioners to the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Salem's Young Adult Advisory Delegate and committees.

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INVITATION TO LUNCH AND PRAYER OF BLESSING


Rev. Jess Rigel led Salem Presbytery in a prayer of blessing for lunch.

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ADJOURNMENT AND BENEDICTION

The Moderator announced the date of the next Presbytery meeting, February 13, 2024 via Zoom. The Moderator invited the Rev. Jess Rigel to pronounce the benediction and the closing prayer.

Recorded by:  
Christine Ratledge  
Administrative Assistant



David Vaughan Stated  
Clerk

*These minutes approved by Executive Council, 12/14/2023*

## Appendix A

### Ministers Absent from the November 2023 Presbytery Meeting (excluding HR, unless she/he is currently serving a congregation)

Austin, Taylor	Gaither, Otto	Roberson, Angela
Bates, William	Gipe, Will	Robertson, Wayne
Berry, Kent	Hanlin, Maria	Robison, Lee
Bowers, Erin*	Heyward, William	Roseman, Dana
Braswell, Steve	Higgins, Cindy	Sarvis, Michael
Brim, Marty	Horan, Amanda	Schooley, Kit
Browder, Bill	Joyce, Boyd	Senior, John
Bumgarner, Jeffrey	Kim, Ki Seok	Simmons, Allison
Bussell, Matthew	Kim, Seulki (John)	Spangler, Laura
Cannada, Jeremy	LaDew, Richard	Stiles, Steven
Choplin, Patty	Levens, Kristen	Sutphin, J. Grant
Conner, Deborah	McLaughlin, Alberta	Terry, Fred
Coppage, Jeffrey	Mitchell, Pamela	Tickle, Blake
Crainshaw, Jill	Musser Gritter, Joshua	Todd, Katie Barrett*
Crews, Evelyn	Nesbit, Thomas	Todd, Mason*
Cyre, Ashley	Oliver, (Gregory) Jones	Trapp Jr., Danny
Dodd, Kevin	Peters, Toddie	Tuttle, Carrie
Duffield, Jill*	Porter, Timothy	Weed, Mae
Durham, Larry	Puryear, Sam	White, Curtis
Eads, Will	Rawson, Stewart	Wood, Virginia
Freeman, Keith	Richardson, Nicole*	Wray, Tom
Freese, Scott	Rivers Meza, Francis	Zacarias, Rigoberto
Fulp, William	Rives, G. Wilborn	

\* Notes an excused absence