

HANDBOOK OF REPORTS
for the
198th STATED MEETING
of the
SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY

Tuesday, August 22, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Via Zoom

Shenandoah Presbytery is a covenant body where:

- ~congregations are empowered to be centers for mission,
- ~people of God are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world,
- ~church professionals are nurtured and strengthened for service,
- ~open communication and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected.

MEMO TO: Pastors and Commissioners to Presbytery
FROM: John C. Peterson, Stated Clerk Pro Tempore Elect
RE: AUGUST 22, 2023, MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Shenandoah will meet in stated session via Zoom on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Handbook contains essential information for advanced study to enable Presbytery to make informed and prompt decisions. Please be sure all voting members of Presbytery receive a copy. They include all pastors and elected commissioners.

OFFERING : An offering will be taken during morning worship designated to Peacemaking and Global Witness.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY
Per Presbytery Manual Chapter V

Number of Meetings – Our Book of Order (G-3.0304) requires presbytery to hold stated meetings at least twice each year. At this time, there will be four STATED meetings for 2023:

- Tuesday, February 28 Zoom
- Saturday, May 20, Staunton Third Church
- Tuesday, August 22 Zoom
- Saturday, November 4, Opequon Church

Kind of Meetings – Besides stated meetings there are adjourned meetings and special meetings.

Adjourned Meetings – Held to conclude unfinished business of preceding stated meeting. New Business may be placed on docket.

Special Meetings – The moderator shall call a special meeting at the request of, or with the concurrence of, two ministers and two elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three ministers and three elders, the elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The Synod may direct the Presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than fifteen (15) days in advance to each minister and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.

Who Determines Type of Meetings? – The presbytery itself. If the business at a stated meeting is not completed in the time allowed on the docket, then the presbytery votes to extend the time on that day or votes to schedule an adjourned meeting later. Special meetings may be called in conformity with presbytery's policy, expressed in its manual.

Docket Preparation – The Presbytery Meeting Planning Committee composes the docket. Time periods for committee reports are arranged in consultation with chairs and others responsible for reports.

Docket Problems – The times listed for the presentation of reports are only general orders, and not orders of the day, unless specifically noted (see Procedural Rule A). Frequently, debate bogs down over procedural matters, and controversial issues create considerable discussion. Presbytery can always limit debate. Candidates and transferring ministers of necessity may require special considerations for their examinations because of such things as travel schedules and seminary schedules. The docket may be amended at any time during the meeting. Commissioners should be aware of possible extension of time needed for such amendments and the possible delay in adjournment.

PROCEDURAL RULES

5.5. OPERATING PROCEDURES

- 5.5.1. The Presbytery shall in its proceedings abide by the requirements of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), its Standing Rules or Manual of Operations, and Robert's Rules of Order (newly revised) in this order. A list of procedural rules adopted by Presbytery shall be printed on the inside cover of each handbook.
- 5.5.2. A report of any agency of Presbytery requiring more than 10 minutes of Presbytery time may be made an Order of the Day.
- 5.5.3. Reports having been mailed out in advance, the committee chairperson shall not read the report except to make reference to a few highlights of the report and to recommendations by numbers, moving their adoption.
 - A. Any reports not included in the Handbook shall be submitted as part of a Supplemental Report available either electronically or on paper distributed prior to the beginning of the Presbytery meeting at which the report is presented.
 - B. Any report not so circulated shall not be received by the Presbytery except by approval of the governing body by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. If a group wishes to submit such a report, a person shall summarize its content and purpose before the vote is taken.
- 5.5.4. On matters where there may be deep concern, possible controversy or lack of information, the committee making the report shall provide critical background information, so that the governing body may expeditiously make wise and considered decisions.
- 5.5.5. Debate shall be free and open, with equal time being given to proponents and opponents insofar as possible.
- 5.5.6. Any member of the governing body desiring to speak must stand, identify themselves by name and congregation, be recognized by the Moderator, and go to a microphone if available.
- 5.5.7. A member of the presbytery may speak twice on any particular motion, and not for more than a total of five minutes, but the second time may only be granted after all who have not yet spoken have had an opportunity to do so. The maker of the motion is entitled to speak first, if desired.
- 5.5.8. Lengthy motions must be written out and presented to the Stated Clerk.
- 5.5.9. References to the following procedures from Robert's Rules of Order may prove useful:
 - A. A committee recommendation does not require a second to be on the floor.
 - B. Other motions require a second prior to discussion or action.
 - C. When there is no apparent disagreement or objection to a motion, the Moderator may declare it is adopted by common or general consent.
- 5.5.10. No flash photography will be allowed during the worship service at meetings of Presbytery.
- 5.5.11. When Presbytery meets in a location where seating is limited, priority shall be given to voting members for seating within the meeting area. If it is necessary to use other rooms for overflow seating, visitors and other non-voting members shall use these areas.
- 5.5.12. QUORUM:
A quorum of the Presbytery shall be any ten teaching elders and ten ruling elders from at least ten different congregations. (G-3.0304).

Seeking to be Faithful Together:

Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will . . .

<p>Give them a hearing . . . listen before we answer John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange, · we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others. 2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement. 3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
<p>Speak the truth in love Ephesians 4:15</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teaching. 5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion. 6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
<p>Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace Ephesians 4:3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree. 8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven. 9. Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously; · seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement; · be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience; · abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with the Guidelines. 10. Include our disagreements in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
VOTING MEMBERS OF SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY

All ministers enrolled in Shenandoah Presbytery

Ruling elders commissioned to churches

Ruling elders from each church session

0-400 members = 1 ruling elder

401-800 members = 2 ruling elders

801-1200 members = 3 ruling elders

1201+ = 4 ruling elders

Ruling Elders who serve in the following capacities shall be enrolled as members of Presbytery for the term of their service:

- moderator or vice moderator of Presbytery
- chair or vice chair of Coordinating and Planning Commission
 - chair of a committee
- exempt employees of the Presbytery (on at least a half-time basis)
- Commissioned Ruling Elders providing particular pastoral services, as authorized by presbytery
- Certified Christian Educators who are serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery

Such service does not count towards the number of ruling elders a congregation is entitled to send.

ACRONYMS YOU MAY HEAR AT THE MEETING

AC – Administrative Commission

ARE – Authorized Ruling Elder

CCVT– Committee on Church Vitality & Transformation

CER - Committee on Educational Resources

CMO – Committee on Mission & Outreach

CNCD–Committee on New Congregational Development

CPA – Committee on Presbytery Administration

CPC – Coordinating and Planning Commission

CPM – Committee on Preparation for Ministry

CPT – Committee on Pastoral Transition

CRE – Commissioned Ruling Elder

CRM – Committee on Relational Ministry

DPRT – Disaster Preparedness Response Team

ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

EECMY - Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

EPC – Evangelical Presbyterian Church

GA – General Assembly

IC – Investigating Committee

KCC – Key Church Communicator

LRT – Listening Response Team

MIF – Ministry Information Form

PAM – Presbyterian Association of Musicians

PCA – Presbyterian Church in America

PCUS – Presbyterian Church in the United States

PCUSA – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PDA – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PIF – Pastor Information Form

PJC – Permanent Judicial Commission

PNC – Pastor Nominating Committee

RE - Ruling Elder

SPYCE – Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Extraordinaire

TE – Teaching Elder

TPR – Temporary Pastor Relationship

DOCKET

- 9:30 a.m. Call to Order & Prayer
- 9:35 a.m. Coordinating and Planning Commission – Teaching Elder David Howard
Nomination of Teaching Elder John C. Peterson to serve as Stated Clerk and Parliamentarian for all Presbytery meetings through July 31, 2024
- 9:40 a.m. Determining a Quorum
Procedural Rules
Welcome, Introduction of Guests, and Seating of Corresponding Members
Adoption of the Docket
Report of the Stated Clerk Pro Tempore – TE John Peterson – Page 2
Report of the Associate General Presbyter – TE Nancy Meehan Yao
- 9:55 a.m. Worship
- QR code for online giving
Peacemaking & Global Witness
- 
- 10:40 a.m. Committee on Educational Resources – TE Tommy Carrico – Page 5
- 10:55 A.M. Committee on Nominations – TE David Witt and TE Ann Held –Page 6
- 11:00 A.M. Committee on New Congregational Development – TE Karen Greenawalt – Pages 7-9
Introduction of TE Dwight McCormick – Pages 7-9
- 11:20 a.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry – TE Kate Rascoe – Pages 10-12
Introduction of TE Brittney Lane – 11-12
- 11:25 a.m. Administrative Commission to Staunton First Church – TE Jamie Smith – Page 13
- 11:35 a.m. Committee on Relational Ministry – TE Howard Boswell – Pages 14-16
Introduction of TE Teresa Ott – Pages 15-16
- 11; 45 a.m. Committee on Pastoral Transition – TE Patrick Pettit – Pages 17-21
Introduction of TE Jeffrey Binder – Pages 19-21
- 11:55 a.m. Committee on Mission and Outreach – CRE Bobby Spurgeon
- 12:05 p.m. Anticipated Adjournment

STATED CLERK REPORT

I. FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Please see page 22 for informational reports from the and the Coordinating and Planning Commission.
- B. Submitted the Committee on Representation report to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic as found on pages 3-4.
- C. The 2022 Presbytery Minutes have been reviewed and found to be without exception.
- D. The possible disciplinary issue that was reported at the last meeting has been investigated by the team of TE Sarah Hill, RE David Dax and RE Bonny Wilson. It was determined that no further action is to be taken.
- E. The Bethel AC reports that the legal matters with the Church remain unresolved and will report to the Presbytery as soon as they are.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. That Presbytery excuse from attendance from all or part of this stated meeting those ministers who submit such a request.
- B. That Presbytery approve the minutes from the May 20, 2023, Presbytery Meeting as distributed.

PRESBYTERY REPORT TO SYNOD ON REPRESENTATION
2023 Form for Year 2022

Presbytery Shenandoah

I a If you have a COR:

how often does it meet? As needed

does it meet with the Presbytery Nominating Committee? If needed

how does it report to Presbytery? Through the Coordinating and Planning Commission and Presbytery Docket if needed

b If you do not have a COR, please state how you handle oversight of appropriate representation?

II What is the size of your presbytery? Churches 98 Members 9,708

What percentage of members are minorities? 0.008%

III. Of the leadership positions with in your presbytery (Leadership includes all Presbytery level committee members) :

How many are filled by women? 36 How many are filled by men? 43

IV. In the past 5 years, have you had a non-majority Moderator?

Yes _____ No X

V. What actions or initiative has your COR taken to try and improve your record of representation on committees?

Highlighting imbalances to the Nominating Committee. The primary actionable imbalances are gender, geographic, and ordination status rather than racial or ethnic.

VI. What might the Synod COR do to assist your efforts to be more effective in your work?

The more we can support all of our congregations in anti-racism work, the better. With non-white members totaling 0.008% of overall presbytery membership, our committee and leadership numbers aren't likely to change without putting undue burden on a very small group of individuals.

Report submitted by Stephanie Sorge Signature

Stephanie Sorge

This document **was/will** be part of COR's report to Presbytery on August 22, 2023

Stated Clerk Bronwen Boswell

Signature Bronwen Boswell

Date 5/17/2023

	Committee	Total	Male Clergy	Male Laity	Female Clergy	Female Laity	Asian Amer.	African		African Amer.	Hispanic Latino	Native American	Mul=- Cultural	Middle Eastern	White	Other Self Ident	Person With Disability	Youth 25/ Under	Young Adult 26-35	Adult 36-64	SR Adult 65+
1	Budget Finance	10	5	3		2									10					4	6
2	New Church Development	7	3		3	1									7					7	
3	Comm. on Relational Ministry	9	7			2									10				1	5	3
4	Presbytery Officers	4		1	3										4					4	
5	Presbytery Council	14	6	2	6										14					9	5
6	Nominating Committee	5	1		1	3									5					2	3
7	Commissioner to 222 GA/ 239-243 SOMA	5	1	1	2	1									5					2	3
8	Comm. on Preparation	9	2	2	3	2	1								8					4	5
9	Pastoral Transition	10	5	3	1	1									10					6	4
10	Mission and Outreach	9	1	3	2	3									9					4	5
11	Church Vitality and Transformation	8	1	1	4	2									8					4	4
12	Educational Resources	7	2	2		3									7					4	3
13	PJC	9	2	3		4									9					4	5
	TOTAL	106	36	21	25	24	1								105				1	59	46

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (CER)

Class of 2023: Tommy Carrico (Chair), Judith LePera
Class of 2024: Cliff Gilchrist, Ann-Bailey Lipsett, Keith Phillips
Class of 2025: John Dull, JoAnne Sharp
Ex Officio Member: Nancy Meehan Yao

Purpose

Provide education and resources in areas of congregational ministry through the use of specialized teams and Presbytery-wide programs and training events.

Completed Work

- Educational Time at May Presbytery Meeting: Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Child Abuse Prevention Training
- Reviewed camp and conference applications and disbursed funds.
- Reviewed college and university grants and authorized fund distribution.
- Approved assuming organizational management of funds donated to campus ministry at JMU on behalf of the Presbytery

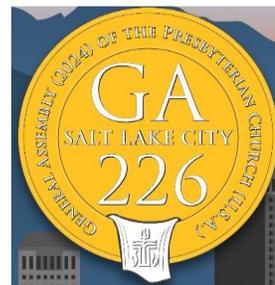
Ongoing Work

- Working to develop a sustainable campus ministry partnership with RISE Harrisonburg that currently serves JMU, Bridgewater, and Eastern Mennonite University and iron out organizational elements of financial support
- Coordinating with Massanutten PC and the Committee on Mission and Outreach to host International Peacemakers Noemí Sánchez of El Salvador from Friday, September 29th-Tuesday, October 3rd
- Working with Presbytery and PMA representatives to keep counsels in our area informed about changes brought about in anti-racism and anti-harassment requirements of GA.
- Advertising Peacemaking grant (<https://mywt5-files.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/81/2022/03/02103451/Peacemaking-Grant-Guidelines.pdf>)
- Saturday, September 9th: Big Event 2023: “Faithful Decisions in Difficult Times”
 - Worship Leader: Rev. Dr. Teri McDowell Ott, Editor/Publisher of The Presbyterian Outlook
 - Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mark Douglas, Professor of Christian Ethics, Columbia Theological Seminary
 - Location: Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center
 - Format: Morning Worship and Keynote Address, Lunch, and Afternoon Breakout sessions along with a centering/prayer space throughout the day

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (CN)

Be a General Assembly Commissioner - Application Deadline October 15

The 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will meet in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 25-July 4, 2024. The Presbytery of Shenandoah is entitled to send two minister commissioners, two ruling elder commissioners, and one young adult advisory delegate (YAAD) to this assembly. Representing Shenandoah Presbytery at General Assembly is a tremendous opportunity to participate in the work, witness, and worship of the larger church, to provide input and insight within the Assembly, and bring back to us the news of what is happening across the Presbyterian Church. Application forms are available (<https://shenpres.org/226-general-assembly/>)



requesting consideration for nomination as a minister, ruling elder, and young adult advisory delegate at this meeting. Applications must be submitted to the presbytery office by **OCTOBER 15, 2023** in order for the Nominating Committee to be able to consider persons for commissioners.

As the Nominating Committee looks toward recommending pastors and elders to attend the 2024 General Assembly, the committee is seeking self-referrals of ministers/teaching elders and the recommendation of ruling elders and young adult advisory delegates from which to be able to make the recommendation for election to the Presbytery. You are encouraged to let members of your session, or those who are elders but not currently active on the session, know that if they have interest, they may self-nominate so long as they have the endorsement of the session, which will be indicated by the name of the Clerk of Session, and date of session action, on the form. In addition, the session may have a ruling elder or a young adult they want to invite to fill in a form to have the name before the Nominating Committee.

We are looking for interested persons, **Ruling Elders, Teaching Elders and Young Adults** to attend the 226th General Assembly in 2024.

[Click here to read the information from GA](https://shenpres.org/226-general-assembly/) and then request the application forms at:

<https://shenpres.org/226-general-assembly/>.

Submit the completed online application to the Nominations Committee **by October 15, 2023**.

COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CNCD)

Our purpose: To formulate and implement a comprehensive plan for location, funding, and development of new congregations and new worshiping communities within the bounds of the presbytery.

Committee members: Adrienne North, Rachel Hamburger, Kevin Hay, Gusti Linnea Newquist, Karen Greenawalt, Drew Ditzel, John Bethard, Nancy Meehan Yao

On July 6, 2023, via Zoom, a portion of CNCD met with a portion of the examination committee of the Committee on Pastoral Transition to examine Rev. Dwight J. McCormick, II, (Presbytery of Miami Valley) candidate for the Community Cup New Worshipping Community. The examination was sustained, and TE McCormick will be received as a member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective September 7, 2023. (See pages 7-9 for biographical sketch and statement of faith.)

The committee voted to apply for the Board of Pensions NWC grant, and the waiver if needed, to cover Board of Pension costs fully for three years with two additional years at decreased coverage for Rev. Dwight McCormick, pastor for Community Cup NWC.

The committee agreed by consensus that Dwight McCormick should send us the top 3 estimates for moving expenses that he would like us to consider.

The committee discussed the process for obtaining a 501c3 which according to the lawyer, David DeJarnett, would need to be a c3 Unincorporated Association for the Community Cup Church and the process of the c3 owning the Community Cup and More. We decided to table this discussion and gather leaders from the Community Cup NWC including Dwight in September and have this discussion with them.

The committee unanimously agreed to ask Heather Carter to create a pass-through account for donations to The Community Cup NWC through the Presbytery. That way donations to the ministries to the church don't have to wait until the c3 is created.

DWIGHT J. MCCORMICK, II BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

I was born in Oakland California and raised in Southern West Virginia (Bluefield and Princeton). I consider WV more home than California. I have two older sisters, Mona, and Jill. My parents were Dwight and Ellie McCormick. They owned and ran a produce and grocery store in Bluefield West Virginia. When I was old enough, I began to work as a cashier and unload trucks at the store. The store was called Gateway Country Store and Produce.

I played football and was in two separate choirs in high school. I also was in several plays. I was a Bible thumper Christian in high school and for my freshman year in college. I was kind of obnoxious really. I was a Southern Baptist until my mom felt called into ministry and they didn't support her in it. This was 1985. Mom went on to become a commissioned lay pastor in the PC(USA) in 1996. She served as pulpit supply for various churches for a number of years until Alzheimer's forced her to retire from her full-time gig as a Clinical Psychologist with adolescents and her part-time work as a preacher.

I went to youth group regularly during junior high and high school and feel like my relationship with God was established and nourished enough to lead to a call into ministry at age 16. Initially I felt like my call was to serve as a youth pastor. Later I would discern it was a general call to ministry. My mentor invited me to trust the process to determine what shape ordained ministry would look like. 24 years in parish ministry have affirmed my call as a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

I was a college cheerleader for the Marshall Thundering Herd and did acrobatic lifts and had a jovial time in college. During my years at Marshall, I was introduced to the PROWL ministry. It is an acronym- People Reaching Out With Love. They were the Presbyterian campus ministry. After having defected from the Southern Baptist campus ministry for having too many questions and their lack of affirming women in ministry, PROWL welcomed me with open arms and minds. They encouraged questioning as part of faith development and lead me to join a Presbyterian Church (Highlawn Presbyterian Church of Huntington WV). 1992 through around 2003 Pastor of Highlawn Rev. Jack Haga mentored me. Highlawn's Session affirmed my call and guided me through the process of becoming ordained.

I went to seminary at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary from 1995-1998 graduating as one does with a Master of Divinity degree. God called me to serve at Kenova Presbyterian Church in Kenova West Virginia on March 21, 1999, where I served for three years. It was during that time that I met my wife Sarah (she was not affiliated with the church). I met her through her brother who I knew from PROWL. We were married in April of 2000 and had our first daughter Chloe during our first year of marriage. In 2002 God called me to serve as solo pastor of Community Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte in Ashland Kentucky. In 2005 our youngest daughter Phoebe was born. We would go on to serve two more years in Ashland until we were called to serve in Springfield Ohio at Northminster Presbyterian Church. I served as solo pastor there since May 15, 2007.

I have played guitar for forty years. I am an avid cyclist and participate in a charity ride in July called the Pan Ohio Hope Ride. It raises funds for the American Cancer Society Hope House Lodge at Cleveland Clinic. We ride from Cleveland to Cincinnati over four days. I probably have too much pride in this. My wife and I used to love to dance but have not done much recently. Hopefully that will change soon.

I have a good sense of humor and have written and performed stand-up comedy since 2005. I stopped writing much after 2014 but have hopes that I will soon be able to work out some new material. The YouTube clips you may find of my standup are mediocre at best. My more recent stuff where I am funnier has not been taped. Comedy is a lifeline for me-a real outlet and source of energy and light. It brings me joy.

I am passionate about recovery and want to be of maximum service to God and others through working with people in 12 step recovery communities-people in recovery, family members, and professionals who help those in recovery. I am in recovery and have been for seven and a half years. I break my anonymity to demonstrate how I may be suited for the service to which I am being called. It feels like an ideal call for me to serve with Community Cup and More.

I'm a decent preacher, though I need to get away from manuscripts. I am excellent at pastoral care by the grace of God.

I genuinely believe God has prepared a way for me to serve with Community Cup and More and look forward with enthusiasm to serving alongside the good folks in Martinsburg and in the Shenandoah Presbytery. I look forward to this new adventure of ministry and I look forward to meeting the folks in the Presbytery and in the neighborhoods I am being called to serve.

DWIGHT J. MCCORMICK, II STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe the Sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism provide us unique symbols of God's grace. During 23 years of ministry, I have seen the grace of God living and breathing through the Sacraments. As I break bread that splits with a crunch and drenches the table with crumbs, I am reminded of the extravagant grace of God that flows over us in our darkest need and sets our feet on solid ground. As the water pours from my hand onto the head of an infant, I am reminded of the newness of life God's love gives us from the time we are born until we live into the next life. I am reminded of how God claims us in Baptism declaring "this is my beloved".

I believe in the unique authoritative witness of Scripture to the Word become flesh Jesus Christ. Scripture is not just our rule for faith and life. It is what comes to mind when I get an angry phone call from someone not pleased with the way I am leading. The verse from Colossians 3:13 comes to mind. "Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

I believe God is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. This love is called grace. I believe we are made whole by grace through faith. I believe that grace was shown to us through the power of love over death within The Resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe humanity has been entrusted with the gift of God's grace to live a life brimming with gratitude and service. The Son of God, Jesus the Christ, was King of Kings and Lord of Lords yet he humbled himself as a servant to wash the disciples' feet. His example is one we are called to follow, that of servant leadership. Through service to God and to others we demonstrate the grace by which we are complete. Our faith is living and moving and breathing just as the Holy Spirit is.

I believe Jesus is Lord and all other powers are subject to this Lordship. The Lordship of Jesus Christ is not one of a coercive or dominant power, but rather one of humility, of service, and love. I believe we are called to love God with all our hearts, all our minds, all our souls, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. While we strive for this ideal, we fall short. Through our stumbling and sinfulness, the perfect God of grace meets us where we are and leads us to where we can be, forgiven and redeemed.

I believe that laughter is a vital element of a life of faith. With the writer Anne Lamott, I believe laughter is carbonated holiness. In laughing we breathe differently, inhaling the Holy Spirit and exhaling that which binds us to worry and anxiety. To laugh is to pray. I believe laughing brings us closer to the Divine. I believe we are to pray without ceasing and therefore laugh often. This holy laughter comes from the joy of being part of God's redeemed creation; it springs from gratitude and deep gladness, not from a cheap joke well told. I see grace floating around the room in a comedy club. When a belly laugh makes it hard to breathe, I am sometimes reminded of the Presence of God in our breath and grab a moment of stillness and sit in gratitude.

I believe all forms of prayer are a vital part of remaining in right relationship with God. Praying for knowledge of God's will and the power to carry it out is our calling as followers of Jesus Christ. Through prayer we commune with the Holy Spirit and are empowered by the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

I believe we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and to make disciples and baptize people in the name of Jesus Christ. This is good ongoing work to be done alongside one another.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY (CPM)

Chair, Rev. Kate Rascoe + shenprescpm@gmail.com

“The purpose of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry of Shenandoah Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is to provide the best possible leadership for the church by assuring that persons called to the ordered ministry of teaching elder are firm in their faith in Christ, assured of their call to serve God and the church as a teaching elder, and receive the fullest personal and professional preparation for this office.”

As of August 1, 2023, Shenandoah Presbytery’s CPM has 7 souls under care.

Please pray for our Inquirers and Candidates:

Hannah Altmann - CE Track

Working at Massanutten PC

Benjamin Kent - Inquirer

Warrenton PC

Cassandra Semler - Inquirer

Tuscarora PC; Pittsburgh Seminary

Deborah A. Romano - Candidate

Shepherdstown PC

Wesley Theological Seminary

Chance Snell - Candidate

Tinkling Spring PC; Dubuque

Kimberly Joy Shank -Candidate

Mossy Creek PC; EMU

Mark Dewey - Candidate

Trinity PC; Working as Chaplain

+ Acting with commission authority in conjunction with CPT, on March 2, 2023 CPM examined and sustained the ordination of Britney Daniel Lane (incoming) to the Woodstock Church. She is to be presented to the presbytery at the August 2023 meeting. (See pages 11-12 for biographical sketch and statement of faith)

+ CPM examined and approved Deborah Romano advancing to Candidacy on May 10, 2023. She will be presented to the presbytery at the October meeting, so her congregation can be present to celebrate!

+ CPM is in search of a new provider for psychological testing and guidance for our Inquirers and CREs. A knowledge of career testing and a general understanding of the stressors of ministry would be appreciated. Send any recommendations to Sarah Hill, revsarahhill@gmail.com

We thank the Shen Pres Nominating Committee for their diligence. Current CPM members are: Kate Rascoe (chair), Harriet Thompson, Mark Facknitz, Sarah Hill, Kathy Shue, Jim Yao, Houston Lynch, Carrie Evans, and David Howard.

Future 2023 meetings - Sept 13, Oct 11, Nov 8.

“Discernment is not a simple knowing, or awareness. It requires placing personal awareness within the context of life experience in relationship with others and with God. Discernment is a complex, challenging, and hugely rewarding ongoing life task.” (Discerning Your Call and Your Gifts For Ministry of Word and Sacrament, published by PC(USA))

Information about the Care process can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mrm1FBAe2q0fyI23G7C72PcSM_tcDRiy?usp=sharing

BRITTNEY M. LANE
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Growing up in First Presbyterian Church of Allentown was a gift. The church was a hub of activity, friends, chosen family, and a place where I could truly be myself. I held any leadership role that I could and participated in every activity, mission trip or event possible. I just could not get enough. I have a small biological family and with one set of grandparents far away in Oregon, I found my family at that church as well. Babysitters, friends close enough to be siblings, and an endless number of adopted grandparents was my reality at FPCA. To this day, I am still so grateful for the leading role that FPCA has played in my childhood and early adulthood. There I was taught how to love deeply, what passion looks like, and what it feels like to be involved in a community.

When I was not at church, I was dancing competitively, acting with our local musical theatre company, or participating in after school programs. I attended Eastern University in Wayne, Pennsylvania and graduated in three years with a degree in Missiology & Anthropology. While there, I spent all of my free time at Wayne Presbyterian Church volunteering with their youth program and children's choirs. While I was not the typical college student, I certainly learned quite a bit about myself during my college years and my wonderful mentors helped me to see that ministry was my "dream job". From there I went on to attend Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia to earn my Masters of Divinity. It was at seminary where I met some of the most wonderful friends, colleagues and even my husband. I spent my days going to class, working at a few local farmers markets, working at my internships and hiking whenever I could while my nights were spent in deep theological discussion over potlucks with peers or in the community garden that I co-led with a dear friend and fellow student. Seminary was a special time for theological and personal growth and an immeasurable amount of learning.

I began serving Woodstock Presbyterian as their pastor on Palm Sunday. It has been a whirlwind for the past few months because I also married my now husband, Rev. Patrick Lane on May 27th. To add one more thing to the long list of "life events", I was recently ordained at my home church on July 17th . Throughout this time, I have been grateful for the members and friends of Woodstock Presbyterian who have welcomed me with open arms, open minds, and excitement for the future. I am still settling in at the church and as always, learning each and every day.

Any extra time I have these days is spent cooking out with friends, taking my two goofy dogs for walks and hikes in and around Shenandoah National Park, and reconnecting with old friends who have moved to the area. Each day brings something new to learn and I am grateful for all of those opportunities.

BRITTNEY M. LANE
STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the Trinity which is made up of God, the almighty creator of the universe, Jesus, God's only begotten son who God gifted to the earth through Mary as God's contextualization of God's self, love, and promise to creation, and the Holy Spirit, who lives in each of us and exists throughout all of creation. These three are one trinity and are homoousios. (same substance). The trinity provides us with many ways to relate to God so that no matter the situation or place in life, we can relate to a person of the Trinity. To me, God is the genderless eternal Parent who loves unconditionally, is all-powerful, all-knowing, but also grants free will for humanity to choose their own path. Jesus came to earth via Mary to spread the love of God intentionally and be a tactile person for humanity to better relate to and understand. This was a way for God to show God's love for God's creation for many people to see and understand. The Holy Spirit is God at work in our everyday lives revealing God's love to us through emotion and circumstances. The Holy Spirit is often realized to me through passion and drive. These are just a few examples of how I understand God's movement and work in my life.

Communion is a time for all people who want to dedicate their lives to God through the partaking of the commonplace elements. This sacrament is freely given to all. I believe that anyone who truly wants to learn more about Jesus and engage with their own relationship with God should be allowed to partake in

the elements. Communion is a way to grow closer to Jesus and the elements are physical symbols of the sacrifice that God made for us. All are welcome at God's table.

Sin is an ever-present aspect of our lives. Sin is anything that keeps us from the personal acceptance of God's grace. We are human and therefore, we are not God and we are not perfect. We each sin in different ways. In some instances, we come together to confess our sins as a church family, joining in one voice acknowledging that we all sin in a unison prayer of confession. In addition to that we can confess to God at any point in time our missteps and ways that we have strayed from God's path.

Baptism is a way to dedicate one's life to God and also acknowledge that God knows and chooses each one of us. Infant baptism is important to me because it is a time for parents/guardians of a newborn to bring their child into a church family and dedicate them to an upbringing and life in the church. It is the recognition that God loves all of us from the very beginning and will walk through life with us. It is also affirming the commitment of the family and the church community in having a joint effort to support, love, and care for the life of the newborn in the way of Christ. Baptism can be celebrated at any age though and will also affirm the choice of the child or adult as well. Baptismal vows are intense vows that I take very seriously. As a church member taking these vows, I committed to being an active player in the life of the baptized individual and that also means supporting the family in whatever means necessary to help the baptized individual to thrive and know the love of God.

The Bible is the word of God meant to teach, to guide and to inspire us. We should read and learn from the Bible every day and in church but also know that it needs to be read in the historical and literary context of the time it was written.

The church is a place to learn, grow, and live in community with one another. We all bring different strengths and weaknesses to the table so we should all work together to understand the Bible and live in community supporting and encouraging one another to be better disciples of Christ inside and outside the walls of the church. The church should be an honest family of believers (and seeking believers), striving to live like Jesus and have a true love for God as they go about their lives in worship, mission, study, and service.

FINAL REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
FOR STAUNTON FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AC Members: Jamie Smith, moderator (TE, Mossy Creek PC),
Seth Normington (TE, Cooks Creek PC),
Beth Smith (RE, Massanutten PC),
Mary Kay Adams (RE, Bridgewater PC)

In May 2022, prompted by internal conflict at Staunton's First Church, Bronwen Boswell (GP) formed listening teams of TE and RE volunteers from neighboring churches. Staunton First's members were invited to share their thoughts regarding the state of their church with these teams. Several members came forward to offer input. The information was collected and shared with Session and CRM. At the end of July, the pastor left. Jamie Smith was appointed moderator and began working with Session in August. Session then requested the help of an AC to advise them in reorganizing during their transition so that their work would continue in a productive manner. Bronwen asked for volunteers from among the listening team members to serve on the AC, and the four members listed above agreed to be the AC. They met with Session every month from October 2022 through June 2023 and Jamie was in frequent communication with the elders beyond those meetings.

As a result of November's election of new elders, the New Year (2023) began with a full complement of members who organized themselves into committees and reimagined their work in creative ways that included new ministries and the continuation of others. In addition, Bronwen Boswell and Nancy Meehan Yao (AGP) provided much-needed elder training in January, which proved beneficial throughout the AC's remaining months with the Session. Bronwen and Nancy were also available as resources to AC and Session throughout the entire process. In addition, Patrick Pettit (Chair, CPT) provided guidance regarding the search for a transitional pastor, both at Session meetings and via other forms of communication.

A PNC was formed in November and began its work to find a transitional pastor. In late spring a unanimous decision was made to hire Jeff Binder, and the elders and congregation welcomed him warmly as he began his work with the church in July 2023. Jeff's entrance concluded the work of the AC.

As the AC observed the various ways Session dealt with its challenges over a 9-month period, it saw improvement and growth from the pain, frustration, worry, division, resistance to change, insufficient communication, negativity, and inability to work cooperatively with others to the creation of positive attitudes and solutions that have inspired confidence among the elders and congregation, lending energy, creativity, and the cohesion of a unified approach. We are optimistic that the challenges faced by the church 14 months ago when the listening teams began have been addressed and that the church is in a healthier condition than it was at that time, eager to work on the transition process. The Session has taken ownership of its leadership role, and the AC is encouraged by what lies ahead for the future of SFPC.

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY (CRM)

I. FOR INFORMATION:

The committee meets the second Thursday of each month via Zoom.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Craigsville Session and Teaching Elder Gwen Carr from March 1, 2023-February 29, 2024
- B. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Fairfield Session and Teaching Elder Helen “Punker” Robertson from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.
- C. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Smyrna Session and Teaching Elder Rachel Hamburger from July 31, 2023-January 28, 2024
- D. Removed David Shearer from the roll of Shenandoah Presbytery per Book of Order G-2.0508, effective July 13, 2023.

III. RECOMMENDATION:

That Presbytery dissolve, with thanks, the Administrative Commission to the Staunton First Church effective August 22, 2023.

IV. INTRODUCTION:

At their December 8 meeting, CRM sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Teresa M. Ott (Presbytery of Great Rivers), validated her ministry as Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook, and received her as a member-at-large effective December 8, 2022. (See pages 15-16 for biographical sketch and statement of faith.)

TERESA M. OTT
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Formal Education

McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL

Doctor of Ministry, 2008

Thesis Title: “Encouraging Faith Development through Worship”

Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY

Master of Divinity, 1998

Alma College, Alma, Michigan

Bachelor of Arts, 1994

Spanish Major

Writing and Publications

- “Necessary Risks: Challenges Privileged People Need to Face”, Fortress Press, 2022.
- “Family Politics: a liberal daughter discusses White privilege with her conservative dad,” *The Christian Century*, October 27th, 2020.
- “Our College’s Calling Goes Beyond the Classroom,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Guest Commentary, July 31st, 2020.
- “Living by the Word,” commentaries on John 14: 8-17, 25-27; John 17: 20-26; Luke 24: 44-53 for *The Christian Century*, May 14, 2019.
- “Grappling with race as a White college chaplain,” *The Christian Century*, February 5th, 2018.
- “Dear Church: Please ask me about my college students,” *The Presbyterian Outlook*, Guest Commentary, November 10th, 2017.
- “I believe racism is wrong. So what?” *The Christian Century*, May 24th, 2017.
- “Newborn Sparrow,” *Hippocampus Magazine*, March, 2017
- “In the realm of the nones: Reflections of a college chaplain,” *The Christian Century*, December 29, 2015.
- “Living by the Word,” commentaries on 2 Samuel 11:1-15 and 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a for *The Christian Century*, July 26th, 2015.
- “A Preacher’s Anxiety: Between Panic and Pride,” *The Christian Century*, June 24th, 2015.
- “Dressing up the Pastor,” essay in *There’s a Woman in the Pulpit: Christian Clergywomen Share their Hard Days, Holy Moments and the Healing Power of Humor*, (Skylight Paths Publishing), April, 2015.
- “Wilderness Venture: Toward a more honest sermon,” *The Christian Century*, April 16, 2014.
- “Something to Say: Honest words about religion, scripture and life,” personal website and blog.

Work Experience

2021—present	Editor / Publisher, Richmond, Virginia The Presbyterian Outlook
2011—2021	Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois Dean of the Chapel
2005—2010	Cameron Presbyterian Church, Cameron, NC Solo Pastor
2002 – 2005	First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, SC Associate Pastor for Christian Education
1998 – 2002	Spring Valley Presbyterian Church, Columbia, SC Associate Pastor for Youth and Board of Deacons

Service to the Church and Community

2015—2018	<i>Presbyterian College Chaplain’s Association</i> , Executive Board Member
2017—2018	<i>Lead Presbyter for Transformation Search Committee</i> , Presbytery of Great Rivers Member

2012 – present	<i>Warren County Ministerial Association, Monmouth, Illinois</i> President
2012—2017	<i>Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Presbytery of Great Rivers</i> Member
2005- 2010	<i>Cameron Community Pastor’s Association, Cameron, NC</i> Treasurer of Cameron Emergency Fund
2006-2007	<i>Sandhills Coalition for Human Care, Southern Pines, NC</i> Volunteer Screener

TERESA M. OTT
STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the one Triune God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, who is the source of all life and love. God is the reconciling presence in our world who draws us into beloved community and to grace-filled relationship with our Redeemer. God is like the parent who constantly beckons us home, loving us unconditionally and forgiving us time and time again as we sin and stumble along the path of life and faith.

I believe in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God-with-us. I believe that Christ conquered sin and death through his life, death, and resurrection and models the way of living and being in this world that we are to emulate. Like Christ, we are to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. Like Christ, we are to love the Lord our God with all our hearts, all our souls, and all our minds and we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. I believe Christ embodied God’s love in our world and points us to God’s love that is still yet to come.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, who is always present in our lives calling us and leading us in the direction God wishes us to go. The person of the Holy Spirit works through us as individuals as well as through the community of the church. It is the Holy Spirit who illumines our hearts and minds to the message of God’s Word and then calls us to respond in service using the gifts we have been given.

I believe that the Holy Spirit calls us together to be the Body of Christ, the church. The church is more than a group of believers gathered. The church is Christ’s agent in the world today. With Christ as our head and the community of faith as his body, the church has a great responsibility to reflect God’s love and grace to the world. So, whereas the church is a place of great comfort, it is also a place of great challenge as we collectively strive to embody Christ’s ministry in the world today.

I believe that the sacraments of the church are visible signs of God’s redemptive grace. Through the sacrament of baptism, individuals die to their old way of sin and rise to new life in Jesus Christ. The water of baptism is the sign and seal of God’s covenant relationship with the individual. Through the sacrament of baptism, the individual is also received into the community of faith that promises to guide and nurture them. The sacrament of the Lord’s Supper is also a visible sign of our renewed covenant with God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the community of faith gathers around the Lord’s table we remember and give thanks for our baptism, we remember and give thanks for Christ’s death and resurrection, and we renew our hope in the One who redeems and restores.

I believe that scripture is the unique and authoritative Word of God. Just as Jesus did, we must turn to scripture as our reliable guide for faith and practice. I believe we are called to study our scripture faithfully and diligently, all the while praying for the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds and hearts to the message God intends for us through the Word.

COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION

I. FOR INFORMATION:

The Committee meets the first Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Authorized the 13 ruling elders from 8 congregations who completed the recent training to preside over Communion in their home church, pending session authorization.
- B. Granted permission for Collierstown Church to elect a pastor nominating committee for an installed pastor.
- C. Appointed Honorably Retired Teaching Elder Tom Forbes to serve as moderator at Falling Water Church.
- D. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between Cooks Creek Church and Teaching Elder Seth A. Normington effective June 30, 2023.
- E. Transferred Teaching Elder Seth A. Normington to the Presbytery of East Iowa effective July 1, 2023.
- F. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Jeffrey A. Binder (West Virginia) and found him suitable to serve as interim pastor of Staunton First Church and that he become a member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective July 1, 2023.
- G. Approved the interim pastor contract between the Staunton First Session and Teaching Elder Jeffrey A. Binder from July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.
- H. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Amy D. Fetterman (Shenandoah) and found her suitable to serve as temporary supply pastor of the Waynesboro Second Church.
- I. Approved the temporary supply pastor contract between the Waynesboro Second Session and Teaching Elder Amy D. Fetterman from July 1, 2023-July 1, 2024.
- J. Approved the temporary supply pastor contract between Timber Ridge Session and Honorably Retired Teaching Elder James M. Young from June 1-August 31, 2023.
- K. Approved the ruling elder contract between the Burnt Session and Ruling Elder Dellea Underwood from August 1, 2023-July 31, 2024. (RE Underwood is a member of Burnt Church.)
- L. Approved the ruling elder contract between the Burnt Session and Ruling Elder David Weil from August 1, 2023-July 31, 2024. (RE Weil is a member of Charles Town Church.)
- M. Concurred with the Committee on New Congregational Development to sustain the examination of Teaching Elder Dwight J. McCormick, II, a member of the Presbytery of Miami Valley, who has received a call to the Community Cup New Worshipping Community, and that he become a member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective September 7, 2023.
- N. Approved the following terms of call between Teaching Elder Dwight J. McCormick, II, and the Community Cup New Worshipping Community beginning September 7, 2023:

Annual Cash Salary	\$	38,000
Housing Allowance		35,000
Major Medical		19,710
Pension and Disability		7,300
SECA		5,585

Reimbursable Business and Professional Expenses
Including automobile expense 4,500

Moving expenses as negotiated.

Four weeks annual paid vacation, including four Sundays.

Two weeks annual study leave with pay, including two Sundays. Funds and leave time may be accumulated up to and including three years with the agreement of the CNCD or Board of Directors for the non-profit owners of Community Cup.

Family Leave as outlined by the Book of Order at the time when such leave is requested.

In the event of your total disability or death, your family shall receive the current housing allowance for six months and will receive a sum equivalent to your salary for three months.

A sabbatical at the end of six years as outlined in the Shenandoah Presbytery Sabbatical Policy. The annual amount placed in escrow will be \$500.00.

O. Approved receiving Teaching Elder Brittney M. Lane from Lehigh Presbytery and that she become a member of the Shenandoah Presbytery effective June 17, 2023.

P. Approved the following terms of call between Woodstock Church and Teaching Elder Brittney M. Lane beginning March 27, 2023:

Annual Cash Salary	\$	26,500
Housing Allowance		26,500
Major Medical		15,370
Pension and Disability		5,300
SECA		4,055
Continuing Education		1,500
Automobile Allowance		1,200
Books and Subscriptions		800

Moving expenses to the field as negotiated

Four weeks annual paid vacation, including four Sundays

Two weeks annual paid study leave, including two Sundays

Three weeks annual paid sick leave, including three Sundays

Primary Parent Leave of eight weeks of leave with full pay and benefits excluding work benefits such as travel expense.

Disability or death benefit - beneficiary shall receive the current housing allowance for six months and will receive a sum equivalent to your salary for three months.

Sabbatical at the end of six years as outlined in the Presbytery policy

III. INTRODUCTION:

At their June meeting, CPT sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Jeffrey A. Binder (Presbytery of West Virginia), approved his interim contract with Staunton First Church, and received him as a member effective July 1, 2023. (See pages 19-21 for biographical sketch and statement of faith.)

JEFFREY A. BINDER
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

I was born on April 16th, 1981, to my loving parents Debbie and Frank Binder, and my older brother Kevin. Following my birth, the family continued to grow with the birth of my brother Tim, my sister Sarah, and a multitude of dogs, cats, and various pets. I grew up in Parma, Ohio; a large suburb of Cleveland. I enjoyed growing up in Cleveland. I learned to appreciate the scarce warm and sunny days, the values of hard work and honesty, and what it means to be a faithful person. Yes, I grew up with a Catholic father and a Presbyterian mother, and I did go to church regularly, but I'm talking about being a *faithful fan* of our hometown Cleveland sports teams. Whether it is watching our Cleveland Browns, Cavs, or Guardians, they all have taught me to appreciate victory and success, and to love, even in the midst of sorrow.

I found a place to call home in the church. Depending on who was home on Sunday mornings, my siblings and I would head to a Catholic mass or Presbyterian worship. In junior high school I was introduced into the Presbyterian youth group, and I joined a community of friends, choirs, teachers, and ministry partners. I have no doubt that I am where I am today because of the love and care of Parma-South Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. Nona Holy, our Associate Pastor at the time.

It was because of the church that I was given a scholarship to attend the College of Wooster in Ohio, where I learned to create unique experiences both personally and academically. It was also at Wooster where I discovered an academic and personal passion for religion and the Church. It was here, where I was gathered with people of similar thirsts and hungers for knowledge and experience, where I committed myself to walking in Christ's footsteps, and seeking God's will for my life. Following graduation in 2003 I did not plan to be a pastor, but I *was* headed to the mountains of Montana at Glacier National Park, where I would have my first official ministry internship with A Christian Ministry in the National Parks. I went there to enjoy God's Creation and put my faith into action, and I left inspired to serve.

I continued to seek ways to serve God in ministry, taking a position in youth ministry at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, New Jersey in 2004. I quickly discerned a call to seminary, where after speaking with several trusted friends and colleagues, I applied for McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois, where I was given a full scholarship in 2006. McCormick opened my eyes to ministry opportunities that I never before imagined. Within the first few weeks I was discussing Bible commentaries, racial identity, and emergent worship—I was hooked. I remember to this day receiving a paper back from one of my professors who challenged me. I wrote about how I wanted to become a congregational minister, and she challenged me to continue to think “outside the box” as to where ministry opportunities may exist. This comment resonated with the values of my childhood, my college education, and now my seminary experience. Where is God leading the Church in the Twenty First Century, and where is God leading me?

My first ordained call in October of 2009 was to the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta, Florida. I greatly enjoyed the opportunity to serve as the Associate Pastor for Families and Mission, and to experience the day-to-day opportunities of congregational ministry.

In 2012 I inquired as to where God was leading me next, and the response came in the form of an emailed job description from a colleague to serve as the Associate Presbyter for Youth and Young Adult Ministries with the Presbytery of the Peaks in Lynchburg, Virginia. Again, I found myself being challenged to see what new and exciting things God had in store for my life, and for those I minister with.

I was called to serve as Head Pastor with Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, in 2017, where I had the opportunity to learn and grow in congregational ministry, now as the Head of Staff. The year 2017 was also an amazing year of growth as my ex-wife, Julie, and I moved across the country to start a new chapter of life together as a married couple. Valley Community has been a wonderful place of ministry and mission where I have also started my doctoral studies and started the important work of

transitional ministry. As life would have it, there have been more adventures to embark upon, the pandemic leading many of us through unparalleled challenges and changes, both personally and professionally. Julie and I discerned that our relationship had transformed into something new, and while we remain good friends, we decided to divorce in 2021.

A new chapter began as I served in interim ministry in Lewisburg, West Virginia, with Old Stone Presbyterian Church. I continued to formally develop transitional ministry skills while also deeply appreciating the unique offerings that small town life has to offer. Over that year and a half, I thoroughly enjoyed the daily pastoral responsibilities, the larger perspective work of interim ministry, and continued work within my doctorate program at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary—all the while enjoying the beauty of the Mountain State.

And now a new chapter begins with the First Presbyterian of Staunton. I am excited to learn and grow once again as I seek to apply my previous work experience into an altogether new experience of ministry. Being a transitional time and place of ministry for First Presbyterian, this will also be a transitional time and place for me as a Pastor, a Christian, and a man, as I continue to listen for God's call in my life. I am excited to have old friends just a few miles away in West Virginia, and my family within a half-day's drive in Ohio. I am thrilled to be remaining in the mountains and people of Appalachia, which feels like home time and time again. And I am inspired with the opportunity to serve as the Interim Pastor where we can journey alongside one another in faith and fellowship.

Each and every day I am amazed at how God works in the world we know. And each and every day I consider it our Christian opportunity to respond to God's work in the world, as we seek to follow Christ, and as we are led by the Spirit to witness to God's salvation both in our ministry, and in our daily lives. To God be the glory!

JEFFREY A. BINDER
STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in God...

God, the author and inspiration of life itself, of all place and time;

God, who created the endless lights in the heavens,

and God, who made the ticks and mosquitos;

God made it all...

...including me...

...and somehow, for some reason, God shows a keen interest in each of us humans;

the specks of cosmic dust that we are;

each of us broken, sinful,

...and extravagantly loved by our creator

...as beloved children.

I know that God so loved the world because of Jesus Christ, whom I call my teacher, brother, and savior.

Jesus was human like us,

walking this earth in bare feet and sandals,

and at the same time God's very self,

empowered and led by the Spirit;

God 3-in-1.

Jesus shared his father's love with humanity in miracles and ordinary life, alike,

...with life-giving grace.

He saw the invisible, and heard the voiceless...

...average people like you and me...

and he invited them to dinner,
feeding them with life-nourishing bread and cup.
It was Jesus who was executed for sharing God's love,
who suffered the depths of humanity,
and who was raised from death
to let the world know that God's love knows no boundaries.

Jesus spoke of being born again,
and that is what I am.
Now, born of the Holy Spirit of God,
of water as an infant, and now of fire as Christ's hands and feet.
The Spirit continues to confront...
...challenge...
...and inspire a new transformed identity; new creation.

And so that is what we are as the church:
specks floating about an endless cosmos...
and yet graciously loved into new existence;
each of us God's children,
each of us intimately known and loved,
each of us called and sent to proclaim God's love with the world,
realizing God's kingdom together.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY REPORTS

Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC)

I. FOR INFORMATION:

Met via Zoom on July 25 and heard reports from all committees of Presbytery.

II.

- A. Approved the request to serve Communion at The Big Event September 9, 2023.
- B. Endorsed the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Small Church Grant application from the Staunton First Church for assistance in replacing the air conditioning in the sanctuary.
- C. Approved designating the offering taken at the August 22, 2023, Presbytery meeting to Peacemaking and Global Witness, with 50% retained by the Presbytery and 50% to the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- D. Accepted the invitation of the Opequon Church to host the November 4, 2023, Presbytery Meeting.

Volunteer Service to Shenandoah Presbytery

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Congregation _____

___ Ruling Elder ___ Teaching Elder ___ Retired

I am interested in serving God through Shenandoah Presbytery in the following ways:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I am currently serving in Shenandoah Presbytery in the following ways:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Opportunities to Serve in Shenandoah Presbytery

Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT)

Purpose: To provide processes and support for congregations that have an identified need, willingness, and ability to engage in spiritual and/or programmatic growth which can lead to deeper commitment both within and beyond current membership.

Committee on Educational Resources (CER)

Purpose: To provide education and resources in the areas of stewardship, children's ministry, youth and young adult ministry, evangelism, social justice issues, and other areas related to congregational ministry through the use of specialized teams and regional and presbytery-wide training events.

Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)

Purpose: Coordinate and oversee local, national, and international mission work through congregations and mission communities. CMO will provide information, resources, encouragement and support.

Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)

Purpose: To formulate and implement a comprehensive plan for location, funding, and development of new congregations and new worshipping communities within the bounds of the presbytery.

Committee on Nominations (CN)

Purpose: To nominate to Presbytery individuals to serve on presbytery committees, adhering to established norms of committee membership and representation including vacancies, chairs and vice-chairs; and to nominate persons to serve on presbytery's PJC and as commissioners to Synod and General Assembly meetings.

Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT)

Purpose: To fulfill all Book of Order and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and guidance to churches and pastors in the process of moving from one pastor/congregation relationship to another. These responsibilities include work related to dissolving pastoral relationships, working with churches in all processes leading to the next pastor call, and examining teaching elders for readiness and suitability to receive calls.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Purpose: To oversee the care and examination of inquirers and candidates for ministry, inform sessions of the process for inquiry and candidacy, and conduct examinations of candidates seeking calls within the bounds of this presbytery.

Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)

Purpose: To oversee the management of presbytery funds, property, and staff.

Committee on Relational Ministry (CRM)

Purpose: To fulfill all Book of Order and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and assistance to churches and teaching elders in their ministry. These responsibilities include all matters related to matriculation of new pastors, periodic visits with sessions and pastors, support for clergy wellness and continuing education.

Committee on Representation (COR)

Purpose: To advise the Presbytery with respect to membership of its committees and to the employment of its personnel per Book of Order G-3.0103.