

NOVEMBER 15, 2022 PRESBYTERY MEETING

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS

STATED CLERK

The General Assembly has sent 22 amendments to the presbyteries for their vote. Thumbnail sketches of each of the amendments will be available at the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday. The amendment booklet can be found at

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga225_book_amendments_2022_final.pdf

We plan to vote on the amendments at the February meeting. Please watch for further information before the February meeting. If there are any amendments that you feel should have special attention or discussion, please let the Stated clerk know by January 16th so arrangements can be made for informational meetings. Any that we do not vote on in February will be brought to the May meeting.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (CN)

That Presbytery elect the following to serve:

- Committee on Educational Resources
Class of 2025: Joanne Sharp, Christian Educator, Warrenton Church
- Committee on Presbytery Administration
Class of 2025: Ruling Elder Dick Travis, Cooks Creek Church
- Presbytery Vice-Moderator (2023) and Moderator-Elect (2024):
Ruling Elder Bill North, Berkeley Springs Church

RULING ELDER BILL NORTH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bill North was born and raised in Somerville, New Jersey with 2 older and one younger brother. Bill was baptized and later a member of the First Reformed Church of Somerville (RCA).

After high school, North attended Central College in Pella, Iowa, (a Reformed Church of America supported college) graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1970. From 1970 to 1973 North served his country in the United States Army as a food inspection specialist, serving with honors and achieving the rank of sergeant. Following his military assignment, he was accepted to the School of Hotel Administration at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York completing a Bachelor of Science degree in 1976. Upon graduation, North worked in the hospitality industry for over 45 years in the capacity as general manager for historic country inns, corporate and luxury hotels, luxury estates and resorts.

Most recently, he is using his professional skills developing a consulting firm specializing in hospitality management.

North has always been involved in community-based organizations. He served as club president of three different Rotary Clubs and for 8 years as a board member for the Top of Virginia Regional Chamber in Winchester, VA, culminating as chairman of the board.

Bill has been a member of the Berkeley Springs Presbyterian Church since 1979, singing in the church choir, serving on various church committees and currently serves as an elder. He also is a Trustee for the church's foundation. Bill has been dedicated to following his faith through service to his Church and the community.

Married to Adrienne for 51 years, they have 3 adult children and are the proud grandparents of 5 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He and his wife reside in Bunker Hill, West Virginia.

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY (CRM)

I. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Approved commissioning of Bobby Spurgeon (Goshen & Rocky Spring churches) and Stephanie Harris (Mt. Olive Church) and a few others that may be in attendance November 15.
- B. Renewed the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Slanesville Session and CRE Michele Elliott from January-December 31, 2023.
- C. Renewed the temporary supply pastor contract between the Tabler Session and Honorably Retired Teaching Elder Brad Langdon from November 23, 2022-November 22, 2023.
- D. Received communications from the following sessions requesting a waiver of the limitation of terms of service for ruling elders on their sessions. CRM approved excusing them from the rotation of elders for 2023.

Broadway	Hedgesville	Hot Springs
Mt. Hope	Second Opequon	
- E. Sustained the examination to reinstate Karen Edwards to the roll of Shenandoah Presbytery as a member-at-large effective November 10, 2022. (See pages S-3-4 for bio and statement of faith)
- F. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Rachel Hamburger and received her as a member-at-large effective November 10, 2022. (See pages S-5-6 for bio and statement of faith)

II. RECOMMENDATION:

That Presbytery approve the following REVISED recommendation:

That Presbytery grant the status of Honorably Retired to Teaching Elder Thomas H. Forbes, effective ~~December 1, 2022~~ February 1, 2023.

KAREN S. EDWARDS
STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe that in life and death we belong to God: Father/Mother, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the beginning God was. God created all things, including the galaxies, the earth, the animals and sea creatures, the birds of the air, the earth, and human beings. In love and from nothing, God created all things and God called it all good. Human sin is, by definition, that which God did not create. Sin is pervasive, blatant, subtle, intentional, subconscious, everywhere, and specific. God is still about the work of creating and re-creating, continuing to work towards the time when everything will be (re)made new.

God the Son became flesh and dwelled among us in the person and work and ministry and life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Jesus, fully human and fully God, the fullness of God took on flesh and bone and blood. In the person of Jesus, we see most clearly and definitively God's mercy and justice, God's judgment and grace, and God's righteousness and love. For us, Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrate God's fury at our sinfulness and God's relentless love. For us, Jesus' death and resurrection demonstrate God's amazing grace: the taking of our sin upon God's own self, and God's redeeming (re-valuing), unending, faithful, tender love. For us, Jesus' death and resurrection most clearly shout to all: LOVE WINS.

God the Holy Spirit is the spirit of the risen Christ. The Holy Spirit moves and blows and re-creates and encourages and disciplines and guides and teaches and dances and loves. The Holy Spirit continues the saving work of God we see most clearly in Jesus Christ (the Son). The Holy Spirit dwells within us and surrounds us and fills us to overflowing, giving us what we need to be faithful disciples until our lives' end.

The Church is the collection of God's created ones who worship God in spirit and in truth, and who gather to be inspired and equipped, and then who rush from the gathering out into the world to live out Jesus' commandment to serve those who can least do for themselves, to bind up the broken hearted, to help those who are weak, and to love without limit or condition. God's call and God's love are not just for individuals; God's call and God's love are for the community. The sacrament of The Lord's Supper is the joyful feast of the people of God, the meal to which Jesus invited the faithful, and the outward sign of an inner grace. By way of The Lord's Supper, Christians remember Christ's saving work, life, death and resurrection, and are fed and nourished to do the work of the kingdom. The sacrament of Baptism, while not necessary for anyone's salvation, is also such an outward sign of an inner grace. Through Baptism, Christians are named and claimed by God long before we can even know it, and we die to sin and live anew in God's redeeming forgiveness, grace, and love. I believe in the resurrection of the body, life in the world to come, and the time when, by God's grace, all will be made new, and the whole world will return to God in love.

The best news I know is this: In life and in death, we belong to God.

Thanks be.

KAREN S. EDWARDS
BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

I was born and raised in a small town in eastern North Carolina. There, I was raised by my mother and her parents, and by my paternal grandmother. I cannot remember a time when the people who loved me most in those early years did not take me to church. In a tiny Presbyterian Church in rural eastern North Carolina, I learned the old hymns, played the piano for Sunday services, and heard and absorbed the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I graduated from Wake Forest University with a degree in English, having spent a transformational semester in London during my undergraduate years. Wake Forest fundamentally changed me. There, I learned just how big the world might be. I studied and worked alongside people who looked and thought and lived very differently from me. I made friends who would last my whole life long. I grew in knowledge, life skills, confidence, and curiosity. I came to understand the necessity of knowing what I don't know, of being willing to ask questions, and of generosity of the things that matter most: empathy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. While at Wake Forest, I discerned God might be calling me to ministry, and enrolled as an Inquirer with (then) Albemarle Presbytery.

I enrolled at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia three weeks after college graduation. Seminary brought new knowledge, relationships, inner conflicts, breaking down of old systems and the building up of new ones. I met and married my husband there, and we began ministry together after seminary graduation.

Together, we served churches (as co-pastors, as colleague pastors, and as pastors in separate settings) in West Virginia, South Carolina, and Virginia. I worked as a Chaplain for Sunnyside Communities. We welcomed two daughters, and settled in for what seemed would be the long haul in Waynesboro, Virginia.

As happens to all of us, my/our life took twists and turns I could never have imagined or anticipated. I discovered that I did not love the work of being a parish pastor. In fact, I was simply not very good at it. Conflict management, fund raising, and long term planning were neither my strong suits nor where my heart was. I loved preaching, teaching, and bedside ministry. The rest left me cold and bored. I needed to contribute to the household income, and I needed to listen again to my life, and to what God was telling me through it. I enrolled in a local community college's nursing program, and I have never looked back. I earned my RN credentials in 2006. As a nurse, I have worked in both inpatient and outpatient oncology settings, in hospice, in long term care, and as a nursing home inspector for the Commonwealth. I love what I do as an inspector. And in all these years since 2006, I have maintained close ties with Covenant Presbyterian Church in Staunton, serving there as a choir member, pulpit supply, communion celebrant, and pastoral care deliverer.

In 2014, the unimaginable happened: my husband of 25 years, the father of our girls, and my ministry partner, left. He has had no communication with me or our daughters in the past seven years. He left me with tens of thousands of dollars of debt, two daughters to put through college, and all the grief and anger and bewilderment that went along with it. These past eight years have been the most difficult of my life. Some days, it has been all I could do to put one foot in front of the other, to scrape together financial resources, to hold the center steady for our new family of three. My connection to Shenandoah Presbytery has waned during this time. Thankfully, I have been the recipient of grace upon grace, the love of God made flesh to me through friends and family who have encouraged me and carried me and loved me to a place of peace and wholeness. I am ready to re-engage with my ministry colleagues in the Presbytery, and am seeking to be returned to the rolls as a minister-at large.

RACHEL E. HAMBURGER
STATEMENT OF FAITH

We know something of God surely because God first has known and loved us, revealing God's self most supremely in and through Jesus Christ. As believers from the first centuries came to understand, God is one God in three persons, the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit, together existing from eternity. The triune God is Creator of and sovereign over all creation, the giver of life, the provider and sustainer. God chose a particular people Israel with whom God, in great love, would make covenant. Yet from the beginning humankind chose to turn from God, the covenant was broken, and death came as a result. In many translations the last word of the Old Testament is "curse." Even the creation itself was subject to this curse.

When the time was right, the all-powerful Holy God came into the world in the flesh. God gave the Son to be with us, to redeem us from our sin by Christ's blood, shed on the cross, and to restore our broken relationship with God. Now the way was opened for all to become part of God's reconciled people through faith in the person and work of Jesus the Christ. Jesus lived and walked amongst the people, preaching good news to the poor, proclaiming the kingdom, healing the broken, and setting at liberty those who were oppressed. His message was the favor, forgiveness and judgment of God, and his call was to repent and believe. Jesus was crucified, died and in three days rose from the dead, appearing to his disciples. Before Jesus ascended to the Father, he made a promise: The Holy Spirit, the Counselor and Advocate, would come upon them in power, giving them gifts and enabling their witness. The Spirit is at work in all places and all people, convicting, convincing, restoring, working miracles, and extending God's kingdom.

I believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the revelation of God's person, work and Word throughout history. As the written Word of God, it is the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ, perfect and true in all that it teaches about God and life. The Scriptures guide and confirm us in our individual and corporate walk of obedience. They feed our faith and bless our souls as we fall more in love with the God who spoke them into the minds and hearts of human witnesses. The Confessions of the Reformed Faith also speak of what we believe, and guide us in our understanding of the Scriptures and in living out our discipleship.

I believe the church is Christ's Body, God's covenant people gathered in body and spirit. All aspects of the church's life flow out from its worship. The Presbyterian Church is governed by ruling and teaching elders, set apart to nurture the church's faith and life. The mission of the church is to serve as Jesus served and to proclaim salvation in him. It is to be, as one of our "Great Ends" states, an exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world, to the end that the Kingdom would reach and heal all states of sin, injustice, brokenness and need, and that all might come to believe in Jesus. The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are commended by Christ for his church, Baptism beginning our journey and the Lord's Supper sustaining our journey of with the crucified and risen Lord. These sacraments are signs of Christ's redeeming work, strengthening our faith, calling us to deeper obedience, demonstrating our communion with Christ and with one another, and marking us as people of the covenant. In these "mysteries of grace," Christ is present by the power of the Spirit; together with the preaching of the Word, they enable us to remember Jesus Christ - our past, present and future with him.

I believe we are saved by grace through faith in response to the loving plan of God in Jesus Christ. Humbled by this reality, we believe there is no other name but Jesus Christ by which we can be saved. Jesus will return to judge the earth and establish his Kingdom in fullness. With the community of faith, I have hope in God's promise of eternal life to all who believe, anticipating the day when the hungry will be fed, the poor and lame will be tended, the sad will find joy, and open hearts will be caught up like little lambs in the arms of the Savior. I trust in a merciful God, who works far more graciously and abundantly than we could imagine.

RACHEL E. HAMBURGER
JOURNEY OF LIFE

I believe I came into the world knowing that God loved me. What a gift it was to become so aware of God's love through all the changes and challenges of life! At summer camp at the age of nine, on a log outside my cabin, gazing at the immensity of the sky and the beauty of the trees, I said to myself, "If God did *all* this, then God could and did give his Son for us!" It was the first experience of opening my heart and life to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. My home growing up was clearly blessed by the presence, love and power of Jesus. Through struggles, and both sorrowful and joyful histories, I could see that knowing God in Christ could and did influence *all* of life. My Dad served as a Presbyterian pastor, my Mom as a faithful homemaker. We lived in New Jersey, in various places in California, and then in Germany where my Dad worked for World Vision International in communist Eastern Europe.

Even as a teen, I felt a sense of call to ministry, to help people know how much they are loved by God! After finishing college in Pennsylvania with the plan to go straight to seminary, I changed course in order to further reflect on my sense of call. After three years of work, I embarked on studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. After finishing my M.A. in Theology, I took another pause and worked in Washington, D.C. for two years. There in D.C. was a wonderful church, and through experiences of ministry, the urgings of my peers and the promptings of my own heart, my call to pastoral ministry was reconfirmed. I finished my Masters of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary in 1992.

What an incredible and privilege it has been to serve congregations in Virginia, California, and Tennessee. How much I have learned and loved these congregations. My experiences in ministry are mainly in the areas pastoral and congregational care and fellowship, member development, senior adults, and evangelism. My joys in ministry are *being with* people in their journeys of life; teaching and sharing the riches of God's Word; connecting people to each other, and coaching and encouraging them in ministries they feel called to that honor our Lord; visiting in home and hospital, and equipping members for the beautiful ministries of Christ's care to those inside and outside the walls of the church. In February 2022, after almost 30 years of pastoral ministry, I decided to take a break (rest) and move to Harrisonburg.

Here I am working two days a week in a Missions office, doing a bit of volunteer chaplain work at Sentara RMH, coming alongside a newly relocated Afghan family, singing in the Shenandoah Valley Choral Society, and having the wonderful opportunity to do some supply preaching here in the presbytery. I'm finding more enjoyment in preaching these days.

A favorite Scripture is John 8:12 – Jesus said, "I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." My family mostly gone, I'm so grateful for dear friends, colleagues from the past, a soul sister who challenges me to grow, and a monthly experience of Immanuel Journaling with two friends. I'm thankful for God's continued leading and hope to serve in ministry for many years to come.