

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY**  
**101<sup>st</sup> STATED MEETING MINUTES**  
**Via Zoom**  
**May 15, 2021**

**PRESENT:**

**Ruling Elders:** Congruity - Joanne Grayson; Cousar Memorial - Wanda Isaac; Ebenezer - Dianne Goodson; Fraser Memorial - Louis Mays; Friendship - Lossie Matthews; Goodwill - Marion Slater; G.W. Long Memorial - Melvin Wilkerson; Harmony - Mary Hickman; Hartsville First - Rita Daniel; John Calvin - Will Ginn; Kentyre - Bob Glenn; Kingston - Alys Lawson; Latta - Marcia Bethea; Manning - Jack Furse; Melina - Linda Jackson; Morton - Teresa Hodges; Mt. Lisbon - Kenneth Sharp; Murrells Inlet - Mike Young; Myrtle Beach First - Alice Davenport, Amber Long; New Bethel - Robert Luther Carmichael; New Covenant - Geneva Sharp; New Harvest - Cheryl Jackson; Pageland Second - Pearlina Hutto; Pawleys Island - Bill Carpenter; Summerton- Furman Elliott; Sumter First - Debby Williams; Sumter Second - Cheryl Coleman; Swan Lake - Susan Holton; Trinity Mayesville - Barbara Benjamin; Trinity Surfside - Marian Shelton; Wedgefield - Ron Price; Westminster - Sheryl Davis; White Oak - Linda Morton.

**Teaching Elders:** Scott Andrews, John Brearley, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Jim Burton, Ella Busby, Ashley Cheek, Nick Cheek, Jim Clark, Frank Colclough, Jody Foster, Jarred Hammet, Carnell Hampton, Kyle Henderson, Josie Holler, John Hopkins, Joshua Jang, Jennifer Kottler, Tom Langston, Tony Larson, Jennifer Marshall, Gavin Meek, Don Muncie, Jane Osment, Carol Pagelsen, John Parks, Mary Ramirez, Mike Sorrell, Sam Sparks, Rhett Talbert.

**Commissioned Pastors:** Delcia Harper-Baxter, Jack Humphries, Marshall Ivey, Othan Sharp, Chuck Staggs, Elijah Washington.

**Guiding Council:** Johnny Dennis, Dorothy McBride, Frances Singleton.

**Corresponding Members:** Richard Dozier, Joyce Lieberman, Alonza Washington.

**NHP Leaders:** Rachel Chandler.

**Invited Guests:** Roger Gench, Kevin Hyrams, Steve Lindsley, Jacquelyn Rembert, William Wildhack.

**Presbytery Staff:** Juanita McLeod.

**Excused Teaching Elders:** Annette Brewer, Steve Fitzgerald, Rodney Foster, Myong Paik,

Eva Ruth, Nathan See and Aaron Stevens.

**Excused Commissioned Pastors:** none.

**Excused Sessions:** Chesterfield.

**ALSO EXCUSED** (honorably retired minister members): Michael Allen, Richard Andrews, Sue Arledge, Alan Arnold, Art Chartier, Robert Chastain, Carol Dickerson, James Dickson, Snow Donmoyer, Malcolm Doubles, Michael Fleenor, Bruce Ford, Roger Gulick, Howard Hansen, Frank Holsclaw, Ray Howe, Thomas Johnson, Robert Ledbetter, Soo Hoon Lee, Robert Maclin, William Moore, George Wilkes, Robert Wilkes, William Wilson.

**ABSENT Teaching Elders:** Pete Brzezinski, Judy Cettei, Tom Dendy, Louis Imsande, Corey Ingold, Peter Lee, Gary Lowe, Don McManus, Johanna Wint, Joan Yates.

**Absent Commissioned Pastors:** David Bessinger, William A. Johnson, Bob Sloan.

**Absent Sessions:** Bennettsville First, Carolina, Celebration, Cheraw First, Fork, Friendfield, Georgetown, Grandview, Hebron, Indiantown, Jefferson, Korean American, Lake City, Marion, McColl First, Mizpah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, Olanta First, Parkwood, Patrick, Ruby, Salem Black River, Society Hill, St. Paul's, Timmonsville, Williamsburg.

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Upon hearing from the Stated Clerk, the Rev. Gavin D. Meek, that a quorum was present, the Moderator, Rev. Rhett Talbert, declared it so and called the 101<sup>st</sup> Stated meeting of New Harmony Presbytery to order with prayer at 9:00 am. Because of the Moderator's unstable internet connection, Ruling Elder Dorothy McBride, NHP's Moderator-elect, had to moderate the entire rest of the meeting.

The Moderator recognized the Stated Clerk to review the recommended **Special Rules of Order Regarding Electronic Meetings and Suspension of Any Standing Rules That Interfere with Them** from the Guiding Council and, on its behalf, move adoption, which he did. (The motion did not need a second, as it came from "a committee of the whole.") Those Special Rules of Order are:

**That meeting(s) of the Presbytery of New Harmony (NHP) be conducted by gathering electronically through the online platform of ZOOM with all participants using devices with both audio and video.**

**That, for the purpose of meeting electronically by ZOOM, these will be the special rules of order and any standing rules that interfere with them be suspended:**

1. Participants in the NHP ZOOM Stated Meeting will be NHP minister members (TE), Elder Commissioners (RE), Commissioned Pastors (CP), Ruling Elders serving on Guiding Council (GC), elected Leaders (L), Corresponding Members (CM), individuals to be examined by NHP (V), and any other individuals invited by Stated Clerk (V).
2. Only participants will be permitted into the ZOOM meeting and effort will be made to live-stream the meeting.
3. All voting participants shall participate in a ZOOM Orientation and Training (ZOT), watch the ZOT video on the NHP website, or state that they know how to use ZOOM well (i.e. change from mute/unmute; speaker/gallery view; open Participant's Window to raise ZOOM hand and vote yes/no).
4. All participants will be strongly encouraged to pre-register before the deadline set by the Stated Clerk.
5. Participant access to the NHP ZOOM Stated Meeting will begin approximately one hour prior to the Stated Meeting's Call to Order.
6. The presence of a quorum shall be established by the NHP Stated Clerk, upon reviewing the participants' list in ZOOM, then informing the NHP Moderator, who will then make a declaration of a quorum present. Thereafter, the continued presence of a quorum shall be determined by monitoring the online list of participants.
7. While every effort will be made to provide stable access to ZOOM, each participant is responsible for their audio and internet connections; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a participant's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting.

The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since this recommendation came from the Guiding Council, a "committee of the whole." Following an opportunity for questions, discussion and debate, the Moderator called for a vote, stating that this motion required a two-thirds majority. The Moderator stated that the recommendation passed by more than the two-thirds majority and thus declared the **Special Rules of Order approved.**

The Moderator requested that the Stated Clerk review the proposed **Docket** and the **Omnibus Motion** from the Guiding Council and, on its behalf, move adoption, which he did; the motion did not need a second, as it came from "a committee of the whole." The Omnibus Motion was as follows (reports in the appendix of these minutes):

**Receive the following written reports included in the Commissioners' Handbook and approve the following therein:**

- **Stated Clerk;**
- **Guiding Council, including approval of a change to the Standing Rules, revising #13 for clarification purposes** (see attached; this is a first reading);
- **Committee on Ministry (COM);**

- **Camp Pee Dee Administrative Commission** but not the recommendation;
- **Friendfield Administrative Commission** (shared on the ZOOM);
- **John Calvin Administrative Commission; and**
- **New Harvest Administrative Commission.**

The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since this recommendation came from the Guiding Council, a “committee of the whole.” There were no requests to remove any items from the Omnibus Motion, therefore, the Moderator called for a vote, stating that this motion required a two-thirds majority as there are changes to the Manual of Operations. The Moderator stated that the recommendation passed by more than the two-thirds majority, and thus declared the **Docket and Omnibus Motion approved.**

The Moderator requested that the Stated Clerk recognize **first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners, Special Guests, and new Corresponding Members: Rev. Dr. Roger Gench (James) (preacher); Rev. Steve Lindsley (Charlotte) and Ruling Elder Kevin Hyrams Trinity in Charlotte, NC) our presenters; Rev. Bill Wildheck (Tampa Bay and our ZOOM Breakout Room TECH); Jackie Rembert (RE, Ebenezer and member of the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team) as well as the following who have been given Corresponding Member status as long as they remain in their held position: Rev. Joyce Lieberman (Synod Executive and Stated Clerk); Rev. Dr. Richard Dozier (Interim, Goodwill); and Rev. Alonza Washington (Interim, Congruity and Westminster).**

The Moderator asked if there were any objections to seating any of these persons as a **Corresponding Members.** Hearing none, the **Moderator declared it so ordered.**

The Moderator then declared that it was time to gather together for **worship** with the Rev. Dr. Roger Gench preaching. Serving in worship leaders were Elder Ponthela Wilson (New Harvest), Brya Jackson (Melina), Rev. Carol Pagelsen (HR), Owing Holler (First, Sumter), and Rev. Annette Brewer with the First, Myrtle Beach Gathering Band providing the closing music.

Following worship, the Moderator expressed the appreciation of the presbytery to the Rev. Dr. Roger Gench for his inspiring sermon, all those who participated in leadership, and to the Rev. Jennifer Kottler for producing the worship recording. The **Rev. Rev. Steve Lindsley and Kevin Hyrams** from Trinity Presbyterian, Charlotte, NC then made a very compelling presentation entitled, “DOING THE WORK: Interrupting Racism in Congregational Settings.” Following a time for questions, comments and response, and the Moderator thanking both Rev. Lindsley and Elder Hyrams for their presentation, the Moderator then had the presbytery take a five minute break while the participants in the meeting were moved into ZOOM Breakout Rooms of 6-8 persons for conversation. This group time was followed by brief reports from each group and words from the NHP Anti-racism Team leader, the Rev. Nick Cheek.

The Moderator recognized **Ruling Elder Jackie Rembert of the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team** and a member of Ebenezer, who made an announcement about the Team's survey.

The Moderator then recognized the **Stated Clerk** in order for him to provide a verbal report, supplementing his written report received in the Omnibus Motion.

The Moderator then recognized the Moderator of the **Guiding Council**, the Rev. Gavin Meek, who shared several remarks, supplementing the Guiding Council's written report received in the Omnibus Motion. He then introduced Ruling Elder Marian Sheldon, member of Trinity, Surfside, in order for her to provide a brief verbal report on the Association of Presbyterian Christian Educators (APCE) conference held recently on ZOOM.

The Moderator recognized the Rev. Tony Larson, member of our **Camp Pee Dee Administrative Commission**, who made the following motion: **that the CPDAC be given the authority to move forward in securing a realtor and the flexibility in listing the entire property, including the 150 acres leased to NCRE for \$4.3 million (over a 20-year period the buyer has the potential to receive \$150,000 per year for a total of \$3 million) and/or listing the entire property, excluding the 150 acres leased to NCRE, for \$1.4 million, with all offers subject to approval by the Presbytery of New Harmony.** The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since this recommendation came from a "committee of the whole." After Larson spoke to this motion, the moderator opened the floor to questions and debate. Afterwards, the Moderator called for a vote. Following the vote, the Moderator declared the **motion approved.**

The Moderator recognized Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the **Committee on Ministry (COM)** who called attention to the COM report received in the Omnibus Motion as well as the Faith Journey and Statement of Faith of both the Rev. Jarred Hammet and the Rev. John Hopkins, new at Pastors at the Presbyterian Church at Manning and Murrells Inlet, respectfully. Larson then asked each of them to introduce themselves, which they did. The presbytery joined in welcoming them both.

Following an opportunity for brief announcements, thanking the Rev. Christa Brewer for providing technology support and all those who provided leadership, made reports and participated, and announcing that the next Stated Meeting will be **Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at Goodwill**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 101st Stated Meeting was finished and asked if there was any objection to adjourn. Hearing and seeing none, the Moderator **declared it so ordered by unanimous consent.**

**The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 12:25 pm.**