

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY
103rd STATED MEETING MINUTES
Via Zoom
November 16, 2021

PRESENT:

Ruling Elders: Bennettsville First - Nancy Townsend; Celebration - Robert Callender; Cheraw First - Marion Murphy; Congruity - Leroy James; Cousar Memorial - Wanda Isaac; Fraser Memorial - Louis Mays; Friendship - Maritta Janice Smith; Georgetown - Penny Stokes-Hall; Goodwill - Lois Parsons; G.W. Long - Irene Cole; Hartsville First - Paula Davis; Indiantown - Joyce Braxton; John Calvin - Jane Thrower; Kentyre - Bob Glenn; Kingston - Ben Burroughs; Latta - Diane Lee; Manning - Nancy Moore; Morton - David Sampson; Mt. Lisbon - Ella Williams; Myrtle Beach First - Lisa Hamilton; Jackie Hendrix; New Bethel - Robert Luther Carmichael; New Covenant - Loretta Baker-Yates; New Harvest - Cheryl Jackson; Pawleys Island - Brian Shult; St. Paul's - Rick Newell; Summerton - Furman Elliott; Sumter First - Debby Williams; Swan Lake - Susan Holton; Trinity Surfside - Diana Scroggins; Wedgefield - Ron Price; Westminster - Sheryl Davis; White Oak - Linda Morton; Williamsburg - Kelly Atkinson.

Teaching Elders: Scott Andrews, Robert Bannan, Annette Brewer, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Ella Busby, Ashley Cheek, Nick Cheek, Tom Dendy, 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, Jennifer Marshall, Don McCann, Jane Osment, John Parks, Mary Ramirez, Eva Ruth, Dan Sansbury, Nathan See, Mike Sorrell, Rhett Talbert.

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

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

Corresponding Members:

NHP Leaders: Rachel Chandler.

Invited Guests: Avery Dickson, Jacquelyn Rembert.

Presbytery Staff: Juanita McLeod, Gavin Meek.

Excused Teaching Elders: John Brearley, Jim Burton, Don Muncie, Sam Sparks.

Excused Commissioned Pastors:

Excused Sessions: Chesterfield, Pageland Second.

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, 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, Frank Colclough, Frank Holsclaw, Louis Imsande, Peter Lee, Myong Paik, Aaron Stevens, Johanna Wint, Joan Yates.

Absent Commissioned Pastors: David Bessinger, William Johnson, Elijah Washington.

Absent Sessions: Carolina, Ebenezer, Fork, Grandview, Harmony, Hebron, Jefferson, Korean American, Lake City, Marion, McColl First, Melina, Mizpah, Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, Murrells Inlet, Olanta First, Parkwood, Patrick, Ruby, Salem Black River, Society Hill, Sumter Second, Timmonsville, Trinity Mayesville.

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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 103rd Stated meeting of New Harmony Presbytery to order with prayer at 9:02 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 visitors 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. After the vote, 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 (all attached):

- **Stated Clerk**, including the 2021 Commissioner balance;
- **Guiding Council**, including Recommendation 1 (approve the Docket and Omnibus Motion) but not Recommendations 2-5;
- **Committee on Ministry (COM);**
- **Committee on Preparation (CPM);**
- **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. After the 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 and any special guests, which he did, and recognized **Ruling Elder Jackie Rembert, from Ebenezer and member of the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team**, who was seated as a **Corresponding Member** without objection.

The Moderator then shared that it was time to gather together for **worship** with the **Rev. Joshua Jang, Pastor, Korean American, Sumter, preaching**. Participating in worship were the following: Holly Bannan, Discipleship and Communications Director, Kingston Conway; Rev. Robert Bannan, Pastor, Kingston, Conway; Barbara Champaign, Ruling Elder and Clerk, Goodwill and our NHP Moderator-elect nominee; and Rev. Gavin Meek, our Transitional Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk.

Following worship, the Moderator expressed the appreciation of the presbytery to the **Rev. Joshua Jang** for his inspiring sermon, to all those who participated in leadership, and to the **Rev. Jennifer Kottler**, Supply Pastor, John Calvin, Florence for producing the worship recording.

The Moderator then introduced a new item in the Docket which is hoped to be a part of all future Docket: Ruling Elders sharing Good News from their congregations. The Moderator introduce about ten Ruling Elders who shared.

The Moderator then recognized the **Moderator of the Guiding Council, the Rev. Gavin Meek**, who called attention to the report in the Commissioners Handbook. He then nominated **to serve on the Committee on Representation and Nominations to the Class of 2024: Rev. Frank Holsclaw (TE, HR); Brooks Peterson (RE, Mt. Pisgah); Gina Staton (RE, Kingston) and to fill the vacancy in the Class of 2023: Rodney Foster (TE, HR and @Indiantown & St. Paul's)**. The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since this recommendation came from a "committee of the whole." After allowing for and receiving no nominations from the floor and asking if there were any objections to closing nominations and electing the persons nominated and receiving none, the Moderator called for a vote and, afterwards, **declared the slate elected**.

Meek introduced the Ruling Elder Orby Ferguson, Moderator of the Personnel and Finance Committee, who presented the attached **Proposed 2022 Budget** for a first reading and questions of clarification and understanding. Afterwards and on behalf of the Guiding Council, Meek **moved a \$1 increase to the Per Capita**. This coming from a committee of the whole it needed no second. After allowing a time for questions or debate, Moderator called for a vote and, afterwards, declared the **motion approved**.

Meek introduced the Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry, who presented for a second reading and action, the attached ***Covenant for Discernment and Mutual Understanding***. After allowing a time for questions and debate, the Moderator called for a vote and **declared afterwards that the document approved as presented**.

Meek introduced the **Rev. Steve Fitzgerald, leader of the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team** and Pastor, First, Cheraw, and Ruling Elder Jackie Rembert, who presented the attached **recommendations concerning New Harmony's Mission, Ministry**

Goals and staff design. After allowing a time for questions and debate, the Moderator called for a vote and **declared afterwards the recommendations approved as presented.**

Meek continued with the election of the **Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee (EPNC).** On behalf of the Guiding Council, he **moved that the EPNC be no larger than nine** and again, this needed no second. After allowing a time for questions or debate, the Moderator called for a vote and, afterwards, declared the **motion approved.** Then, on behalf of the Guiding Council, Meek **nominated the following to serve on the EPNC:**

Mary Kendall Bittle, Ruling Elder, Kingston, Conway; serves on the Committee on Representation and Nominations

Ashley Cheek, Pastor, First, Hartville; serves on the Committee on Ministry and the John Calvin Administrative Commission

Sheryl Davis, Ruling Elder, Westminster, Alcolu; serves on the Personnel and Finance Committee and served on the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team

Delcia Harper-Baxter, Commissioned Pastor, New Harvest; served on an NHP Investigating Committee and on the Committee on Ministry

Robert C. Johnson, Jr., Ruling Elder, G.W. Long, Cheraw; serves on the Committee on Ministry and former NHP Moderator

Jenni Marshall, Associate Pastor, Georgetown; served on an NHP Investigating Committee and soon to serve on the Guiding Council

Dorothy McBride, Ruling Elder, Second, Sumter; serves on the Guiding Council and the Camp Pee Dee Administrative Commission and soon to be Moderator of the Presbytery of New Harmony

Jackie Rembert, Ruling Elder, Ebenezer, Dalzell; serves as a Vital Congregations Initiative Facilitator and served on the Goal and Staff Design Recommending Team

Nathan See, Associate Pastor, First, Myrtle Beach; serves on the Guiding Council

The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since this recommendation came from a "committee of the whole." After allowing for and receiving no nominations from the floor and asking if there were any objections to closing nominations and electing the persons nominated and receiving none, the Moderator called for a vote and, afterwards, **declared the slate elected.** As is ordinary with presbytery searches, the EPNC shall be given staff support by the Synod Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of South Atlantic, **Rev. Joyce Lieberman.**

The Moderator then turned over the gavel to the Moderator-elect in order to moderate the next two reports.

The Moderator-elect then recognized **Ruling Elder Rachel Chandler, moderator of the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN),** who moved on behalf of the committee the following slate:

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR – RE Dorothy McBride (Second, Sumter)

PRESBTERY MODERATOR-ELECT – RE Barbara Champaign (Goodwill)

GUIDING COUNCIL – At-large, Class of 2024 – TE Jenni Marshal (Georgetown)

CULTIVATION AND EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)

Moderator – Jennifer Tillman (First, Cheraw)

Class of 2024 – RE Loretta Baker-Yates (New Covenant, Sumter)

RE Johnny Dennis (Kingston, Conway)

TE Jennifer Kottler (John Calvin, Florence)

Class of 2023 – TE Jarrett Hammett (Manning)

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (P&F)

Moderator – RE Orby Ferguson (First, Myrtle Beach)

Class of 2024 – RE Sheryl Davis (Westminster, Alcolu)

RE Teresa Hodges (Morton)

TE Tom Langston (Honorably Retired)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

Moderator – TE Tony Larson (Trinity, Surfside)

Class of 2024 – RE Margaret Cooper (Manning)

TE Jody Foster (Wedgefield)

TE Kyle Henderson (Validated)

RE Bill McElroy (Pawleys Island)

RE Pontheola Wilson (New Harvest, Florence)

Class of 2023 vacancy – TE Christa Brewer (First, Myrtle Beach)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Moderator – TE Josie Holler (At-large)

Class of 2024 – TE Steve Fitzgerald (First, Cheraw)

TE Corey Ingold (Georgetown)

RE Elijah Washington (New Covenant, Sumter)

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC)

Class of 2026 vacancy – RE Elizabeth Munnerlyn (First, Bennettsville)

PRESBYTERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION: Ella Busby (Second, Sumter)

SOUTH CAROLINA INN BOARD at MONTREAT

Class of 23 – RE Mary Jane Evans (First, Cheraw)

Class of 22 vacancy – TE Annette Brewer (At-large)

225th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Ruling Elder Commissioner – Dorothy McBride (Second, Sumter) Alternate – ???

Teaching Elder Commissioner – Ella Busby (Second, Sumter) Alternate – ???

Young Adult Advisory Delegate – ??? Alternate – ???

And give authority give authority to the Guiding Council to act on CORN's nominees for unfilled positions.

The Moderator-elect stated that a second was not needed since this recommendation came from a "committee of the whole." After allowing for and receiving no nominations from the floor and asking if there were any objections to closing nominations and electing the persons

nominated and receiving none, the Moderator-elect called for a vote and, afterwards, **declared the slate elected.**

The Moderator-elect recognized the **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. Don McCann** and the **Rev. Dan Sansbury**, recently received into New Harmony by the COM from Salem and Foothills presbyteries respectively; Rev. Larson called attention to Rev. McCann's Faith Journey and Statement of Faith in the Commissioner's Handbook and pointed out that similar documents were not required of the Rev. Sansbury as he only went out of the presbytery for a year to do an interim. Each of them briefly introduced themselves. The presbytery joined in welcoming them both.

The Moderator reassumed moderating the meeting and upon doing so, thanked the Moderator-elect for assisting.

Following an opportunity for brief announcements, thanking the Rev. Christa Brewer for providing technology support as well as all those who provided leadership, made reports and participated, and announcing that the next Stated Meeting will be **Saturday, February 26, 2021 at First, Myrtle Beach**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 103rd 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 11:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Rev. Gavin D. Meek,
Stated Clerk and Transitional Executive Presbyter**