

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY
104TH STATED MEETING MINUTES
Via Zoom
February 26, 2022

PRESENT:

Ruling Elders: Celebration - Robert Callender; Cheraw First - Cam Beck; Congruity - Grace Johnson; Ebenezer - Mary Carraway; Fraser Memorial - Louis Mays; Georgetown - John McBride; Goodwill - Herman Muldrow; G.W. Long Memorial - Irene Cole; Harmony - Ruth Ann Nelson; John Calvin - Tom Hoffmeyer; Kentyre - Bob Glenn; Melina - Jake McFadden; Morton - Rosemary Robertson; Mt. Lisbon - Shirley McDonald; Murrells Inlet - Peggy Welch; Myrtle Beach - Bart Buie; Tami Eggleston; New Bethel - Robert Luther Carmichael; New Covenant - Loretta Baker-Yates; New Harvest - Cheryl Jackson; Pageland Second - Pearline Hutto; Summerton - Kimberly Fleming; Sumter Second - Ronetta Moses; Swan Lake - John Raffield; Trinity Mayesville - Barbara Benjamin; Trinity Surfside - Mary Terwiske; Wedgefield - Richard Burns; White Oak - Linda Morton; Williamsburg - Mary Lisa McGill.

Teaching Elders: Robert Bannan, Bob Brearley, John Brearley, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Pete Brzezinski, Jim Burton, Ella Busby, Ashley Cheek, Nick Cheek, Frank Colclough, Tom Dendy, Steve Fitzgerald, Jody Foster, Rodney Foster, Jarred Hammet, Carnell Hampton, Kyle Henderson, Larry Hill, Josie Holler, John Hopkins, Joshua Jang, Jen Kottler, Tom Langston, Tony Larson, Jennifer Marshall, Don McCann, Gavin Meek, John Parks, Dan Sansbury, Nathan See, Mike Sorrell, Rhett Talbert.

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

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

Corresponding Members: Sy Hughes - Presbytery Mission Agency, Alonza Washington - Charleston Atlantic Presbytery.

NHP Leaders: Rachel Chandler.

Invited Guests: Avery Dickson, Tim Moore.

Presbytery Staff: Juanita McLeod.

Excused Teaching Elders: Eva Ruth, Sam Sparks.

Excused Commissioned Pastors:

Excused Sessions: Bennettsville, Latta.

ALSO EXCUSED (honorably retired minister members): Michael Allen, Richard Andrews, Sue Arledge, Alan Arnold, Judy Cettei, Art Chartier, Robert Chastain, Carol Dickerson, Snow Donmoyer, James Dickson, Snow Donmoyer, Malcolm Doubles, Michael Fleenor, Rodney

Foster, Roger Gulick, Howard Hansen, Ray Howe, Frank Holsclaw, Thomas Johnson, Robert Ledbetter, Soo Hoon Lee, Gary Lowe, Robert Maclin, William Moore, Don Muncie, Myong Paik, George Wilkes, Robert Wilkes, William Wilson.

ABSENT Teaching Elders: Scott Andrews, Annette Brewer, Louis Imsande, Corey Ingold, Peter Lee, Jane Osment, Mary Ramirez, Aaron Stevens, Johanna Wint, Joan Yates.

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

Absent Sessions: Carolina, Chesterfield, Cousar Memorial, Fork, Friendship, Grandview, Hartsville First, Hebron, Indiantown, Jefferson, Kingston, Korean American, Lake City, Manning, Marion, McColl First, Mizpah, Mt. Pisgah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, Olanta First, Parkwood, Patrick, Pawleys Island, Ruby, Salem Back River, Society Hill, St. Paul's, Sumter First, Timmonsville, Westminster.

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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 104th 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 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;**
- **Guiding Council**, including Recommendation 1-3 but not Recommendation 4;
- **Committee on Ministry (COM);**
- **Committee on Preparation (CPM);**
- **Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN) 2022 Committee Representation Analysis as required by the Constitution (G-3.0103)**
- **Camp Pee Dee Administrative Commission;**
- **Friendfield Administrative Commission;**
- **John Calvin Administrative Commission;**
- **New Harvest Administrative Commission; and**
- **Presbyterian Agency for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc.> (PADD) 2021.**

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 Peggy Welch (Murrells Inlet), Tami Eggleston (First, Myrtle Beach), and Mary Terwiske (Trinity, Surfside) and then Sy Hughes (PMA's Mission Engagement Advisor for the Synod South Atlantic), Rev. Dr. Timothy S. Moore (Union Seminary, Charlotte) and Rev. Dr. Larry Hill (Bride Pastor, Melina; member of Charlotte Presbytery) who was seated as a **Corresponding Member** without objection; Rev. Dr. Hill was seated as a Corresponding Member throughout his time as Melina's Bridge Pastor.

The Moderator then shared that it was time to gather together for **worship** with the **Rev. Christa Brewer, Associate Pastor, First, Myrtle Beach preaching**. Participating in worship were the following: Rev. Rhett Talbert, outgoing NHP Moderator; Rev. Dr. Ella Busby, Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship; Elder Rachel Chandler, Westminster, Alcolu; Elder Dorothy McBride, incoming NHP Moderator; and Rev. Gavin Meek, Transitional Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk.

Following worship, Moderator McBride expressed the appreciation of the presbytery to the **Rev. Christa Brewer** 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 the Good News from Our Congregations, a time of the Docket when Ruling Elders share Good News from their congregations; there were about a dozen who shared.

The Moderator then introduced the following who made brief announcements:

- Elder Johnny Dennis from the Cultivation and Empowerment Committee about the application for NHP grants and scholarships;
- Sy Hughes, Mission Engagement Advisor for the Synod, about the Presbyterian Mission Agency;
- Rev. Nick Cheek, Chaplain at the Presbyterian Communities of Florence about the Sunday afternoon worship services there; and
- Rev. Dr. Timothy S. Moore, from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte about its 20th Anniversary.

After thanking each of the presenters, the Moderator recognized **Ruling Elder Rachel Chandler, moderator of the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN)** who moved, on behalf of the committee, **RE Kenneth Sharp (Mt. Lisbon, Bishopville) to fill the vacancy on the COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM) Class of 2024**. 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, being unanimous, the Moderator **declared Kenneth Sharp elected.**

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 introduced Ruling Elder Orby Ferguson, Moderator of the Personnel and Finance Committee, who presented the attached **Proposed 2022 Budget** for a second reading and action, moving its adoption which did not need a second. After allowing for questions and debate, the Moderator called for a vote and, afterwards, declared the **motion to adopt the proposed 2022 budget unanimously approved.** Meek then highlighted several other items of importance to the presbytery.

The presbytery took a five minute break which was followed by the Moderator recognizing the **Stated Clerk** in order for him to provide a brief verbal report, supplementing his written report received in the Omnibus Motion.

The Moderator the 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. He then moved the following: **In accordance with the request of the Rev. Kyle Henderson, a minister member in good standing and held in high esteem by his colleagues in the presbytery, be released from ordered ministry as a Teaching Elder / Minister of the Word of Sacrament with thanks for his many years of service to the Presbytery of New Harmony and the PC(U.S.A.).** The motion needed no second. Larson then read a letter from Rev. Henderson:

February 26, 2022

Dear Presbytery,

My decision to be released from ordered ministry may have come "out of the blue" for many. I feel that taking time away from the responsibilities in being a minister of the Word and Sacrament will help me discern where God wants to lead me next in my life.

It has been an honor to have worked as a ministerial member of this presbytery since 2003; New Harmony was also where I first began the call process in 1994. For over three decades, I have valued the abiding relationships here in SC among faithful Christians; I have cherished the collegiality this presbytery particularly cultivates; and I have enjoyed participating in the work New Harmony has done for God's Kingdom.

Praying for God's grace and peace for all,

I remain your brother in Christ,

Kyle Henderson

Following questions and several affirming remarks about the Rev. Henderson's ministry and service to particular congregations (First, Cheraw and White Oak) and the Presbytery of New Harmony, the Moderator called for a vote. After the vote, the Moderator declared the **motion approved.** The Rev. Ashley Cheek, Pastor, First, Hartsville, led the entire presbytery in prayer, giving thanks to God for the faithful, dedicated, and loving ministry he provided as a Minister of

the Word and Sacrament in the Church of Jesus Christ and this presbytery, furthering the cause of Christ in the world.

The Stated Clerk, the Rev. Gavin D. Meek, asked that he be relieved of the role of Stated Clerk given that the next item of business concerns his wife, the Rev. Jennifer Hope Kottler, and that the **Rev. Dr. Ella Busby assume that responsibility** with the consent of the presbytery. There were no objections, so **the Moderator declared it so.**

Rev. Larson then recognized the **Rev. Jennifer Kottler**, Supply Pastor, John Calvin, Florence who is seeking membership in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a Teaching Elder and Minister of the Word and Sacrament, transferring from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) where she is a member in good standing. The COM Moderator called attention to **“A Policy Statement from the Committee on Ministry on Transferring Membership to The Presbytery of New Harmony from Other Denominations,”** and outlined the process by which the presbytery will conduct this action. The presbytery then preceded to exam the Rev. Kottler on her faith and background. After answering several questions on her attached Statement of Faith and Faith Journey, the presbytery voted to end the examination, followed by the Moderator declaring the **motion passed unanimously.** The Rev. Kottler and Meek were placed in the ZOOM Waiting Room. Rev. Larson then moved the unanimous recommendation of the COM to **grant the exemption for Rev. Kottler from taking any of the examinations required of candidates for ordination;** a second was not necessary. With no questions, the vote was taken and the Moderator **declared the motion passed by more than two-thirds.** Rev. Larson then moved the unanimous recommendation of the COM to **receive the Rev. Jennifer Hope Kottler as a Teaching Elder and Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of New Harmony, upon affirmative answers to the Constitutional Questions;** a second was not necessary. With no questions, the vote was taken and the Moderator **declared the motion passed.** Rev. Kottler and Meek returned from the ZOOM Waiting Room and Rev. Meek, once again, assumed the role of Stated Clerk. After the Moderator shared the news of the action of the presbytery, the Rev. Meek propounded the Constitutional Questions to Rev. Kottler who responded to each in the affirmative. The Rev. Dr. Ella Busby then offered prayer followed by the Moderator declaring that the Rev. Jennifer Hope Kottler **a Teaching Elder and Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and a member of the Presbytery of New Harmony.** [Upon enrollment and in compliance with G-2.0505b, the Rev. Kottler shall furnish the presbytery with evidence of having surrendered membership in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which she had previously been associated.]

Rev. Larson recognized the **Rev. Robert (Bob) Brearley**, recently received from Trinity Presbytery to be the Interim Pastor, First, Sumter, and the **Rev. Dr. Larry Hill**, recently approved Bridge Pastor at Melina, during the recovery time of current Pastor, the Rev. Samuel Sparks. Rev. Larson called attention to their Faith Journeys and Statements of Faith in the

Commissioner's Handbook. Each of them briefly introduced themselves and the presbytery joined in welcoming them both.

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, May 21, 2022 at Presbyterian College in Clinton**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 104th 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 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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