

**Minutes of the
Special Session**

**of the
PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH**

December 8, 2015

**Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
Harrisonburg, Virginia**

NEXT STATED SESSION

**Saturday, February 13, 2016
TBA**

**Tuesday, May 10, 2016
TBA**

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- » **congregations are empowered to be centers for mission,**
- » **lay persons are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world,**
- » **church leaders and members are nurtured and strengthened for service,**
- » **open communication and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected.**

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CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Gwen Carr	Home Church – Tinkling Spring
John Craft	Home Church – Tinkling Spring
Tom Forbes	Home Church – Bunker Hill
Jacob Kave	Home Church – Woodstock
Seth Lovell	Home Church – Tinkling Spring
Kristy Ray	Home Church – Tinkling Spring

INQUIRERS FOR MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Molly Morris	Home Church – Staunton First
Emily Peterson	Home Church - Covenant

GOVERNING BODIES

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**PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING**

The Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Shenandoah was held at Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church, in Harrisonburg, Virginia, at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 8, 2015. The purpose for the meeting was to receive and act upon the report from the Administrative Commission for First Harrisonburg Presbyterian Church, following the protocols of the Shenandoah Presbytery Policy for Discernment Toward Reconciliation or Gracious Separation. Moderator Houston Lynch called the meeting to order with prayer.

WORSHIP

The worship service featured congregational hymns and a reflection from Teaching Elder Ann Pettit.

QUORUM AND ENROLLMENT

The Stated Clerk reported that a quorum was present. The final enrollment was as follows:

Adm	Administrator	DYP	Director, Youth Program	P	Pastor
Asst	Assistant	ED	Educator	Prof	Professor
Assoc	Associate	HR	Honorably Retired	SS	Stated Supply
Chap	Chaplain	IA	Interim Associate	Stu	Student
CM	Campus Minister	IN	Inactive	T	Teacher
COP	Co-Pastors	IP	Interim Pastor	TM	Tent Making
Coun	Counselor	ML	Minister-at-Large	TP	Transitional Presbyter
DP	Designated Pastor	OM	Overseas Missionary	WC	Without Charge

(Description code for attendance: P = present E = excused A = absent)

P	Allamon, Karen H.	P	Staunton First	Robert Mackay
A	Allen, Donald R., Jr.	HR		
A	Arnold, Timothy	Supply	Middletown	
P	Atwood, James E.	HR		
P	Atwood, Roxana M.	HR		
A	Barner, Ann Elizabeth	HR		
A	Barner, Fred Thomas	HR		
E	Baxter, John A.	HR		
E	Bethard, John T.	P	Charles Town	Absent
P	Biggs, Thomas T.	HR		
E	Boyer, Grace Jones	HR		
A	Brandon, Joseph C.	HR		
E	Bridgman, Larry Ann C.	HR		
E	Bridgman, Stewart G.	HR		
A	Bromhead, Jonathan	ML		
P	Brownlee, J. Malcolm	HR		
E	Bucy, Ralph D.	HR		
P	Bunker, Jonathan W.	P	Berryville	Stephanie Lederhouse
P	Burton, Rufus T., III	P	Martinsburg First	Absent
A	Cardot, Guy Richard	P	Petersburg	Absent
E	Carlsson, Charles M., Jr.	HR		
A	Carr, Phillips L.	HR		
P	Cathcart, C. Stevens	HR		
P	Chapman, George W.	P	Waynesboro First	Absent
E	Coffman, Donna B.	HR		
E	Cole, William A., Jr.	HR		
P	Coleman, Glenn M.	IP	Mossy Creek	
A	Condro, Joseph F.	HR		
A	Conrad, Scott A.	ML		
A	Corder, William "Lee"	ML		
A	Cornish, Homer T.	HR		
E	Cox, C. William	HR		

E Cranford, April H.	P	Westminster	Absent
P Crumley, Rachel	P	Tuscarora	Jonathan Brown
E Cushman, James E.	HR		
P Cushwa, John W.	HR		
A Dawkins, Edward C.	ML		
P Dax, Betty G.	IP	New Providence	
P Dent, William H., Jr.	HR		
E Dietrich, Richard S.	HR		
A Dobyons, Sharyl A.	ML		
A Donohoe, Patricia A.	HR		
A Dorn, Constance A.	ML		
A Douty, Horace D.	HR/IP	Oxford	
A Evans, Caroline B.	ML		
P Evans, George W.	P	Cooks Creek	Mark Williams
A Everhart, William G.	Supply	Sunnyside	
P Farthing, Stanley H.	Supply	Zetta	
P Fetterman, Amy	IP	Finley Memorial	
E Field, Robert F.	HR		
E Fisher, Merle L., Jr.	HR		
E Fisher, Otis L.	HR		
E Forbes, Richard A., Jr.	HR		
P Foster, M. Kerry	P	Bridgewater	Absent
E Franklin, John S.	HR		
E Garrison, John D.	HR		
E Garriss, K. Braxton	HR		
E Goodman, William R., Jr.	HR		
A Goshorn, Robert D.	HR		
A Habbersett, Bonnie D.	HR		
A Hahn-Campanella Kitty	ML		
P Hand, Kevin L.	P	Franklin Ruddle	Nancy Sites Absent
P Haney, John H.	P	Goshen Millboro Rocky Spring Mt. Carmel	Absent Absent Alex Haney
P Haney, M. Olivia Kincaid	Supply		
P Harmon, Melissa L.	ML		
E Harrison, L. Randolph	HR		
P Hastings, John R. "Skip"	HR		
P Hay, Kevin W.	Assoc	Opequon	
E Hay, Thomas D.	Adm		
E Hayter, J. T., Jr.	HR		
P Heeringa, Jon E.	P	Harrisonburg First	George Pace Sue Smith
P Held, Ann Reed	HR		
E Hellmuth, Barton L.	HR		
A Hendy, Susanna	ML		
E Hill, Robert S., Jr.	HR		
P Hill, Sarah L.	Assoc	Lexington	
P Holden, Thomas J., III	HR		
E Hopkins, E. Reed	P	Loch Willow	Absent
E Howard, Carl D.	HR		
P Howard, David D.	P	Strasburg	Absent
E Hunt, Patricia	HR		
E Hunter, Tully J.	P	Tinkling Spring	Lyle Moffett Absent
A Inglis, J. Leslie	HR		
A Jackson, Katherine C.	ML		
E Johns, Harry E.	IP	Staunton Third	
E Johnson, Barbara R.	P	Romney	Excused
A Jones, Donald D. M.	HR		

A	Kennedy, J. Whitner	HR		
P	Key, Kyle W.	ML		
P	Klein, Deborah H.	ML		
P	Klein, William M.	P	Lexington	Absent Absent
P	Lanaghan, Patrick R.	P	Burnt	Wayne B.
A	Langdon, J. Bradford	ML		
P	LaPrade, Lester N., Jr.	HR		
P	LaRue, H. Donald	ML		
P	Leggett, John P.	P	Massanutten	Dennis Arthur Jeff Lees
A	Lewis, Elizabeth	Chap	Westminster-Canterbury	
E	Lewis, Herbert T.	HR		
E	Long, Karen J.	ML		
E	Lowe, Emory G.	HR		
E	Macbeth, Bruce A.	HR		
P	Martin, Roy A	TP		
P	Mathison, John T.	HR		
E	McClintock, Lynn	ML		
A	McCoig, Dan M., Jr.	Assoc	Winchester First	
P	McCrary, Elizabeth L.	P	Augusta Stone	Absent
P	McDonald, John L.	ML		
A	McLean, Karen E.	ML		
E	Miles, Larry C.	HR		
E	Moore, William L.	OM		
E	Muncy, Robert L.	HR		
E	Newman, Howard A.	HR		
E	Norville, Charles K.	HR		
P	O'Gorek, Paul A.	Chaplain	Sunnyside Community	
E	Osborne, Robert S.	P	Berkeley Springs	John Marple
A	Owen, Jan G.	HR/IP	Waynesboro Second	
P	Painter, William L., Jr.	HR		
E	Pancake, Joseph S.	HR		
E	Pattison, Carl F.	IP	New Monmouth	
P	Peterson, John C.	P	Covenant	Cary Dahl Thom Jennings
P	Pettit, Ann R.	Assoc	Massanutten	
P	Pettit, Patrick S.	IP	Smyrna	
A	Poland, Ernest L. Jr.	Supply	Moorefield	
A	Pollock, Richard	HR		
E	Price, Norman G.	HR		
P	Pyles, Elizabeth	P	McDowell	Angelika Levien
P	Reed, Charles K.	P	Warm Springs	Absent
E	Reifsnyder, Richard W.	HR		
E	Reller, Charles K.	HR		
A	Rhyne, C. Thomas	HR		
A	Robertson, Helen	P	Fairfield	Absent
P	Robinson, Sally O.	ML		
A	Ross, Anne M.	HR		
E	Sale, M. Anderson	HR		
E	Sefcik, Joseph T.	HR		
P	Shearer, J. David	P	Bethel	Irene Elliott
A	Sherman, H. Wray	P	Hermitage	Absent
A	Sherrard, Robert L.	P	Windy Cove	Bruce Cambata
P	Sieck, Philip L.	HR		
E	Slider, C. Richard II	HR		
P	Sloop, John F.	HR		
A	Smith, Evan R.	P	Staunton Second	Absent
E	Smith, Nancy A.	ML		
E	Snelson, Andrew L.	HR		

A Sommer, Philip W.	HR		
P Sonstegard-Spray, Maren	Assoc	Winchester First	
E Stanley, Arthur L.	HR		
E Stephens, Millard M.	HR		
A Stokes, Martin L.	HR		
E Swezey, Charles M.	HR		
A Symons, Charles D., Jr.	HR		
A Thomas, Aaron Lee	P	Olivet	Absent
P Thornton, Joel P.	DP	Ivanhoe	
		Wardensville	
A Tremba, Randall W.	P	Shepherdstown	Absent
P Tutterow, Christina B.	P	Bethesda	Absent
A Unger, Philip E.	ML		
E Vernon, Joseph H. J.	HR		
A von Oeyen, Jr., Robert	HR		
P Watkins, John M.	HR		
P Webb, Lisa M.	P	Woodstock	Margaret Nelson
A Whiteley, Nancy S.	HR		
E Wilkers, Jack B.	HR		
P Wilson, Joan M.	Supply	Broadway	
E Wilson, Stanton R.	HR		
E Wing, Stephanie S.	P	Trinity	Linda Bradley
P Witt, David R.	P	Opequon	Graham Taylor
			Absent
E Woodworth, Robert B.	HR		
E Wyche, Frank	P	Hebron	Hannah Bush
A Young, Betty Jean	HR		
A Young, James R. M.	ML		
A Young, Philip H.	HR		
A Young, Richard O., Sr.	HR		
P Ytterock, Jonathan A.	P	Mount Horeb	Ron Clements

CHURCHES WITHOUT INSTALLED PASTORS

Ben Salem	Absent
Bethany	Absent
Beulah	Joe Brock
Bloomery	Absent
Broadway	Absent
Buckton	Absent
Buena Vista	Absent
Buffalo Gap	Dan Stogdale
Bunker Hill	Absent
Burlington	Absent
Circleville	Absent
Clear Brook	Absent
Collierstown	Absent
Craigsville	Absent
Elk Branch	Absent
Elkton	Sarah Smith
Falling Waters	Kate Brown
Finley Memorial	Absent
Front Royal	Absent
Gerrardstown	Grace Weekley
Glen Kirk	Absent
Halltown	Absent
Hedgesville	Prudence Wendel
Highland Memorial	Absent
Hot Springs	Absent
Immanuel	Absent
Kearneysville	Absent

Keyser	Absent
Little Falls	Absent
McCutchen	Absent
Middletown	Absent
Monterey	Dot Terry
Moorefield	Excused
Mossy Creek	Berlin Zirk
Mount Carmel	Absent
Mount Hope	Absent
Mount Joy	Absent
Mount Olive	Butch Martin
Mount Storm	Absent
New Monmouth	Henry Schreiber
New Providence	Don roll
Nineveh	Sandi Ey
Oxford	Clinton Anderson
Piedmont	Absent
Pines Chapel	Absent
Pisgah	Holmes Stephenson
Second Opequon	Absent
Seneca Rocks	Absent
Sherando	Absent
Slanesville	Absent
Smyrna	Absent
Springfield	Absent
Staunton Third	Absent
Sunnyside	Absent
Tabler	Edward McLaughlin
Timber Ridge	Absent
Tomahawk	David Parrill
Union	Absent
Warrenton	Absent
	Absent
Waynesboro Second	Absent
Winchester First	Fran Jeffries
	Anita Jenkins
	Kathy Wetsel
Williamsville	Absent
Zetta	Absent

VOTING RULING ELDERS:

Commissioned and Temporary Supply Ruling Elders

P Deborah Barnett	P William Barnett	A James Boyette
E Michele Elliott	A Tom Forbes	P Judy Hensley
A William Moore	E Linda Reece	A Alvin Russell
A Bobby Spurgeon	E Ron Wilkes	P Paul Wolverton

Voting Ruling Elders of Presbytery Staff or Presbytery Leadership Team (PLT):

A Pat Armstrong, PLT	P Doug Sensabaugh, Staff Ruling Elder
P Bill Burslem, PLT	P Houston Lynch, Presbytery Moderator
A Greg Trobaugh, PLT	P Karen Thatcher, PLT

NON-VOTING VISITORS:

Visiting Ministers

Randall Webb, Abingdon Presbytery

Presbytery Staff

Kim Stroupe

Visitors

Ginny Biggs
Carol Miller

Charles Blair
Sharon Sherrard

Mary Lou Cox
Jane Stogdale

Teaching Elders = 59 Voting Ruling Elders = 50 Additional Guests = 8 TOTAL = 117

OPENING

The meeting opened with worship. The Moderator then welcomed everyone, and the Stated Clerk gave instructions for the process for the meeting. The presbytery approved excusing from attendance from all or part of this special meeting those ministers who submitted such a request. The Body approved seating Teaching Elder Randall Webb as a corresponding member. Rev. Webb is a member of Abingdon Presbytery and supply pastor to the Nineveh Church.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

Teaching Elder, Jonathan Bunker, chair of the Administrative Commission (AC) to First Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, gave a verbal report on the process followed by the AC under the presbytery's "Policy Toward Reconciliation or Gracious Separation" during the prior seven months. (See pages 176-181 for full written report) The floor was opened for questions.

Rev. Bunker moved Item A paragraphs 1-10 of the Recommendations of the Report of the Administrative Commission to the floor. Teaching Elder Rufus Burton moved, seconded by several persons, *to suspend the rules and consider Item A without the possibility of amendment*. The motion failed to acquire 2/3 vote: 54 in favor and 49 against.

Teaching Elder Beth Pyles moved, seconded by several persons, *to amend paragraph A 2 by adding the following sentence to the end of the paragraph: "Administrative Commission shall negotiate effective terms to secure the future payments set forth in this action."* The motion was passed by voice vote.

Teaching Elder Jim Atwood moved, seconded by Teaching Elder Jack Mathison, to amend paragraph A 2 as follows:

"That First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, as a financial settlement, make payment to Shenandoah Presbytery in the amount of \$430,000 according to a payment schedule: \$150,000 lump sum payment upon the finalization of the dismissal agreement and the amount of \$56,000 a year continuing for five years..."

After discussion, the motion failed by voice vote

The terms of the proposed dismissal plan as set forth in Item A, paragraphs 1-10, as amended, were approved by voice vote. See pages 179-180

The following motion pursuant to the presbytery's "Policy Toward Reconciliation or Gracious Separation" was then submitted for vote by written ballot:

Shall the Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church be dismissed to the Presbytery of the East Central of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians based on the proposed plan?

The motion was approved by a vote of 85 in favor and 23 against.

Teaching Elder Jonathan Bunker then briefly introduced Item B of the Administrative Commission's recommendations and answered questions from the floor.

Teaching Elder Jonathan Bunker moved Item B on behalf of the Administrative Commission.

Teaching Elder Ann Held offered a substitute motion, seconded by several persons, as follows:

That Shenandoah Presbytery direct the Presbytery Leadership Team (or its successor body) to discern the use/s of the funds obtained in the settlement and make appropriate recommendations to the Presbytery.

The motion failed by voice vote.

After further discussion, the motion as presented in Item B of the recommendations of the Administrative Commission was passed unanimously by voice vote. See pages 180-181

Given the fact that the proposed plan was amended, Teaching Elder John Peterson made the following motion, seconded by several persons: *If the Session of Harrisonburg First Church is agreeable to the proposed plan as amended by Presbytery, without further amendment, the report of the Administrative Commission in that regard under the Gracious Dismissal Policy shall be deemed "received" upon its receipt by the Transitional Presbyter, Stated Clerk, and Moderator of the Presbytery and their communication of that receipt to the Presbytery by US mail and/or electronic means.*

Rationale: The presbytery's "Policy Toward Reconciliation or Gracious Separation" states:

"In the event that the presbytery amends the proposed plan, the session shall report to the AC its response to the amended plan. Dismissal of the congregation shall be delayed until presbytery has received a report from the AC in consultation with the session regarding the acceptability of the new terms. If any part of the amended plan is unacceptable to the session, the AC will bring a new report to the next stated meeting of the presbytery with recommendations. Final determination will be made at that presbytery meeting."

Approval of the motion would allow the process to move forward expeditiously in the event of approval of the proposed plan by the Session without need for the presbytery to meet simply to receive the AC's report confirming their agreement or to delay the process until after the next stated meeting of presbytery to receive that report.

The motion was approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m. with the Moderator leading the Benediction. Presbytery will meet in stated session on Saturday, February 13, 2016, time and location to be announced.

Houston Lynch, Moderator

M. Kerry Foster, Stated Clerk

Kim Stroupe, Recording Clerk

DOCKET

- 9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION BEGINS
- 10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Opening Devotion
- 10:15 a.m. Purpose of Special Session - The purpose of today's special session is to hear and act upon the report from the Administrative Commission to Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church
- Determining a Quorum
Procedural Rules
Seating corresponding members
Adoption of the Docket
- 10:25 a.m. Report of the Administrative Commission to Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church

FINAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HARRISONBURG

Following the recommendation of the Listening Response Team (LRT) for First Presbyterian Church at the May 12, 2015 meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery, the formation of an Administrative Commission (AC) was approved. Members of this Commission are:

Teaching Elders

Jonathan Bunker, Chair	Berryville
David Witt	Opequon

Ruling Elders

Linda Bradley	Trinity
Thom Jennings	Covenant
Berlin Zirk	Mossy Creek

Using the Presbytery's "Policy Toward Reconciliation or Gracious Separation" as our guideline, the Commission attended a training session at the Presbytery office, sent a letter of process explanation to the entire congregation, and developed a punch list of actions needed to complete our work.

We requested and were promptly supplied church year-end financial summaries for the years 2010-2014, a summary of the financial position for the current year-to-date, and listings of all designated funds. Additionally, we reviewed appraisals of all associated real estate. On August 25, 2015, we met with the Session and also with their selected Negotiating Team. At the same time, we continued in our efforts to hear the thoughts and concerns of the membership of the congregation and particularly those uncomfortable with the Session's request for dismissal. We received a few emails and other contacts and, as in the LRT phase, an overwhelming majority of them expressed agreement with the Session's request for dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA) to ECO.

Following a month of correspondence and discussion of offers and counter offers between the Commission and the Negotiating Team, we held a congregational hearing on October 10, 2015, following a worship service in which members of the AC participated. After a time of open questions and discussion, a straw poll was taken asking each voting member present to express either support for the Session's request for dismissal or objection to the Session's request for dismissal. Of the 237 ballots filled out, 220 supported the Session's request for dismissal. In addition to those ballots, communications were received prior to the congregational hearing from those who reported that they would not be able to attend. 21 such communications were received and all of them supported the Session's request for dismissal.

Further negotiations and discussions with the Negotiating Team continued until an agreement was reached in late October.

We have been diligent in our efforts to closely follow the Presbytery's Gracious Separation Policy. It must be said that this process has worked well. Both sides have walked the delicate tightrope of graciousness and adhered to the statement in the policy which says "the whole Church belongs to our one Lord, Jesus Christ, though it is possible, and at times even desirable, that we may differ from one another..." In both the LRT and AC phases of our work, it has become evident and clear that a significant majority of the members of First Presbyterian Church

of Harrisonburg feel called to seek gracious dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (USA). We have encountered a few who express a desire for the Congregation to remain affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA) but not in numbers that would comprise a viable congregation. And so we present to Shenandoah Presbytery the following report and recommendations concerning the Congregation of First Presbyterian of Harrisonburg.

We humbly pray that God's will be done.

Jonathan Bunker, Chair
Linda Bradley
Thom Jennings
David Witt
Berlin Zirk

First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg Asset Summary

Liquid Assets

Unrestricted Funds	
Treasurer Funds (Session and contingency funds and earned interest)	\$ 250,000
Trustee Funds (Various Endowments)	254,000
Humphries Estate	87,000
 Sub Total	 \$ 591,000

Restricted Assets

Treasurer Funds (28 specifically defined accounts)	\$ 412,000
Trustee Funds (18 specifically defined bequests)	648,000
 Subtotal	 \$ 1,060,000

Non-Liquid Assets

Court Square Church Property (as is appraised value)	\$ 5,500,000
(Liquidation appraised value*)	1,952,000
9 Court Square Property	343,000
Mabel Memorial Chapel Property	460,000
Personal Property (Insured Replacement Cost)	1,549,000

*Liquidation Appraisal addresses the value of the property given its unique use and the unlikelihood that it could be used for any other purpose.

Stated Liabilities:

Deferred Maintenance	\$ 127,500
Necessary Capital Projects	\$ 2,368,677

Income and Expense Review

Year	Pledge Income	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenses
2010	1,052,136	1,055,615	1,171,793	1,110,760
2011	988,786	974,207	1,098,003	1,056,326
2012	900,122	873,507	1,040,820	1,027,453
2013	791,287	799,514	1,041,418	1,011,962
2014	830,172	804,033	1,118,476	1,048,252
2015	746,984	513,038++	1,108,923	789,798+

+From Pledges

++As of 9/31/2015

Administrative Commission
First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, Virginia
Recommendations and Rationale

The Administrative Commission elected by Shenandoah Presbytery for First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg makes the following recommendations:

A: Concerning First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg

1. That upon finalization of this agreement, Shenandoah Presbytery dismiss the First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg to the Presbytery of the East Central of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.
2. That First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, as a financial settlement, make payment to Shenandoah Presbytery in the amount of \$350,000 according to the following payment schedule: \$140,000 lump sum payment upon the finalization of the dismissal agreement and the amount of \$42,000 a year for five years to be paid in quarterly installments. Should the First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg fail to meet these terms, the Shenandoah Presbytery will not be deemed to have waived the right to assert its property rights against the First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg's property. *Administrative Commission shall negotiate effective terms to secure the future payments set forth in this action.*
3. That First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg transfer all original Session Minutes and other official records related to the church's life in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its predecessor denominations to Shenandoah Presbytery.
4. That First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg retains rights to the name of First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg.
5. That Shenandoah Presbytery, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA), transfer by Quitclaim Deed all right, title and interest to First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg. Furthermore, that Shenandoah Presbytery, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (USA), release and discharge the property and church from any trust, coverage and obligations, expressed or implied, pursuant to Section G-4.0203 ("Church Property Held in Trust") of the Book of Order, Part II of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
6. That Shenandoah Presbytery dismiss the Reverend Jon Heeringa to continue his ministry within the Presbytery of the East Central Eco: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians upon finalization of this agreement.
7. That a pastoral letter be sent from the Stated Clerk of Shenandoah Presbytery to all members of First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, informing them of these actions and offering assistance to any member wishing to maintain membership in a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation.
8. That First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, upon request of member(s) who wish to remain in the Presbytery Church (USA) and who have not transferred to another Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation, commend those member(s) to the pastoral care of the Shenandoah Presbytery.

9. That a worship service of Endings and Beginnings be held at First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, at a date convenient for those involved, including representatives from Shenandoah Presbytery, the Presbytery of the East Central of ECO and First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg
10. That upon report to Shenandoah Presbytery of finalization of the agreement between First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg and Shenandoah Presbytery and completion of the worship service of Beginnings and Endings, the Administrative Commission be dismissed.

B. Concerning Shenandoah Presbytery's Use of the Above Financial Settlement

That Shenandoah Presbytery direct the Presbytery Leadership Team (or its successor body) to use the funds obtained in the settlement in accord with the following guidelines: of the \$350,000 financial settlement, a sum of \$155,000 be used to further the current mission and ministry of the Presbytery (this amount equals five years' worth of First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg's current yearly support of the Presbytery) and that the remaining \$195,000 be used to encourage the development of either New Church Plants or other Worshiping Communities in the Presbytery. It is our hope that some of these funds would be used to develop a Presbyterian Church (USA) presence in the downtown Harrisonburg area.

Rationale for the Financial Settlement:

Throughout our negotiations, the Administrative Commission has sought to balance our focus between the assets held by First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg and for what purpose or end a financial settlement might be used. We came to a conclusion in our early discussions that we would like to see the funds that would be received used in part to maintain the current mission and ministries of the Presbytery and at the same time support the development of a continued PC (USA) presence within the downtown Harrisonburg area, recognizing that Trinity Presbyterian Church, Massanutten Presbyterian Church and Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church are engaged in fruitful and faithful ministry in the Harrisonburg area. With this being the case, we structured our proposals to the First Presbyterian Church Negotiating Team around these two points of focus, talking about continuation of current mission and ministry and the development of new ones. For the first, we used the Congregation's current level of support of the Presbytery and for the second, we used the median salary of teaching elders within the Denomination as reported by the Board of Pensions (\$55,000) as a means to discuss the startup cost of a new ministry in the downtown Harrisonburg area.

As we considered the assets held by First Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, we recognized a significant downward trend in membership and pledged income. Over the past five years, membership in the Congregation has shrunk by over a third. These membership losses are attributed in part to a long overdue cleansing of the roll and in part to the loss of members uncomfortable with the Congregation's movement towards seeking dismissal from the PC (USA). This membership loss has resulted in a decrease in pledged income of the church with a reduction in pledges of \$305,152. The Congregation has also experienced a reduction in average worship attendance over this same period of time. These trends have resulted in an expressed anxiety concerning the future from both the Congregation and its leadership, though they remain hopeful that conditions can improve once their long process of discernment and dismissal is completed.

Considering the Congregation's assets themselves, the Congregation holds \$1,651,000 in liquid assets. A total of 41% of these assets (\$648,000) are restricted bequests. Another 25% (\$412,000) are held in funds restricted by act of the Session for the use of particular ministries and programs of the church. This leaves 44% which represent unrestricted assets (\$591,000). The agreed upon settlement of \$350,000 represents 21% of their total liquid assets both restricted and unrestricted. The Congregation does hold significant property, assessed between \$2,755,000 and \$6,303,000. The difference is based on an as is assessment of the main church building and a lower liquidation assessment based on the effect its specialized use would have on a potential sale. The agreed upon settlement represents between 6% - 13% of the property value, depending upon the particular value of assessment accepted.

We submit these figures and statistics for your consideration as they guided our consideration, but our main focus throughout our engagement with the Congregation was to seek a result that serves the mission and ministry goals of both the Presbytery and the Congregation. It has been our experience that the Session and Negotiating Team have joined us in this pursuit. In the midst of the serious and sometimes difficult conversations we have shared, there have been moments of prayer and table fellowship through which the significant theological differences that divide us have been set aside in light of a common commitment to love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. It is in that Spirit that we humbly submit these recommendations to Shenandoah Presbytery

Grace, Mercy, and Peace,

Jonathan Bunker, Chair
Linda Bradley
Thom Jennings
David Witt
Berlin Zirk

DECEMBER 2015 index

ADJOURNMENT 174

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT 173-174, 176-181

DOCKET 175

ENROLLMENT 168-173

QUORUM 168

OPENING 173

WORSHIP 168