

**124th Stated Meeting
of
Foothills Presbytery**

November 14, 2023

Supplement

***Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting #124
November 14, 2023***

***Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders who entered the Church Triumphant November 2022 to
October 2023***

Central Church

Dr. Hugh (Mac) C. McCord

Covenant Church

Ann Campbell

Easley Church

Jack Brock

Hubert Bowick

Barbara Stuckey

Eastminster Church

Edward F. Irick, III

Fair Play Church

Jimmy Gray

First Church, Spartanburg

Harry Pinckney Williams, Jr.

Ruth (Hobby) Hobbs Abernethy Evans

Leonard Randolph Orders, Jr.

Lynda Evans Moore

Fort Hill Church

Chuck Cruickshank

Joseph F. Dickey

Raenota Merrill

Caroline Dawson

Beth Wilkinson

Harriett Salley

Fountain Inn Church

Lucy Babb

Janet Price

***Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting #124
November 14, 2023***

***Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders who entered the Church Triumphant November 2022 to
October 2023***

*Fourth Church
Sara Seaborn*

*Glenn Springs
Richard Wayne West*

*John Knox Church
Gerry Hamby
George McLeod
Carolyn Alexander*

*Landrum Church
J. C. Alexander*

*Limestone Church
Marguerite (Peggy) Jolley
Fulton Ross*

*Midway Church
Robert R. Burge*

*Pickens Church
Dr. James (Jay) W. Pence
Mary Sue Day*

*Piedmont Church
Jane Sexton*

*Providence Church
Heyward Lockaby
Larry Brock*

***Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting #124
November 14, 2023***

***Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders who entered the Church Triumphant November 2022 to
October 2023***

*Second Church
Ed Holden*

*Seneca Church
Jim Hanna
Don Erdman
Herbert Morgan
Ann Smith*

*Simpsonville Church
Betty Patterson Bell*

*St. Giles Church
Jan Hottinga
Rachel Tarleton*

*Walhalla Church
Elbert Lamar Bailes, Jr.*

*Westminster Church, Greenville
Ina C. Ridgeway
Samuel M. Inman
Paul E. Waters
Fred F. Carpenter
Paul M. O'Neal*

*Foothills Presbytery
Rev. Marion Boozer
Rev. Cantey China DuBose, Jr.
Rev. Charles H. Horne
Dorcas Lindsay
Rev. Dr. James T. Richardson
Rev. James Still*

Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk
Supplement Report
November 6, 2023

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

1. Receiving a request from Sy Hughes from the [Presbyterian Mission Agency](#) to reschedule his visit from our November 2023 stated meeting to our February 2024 stated meeting.
2. That the Stewardship Task Force began its work in August of 2022 with the task to study the Presbytery's financial outlook and explore how Stewardship at the Presbytery level might look in the future.
 - a. The Task Force meet monthly over the course of fourteen months. They heard a financial assessment from the Presbyterian Foundation along with a report about a clearer look at today's church.
 - b. The committee vowed to read [Sailboat Church](#) by Joan Gray, and created a prayer for their work together.
 - c. The Task Force researched the last five years of the Presbytery's sources of revenue, including decisions the presbytery made between 2020 and 2021 to allocate funds to ministries (Scholarships, Campus Ministry, Future Church, and Shared Mission and Ministry).
 - d. The committee invited church leaders across the presbytery to share their experience with the Presbytery to gauge their understanding of what Presbytery is and what it does.
 - e. After a year in discernment and conversation, the committee proposed a new format for the Presbytery's Annual Commitment budget. The new format offers a more transparent picture of the presbytery's sources of revenue and use of that revenue.
 - f. The Task Force requested Coordinating Council set the theme for the November presbytery around God's abundance and gratitude. Council concurred.
 - g. The Stewardship Task Force knows that clearer communication about Stewardship is a priority. They plan through multiple channels to share the story about what Foothills Presbytery is and does. To start they published a communication that will be "snail mailed," emailed, and handed out across the presbytery. It highlights the presbytery's mission and ministry and educates our "people in the pews" about the valuable work of presbytery. (Appendix A and Appendix B).

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

1. The Stewardship Task Force be invited to make a brief presentation at the November 2024 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.
2. That Presbytery offer our gratitude and thanks to the Stewardship Task Force for their faithful service over the last fourteen months: Terri Price (Chair/Teaching Elder), Sandi Tolly (Elder, First Anderson), David Beacham (Elder, First Spartanburg), Stan Painter (Elder, Fourth), Stuart Mauney (Elder, Greer), Dennis Latham (Elder, Easley), Russ Williams (Elder, Westminster), Stan Reid (Teaching Elder, Treasurer), Debbie Foster (Stated Clerk & Presbytery Leader)



"CARING, EMPOWERING, AND CELEBRATING THE CHURCHES IN Foothills THROUGH SHARED MINISTRY."

Faithful

Our Committee on Ministry demonstrates care and discipline with our Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and Sessions.

Hopeful

Our Committee on Preparation for Ministry guides those seeking ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA).

Loving

Our Committee on Shared Ministry facilitates ways to engage, connect, and celebrate the shared ministry of Foothills' Communities of Faith.



Foothills Presbytery
P.O. Box 1118
Simpsonville, SC 29681
864.288.5774
www.FoothillsPresbytery.org

Gratitude and Abundance!

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

-2 Corinthians 9:8



FOOTHILLS
PRESBYTERY

WHAT IS FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY?

How do you describe how God is at work in the lives of our people?
How do you measure the spiritual impact?

Presbytery
Pastor Cohorts
Future Church Initiatives
Small Church Connections
Caring for the Vulnerable
Youth Ministry
Ruling Elders
Teaching Elders
Resource Center
Commissioned Ministry
Committee on Ministry
Committee on Theology
School of Theology
Presbyterian Women
Presbyterian Youth
Presbyterian and Mission
Presbytery Quarterly Gathering
Hopeful
Faithful
Loving

58
CONGREGATIONS

12,629
MEMBERS

18 Congregations > 150 members
40 congregations < 150 members



over 180

VOLUNTEERS
Ministers, Elders, Educators, Youth Leaders, and volunteers serving on committees and teams in our Presbytery

Supporting
over 100 active
Ministers

Pastors in
Congregations
Chaplains
Counselors

Caring for over 110
**Professional Ministry
Leaders**

Children's Educators
Youth Directors
Music Leaders
Church Administrators

*Presbytery Youth
Ministry is thriving!*



In January 2023,
212 youth and adults
participated in the
High School retreat at
Montreat, NC.

27 Youth from
12 congregations
serve on the
Presbytery Youth
Council

In November 2023,
203 youth and adults
participated in the
Middle School retreat at
Asbury Hills Camp and
Conference Center.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Rooted in faith, hope and love, the pastors, church members, and staff in our Presbytery are asking difficult questions about the ever-changing religious landscape and how it impacts the "way we do church." How can we better listen to how God calls us to meet the needs of our congregations and the neighborhoods they serve? How can we ensure we are not keeping things the same just to maintain the status quo? How can the Presbytery continue to serve a unique role in making a difference to the glory of God in the name of Jesus Christ?

As we grapple with these hard questions, we continue to rely on the support of each congregation to fund this ministry. We invite your Session to join us in discerning how God calls us to continue to be the connectional church, doing ministry in our congregations, neighborhoods, and the world.

Stewardship Task Force: Terri Price (TE), David Beacham (RE), Stuart Mauney (RE), Stan Painter (RE), Sandi Tolly (RE), Russ Williams (RE), Dennis Latham (RE), Stan Reid (TE), and Debbie Foster (TE)

Scan this QR code to
learn more about
Foothills Presbytery



Scan this QR code to
contribute to the ministry
of Foothills Presbytery



What is Per Capita? PC(USA)



Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA).

It fuels the organization of doing church the Presbyterian way, which is quite different from independent congregational and bishop-based systems.

Per capita funding is how we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

Your congregation sends the annual per capita funds to the Presbytery, and we send most of those funds to the PC(USA) General Assembly and the Synod of the South Atlantic (SC, GA, FL). Only .45 cents out of the \$12.25 stays in the Presbytery.

2024 Per Capita:

General Assembly	\$ 9.80
Synod	\$ 2.00
Foothills	\$ 0.45
Total	\$12.25

What is Annual Commitment?

Shared Mission and Ministry
in Foothills Presbytery

Appendix B



The Stewardship flyer paints a vivid picture of the way your Annual Commitment dollars are impacting our congregations, their communities, and the world. Your investment in the mission and ministry of your presbytery makes a difference and creates a web of connections across upstate SC and beyond.

**Our goal for 2024 is 100%
Annual Commitment participation
from our 58 congregations.**

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." 2 Corinthians 9:8

Stewardship Task Force: Terri Price (TE), David Beacham (RE), Stuart Mauney (RE), Stan Painter (RE), Sandi Tolly (RE), Russ Williams (RE), Dennis Latham (RE), Stan Reid (TE), and Debbie Foster (TE)

Foothillspresbytery.org 864-288-5774

**Foothills Presbytery
Coordinating Council Report
November 6, 2023**

The Coordinating Council **reports:**

1. Gathering for a called meeting of **Council on August 14th** for reports and recommendations about property and stewardship related matters:
 - a. We opened by Dwelling in the Word (Jeremiah 29:1-7) and prayer led by Council Chair, Julie Schaaf.
 - b. After approval of our agenda and minutes of our past meeting, we reviewed excerpts from the Book of Order related to Church Property and the Trust Clause from Chapter Four, The Church and Civil Authority, of the Government section.
 - c. Property matters discussed included:
 - I. Westminster (Greenville), Report:
 - i. Westminster (Greenville) had the opportunity to purchase the garment shop adjacent to church property without encumbrance. (Appendix A)
 - ii. Westminster received a residential property by a bequest/devise and within two months sold the property.
 - iii. Council voted unanimously to receive the Westminster report.
 - II. Fountain Inn (Ft. Inn), Report:
 - i. After an eighteen-month period of study and discernment, a task force of the Session shared their report and recommendations on the Rouse House property (adjacent to the church) to Session. After sustaining the report, the Session called a Congregational meeting (6/4/23), where they approved a motion to subdivide the Rouse House property into two lots and to sell the front lot, including the house, driveway, paved parking behind the house, and outbuilding. The church will retain the green space. (Appendix B)
 - ii. Council voted unanimously to receive the report.
 - III. Mt. Zion (Sandy Spring), Report:
 - i. In a Congregational Meeting (January 2023), the congregation authorized the Session to begin the process of selling a hook parcel that is adjacent to the McClain property. They approved a sale price of \$1 in a follow-up meeting on April 30, 2023. (Appendix C)
 - ii. Milam Property: When the Milam's donated the property to build the manse, the family maintained a strip of land to access their property. The family sold the property and donated the maintained strip to Mt. Zion Church. On January 29, 2023, the Session voted to accept the donation of the Milam property.
 - iii. Council voted unanimously to receive the report from Mt. Zion concerning the Hook Parcel and the strip of land from the Milam's.
 - iv. The Mt. Zion Manse:
 1. The Session asked Council to consider its request to sell the manse. The Session included in its request that 10% of the proceeds be used toward the congregation's food pantry ministry. Council approved the request.

2. Council requested that the Stated Clerk prepare a letter to Mt. Zion on behalf of Coordinating Council asking to partner with the church on additional options for the proceeds:
 1. An intentional focus on consistent funding Housing for current and future Pastors.
 2. Re-imaging other innovative ways to invest the proceeds to make a greater impact in their community.
 - IV. West Georgia Road Update: Hearing that the Greenville County Planning Commission will hear a revised zoning request at its upcoming meeting in November and that the buyer (Anderson Ridge Development, LLC) remains invested in the property.
 - V. Varennnes: Receiving an update about the Varennes Church's request to be dismissed from the PCUSA. Per Foothills Gracious Dismissal Policy, the Committee on Ministry appointed a Task Force to meet with the church to begin the process.
 - VI. Property Advisory Committee: Hearing a request from our Stated Clerk, Debbie Foster, to establish a committee or task force to focus on property issues around the presbytery. She suggested the title of "Property Advisory Committee." This group of five to six members will be intentional about the connection between property, mission, and stewardship. She also recommended partnership with The Foundry Commercial Group. Foundry, vetted by the Presbyterian Foundation, is a national Real Estate firm with a division which focuses exclusively on churches, schools and non-profits. After good conversation, our Council recommended and approved that the Property Advisory Committee be a committee of Council and that the Presbytery Leader/Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk, Finance & Stewardship Chair, and Presbytery Treasurer serve ex officio.
 - d. Stewardship Task Force Report: Chair Terri Price, requested that the November 14 Stated Presbytery meeting be centered on the theme of "Abundance." The Finance and Stewardship Committee and the Stewardship Task Force will work with the Worship Committee on the liturgy for the worship service that day. Council unanimously approved their request. The Task Force is focusing on educating the local churches on what generosity means, educating members about what Foothills Presbytery is and does, specifically how we use our funds, what our revenue sources are, and what our expenses are. A subgroup of the Task Force is currently working on innovative tools for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign.
 - e. Vision: We heard a request from our Stated clerk for an ad hoc Think Tank 2.0 committee. The Think Tank will work closely with the Property Advisory Committee as they consider the Vision for next three to five years for the Presbytery. She shared her observations about three central shifts across our presbytery and denomination at our October meeting. Council agreed and approved the formation of a Think Tank 2.0 and authorized the Stated Clerk to recruit Teaching and Ruling Elders to serve on it.
- Our meeting was closed in prayer.

2. Gathering for the scheduled meeting of **Council on October 3rd** to discuss the vision of Presbytery and hear reports and recommendations from committees of Council:
 - a. We opened by *Dwelling in the Word* (Isaiah 43) and prayer led by our Associate Stated Clerk, Pressley Cox.
 - b. After approval of our agenda and minutes of our past meeting, the Chair of Council invited our Stated Clerk & Presbytery Leader, Debbie Foster, to share information about three central shifts in the life of our Presbytery and the greater church. She pointed out that all

the shifts and challenges are rooted in the understanding that God is at work and that it is not a question of how to “fix it,” but how we listen to the ways God is calling us to participate in the possibilities the shifts offer.

- I. Shift 1: Congregations: Foothills Presbytery includes 58 congregations with sanctuaries, education buildings, some with large fellowship halls, gyms, etc. In the middle of the decline in traditional church growth, “How can we (congregations and presbytery) be good stewards of all that we have?” She highlighted her time of reflection/study with *Dwelling in the Word*, [*Sailboat Church*](#) (Joan Gray), [*We Aren’t Broke*](#), (Mark Eldson) [*Imaginable*](#) (Jane McGonigal), [*When Church Stops Working*](#) (Andrew Root), and [*Subtract: The Untapped Science of Less*](#) (Leidy Klotz). She reminded Council of our partnership with [*The Foundry Commercial*](#) group. She reported that Treasurer Stan Reid and she have met with two representatives from Foundry and are starting the process to evaluate some of our properties.
 - II. Shift 2: Pastoral Leadership: Foster shared the shortage of pastoral leadership and that we are exploring new models to provide leadership, especially for our small congregations. Options include Shared Pastors, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and Student Leaders. No matter what the solution, we want to continue our standard of excellence and ensure we provide training, and continue our strong seminary partnerships.
 - III. Shift 3: Funding: Stated Clerk Foster shared that the Stewardship Task Force is updated the way we format and communicate the Presbytery’s Annual Commitment budget. The goal is clear communication about the source of our income, the priority to engage all congregations in annual giving to the presbytery, and to explore new possible sources of income.
- Debbie concluded the discussion by suggesting that a potential vision process include the concept of “Listen, Act, Share,” a framework with our future church initiatives.
- Connect: future church initiatives
 - Capture: recast our vision
 - Challenge: ourselves and our congregations to take risks
 - Understanding that Chaos will come (as we lament the past)
 - Support: one another and congregations by Listen, Act, Share
- c. Future Church Initiatives:
 - I. We heard an update on the Future Church Initiatives. Five of our congregations participated in 2022 in the Faithful Innovation Learning Communities. We are not continuing this initiative, yet we see evidence of experimentation, and will continue using the mission theological framework.
 - II. The [*Legacy Partnership Project \(LPP\)*](#) continues to thrive. A total of 16 congregations have engaged in LPP. Initially only smaller congregations engaged in this initiative. Now we have two of our mid-sized congregations engaged and having fruitful conversations. For more information, contact our Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry, Pressley Cox.
 - d. Stated Clerk Report: Foster referred Council to her written report, updating Council about the ongoing work of the McCarter AC, peer gatherings with pastors, the Legacy Partnership Project report in the COM report, and the [*announcements sent to all pastors and clerks*](#) about the changes in Presbytery Terms of Call, the Board of Pensions upcoming changes, and the changes in the *Book of Order*.
 - e. Reports from Committees of Council:

- I. Bills and Overtures: Richard Caldwell reminded council that all 33 General Assembly 2022 amendments were approved by the denomination.
- II. Finance and Stewardship: Dennis Latham reported that we are currently tracking slightly ahead of the two previous years in Annual Commitment Revenue. He indicated that the funds received from Annual Commitment typically cover about 70% of the Presbytery Budget. The balance of 30% has been covered with proceeds from our investments.
 - i. The Stewardship Task Force recommends presenting projections of investment funds. The Task Force also recommends focusing on education and communication with our congregations to increase our Annual Commitments.
 - ii. Latham reported that the Personnel Committee recommended a salary increase of 3% for Presbytery Staff. The Finance & Stewardship Team approved the 3% increase.
- III. Personnel Committee: Lud Weaver recommended that the Office Administrator/Bookkeeper position shift from full-time to three fourths time effective April 1, 2024. After discussion, Coordinating Council approved the motion.
- f. We heard reports from the Ecclesial and Diaconal Committees
 - I. Committee on Ministry (COM): Susan Oldham reported there are ten congregations seeking temporary leaders and six with PNCs/APNCs searching for installed position. COM received Rev. Steve Graves, (Honorably Retired), from Florida Presbytery. Steve will be introduced at the November Presbytery meeting. We heard about the Varennes Church's request to be dismissed from the PCUSA. Per Foothills Gracious Dismissal Policy, COM appointed a Task Force to meet with the church to begin the process. COM continues to support churches as needed to provide a listening ear, to offer resources, to provide moderators, to assist with leadership development, and to assist with finding pastoral leaders.
 - i. Examinations Commission: Reported examining Maren Sonstegard-Spray (March) as a transfer from New Hope Presbytery. Maren is serving as the Interim Associate at First Anderson. David Torrey was examined in September as a transfer from Trinity Presbytery. Both will be introduced at the November Presbytery Meeting. David is serving at the Interim at the Pickens Church.
 - II. Committee on Shared Ministry (CSM): Jackie Putnam referred to the CSM report and highlighted the Mental Health Workshops and the Ferncliff Mission trip. She also pointed out the record registration numbers for the Middle School (Nov 2023) and High School Retreats (Jan 2024).
 - III. Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM): We reviewed the CPM report and will create time on the November docket to examine two students for Candidacy.

Council was reminded about the upcoming November 14 meeting of Presbytery at First Anderson and Commissioner Training scheduled for Thursday November 9. The meeting was closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Schaaf, Chair

Members: Julie Schaaf (Nazareth) Chair; Trish Gwinn (Grace Covenant), Presbytery Moderator; Richard Caldwell (Seneca); Elizabeth Clayton (First Greer); Lerone Wilder (Mattoon); Allyson Helvie (Mt. Zion); Susan Oldham (First Spartanburg); Jackie Putnam (Fourth); Michael Sullivan (Nicholtown);

Lud Weaver (Honorably Retired); Dennis Latham (Easley); Lauren Slingerland (Westminster), Fred Hyslop (First Greer). **Ex Officio:** Debbie Foster, Presbytery Leader & Stated Clerk; Robin Morris, Associate Stated Clerk; Pressley Cox, Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry; Leland Burch, Recording Secretary, Stan Reid, Treasurer; and Mark Sucher, Asst. Treasurer.

Appendix A

Westminster Presbyterian Church Legal Description of Property

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land with all improvements thereon, or hereafter constructed thereon, situate, lying and being in the State of South Carolina, County of Greenville, in the City of Greenville, on the South side of Augusta Road, being shown as Lot No. 1 on plat of the property of John T. Davenport, made by Dalton & Neves in August 1945, and having, according to said plat, the following metes and bounds. to-wit:

BEGINNING at an iron pin on the Southern side of Augusta Road, at the joint corner of Lots Nos. 1 and 2, and running thence with the line of Lot No. 2, S. 21-35 W. 200 feet to an iron pin in line of Lot No. 6; thence with the rear line of Lots Nos. 6 and 7, N. 56 W. 69.7 feet to an iron pin; thence N. 21-35 E. 200 feet to an iron pin on the Southern side of Augusta Road; thence with the Southern side of Augusta Road, S. 56 W. 69.7 feet to the point of beginning.

This being the identical property conveyed to Wind River Properties, a South Carolina limited partnership, by deed of Don L. Luquire, Jr., dated October 28, 1994, and recorded November 9, 1994, in the Greenville County ROD Office in Deed Book 1589 at Page 289.

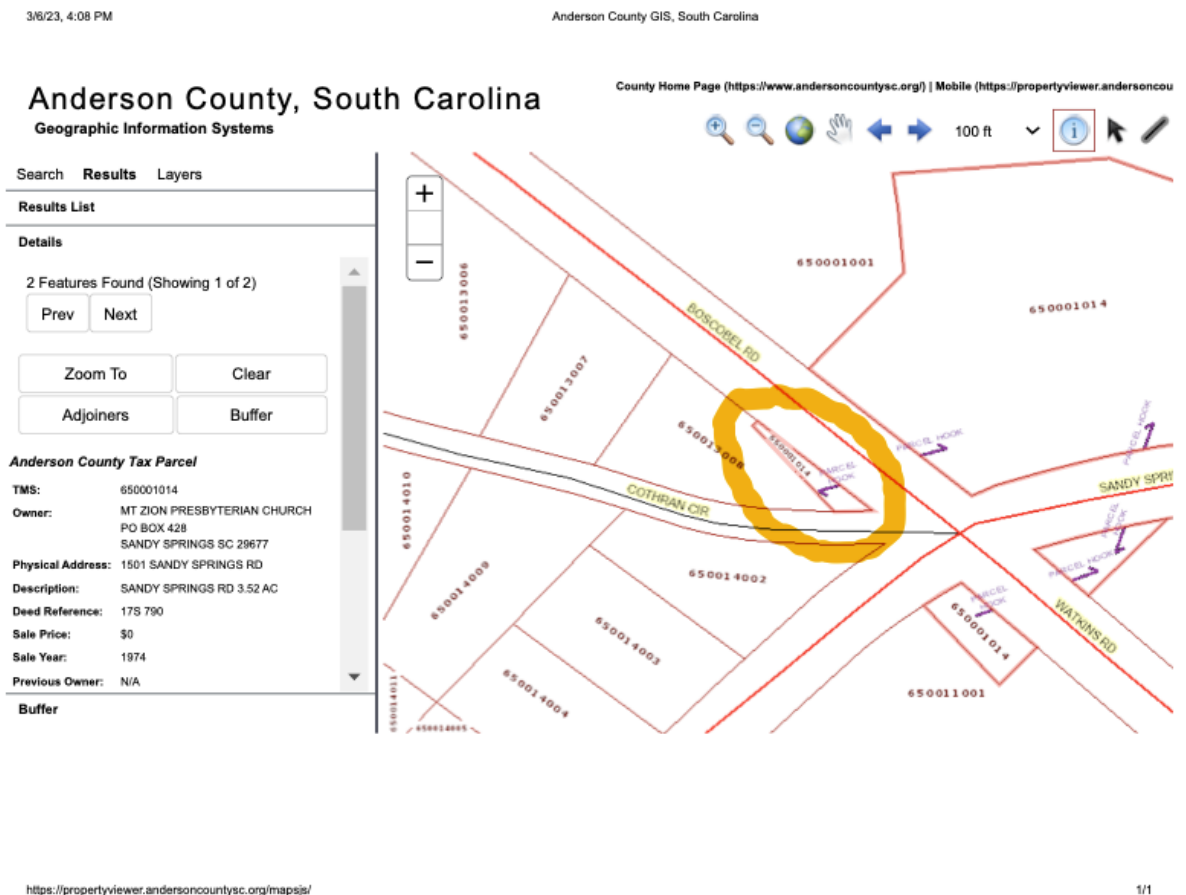
TMS 0215.00-02-009.01

Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church Legal Description of Property

All that certain piece, parcel or lot of land being shown and designated as lot "A" on a survey prepared for Parker T. Bentley prepared by Rykard Professional Land Surveying, LLC dated 6/11/2023 and recorded on 7/6/2023 in Plat Book 1465 at Page 89 in the Greenville County ROD Office.

Derivation: This being the identical property conveyed to Fountain Inn Presbyterian Church, while reserving a Life Estate unto herself by deed of Edna T. Rouse, dated October 2, 1996 and recorded October 3, 1996 in Deed Book 1654, page 633 in the Office of the Greenville County Register of Deeds. (See Death Certificate for Edna T. Rouse recorded in book 2693 at page 800 in the Greenville County ROD Office.)

Appendix C



Finance and Stewardship Team Report November 2023

The Finance and Stewardship Committee is pleased to provide the following **report**:

- Annual commitment receipts from our member congregations for 2023 year to date is consistent with recent years. We expect to receive around 70% of our annual operating budget and welcome your consideration here at year end. (Appendix A)
- We have received and reviewed the audit for 2021 and found all to be in good order. A new firm has been engaged to perform the audit for 2022 and that work has started. We expect this to be completed in a timelier fashion.
- The Finance and Stewardship Committee has met with the Stewardship Task Force over the summer and fall and received feedback from their good work. With their recommendations we have reformatted the 2024 budget and will present for approval at the November meeting of Presbytery. Note the inclusion of expected revenue to be derived from our investment funds, as well as a prayerful increase in our annual commitment receipts as we celebrate a spirit of abundance. (Appendix B.)

The Finance and Stewardship Team **recommends**:

- Approval of the 2024 Foothills Presbytery budget (Appendix B).

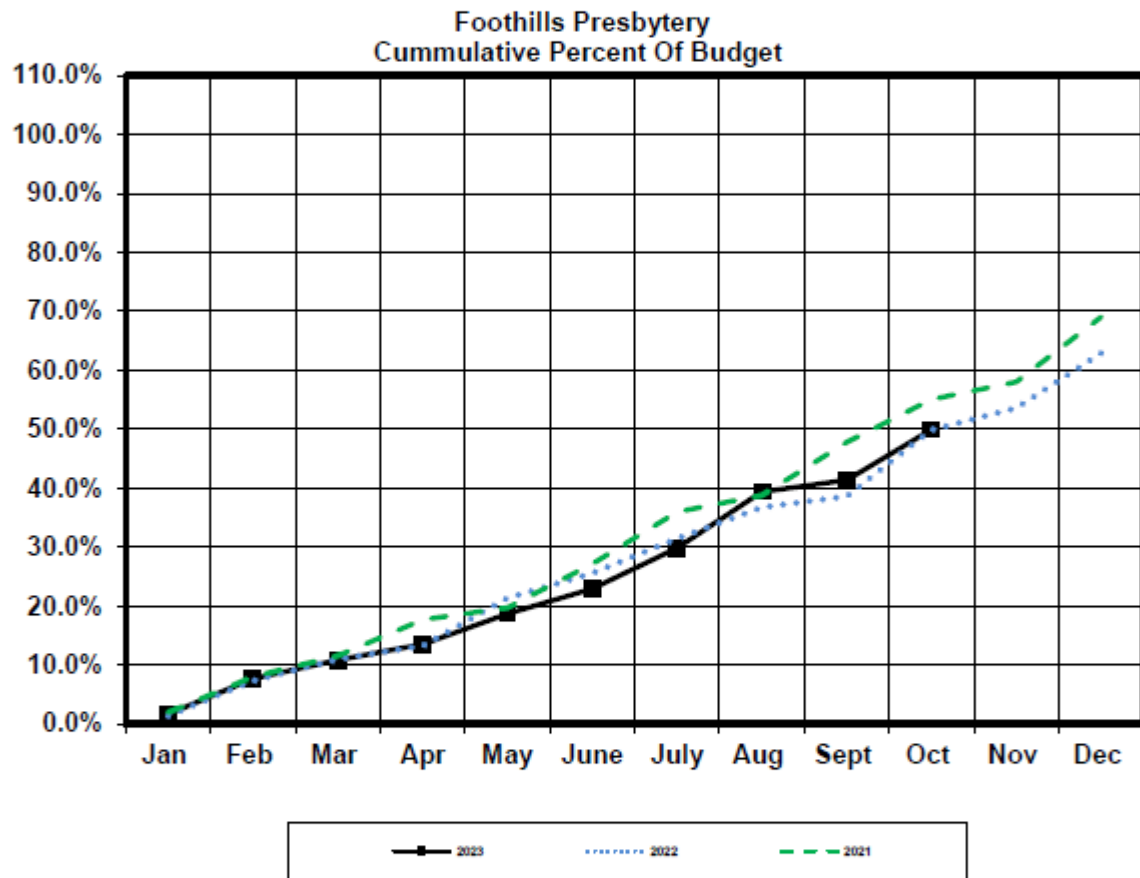
Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Latham, Chair
Finance & Stewardship

Committee: Dennis Latham (Easley), McCrady Gwinn (Grace Covenant), Sandi Tolly (First Anderson), Chris Jones (Trinity), Sandy Watkins (Eastminster), Brian Johnson (Central, Anderson), Justin Cazel (John Knox), Ex-Officio: Stan Reid (Treasurer), Mark Sucher (Assistant Treasurer), Debbie Foster (Stated Clerk & Presbytery Leader), Robin Morris (Associate Stated Clerk), Warren Templeton (Administrator/Bookkeeper).

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%

Appendix A



	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%	\$ 86,732	13.5%
May	\$ 121,121	19.7%	\$ 137,137	21.3%	\$ 119,948	18.6%
June	\$ 166,762	27.1%	\$ 164,461	25.6%	\$ 147,359	22.9%
July	\$ 221,360	36.0%	\$ 202,333	31.4%	\$ 191,931	29.8%
August	\$ 238,467	38.8%	\$ 236,384	36.7%	\$ 253,360	39.4%
September	\$ 294,100	47.8%	\$ 248,410	38.6%	\$ 265,942	41.3%
October	\$ 338,544	55.0%	\$ 320,894	49.9%	\$ 321,307	49.9%
November	\$ 356,952	58.0%	\$ 344,799	53.6%	\$ -	0.0%
December	\$ 424,705	69.0%	\$ 404,736	62.9%	\$ -	0.0%

FOOTHILLS PRESBYTERY			Appendix B	
BUDGET 2024				
			<u>BUDGET</u>	
			<u>WITH SOURCE</u>	
			<u>OF FUNDS</u>	
			<u>2024</u>	
REVENUE				
	Annual Commitment from Churches		\$ 466,136	4
	Receipts from PYC retreats		50,000	
	Receipts from Seminars and Events		2,000	
	Future Church Fund Investment Draw		28,795	
	Shared Mission and Ministry Fund Investment Draw		11,226	
	Presbytery Unrestricted Investment Draw		112,892	
	Scholarship Fund Investment Draw		10,551	
	TOTAL REVENUE		\$ 681,600	
EXPENSES				
ADMINISTRATION				
	Committee on Ministry		\$ 4,000	
	Committee on Preparation		3,500	
	CPM Seminary Scholarships		12,000	1
	Racial / Ethnic Cabinet		1,000	
	Antiracism Ministry Team		1,000	
	Staff			
	Ministers Salaries	\$ 81,247		2
	Ministers Housing	69,612		2
	Ministers Social Security	23,081		2
	Professional and Clerical Salary	135,382		
	Travel and Expense	26,000		
	Pension, D&D, Medical	128,516		
	Continuing Education	5,500		
	Workers Compensation	2,000		
	Professional and Clerical Social Security	10,357		
			481,695	
	Building and Grounds			
	Electric	5,000		
	Repair and Maintenance	4,000		
	Telephone	8,000		
	Liability and Property Insurance	5,400		
	Security System	420		
	Water and Sewer	1,250		
	Trash and Recycle	650		
	Property Taxes	95		
	Exterminator	715		
	Cleaning Service	3,000		
			28,530	

Team Expenses			
Team General Expense	1,000		
Printing & Supplies	5,600		
Postage & Meter	1,000		
Equipment and Upkeep	14,000		
Website	6,000		
Meeting Expense (Meals and Mileage)	3,000		
Audit	6,000		
Accounting	9,500		
Newsletter Email	625		
Payroll Service	1,000		
		47,725	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION		579,450	
COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY			
Shared Ministry		23,150	3
Presbytery Youth Council		21,000	
PYC Retreats		50,000	
TOTAL COMMITTEE ON SHARED MINISTRY		94,150	
BENEVOLENCE			
SC Inn at Montreat		8,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$ 681,600	
REVENUE OVER/(UNDER) EXPENSES		\$ -	
1 - Funded by Scholarship Investment draw			
2 - A portion is funded by Future Church investment draw			
3 - A portion is funded by Shared Mission and Ministry investment draw			
4 - Expected revenue includes the faithful increase we are hoping to attain.			

Nominations Committee Report November 2023

Rev. Trish Gwinn (Grace Covenant) - Moderator-Elect	2024
Rev. Julie Schaaf (Nazareth) - Coordinating Council Chair	2024
Assistant Treasurer	
Elder Charles Little (Westminster, Greenville)	2023-2024
Antiracism Ministry Team	
Rev. Maren Sonstegard-Spray (First, Anderson)	Class of 2026 (1)
Rev. Bessie Black (Westminster, Saxon)	Class of 2026 (2)
Rev. Mike Hoyt (Fourth)	Class of 2026 (2)
Rev. Leslie Lang (First, Spartanburg)	Class of 2026 (2)
Bills & Overtures	
Rev. Amos Workman (Honorably Retired)	Class of 2025 (1)
Rev. Chris Jones (Trinity)	Class of 2026 (1)
Rev. Barb Stoop (Honorably Retired)	Class of 2026 (1)
Committee on Ministry	
Elder Beth Meyer (Fourth)	Class of 2024 (1)
Rev. Dottie Metropol (Honorably Retired)	Class of 2026 (1)
Elder Anna Johnson (Central)	Class of 2026 (2)
Elder Mark Taylor (Pickens)	Class of 2026 (2)
Susan Oldham, CRE (First, Spartanburg)	Class of 2026 (2)
Elder Rudy Painter (First, Greer)	Class of 2026 (2)
Committee on Preparation	
Rev. Colin Pettigrew (Fort Hill)	Class of 2026 (1)
Elder Hariett Williams (First, Greer)	Class of 2026 (1)
Rev. Michael York (Central)	Class of 2024 (1)
<u>Ordination Exam Readers:</u>	
Rev. Will Nickles	
Rev Dottie Metropol	
Rev. Terri Price, alternate	
Committee on Shared Ministry	
Elder Ann Margaret McClary (Tyger River)	Class of 2026 (1)
Elder Joanna Griesse (Easley)	Class of 2024 (1)
Rev. Nath Briley (At-Large)	Class of 2026 (1)
Elder Amy Couch (First, Greer)	Class of 2026 (1)
Rev. Julie Schaaf (Nazareth)	Class of 2026 (1)
Elder Andrea Storie (Fist, Anderson)	Class of 2026 (2)
Elder April Swanson (Central)	Class of 2026 (2)
Elder Pat Fuller (John Knox)	Class of 2026 (2)

Disaster Preparedness & Response Admin Co
Committee on Shared Ministry Representative:
Elder Edith Hill (Fourth)

Examinations

Rev. Will Nickles (At-Large) Class of 2026 (2)

Finance & Stewardship

Elder Mike Broyles (Grace Covenant) Class of 2025 (1)

Elder McCrady Gwinn (Grace Covenant) Class of 2026 (2)

Elder Sandi Tolly (First, Anderson) Class of 2026 (2)

Nominations Committee

Rev. Gordon Turnbull (John Knox) Class of 2026 (1)

Elder Sonya Dawson (Mattoon) Class of 2026 (2)

GINNA LISTER (Easley) Class of 2026 (2)

Racial Ethnic Cabinet

Rev. Chris Alexander

Elder Kenneth Anderson

Elder Angela Bailey

Rev. Bessie Black

Elder Daisy Blake

Elder Mary Burts

Rev. Rafus Camp

Elder Daisy Dover

Elder Herman Glenn

Elder Semmada Gordon

Elder Belton Lane

Elder Sandra Mack

Elder Anna Smith

Elder Kim Smith

Rev. Michael Sullivan

Rev. Lerone Wilder

Representation & Review Committee

Elder Belton Lane (Walkers Chapel) Class of 2026 (1)

Edler Jeff Motes (Faith) Class of 2026 (2)

Personnel Committee

Elder Minnie Thomas (Fourth) Class of 2026 (1)

Rev. Lud Weaver (Honorably Retired) Class of 2026 (2)

Permanent Judicial Commission

Elder Nick Nicholson (First, Greer) Class of 2029

Rev. Christi Brown (At-Large) Class of 2029

Sexual Ethics Committee

Rev. Julie Meredith Class of 2026 (2)

Elder Mark Sucher (Eastminster) Class of 2026 (2)

Worship Committee

Mandy Keathley (Central)	Class of 2025 (1)
Holt Andrews, CRE (First, Spartanburg)	Class of 2026 (2)
Rev. Lynn Miller (Limestone)	Class of 2026 (2)

SC5 Lay School of Theology Planning Committee

Jeff Motes, CRE (Faith)	Class of 2026 (1)
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General Assembly Commissioners**Pastors:**

Rev Pressley Cox (Foothills Presbytery)
Rev. Colin Pettigrew (Fort Hill)

Ruling Elders:

Elder Kathy Lyles (Easley)
Elder Anthony Dawson (Mattoon)

Youth Advisory Delegate Representative:

Eva Grow (Fourth)

For Member Information. Not elected by Presbytery:

Investment Committee:

Stephanie Bradenberg (Eastminster)	Class of 2026 (1)
Josh Jones (First Spartanburg)	Class of 2026 (1)
Rev. Alyson Helvie (Mt. Zion)	Class of 2024 (2)
Rev. Lud Weaver (Honorably Retired)	Class of 2024 (2)

Boards**SC Inn Board of Trustees**

Elder Melinda Gilreath (Fountain Inn)	Class of 2026 (1)
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Synod Permanent Judicial Commission

Elder Stuart Mauney (First, Greer)	Class of 2028
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Nominations Committee

Chair: Elizabeth Clayton

Class of 2023

Sonya Dawson (1)
Ginna Lister (1)
Mary Cooper (1)

Class of 2024

Jeff Gilstrap (2)
Connie Lane (1)

Class of 2025

Fran Bagwell (2)
Elizabeth Clayton (1)
Donna Foster (1)
David Howell (1)

Presbytery Staff

Rev. Pressley Cox
Rev. Debbie Foster
Robin Morris
LeAnne White

Committee on Ministry Report Supplement November 2023

The Committee on Ministry **reports:**

Ministerial Relationships:

1. Met with Rev. Joanne Cox, honorably retired member of Muskingum Valley Presbytery, and approved her transfer to Foothills. Joanne lives in Greenville. (See Appendix A for her bio and statement of faith.)
2. Received an Exit Interview report on David Howell' following his transition from the John Know Church, Greenville.
3. Received an Exit Interview report on Julia Watkins following her transition from the Westminster Church, Greenville.
4. Received and report from and celebrated the news that Grace Covenant Church received a Lilly Grant, which will be used for their pastor, Trish Gwinn's sabbatical leave in the summer of 2024.

Congregational Relationships:

1. The congregation of Westminster (Greenville) elected an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, who received training on October 1.
2. The congregation of First, Spartanburg, elected an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, who received training on October 25,.
3. Reviewed a report from the McCarter Administrative Commission. (Appendix B.)
4. Discussed temporary pastoral leadership needs of the following congregations: Covenant, Florence Moore, Midway, Piedmont, and Unity.
5. Received a report from Nancy Blakely, Moderator, for the North Anderson Community Church.
6. Received a report from Elizabeth Jones, Moderator, for the Salem Church.
7. Received a report from Pressley Cox, Associate for Shared Mission and Ministry on the Future Church Initiative, Legacy Partnership Project. (See Appendix C.)

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)

**Joanne Cox
Brief Bio**

I have been blessed beyond expectation by the professional opportunities offered me throughout life, including: guidance given by clergy who encouraged me at a time when other presbytery colleagues maintained that women should not be candidates for ministry, a friend's parents who insisted with a check for \$800 that I not delay seminary due to financial need (I considered this a loan which I eventually paid back with gratitude), a seminary intern year spent part of a large-church staff and the incredible mentoring received...these examples only touch the surface of my gratitude. Personally, I am grateful to three daughters (legally adopted by me during marriage to their father, a Methodist minister whose wife died of cancer at 42) for accepting me into their lives and making me a grandmother of five.

I believe that ordination is a sacred trust which must be respected through prayerful self-discipline. When contacted by the New York Times and Time Magazine early in my career I declined interviews which were focused on my gender. When I was accepted into a DMin. program I was excited but concerned about the financial commitment while still paying off educational loans. A wealthy member of the congregation offered to pay the entire cost. It was tempting, but after prayerful consideration, I declined. I remained his pastor, unincumbered in the future by his financial largesse. Ordination carries with it ethical decisions and commitments.

I'm still exploring my environs and plan to consider adult education opportunities at Furman. In the past I have shared my love of sewing with a neighborhood teenager who was eager to learn. My sewing room includes 4 sewing machines, 2 sergers, and fabric enough to open a Jo-Ann Fabrics! I've done genealogical searches for many years and keep abreast of "new family finds" for myself and friends. I construct greeting cards. I enjoy swimming.

Although I was skeptical about moving to SC when my brother encouraged me to consider it, I now am convinced there was a purpose. One evening when my brother and sister-in-law were visiting me, he fell to the ground unconscious and turning blue. Instantly I started CPR while praying for him to live. My reactions were immediate and guided in a way I had never before experienced. Medics determined he was having a heart attack. Days later he awoke in ICU with no memory of what happened. When his surgeon did rounds, he could be heard telling nurses that they need to meet "the sister." (Only then did I realize that my brief stint at medical school was where I had to learn CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver, while praying that I would never need either.) Saving my brother may be the most important moment, and definition of purpose for my life. Throughout that experience I felt the guidance and presence of God. That presence was physically electric, yet internally serene. I was simultaneously focused on the counted rhythm of chest compressions and fervently praying for the gift of life. A lot was happening in my brain, physically, and spiritually. This might be called a "Lazarus" moment, where God's Spirit as recorded Biblically becomes current reality.

P.S. Within two years it was my brother and sister-in-law who drove me to the ER to discover that I was having a heart attack...

Joanne Cox
Brief Statemen of Faith

How simple life might be, if by now, Christians had reached agreement around ONE TRUE CREDAL BELIEF to describe: the Love of a creating God; the life, death, and resurrection of the historical Jesus; and the liveliness of the Holy Spirit! I believe that historical creeds and their inclusion in worship allow me entre into unique spaces which have guided the Church through centuries of agreement (flavored by power struggles). These historical spaces developed from religiously-defined battlegrounds. Each creed was birthed out of concern and heated friction to determine Truth when it came to our Heavenly Creator and Jesus of Nazareth. Lives were sacrificed on the spears of creeds.

Nonetheless, it is imperative that we continue to recognize sacred moments in time and ongoing invitations to discern God's actively calling us to "love one another" while we reside in this world of conflict and division. My personal affirmation resides in Jesus as the Son of God who invites me, in the most glorious and in the worst of times, to forgive and be forgiven. If it is I who happens to hold a symbol of power, it is my responsibility to rely on God's Grace as personified in Christ.

I affirm the presence and energy of God in the midst of sacred relationships and also in the darkest depths of human experience. The offer of new life, as beckoned by the presence of the Holy Spirit, is available at times and at places considered both holy and condemned. Just as a green shoot of vegetation might emerge from rocky and barren soil, so also may "New Life in the Spirit" take home in the most ravaged and downtrodden human spirit. The plasticity of the human brain is evidence of a unique gift of God's energy which provides avenues for rebirth and renewal during our life's journey. When our life in this realm is done, I believe that, although the ruach (breath, spirit) leaves our human frame at death, its departure does not indicate its demise.

**McCarter Administrative Commission
Report to COM, October 5, 2023**

The McCarter Commission invited the Reverend Jennifer Fouse Sheorn to facilitate a round table discussion for the McCarter congregation on June 26th. She began with photos of her childhood at McCarter, when her father was pastor there. She then led the group in a time of reflection on Numbers 21: 4-9 and 2 Kings 18: 1-7a and asked the group to ponder and pray over the question of what the McCarter congregation might need to let go of to move into the future with God.

Several days after the meeting, Jim Greene (McCarter liaison to the AC) contacted our Stated Clerk, Debbie Foster, requesting that the Administrative Commission be disbanded. Debbie explained that the AC was formed by an act of the Presbytery and could only be disbanded by an act of the Presbytery. Jim also requested that the second round-table discussion scheduled for August be cancelled. In addition, Jim requested a meeting with Debbie and the AC chair, Tandy Taylor, to include Jackson Ballenger, a current Session member. They met on July 24 at the Presbytery office. During that meeting, Jim and Jackson shared reflections on McCarter's current circumstances and Debbie shared a packet of case studies of PCUSA congregations across the country doing creative ministry in circumstances similar to McCarter's. Debbie also offered that the AC could create a set of different proposals for the way forward for McCarter; they said that would be helpful.

On August 8, the AC met and heard from guest speaker Don Oglesby, President and CEO of Homes of Hope, a non-profit that builds attractive affordable housing in the Upstate. He presented ideas of how the 2 Pelham site could be used for mixed income housing. The AC also authorized Debbie to provide an honorarium to Jennifer Fouse Sheorn.

When the AC met on September 27, we debriefed the conversation with Don Oglesby. We discussed which future options are viable enough to include in the set of proposals to present to McCarter Session; we have four to present.

Respectfully submitted,

Tandy Taylor, Chair McCarter Commission
Gordon Turnbull (John Knox)
Pete Roe (Westminster, Greenville)
John Verreault (First, Spartanburg)
Robin Morris (ex-officio)
Pressley Cox (ex-officio)
Debbie Foster (ex-officio)
Paul Grier (ex-officio)



Legacy Partnership Project
A Partnership with Foothills Presbytery
and the Presbyterian Foundation



What will our congregation be known for in this corner of SC?
What gifts do we want to hand down to future generations?
What are the strengths and challenges for our congregation at this time?
What are we called to do next?

The Legacy Project is a time of discernment for congregations to identify gifts of the congregation, reflect upon their impact to the community, and plan for the future. Discernment is a gift from God, mediated through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

#	Congregation	Initial Present with Session	Gathering 1: Covenant & Overview	Gathering 2: Assessment Presentation	Gathering 3: Process & Reflect	Gathering 4: Vision	Notes
1	Fair Play	✓	✓	✓			Paused the process
2	McCarter		✓	✓	✓	✓	1 year follow-up; May 25, 2022
3	Eastminster	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1 year follow-up; Fall 2022
4	Simpsonville		✓	✓	✓	✓	Follow-up meeting-Spring 2023
5	Limestone			✓			Engaged in FILC
6	Providence			✓	✓	✓	1 year follow-up; Fall 2022
7	Mattoon	✓					Engaged in FILC
8	Townville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	1 year follow-up; Summer 2023
9	Covenant	✓					Paused the process
10	Pendleton		✓				Waiting on Financial Analysis
11	Pickens	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Completed May 2023
12	Nazareth	✓	✓	✓			

13	Inman		✓				Waiting on Financial Analysis
14	Landrum		✓				Waiting on Financial Analysis
15	Midway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Follow-up Meeting in Sept 2023.
16	Second	✓	✓				

Slated to begin the Legacy Partnership Project in 2023: 17- Mt. Zion; 18- Piedmont; 19- Seneca; 20- Faith

weeKirk

CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE FOR WEE KIRK AT MONTREAT!

OCTOBER 21-23, 2024

(Barnabas October 20-23, 2024)

The Wee Kirk conference aspires to provide Christ-centered opportunities for inspiration, encouragement, and community among leaders of small membership churches so they can do the same in their congregations and regions.

Tracks include:

- **Barnabas** (for pastors, especially first call pastors) led by Dr. Andy Root of Luther Seminary
- **Spiritual Formation** led by Martha Friz-Langer
- **Creative Worship**
- **Leadership Development**
- and a **brand new Biblical Scholarship Track** led by Dr. Christopher Holmes!

More information coming in December!

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Supplement Report
November 2023**

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports:

On October 26 we:

1. Endorsed Inquirer Sarah Cornell to be examined to move to Candidacy at the November meeting of Foothills Presbytery.
2. Approved Inquirer Cyndi Banks' Annual Consultation.
3. Prepared for the November meeting of the CPM.
4. Received reports and updates on students under care and pastoral care

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends:

1. Inquirer Langley Hoyt be examined to move to candidacy. (See Appendix A for Langley's bio and statement of faith.)
2. Inquirer Sarah Cornell be examined to move to candidacy. (See Appendix B for Sarah's bio and statement of faith.)

Respectfully Submitted,
Lauren Slingerland, Chair
David Howell, Vice-Chair

Current Members of the Foothills CPM

<i>Class of 2023</i>	<i>Class of 2024</i>	<i>Class of 2025</i>
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

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

Langley Hoyt
Brief Sense of Call and Bio

God creates every person with a unique pattern of gifts and calls them to hold a role in their communities. The work of each person is to find where their personal gifts and sense of call bring them to engage in the work God is doing in their communities and in the world. Some people are called to serve communities of faith because their gifts are uniquely suited to fulfill the role of ordered ministry as ministers of the Word and Sacrament. This calling does not mean God cares more about one person than another, but that a person's community recognizes their God-given gifts as being well-suited to the role of minister.

I grew up and was nurtured in PC(USA) churches and summer camps, and attended Davidson College where I majored in psychology and held student leadership roles in the chaplain's office. After graduation, I completed a Young Adult Volunteer year in Washington, D.C., and worked for nonprofits in Charlotte, NC, which focused on the intersection of faith and justice. I began the ordination process in response to the call from my communities who encouraged me to attend seminary, and the call of the still small voice within me which prodded my intuition to tell me ministry is something that would make me come alive.

As I began my time at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and started out as an inquirer in the ordination process, I could not stop asking myself– and also asking the CPM at one point– why me, and why ordination? What makes me so special that I should be ordained and not someone else? It was not until taking a PC(USA) Polity class that I realized my discomfort was very Presbyterian. Being ordained would mean I have a set of skills which equip me to serve my community in the role of a minister. It would not mean I have a more important calling from God than a hospital nurse, or a construction worker, or a barista. I would have the knowledge from my theological education, the gifts for ministry, and the affirmation of my community that I am fit to fulfill a particular role.

Ministry is about equipping all the saints for the ministry of the whole people of God. God is the one doing the mission in the world, and my gifts equip me to help people plug into God's work. I am a person who notices, engages, and invites. I love to think and write about theology and wonder at how it is playing out in the world around me or the person in front of me. I love to make connections with people who are different from me. I want to help others make connections too. I am not the one giving meaning to people, but I am connecting to the God who is truth and love and light, and facilitating spaces– whether in moments of crisis in hospital rooms or engaging in the connecting rituals of the sacraments– where people can connect to one another and to the divine. I am a connector, inviter, space-maker and meaning-seeker. I see my gifts as fitting into the role of ordained ministry, not because I am any better than anyone else, but because I am a unique child of God who has the gifts to answer this particular call.

Langley Hoyt

Statement of Faith

I believe in God who created the world out of deep joy, love, and desire for relationship. God brings new life out of death and despair with a tenderness that disarms the powers of sin. God is a net of grace who catches humanity and calls us to live into who God created us to be. God reveals Godself to humanity in ways we can understand through scripture, creation, and the person of Jesus. I believe in Jesus, who links us eternally with God in his own full humanity and divinity. Jesus' life and teachings, as revealed in Scripture, show us how to be in relationship with one another and with God. Jesus went with humanity to the depths of our mortality and despair. But Jesus rose from death, bringing us with him into new life and calling Christians to participate in his mission of sharing the good news of new life. I believe in the Holy Spirit, who helped the disciples find the words to spread the good news on Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is the wisdom who calls in Proverbs, the connector between people, the fire within human hearts that inspires and sustains us, the breath of life, the one who imbues in each person their unique gifts.

I believe the Trinity— Father, Son, and Holy Spirit— reveals a God who is engaged in relationships of mutuality and care within Godself. God calls creation to mirror such relationships. I believe the Trinity is three distinct but inseparable persons, one God, who make space for one another in their individuality while being united in their common purpose of love. Through the sacraments, Christians are welcomed into communion with the Trinity, connected in belonging to God and to the saints through all time. When we partake in the sacraments, we use ordinary elements to participate in the extraordinary grace and love of God. Baptism incorporates people into membership in the body of Christ, a belonging that brings new life, renewal, and deeper relationship with God and the Church universal. The Lord's Supper draws participants into the presence of God and the Church universal, and represents God's invitation and free grace extended to all of humanity, who will one day be united at table in the kingdom of heaven.

Scripture describes God's self-disclosure to creation and speaks to God's constant presence with creation throughout time. The gospel reveals the good news of God's love and grace, and witnesses to who Jesus calls the church to be. Calvin describes Scripture as spectacles which help humanity understand the nature of God and God's love for humanity. I believe the Church is united in our identity in Jesus Christ, and thus always called to seek reconciliation and connection over division and isolation. The Church seeks to live into our identity as the ones God called "good" at creation, despite our human fallibility. I believe there is no one who is beyond the reach of God's care and love, and so people of faith are called to wide and ever wider welcome of all. The Church is called to proclaim the good news that God is making all things new, participating in the missional work God is already doing in the world— work of solidarity and deep care for the poor, suffering, and disenfranchised. God's people look ahead to the second coming of Christ, anticipating the coming of God's kingdom where he will wipe every tear from our eyes. We know God's time is already breaking into our own, a belief that urges us to stay awake and cling to hope, so we might participate in the kingdom here and now.

Sarah Cornell
Brief Sense of Call and Bio

I am blessed to have been raised in a loving Christian family. I am from Hudsonville, Michigan, a small town outside of Grand Rapids. The area is mostly Catholic and Christian Reformed. I grew up in one of the Christian Reformed Churches (Hillcrest) in Hudsonville and went to the Christian Reformed School for Kindergarten through 12th grade. I was taught about the saving grace of Jesus Christ from an early age. My husband Mike and I moved to Anderson, South Carolina in December of 2007. We were encouraged by our minister in Michigan to look for a Presbyterian Church as it would be of the same Reformed Tradition that we had at our church in Grand Rapids. Taking his advice, we joined First Presbyterian Church of Anderson when we moved.

As a girl in my early twenties, I heard a small voice calling me into the ministry. However, for a number of years I ignored this voice, until it wasn't a small voice anymore. In listening and working through God's calling on my life I took the interim youth director position at First Presbyterian Church of Anderson in the summer of 2009. During this time, I continued to work towards my Bachelor's degree in Christian Ministry. After graduating from Anderson University, I felt that God was calling me to a preaching and leading ministry. Midway Presbyterian Church in Anderson provided me with preaching opportunities and called me to be a Ruling Elder.

After becoming a Ruling Elder at Midway, I entered the Commissioned Ruling Elder program of the Foothills Presbytery so that I could further my studies and continue to do the work that God was calling me to do. After completing the course work in 2014, I was commissioned to John Calvin Presbyterian Church to help them through the closing process. After their closing I was commissioned to the Belton Presbyterian Church. In August of 2019 I attended the Transitional Ministry Education Consortium at Montreat. It became clear to me that attending seminary and answering the call to become a Minister of the Word and Sacrament was a voice too loud to ignore.

Throughout my ministry, I have found myself called to temporary and transitional positions and feel this continues to be God's call on my life. I am called to be flexible and open to creative employment arrangements and places. I feel while working in a transitional setting I will be able to help individuals in a congregation to see themselves in the light of their own Christian vocations, and to contribute my own unique gifts and talents alongside them as we fulfill our Christian vocation together in community.

Sarah Cornell
Statement of Faith

I believe in one God; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the Creator of all things seen and unseen. When I think about the beauty of the earth and how perfect the working order of the universe is, I know God is the Sovereign Creator who, out of love, created humans in God's image. God reigns over all and God loves all. God shows this to us through the written Word and in our lives today.

I believe in Jesus Christ as the Redeemer and Savior of the world. I believe that Jesus became incarnate through the virgin birth. He is both fully divine and fully human. While living on the earth, Jesus gathered crowds and small groups, he used familiar images of his day to convey God's love and reign to all. He embraced those labeled by society as outcasts, sinners, and unbelievers. He visited the sick and comforted the suffering. He challenged powerful institutions. Finally, he was subjected to betrayal, torture, and execution. He willingly accepted a fate he did not deserve, so that we might know mercy and grace, and through this act know God's love, and understand that we are saved and redeemed. I trust that God raised Jesus from death into life, giving hope and reassurance for the life to come, and the life today.

When Jesus ascended to heaven, he promised that his presence would remain, even though his physical form did not. Because of this, I believe in the Holy Spirit, who comforts, guides, inspires and binds together God's people in all places. I trust that God calls together faithful believers in every age to be the church. The church is to worship, pray, join in fellowship, study, and serve one another and the world.

Through the teachings of the church, I recognize two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which serve as the signs and seals of my faith. These two sacraments are found in the New Testament and were instituted by Jesus Christ himself. I believe in one baptism as an initiation into life with Christ, which may be done as an infant, child, or adult. I hold the belief of the Reformed tradition that Christ is present spiritually in the Lord's Supper and the elements are symbols. When we partake in the Lord's Supper we are to remember and give thanks as a declaration of our faith.

I believe these things because they are in God's written word, the Bible, which testifies to Christ, who is God's living Word. Through the Holy Spirit, I trust in the scriptures and the church as faithful guides to direct my path closer to God's Kingdom. I have been strengthened and challenged by God's Word and hold it close to my heart as the rule of faith and practice for my life and the life of the church.

I believe in the fullness of time Christ will return to gather the saints with him. We will join him in perfect fellowship with God. This is the Christian hope that has already been inaugurated by Christ but is yet to be complete.