

**123rd Stated Meeting
of
Foothills Presbytery**

May 20, 2023

Supplement

Committee on Ministry Supplement Report May 2023

The Committee on Ministry **reports** that at our February 2023 meeting, we:

1. Met with Rev. Joe Hill, who is Honorably Retired member of Pines Presbytery. The committee approved Joe's request to transfer to Foothills. (See Attachment A for his bio and statement of faith.)

The Committee on Ministry **reports** that at our May 2023 meeting, we:

1. **Ministerial Relationships:**

- a. Met with Rev. Scott Crane, who is an Honorably Retired member of the Lake Michigan Presbytery. We approved Scott to labor within the bounds of Foothills Presbytery and serve on the Pulpit Supply List. (See Attachment B for his bio and statement of faith.)
- b. Received a report from the Validated Ministries Subcommittee. They have communicated with our 21 ministers serving in a Validated Ministry. This subcommittee plans to highlight the work of these ministers during the next year and host a gathering for those serving in Validated Ministry in August.
- c. Approved the Rev. Dottie Metropol to serve as Mentor to Elliott Grow (Elder Fourth). Elliot will be Commissioned to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) at the Providence Church.
- d. Voted to concur with the First Presbyterian Church, Anderson, to dissolve the pastoral relationship with Chad Wright-Pittman, who has accepted a new call at Lake Forest Presbyterian Church in Presbytery of East Tennessee.

2. **Presbytery Updates:**

- a. Heard a report from the Stated Clerk that the Rev. Tom Malone will provide Elder Refresh training on June 3 at 9:00 to 12:30 at Inman Presbyterian Church. This training is for new and continuing Ruing Elders who want a refresher on the role of an Elder in the PCUSA. (See Attachment C for a flyer.)
- b. Heard from the Stated Clerk that she invited Paul Grier (Presbyterian Foundation) to lead a workshop for Churches with cemeteries. The Presbytery is facing an increasing number of inquiries about the long-term financial implications of cemetery maintenance and care. The workshop is on July 25th at 5:30 (locations TBD).
- c. The Board of Pensions is hosting a luncheon for all Honorably Retired Minister members of Foothills Presbytery, August 22, noon at the Fourth Church.
- d. Our Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader is hosting quarterly gatherings with Ministers (head of staff) in churches with two or more installed pastors.
- e. Plans are underway to host another Small(er) Church gathering during the third quarter of the year.

3. **Statistics:** Our Associate Stated Clerk, Robin Morris, reviewed the updated Membership and Pastoral Leadership Statistics. The total number of members in our 58 congregations for 2022 is 12,629. Membership in our Historically Black Churches represents 1.1% or 139 members. We also reviewed the types of worship leaders in the 58 churches: 21 (36%) are served by installed pastors, 19 (33%) are served by Stated Supply Pastors, while 10 (17%) currently have no pastor, and 8 (14%) are served by CRE's, Student Supply, or Other Worship Leaders. (See Attachment D.)

4. Congregational Relationships:

- a. We heard an update about the McCarter Administrative Commission, which informed the McCarter Church about its responsibility to establish a perpetual care fund for their cemetery.
- b. We elected five members of COM to meet with the Session at the Varennes Church: Elizabeth Jones, Dennis Tedder, Ted Morlok, Pete Roe, and Mel Davis.
- c. Our Stated Clerk and the Rev. Preston Shealy gave us an update about the Belton Church's Temporary Pastor Search and discussed feedback from COM about revisions for the Temporary Supply contract.
- d. We heard from the Stated Clerk about her meeting with the Midway Church's Session to discuss their cemetery (best practices about cemetery policies and creating a designated fund for perpetual care). Midway is participating in the Legacy Partnership Project and have requested support from our Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry Pressley Cox to share ideas about their church's digital presence (website, social media, etc.). The Associate Stated Clerk Robin Morris will meet with them later this month and provide training for their Temporary Pastor search committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Oldham, 2023 Chair

Committee Members

Class of 2023: Nath Briley, Anna Johnson, Beth Meyer, Susan Oldham (Chair), Rudy Painter, Mark Taylor, and Gordon Turnbull

Class of 2024: Scott Berry, Patrick Jinks, Barbara Moran-Faile, Ted Morlok, Whitney Moss (Vice-Chair), Eliza Smith DeBevoise, Sandy Thrasher, and Art Williams

Class of 2025: Phil Beckwith, Deborah Broadwell, Ben Dorr, Elizabeth Jones, Preston Shealy, Dennis Tedder, Beth Templeton, Mary Anne Welch

Staff: Debbie Foster (Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader) and Robin Morris (Associate Stated Clerk)

Joseph W. Hill Brief Bio

I am the product of a church that no longer exists. I was baptized, confirmed, and nurtured by the saints of the Third Presbyterian Church of Greenville. Having grown up within those particular walls I was afflicted with the presence of God in all of life. While I did not know it at the time, this presence was a companion to me as I grew through Summit Drive Elementary, Greenville Junior High and Wade Hampton High School and Lower Richland High School. Following high school, I short sojourn at Georgia Tech before arriving at PC. It was while I was at Tech that I received an invitation to attend a weekend at Columbia Seminary. My session from my church in Columbia had identified me as “young person most likely to enter full-time Christian service”. So a free weekend for a college student was always welcome. After that weekend I wrote my home pastor about questions that had arisen there. His response was to write a letter to my parents informing them that he was so delighted that I had accepted God’s call to enter ministry. Wish he had communicated that to me, though. But, I did understand what he was feeling and it, therefore, began.

Continuing living in the presence, I graduated from PC in 1972 with a BA in Religion and enrolled at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. I was ordained and installed as a Minister of Word and Sacrament by Fayetteville Presbytery on February 29, 1976. As a small church pastor in Troy, NC, I spent three years growing and learning. While in Troy I served on the presbytery’s committee on small church sustentation working with the financial needs of the many small churches in that presbytery. In March, 1979 I was called to the Raleigh Court Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, Virginia as Associate for Education and Membership Development. In addition to being an associate pastor with all that entailed, I was sent by Fincastle Presbytery for training in the new CESA curriculum. Having been trained through the National Teacher Education Program at Louisville I was deeply interested in local church education. I would travel that presbytery in education space utilization consultation - how best to use existing church facilities for Sunday school. While in Roanoke, I also got involved in camping ministries professionally. I had always had a soft spot for camping from my days of Camp Deerwood and Camp Chatuga as a youth in old Enoree Presbytery.

Acting on this love for camping, I then moved to Wilmington (NC) Presbytery as director/manager of Kirkwood Camp and Conference Center in 1983. I served there through the restructure of the Synod of North Carolina becoming Interim Associate for Nurture Ministries (youth, camping, Presbyterian Women and Men) in 1989. As that presbytery went through its restructure process, my position became redundant. In November 1990 I moved to Chicago Presbytery as their director of camping and stayed there until January 2003. From Chicago Presbytery I moved to the Presbytery of the Pines (LA/AR), Synod of the Sun as their director camping.

At this point my career path became interesting. I arrived in Pines in January 2003 as camping director. Because of another presbytery staff upheaval in November 2003 I also became presbytery interim head of staff and temporary treasurer. Following pressure from the synod leadership a search process was initiated that ended with me becoming General Presbyter/Treasurer/Camp Director in March 2006. I held these titles upon my retirement in April 2020. I believe that I was the only presbytery executive/camp director in the denomination at that time. Through all of this, from a small church pastor to a presbytery executive I have felt God’s presence every step of the way.

Personally, I have a daughter, Alison, from my first marriage who works with a bank in Columbus, Georgia. My current wife, Edith, and I have two daughters, Katherine, a second-year pharmacy resident at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, and Rachel, a consultant for Rock Health in North Bend, Washington. While in Louisiana Edith served the Presbyterian Church of Ruston as a commissioned pastor for 15 years and continues serving here in SC as a chaplain for Premier Hospice in the Ruston area.

Joseph W. Hill Statement of Faith

John 10:10: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." From this brief portion of scripture the sum of my life has followed. I am a child of God, baptized, confirmed and nurtured by a company of saints who gave me firm footing for my faith.

I believe in God, the Creator the universe. God called the world into being and continually calls those whom God created back into lives of harmony and community. Even when those who were created turned away from God into sin and idolatry God did not cease the task of creation. Through prophets, priests and others God relentlessly called them back. God sent Jesus.

I believe that Jesus, God's son, is the Word made flesh. Jesus touches the lives of humankind regardless of social standing, wealth, ethnicity, sex. God made flesh in Jesus even touches those regardless of politic or sexual orientation or identity. God made flesh in Jesus is not just an intellectual exercise. In Jesus' painful death upon the cross and the glorious resurrection we understand God's promise of eternal life into the creation that God intended.

I believe through the Holy Spirit we are enriched and empowered to live into God's plan. Just as we are called from a life of sin and brokenness we are called into a life filled with the presence of God. It is this Holy Spirit that guides and accompanies us on our faith journeys.

I believe we are sensory people who experience God's presence and grace through the two sacraments of our tradition - Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through the waters of Baptism we are enrolled into the family of God. Through the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper we are participants with Jesus as we experience the sacred presence. As I was taught many years ago the sacraments of our church are the visible signs of the invisible grace of God.

I believe we are guided in our faith journey by the Holy Bible. Scripture is the inspired Word of God, essential to our understanding of who God is and who God calls us to be. Through the words of scripture we are given the opportunities to hear, imagine and experience how God works over the arc of time.

I believe the church, as the Body of Christ, has been established by God to be the vehicle for the delivery of the good news. It the place where words are spoken and action in response is created. The church is the place where the people of God are sent out to follow Jesus.

I believe that the Reformed Tradition is rich in history and vitality. It has guided and informed God's people for over 550 years. The images of font, table and pulpit have been in the forefront of who I am. This tradition has led us to strive to be an orderly, educated people.

I also believe that I am not perfect nor am I complete in my understanding of all the mysteries of faith. Just as I believe God called me to a life of service I also believe that God continues to call me to live into God's grace.

**Scott L. Crane
Brief Bio**

Scott, born and raised in Kansas throughout his freshman year in High School, was fourth of six children. His family moved to Arizona after he began struggling with asthma where he finished high school, attended ASU for a year, and began searching out his own path.

Scott received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern College in Orange City, IA, with a double major in Religion and Theater/Speech. He then received his MDiv. from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey. He later attended Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC on a Spirituality and Story track and graduated in 2007 with a Doctor of Ministry.

Scott was ordained as a minister in the Reformed Church in America in 1992. His first call was to Florida Reformed and First Reformed Churches in Amsterdam, NY. He served those two churches for 7 ½ years. He then served Faith Reformed Church in Levittown, PA for 6 ½ years. After a move to Michigan for family reasons, Scott worked at various temp jobs until he received a call from First Presbyterian Church in Dimondale, MI. He served that church for 10 ½ years until his retirement in January of 2023. While there he served within various committees and roles within Presbytery of Lake Michigan and had his credentials transferred to the PCUSA.

Scott has a diverse background in his faith formation. He became a Christian and began attending a Foursquare Pentecostal Church, being involved in their coffee house ministry, in his late teens. After a move, he worked with youth groups in First Christian Church and the United Methodist Church. When he returned to college in his early thirties, he became acquainted with the Reformed Church in America and felt it connected well with his thought and practice. He believes the varied faith experiences of his journey have been helpful for growing his faith in both head and heart.

Scott is married to Julie who is his cheerleader and prayer warrior. She has served as an elder in both Lutheran and Reformed churches and is known for her card ministry and words of encouragement. Together they have had the opportunity to act out biblical or faith themed dramas for churches or groups.

Scott has a son, Timothy, age 25 and a stepson, Brent, age 38. Timothy lives in Burlington, VT and works for United Airlines. Brent is married to Jenn and lives in Battle Creek, MI. Brent, a veteran who served with the Army National Guard, now works as a warehouse manager while Jenn is finishing nursing training.

Scott likes acting, playing his guitar and just spending time with people and sharing stories. He considers himself a wounded healer who remembers God's powerful grace in his life and desires to share that same grace with others in need. Over the last several years he has been interested and engaged in family systems and how individuals interact with one another, especially within the body of Christ. He has, often, preached on the necessity to find ways to move from our cultural Burger King theology of "have it your way" and toward our community and covenant responsibilities with other church members and our neighbors.

Scott L. Crane

Statement of Faith

A straightforward understanding of my faith, throughout the years, would be the affirmation of the traditional Apostles' Creed:

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

While this, perhaps, was more of a mental/academic profession of faith in my early years, I have sought to work it out in practice throughout time. This has taken on different understandings for me in various contexts and circumstances. As I sit in my early retirement years, I see my faith in hopefully a deeper and broader context.

I believe in God as Creator and Parent. This gracious and almighty God created a wonderful universe in which brought a diversity of life. God, as Creator, calls us, as individuals and the church, to be good stewards and caretakers of this world. We need to understand that while, indeed, we are created in God's image, we are part of a larger system with all of God's living creatures and do best when we discover our call and purpose in this larger context...in our family, in the church and in the world. God, as Parent, reaches down in unconditional love to where we are at and desires the best for us. God does not coerce us into healthy ways of living but seeks to draw us in with all-encompassing love.

Jesus Christ entered into the world as God in the flesh, showing us incarnate love. As well, Christ models obedience, humility, and servanthood for us as fellow heirs. In daily life, we can look to Christ as an elder sibling that we might emulate. While we are still imperfect, we have much to learn and gain by observing how Christ responds to various human encounters and circumstances, as well as pray and seek to become more Christ-like in our own lives.

The Holy Spirit comes alongside us, to comfort, advocate and resource. This happens when we learn to surrender our will to God's will, opening our hearts and lives to receive grace and wisdom. In our current culture and, perhaps, in our Reformed tradition, it can be difficult to surrender that which we think we control and, thus, lean into a deeper understanding of life by God's Spirit. Yet, like the apostle Paul, we must learn that God's strength comes in our weakness.

The goal for our lives is to be faithful and pleasing to God, continuing to grow via the tensions of life, as individuals and as the body of Christ. Maturing and growing in our relationship with Christ and in our faith should encompass all of life. We are to be reformed and ever-reforming.



ELDER REFRESH Workshop

Saturday, June 3

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

at Inman Presbyterian Church

26 S. Main Street, Inman 29349

The Rev. Dr. Tom Malone has offered to lead a workshop for Elders (newly ordained and those who have previously served) at no charge. This event will focus on the four areas on which our Book of Order* requires each new officer to be examined:

- 1) Personal Faith,
- 2) Reformed Doctrines and Beliefs,
- 3) Presbyterian Polity
- 4) Duties of the Office of Elder or Deacon

** Having a copy of both the PC(USA) Book of Order and the PC(USA) Book of Confessions is a requirement for attendees.*

You can download free copies of these books at the PC(USA) Store:

- [Book of Order Download](#)
- [Book of Confessions](#)

*** Please confirm how many participants you have from your church by emailing LeAnne White at lwhite@foothillspresbytery.org. ***

Summary Membership Report for 2022

As of May 13, 2023

Attachment D

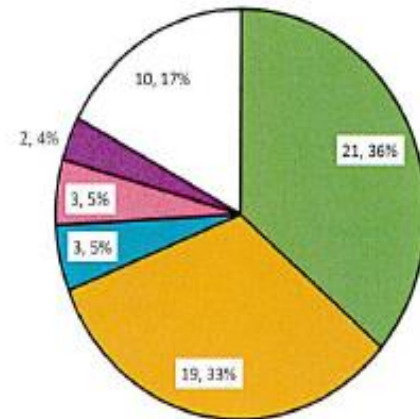
County	Location	Church Name	Members	%	Inst	Type of Worship Leader	
1	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	First +	2134	16.90%	5	Installed Pastor
2	Greenville	Greenville	Westminster +	2005	15.88%	5	Temporary Pastor (Stated Supply & Transitional)
3	Pickens	Easley	Easley +	835	6.61%	3	CRE
4	Pickens	Clemson	Fort Hill +	727	5.76%	4	Student Supply
5	Greenville	Greenville	Fourth +	716	5.67%	2	Other Worship Leadership
6	Anderson	Anderson	First	638	5.05%	1	No Pastor/Worship Leadership
7	Greenville	Greenville	John Knox	555	4.39%	1	
8	Greenville	Greer	First +*	510	4.04%	1	
9	Anderson	Anderson	Central +	496	3.93%	2	* Searching for Installed Pastor
10	Greenville	Travelers Rest	Trinity	410	3.25%	1	** Searching for Temporary Pastor
11	Oconee	Seneca	Seneca	245	1.94%	1	Multiple Pastors
12	Spartanburg	Moore	Nazareth	220	1.74%	1	+ Multiple Installed Pastors
13	Greenville	Greenville	St Giles +	212	1.68%	2	
14	Spartanburg	Moore	Tyger River	197	1.56%	1	
15	Pickens	Pickens	Pickens	187	1.48%		
16	Greenville	Mauldin	Grace Covenant	180	1.43%	1	
17	Greenville	Fountain Inn	Fountain Inn	172	1.36%	1	
18	Greenville	Simpsonville	Eastminster	165	1.31%	1	
19	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	Second *	145	1.15%		
20	Spartanburg	Glenn Springs	Glenn Springs	136	1.08%		
21	Greenville	Taylors	St Andrews *	125	0.99%		
22	Anderson	Belton	Belton**	108	0.86%		
23	Greenville	Greenville	Providence**	103	0.82%		
24	Cherokee	Gaffney	Limestone	87	0.69%	1	
25	Anderson	Anderson	Roberts	76	0.60%		
26	Anderson	Anderson	Midway	71	0.56%		
27	Oconee	Westminster	Westminster	71	0.56%	1	
28	Oconee	Fair Play	Fair Play	69	0.55%		
29	Anderson	Sandy Springs	Mt Zion	68	0.54%	1	
30	Anderson	Williamston	Faith	62	0.49%		
31	Anderson	Anderson	North Anderson CC**	61	0.48%		
32	Greenville	Simpsonville	Simpsonville	61	0.48%		
33	Anderson	Iva	Varenes	60	0.48%		
34	Oconee	Walhalla	Walhalla/West Union	60	0.48%		
35	Anderson	Pendleton	Pendleton	54	0.43%		
36	Anderson	Iva	Good Hope	48	0.38%		
37	Anderson	Honea Path	Honea Path	48	0.38%	1	
38	Spartanburg	Woodruff	First	43	0.34%		
39	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	Covenant	42	0.33%		
40	Anderson	Piedmont	Piedmont**	39	0.31%		
41	Spartanburg	Inman	Inman	36	0.29%		
42	Anderson	Townville	Townville	34	0.27%		
43	Pickens	Liberty	Liberty	32	0.25%		
44	Greenville	Greenville	Mattoon	29	0.23%		
45	Greenville	Greenville	McCarter	29	0.23%		
46	Spartanburg	Reidville	Walker's Chapel **	27	0.21%		
47	Spartanburg	Landrum	Landrum	25	0.20%		
48	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	Westminster	24	0.19%		
49	Oconee	Walhalla	Bethel	23	0.18%		
50	Anderson	Anderson	Salem	21	0.17%		
51	Anderson	Anderson	Flat Rock	20	0.16%		
52	Spartanburg	Boiling Spring	Unity**	19	0.15%		
53	Cherokee	Gaffney	Bethesda	16	0.13%		
54	Greenville	Greenville	Nicholtown	15	0.12%		
55	Spartanburg	Wellford	Florence Moore**	11	0.09%		
56	Oconee	Seneca	Richland	11	0.09%		
57	Pickens	Easley	Carmel**	9	0.07%		
58	Pickens	Norris	Rock Hill	7	0.06%		
Totals			12629	100.00%	37		

Type of Worship Leader
Serving 58 Churches

Type of Worship Leader	Count	Percentage
Installed Pastor	21	36%
Temporary Pastor (Stated Supply & Transitional)	19	33%
CRE	10	17%
Student Supply	3	5%
Other Worship Leadership	3	5%
No Pastor/Worship Leadership	2	4%

Historically Black Churches	
Membership is 139	
That is 1.1% of total membership	
29	This data does not include members of color from other churches.
27	
24	
21	
16	
15	
7	
139	

Type of Worship Leader
Serving 58 Churches



Historically Black Churches

Membership is 139
That is 1.1% of total membership

29
27
24
21
16
15
7
139

This data does not include members of color from other churches.

18 congregations > 150 members
40 congregations < 150 members
23 congregations < 50 members

37 installed ministers represents 26% of all Foothills Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

**Examinations Commission
Supplement Report
May 2023**

The Examinations Commission **reports:**

- On April 20, 2023
 - We examined Elliott Grow, a candidate for Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) in Foothills Presbytery. She will be commissioned from the Session of Fourth Presbyterian to serve as CRE at Providence Presbyterian Church. Elliott proffered a sermon on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-10) and was examined in the areas of fit, call, Bible, theology, sacraments, and polity. Elliott's sermon and examination were unanimously approved. She was given permission to preside over the sacraments and moderate the Session. (See Attachment A for Elliott Grow's Statement of Faith and her bio.)
 - In correspondence and at the directive of the Committee on Ministry (COM), we met with the Rev. Phil Hargrove. Phil is a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO). Per the report from COM, our conversation with Phil was to be a thorough listening on his sense of call to serve a PCUSA church in Foothills (this was not an exam for a call to one of our congregations). After a full, deep, and frank conversation, it was clear that Phil has not had any major theological shifts since his dismissal to ECO in 2012, and he admitted that his theology aligns more with ECO. The Exams Commission, while affirming Phil's sense of call to serve in parish ministry, unanimously voted to deny his request to be eligible for a call as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in Foothills Presbytery.
- On May 4, 2023
 - We examined Ally Pexa, who is a candidate under the care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) in Seattle Presbytery. First Church Greer has extended a call for Ally to serve as their Associate Pastor. She proffered a sermon on John 15:12-17, Love One Another. Ally was examined in the areas of fit, call, Bible, theology, sacraments, and polity. Ally's sermon and examination were unanimously approved. (See Attachment B for Ally Pexa's Statement of Faith and Bio.) We also approved Ally's terms of call: Effective Salary of \$55,000, Benefits of \$25,359, and professional expenses of \$4,000.

The Examinations Commission **recommends:**

- That Elliott Grow from Fourth Church, Greenville, be examined to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at the Providence Church.

- That Ally Pexa be examined for ordination as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament to serve as Associate Pastor at First Church, Greer.

Respectfully submitted,
Amos Workman, Chair

Examinations Commission members: Allen McSween, Will Nickles, Joanne Hull, Terri Price, Nan Jones, Amos Workman (Chair), Phil Beckwith, Scott Berry, Ben Dorr, Deborah Broadwell, Preston Shealy, Ann Coleman, and Audrey Reese

Ex officio members: Debbie Foster (Stated Clerk & Presbytery Leader) and Robin Morris (Associate Stated Clerk)

Elliott Grow
Statement of Faith

I believe God is the Creator of All that is Good. He made humans in His own image. This belief is twofold.

1. God's image is as massive and varied as the universe, which He created. God's image is more than any one understanding of who God is. We are called to seek God's image in one another.
2. God's image allows for freedom and humans chose sin. This sin is a separation from the Creator.

Throughout the Old Testament, there are stories of our covenant God who continues to be in active relationship with us even when we turn away. In the same way that God calls for Adam and Eve after they have sinned, God calls for His people. God makes covenant with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and David to be with them and restore them.

I believe Jesus Christ (God with Us) is the New Covenant, in whom we are given full forgiveness. Through His life, death, and resurrection, humans become one with Him. As fully divine and fully human, we can understand the servant status that God took upon himself through Jesus.

I believe in the Holy Spirit who was present at creation and stirs among us now to reveal the loving acts of the One who will not let us go.

By ways of scripture, relationship, and natural revelation, we give thanks with faithful attempts at obedience, through acts of stewardship, prayer, and mutual forbearance. In no way are we ever able to save ourselves, but our lives of penitence and right actions in community with others can glorify the One who saves us.

I believe in the mystery of faith. I believe I will never fully understand God's righteousness but pray that I might live each day to the full experiencing how wide and deep and long and high is the love of Christ.

Elliott Grow
Brief Bio/Call to Ministry

As a fifth-generation teacher, I think I came out of the womb teaching! My chalkboard and my imagination spent numerous hours “playing school” until Presbyterian College gave me my bachelor’s degree in elementary education in the spring of 1994. In the fall of that year, I became a first-grade teacher. Over the next fifteen years, I taught kindergarten, first, second, Sunday school, and preschool children while also getting to be the mother/teacher of my own two children. I have always felt comfortable as well as capable of communicating information to others.

When my son was in the eighth-grade confirmation class at Fourth Presbyterian, we offered a parents’ class to parallel the confirmand’s class. I absolutely loved studying and teaching that class. The Trinity! Justification by grace through faith! Atonement! Powerpoints! Prayers using scripture! It was better than the Hokey Pokey and Johnny Appleseed art activities!

At that point, I decided to take a few classes through the MACE program at Union. One of my favorites was *Women in the Biblical World* with Dr. Frances Taylor Gench. I couldn’t believe how much I enjoyed reading, writing, thinking! Although the experiences were amazing, I had a son in high school and a daughter in middle school with a dear husband whose job required a good many hours away from home. The choice to continue with these classes did not seem to be the right thing for me to do at the time. That is when I started taking classes through the South Carolina Lay School and Union’s lay-tract. I completed my coursework and found pulpit supply to be a spiritual discipline that drew me ever closer to God.

While preaching at Providence Presbyterian last fall, I felt a unique joy...a holy joy. The love that runs through the congregation is life-giving and my desire to grow in faith alongside them continues to deepen. I look forward to my time with this congregation, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit to continue to shape us all.

Ally Pexa
Statement of Faith

I believe in the *Triune God*, creator, redeemer and sustainer, each uniquely distinguishable and mysteriously indistinguishable.

I believe in *God the creator* who made the world and all that is within as a monumental act of love. This creation overflows with God's goodness, love, creativity, beauty, and truth. But amongst this good creation, rebellion has broken out as we, though made in God's image, seek things that are in opposition to God. However, God created covenants, despite rebellion, which cannot be broken.

I believe in *God the Redeemer*. To display the depths and widths of God's love, God reconciled the world to Godself through the person of Jesus Christ. Christ came into the world through the virgin Mary, fully human and fully divine. The life Christ lived abounds with revelations of God's character and God's will. Christ embodied the character and nature of God, demonstrating how we might seek to do the same. Christ's public ministry took place in the midst of rebellion, leading to his unjust death. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead, conquering sin and death once and for all, while simultaneously extending grace over all of creation and reconciling us to God. His manner of living, opposition to evil, resurrection, and continual reign at the right-hand of God reminds us that we, as image bearers, can hope for eternal life with Christ ourselves.

I believe in *God the Sustainer*. I believe that God continues to reveal Godself to us through the work of the Holy Spirit. God's continual presence through the Spirit furthers the work of creation and reconciliation by guiding and empowering Church as we seek to usher in the Kingdom of God.

I believe that the *Holy Scriptures* are a reliable and dynamic revelation to God's love and action in the world through which the Spirit continues to speak to us today. I believe that the Spirit is present in *the sacraments* of Baptism and the Lord's supper, visible signs of invisible graces. These acts have and will continue to bring the church into a deeper intimacy with Christ's life, death, and resurrection. In these simple, yet profound acts, we remember God's faithfulness throughout history and rest in the promise that all of creation is incorporated into Christ's community and will enjoy everlasting life and fellowship with the God.

I believe that *the Church* is God's hands and feet in the world today. I believe this Church is called to follow the example that Christ displayed by extending love, grace, mercy, and justice. I believe that we are called to practice our faith in ways that follow the example that Christ displayed by imagining and working towards a world marked by radical love, transformative compassion, and true justice. I believe that worship, infused with love and justice, is at the heart of all that we do.

Ally Pexa

Brief Bio/Call to Ministry

My name is Ally Pexa. I grew up in Northern California, right outside of Sacramento, in a home overflowing with love and joy. If I wasn't on the soccer field, trying to convince my parents that one dog simply was not enough, or off on a girl scout adventure, you would likely find me running around the backyard with my older brother and younger sister. Though I did not have the lens or language to describe these moments as gifts from God at the time, that is exactly what they were. I was known as the "sensitive" (or empathetic as I like to think of it), yet "fierce" child, which I believe are gifts that have served me well in my call to ministry.

It was not until high school that my sense of call really began to take shape. I did not grow up in a home where we spoke of God or attended church regularly, however this changed when I suddenly got the urge to try out youth group during my junior year of high school. I quickly became involved in a large, non-denominational congregation in my community. It was here that I fell in love with the stories of Scripture and became increasingly interested in the countercultural ways in which this figure of Jesus lived his life. It was also here that I learned that my potential for leadership in the church was limited due to my gender. Despite the belief that my call to ministry was limited, my experiences in this congregation and interest in the stories of scripture played a huge role in my decision to attend Seattle Pacific University where I could major in Christian Scriptures and minor in youth ministry. I am so thankful for that decision because it led me to some of the most transformative experiences.

As a part of my coursework at SPU, I was required to intern in some way, shape, or form in a congregation. This is how I ended up at my first PC(USA) church as the youth ministry director. You can imagine the shock I experienced when I realized that Dani Forbess was not just a kind and highly involved member, but rather she was *Reverend* Dani Forbess, head of staff. My time at Northminster Presbyterian Church not only continued to foster my love for scripture, but also lovingly challenged some of the beliefs that I held myself and expanded my understanding of the church. I was given the freedom and the support to not only develop my youth ministry skills, but also to explore the ways that the church intersects across culture to care holistically for God's world. One of the most transformative experiences for my personal call during this time was participating in the Restorative Justice Initiatives within the King County Juvenile Court System. I saw the ways that communities of faith could come together to challenge the carceral system as we know it and support systems that mirror God's justice. To me, this is the gospel lived out.

I left Seattle full of hope that there are more ways that the church can engage with other institutions to promote justice, mercy, and love. I pursued both my Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work in the hopes of gaining knowledge and sharpening my gifts. I had opportunities to explore the ways that God is at work both within and outside the walls of the church by engaging in CPE at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital, teaching theology courses in Garden State Men's Penitentiary, working with refugees at the Reformed Church of Highland Park, facilitating reentry services with NeighborCorps Reentry, and providing mental health services to the students of Princeton University. These experiences, both in and outside of congregational settings, have shaped my call to ministry. Most recently, I have been working as a mental health

provider at Clemson University. While I believe this is deeply important work, I have felt a deep desire to return to a congregational setting. I believe that I have the experiences, the gifts, and most importantly the call to engage in congregational ministry where we can listen, learn, and work together to follow God's lead in world. These experiences have taught me time and time again that God shows up in both unexpected ways and places and causes Holy transformation. When we keep watch for the ways that the Spirit is moving, we are invited to participate in this work and get to experience moments in which the kingdom of God breaks into the here and now.

**Committee on Shared Ministry Supplement Report
May 2023**

CSM Leadership	Leadership Development	Mission & Outreach	Youth, Camp & Campus
Chair: Jackie Putnam Vice-Chair: Audrey Reese Secretary: Noelle Read Ex-officio: Pressley Cox	Natalie Arnold Beth Burris (Lead) John Dubose Susan Felton Pat Fuller Joseph Gaston Minnie Thomas Ex-officio: Pat Shufeldt	Indy Dennis Ralph May Debbie Shealy April Swanson (Lead) Renee Wiseman Ex-officio: Diane Hughs Elizabeth Jones	Jacob Kennedy Jennifer Poag Andrea Storie Shannon Wiene!

The Committee on Shared Ministry **reports**, we:

- Approved \$500 to support an Autism Awareness Event at Mattoon. Keynoter Deniece Smith, RN, shared strategies for families who have children with Autism. The May 6, 2023, event was held in person and on Facebook Live.
- Approved \$1000 to support a Juneteenth event at Mattoon. The event will be open to the community and include education, food, music, and courageous conversations.
- Received a report from the Presbyterian Youth Council. Applicants for the 2023-2024 were interviewed in late April. Those selected and will be commissioned during the May 20, 2023 Presbytery worship. See **Attachment A** for the complete report, including Youth Retreat dates.
- In partnership with Trinity Presbytery, CSM is excited to offer an Enneagram Retreat for Educators, Youth Leaders, and Pastors. The event will be held on August 23-25 at Camp Fellowship. See **Attachment B** for registration information.
- The Committee on Shared Ministry will offer Mental Health First Aid training for Pastors, Educators, Youth Leaders, and Volunteers. Mental Health First Aid is a skills-based training course that teaches participants about mental health and substance-use issues. Two courses will be offered.
 - **Mental Health First Aid for Adults** teaches people how to recognize signs of mental health or substance use challenges in adults ages 18 and older, how to offer and provide initial help, and how to guide a person toward appropriate care if necessary. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, psychosis, and addictions.
 - **Thursday, August 31, 2023**
 - **Thursday, February 29, 2024**
 - **Youth Mental Health First Aid** is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people. The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth,

reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

- This course will be offered on **Thursday, September 7, 2023** at Fourth Presbyterian in Greenville.
- More information on the training may be found at <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Putnam, Chair

Presbytery Youth Council Report May 2023

The following youth have been elected to serve for 2023-2024 Foothills Presbytery Youth Council (PYC) and will be commissioned during the May 2023 Foothills Presbytery meeting.

Seniors

Walton Bost, Fort Hill
Kathryn Carlson*, Eastminster
Sara Cox*, Eastminster
Cameron Garabedian*, Trinity
Jayden Harden*, Pickens
Merrick Johnson*, Fountain Inn
Gia Lemmonds, Limestone
Dulcie Mohr, Fort Hill
Ashlyn Price*, Central
Madison Ricard*, Fountain Inn
Sanjana Samuel, Eastminster
Jacob Taaffe*, Easley
Hope Watkins*, Eastminster

Juniors

Campbell Ballard*, John Knox
Georgia Bast, Trinity
Henry Cox, Nazareth
Lacie deMaine*, John Knox
Ethan Eberstein, Eastminster
Claire Johnson, Fountain Inn
Hope Johnson, Central
Lila Jones, Fourth
James Kwist, Fort Hill
Lillian Pellitier*, John Knox
Austin Walker, First Anderson
Margaret Wingard, Trinity

Sophomores

Wyatt Burnett, Easley
Hudson Richardson, First Anderson

* Indicates current PYC who will serve again next year

The PYC officers for next year are:

Moderator- Madison Ricard
Vice Moderator of Recreation- Cameron Garabedian
Vice Moderator for Theme Development- Sara Cox
Secretary for Middle School Retreat- Jacob Taaffe
Secretary for High School Retreat- Campbell Ballard
Keynote Support- Ashlyn Price

PYC is currently looking for 2-3 adult advisors to serve from the 2023-2024 year. Current adults include Kelli Burnett, Easley; Joan Jones, Eastminster; Jacob Kennedy, Fort Hill; and Becky Schafer, First Greer. Pressley Cox serves as Foothills Presbytery staff support.

PYC will host middle school and senior high retreats again next year. Registration for both events will be available in the fall.

- Middle School at Asbury Hills- November 10-12, 2023
- High School at Montreat- January 5-7, 2024

The Youth Council has been working with the Committee on Shared Ministry to plan a day event for children. The tentative date is set for April 13, 2024 at Westminster, Greenville. This event will be open to all children throughout the Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,

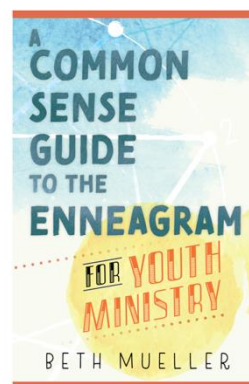
Joan Jones
PYC Clerk/Point Person

Enneagram Retreat for Educators, Youth Leaders, and Pastors

Join colleagues from Foothills and Trinity Presbyteries at Camp Fellowship on August 23-25, 2023 for a few days learning, rest, and renewal.

Beth Mueller, author of *A Common Sense Guide to the Enneagram Youth Ministry*, will lead us through a deep dive into the Enneagram and how you can use the wisdom of the Enneagram to enhance your ministry with accessible information and practical applications!

For those familiar with the Enneagram, the insights and wisdom offered have obvious benefits for personal growth and relational. But how do you effectively use this tool in ministry? Do you have to everyone's number? Do you have to be a master yourself for the Enneagram to be useful?



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It is recommended that you read “A Common Sense Guide to the Enneagram for Youth Ministry” before coming. The book is available on Amazon.com. <https://a.co/d/0JjFGTM>



Beth Mueller is an Enneagram teacher and retreat leader with a deep love for youth and youth ministry. After serving in Camp and Conference Ministry and Campus Ministry for many years, Beth now serves a PCUSA congregation in Austin, TX, as the Director of Worship Arts and the resident Enneagram instructor. This book tailors the complexities of the Enneagram to a practical, common sense guide for adults who work with youth, offering insights for leadership development, spiritual growth, and faith formation. She lives in Wimberley, TX with her husband Rob, and near to her ever-expanding family! You can reach her at CommonSenseEnneagram@gmail.com.

Register today: <https://www.campfellowship.org/events-programs/enneagram>



Bills and Overtures Supplement Report May 2023

At presbytery's last meeting, we voted on the 33 proposed amendments from the 225th General Assembly to the **Book of Order**.

As of May 3, all but one of the proposed amendments have been approved. The one that has not been approved yet is 22-CC - D-3.0106 WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS (ROD-05). This amendment is only 3 votes from approval. However, since the new Church Discipline section for the **Book of Order** has been approved, Appendment 22-CC is moot because it is a change to the Rules of Discipline. (This amendment does not apply to Church Discipline.)

The new amendments will become effective on July 9, 2023. The Office of General Assembly is working on the new Book of Order with these amendments. We do not know yet when the new books will be published.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Caldwell
Moderator of Bills & Overtures

2023 Bills & Overtures Committee Members:

Dr. Bill Burns; Chair Rev. Richard Caldwell; Daniel Buchanan; Rev. Adam Fischer; Bill Fuller; Beverly George; Kathy Lyles; and Dr. Lori Malvern

Ex Officio members: Debbie Foster, Presbytery Leader/Stated Clerk; Robin Morris, Associated Stated Clerk

**Finance and Stewardship Committee
Supplement Report
May 2023**

The Finance and Stewardship Committee reports:

- The 2021 financial audit has not been completed; therefore, we cannot officially close out the 2022 year-end financials. In Attachment A, we are providing a draft year-end report for 2022.
- Through March, Giving is on par with the last two years (Attachment B).

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Latham, Chair

Committee Members: McCrady Gwinn, Sandi Tolly, Brian Johnson, Chris Jones, Sandy Watkins, Justin Cazel, and Dennis Latham (Chair)

Ex Officio: Stan Reid (Treasurer), Mark Sucher (Assistant Treasurer), Debbie Foster (Stated Clerk/Presbytery Leader), Warren Templeton (Office Administrator/Bookkeeper), and Robin Morris (Associate Stated Clerk)

**Foothills Presbytery
Selected Financial Information
Revenue and Expenditures
For the Year Ended December 31, 2022**

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Revenue		
Annual Commitment - from Foothills churches	404,736	615,341
Other-PYC fees, MIS trip, Hunger Prog, COM Emgncy, etc.	68,777	-
Investment income	89,974	
Realized Gain/Loss on Investments	(88,039)	
Total Revenue	<u>475,448</u>	<u>615,341</u>
Expenses		
Committee on Shared Ministry ¹	103,274	44,150
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	13,013	15,500
Council ²	489,043	516,691
Committee on Ministry	2,563	4,000
Racial Ethnic Cabinet	-	1,000
Presbytery Benevolences	8,000	8,000
Antiracism Ministry	143	1,000
Presbytery Operating Reserve	15,363	25,000
Total Expenditures	<u>631,399</u>	<u>615,341</u>
Net	<u>(155,951)</u>	<u>-</u>

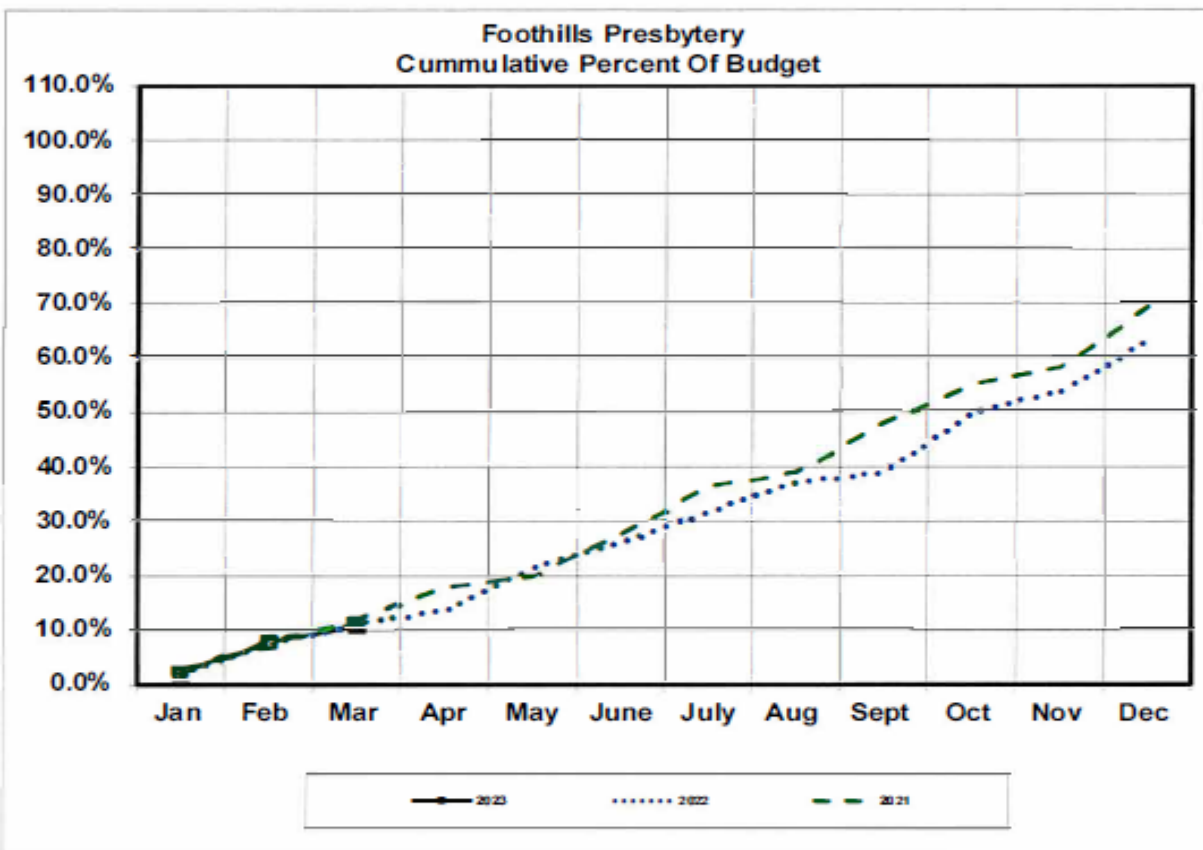
Notes:

1 - Includes Mission Expense, Youth Council, Resource Library, Leader Training, etc.

2 - Office staff and facility expense

FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY ANNUAL COMMITMENT

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
TOTAL BUDGET	\$612,665	\$615,341	\$643,546
From Prior Year Budget % Change	5.20%	0.44%	4.58%
End of Year Over/(Under) Bud	-\$187,960	-\$210,605	
End of Year % Budget Received	69.32%	65.77%	0.00%



	2021 Budget		2022 Budget		2023 Budget	
	Cumulative	Percent	Cumulative	Percent	Cumulative	Percent
January	\$ 11,834	1.9%	\$ 8,606	1.3%	\$ 10,426	1.6%
February	\$ 49,202	8.0%	\$ 46,767	7.3%	\$ 49,230	7.6%
March	\$ 71,094	11.6%	\$ 70,339	10.9%	\$ 69,559	10.8%
April	\$ 108,592	17.6%	\$ 84,955	13.2%	\$ -	0.0%
May	\$ 121,121	19.7%	\$ 137,137	21.3%	\$ -	0.0%
June	\$ 166,762	27.1%	\$ 164,461	25.6%	\$ -	0.0%
July	\$ 221,360	36.0%	\$ 202,333	31.4%	\$ -	0.0%
August	\$ 238,467	38.8%	\$ 236,384	36.7%	\$ -	0.0%
September	\$ 294,100	47.8%	\$ 248,410	38.6%	\$ -	0.0%
October	\$ 338,544	55.0%	\$ 320,894	49.9%	\$ -	0.0%
November	\$ 356,952	58.0%	\$ 344,799	53.6%	\$ -	0.0%
December	\$ 424,705	69.0%	\$ 404,736	62.9%	\$ -	0.0%

Nominations Committee Report May 2023

Antiracism Ministry Team:

Elder Susan McLarty (Westminster, Greenville)

Finance & Stewardship Committee:

Rev. Stephanie Dion (Eastminster, Simpsonville)

Committee on Shared Ministry:

Rev. John Daniel DeBevoise (First, Spartanburg)

Rev. Buz Wilcoxon (At-Large)

Worship Committee:

Rev. Lynn Miller (Limestone, Gaffney)

2023 Nominations Committee

Chair: Elizabeth Clayton

Class of 2023

Mary Cooper
Sonya Dawson
Ginna Lister

Class of 2024

Jeff Gilstrap
Connie Lane

Class of 2025

Fran Bagwell
Elizabeth Clayton
Donna Foster
David Howell

Presbytery Staff: Debbie Foster, Pressley Cox, Robin Morris, and LeAnne White

Representation and Review Committee May 2023

The Representation and Review Committee reports:

1. We completed the representation reports for 2022 and 2023. (See Attachment A.) The reports reflect a fairly even representation between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders and between Males and Females. Upon review of the racial breakdown on our committees, we learned that in Foothills Presbytery about 2% of our total membership is Black or Other. Therefore, while the representation among our black brothers and sisters looks low, it reflects the total representation in the Presbytery.
2. We have scheduled four opportunities to gather and review the 2022 Session minutes. We invite the Clerks of Session to bring the 2022 Session Minutes, with the completed Clerk's Session Minutes Review Form and the Financial Review & Audit Form to one of these gatherings.
 - June 5 at 6:00 pm at Pickens Church (Pickens)
 - June 15 at 6:00 pm at Central Church (Anderson)
 - June 20 at noon at Westminster (Greenville)
 - June 27 at noon at First Church (Spartanburg)

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Hyslop, Chair

Committee Members

Class of 2023: Fred Hyslop, Jeff Motes, and Susan Tompkins

Class of 2024: Morton White

Class of 2025: Carolyn Brice and Ansley Page

Presbytery Staff: Debbie Foster and Robin Morris

Representation and Review Committee 2022 Representation

From the **Book of Order** G-3.0103

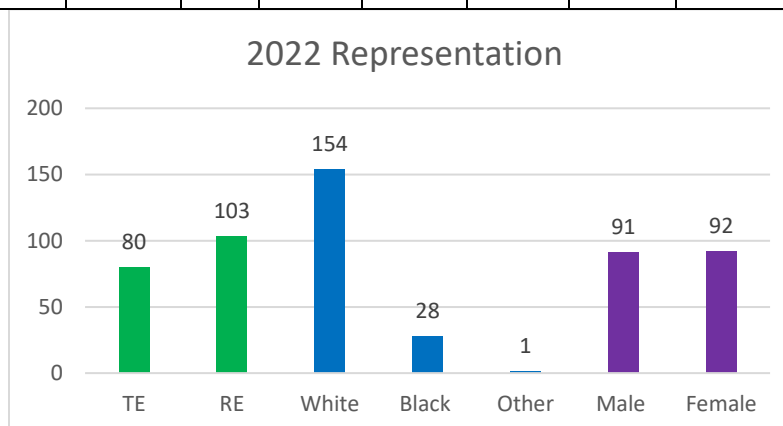
The councils of the church shall give full expression to the rich diversity of the church's membership and shall provide for full participation and access to representation in decision-making and employment practices (F-1.0403). In fulfilling this commitment, councils shall give due consideration to both gifts and requirements for ministry

(G-2.0104) and the right of people in congregations and councils to elect their officers

(F-3.0106).

The report of the Representation and Review Committee of Foothills Presbytery including the membership analysis of committees, councils and teams will be received as information which includes the observations below for 2022.

Name of Committee	clergy	lay	white	black	other	male	female	Total
Antiracism Ministry Team	7	2	6	3	0	4	5	9
Bills and Overtures	3	5	8	0	0	4	4	8
Committee on Ministry	6	13	19	0	0	10	9	19
Committee on Preparation	10	8	18	0	0	10	8	18
Committee on Shared Ministry	9	15	23	1	0	6	18	24
Coordinating Council	14	5	17	2	0	13	6	19
Disaster Preparedness AC	1	4	5	0	0	2	3	5
Examinations Commission	5	7	12	0	0	5	7	12
Finance and Stewardship	3	5	8	0	0	6	2	8
Nominations Committee	1	7	4	3	1	3	5	8
Permanent Judicial Commission	3	5	7	1	0	4	4	8
Personnel Committee	2	4	6	0	0	4	2	6
Racial Ethnic Cabinet	3	11	2	12	0	7	7	14
Representation and Review Committee	3	3	5	1	0	4	2	6
Sexual Ethics Committee	4	2	6	0	0	3	3	6
Worship Committee	3	4	4	3	0	3	4	7
General Assembly Comm	2	2	3	1	0	2	2	4
Synod Commissioners	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
Totals	80	103	154	28	1	91	92	183



Representation and Review Committee 2023 Representation

From the **Book of Order** G-3.0103

The councils of the church shall give full expression to the rich diversity of the church's membership and shall provide for full participation and access to representation in decision-making and employment practices (F-1.0403). In fulfilling this commitment, councils shall give due consideration to both gifts and requirements for ministry

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Name of Committee	clergy	lay	white	black	other	male	female	Total
Antiracism Ministry Team	6	2	5	3	0	4	4	8
Bills and Overtures	2	6	8	0	0	5	3	8
Committee on Ministry	11	12	23	0	0	12	11	23
Committee on Preparation	8	9	17	0	0	7	10	17
Committee on Shared Ministry	8	13	20	1	0	4	17	21
Coordinating Council	14	6	18	2	0	11	9	20
Disaster Preparedness AC	1	6	7	0	0	3	4	7
Examinations Commission	9	4	13	0	0	7	6	13
Finance and Stewardship	3	6	9	0	0	7	2	9
Nominations Committee	1	8	6	2	1	2	7	9
Permanent Judicial Commission	3	5	7	1	0	4	3	7
Personnel Committee	4	3	7	0	0	4	3	7
Racial Ethnic Cabinet	3	11	2	12	0	7	7	14
Representation and Review Committee	2	4	6	0	0	3	3	6
Sexual Ethics Committee	4	1	5	0	0	3	2	5
Worship Committee	3	2	5	0	0	3	2	5
Synod Commissioners	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	2
Totals	82	99	158	22	1	87	94	181

