

**Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting #124**  
**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**



**First Presbyterian Church**  
302 West Whitner Street  
Anderson, SC 29624  
864-225-2551

**COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK**  
**November 14, 2023 10:00 a.m.**

# Table of Contents

	<u>Page No.</u>
First Presbyterian Church History	3
Foothills Presbytery Mission Statement	4
Foothills Presbytery Core Committees	5
 Docket for 124 <sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting	 6-7
 Report of the Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk	 8-9
Appendix A – Report of Commission to Install David Howell	10
Appendix B – Report of Commission to Ordain Mary Moore Driggers	11-12
Appendix C – Report of Commission to Ordain & Install Ally Pexa	12-13
Appendix D – Report of Commission to Install Elliot Grow	13-14
 Personnel Committee Report	 15
 Racial Ethnic Cabinet Report	 16-17
Representation and Review Report	18-19
Worship Committee Report	20
Committee on Ministry	21-22
Appendix A – Stephen Graves – Bio/Statement of Faith	23-24
Appendix B – Summary Membership Report	25
 Examinations Commission Report	 26
Appendix A – Maren Sonstegard-Spray – Bio/Statement of Faith	27-28
Appendix B – David Torrey Bio/Statement of Faith	29-31
 Committee on Shared Ministry	 31-34
Appendix A – Fellowship Camp & Conference	35
 Committee on Preparation for Ministry	 36-37

# First Presbyterian Church

## History

First Presbyterian Church of Anderson was established in 1837. Tired of the nearly ten-mile horse and buggy ride to Robert's Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Elizabeth Whitner put her foot down! She compelled her husband, Judge Joseph Whitner, to deed 3 ¾ acres of land for the purpose of building a Presbyterian church within the small village of Anderson, SC. Thirteen charter members organized the "Anderson Court House Presbyterian Church." At that time, Anderson had approximately 200 residents. In 1882, the two-story, red brick sanctuary was completed that we still use today, and our campus is newly enhanced by our Welcome Center that provides a central gathering space before and after worship. FPC provides year-round early childhood education and afterschool care through the Child Enrichment Center, and a weekly program of care and compassion for those with dementia through Rhodes Respite Care. Faith formation for all ages is woven into everything we do, in worship, in fellowship, in education, and in service. FPC is surrounded by and engaged with a number of non-profit organizations located within two blocks of the church. These organizations seek to provide vital services to the homeless – daily breakfasts, clothing, groceries, addiction recovery, and emergency shelter. The youth of the church serve a hot meal every month to our unhoused neighbors. We especially focus on homelessness prevention in our community, partnering with Habitat, Rebuild Upstate, and Homes of Hope, to keep people in homes and create affordable housing. We thank God for over 175 years of faithful ministry in Anderson, and seeking to serve God in the future, have renewed our commitment to ministries of believing, loving, and serving.



## Foothills Presbytery

### *Caring, Empowering and Celebrating the Churches in Foothills Presbytery*

- Faith:** COM - Care and discipline of our Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders and Sessions
- Hope:** CPM - Guidance for those seeking ordination as a Teaching Elder in the PCUSA
- Love:** CSM - Empowering, connecting and celebrating the shared ministry of Foothill's Churches

### MISSION

The identity, mission and ministry of Foothills Presbytery is rooted in the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

1. G-3.03 "The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for assisting and supporting the witness of the congregations to the sovereign activity of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith, hope, love and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of its congregations, the presbytery shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed communities have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303) and the six Great Ends of the Church (F-10304).

In light of this charge, the presbytery has responsibility over **Ecclesial ministry** and the power to:

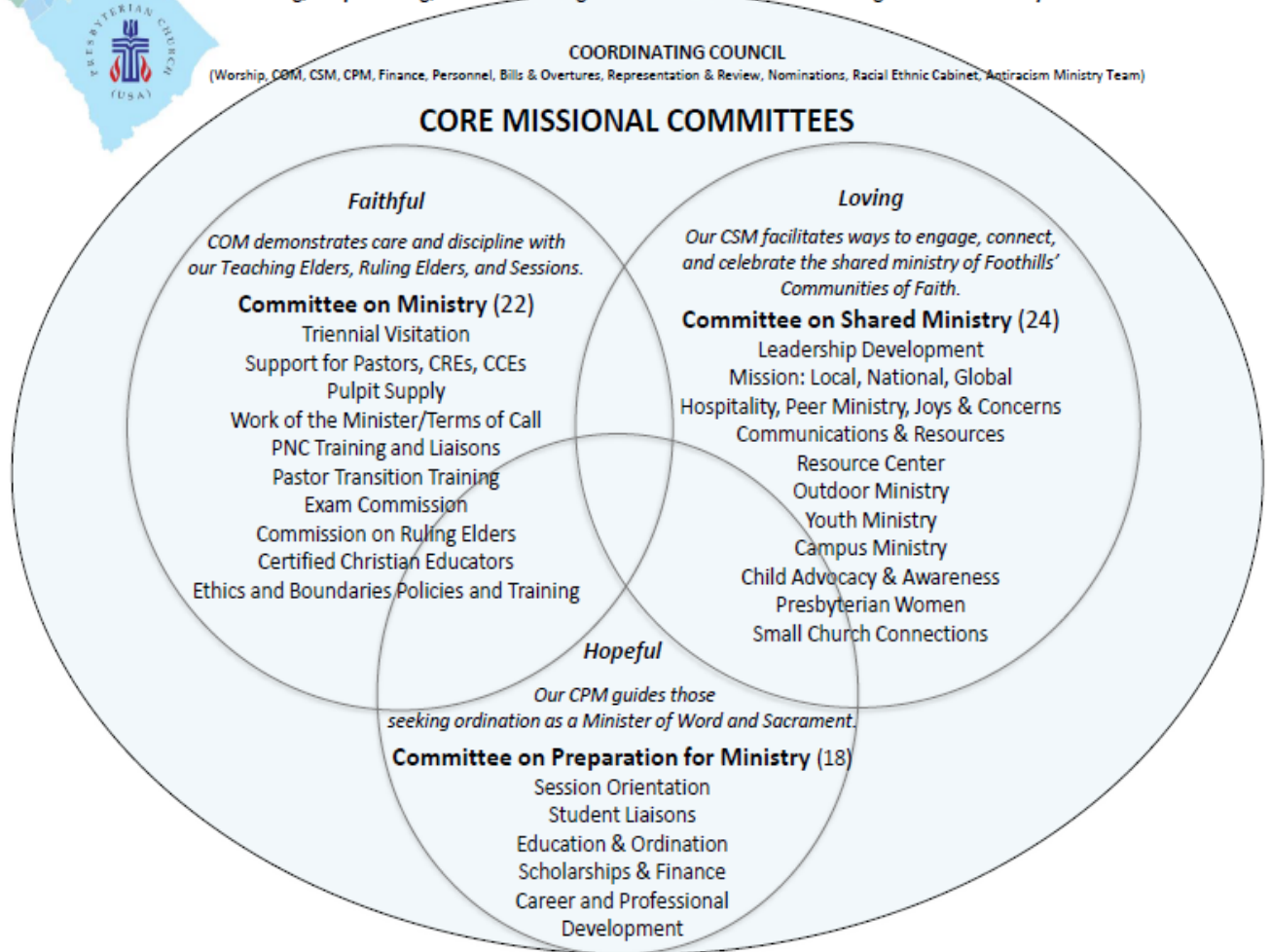
- a. Provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard;
  - b. Nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ;
  - c. Provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received.
2. G-2.0201 **Diaconal ministry** "as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service sharing the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures or anyone in distress."

As the Council of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America for the congregations in the six upstate counties in South Carolina, by the Grace of God we gather to joyfully celebrate this Calling.



## Foothills Presbytery

*"Caring, Empowering, and Celebrating the churches in Foothills through shared ministry."*



**Foothills Presbytery  
124<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 10:00 am  
First Presbyterian Church, Anderson**

**Commissioner Orientation** – November 9 at 5:30 via Zoom

**Special Orders of the Day**

Lunch and Fellowship 12:55

**Opening and Worship**

A. Call to Order, Establish a Quorum and Open in Prayer 10:00  
Trish Gwinn, Moderator

B. Welcome from Host Dennis Tedder 10:05

C. Worship: Rev. Dr. Maren Sonstegard-Spray, Preacher 10:10

**Break** 11:00

**Business**

D. Presentation and Approval of the Docket Trish Gwinn 11:10

E. Presbytery Leader & Stated Clerk Report Debbie Foster 11:15

F. Report of Coordinating Council Julie Schaaf 11:25

1. *Antiracism Ministry Team* Lerone Wilder

2. *Bills and Overtures* Richard Caldwell

3. Finance and Stewardship Dennis Latham 11:30

4. Nominations Elizabeth Clayton 11:40

5. *Personnel* Lud Weaver

6. *Racial Ethnic Cabinet* Michael Sullivan

7. *Representation and Review* Fred Hyslop

8. *Worship* Allyson Helvie

9. *Other Business* Julie Schaaf

G. Ecclesial and Diaconal Committees		
1. Committee on Ministry	Susan Oldham	11:45
a. Examinations Commission	Amos Workman	11:50
2. Committee on Shared Ministry	Jackie Putnam	12:05
3. Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Lauren Slingerland	12:15
H. New Business		
I. Launch into Lunch	Jackie Putnam	12:35
J. Adjournment and Closing Prayer		12:45
K. Lunch and Fellowship		12:50

\*Italics indicates *Consent Agenda*

*Action on the Minutes: That the Stated Clerk, the Associate Stated Clerk, the Parliamentarian, and the Moderator be empowered to read and approve the Minutes.*

**Upcoming Presbytery Meetings:**

- Tuesday, February 20, 2024, Fountain Inn Church

## Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader Report October 3, 2023

The Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk **reports:**

1. Having received and found in good order, the Installation Commission to Install the Reverend David Howell as Pastor at the [Seneca Church](#). (Appendix A.)
2. Having received and found in good order, the Commission to Ordain Mary Moore Driggers as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament. Mary Moore was called to serve as [Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Family at the Peachtree City Church](#) in Greater Atlanta Presbytery. (Appendix B.)
3. Having received and found in good order, the Ordination and Installation Commission for Ally Pexa to be the Associate Pastor at the [Greer Church](#). (Appendix C.)
4. Having received and found in good order, the Installation Commission for Elliott Grow (Fourth) to be serve as the Commissioned as a Ruling Elder at the [Providence Church](#) in Powdersville. (Appendix D)
5. The McCarter Administration Commission (AC) continues to meet at least once a month to discern the best way forward for McCarter. The Commission is chaired by the Rev. Tandy Taylor who provides regular reports to the Committee on Ministry.
6. I called a meeting of Coordinating Council for August 14th with the purpose of receiving reports and requests about church property (Westminster/Gville, Fountain Inn, and Mt. Zion) and to hear a report from the Stewardship Task Force.
7. That the West Georgia Road property is still under contract. We continue to work with Anderson Ridge Developers. Realtor Joe Teague indicates that we are scheduled to be on the Planning Commission agenda for November 15th. If the Planning Commission approves the project on the 15th of November, we should be able to close in December.
8. Having attended the [Synod of the South Atlantic](#) meeting of Stated Clerks, September 25-26 in Jacksonville, Florida hosted by our new Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, Valerie Young.
9. Continued participation in the [Presbyterian Foundation's](#) new bi-monthly Mid-Council forum about property.
10. Continued peer-gathering with large church pastors, mid-size church pastors, and small church leaders.
11. Attending monthly meetings with the Presbytery Leaders in the five Presbyteries of South Carolina (SC5).
12. Preparing (along with Associate Stated Clerk, Robin Morris) for the upcoming [SC5 School of Theology](#) at Presbyterian College October 27-28. As a part of my work with the five Presbyteries of SC, I serve as Dean of the Lay School. Robin Morris (Associate Stated Clerk) is now the Registrar.
13. That [Legacy Partnership Project](#) (LPP) continues to draw interest from all corners of our presbytery. I am grateful to Olanda Carr and Paul Grier from the



Presbyterian Foundation for their continued commitment to this Future Church Initiative and the significant leadership of the Rev. Pressley Cox (Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry). Please read Pressley's LPP report in the COM materials.

14. Gratitude to Elizabeth Little at the [Board of Pensions](#), for gathering our retirees for a luncheon at Fourth Presbyterian Church on August 22.
15. Attending the [Presbyterian Communities of SC](#) quarterly Board meeting hosted by the Clinton Community September 5.
16. Sending announcement to all Pastors, Clerks and Church Leaders with important reminders: 1. Foothills Presbytery's change in terms of call for Pastors, 2. Changes in the Board of Pensions benefits for retirees (2024) and Pastors Plan (2025) and 3. The new amendments/changes to the PCUSA Book of Order ([summary here](#)).
17. Receiving and granting a request from Bill McConnel ([Presbyterian Communities Foundation](#)) to join us for our upcoming stated meeting and have a display table.
18. Receiving a request from Sy Hughes to introduce himself to bring greetings on behalf of the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) and the Office of the General Assembly to our 124<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting.

The Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk **recommends**:

1. Having received requests for excused absences from the November 14, 2023, stated meeting of Foothills Presbytery, and having found them to be in order, moves their approval.
2. Granting the request from Sy Hughes to bring greetings from the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly during our Stated meeting November 14.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Debbie G. Foster  
Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader

**Foothills Presbytery Commission to Install Rev. David Howell  
As Pastor of Seneca Presbyterian Church  
June 25, 2023**

**Foothills Presbytery Commission:**

Rev. Dr. Joseph Gaston, Teaching Elder & Chaplain, Foothills Community, Moderator  
Rev. Dr. Gordon Turnbull, Teaching Elder, John Knox Presbyterian, Worship Leader  
Rev. Richard Caldwell, Teaching Elder, Honorably Retired, Foothills Presbytery and  
Parish Associate at Seneca Presbyterian Church  
Chad Laxton, Ruling Elder of Seneca Presbyterian Church  
Robin Morris, Ruling Elder of Limestone Presbyterian Church and Associate Stated  
Clerk of Foothills Presbytery, Secretary

**Initial Meeting:** The Commission convened at 9:20 on June 25, 2023. Rev. Dr. Joseph Gaston, Moderator of the Commission, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting in prayer. Rev. David Howell introduced each member of the Commission and thanked them for supporting him. Robin Morris was elected as the secretary of the Commission. The group reviewed the order of service, discussed the choreography, and agreed for the Benediction to serve as the closing of the Commission. The meeting was recessed until the 10:00 Worship Service.

**Worship:** During the service, the Rev. Richard Caldwell provided the Welcome and Announcements, the Pastoral Prayer, and the Prayer of Installation. Liturgist Alicia Rannou led the Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, and Assurance of Forgiveness. Seneca's Choir sang the anthem, *How Majestic is Thy Name*. The Rev. Dr. Gordon Turnbull proclaimed the Word following the reading of Isaiah 43:1-7 and 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. The title of his sermon was "Beholding All Things Anew." The Rev. Dr. Joseph Gaston provided the Statement of Purpose for the Installation and asked the Rev. David Howell the constitutional questions. Following Elder Chad Laxton's constitutional questions to the congregation, Rev. Dr. Gaston declared the Rev. David Howell installed as the Pastor of Seneca Presbyterian Church. Rev. Dr. Turnbull provided a charge to the newly installed pastor. Elder Robin Morris provided a charge to the congregation. Following the congregation singing *Take My Life and Let it Be*, Rev. David Howell provided the benediction, which concluded the worship service and the duties of the Installation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Morris, Secretary of the Installation Commission

**Foothills Presbytery Ordination Commission Report**  
**Reverend Mary Moore Driggers**  
**June 4, 2023**

**Commission Members:**

Reverend Will Shelburne – Teaching Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Greer, SC);  
Moderator  
Reverend Dottie Metropol – Teaching Elder (Honorably Retired, Foothills Presbytery);  
Secretary  
Reverend Whitney Moss – Teaching Elder (Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church, Fountain  
Inn, SC)  
Val Hendrickson – Ruling Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Greer SC)  
Jan Ellis - Ruling Elder (Nazareth Presbyterian Church, Moore, SC)

**Guests of the Commission:**

Reverend Debbie Foster – Teaching Elder (Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader,  
Foothills) Presbytery)  
Reverend Leslie Lang – Teaching Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Spartanburg, SC)  
Nick Nicholson – Ruling Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Greer, SC)  
Ed West – Organist (Head of Music Ministries, Oakland Avenue Presbyterian Church,  
Rock Hill, SC)  
Sarah Grace Hall – M.Div. (Massanetta Springs – Synod of the Mid Atlantic)  
Brett Eisenhauer – Ruling Elder (First Presbyterian Church, Decatur, IL – Southeastern  
Illinois Presbytery)  
Maggie Wentzky – Artist (First Presbyterian Church, Greer, SC)

The Commission met at 3pm at First Presbyterian Church, Greer. Reverend Will Shelburne, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer. Reverend Dottie Metropol was elected the secretary of the Commission. Introduction of all the participants was made by Candidate Mary Moore Driggers. There was a brief discussion and rehearsal of the choreography of the 4pm Ordination worship service. The Commission voted for the Benediction to serve as the dismissal of the commission.

From the Ordination Worship Service:

Rev. Will Shelburne opened the Worship Service with the Welcome and Announcements followed by the Call to Worship, the Hymn: “Come! Live in the Light,” The Call to Confession, The Corporate Prayer of Confession, and The Assurance of Pardon. A special Gifts of the Hands Offering was received. Following the Prayer for Illumination, both Psalm 113 and Luke 1:67-80 were read and the sermon was delivered by Rev. Whitney Moss.

Rev. Leslie Lang read the Scriptures and Statement of Ordination. The congregation reaffirmed their Baptismal Vows and professed their faith. Rev. Debbie Foster asked the Constitutional Questions of the Candidate. Rev. Will Shelburne and Ruling Elder Val Hendrickson offered the Prayer of Ordination (laying on of hands). The Declaration of Ordination was offered by Rev. Will Shelburne. Rev. Dottie Metropol Charged the Newly Ordained Rev. Mary Moore Driggers. Family and friends presented Symbols of Ministry. Ruling Elder Val Hendrickson offered the Prayer of Thanksgiving with the congregation praying The Lord’s Prayer. Rev. Mary Moore Driggers offered the

Benediction concluding the duties of the Ordination Commission. In response, the congregation sang the Hymn: “You Shall Go Out With Joy.”

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev. Dottie Metropol, Secretary

**Appendix C**

**Report of the Commission to Ordain and Install Ally Pexa as Associate Pastor  
of First Presbyterian Church, Greer, South Carolina**

The Commission met on Sunday, June 11, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Choir Room at First Presbyterian Church, Greer.

Commission members present:

Reverend Will Shelburne, Moderator (Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Greer); Amy Couch (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Greer); Reverend Debbie Foster (Teaching Elder: Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader, Foothills); Minnie Thomas (Ruling Elder, Fourth Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC); and Ben Trammell (Ruling Elder, Fort Hill Presbyterian Church, Clemson, SC).

Guests of the Commission present:

Ameka Cruz (Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, First Presbyterian Church, Greer); Fred Hyslop (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Greer); Patty White (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Greer); Mark Roseveare (Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Greer); and Katherine Voyles (Ruling Elder, Northminster Presbyterian Church, Seattle, WA).

The Commission meeting was opened with prayer by Reverend Will Shelburne. Amy Couch was appointed as Secretary of the Commission.

Reverend Shelburne reviewed the details of the service with the commission members. Fred Hyslop moved that the benediction serve as the close of the commission meeting. Ben Trammell seconded and all approved.

The Commission proceeded to the ordination and installation service in the sanctuary.

The service included hymns, prayers, confession of sin, affirmation of faith, and scripture readings. Reverend Debbie Foster, Foothills Presbytery Stated Clerk and Leader preached a sermon entitled, “Threads”, based on Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Jeremiah 29:11-14a, and John 15:12-17.

The service of ordination and installation was opened with Sentences of Scripture and a Litany of Gifts led by Ruling Elder, Ben Trammell. Ruling Elder, Mark Roseveare, delivered the Statement on Ordination and Installation. Ruling Elder, Fred Hyslop, led the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Covenant and Profession of Faith. Ruling Elder, Patty

White, propounded the Constitutional Questions to Ally Pexa and all were answered in the affirmative. The Prayer of Ordination and Installation was offered by Reverend Will Shelburne. Reverend Debbie Foster, Foothills Presbytery Stated Clerk and Leader, declared that Ally Pexa was now ordained as Minister of the Word and Sacrament in the PC (USA) and installed as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Greer.

The Charge to the Newly Ordained and Installed was delivered by Ruling Elder, Katherine Voyles. The Charge to the Congregation was delivered by Amy Couch, Ruling Elder and Chair of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Symbols of Ministry were presented to Reverend Pexa by her husband, Reverend Jacob Kennedy, and chair of the APNC, Amy Couch. Following the singing of *Spirit, Open My Heart*, Reverend Pexa pronounced the benediction.

Seeing that everything was done decently and in order by common consent, the Moderator declared the minutes approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Couch, Secretary

## Appendix D

### Report of Commission to Install Elliott N. Grow, CRE Sunday, June 11, 2023

#### **Foothills Presbytery Commission:**

Rev. Jackie Putnam, Associate Pastor, Fourth Presbyterian Church - Moderator  
Becky Kay, Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church – Secretary  
Tim Gossett, Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Dottie Metropol – Honorably Retired Foothills Presbytery  
Derrick Quattlebaum, Fourth Presbyterian Church  
Margaret Watson, Fourth Presbyterian Church

#### **Guests of the Commission:**

Robin Bell, Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church  
Eva Grow, Deacon, Fourth Presbyterian Church  
Jessica Traynham, Ruling Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church

**Initial Meeting:** The Commission met at 10:00 am on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Jackie Putnam, Moderator, opened with prayer and introduced members to each other. I was elected Secretary of the Commission. There was a brief discussion on the choreography of the worship service at 11:00 am. The Commission voted for the Benediction to serve as the dismissal of the commission.

**Worship:** In the service, Margaret Watson led the Call to Worship followed by the hymn, “To God Be the Glory”. The Call to Confession, Corporate Prayer of Confession, Declaration and singing of Gloria Patri were led by Whitney Ramseur.

The Rev. Jackie Putnam led the Morning Prayer and The Lord's Prayer and read the Epistle Lesson from Romans 9:24-32, 38-39, followed by an Anthem, "All the Glory Belongs to Jesus". Rev. Putnam read the New Testament Reading from Mark 9:14-29 and preached on the topic of "Only Through Prayer." The Apostles' Creed followed the Sermon.

Derrick Quattlebaum led the service of Giving and closed with the Doxology and Prayer.

Moderator Rev. Jackie Putnam pronounced the Statement of Installation and asked the Constitutional Questions of the Candidate. Tim Gossett asked the Questions of the Congregation. Prayer for Commissioning was offered by Rev. Dottie Metropol, Declaration of Commissioning was offered by Rev. Putnam. The Charge to the Newly Commissioned CRE was offered by Eva Grow, the Charge to the Congregation was offered by Jessica Malinovsky and the Presentation of Symbols of Ministry was provided by Robin Bell. The Hymn, "The Church's One Foundation" was sung, and the congregation reaffirmed Providence's Covenant responsively.

Elliott Grow offered the Benediction and Sending to everyone gathered, concluding the duties of the Installation Commission.

Respectfully submitted,  
Becky Kay, Secretary of the Installation Commission  
Elder, Providence Presbyterian Church

## **Personnel Committee Report September 2023**

### **The Personnel Committee reports:**

- That we met on September 20, 2023, and committee members met with each member of the presbytery staff to discuss their 2023 job performance and evaluation provided by Debbie Foster, Presbytery Leader/Stated Clerk. We also discussed any changes needed for the current job descriptions.
- That we approved a motion to change the job of Office Administrator/Bookkeeper from full-time to three-quarter time. The position will carry full-time benefits through the Board of Pensions. Warren Templeton is in this role and the change will be effective April 1, 2024.
- That we approved a motion to recommend to the Finance and Stewardship Committee that all presbytery employees receive a 3% salary increase.

### **The Personnel Committee recommends:**

- That Coordinating Council approve the recommended change in the Office Administrator/Bookkeeper role from full-time to three-quarter time with full-time benefits through the Board of Pensions effective April 1, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ludwig Weaver, Chair

Members: Robert Barkley, Angie Garrison, Christie Gravely, Hudson Neely, Fred Tolly, Lud Weaver (Chair)

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

## **Racial Ethnic Cabinet Report September 2023**

The Racial Ethnic Cabinet (REC) **reports** that our group has re-engaged and meets regularly every other month on a Saturday to support one another and our respective congregations.

We **report** that at our **June 10, 2023**, meeting:

1. We centered our time with Dwelling in the Word using Matthew 28:16-20, the Commissioning of the Disciples.
2. The REC discussed re-forming a joint choir to sing at special worship services or other celebrations at our churches. Elder Herman Glenn (Walker's Chapel) will contact the musicians to garner interest.
3. Belton Lane (Walker's Chapel) shared that he attended the Elder Refresh Workshop that was led by Rev. Tom Malone. He reported that the training was excellent for helping elders understand their responsibilities.
4. Rev. Lerone Wilder (Mattoon) shared that plans are being finalized for the Juneteenth Celebration at Mattoon on June 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00. All were invited to participate.
5. Rev. Chris Alexander (Salem) shared that Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk of PC(USA), will be preaching at Salem Church on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00. He also shared that a luncheon was planned on June 24<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church, Anderson.
6. The REC agreed to financially support the attendance of Rev. Lerone Wilder and Elder Belton Lane at the National Black Presbyterian Caucus meeting in Charleston this month.
7. Rev. Bessie Black shared that Westminster Saxon Church will hold a Vacation Bible School on July 18 – 20 from 6:00 – 8:00. This is their first VBS in four years.

We **report** that at our **August 19, 2023**, meeting:

1. Rev. Rafus Camp (Bethesda) provided an opening homily on John 4:4 and James 2:2. His sermon was on "Isms" that separate us as a body of Christ. The "isms" included racism, classism, political-ism, culturalism, and denominationalism.
2. Elder Kim Smith (Bethesda) initiated a discussion on holding a Music Workshop. After discussion and strong interest, Kim agreed to begin outlining a plan for a Music Workshop.
3. Rev. Lerone Wilder (Mattoon) provided a report on his attendance at the National Black Presbyterian Caucus in Charleston. He and Belton Lane were appreciative of the opportunity to represent Foothills Presbytery at the meeting. (See Appendix A and B for their reports.)
4. The attendees shared information about upcoming events:
  - a. Nicholtown: Homecoming on September 24 at 2:00
  - b. Westminster, Saxon: Friends and Family Day on October 29 for their 141<sup>st</sup> anniversary.
  - c. Mattoon: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on November 12 at 3:00
  - d. Walker's Chapel: 150th Anniversary in November.



The Racial Ethnic Cabinet (REC) **reports** that at our next meeting will be October 14 at noon at Foothills Presbytery Office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Michael Sullivan

**Members:** Bessie Black, Latanya Carpenter, Bonita Chester, Roy Davis, Elizabeth Jones, Belton Lane, Charlie Pratt, Leroy Sanders, Darrell Simpson, Anna Smith, Frances Smith, Rosa Webber, and Larry Williams

## **Representation and Review Committee September 2023**

The Representation and Review Committee **reports**:

1. This year we held four regional gatherings for Clerks of Session to bring their minutes, review the minutes from another church, and learn from one another. Because this was successful, we will incorporate four regional gatherings in our plan for next year. The committee also allowed Clerks to drop off their minutes at the Presbytery Office, where we met to review those minutes.
2. We have completed the review of the 2022 Session Minutes. Forty-nine of our fifty-eight churches completed the review process.
3. The 2022 Minutes Review process was not completed for the following nine churches: First Woodruff, Good Hope, McCarter, Nicholtown, Piedmont, Providence, Rock Hill, Varennes, and Walker's Chapel.
4. In keeping with the requirement to "develop procedures and mechanisms for promoting and reviewing that body's implementation of the church's commitment to inclusiveness and representation" (G-3.0103, the committee completed the 2023 Foothills Presbytery representation report 2023. (See Appendix A.) The report reflects 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 non-white. Therefore, while the representation among our non-white siblings looks low, it reflects the total representation in the Presbytery.
5. For the review of 2023 Session Minutes, we are scheduling regional gatherings in Spartanburg, Greenville, Anderson, and Pickens. We will also offer a time of minutes review after the February 20, 2024 and May 18, 2024 Presbytery Meetings.
6. We plan to publish the 2024 schedule and the Clerk's Session Review Form in December.

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

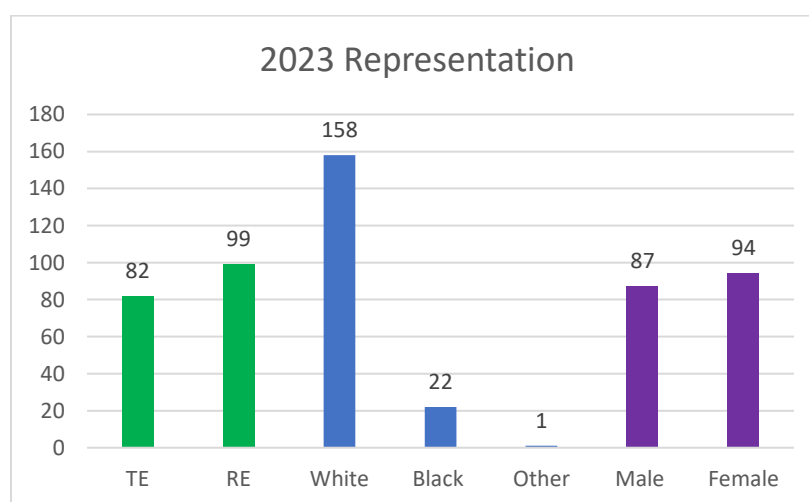
## Representation and Review Committee 2023 Representation

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 (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 2023.

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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>181</b>



## **Worship Committee Report**

September 2023

Since the last meeting of Foothills Presbytery, the Foothills Worship Committee met to address:

1. Recorded Worship Service for the Christmas Season
  - a. The Worship Committee has provided a recorded worship service for the Sunday after Christmas for the past three years.
  - b. Since Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, congregations would use a recorded service on Sunday, December 31. After consulting with congregations who have taken advantage of the service, the committee decided there was not enough interest to provide a recorded service for 2023.
  - c. The committee will share alternatives for a December 31<sup>st</sup> service and will explore offering a recorded service for use during a different season.
2. November 2023 Presbytery Worship
  - a. The November Presbytery meeting will be on November 14, 2023.
  - b. In honor of All Saints, the worship service will include the annual recognition and celebration of the lives of ruling elders, teaching elders, and teaching elders' spouses who have entered the Church Triumphant.
  - c. The Committee is partnering with the Presbytery's Stewardship Task Force and is focusing on the theme of "Abundance". Terri Price and Stan Reid will work with the Committee by writing portions of the service and serving as liturgists.
  - d. The Committee invited the Rev. Maren Sonstegard-Spray to preach on Exodus 16:1-5, 13-30. The sermon will be titled "Enough".
  - e. Continuing with the theme of Abundance, the Committee voted to invite commissioners to bring "grain" items for donations to Hope Missions of the Upstate.
3. February 2024 Presbytery Worship
  - a. The Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, Co-Moderator of the PCUSA, will be our preacher for worship.
4. May 2024 Presbytery Worship
  - a. The Saturday, May 18, 2024 Presbytery meeting will be at Limestone in Gaffney. The focus for the day will be on Mental Health (May is Mental Health Awareness month). The Committee will work with the Committee on Shared Ministry to honor the theme of Mental Health Awareness.

Faithfully submitted,

Allyson Helvie, Chair, Worship Committee

Committee Members: Holt Andrews, Meg Flannagan, Allyson Helvie, and Lynn Miller.

Presbytery staff: Pressley Cox

## **Committee on Ministry Report September 2023**

The Committee on Ministry **reports** the following information and actions since our last report for the Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting in May:

### **Ministerial Relationships:**

1. Met with Rev. Stephen Graves, honorably retired member of Florida Presbytery, and approved his transfer to Foothills. Steve was placed on the Pulpit Supply List and may be considered for temporary pastoral relationships. Steve and his wife, Susie, live in Walhalla. (See Appendix A for his bio and statement of faith.)
2. Approved the following agreements: Providence: Commissioned Ruling Elder Agreement with Elliott Grow; First Anderson: Transitional Associate Pastor with Maren Sonstegard-Spray; Midway: Stated Supply Agreement with John McCallum; Pickens: Transitional Pastor Agreement with David Torrey; Fair Play: Commissioned Ruling Elder Agreement with Art Williams; Belton: Transitional Pastor Agreement with Scott Crane; and Glenn Springs: Stated Supply Agreement with Bob Petit.
3. Approved Art Williams to serve as the Moderator for Fair Play.
4. Approved the dissolution of pastoral relationship of Julia Watkins with Westminster Church (Greenville) as of July 16, 2023.

### **Congregational Relationships:**

1. Received a written report from Sandy Thrasher (Trinity) and Art Williams (Fair Play) on the Triennial visit with Pendleton.
2. Acknowledged that the Varennes COM Task Force will have a listening meeting with the leaders of Varennes on June 3.
3. Reviewed a report from the McCarter Administrative Commission.
4. Discussed that fourteen pastors from Foothills are involved with [GOAL](#), an organization that focuses on affordable housing and mental health in the greater Greenville area.
5. Approved the request from First Spartanburg to form an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee prior to Joanne Hull's retirement in December 2023. Approved Scott Berry (Limestone) to serve as their COM liaison.
6. The Belton Church has formed a Pastor Nominating Committee to call a full-time pastor. Approved Dennis Tedder (First, Anderson) to serve as their COM liaison.
7. Discussed temporary pastoral leadership needs of the following congregations: Covenant, Florence Moore, Midway, Piedmont, and Unity.
8. Heard reports from Susan Oldham (First, Spartanburg) and Gordon Turnbull (John Knox) following listening sessions at Second, Spartanburg.
9. Approved a motion for the Varennes Church Task Force to become an Administrative Commission.

Information shared:

1. Discussed that fourteen pastors from Foothills are involved with [GOAL](#), an organization that focuses on affordable housing and mental health in the greater Greenville area.
2. Celebrated that Lynn Miller (Limestone) created new maps of the Foothills Presbytery churches. Miller created three maps: entire presbytery with all 58 churches, Greenville County, and the metro area of Greenville.
3. Heard a report from Associate Stated Clerk Robin Morris on the three-month transition of the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). This is the system used by Pastor Nominating Committees to search for an installed pastor.
4. Heard an update from Stated Clerk Foster that the leadership for the South Carolina School of Theology will transition to Foothills. Foster is the new Dean, while Robin Morris is the new Registrar.
5. Received a report from Pressley Cox, Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry on the Future Church Initiative, Faithful Innovation Learning Communities.
6. Received a report from David Torrey, who is serving as Transitional Pastor at the Pickens Church.
7. Received reports from Lerone Wilder (Mattoon) and Belton Lane (Walker's Chapel) regarding their participation at this year's National Black Presbyterian Caucus in Charleston, SC.
8. Received an updated Church Statistics report from Associate Stated Clerk Robin Morris. The report shows that our 58 churches are being served by the following worship leaders: 21 installed, 18 temporary, 10 no pastor, 5 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 2 Student Supply, and 2 Other Worship Leaders. (See Appendix B.)

The Committee on Ministry **recommends**:

1. That the Varennes Church Task Force become an Administrative Commission to lead the church through the Gracious Dismissal Process.

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 Robin Morris (Associate Stated Clerk)

## **Stephen E. Graves Brief Bio**

### **Brief Bio**

Pastor Steve and his wife, Susie, have sought to reflect God's light and love throughout their years of ministry. Steve enjoys preaching, teaching, leading worship, and writing Christian music. His outside interests include family activities, travel, sports, reading, computers, missions, and international exchanges.

Steve was ordained in June, 1979 as Associate Pastor of Ormond Beach Presbyterian Church, Florida, and was called to St. Cloud Presbyterian Church in August, 1982. He served First Presbyterian Church of Orangeburg, SC in 2015 before returning to Florida in 2016 to pastor Lafayette Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee. He retired at the end of January 2023.

### **Education**

- BA Political Science, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg FL, 1975
- Master of Divinity, San Francisco Theological Seminary, San Anselmo CA, 1979
- Doctoral work at Columbia and Trinity Theological Seminaries

### **Family**

- Wife, Susan, graduate of UCF, Accountant, Realtor/Broker/Associate
- Daughter, Katie, graduate of Eckerd College, Media Specialist, St. Cloud
- Son, Chrys, graduate of Eckerd College, studied at San Francisco Seminary, missionary in Brazil for three years

### **Partial list of additional service**

- Presbyterian Campus Ministry, FSU, Board Member
- YMCA: Board Member, Finance Chair, District Board Member
- Rotary: Club Founder (Kissimmee Bay,) President, Board Member, Chair International Service, District Chair of Group Study Exchange
- City of St. Cloud: Recreation Committee Chair
- St. Cloud Ministerial Association: President
- Heart of Florida United Way: Campaign Chair, Board Member
- United Child Care: Board Member
- Central Florida Presbytery: Moderator, Council Chair, Chair Christian Education, Chair Global Mission Committee, Chair Stewardship & Finance, Mission liaison with Puerto Rico
- Synod of South Atlantic: Chair Campus Ministries, Covenant Relations Council
- General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (USA): Catholicity and Inter-Church Relations Committee

**Stephen E. Graves**  
**Statement of Faith**

I came to faith by the Word, and my faith is characterized by a devotion to and a passion for the Word.

I have not lost the thrill of knowing that the Word was there before time began, and that all of existence—including mine— was formed through the Word. That the Word became flesh is Good News and more: It is the central point of all that is, was, and will be.

I trust in a sovereign God, I revel in a personal relationship with my Lord and Savior, and I rejoice in the blessings of the Spirit. I exult in the beautiful example we know in and through our triune God of what relationships can be when shaped by love.

I confess myself a sinner fallen short of the glory of God, and I offer repentance and seek forgiveness by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I know that God has a plan and purpose for my life, and I am grateful that my life matters to God.

Therefore, I will strive boldly to go forth in witness, mission, and love.



# Summary Membership Report for 2022

As of Sept 21, 2023

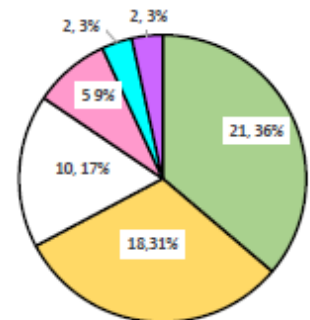
Appendix B

County	Location	Church Name	Members	Cemetery	Inst	Pastors	Type of Worship Leader	
1	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	First + *	2134	N	5	38	Installed Pastor
2	Greenville	Greenville	Westminster + *	2005	N	5	19	Temporary Pastor (Stated Supply & Transitional)
3	Pickens	Easley	Easley +	835	N	3	5	CRE
4	Pickens	Clemson	Fort Hill +	727	N	4	2	Student Supply
5	Greenville	Greenville	Fourth +	716	N	2	2	Other Worship Leadership
6	Anderson	Anderson	First	638	Y	1		No Pastor/Worship Leadership
7	Greenville	Greenville	John Knox	555	N	1	66	Pastors serving in 48 churches. 10 without pastors.
8	Greenville	Greer	First +	510	N	2		Searches
9	Anderson	Anderson	Central +	496	N	2	*	Searching for Installed Pastor
10	Greenville	Travelers Rest	Trinity	410	N	1	**	Searching for Temporary Pastor
11	Oconee	Seneca	Seneca	245	N	1		Multiple Pastors
12	Spartanburg	Moore	Nazareth	220	Y	1	+	Multiple Installed Pastors
13	Greenville	Greenville	St Giles +	212	N	2		
14	Spartanburg	Moore	Tyger River	197	N	1		
15	Pickens	Pickens	Pickens*	187	Y			
16	Greenville	Mauldin	Grace Covenant	180	N	1		
17	Greenville	Fountain Inn	Fountain Inn	172	N	1		
18	Greenville	Simpsonville	Eastminster	165	N	1		
19	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	Second *	145	N			
20	Spartanburg	Glenn Springs	Glenn Springs	138	Y			
21	Greenville	Taylors	St Andrews *	125	Y			
22	Anderson	Belton	Belton*	108	N			
23	Anderson	Greenville	Providence	103	N			
24	Cherokee	Gaffney	Limestone	87	N	1		
25	Anderson	Anderson	Roberts	78	Y			
26	Anderson	Anderson	Midway**	71	Y			
27	Oconee	Westminster	Westminster	71	N	1		
28	Oconee	Fair Play	Fair Play	69	Y			
29	Anderson	Sandy Springs	Mt Zion	68	Y	1		
30	Anderson	Williamston	Faith	62	Y			
31	Anderson	Anderson	North Anderson CC	61	N			
32	Greenville	Simpsonville	Simpsonville	61	N			
33	Anderson	Iva	Varenes	60	Y			
34	Oconee	Walhalla	Walhalla/West Union	60	N			
35	Anderson	Pendleton	Pendleton	54	Y			
36	Anderson	Iva	Good Hope	48	Y			
37	Anderson	Honea Path	Honea Path	48	Y	1		
38	Spartanburg	Woodruff	First	43	Y			
39	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	Covenant**	42	N			
40	Anderson	Piedmont	Piedmont**	39	N			
41	Spartanburg	Inman	Inman	36	N			
42	Anderson	Townville	Townville	34	Y			
43	Pickens	Liberty	Liberty	32	N			
44	Greenville	Greenville	Mattoon	29	N			
45	Greenville	Greenville	McCarter	29	Y			
46	Spartanburg	Reidville	Walker's Chapel **	27	Y			
47	Spartanburg	Landrum	Landrum	25	N			
48	Spartanburg	Spartanburg	Westminster	24	N			
49	Oconee	Walhalla	Bethel	23	Y			
50	Anderson	Anderson	Salem	21	N			
51	Anderson	Anderson	Flat Rock	20	Y			
52	Spartanburg	Boiling Spring	Unity**	19	N			
53	Cherokee	Gaffney	Bethesda	18	N			
54	Greenville	Greenville	Nicholtown	15	N			
55	Spartanburg	Wellford	Florence Moore**	11	Y			
56	Oconee	Seneca	Richland	11	Y			
57	Pickens	Easley	Camel**	9	Y			
58	Pickens	Norris	Rock Hill	7	N			
Totals				12629		38		

Type of Worship Leader  
Serving 58 Churches

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

38 installed ministers represents 27% of all Foothills Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

## **Examinations Commission Report October 2023**

The Examinations Commission **reports**:

- That on March 16, 2023, we examined Maren Sonstegard-Spray, a member of New Hope Presbytery. She was serving as part-time Stated-Supply at the Fair Play Church. Maren was examined in the areas of Bible, Polity, Worship & Sacraments, and Theology. Her examination was unanimously approved. (See Appendix A for Maren's bio and faith statement.) Maren is now serving as the Transitional Associate Pastor at First Church, Anderson.
- That on September 21, we examined David Torrey, a member of Trinity Presbytery. David is serving as the Transitional Pastor at the Pickens Church. He was examined in the areas of Bible, Polity, Worship & Sacraments, and Theology. David's examination was unanimously approved. (See Appendix B for David's bio and faith statement.)

The Examinations Commission **recommends**:

- That Maren Sonstegard-Spray be introduced as a new member of Foothills (transfer from New Hope Presbytery) and that the body be given the opportunity for dialogue.
- That David Torrey be introduced as a new member (transfer from Trinity Presbytery) and that the body be given an opportunity for dialogue.

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)

**Maren Sonstegard-Spray  
Bio Statement**

I was born in Washington D.C., grew up in Northern Virginia, and have been a Presbyterian all my life. I attended Duke University, pursuing a degree in Biology and a career in medical research. After an internship in youth ministry at my home church, I heard God's call into ministry and attended Princeton Theological Seminary. My first call was as an associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Winchester, Virginia in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley. I met my husband, Jeff, in Nicaragua while we were both on a medical mission trip with Shenandoah University. My husband's work led us to New Bern, in coastal North Carolina, where I was called first as the Temporary Associate Pastor and then as the Designated Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, New Bern. I completed my Doctor of Ministry degree in 2019 and my research focused on the use of art in Christian education. Since 2020, I have served on the teaching team for first year D. Min. students at Candler School of Theology at Emory University.

In 2020 my husband and I became licensed foster care providers and we are now the legal guardians of one of our foster children, Miradi. We have two boys, Nathan and Zachary, and two fancy rats (I know what you are thinking but they are great pets). We moved to Anderson, SC in late July for my husband's work at AnMed Medical Center. I enjoy hanging out with my family, hiking to a mountain waterfall, running (slowly), painting, gardening, reading, and listening to a good podcast. At the moment I am practicing the spiritual discipline of availability and looking forward to seeing what God has in store for me and my family!

## **Maren Sonstegard-Spray**

### **Statement of Faith**

I believe in one triune God, almighty and eternal, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who demonstrates the self-giving love that is the model for our relationship with God and with each other. God has chosen to reveal God's self to us in Jesus Christ and in the Scriptures. Out of chaos God created order in specific and personal ways. God formed humanity in the image of God, created to glorify God and enjoy God forever but throughout history, people have sinned by seeking to be God-like or to create their own gods; therefore they are unable to be in fellowship with God. Sin, the disobedience of God and the rejection of God's love, brought death and estrangement. In spite of our turning away, God has a plan of hope. God sent his son Jesus Christ into the world; Jesus was both fully human and fully divine, without confusion or division. Jesus Christ took all the sins of humanity, dying on the cross as one righteous individual in the place of all unrighteous individuals, so that we might be redeemed and made right with God. Jesus Christ's death eliminates the bonds of death and sin and his resurrection signifies regeneration and new life. By the righteousness of Christ, believers are justified and made right before the judgment seat of God. This justification is made possible only by the unearned and undeserved gift of grace and forgiveness. God, the Holy Spirit, is the advocate and guide of the faithful as they live out God's purposes for their redeemed lives. Believers live out their salvation by being stewards of creation, taking part in God's reconciling work in the world, serving and loving others, and seeking justice and peace. Believers are called to gather together into a new, beloved community, the Church. Christ is the Lord of the Church; Scripture, the living Word of God, is the only rule of faith for the church. The Church is called to be united in faith, to love God and neighbor, and to work for the transformation of the world. In baptism we die to our sinful selves and rise with Christ as new creations, seeking to live out our baptism every day in being humbled by our sin and growing up into our assurance of pardon. In the Lord's Supper we are spiritually nourished, confirming our union with Christ, expressing gratitude for God's gracious activity, and affirming the mutual love and fellowship of the community of faith. The Church is also sent out to proclaim and live out the Gospel in the world. Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection mark the in-breaking of a new age, in which God's redemption will be made complete and God's kingdom will reign. Because of what God has done, is doing, and will do, we must live in response to the salvation already given and live into the hope of what is to come.

**David Torrey  
Bio Statement**

Born in Orlando, FL, I am the oldest of three children. My parents were faithful Christians and both served as Elders in the Presbyterian Church wherever we lived. Though we moved about every 7 years as I was growing up, we always found a Presbyterian Church to participate in. I was active in Youth Ministry since my Freshman year of High School and later serving at the Presbytery level and in my congregation. After graduating from Presbyterian College, I began a 10 year career in Information Technology and worked for several banks and the State of South Carolina. I served as a Youth Advisor in my congregation and then as an Elder. In 1987 Peggy and I were married and I became an instant father to our daughter Beth. I believe God led me to Peggy and she has been a constant support and inspiration for my own faith. In 1991 I perceived a call to ordained ministry that I had been trying to ignore for many years. After a year of study, prayer, and listening, we decided to move to Marietta, GA so that I could attend Columbia Theological Seminary.

I am a second career pastor with 26 years of experience in congregational ministry in Georgia, Florida, and South Carolina serving as a solo Pastor, Head of Staff, Interim Pastor, and Stated Clerk of Trinity Presbytery. I am a graduate of Presbyterian College in Clinton, SC, Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA (M.Div. and Th.M.), and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago (D.Min.). I currently serve as the Interim Pastor for Pickens Presbyterian Church in Pickens, SC and previously served as Interim Pastor of Little Mountain Presbyterian Church in Abbeville and Stated Clerk of Trinity Presbytery.

While serving as Stated Clerk, I worked closely with the Presbytery Coordinating Team (Council) and the Ministry Teams (Committees) to:

- improve communications through the use of technology among and within Teams,
- improve the creation and maintenance of Team documents and minutes utilizing a cloud solution allowing the Presbytery to have records of Team activities without relying on individuals to remember to submit documents,
- increase the preparation and training of individuals to serve as Ruling Elders and Clerks of Session by leading annual training events,
- provide staff support for the Commission on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Discipleship Resource Team, Mission Evangelism Team, and the Administrative Enabling Team, encouraging and enabling Team leaders to focus their work to achieve their stated goals.

Throughout my life I have been aware of God's presence and guidance, though if I'm honest there have been times when I paid more or less attention. Whether participating in or leading youth retreats, training Elders for service, mission trips to build Habitat houses with youth groups, or cleanup from storm damage, I have felt God's presence and inspiration. Over the years, my calling has grown and changed as I experienced both the joy and challenge of ordained ministry. Through my work with CPM, the Congregational Transformation Committee, and as staff of the Presbytery, I understand my calling now

to be to transitional ministry as that has been a constant theme. Currently, I am enjoying my work with Pickens Presbyterian and look forward to the next stage of my ministry in Foothills Presbytery.

When I make the time, I enjoy time with our daughter Beth who lives with her husband (Thomas) and son (Ames) in Athens, GA, reading, music (choral and instrumental), and bicycling.

### **David Torrey Statement of Faith**

I believe in the one, Triune God, who is revealed through scripture and whom we call Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This God is the same God revealed to us in both the First Testament (O.T.) as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the Second Testament Scriptures (N.T.), as the God whom Jesus called Abba, Father. The truest example of relationship with God is expressed in the person of Jesus Christ, who bore our sins on the cross as an atonement for the sins of all humanity, and whom I believe to be the incarnation of the second person of our Triune God, the Son. Our God is at once three distinct persons and one in nature. God the Father is the creator, the source of all life and truth, who created the world and universe for God's own purposes and pleasure.

The life of faith is best exemplified in two ways. First, the life and relationship Jesus had with his Father and our attempts to comprehend his life and ministry, and second, the life of relationship within the Godhead between the three persons of the Trinity. Jesus' life and ministry demonstrates to us the right relationship with God to which we aspire, and the invitation to all people to life in the Kingdom of God. Yet, we cannot attain our own salvation from death and separation from God. It is only through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that we receive salvation unto life. The mystery of our faith is wide and great, and focuses on the person of Jesus, the Son of God, fully human and at the same time fully divine. The mystery of this condition is something which only God understands completely. And yet, I believe it is true and the foundation of my faith is based on this condition of Christ's nature **and** his resurrection from the dead.

It is only through the inspiration of the third person of our Triune God, the Holy Spirit, that we are able to understand a small portion of the mystery of our God and Savior. The activity of the Holy Spirit gives me courage and faith to continue to seek God even in light of conditions in the world, and the continual barrage of messages, which seek to tell us that our faith is futile and our God not real. Thus, our challenge is to live lives of doxology, lives of praise to and glorification of God, and to seek to live continually in God's presence. Through God's enabling activity in our lives, we may attain some level of doxology. However, we know that without Jesus' intervention, our activity is unclean and unworthy of presentation to God.

Our journey of discipleship requires continual growth and renewal through God's presence and activity. In particular, the promise in our baptism reminds us that we do not undertake this journey alone nor under our own power. God's promises that before we were able to do anything to save ourselves, God acted to confirm our acceptance into the kingdom of heaven and claimed us as God's children and members of the body of Christ. We journey with a family of faith, the congregation, which has promised to raise us in the faith. Yet, we require sustenance to strengthen us for the journey. The Lord's Supper is

the joyful feast through which we continually feed upon the body and blood of Christ. Through this meal of bread and wine we taste and see, drink and remember Jesus' sacrifice for us so that we are nourished for the journey.

As we continue to live and grow in our faith, we may be confident that God's activity in our lives brings us into closer communion with Godself through reminders of our baptism and remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice. In reliance upon God's promises, we may confidently claim that we are God's people and share the good news of God's grace revealed in Jesus.

### Committee on Shared Ministry Report September 2023

#### CSM Mission and Core Values from Foothills Presbytery Handbook:

**Mission:** To equip, connect, and nurture the churches of Foothills Presbytery.

**Core Values:** We will celebrate an adaptive environment where grace abounds while striving to strengthen our connectional church and share mission in a spirit of experimentation.

**How:** We will explore our mission by offering opportunities for faith formation, gatherings, fellowship, service, encouragement, resources, and support.

CSM Leadership	Leadership Development	Mission & Outreach	Youth, Camp & Campus
<b>Chair:</b> Jackie Putnam <b>Vice-Chair:</b> Audrey Reese <b>Secretary:</b> Noelle Read  Ex-officio: Pressley Cox	Natalie Arnold Beth Burris John Dubose Susan Felton Pat Fuller Joseph Gaston Minnie Thomas  Ex-officio: Pat Shufeldt	Ralph May Debbie Shealy April Swanson Renee Wiseman	Jacob Kennedy Jennifer Poag Andrea Storie Shannon Wienel

#### Leadership Development:

*Focus: To equip congregations to connect and nurture members and leaders.*

- The Committee on Shared Ministry offered 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.
  - o **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. Eighteen leaders attended the Thursday, August 31, 2023 training at Westminster, Westminster. There will be another training offered at First Greer on Thursday, February 29, 2024.

- o **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 was held on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at Fourth Presbyterian in Greenville with fifteen in attendance.
- o More information on the training may be found at <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/>
- New resources available in the Presbytery's resource center:
  - o Reformed Theology from A to Z by Donald K. McKim.
  - o Changing the World: Confirmation for the Missional Church by Mark D. Hinds.
  - o No Congregation is an Island: How Faith Communities Navigate Opportunities and Challenges Together by Jennifer McClure.
  - o A Family Prayer by Shay Youngblood.
- The Leadership Team is offering a program through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, "Resilience and Compassion Fatigue" on October 19 at Fourth Presbyterian.
- The team has determined that offering an Active Shooter workshop led by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance would be useful.
- The committee is working with COM to offer boundary training for pastors, educators, and youth leaders to comply with new **Book of Order** requirements.
- Scholarship applications for the Association of Partners in Christian Education (APCE) Annual Event are due in early November. The Annual Event will be in St. Louis, Missouri on January 24-27, 2024.
- In partnership with the Worship Committee and the Stewardship Task Force, CSM will lead a "Launch into Lunch" at the November Presbytery meeting on the theme of abundance and grace.
- A steering committee is being created to develop opportunities for Presbyterian Women throughout Foothills Presbytery to gather for fellowship, programs, and worship. Moving forward, the Foothills PW financials will be held in a fund at the Presbytery. This committee will monitor individual and church contributions.



They will also advertise and oversee scholarships for Synod and National PW events.

### **Mission & Outreach:**

*Focus: To initiate, incubate, implement connectional mission opportunities locally, nationally, and globally to share God's love.*

- Seven people went on the mission trip to Ferncliff in September. The participants drove to Ferncliff, stopping in Birmingham on both legs of the trip. In addition to learning about Presbytery Disaster Assistance kits of the hearts, the trip included working with mission agencies in Little Rock, AR. The trip also included visits to Civil Rights historical sites in Birmingham, Memphis, and Little Rock.
  - **The Mission and Outreach Team requests time on the floor of Presbytery to share about the Ferncliff Mission Trip.**
- Conversation about a presbytery-wide mission trip to Frontera de Cristo in 2024 is ongoing.
- The cents-ability offering is still being received through the Presbytery and congregations. April Swanson prepared a one-page document to place in the newsletter to be sent to all Churches.

### **Youth, Camp, and Campus:**

*Focus: To equip and connect the ministries of our Presbytery that provide faith formation for children, youth, and young adults.*

- The Foothills Presbytery Youth Council held a planning retreat at Camp Fellowship in August 2022. Themes and leadership for the Middle School and High School retreats were developed.
  - The Middle School Retreat will be November 10-12, 2023 at Asbury Hills. The theme is "Called to the Table" with keynote leader Rev. Lindsey Wells Peery.
  - The High School PYC Retreat will be January 5-7, 2023 in Montreat. The theme will be "A Brand New Thing" with keynote speaker Rev. Buz Wilcoxon.
  - Trey Duncan from the Trinity Church in Travelers Rest will provide music for both retreats.
- The team continues to provide opportunities for education and fellowship for children and youth leaders in the Presbytery through peer ministry gatherings. Upcoming topics include social media policies and family ministry in mid-size congregations.
- The four Campus Ministries in Foothills launched their fall season: UKirk Furman, PSA Clemson (Fort Hill), UKirk Converse, and Wofford. It is important to note that the Spartanburg UKirk Covenant team (First Spartanburg, Inman, Second Spartanburg, and Covenant) convened over the summer to talk about creative opportunities to rekindle campus ministry in Spartanburg. The team discussed how models for Campus Ministry are adjusting across the PCUSA, and Spartanburg is no exception. After discussion, the Covenant Team decided to

continue its efforts to keep UKirk active in Spartanburg and begin by emphasizing building the program at Converse.

- Camp Fellowship has announced two upcoming events: Winter Camp on December 1 and 2 and Elder Training on December 16. Registration for Summer 2024 is now open. (See Appendix A for a Camp Fellowship Flyer.)

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Putnam

# FELLOWSHIP CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

[www.campfellowship.org](http://www.campfellowship.org)

## Upcoming Events!

- Winter Camp, December 1st-2nd
  - Grades K-12
  - Seeking Transportation Volunteers and Vehicles December 2nd!
- Church Elder Training, December 16th
  - Hosted by Jim Rowell, Interim Stated Clerk of Trinity Presbytery
- Summer 2024 Registration is OPEN!
- Summer 2024 Staff Applications are OPEN!
- Spring Adult Retreat - April 5-6, 2024

## Camp Fellowship at your church!

As much as we love inviting you to Lake Greenwood to host your events, we also love attending your church! Fellowship staff is trained to lead Darkness to Light, a child protection training, for your congregation. We would love to teach a course at your church if you need anyone trained for your child protection policies. We also love joining your worship and fellowship events to share the good things happening at camp, lead games, or children's moments. Contact [info@campfellowship.org](mailto:info@campfellowship.org) to get on our calendar!

## Get Involved in Our Ministry!

- Donate to Campership Fund to help send campers to camp in Summer 2024
- Support our Science, Environmental, and Conservation education opportunities
- Host your church retreats and fellowship opportunities onsite at Camp Fellowship.
- Encourage your congregation to support Fellowship's ministry with a mission donation or special offering from your congregation!



**fellowship**  
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

**457 Camp Fellowship Rd  
Waterloo, SC 29384**

**[info@campfellowship.org](mailto:info@campfellowship.org)**

## **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

### **October 3, 2023**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports:

1. On April 27 we:
  - a. Discussed the Bible Content Exam and standard accommodations available for students.
  - b. Approved Annual Consultation with inquirer Langley Hoyt.
  - c. Received reports and updates on students under care and pastoral care concerns of the committee.
2. On June 22 we:
  - a. Approved standard accommodations, as needed, for students taking the Bible Content Exam.
  - b. Received the Finance Subcommittee recommendations for scholarships and approved student scholarships. Discussed other scholarships available from churches in the Presbytery.
  - c. Approved annual consultation with inquirer Sarah Cornell.
  - d. Approved annual consultation with candidate Landon Hammett.
  - e. Received reports and updates on students under care and pastoral care concerns of the committee.
3. On July 27 we:
  - a. Approved annual consultation with candidate Will Delaney.
  - b. Reviewed Reformed Theology coursework and approved recommendations to students.
  - c. Discussed the changes to the CLC and revisions to the Book of Order.
  - d. Received reports and updates on students under care and pastoral care concerns of the committee.
4. On August 24 we:
  - a. Interviewed inquirer Langley Hoyt and endorsed her request to go before Presbytery on November 14 and be examined for Candidacy.
  - b. Approved Langley Hoyt's request to take Senior Ordination Exams.
  - c. Approved Amanda Taylor begin as an Inquirer.
  - d. Received report that the Bible Content Exam will be offered at the Presbytery office on September 1, with Pressley Cox as proctor.
  - e. Received reports and updates on students under care and pastoral care concerns of the committee, particularly Ed Irick.
5. On September 28 we:
  - a. Recognized the significant losses in the committee: Ed Irick and Richard Dorn's son and joined in prayer for concerns of the committee.
  - b. Approved inquirer Sarah Cornell's CPE pre-approval request.
  - c. Received reports and recommendations from subcommittees regarding student education and career and vocational requirements.
  - d. Approved Final Assessment for Will Delaney pending graduation.
  - e. Approved Annual Consultation for candidate Ashley Brown.
  - f. Rejoiced with students who passed the Bible Content Exam.
  - g. Received the announcement about the SC5 Alphabet Soup training offered in February 2024 in Columbia, SC.
  - h. Received reports and updates on students under care.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Slingerland, Chair  
David Howell, Vice-Chair

### **Current Members of the Foothills CPM**

<b><i>Class of 2023</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2024</i></b>	<b><i>Class of 2025</i></b>
TE Mel Davis (1)	RE Elliott Grow (1)	(TE) David Howell
RE Jan Ellis (1)	RE Ed Irick (2)	(TE) Terri Price
TE Dottie Metropol (2)	RE Josh Pannell (1)	(RE) Jennifer Biber
RE Cherie Setzler (2)	TE Will Shelburne (1)	(TE) Peggy Swann
TE Lauren Slingerland (1)	TE Julie Schaaf (1)	(RE) Richard Dorn
RE Jean Mahaffey (1)		
Staff members: LeAnne White, Debbie Foster		

### **Students Currently under Care of Foothills CPM**

<b><i>Inquirers (3)</i></b>				
Date	Name	Church	Educational Status	CPM Liaison
8.24.23	<b>Amanda Taylor</b>	Grace Covenant PC	Lutheran Seminary (graduated)	Will Shelburne
10.22.20	<b>Cyndi Banks</b>	Pickens PC	Union Charlotte (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	
09.24.20	<b>Sarah Cornell</b>	Fair Play PC	Dubuque (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	Elliott Grow
<b><i>Candidates (5)</i></b>				
Date	Name	Church	Educational Status	CPM Liaison
8.24.23	<b>Langley Hoyt</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> PC, Greenville	Austin (2 <sup>nd</sup> year)	Cherie Setzler
10.27.22	<b>Ashley Brown</b>	WPC, Greenville	Austin (graduated)	Mel Davis
9.22.22	<b>Will Delaney</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> PC, Spartanburg	Duke Divinity (3 <sup>rd</sup> year)	John Byce
05.23.13	<b>Landon Hammett</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> PC, Spartanburg	2017 Grad – Union Charlotte	Dottie Metropol
12.17.20	<b>Martin Pruitt</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> PC, Anderson	2018, 2020 Grad – Union Charlotte	Jennifer Biber
(†) denotes that a Candidate has been “certified ready to receive a call”				

