

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY**  
**108<sup>th</sup> STATED MEETING MINUTES**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**3810 Robert M. Grissom Pkwy, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577**  
**February 25, 2023**

**Moved, Seconded, and Approved: MSA.**

**PRESENT:**

***Ruling Elders (29):*** Celebration – Robert Callender; Cheraw First – John Joyce; Congruity – Randy Wells; Cousar Memorial – Terry Scarborough; Ebenezer – Jacquelyn Rembert; Friendship – Lossie Matthews; G.W. Long Memorial – Robyn Johnson; Georgetown – Scott Sawyer; Goodwill – George Hampton; Hartsville First – Norma Shepard; Kingston – Frances Dennis; Morton – Katie Robertson; Mt. Lisbon – Kenneth Sharp; Mt. Pisgah – Dorothy Samuel; Murrells Inlet – Cathy Finkle; Myrtle Beach First – Mary Gene Singleton, Allison DeVaux; New Bethel – Robert Luther Carmichael; New Covenant – Carrie Lewis; New Harvest – Cheryl Jackson; Summerton – Eugenie Ermis; Sumter First – Jack Osteen; Sumter Second – Ronetta Moses; Swan Lake – Maggie Wilson; Trinity Surfside – Phyllis Wicker; Wedgefield – Ron Price; Westminster – Gertrude Washington, White Oak – Larry Watson; Williamsburg – Jean Nexsen.

***Teaching Elders (26):*** Robert Bannan, Bob Brearley, John Brearley, Annette Brewer, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Ella Busby, Frank Colclough, Tom Dendy, Mark Durrett, Jarred Hammet, Carnell Hampton, John Hopkins, Louis Imsande, Corey Ingold, Jennifer Kottler, Tom Langston, Tony Larson, Gavin Meek, John Parks, Mary Ramirez, Nathan See, Mike Sorrell, Rhett Talbert, George Wilkes, Robert Wilkes.

***Commissioned Pastors (6):*** Delcia Harper-Baxter, Bob Henry, Marshall Ivey, Othan Sharp, Chuck Staggs, Elijah Washington.

***Guiding Council (5):*** Barbara Champagne, Johnny Dennis, Orby Ferguson, Pam George, Dorothy McBride.

***Corresponding Members (7):*** Charles Elliott (Coastal Carolina), Charles Heyward (Charleston Atlantic Presbytery), Sharon Hirsch (New Hope Presbytery), William McConnell (Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina), Alonza Washington (Charleston Atlantic Presbytery), Buz Wilcoxon (Presbyterian College), Chad Wright-Pittman (Foothills Presbytery).

***Certified Christian Educators:***

***NHP Leaders (1):*** Carrie Hampton.

***Presbytery Staff (1):*** Juanita McLeod.

**Visitors (14):** Tanya Addison, Robert Brown, Patrice Burkhardt, Timothy Champagne, Ellaree Hampton, Carolyn Heyward, Alexis Ivey, Bobby Melton, Adrianna Samuel, Netanyia Samuel, Mary Warrington, Christona Wells, Vernon White, Lauren Wright-Pittman.

**NOT PRESENT:**

**Absent Teaching Elders (37):** Michael Allen, Scott Andrews, Sue Arledge, Alan Arnold, Pete Brzezinski, Jim Burton, Judy Cettei, Art Chartier, Robert Chastain, Nick Cheek, Carol Dickerson, Snow Donmoyer, Malcolm Doubles, Michael Fleenor, Jody Foster, Rodney Foster, Roger Gulick, Josie Holler, Frank Holsclaw, Ray Howe, Joshua Jang, Thomas Johnson, Robert Ledbetter, Soo Hoon Lee, Gary Lowe, Robert Maclin, Don McCann, William Moore, Jane Osment, Carol Pagelsen, Myong Paik, Eva Ruth, Dan Sansbury, Sam Sparks, Aaron Stevens, William Wilson, Joan Yates.

**Absent Commissioned Pastors (4):** David Bessinger, Jack Humphries, William A. Johnson, Bob Sloan.

**Absent Sessions (33):** Bennettsville First, Carolina, Chesterfield, Fork, Fraser Memorial, Grandview, Harmony, Hebron, Indiantown, Jefferson, John Calvin, Kentyre, Korean American, Lake City, Latta, Manning, Marion, McColl First, Melina, Mizpah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, Olanta First, Pageland Second, Parkwood, Patrick, Pawleys Island, Ruby, Salem Black River, Society Hill, St. Paul's, 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, Elder Dorothy McBride**, declared it so and **called the 108<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Harmony (NHP) to order with prayer at 9:32 am at the First Presbyterian Church, Myrtle Beach, SC.**

The Moderator requested that the Stated Clerk review the proposed **Docket** and the **Omnibus Motion** (both documents in the appendix of these minutes) 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:

**Receive the following attached written reports and approve the following therein:**

- **Stated Clerk.**
- **Guiding Council**, including...
  - receiving the 2022 PADD Report (attached) and approving its recommendation that Sunday, March 19, 2023, be dedicated “*PADD Sunday*” across NHP, and that a special offering be taken for the ongoing support of the PADD mission. (Note: If, due to conflicting special offerings on this date at a particular church, please choose an alternate date for this special collection).

but not including...

- the election of the nominees for CORN.
- the second reading and action of the proposed 2023 Budget.

- **Committee on Ministry (COM).**
- **Committee on Preparation (CPM).**
- **Camp Pee Dee Administrative Commission.**
- **Mizpah Administrative Commission.**
- **New Harvest Administrative Commission.**
- **Committee on Representation and Nominations, including...**
  - the 2023 Committee Representation Analysis as required by the Constitution (G-3.0103).
  - but not including...
  - the election of the CORN nominees to fill the vacancies.
- **Presbyterian Agency for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. (PADD) 2022.**

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 declared the **Docket and Omnibus Motion approved.**

At the request of the Moderator, first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners were introduced.

The following were seated as **Corresponding Members** (in addition to those previously seated while serving in a pastoral role in NHP). Charles Elliott (Coastal Carolina), Charles Heyward (Charleston Atlantic Presbytery), Sharon Hirsch (New Hope Presbytery), William McConnell (Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina), Alonza Washington (Charleston Atlantic Presbytery), Buz Wilcoxon (Presbyterian College), Chad Wright-Pittman (Foothills Presbytery).

The Moderator then recognized the **Rev. Dr. John Brearley**, Pastor of First, Myrtle Beach, who shared a greeting and some brief remarks on the history and ministry of our host congregation.

NHP then moved into a time of worship with the **NHP Moderator, Elder Dorothy McBride**, preaching. Also participating were the following:

- **Music Leaders from First, Myrtle Beach: Denise Cromer, Organist; Skip Yingling, Director of Music Ministries; Dr. Tim Koch, Chancel Choir Director.**
- **Liturgist: Elder Jackie Rembert (Ebenezer, Dalzell and NHP Commissioner to Synod).**
- **Installation and Commissioning: Elder Barbara Champagne (incoming NHP Moderator and Clerk at Goodwill); Rev. Gavin D. Meek (Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk).**
- **Communion Celebrants: Rev. Dr. Ella Busby (NHP Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship and Stated Supply, Second, Sumter); Rev. Nathan See (Assoc., First, Myrtle Beach & Guiding Council).**

Following worship Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator-elect, introduced our three Community Conversations and those who will facilitate them:

RIP Medical Debt, Preventing Child Abuse, Etc. – Elder Sharon Hirsch, First PC, Durham, NC  
Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) – Rev. Dr. Charles C. Heyward Sr., Edisto PC  
and President of the National Presbyterian Black Caucus

Vast and Various Local Mission Initiatives – Rev. Chad Wright-Pittman, Anderson PC

The Moderator then dismissed the presbytery, stating that lunch would be at 12:30 and the Stated Meeting would resume at 1:15pm.

After a delicious lunch with wonderful conversations around the tables, the Moderator had the presbytery reconvene at 1:19pm and introduced the **Good News from Congregations** where approximately a dozen Ruling Elders shared.

The Moderator recognized the following organizations and individuals for verbal reports:

- **Presbyterian Agency for the Developmentally Disabled, Inc. (PADD) by the Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough, a member of the PADD Board.**
- **Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina by William McConnell, the new Director of Foundation Services and Church Relations.**
- **Presbyterian College by the Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, Chaplain and Dean of Spiritual Life.**

The **Rev. Carnell Hampton, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM)** was recognized who in turn recognized **Honorably Retired Rev. Dr. Mark Durrett**, a new member of NHP, in for him to introduce himself. (COM written report in appendix)

The Moderator recognized **Carrie Hampton, Moderator of the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN)**, who moved on behalf of the committee the following to fill the vacancy on the **COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM) Class of 2025:**

**TE Robert Bannan (Kingston, Conway)**

The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since these nominations came from a “committee of the whole.” After receiving no nominations from the floor nor any objections to closing nominations and electing the persons by acclamation, the Moderator called for a vote and **declared the nominee elected unanimously.**

The Moderator recognized **Elder Johnny Dennis, Moderator of the Cultivation and Empowerment Committee (CEC)** who promoted our NHP grants to congregations and scholarships to congregational leaders.

The Moderator then recognized the **Moderator of the Guiding Council, the Rev. Gavin D. Meek**, who called attention to the written report in the Commissioners Handbook (see appendix). He moved on behalf of the Guiding Council the following to serve on the **Committee on Representation and Nominations to the Class of 2025:**

**Elder Linda Jackson (Melina)**

**Elder Betty Anne Smith (John Calvin)**

**Rev. Joan Yates (Supply Pastor of Second, Pageland)**

The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since these nominations came from a “committee of the whole.” After receiving no nominations from the floor nor any objections to closing nominations and electing the persons by acclamation, the Moderator called for a vote and **declared the nominees elected unanimously.**

He then moved on behalf of the Guiding Council, **Carrie Hampton**, as the **2023 Moderator of the Committee on Representation and Nominations.** The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since these nominations came from a “committee of the whole.” After receiving no nominations from the floor nor any objections to closing nominations and electing the persons by acclamation, the Moderator called for a vote and **declared the nominee elected unanimously.**

Meek then introduced **Elder Orby Ferguson**, member of the Guiding Council and moderator of the Personnel and Finance Committee who provided a **second reading of the proposed 2023 budget** found in the Appendix of these minutes; there were no questions. **Elder Ferguson then moved its adoption;** it needed no second. After asking for and receiving no questions, the Moderator called for a vote and afterwards **declared the 2023 Proposed Budget adopted.**

The Moderator recognized the **Stated Clerk, Rev. Gavin D. Meek**, who made a verbal report which supplemented his written report in the Appendix.

Following an opportunity for brief announcements, thanking all those who provided leadership, made reports, and participated, and announcing that the next Stated Meeting will be **Tuesday, May 16, 2023, at First, Sumter**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 108<sup>th</sup> 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 2:28 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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