

**Minutes of the
198th Stated Session**

**of the
PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH**

**August 22, 2023
Via Zoom**

NEXT STATED SESSIONS

**Saturday, November 4
Opequon Presbyterian Church
Winchester, Virginia**

**February 2024
TBA**

**May 2024
TBA**

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY IS A COVENANT BODY WHERE:

- » **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.**

**SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY
DIRECTORY**

Teaching Elder April Cranford..... Moderator 2023
wpcpastor@lumos.net

Ruling Elder William North Vice-Moderator 2023
billnorth48@gmail.com

Teaching Elder Bronwen Boswell General Presbyter/Stated Clerk
presbytersc@shenpres.org Ext 101

Teaching Elder Nancy Meehan Yao Associate General Presbyter
assocgp@shenpres.org Ext 102

Ken Smiy Treasurer

Kimberly T. Stroupe Administrative Assistant
kims@shenpres.org Ext 103

Heather Carter Funds Administrator
bookkeeper@shenpres.org Ext 104

Ruling Elder Donna Lanaghan Communications Administrator
shenpres@shenpres.org Ext 100

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY OFFICE
POB 1146, Harrisonburg VA 22803
Telephone: 540-433-2556 shenpres@shenpres.org

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY CORPORATION
c/o Atlantic Union Bank, P.O. Box 1268, Staunton, VA 24402-1268

Current Officers

Kenneth Miller, President
James Lunde, Vice President
Alan Garrison, Secretary
Linnea J. Spradlin, Treasurer

Advisory Members

Brown Edwards & Company, LLP,

CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Mark Dewey	Home Church – Winchester First
Kimberly Shank	Home Church – Mossy Creek
Bobby “Chance” Snell	Home Church – Tinkling Spring

INQUIRERS FOR MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hannah Altman	Home Church - Warrenton
Benjamin Kent	Home Church – Warrenton
Deborah Romano	Home Church - Shepherdstown
Cassandra Semler	Home Church – Tuscarora

GOVERNING BODIES

Synod of the Mid-Atlantic

3601 Seminary Avenue

Richmond, VA 23227

804-342-0016

www.synatlantic.org

Office of the General Assembly

100 Witherspoon St.

Louisville, KY 40202-1396

502-569-5000

888-728-7228

www.pcusa.org

**PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH
MINUTES OF THE 198th STATED MEETING**

The 198th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Shenandoah was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. Moderator April Cranford led in prayer.

The following recommendation from the Coordinating and Planning Commission was approved:

Approve the nomination of Teaching Elder John C. Peterson, III, to serve as Stated Clerk and Parliamentarian during all Presbytery Meetings through July 31, 2024.

QUORUM AND ENROLLMENT

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

Assoc	Associate	HR	Honorably Retired	Prof	Professor
Chap	Chaplain	IA	Interim Associate	Supply	Supply
CM	Campus Minister	IN	Inactive	Stu	Student
COP	Co-Pastor	IP	Interim Pastor	T	Teacher
Coun	Counselor	MAL	Minister-at-Large	TM	Tent Making
DP	Designated Pastor	OM	Overseas Missionary	VM	Validated Ministry
DYP	Director, Youth Program	OP	Organizing Pastor	WC	Without Charge
ED	Educator	P	Pastor		

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

E	Allen, Donald R., Jr.	HR		
E	Atwood, Roxana M.	HR		
E	Barner, Ann Elizabeth	HR		
E	Barner, Fred Thomas	HR		
P	Bethard, John T.	P	Charles Town	Roger Snook
E	Blunk, Joel T.	VM		
P	Binder, Jeffrey A.	IP	Staunton First	
E	Boswell, Bronwen W.	GP/SC		
P	Boswell, Howard W., Jr.	P	Buena Vista	Harry Winter
E	Boyer, Grace Jones	HR		
E	Brandon, Joseph C.	HR		
E	Bridgman, Stewart G.	HR		
E	Brownlee, J. Malcolm	HR		
P	Bunker, Jonathan W.	P	Berryville	Stacy Rosen
P	Burkley, Julia H.	AP	Opequon	
P	Burnett, Dennis D.	HR		
E	Caperton, William G.	HR		
E	Carr, Gwendolyn B.	Supply	Buffalo Gap, Craigsville	
		PA	Trinity	
P	Carrico, Thomas J., Jr.	P	Finley Memorial	Absent
E	Cathcart, C. Stevens	HR		
E	Channell, Kevin J.	P	Petersburg	Betty Inskeep
A	Clark, Casey R.	COP	New Monmouth	Absent
P	Clark, Rachel F.	COP	New Monmouth	
P	Conrad, Scott A.	Supply	Hot Springs & Millboro	
A	Corder, William "Lee"	ML		
E	Cornish, Homer T.	HR		
E	Cox, C. William	HR		
A	Craft, John K.	P	Bethany	Absent
P	Cranford, April H.	P	Westminster	Kathryn Baker
A	Crannell, J. Scott	ML		
P	Crumley, Rachel	P	Tuscarora	Ellen DeLong
E	Cushwa, John W.	HR		
A	Dax, Betty G.	HR		
A	Dent, William H., Jr.	HR		

E	Dietrich, Richard S.	HR		
P	Ditzel, Andrew J.	P	Lexington	Absent
E	Donohoe, Patricia A.	HR		
E	Douty, Horace D.	HR		
P	Edwards, Karen S.	ML		
A	Evans, Caroline B.	P	Front Royal	Absent
E	Evans, George W.	HR		
P	Everhart, William G.	Chap	Westminster-Canterbury	
P	Farthing, Stanley H.	P	Augusta Stone	Rob Woods
P	Fetterman, Amy	Supply	Waynesboro Second	
E	Fisher, Merle L., Jr.	HR		
P	Forbes, Thomas H.	HR/Supply	Bunker Hill	
E	Franklin, John S.	HR		
E	Goodman, William R., Jr.	HR		
E	Goshorn, Robert D.	HR		
E	Greenawalt, Karen J.	P	Gerrardstown	Debbie Bush
E	Groome, Thomas P., III	HR		
P	Hamburger, Rachel E.	Supply	Smyrna	
A	Harmon, Melissa L.	ML		
P	Hay, Kevin W.	P	Middletown	Absent
E	Hay, Thomas D.	HR		
P	Held, Ann Reed	HR		
E	Hellmuth, Barton L.	HR		
A	Hendy, Susanna	ML		
A	Hill, Richard H.	HR		
A	Hill, Robert S., Jr.	HR		
P	Hill, Sarah L.	HR/Supply	Mt. Carmel	
P	Holben, Sara A.	HR		
E	Holden, Thomas J., III	HR		
P	Hopkins, E. Reed	P	Loch Willow	Absent
E	Howard, Carl D.	HR		
P	Howard, David D.	P	Strasburg	Kathryn Volpini-Holland
P	Hoy, Caitilin R.	ML		
A	Hunt, Patricia	HR		
P	Hutcheson, Fletcher, Jr.	P	Circleville Seneca Rocks	Absent Elizabeth Huffman
P	Johns, James E.	HR		
P	Kave, Jacob R.	ML		
E	Klein, Deborah H.	HR		
E	Klein, William M.	HR		
P	Lanaghan, Patrick R.	HR		
P	Lane, Brittney M.	P	Woodstock	Jane Runyon
P	Langdon, J. Bradford	HR/Supply	Tabler	
A	LaPrade, Lester N., Jr.	HR		
A	Lawton, James S.	HR		
E	Lown, John W.	HR		
E	Lowrance, William J.	HR		
E	Lunde, James E., II	P	Warrenton	Kelly Baumgartner
E	Macbeth, Bruce A.	HR		
A	Martin, Tracie E.	PA	Opequon	
P	McCoig, Dan M., Jr.	P	Winchester First	Ell Miller Absent
A	McDonald, John L.	IP	Mt. Horeb	
A	Mitchell, Loren T.	P	New Providence	Bruce Patterson
E	Moore, William L.	OM		
E	Newman, Howard A.	HR		
A	Newquist, Gusti L.	P	Shepherdstown	Absent
A	Noll, Frederick E.	HR		
A	Osborne, Robert S.	HR		
P	Ott, Teresa M.	VM		

E Owen, Jan G.	HR		
E Painter, William L., Jr.	HR		
E Pattison, Carl F.	HR		
P Peterson, John C.	P	Covenant	Cora Leigh Clark Sarah Splaun William Kilby
E Pettit, Ann R.	COP	Massanutten	
P Pettit, Patrick S.	IP	Waynesboro First	
P Phillips, Keith A.	COP	Massanutten	
A Poland, Ernest L. Jr.	Supply	Second Opequon	
E Pollock, Richard	HR		
P Potter, Ronald R.	HR		
E Price, Norman G.	HR		
A Pyles, Elizabeth A.	P	McDowell	Absent
P Rascoe, Clayton T.	VM	Massanetta Springs	
P Rascoe, Kathryn R.	IP	Bridgewater	
E Rhyne, C. Thomas	HR		
P Robertson, Helen	Supply	Fairfield & Williamsville	
A Sale, Meriwether Anderson, Sr.	HR		
A Sherman, H. Wray	HR		
A Sieck, Philip L.	HR		
P Singleton, Jacob R.	P	Staunton Third	Absent
E Slider, C. Richard II	HR		
P Smith, Alexa A.	ML		
E Smith, Evan R.	P	Staunton Second	Pam Snyder
P Smith, James M.	P	Mossy Creek	Absent
E Smith, Nancy A.	HR		
P Smith Patman, Jacqueline	IP	Hermitage	
E Smith, Vanessa M.	P	Hedgesville	Excused
A Sommer, Philip W.	HR		
P Sorge, Stephanie	P	Trinity	Nancy Hopkins-Garris
E Stanley, Arthur L.	HR		
E Stephens, Millard M.	HR		
A Summers-Minette, Teresa L.	HR		
E Symons, Charles D., Jr.	HR		
P Thomas, Aaron Lee	P	Olivet	Absent
P Thomas, Amanda M.	AP	Winchester First	
A Thornton, Joel P.	P	Ivanhoe Wardensville	Absent Absent
A Tongen, Harold M.	HR		
E Tremba, Randall W.	HR		
P Vaughan, Robert C.	P	Romney	Absent
E Vernon, Joseph H. J.	HR		
A von Oeyen, Jr., Robert	HR		
A Watkins, John M.	HR		
P Whiteley, Nancy S.	HR		
E Wilkers, Jack B.	HR		
A Wilson, Joan M.	HR		
E Wilson, Stanton R.	HR		
E Wing, Andrew P.	VM		
P Witt, David R.	P	Opequon	Absent Absent
P Yao, James C.	P	Moorefield	Donald Baker
P Yao, Nancy Meehan	AGP		
A Young, James M.	HR		

CHURCHES WITHOUT INSTALLED PASTORS

Ben Salem	Absent
Berkeley Springs	Raynette Mock
Bethel	Absent

Bethesda	Absent
Beulah	Julia Blanchard
Bloomery	Joyce Omps
Bridgewater	Joe Crockett
Broadway	Absent
Buckton	Cindy Mumaw
Buffalo Gap	Debbie Hinkle
Bunker Hill	Sabrina Massie
Burlington	Excused
Burnt	Absent
Clear Brook	Absent
Collierstown	Absent
Cooks Creek	Absent
Craigsville	Absent
Elk Branch	Excused
Elkton	Franci Edwards
Fairfield	Absent
Falling Waters	Ruth Berg
Franklin	Absent
Glen Kirk	Absent
Goshen	Absent
Halltown	Absent
Hebron	Hannah Bush
Hermitage	Fred Mader
Highland Memorial	Absent
Hot Springs	Absent
Immanuel	Absent
Keyser	Absent
Little Falls	Absent
McCutchen	Absent
Millboro	Absent
Monterey	Lorraine White
Mount Carmel	Mary Jane Mutispaugh
Mount Hope	Absent
Mount Horeb	Donna Patterson
Mount Joy	Absent
Mount Olive	Lois Howe
Mount Storm	Absent
Nineveh	Absent
Oxford	Linda Leech
Piedmont	Kermit Becker
Pines Chapel	Absent
Rocky Spring	Absent
Ruddle	Absent
Second Opequon	Absent
Slanesville	Denise Rouse
Smyrna	Absent
Springfield	Excused
Staunton First	Stephany Morgan
Sunnyside	Elton Fahnestock
Tabler	Brandon Raifsnider
Timber Ridge	Absent
Tinkling Spring	Debra Fitzgerald O'Connell
Tomahawk	Absent
Union	Absent
Waynesboro First	Michael Cunningham
Waynesboro Second	Glenn Fields
Williamsville	Absent
Zetta	Sharon Doyle

VOTING RULING ELDERS:

Commissioned Ruling Elders

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| P Deborah Beam | A Michele Elliott | A Tina Glenn |
| A Stephanie Harris | P Judy Hensley | P Mark Johnson |
| P David Omgs | E Linda Reece | A Bobby Spurgeon |
| A Paul Wolverton | | |

Voting Ruling Elders of Presbytery Staff or Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC):

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| P Donna Lanaghan, Staff | P William North, CPC |
|-------------------------|----------------------|

NON-VOTING VISITORS:

Visiting Ministers

Dwight McCormick (membership effective September 7)
 Sandra Moon, Presbyterian Foundation
 Henry Scoggins, Western North Carolina Presbytery

Presbytery Staff

Kim Stroupe

Visitors

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Mary Kay Adams | Ron Brower | Patricia Myers |
| Mary Rainey | Betsy Ruehl | Bob Schminkey |
| Lucas Taylor | Susanne Taylor | |

Teaching Elders = 52 Voting Ruling Elders = 51 Additional Guests = 12 TOTAL = 115

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed everyone to the 198th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

DOCKET

The docket was approved as circulated. See page 109

STATED CLERK REPORT

Teaching Elder John Peterson gave the following report, *which was approved*:

- I. FOR INFORMATION:
 - A. Please see page 121 for informational report from the Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation and the Coordinating and Planning Commission.
 - B. Submitted the Committee on Representation report to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic as found on pages 110-111.
 - 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: (all approved)**

- 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.
- C. That Presbytery approve the following minutes of the Commission to Install Teaching Elder Brittney Lane as found on page 112.

ASSOCIATE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Teaching Elder Nancy Meehan Yao noted two new policies in the Book of Order: Harassment Prevention Policy and Anti-Racism Policy.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by ruling and teaching elders from the Eastern Panhandle Mission Community and the Opequon Church. Teaching Elder Julia Burkley delivered the message from Genesis 21:8-21. The offering for Peacemaking and Global Witness was received.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Teaching Elder Tommy Carrico, Chair, referenced the written report on page 113 and presented an introduction video of international peacemaker Noemi Sanchez.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Teaching Elder David Witt, Co-Chair, referenced the written report for the 226th General Assembly which can be found on page 114. The deadline for applications to General Assembly is October 15.

COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teaching Elder Rachel Crumley gave a brief report including a live feed of the Community Cup Coffee Shop.

Teaching Elder John Bethard outlined the process for calling a new pastor to the Community Cup New Worshipping Community. Teaching Elder Dwight McCormick was introduced and asked to share his theology of call and how it has evolved to the Community Cup.

There were no questions from the floor.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Teaching Elder Kate Rascoe, Chair, referenced their written report found on page 116.

TE Rascoe introduced newly ordained and installed Teaching Elder Brittney Lane who has received a call to Woodstock Church. TE Lane was asked her favorite thing about the Woodstock Church thus far.

There were no questions from the floor. TE Rascoe led in prayer for Brittney's ministry.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
STAUNTON FIRST CHURCH**

Teaching Elder James Smith gave an outline of the process at Staunton First Church. A written report can be found on page 117. Moderator April Cranford led in prayer for Staunton First Church.

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY

Teaching Elder Howard Boswell, Chair, referenced their written report found on page 118.

Teaching Elder Boswell introduced Teaching Elder Teresa M. Ott who has been received into Shenandoah Presbytery and her ministry validated as Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook. TE Ott gave a brief outline of her work with the Outlook.

The following recommendations were approved:

- A. That Presbytery dissolve, with thanks, the Administrative Commission to the Staunton First Church effective August 22, 2023.
- B. That Presbytery grant the status of retirement to the Rev. Dan M. McCoig, Jr., effective September 30, 2023.

TE Boswell gave a prayer for the service and retirement of Dan McCoig.

COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION

Teaching Elder Patrick Pettit, Chair, referenced their written report found on pages 119-120.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TEACHING ELDER

Teaching Elder Jonathan Bunker introduced Teaching Elder Jeffrey A. Binder who has received an interim contract to the Staunton First Church. TE Binder was asked to give a brief sense of his Christian journey and call to ministry at First Church. There were no questions from the floor.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH

Teaching Elder Stan Farthing gave a report on the Baja Mission Trip including a PowerPoint presentation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery will meet in person on Saturday, November 4 at Opequon Presbyterian Church in Winchester, Virginia, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

April Cranford, Moderator

John Peterson, Stated Clerk Pro Tempore

Kim Stroupe, Recording Clerk

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
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
- 10:55 A.M. Committee on Nominations – TE David Witt and TE Ann Held
- 11:00 A.M. Committee on New Congregational Development – TE Karen Greenawalt
Introduction of TE Dwight McCormick
- 11:20 a.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry – TE Kate Rascoe
Introduction of TE Brittney Lane
- 11:25 a.m. Administrative Commission to Staunton First Church – TE Jamie Smith
- 11:35 a.m. Committee on Relational Ministry – TE Howard Boswell
Introduction of TE Teresa Ott
- 11; 45 a.m. Committee on Pastoral Transition – TE Patrick Pettit
Introduction of TE Jeffrey Binder
- 11:55 a.m. Committee on Mission and Outreach – CRE Bobby Spurgeon
- 12:05 p.m. Anticipated Adjournment

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

MINUTES OF COMMISSION TO INSTALL THE REV. BRITTNEY M. LANE as pastor of the Woodstock Presbyterian Church of Woodstock, Virginia. In accordance with the appointment of the Committee on Pastoral Transition, the commission convened at the Woodstock Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, August 6, 2023, at 2:15 p.m.

Commission members present: Teaching Elders: Carrie Evans, Kevin Hay, and Charlie Symons Ruling Elders: Mark Johnson (CRE at Buckton), Malinda Johnston (Woodstock), Houston Lynch (Broadway), and William North (Presbytery Vice-Moderator)

A quorum was present.

William North, Convener, called the commission to order and led in prayer. The commission elected William North as moderator and Carrie Evans as recording clerk.

The congregation was called to worship. Charlie Symons preached the sermon on the subject “God Is In Control” from Genesis 17:15-21. William North asked the questions of the teaching elder. Malinda Johnson asked the questions of the congregation. These being answered in the affirmative and with prayer led by William North, the commission installed Brittney Lane as pastor of the Woodstock Presbyterian Church.

Carrie Evans delivered the charge to the congregation and Kevin Hay delivered the charge to the pastor.

At the conclusion of the service the newly installed pastor made a brief statement and pronounced the benediction.

William North, Moderator
Carrie Evans, Recording Clerk

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

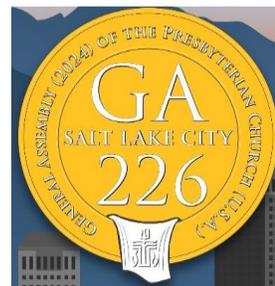
- Educational Time at May Presbytery Meeting: Sexual Misconduct Prevention and Child Abuse Prevention Training
- Reviewed camp and conference applications and disbursed funds.
- Reviewed college and university grants and authorized fund distribution.
- Approved assuming organizational management of funds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

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 worshipping 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.

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.

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.

+ 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

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.

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

Q. Approved the commission to install Brittney Lane at Woodstock Church on August 6, 2023.

R. Dissolved the pastoral relationship between the Tinkling Spring Church and Teaching Elder Patrick Ryan effective August 14, 2023.

S. Transferred Teaching Elder Patrick Ryan to the Presbytery of New Hope effective August 6, 2023.

T. Appointed Stan Farthing as moderator at Cooks Creek Church and Jacob Singleton at Tinkling Spring Church.

U. Approved the supply pastor contract between the Keyser Session and Mr. Lucas Taylor from July 15-December 31, 2023.

V. Approved the supply pastor contract between the Mt. Horeb Session and Teaching Elder John McDonald from September 1, 2023-August 31, 2025.

W. Approved renewing the interim contract between the Waynesboro First Session and Teaching Elder Patrick Pettit from September 1, 2023-August 31, 2024.

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. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- 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.

CPC met for a called meeting June 21 via Zoom, and took the following action:

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to grant the request of Bronwen Boswell to take a leave of absence as General Presbyter through July 31, 2024, to enable her to become the Acting Stated Clerk of the PCUSA.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VITALITY AND TRANSFORMATION (CCVT)

MEMBERS: Jaci Smith Patman (Chair); Casey Clark, Rick Comstock, Jo Ann Harman, Mary Jo Johnson, Tracie Martin, Punker Robertson, Alexa Smith; Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, Staff Support.

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.

MEETINGS: First Monday of the Month, 1:00 pm via Zoom.

The CCVT has met twice since the last Presbytery Meeting, on June 6 and August 7.

In June it requested the release of additional funds in the current year from the Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA) for Innovation in Worship Grants, the awarding of which falls under the CCVT's responsibility. The CPA graciously added \$5,000 to funds available (\$725.26 as of the end of the 2nd quarter), making it possible for more churches to apply this year for full grants of up to \$1,000 each.

The availability of more funds allowed the CCVT to award a \$1000 grant to Romney PC in August to replace and update the donated, 10-year-old computer it began using for streaming during COVID.

In August, Tuscarora Presbyterian Church submitted a three-month progress report on their \$1000 Innovations in Worship grant, awarded in April 2023. They are pleased that their technology upgrades have achieved the desired improvements in sound quality for their streamed worship, thus improving the experience for those worshipping online.

At its August meeting, the Committee discussed briefly the use of IIW funds for purpose beyond technological improvements, e.g., for a speaker/event to inspire the congregation by providing new perspectives on or ideas for worship. It was suggested that this perspective might well be consistent with the original intent for the grants. The Committee's next scheduled meeting is on September 11, delayed due to the Labor Day holiday.

AUGUST 2023 INDEX

ADJOURNMENT 108

ASSOCIATE GENERAL PRESBYTER 107

CALL TO ORDER..... 102

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VITALITY AND TRANSFORMATION 121

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES 107, 113

COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH 108

COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT..... 107, 115

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS..... 107, 114

COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION 108, 119-120

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY 107, 116

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY 107-108, 118

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION 110-111

COORDINATING AND PLANNING COMMISSION 121

DOCKET 106, 109

ENROLLMENT 102-106

MINUTES APPROVED 107

NEW TEACHING ELDER JEFFREY BINDER..... 108

OPENING PRAYER..... 102

QUORUM 102

STATED CLERK PRO TEM..... 102

STATED CLERK REPORT..... 106-107

STAUNTON FIRST ADMINISRATIVE COMMISSION 107, 117

WELCOME..... 106

WORSHIP 107