

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY
102nd STATED MEETING MINUTES
Via Zoom
August 17, 2021

Moved, Seconded, and Approved: MSA.

PRESENT:

Ruling Elders: Celebration - Robert Callender; Cheraw First - John Long; Congruity - Leroy James; Cousar Memorial - Wanda Isaac; Ebenezer - Dianne Goodson; Friendship - Maritta Smith; Georgetown - Carradean Brown; Goodwill - Lois Parsons; G.W. Long Memorial - Melvin Wilkerson; Harmony - Mary Hickman; Indiantown - Polly Holt; John Calvin - Tom Hoffmeyer; Kentyre - Bob Glenn; Kingston - Peggy Hayes; Latta - Diane Lee; Manning - Tommy Cooper; Morton - Ann Parks; Mt. Lisbon - Shirley McDonald; Murrells Inlet - Stan Till; Myrtle Beach First - Diane Parker, Robert Lane; New Bethel - Robert Luther Carmichael; New Covenant - Joan McGee; Pageland Second - Pearline Hutto; St. Paul's - Lynne Hicks; Summerton - Furman Elliott; Sumter First - Debby Williams; Sumter Second - Frances Singleton; Swan Lake - Susan Holton; Trinity Mayesville - Barbara Benjamin; Trinity Surfside - Kathleen Fair; Wedgefield - Ron Price; Westminster - Rachel Chandler; White Oak - Linda Morton; Williamsburg - Kelly Atkinson.

Teaching Elders: Scott Andrews, Robert Bannan, John Brearley, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Pete Brzezinski, Ella Busby, Ashley Cheek, Nick Cheek, Frank Colclough, Steve Fitzgerald, Jody Foster, Rodney Foster, Jarred Hammet, Carnell Hampton, Kyle Henderson, Josie Holler, John Hopkins, Corey Ingold, Joshua Jang, Jennifer Kottler, Tom Langston, Tony Larson, Gary Lowe, Jennifer Marshall, Gavin Meek, Don Muncie, Jane Osment, John Parks, Mary Ramirez, Nathan See, Rhett Talbert.

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

Guiding Council: Johnny Dennis, Pam George, Dorothy McBride, Frances Singleton.

Corresponding Members: Richard Dozier, Joyce Lieberman, Michael Wilson.

Invited Guests: Sheryl Davis, Avery Dickson, Jacquelyn Rembert, Beverly Thompson, George Thompson.

Presbytery Staff: Juanita McLeod.

Excused Teaching Elders: Annette Brewer, Jim Burton, Tom Dendy, Mike Sorrel, Sam Sparks.

Excused Commissioned Pastors:

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: Judy Cettei, Louis Imsande, Peter Lee, Don McManus, Myong Paik, Eva Ruth, Aaron Stevens, Johanna Wint, Joan Yates.

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

Absent Sessions: Bennettsville First, Carolina, Fork, Fraser Memorial, Friendfield, Grandview, Hartsville First, Hebron, Jefferson, Korean American, Lake City, Marion, McColl First, Melina, Mizpah, Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, New Harvest, Olanta First, Parkwood, Patrick, Pawleys Island, Ruby, Salem Black River, Society Hill, Timmonsville.

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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 102nd Stated meeting of New Harmony Presbytery to order with prayer at 9:00 am.**

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:

- **Guiding Council;**
- **Committee on Ministry (COM);**
- **Camp Pee Dee Administrative Commission;**
- **Friendfield Administrative Commission;**
- **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. The Moderator stated that the recommendation passed, 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. Michael Wilson (Stated Clerk, Donegal 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) 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 shared that it was time to gather together for **worship** with the Rev. Gregory Bentley, Co-Moderator of the 224th General Assembly (2020) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) preaching. Participating in worship were the following: liturgist was the Rev. Dr. Jenni Marshall, Associate Pastor, Georgetown Presbyterian Church; soloist was Rev., Dr. Marshall's husband, Zack; reading Psalm 1 was Nicolas Cheek, son of the Rev. Ashley Cheek, Pastor at First, Hartsville, and the Rev. Nick Cheek, an At-large member of NHP, and offering up our Prayers of the People and bringing us our Charge and Benediction was the Rev. Dr. Ella Busby, our new NHP Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Assistant Stated Clerk and Stated Supply Pastor at Second, Sumter.

Following worship, the Moderator expressed the appreciation of the presbytery to the Rev. Gregory Bentley for his inspiring sermon, to all those who participated in leadership, and to the Rev. Jennifer Kottler for producing the worship recording.

The Moderator recognized the **Rev. Steve Fitzgerald, leader of the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team** and Pastor, First, Cheraw, who called attention to their report in the Commissioner's Handbook and made a presentation behalf of the Team. The Moderator then introduced the Rev. Michael Wilson, Stated Clerk of Donegal and our Breakout Room Tech, to move the presbytery into ZOOM Breakout Rooms of 6-8 persons for conversation around the themes and adaptive challenges the Team discerned from the spring survey of NHP minister and Session members. This group time was followed by brief reports from each group facilitator, words of summary by Rev. Fitzgerald and thanks for Rev. Wilson.

The Moderator then asked the **Moderator-elect, Ruling Elder Dorothy McBride**, to moderate the next couple of parts of the Stated Meeting. She recognized the **Rev. Dr. Ella Busby**, a member of our **Presbytery Disaster Assistance Commission** by reason of her position as New Harmony's new **Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Assistant Stated Clerk**, to provide a brief announcement which she did, requesting that all Sessions provide the NHP Office with a contact name for times of disaster.

The Moderator-elect then recognized the Moderator of the **Guiding Council**, the Rev. Gavin Meek, who introduced the Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, to present for a first reading and answer questions of clarification, the ***Covenant for Discernment and Mutual Understanding***; this did happen. Rev. Meek then shared several remarks, supplementing the Guiding Council's written report received in the Omnibus Motion, particularly

lifting up the NHP Grant and Scholarship application available to all Session and NHP leadership, respectively.

At this point in the meeting, the **Moderator-elect turned over the moderating back to the NHP Moderator**, who recognized **Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM)** and who called attention to the COM report in the Commissioners' Handbook which was received in the Omnibus Motion. Rev. Larson recognized the **Rev. Tom Langston**, recent Stated Supply Pastor of our Marion congregation, and the **Rev. Gary Lowe**, recently retired Hospice chaplain, who COM approved **Honorable Retirement** as of this day; a service was conducted during the meeting. Rev. Larson then as the Faith Journey and Statement of Faith of both the **Rev. Robert Bannan** and the **Rev. Joel Long**, the new member of NHP and new Pastor at the Kingston Presbyterian Church, Conway and new Bridge Interim at First, Sumter, respectfully (Rev. Long will remain a member of Salem Presbytery and will Labor in the Bounds of NHP); Rev. 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, November 16, 2021 at First, Bennettsville**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 102nd 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 12:11 pm.