

**THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW HARMONY
107th STATED MEETING MINUTES
First Presbyterian Church
130 Broad Street Bennettsville, SC 29512
November 15, 2022**

Moved, Seconded, and Approved: MSA.

PRESENT:

Ruling Elders: Bennettsville First – Doug Jennings; Celebration – Robert Callender; Cheraw First – Dan Tillman; Congruity – Leroy James; Ebenezer – Arthur Knox; Fraser Memorial – Margaret Joyner; Friendship – Gloria Frierson; G.W. Long Memorial – Karen Wilkerson; Georgetown – Bob Kearns; Goodwill – George Hampton; Hartsville First – Paula Davis; John Calvin – Tom Shearin; Kingston – Mike Ellis; Manning – Marc St. John; Morton – Ann Parks; Mt. Lisbon – Kenneth Sharp; Mt. Pisgah – Dorothy Samuel; Myrtle Beach First – Glenda Connolly, Hal Funderburk; New Bethel – Robert Luther Carmichael; New Covenant – Loretta Baker-Yates; Summerton – Doris Benke; Sumter First – Bill Richardson; Sumter Second – Ronetta Moses; Swan Lake – Maggie Wilson; Trinity Mayesville – Brenda Isaac; Trinity Surfside – Phyllis Wicker; Wedgefield – Mary Anderson; Westminster – Sheryl Davis; White Oak – Larry Watson.

Teaching Elders: Scott Andrews, Robert Bannan, Bob Brearley, John Brearley, Annette Brewer, Christa Brewer, Vikki Brogdon, Ella Busby, Ashley Cheek, Frank Colclough, Jody Foster, Jarred Hammett, Carnell Hampton, John Hopkins, Louis Imsande, Corey Ingold, Jennifer Kottler, Tom Langston, Tony Larson, Gavin Meek, Jane Osment, John Parks, Dan Sansbury, Nathan See.

Commissioned Pastors: Delcia Harper-Baxter, Bob Henry, Marshall Ivey, William A. Johnson, Elijah Washington.

Guiding Council: Barbara Champagne, Johnny Dennis, Orby Ferguson, Dorothy McBride.

Corresponding Members: Larry Hill.

NHP Leaders: Robert Callender.

Certified Christian Educators: Avery Dickson.

Presbytery Staff: Juanita McLeod.

Visitors: Tanya Addison, Carrie Hampton, Sandra Hinnent, Robert C. Johnson, Jr., Lossie Matthews, Brooks Peterson, Melvin Wilkerson.

Absent Teaching Elders: Michael Allen, Richard Andrews, Sue Arledge, Alan Arnold, Pete Brzezinski, Jim Burton, Judy Cettei, Art Chartier, Robert Chastain, Nick Cheek, Tom Dendy, Carol Dickerson, Snow Donmoyer, Malcolm Doubles, Michael Fleenor,

Rodney Foster, Roger Gulick, Josie Holler, Frank Holsclaw, Ray Howe, Joshua Jang, Thomas Johnson, Robert Ledbetter, Soo Hoon Lee, Gary Lowe, Robert Maclin, Jennifer Marshall, Don McCann, William Moore, Don Muncie, Myong Paik, Mary Ramirez, Eva Ruth, Mike Sorrell, Sam Sparks, Aaron Stevens, Rhett Talbert, George Wilkes, Robert Wilkes, William Wilson, Joan Yates.

Absent Commissioned Pastors: David Bessinger, Jack Humphries, Bob Sloan, Othan Sharp, Chuck Staggs.

Absent Sessions: Carolina, Chesterfield, Cousar Memorial, Fork, Grandview, Harmony, Hebron, Indiantown, Jefferson, Kentyre, Korean American, Lake City, Latta, Marion, McColl, Melina, Mizpah, Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, Murrells Inlet, New Harvest, Olanta First, Pageland Second, Parkwood, Patrick, Pawleys Island, 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, Elder Dorothy McBride**, declared it so and **called the 107th Stated Meeting of Presbytery of New Harmony to order with prayer at 9:30 am at the First Presbyterian Church, Bennettsville, 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** which included the Commissioners balance for NHP Stated Meetings in 2023;
- **Guiding Council**, not including the first reading of the proposed 2023 budget;
- **Committee on Ministry (COM);**
- **Committee on Preparation (CPM);**
- **Camp Pee Dee 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 first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners be introduced.

There were no new **Corresponding Members** to be seated.

The Moderator appointed the following **Tellers** for this Stated Meeting: Rev. Tony Larson (Trinity, Surfside), Robert Johnson (G.W. Long, Cheraw) and Phyllis Wicker (Trinity, Surfside).

The Moderator then recognized the **Rev. Dr. Scott Andrews**, Pastor of First, Bennettsville, 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 newly installed Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk, the **Rev. Gavin D. Meek**, preaching. Also participating were the following: **Barbara C. Dickson**, Organist; Elder **Loretta Baker-Yates**, Clerk, New Covenant, Sumter; and **Rev. Dr. Ella Busby**, Associate for Pastoral Concerns and Fellowship and Supply Pastor, Second, Sumter and

The Moderator recognized **Elder Barbara Champagne, NHP Moderator-elect, who introduced the Proposed Amendments to the Constitution from the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**. She led a Review Team, recruited by the Stated Clerk, that consisted of herself, Rev. Robert Bannan, Rev. Carnell Hampton, Rev. Dan Sansbury and Elder Jackie Rembert that dealt with all the amends except those involving the Rules of Discipline. Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission reviewed those amendments that dealt with the Rule of Discipline. On behalf of both team, Elder Champagne moved, in an omnibus motion, the adoption of all the following amendments:

- 22-A F-1.0302c The Calling of the Church
- 22-B F-1.0404 Openness to the Guidance of the Holy Spirit
- 22-C G.1.0501 Meetings of the Congregation
- 22-D G-1.0503 Meetings of the Congregation
- 22-E G-2.0503 Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- 22-F G-2.0505a(1) Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- 22-G G-2.0603 Preparation for Ministry
- 22-H G-2.0605 Preparation for Ministry
- 22-J G-2.1001 Commissioning Ruling Elders to Particular Pastoral Service
- 22-K G-2.1002 Commissioning Ruling Elders to Particular Pastoral Service
- 22-L G.2.1103 Certified Church Service
- 22-M G.3.0104 General Principles of Councils
- 22-N G-2.0105 General Principles of Councils
- 22-O G.3.0106 General Principles of Councils
- 22-P G-3.0106 General Principles
- 22-Q G-3.0303c The Presbytery
- 22-R G-3.0401 The Synod
- 22-S G-4.0301 Confidence and Privilege
- 22-T W-3.0205 Gathering
- 22-U W-3.0409 Sacrament
- 22-V W-3.0414 Sacrament
- 22-W W-4.0403 Ordination, Installation, and Commissioning
- 22-X W-5.0104 Worship and Personal Life
- 22-Y W-5.0104 Worship and Personal Life
- 22-Z W-5.0201 Worship and the Church's Ministry Within the Community of Faith
- 22-AA W-5.0204 Worship and the Church's Ministry W/in the Community of Faith

- 22-BB W-5.0204 Worship and the Church's Ministry W/in the Community of Faith
- 22-CC D-3.0106 Jurisdiction in Judicial Process
- 22-DD D-10.0302 Communicate Determination
- 22-EE D-10.0303 Communicate Determination
- 22-FF Amending "The Accused"

[In order to provide some information prior to a vote, the review teams did not include in this Omnibus Motion the following amendments:

- 22-I G-2.0804 Call and Installation
- 22-GG Church Discipline Section – Replacing the Current "Rules of Discipline" with the New "Church Discipline" Section (ROD-03)]

After asking for and receiving a second, the Moderator asked if any commissioner wanted an amendment removed to ask a question, discuss, or debate it. At the request of a commissioner, **the following four amendments were removed:**

- 22-A F-1.0302c The Calling of the Church
- 22-E G-2.0503 Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- 22-U W-3.0409 Sacrament
- 22-CC D-3.0106 Jurisdiction in Judicial Process

The Moderator then called for a show of hands on the **Omnibus Motion** and, following the count, she announced it passed by a vote of **59 in favor and 2 opposed.**

Elder Champagne then introduced the Rev. Dan Sansbury to make a brief presentation on **Amendment 22-I G-2.0804 Call and Installation** concerning a family leave act. Afterwards, it was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of **42 in favor and 1 opposed to refer this amendment to COM**, requesting from it on how it would be defined and implemented.

Elder Champagne then introduced the Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough for him to make a brief presentation on Amendment 22-GG Church Discipline Section – Replacing the Current "Rules of Discipline" with the proposed "Church Discipline." Afterwards, the approval of this amendment was moved, seconded, and approved by a vote of **56 in favor and 1 opposed** and declared the amendment passed.

After a time for discussion, questions, and debate on **Amendment 22-A F-1.0302c The Calling of the Church**, the Moderator called for a show of hands and, following the count, she announced it passed by a vote of **54 in favor and 1 opposed** and declared the amendment passed.

After a time for discussion, questions, and debate on **Amendment 22-E G-2.0503 Ministers of Word and Sacrament**, the Moderator called for a show of hands and, following the count, she announced it passed by a vote of 20 in favor and 32 opposed and declared the amendment failed.

It being 12 noon and time for lunch, the Moderator declared the **ORDER OF THE DAY.**

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

The Moderator recognized **Carrie Hampton, member of the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN)**, who moved on behalf of the committee the following slate:

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR – RE Barbara Champaign (Goodwill)

PRESBYTERY MODERATOR-ELECT – TE Tony Larson (Trinity, Surfside)

GUIDING COUNCIL – At-large, Class of 2025 – TE Nathan See (First, Myrtle Beach)

CULTIVATION AND EMPOWERMENT COMMITTEE (CEC)

Moderator – Johnny Dennis (Kingston, Conway)

Class of 2025 – TE Nick Cheek (Goodwill, Mayesville)

RE Belinda Scott (Cousar Memorial, Bishopville)

RE vacancy: prefer a younger person of color.

Class of 2023 – TE Scott Andrews (First, Bennettsville)

PERSONNEL AND FINANCE COMMITTEE (P&F)

Moderator – RE Orby Ferguson (First, Myrtle Beach)

Class of 2025 – RE Orby Ferguson (First, Myrtle Beach)

RE Bernadine Lamar (Celebration, Carolina Forest)

RE Leroy Thompson (Second, Sumter)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (COM)

Moderator – Carnell Hampton (Honorably Retired, Ebenezer and Friendship)

Class of 2025 – TE Annette Brewer (At-large)

RE Avery Foster (First, Cheraw)

RE Susan Holton (Swan Lake, Sumter)

TE John Hopkins (Murrells Inlet)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Moderator – TE Josie Holler (Williamsburg, Kingstree)

Class of 2025 – TE Jim Burton (Indiantown and St. Paul's)

TE Frank Colclough (Harmony)

RE Lou Easterling (Williamsburg, Kingstree)

Class of 2024 vacancy – RE/CP Delcia Harper-Baxter

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (PJC)

Class of 2028 – TE Rhett Talbert (Honorably Retired)

RE Joe McElveen (First, Sumter)

PRESBYTERY DISASTER ASSISTANCE COMMISSION: RE Grace Johnson
(Congruity, Gable)

SOUTH CAROLINA INN BOARD at MONTREAT Class of 25 – TE Annette Brewer (At-large)

The Moderator stated that a second was not needed since these nominations 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 unanimously.**

The **Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the Committee on Ministry (COM)** was recognized who in turn recognized Elder Robert Henry of our Marion congregation for **examination to serve as the Commissioned Pastor to our Fork congregation.** (The details of the Covenant are included in COM’s written report found in the appendix of these minutes.). After **voting to end the examination and approve the commission,** the Moderator propounded the Constitutional questions to Elder Henry who answered each in the affirmative. After Rev. Tom Langston, Elder Henry’s COM appointed Mentor and Supervisor (Constitutionally required of all Commissioned Pastors) offered prayer, **the Moderator declared Elder Robert Henry the Commissioned Pastor of our Kentyre and Timmons ville congregations.**

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. He then introduced **Elder Orby Ferguson,** member of the Guiding Council and moderator of the Personnel and Finance Committee who provided a **first reading of the proposed 2023 budget** found in the Appendix of these minutes; there were no questions. Elder Ferguson also shared that the **budget process will be different in the future** with a first reading occurring at the August Stated Meeting and action taking place at the November meeting of each year.

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

NHP then resumed the discussion, questions, and debate on the pulled Amendments for the original Omnibus Motion on Amendments to the Constitution. After a time for discussion, questions, and debate on **Amendment 22-U W-3.0409 Sacrament,** the Moderator called for a show of hands and, following the count, she announced it passed by a vote of **13 in favor and 28 opposed** and declared the amendment failed.

After a time for discussion, questions, and debate on **Amendment 22-CC D-3.0106 Jurisdiction in Judicial** Process, the Moderator called for a show of hands and, following the count, she announced it passed by a vote of **42 in favor and 1 opposed** and declared the amendment passed.

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 **Saturday, February 25, 2023, at First, Myrtle Beach**, the **Moderator declared** that all the business for the 107th 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**