EIGHTY-SIXTH STATED MEETING
February 28, 2015

NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY

Theme: Time to Change Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

On a very cold morning in Athens, Georgia at Covenant Presbyterian Church the
Eighty-Sixth Stated Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery was called to order
by Moderator Cleda Locey at 9:00 am.

DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

Stated Clerk, Rev. Joe Berry, declared that there was a quorum present for this
meeting.

ADOPTION OF DOCKET

Stated Clerk Joe Berry presented the Proposed Docket and Handbook as printed
and distributed earlier on the Northeast Georgia Presbytery website, with one
change, that is that the new moderator be installed during worship.

The Docket was amended and the motion was passed.

WELCOME FROM HOST CHURCH

The presbytery received a warm welcome from Rev. Mark Harper, Pastor of
Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens. He informed all that the bread to be used
for communion was gluten free.

RECOGNITION OF FIRST-TIME RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

There were sixteen first-time Ruling Elder Commissioners in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Eighty-Fifth Stated meeting of Presbytery were approved as
distributed.

REMARKS BY RETIRING MODERATOR

Retiring Moderator Cleda Locey thanked the presbytery for the privilege of being
the moderator. Cleda also reminded everyone to keep older congregants in the
loop, commissioners to stay until the end of the meeting, and reminded ALL
commissioners that they vote their conscience – not how they are told to vote.
Received the Minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Tara Bulger as Pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church, Athens, Georgia, on Sunday, January 18, 2015.

**Motion:** That the Minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Tara Bulger be admitted to and included in the minutes of the February 28, 2015 Stated Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery, and that the commission be dismissed with thanks.

The motion was seconded and approved. The minutes are as follows:

**Minutes of Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery’s Administrative Commission to install Rev. Tara Bulger on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at Friendship Presbyterian Church in Athens, Georgia.**


Meeting was convened with prayer by Rev. Pam Driesell.

Motion was made by Helen Epps, and seconded by Rev. Anna McArthur, that the benediction of the worship service be considered the adjournment of the meeting of the installation commission and the commission be dismissed upon presentation of the minutes to the Stated Clerk. This motion passed unanimously.

Attached to these minutes is a worship bulletin.

Instructions about the service of worship were given by Rev. Tara Bulger.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Anna McArthur
Secretary of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Tara Bulger

Rev. Berry also reviewed the parity of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders for this February 28, 2015 stated meeting and contrasted that parity with the newly established parity beginning at the end of the February 28, 2015 meeting.
1. REVIEW OF PARITY (from February 22, 2014 Stated Meeting)

Per Book of Order G-3.0301

“The presbytery shall adopt and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of teaching elders and ruling elders. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner and shall take into consideration the size of congregations as well as a method to fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103.”

That the following steps be taken so as to create parity between the number of Ruling Elder and Teaching Elder (Minister) Commissioners to Presbytery meetings.

Teaching Elder Commissioners to Presbytery includes all resident teaching elders, which means those teaching elders who reside within the geographical bounds of Presbytery, and also teaching elders who reside outside the geographical bounds of Presbytery who serve in a validated ministry capacity. (In 2014 we have 105.)

In order to achieve a goal of numerical between parity of teaching elders and ruling elders, the presbytery at its first meeting of the year, shall redress the imbalance by inviting sessions of particular churches to elect Ruling Elder Commissioners on the basis of church membership.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Range</th>
<th>Ruling Elder Commissioners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>500 or fewer</td>
<td>1 Elder</td>
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<td>501 – 1000</td>
<td>2 Elders</td>
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<td>1001 – 1500</td>
<td>3 Elders</td>
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<tr>
<td>1501 – 2000</td>
<td>4 Elders</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001+</td>
<td>5 Elders</td>
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Currently Northeast Georgia Presbytery is comprised of 55 churches, each of which is entitled to one Ruling Elder Commissioner and three churches with multiple Ruling Elder Commissioners on the basis of church membership. (Reid Memorial and Gainesville First are entitled to have 1 more and Athens First has 2 more creating a total of 59 at this time.)

One extra Ruling Elder Commissioner shall be allocated to each racial ethnic church. (In 2014, this action will involve the following seven churches: Athens Korean, Augusta Korean, Belle Terrace, Christ, Sardis, Westminster, and Westside for a total thus far of 66).
In addition, there are Ruling Elder Commissioners serving in other capacities. It is recommended that ruling elders serving as chairs or moderators of Ministry Teams or commissions and ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members during the period of their service. (In 2014 these include: Associate Presbyter (1), Ministry Team Chairs/Commissions (5), the Presbyterian Women Moderator (1), Ruling Elder commissioned to particular pastoral service (1), and Recording Clerk (1), for a total of 9. Thus, we have a total of 75 Ruling Elder Commissioners.)

In 2014 there will be an imbalance of 30 Ruling Elder Commissioners (75 Ruling Elder Commissioners vis-à-vis 105 Teaching Elder Commissioners).

Therefore, the following balance will be in effect following the February 22, 2014, Stated Presbytery Meeting and continue through the February 28, 2015, Stated Presbytery Meeting:

One extra Elder Commissioner will be allocated to the next 30 churches in alphabetical order listed by town/city. (Note: New Hope was the last church included in the alphabetical approach to adjusting the Elder imbalance last year). This would involve the following churches: Athens First, Athens Korean, Augusta Korean, Bath, Belle Terrace, Calvary, Carnesville, Central, Christ, Clarkesville First, Clayton, Cleveland First, Clifford Memorial, Commerce, Cornelia First, Oconee, Pleasant Hill, Rabun Gap, Reid Memorial, Saint Andrew, Sardis, Timpson, Toccoa First, Trinity, Union Point first, Washington, Westminster, Westside, Wiley, and Winder First.

2. Received a communication from the Rev. John Hill requesting to be Honorably Retired, effective December 1, 2014.

3. Received a letter from the Rev. Scarlette Bostick requesting to be Honorably Retired, effective March 1, 2015.

4. Received a letter from First Presbyterian Church, Toccoa, concerning their intention to withdraw from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

5. Received correspondence from Gradye Parsons, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, regarding Five Peacemaking Affirmations.

6. Received a Pastoral Call for the Rev. Kim Jackson to become Associate Pastor of Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, effective March 1, 2015.

7. Received a Pastoral Call for the Rev. Carol Strickland to become Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Athens, effective February 18, 2015.
8. Received a request from the Rev. Decatur Rodgers, Honorably Retired, to transfer his membership from The Peaks Presbytery to Northeast Georgia Presbytery, effective February 28, 2015.

9. Received a request from the Rev. Margaret Davis, to transfer her membership from North Alabama Presbytery to Northeast Georgia Presbytery to serve as Member at Large, effective February 28, 2015.

Rev. Hilary Shuford asked new ministers to join her during lunch.

**STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

**Bills and Overtures:** Teaching Elders, Matt Rich (Reid Memorial) and Rindy Trouteaud (Monticello); and Ruling Elders, Ruth O’Dell (Lavonia) and Bill Smart (Clayton).

**Resolutions:** Teaching Elder, Glenn Doak (Athens First) and Ruling Elder, Helen Epps (Covenant, Athens).

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

The following recommendations were made which were unanimously approved.

1. A motion was made that mileage is recommended to be paid by the individual churches at the presbytery’s rate for committee reimbursement, currently $.43/mile, for supply pastors who travel over 50 miles round trip to supply preach or moderate a Session meeting. This is to be added to the front of the Pulpit Supply List that is sent to the churches at regular intervals.

2. A motion was made to recommend approval of the 2015 minimum salary standards. (See Appendix A.)

3. That Rev. Dan Hagmaier be dismissed to San Diego Presbytery in order for him to accept a call to the Palisades Presbyterian Church.

4. That Rev. Dr. Jasper Keith, a member of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, be approved to labor within the bounds of our presbytery as the interim pastor for First Church, Gainesville.

5. That an Administrative Commission to work with the leadership of Belle Terrace Church be approved. This commission is to consist of Rev. Bob Hunt, Rev. Alison Messick Watkins, Norm Nicholson (Reid Memorial), Hubert Van Tuyl (Covenant, Augusta), Neal Leonard (Westminster),
6. That Rev. Margaret Davis be approved for transfer from North Alabama Presbytery to Northeast Georgia Presbytery, as Member at Large, effective February 28, 2015.

7. That Rev. Decatur Rodgers, honorably retired minister member be approved for transfer from The Peaks Presbytery to Northeast Georgia Presbytery, effective February 28, 2015.

8. That Rev. Kim Jackson be approved for transfer from Twin Cities Area Presbytery to Northeast Georgia Presbytery to serve as Associate Pastor of Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church in Augusta, GA, effective March 1, 2015. (Amended effective date to February 1, 2015.)

9. That the following terms of call for Rev. Kim Jackson be approved: Cash Salary $30,000 Housing Allowance $16,000 Business/Professional Expenses And Continuing Education $ 5,500 ½ Social Security $ 3,519 Dental Insurance $ 445 full Moving Costs ($10,000 estimate) 4 weeks’ vacation annually 2 weeks continuing education annually

10. That the following installation commission for Rev. Kim Jackson be approved: Teaching Elders: Matt Rich, Bob Hunt, and Eunice "Junior" McGarrahan, retired PCUSA pastor Ruling Elders: Bette Wright (Reid Memorial), Jan Lewis (Belle Terrace), and Bill Cravens (Saint Andrew). And if the way be clear, Jack Perkins, retired NBC journalist/newscaster.

11. That Rev. Carol Strickland be approved for transfer from Trinity Presbytery to Northeast Georgia Presbytery to serve as Associate Pastor of First Church, Athens, effective February 18, 2015.

12. That the following terms of call for Rev. Carol Strickland be approved: Cash Salary $47,000 Housing Allowance $18,000 Deferred Compensation $ 4,000 Other Allowances (Med. Flex.) $ 1,000 Business/Professional Expenses $ 2,400 ½ Social Security $ 4,973 Continuing Education $ 2,400 Dental Coverage $ 1,633 Full moving costs 4 weeks’ vacation annually, 2 weeks continuing education annually

Rev. Margaret Davis, Rev. Kim Jackson, Rev. Carol Strickland, and Rev. Decatur Rodgers were all examined on the floor of presbytery. Their exams as a whole were sustained, they were approved for their respective calls, and they all signed the Book of Obligation.

All COM recommendations were approved.

For information, a motion was also made and passed by COM to recommend to the Coordinating Team to add a fourth stated meeting in late July or early August to facilitate pastoral leadership transitions during the summer.

**BILLS AND OVERTURES**

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES**

Rev. Jason Clapper, Chair of the Bills and Overtures Committee, moved to suspend the standing rules by changing the existing three minute rule for speaking to proposed changes to the constitution to two minutes. The motion was approved.

Rev. Jason Clapper, chair, reminded everyone there would be no cameras or lights during this portion of the meeting.

Below, is the initial Handbook Report on Recommendations from the Bills and Overtures Committee regarding Proposed Amendments to the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions.

**Bills and Overtures (BAO) Recommendations for the Proposed Amendments**

**To the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions**

These amendments were approved by The 221st General Assembly (2014) for vote by the Presbyteries of the PC(USA). Approval of The Confession of Belhar requires 114 affirmative Presbytery votes; all other amendments require 86 affirmative Presbytery votes.

For more information on any of these proposed amendments, see the documents entitled “Proposed Amendments to the Constitution” and “ASSOCIATION OF STATED CLERKS Analysis of Amendments to the Constitution Proposed by the 221st General Assembly (2014)”. All Teaching Elders Members of Northeast Georgia Presbytery and Ruling Elder Commissioners to the 86th Stated Meeting of Northeast Georgia Presbytery are eligible to vote.

**LIST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Omnibus** – The Bills and Overtures Committee (BAO) strongly encourages the Presbytery to pass amendments 14 –B, 14-C, and 14 –D. If a Teaching Elder or Ruling Elder Commissioner feels that one or more of these matters needs an individual vote, that individual may ask to have it removed and it will be voted on individually.
14-B. Special Committee to Review the Preparation for Ministry Process and Standard Ordination Exams

14-B.1. Final Assessment—On Amending G-2.0607

14-B.2. Accommodations—On Amending G-2.0610

Each of these amendments are related to Presbyteries examination and assessment process for Candidates for Ministry. BAO unanimously recommends their passage.

14-C. Child Protection Policy—On Amending G-3.0106

This important amendment requires each Presbytery to have a child protection policy. BAO unanimously recommends its passage.

14-D. Minimum Composition of a Presbytery—On Amending G-3.0301

This amendment allows an exception for a Presbytery to have less than ten sessions and ten teaching Elders if approval is given by its synod and the General Assembly. BAO unanimously recommends its passage.

Individual Votes – The Bills and Overtures Committee felt that each of these amendments should be voted on separately. Each amendment will be voted on by Ballot. Different colored cards will be used for each vote.

14-1. Confession of Belhar—Amending the Book of Confessions

This amendment would add the Confession of Belhar to the Book of Confessions. It requires a 2/3 super majority vote from Presbyteries to be added. BAO unanimously recommends its passage.

14-A. Renunciation of Jurisdiction—On Amending G-2.0509

This amendment would add the language: “Whenever a former teaching elder has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former teaching elder shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).” BAO unanimously recommends its passage.

14-E. Interreligious Stance—On Amending G-5.0102

This amendment would change the language of G-5.0102 as follows (strikethrough indicates language being changed or removed): “The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at all levels seeks new conversation and understanding respectful dialogue and mutual relationships with non-Christian entities and persons from other religious traditions. It does this in the faith that the church of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is a sign and means of God’s intention for the wholeness of all humankind and all creation.” BAO recommends this amendment’s passage.
14-F. Marriage—On Amending W-4.9000

Bills and Overtures strongly recommends that all who are voting on this amendment take time to read and study the change in language. Bills and Overtures did not come to a consensus on whether to recommend or not recommend the passage of this amendment. BAO recommends that all Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners vote their consciences.

14-1. Confession of Belhar – Amending the Book of Confessions
BOA unanimously recommends its passage.
Several spoke for and against this amendment. The vote was:
Yes = 88
No = 68
Abstain = 1

Proposed Amendments 14-B, 14-C and 14-D were voted on together and there was no discussion. The vote was:
Yes = 153
No = 5
Abstain = 1

14-A. Renunciation of Jurisdiction.
BOA unanimously recommends its passage.
There was little discussion. The vote was:
Yes = 128
No = 30
Abstain = 3

14-E. Interreligious Stance.
BOA recommends its passage. There was little discussion. The vote was:
Yes = 139
No = 20
Abstain = 1

14-F. Marriage.
BOA did not come to consensus on whether or not to recommend the passage of this amendment.

A team of six teaching elders spoke to this before the floor was opened for discussion, two for, two against and two neither for nor against. Rev. Shuford offered up a prayer; then there was a fifteen minute break. After the break there was a thirty minute debate. Emotions were high both pro and con, but the debate was conducted in a very respectful manner. The vote was:
Yes = 76
No = 80
Abstain = 1
A motion was made that the planned Special Order be suspended and all go to lunch. There was a second and the motion was approved. Lunch followed.

**LUNCH and FELLOWSHIP TIME: 12:42-1:30**

Members of Covenant, Athens are to be commended for the wonderful lunch that was prepared for the presbytery.

After lunch, the meeting was called to order and then went into worship. Worship included a sermon from Rev. Jason Clapper, Necrology, Communion and the installation of the Moderator, Rev. Travis Adams. (See Appendix B for Necrology.)

Rev. Travis Adams was installed as Moderator. His interest and motivation was obvious to all.

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES**

The following events took place after worship.

The attendees heard from Rev. Lisa Graves, pastor of Clarkesville First, about Mrs. Veeda Javaid, Executive Director, Presbyterian Education Board in Pakistan. Mrs. Javaid will be speaking at several venues in our presbytery during the month of March.

Sue Rathbun also spoke about a trip by some of the congregants of Covenant, Athens to Guatemala.

**PRESBYTERIAN HOMES**

Ruling Elder Susan Stone talked about Presbyterian Homes and Rev. Glenn Doak reported that there is a plan to build a retirement community facility in the Athens area.

**WADDELL FELLOWSHIP**

Rev. Andy Cooke reported on the Waddell Fellowship, which sends students into congregation to work. The fellowship will train and pay them.
Rev. Joel Tolbert, member of the commission, spoke to the closing of the Lexington Presbyterian Church. A time of celebration will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2015, 3:30 p.m. at the church.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ruling Elder Fred DiMaio, member of the committee, gave the following report which was approved unanimously.

Nominating Committee
Louis Boyd (Chair-2015), Central, Male, Ruling Elder, Greater Athens Area

Moderator-Elect
Helen Epps (2016), Covenant, Athens, Female, Ruling Elder, Greater Athens Area

Committee on Ministry Team
Mark Harper (Co-Chair-2015), Covenant, Athens, Male, Teaching Elder, Greater Athens Area
Miriam Risher (2016), Clayton, Female, Ruling Elder, Mountain Area
William Gunn (Bubba) (2017), Eatonton, Male, Ruling Elder, South Central Area

Leadership Development Ministry Team
Amanda Prochaska (2017), Madison, Female, Ruling Elder, South Central Area

Personnel Committee
Jim Dove, Athens First, Male, Ruling Elder, Greater Athens Area
Adriane Lockwood, Sardis, Female, Ruling Elder RE, North Central Area

Readers for Standard Ordination Exams
Ron Bogue, Athens First, Male, Ruling Elder, Greater Athens Area
Tara Bulger, Friendship, Female, Teaching Elder, Greater Athens Area

REPORT OF THE COORDINATING TEAM

The Coordinating Team reported 2014 was a year of significant change for Northeast Georgia Presbytery. The staff and activities were streamlined to reflect the priorities for 2014. Presbytery received 98.5% of pledges last year and all ministry teams finished the year under budget. The 2015 budget includes a $34,000 reserve fund. The work of the staff, leadership, ministry teams, committees, and all congregations has positioned Northeast Georgia Presbytery for a productive 2015 as we strive to do God’s work in Northeast Georgia.
The following recommendations were approved:

1. Recommend approval of Nominating Committee’s request to suspend the part of the Manual of Operation that deals with the Nominating Committee until July 2016. This motion will require a 2/3 vote for approval. The motion was: The Nominating Committee respectfully requests the Coordinating Team to suspend the rules of the Manual of Operation for sixteen (16) months (till July 1, 2016) for the Nominating Committee. During this interval the Nominating Committee will strive to fill vacancies that any committee, team, ministry chair considers necessary to perform its duties. And with Coordinating Team’s permission, the Nominating Committee will continue through 2015 with only five (5) members (Fred DiMaio, Lydia Forrest, Rindy Trouteaud, Mark Deaton and Louis Boyd). Our committee shall respond to requests with nominations based primarily upon the gifts and talents of nominees. Respectfully Submitted, The Nominating Committee, Louis Boyd, Chair

2. Recommend Ruling Elder Robert Meadows as recording clerk during 2015.

3. Recommend the minutes of the October 2013 Stated Meeting be changed to reflect the dissolution of the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission and the creation of the New Church Development Ministry Team by the Coordinating Team.

4. Recommend the 2015 budget for Northeast Georgia Presbytery be approved and recommends all Motions presented by BFIT (see Appendix C).

5. Recommends new allocation for the balance of Teaching and Ruling Elder Commissioners for Stated and Called Meetings of Presbytery, from May 19, 2015 through February 27, 2016 (see Appendix D).

**REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Glenn Newsome, Chair gave the following report.

The Personnel Committee met on November 13, 2014 and January 15, 2014 and unanimously passed the following recommendations for the Coordinating Team’s consideration:

1. The contract of the Transitional General Presbyter be renewed for one year with a 4.4% salary increase.
2. After discussion with the Transitional General Presbyter to assess staff needs, and after consultation with BFIT, the Personnel Committee recommends that we hire a Youth Event Consultant for 2015, with funding not to exceed $7,500.

3. That Anita Green be given a new job description and a performance appraisal in January and her salary be increased to $35,000 beginning January 1, 2015.

4. A 5% salary increase and new job descriptions be given to Linda Turner and Joe Berry beginning January 1, 2015.

5. That Presbytery pay for those employees of the presbytery whose partners and dependents are included in the medical part of the Traditional Benefits Plan of the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA. The presbytery shall be responsible for the full cost of that coverage without cost sharing. This policy reaffirms the current presbytery procedure of covering 100% of the cost of medical insurance for all full-time employees and their spouses and dependents.

6. The current contract for the Transitional General Presbyter expires January 14, 2016. The Coordinating Team needs to decide if the Presbytery remains in transition for 2016 or determine a process for selection of a permanent General Presbyter.

The following shall be the policy of Northeast Georgia Presbytery regarding medical dues for employees:

1. Coordinating Team shall make sure that employees of the presbytery, whether minister or lay person, who are members of the Traditional Benefits Plan of the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA have medical coverage under that same plan for all eligible partners and dependents unless they have comparable coverage from another source.

2. For those employees of the presbytery whose partners and dependents are included in the medical part of the Traditional Benefits Plan of the Board of Pensions of the PCUSA, the presbytery shall be responsible for the full cost of that coverage without cost sharing

After the Coordinating Team’s report the staff of Northeast Georgia Presbytery received a standing ovation.
BFIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY:

The following motions reflect a similar approach to specific Non-Budget Accounts: close the accounts and distribute the funds in an orderly and efficient manner as presbytery moves away from its former-programmatic emphasis. The approach honors the intent of donors, consolidates accounts (from 46 separate items to 14), allows for more efficiency in accounting procedures and good stewardship and attempts to make the funds more user-friendly and dynamic.

1. BFIT recommends Presbytery close Dolly Hicks Memorial Fund (Non-Budget Account) and distribute the balance of $295.00 to Clayton Presbyterian Church which reflects the obituary request for memorial gifts to Clayton PC.

2. BFIT recommends Presbytery close Jubilee Adult Ministries (Non-Budget Account) and distribute the balance of $348.07 to the 2015 operating budget of Leadership Development Ministry Team, designated for JAM ministry; and if such funds are not spent in 2015, Presbytery will carry any balance forward to its 2016 budget.

3. BFIT recommends Presbytery close restoring Creation (Non-Budget Account) and distribute the balance of $800.00 in equal payments to Covenant Presbyterian Church, Athens, and the Presbyterian Student Center to be used for environmental concerns.

4. BFIT recommends Presbytery close Global Missions Ministries (Non-Budget Account) which was collected for the former Mexico Work Mission and distribute the balance of $2,226.90 in the following manner: to be held by CT and, at its discretion, make available to congregations(s) upon application with a satisfactory international mission program, submitted by 11/30/15.

5. BFIT recommends Presbytery merge the following Non-Budget Accounts and establish 3 funds under the oversight and authority of Coordinating Team:

   a. Assistance—comprised of Assistance to Ministers ($3,681.86), Pastoral care ($1,421.42), Sabbatical Fund ($3,400.00), Aid to Candidates ($4,636.28), and Staff development ($1,077.70);

   b. Connectional Events—comprised of Church Professionals Retreat ($2,514.55), Overnight Presbytery ($1,719.25), Retreat Program ($9,452.27), and Retreat Scholarship ($4,421.89); and
New Ministry Development—comprised of NEGA Campus Ministry Development ($4,795.35) and New Church Development ($1,093.89).

All five BFIT recommendations were approved.

A motion was made and approved to include in the minutes the handbook reports as corrected and the remarks of the panel members. (See Appendix E.)

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE PRESBYTERY
HILARY N. SHUFORD, TRANSITIONAL GENERAL PRESBYTER

The State of Northeast Georgia Presbytery is sound and good. I have enjoyed leading this talented and blessed presbytery for the past 13 months. We have made some significant accomplishments in the work that was set before us when I arrived. We have balanced the budget and streamlined the work for the reduced presbytery staff. We moved the location of the office resulting in significant savings. You have accepted me and my different approach to, and style of, leadership. We have revised job descriptions and the financial reports to accurately reflect the changes made in 2014.

As a presbytery, with a membership of 129 Teaching Elders (Ministers of the Word and Sacrament) and 55 congregations, we have engaged in a different way of listening to one another, first around tables at our Spring meeting in May and then through the World Cafe conversation at the Fall meeting last October.

Since October, the Personnel Committee and the Coordinating Team contracted a consultant for youth events, so that the planning, facilitating and coordination for the Youth Spring and Fall retreats and the Montreat Youth Conference can continue through 2015. Laurie Clapper, from Lavonia, is supporting this vital work of Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

We have been getting fruit from all of our efforts: there is a more clearly-defined focus to the work of committees and ministry teams, including a stronger, shared vision of the essential functions of presbytery work. As followers of Jesus Christ, we don't do just because "we've always done it," but rather we do because Christ has need. Furthermore, as the body of Christ, we must continue to focus our efforts outward rather than inward, which is our all-too-human tendency.

During the World Cafe conversation, you all determined to take a year-long period of fallow rest. This year will allow us a period of not initiating anything new while we live into and adjust to the changes made in 2014. Just as importantly, we will have time for necessary conversations, reflection, prayer, discernment and decision-making before moving to review and possibly change the current structure of the committees and the work of the Presbytery so that we may respond
to the needs of our congregations and communities. The necessary work of our committees and the responsible leadership of the Coordinating Team will continue during the year. "Take rest; a field that has rested gives a beautiful crop" (Ovid).

Her report concluded with prayers for the people.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

COME SEE COLUMBIA: Judy Grieve represented Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women at the annual Come See Columbia Day in October and also at the Synod of the Southeast PW Meeting.

RETREAT: The annual retreat at Camp Pinnacle was a time of being together to meet with friends for worship and re-creation. JoAnn Ealick Retreat Coordination and Ruth Mason-Lowe organized the event. Our spiritual leader, Reverend Karla Conditt-Daniels, led us with creativity, depth of knowledge, and tied into our theme of "We Are One In The Spirit" showing us the "Fruit of the Spirit" which is what we are striving to achieve.

Brock Daniels led our music program and everyone sang even those of us who don't usually sing very well. The music was inspiring and uplifting. The guitar led a very nice note to the spirit of the music.

The workshops were again outstanding - Gene and Carol Ann Harrison conducted the stained glass workshop and the participants made keepsakes to enjoy and remember in days to come. All too soon the weekend was over and we returned home after worship.

Of the 54 who attended all the evaluations were positive and all look forward to another wonderful, restful experience in 2015.

MISSION HAVEN As most of you know Mission Haven is owned and operated by Presbyterian Women of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee. Recently Mission Haven received a grant to challenge the above Presbyterian Women groups to meet the donation. At this time from NEGA PW we have sent donations of: $150 from PW-P; $100 from FPC-
Cleveland PW; $10 "seed" money from Synod PW Moderator and $10 from our moderator-elect and $50 in a "pay it forward" donation making a total of $320. Other PW groups are encouraged to contribute to meet this challenge donation. More information about Mission Haven is available online at www.misionhaven.net and on Facebook.com/MissionHaven and via email at missionhavendecatur@gmail.com

**ANNUAL GATHERING:** The 28th annual gathering of Presbyterian Women will be on Saturday, March 21st at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Augusta. The Reverend Alison Messick-Watson will lead our worship. We have invited Sara Hayden to bring us news about 1001 worshiping communities.

Moderator Elect, Judy Grieve, will be installed during the business meeting along with newly elected officers to fill the 2015-17 Coordinating Team. She has chosen "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" for our theme.

Also, invited to join us to bring information are: Thornwell Home for Children, Mission Haven, Columbia Friendship Circle, Montreat and we will also have information available about all our other missions.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PCUSA):** The Triennial Gatherings of Presbyterian Women Churchwide will be in Minneapolis, MN June 18-21, 2015 The theme is "one Body, One Spirit". Judy Grieve, who will then be our moderator will represent NEGA as our voting delegate. Due to recent changes each Presbytery will have only one voting representative. Linda Spencer, Vice Moderator will attend as alternate

In an effort to raise awareness of discrimination against women and children we are asked to wear orange on the 25th of each

**AUGUST WORKSHOP:** Plans are underway for our August Workshop at Union Point Presbyterian Church. Sue McClew who was part of the Presbyterian Women's Global Mission Trip in 2014 will be one of the invited speakers. We will have various other workshops as well.

**ANNUAL RETREAT:** Martha Bertrand of Covenant Augusta will be the Retreat Coordinator. Look for more information in future updates.

It has been a pleasure and honor to represent Northeast Georgia Presbyterian Women on the Presbytery Coordinating Team.

Bernice C. Rogers
Moderator
The Northeast Georgia Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus was established in 1988, under the provisions of Section 8.2 of Article of Agreement 8. Racial Ethnic Representation, Participation and Organization.

The central purpose of the Northeast Georgia Chapter was to make sure that African American Presbyterians had a voice and vote on the governing and policy making bodies of the Northeast Georgia Presbytery. The secondary purpose was to stand in solidarity with Black Presbyterians at the Regional and National levels of the Presbyterian Church, (USA).

The NEGA Chapter is a member of the SE Regional (GA, FL & SC). The Regional Chapter meets biannually in Jacksonville, FL. The Rev. Dr. Melvin Lowry is President. The National Chapter’s next meeting is scheduled July 9-11, 2015, Renaissance Charlotte Suites, Charlotte, NC. The Rev. Dr. Arlene W. Gordon is President.

Membership in the NEGA Chapter is open to all and membership forms are available at this session of Presbytery. The next meeting of the NEGA Chapter will be announced.

2015 theme: “Adapting to the Changing Environment.” Isa. 43:19

Otis A. Smith, President

Note: Have you noticed how well we as a Presbytery have desegregated since 1986? How we have learned to utilize the God given skills and talents of all regardless of race? Now, what is it that prevents us from full integration in Northeast Georgia?

REPORT OF THE NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

The New Church Development Ministry Team met at the Presbyterian Student Center on November 7, 2014 and met via conference call on December 5, 2014.

In 2014, we concentrated on developing a shared sense of ministry for New Church Development across Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Going forward, we are going to concentrate on supplementing grants from 1001 New Worshipping Communities. “Seed Grants” from the denomination are worth $7,500. The year after a Seed Grant is received, new worshipping communities can apply for a
$25,000 “Investment Grant.” After that, application can be made for a $25,000 “Growth Grant.” We are working to have this funding for new church development come into our presbytery to start new worshipping communities. We believe that the best way to help new worshipping communities in our presbytery to receive this funding would be to incentivize their applications for Seed Grants with additional funds and a deadline.

It was determined that we would identify one group in the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2015 and encourage them to apply for Seed Grants. If they make application in that quarter and are subsequently awarded the $7,500 grant, then we will supplement it with $2,500 from our budget to give them a total of $10,000 in seed funding to begin their work. We have identified groups for the second and third quarter, and we would welcome one more group in 2015 to join us in the work of starting a new worshipping community within our presbytery. Please contact Andy Cooke at andy@pscuga.org if you would like to discuss this.

Applications for 1001 New Worshipping Communities Seed Grants can be found online at http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionprogramgrants/

Our criteria for a group receiving funding from NCDMT is (1) application for a 1001 New Worshipping Communities Seed Grant in the quarter assigned by the NCDMT, (2) sending a copy of that application to the chair of NCDMT when it is made with 1001 NWC, and (3) being awarded the $7,500 grant from 1001 NWC.

It is our prayer for 2015 and beyond that we can continue to identify groups within our presbytery that are called to the work of new church development, that we can assist them in securing funding to do this work, and that we can grow the Christ’s church within Northeast Georgia Presbytery.

REPORT OF CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM

The Congregational Development Ministry Team met Tuesday, February 3 at Medical Associates Plus Medical Center, next to Belle Terrace Presbyterian Church. We were impressed with the Center and several members were able to tour. The pharmacy for the center is now open. It is a good example of Northeast Georgia Presbytery’s mission dollars, along with many other supporters, establishing a vital and needed ministry. We recognized our shift away from being a mission-grant-writing agency especially in view of the changing financial situation of our presbytery over the past several years.

The Team reviewed the Manual of Operations and continued our discussion about our primary purpose which is to nurture congregations throughout their life cycle. We discussed our work with very small congregations. We began a discussion of
the "chapel" concept for struggling churches by looking at portions of the current Book of Order. We plan to submit guidelines for struggling congregations that will be reviewed by the Coordinating Team and the Presbytery for input before being implemented.

Submitted by Ted Worley

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

CPM does not require any time allotted on the Agenda for the February’s Stated Presbytery Meeting. The following is a summary of Applicants, Inquirers, and Candidates.

STILL ON UNDER OUR CARE

David Fuentes: -Has requested attestation for Ordination exams.
Lauren Van Wicklen: -Suggested she transfer to the Presbytery in which she lives to receive a call. (Moved out of state)
Hampton Williams: -Annual consult due in CPM’s April meeting; certified for a call; and is in CPE.

NEW and STILL IN OUR CARE and WILL BE PRESENTED TO PRESBYTERY in MAY.

Colleen Cook: -Is scheduled for her Psychological Evaluation and begins CTS in the summer 2015.
Stephanie Loftin: -Is scheduled for her Psychological Evaluation and is in seminary.
Paul Porman: -Is scheduled for his Psychological Evaluation and is studying through Dubuque Seminary.

NEW APPLICANTS

Zachary (Zak) Fletcher: -Reapplied for Inquirer Status
Dr. Kenneth Powers: -Is considering enrolling in the program.
REPORT OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

The following report was given by the Resolutions Committee:

**Whereas**, the Covenant Presbyterian Church welcomed us from parking signals to warmly brewed drinks and refreshments,

**Whereas**, registration brought us nametags, orders of worship, and fellowship

**Whereas**, our debates were decent and in order as we agreed to disagree agreeably

**Whereas**, lunch was *De Palma* good!

**Whereas**, in worship at mid-day we “woke up the morning” and took off our team clothes and put on the love of Christ

**Therefore**, we thank our staff for a well-planned day, our moderators for getting us through the day, our food preparers for sustaining our energy, our worship leaders for remembering and proclaiming, and our hosts for meeting our temporal needs this day.

Rev. Glenn Doak and Ruling Elder Helen Epps

**ROLL OF ATTENDEES**

The following persons registered their attendance at this meeting:

**Teaching Elders**

Robert Abernathy  
K. Travis Adams  
Don Barber, Jr.  
Cheryl T. Barnes  
Joseph W. Berry  
David L. Beville  
Robert H. Bohler, Jr.  
Scarlette Bostick  
James E. Bowen  
Tara Bulger  
R. Brock Burnett  
Roe Callaway, Jr.  
Andy Chambers  
Emily Cheney

James Choomack, Jr.  
Jason Clapper  
Andrew Cooke  
Karla Conditt Daniels  
Mark Deaton  
W. Glenn Doak, Jr.  
Jason Edwards  
Paul W. Evans  
David Fahner  
Teresa Franklin  
Ford F. G’Segner  
Sidney A. Gates  
Robert G. Googe  
Lisa L Graves
Teaching Elders continued

Mark C. Harper
John K Hill
Jennifer Horton
Robert F. Hunt
Sue Jacobson
Thomas L. Jones
Joo Hoon Kim
John L. Kipp
Glen Kohlhagen
Melvin G. Lowry
M Beecher Mathes
Anna H. McArthur
Matthew McGowan
Alison Messick-Watkins
R. Montgomery Nelson
Eugene B. Norris
James B. Oudom
Shon Peppers
David Powers
Robert W. Prim
Joy White Pruett
Edward Rees

Jeanne C. Reynolds
Matthew A. Rich
Amy Hobby Rickard
Joyce Rife
Holly Shoaf-O’Kula
Hilary N. Shuford
Otis A. Smith
W. Alexander Stevens
Joan A. Stevens
Joel Tolbert
Craig Topple
Deborah L. Trimpe
Rindy Trouteaud
Marianne Turner
Haruko N. Ward
Robert Watkins
Karen Whelchel-Redwine
Alex W. Williams
Janet Williams
Alice T. Wood
Theodore S. Worley
Peter Yuh

Ruling Elders

Athens First

Bath

Belle Terrace

Calvary

Central

Christ

Clarkesville First

Clayton

Sally Vandiver
Peggy Reigle
Robert McDonald

Lori Williams
Benita Dillard
Charles Grant
Barbara Kay
Lynda Farmer
Tom Berry
Mac Fite
Wanda C. Butler
David Rife
Phylecia Wilson
Miriam Risher
Helen Roberts
Ruling Elders continued

Cleveland First
  “
Commerce
  “
Cornelia First
  “
Covenant, Athens
Covenant, Augusta
Dahlonega
Eatonton
Friendship
Gainesville First
  “
Hartwell First
Hebron
Helen
Homer
Jefferson
Lavonia
Lexington
Madison
Milledgeville First
Monticello
Mount Hermon
Mountain
Nacoochee
Oconee
Pleasant Hill
  “
Rabun Gap
  “
Saint Andrew
  “
Sardis
  “
  “
Timpson
Toccoa First
  “
Trinity
  “
Union Point First

Bruce Morgan
Tony Clark
Bob Sosebee
Karen Fletcher
David Baskin
Sue Martin
Kent Silver
Priscilla Gilman
Kate McDuffee
Susan Paulin
Marks Towles
Jody Sanders
Frank Booth
Brenda Vail
Sandy Potter
Mackwell Etris
Sydney White
Jim Brown
Anita Latimer
Julia Davie
Charles H. Morgan, Jr.
David Dyer
Robert Meadows
Ted Brothers
Edward Luke
Marilyn McKendrick
Kent Wilson
Charles Pennington
Jose Ruiz
Kenneth Kitchen
Jan Holliday
Carla Matheson
Jane Ann Quartel
Janice Parker
Tom Fox
Gladys Roebuck-Henson
Joyce Heffner
Washington Adele Seymour
  “ Sharleen R. Anderson
Westminster Neal Leonard, Sr.
  “ Michael N. Searles
Westside Betty Harper
  “ Belton Robertson
  “ David Fossett
Wiley Bill Crumley
  “ Lucy Bartlett
Winder First Rick Mechtly
  “ Glenn Thompson

Commissioned Ruling Elders to a particular service

Rick Billingslea Hebron
Fred DiMaio Clayton

Church Educators

Gloria Burns Milledgeville First
John McCrosky Covenant, Augusta

Moderator/Chairs

Cleda Locey Moderator of Presbytery
Judy Grieve PW Moderator-elect

Visitors

Sara Kipp, Harry Shuford, Athens First; Phyllis Wright, Joyce Dejoie, Belle Terrace; Jim Hiers, Cleveland First; Rich Reaves, Sue Rathburn, Dolly Barstow, Betsy Pless, Covenant, Athens; Tom Davis, Toni Davis, Eatonton; Roscoe McMillan, Jack Spencer, Gainesville First; Marvin Locey, (Montreat), Gainesville First; Laurie Clapper, Karen Brown, Lavonia; Glenn Newsome, Joanne Jordan, Monticello; Ruth McKinley, Mountain; Bill Jackson, Nacoochee; Jon Forbes, John Gregg, Ocone; Cheryl Wilson, Reid Memorial; David Heffner, Union Point First; Miriam Kitchens, Washington; Monterey Almond, Westside; Patrick Harley, Seung Song, Kate Morrison, Columbia Theological Seminary; Margaret Davis, North Alabama Presbytery; Decatur Rodgers, Barbara Rodgers, Peaks Presbytery; Peter H. Ward, Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; Susan Stone, Presbyterian Homes; Ken McKenzie, Synod of South Atlantic; Carol Strickland, Trinity Presbytery; Kim Jackson, Twin Cities Area Presbytery; Anita Green, Linda Turner, Presbytery Staff.
The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Hilary Shuford at 4:00 p.m.

Next Meeting:  EIGHTY-SEVENTH STATED MEETING OF NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY, Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Augusta, Georgia. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. and Call to Order at 9:30 am.
Minimum Salary Standards for Ministers for 2015
Northeast Georgia Presbytery

(Updated 9/2/14 by a 2.0% increase, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers)

The Presbytery first adopted minimum salary standards on 1/27/90. The policy was amended on 2/22/92, to increase the standard minimum on an annual basis, by a cost of living adjustment as calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

These minimum standards are intended to apply to all full-time ministers who are members of Northeast Georgia Presbytery. Minimum cash compensation for part-time ministers should be a percentage of the full-time minimum cash compensation, based on the percentage of the minister’s time devoted to ministry.

Ministers serving in military reserve must not be required to pay for pulpit supply in their absence, or to count military reserve time as vacation time or as continuing education time. For more information refer to the Uniform Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act, 1994. (This section was added by decision of Presbytery October 22, 1996.)

CASH COMPENSATION

1. Total Annual Salary $37,342

   Without a manse:
   Where there is no manse, the specific amounts designated as Base Salary and Housing Allowance (including all expenses of providing a home) should be negotiated between the minister and the congregation, but the total amount shall be at least $37,342.

   With a manse:
   The annual Base Salary shall not be less than $23,839.
   The minister's utility allowance shall cover the cost of all utilities, telephone included (ordinarily not including long distance charges). The annual fair rental value of the manse plus the cost of utilities shall not exceed $13,503 (30% of $37,342 plus $2,300 for utilities) out of the total compensation of $37,342. If the total of the annual fair rental value of the manse and the cost of utilities is less than $13,503, the difference shall be added to the Base Salary.

2. The minimum base salary of $23,839 (whether the minister is receiving a housing allowance or is being given the use of a manse) shall be increased by 1% for each year of a minister’s service beyond ordination, up to 30 years service.

3. Four weeks of paid vacation per year.

4. Full moving expenses.

PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES

1. Professional Expense Reimbursement through an accountable reimbursement plan, which includes mileage for use of a personal automobile at the Internal Revenue Service standard mileage rate for business travel, and other necessary expenses for the performance of the job. The mileage rate is subject to change by the IRS, usually once a year in December for the next calendar year. The rate for 2015 is 57.5 cents per mile. For budget purposes, $3,000.00 may be used for this item. If a dollar amount is stated for this reimbursement, there should be a clear understanding whether this is an estimate or maximum amount.

2. Continuing education allowance of at least $250.00
   Two weeks of annual leave time with pay shall be allowed for continuing education. The continuing education allowance is cumulative to a maximum of six weeks and $750.00 for a three-year period.
3. Book allowance of at least $150.00
A book allowance is strongly recommended. However, in a given year, a minister may combine the book allowance with the continuing education allowance to provide additional funds for a particular conference.

4. At least $150 should be included in the terms of call of a newly ordained pastor to assist him/her in participation in the First Call Program, with the possibility of requesting further scholarship assistance from Committee on Ministry.

BENEFITS

1. A Housing Equity Allowance for ministers living in a manse, amounting to 2% per year of the total of base salary, rental value of the manse, and the utilities allowance. This money is to be placed in an interest-bearing trust that shall be paid to the minister upon retirement or his/her moving to another position.
(For example, 2% of $37,342 is $746.84.)

2. The equivalent of the employer portion of Social Security and Medicare taxes for lay employees, usually 7.65%, calculated on the total of base salary and housing allowance. Ministers are in the self-employed category for Social Security and must treat this benefit as taxable income; however, they can deduct the employer equivalent of their self-employment tax in computing their adjusted gross income.
(For example, 7.65% of $37,342 is $2,856.66.)

3. Full participation in the Pension and Death & Disability programs of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Currently, this amounts to 12% of the total of base salary, housing allowance, and deferred compensation. Deferred compensation includes the above Housing Equity Allowance, if applicable.
(For example, 12% of $38,089 is $4,570.68 for Pension and Death & Disability provision.)

4. Full participation in the medical insurance program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
This rate may change from year to year. Dues for medical insurance in 2015 are 23.00% of a pastor’s effective salary for member only coverage, and 24.50% of a pastor’s effective salary for member and family coverage, with a minimum dues basis of $44,000 in 2015.
(For example 23.00% of $44,000 is $10,120 for medical insurance for member only, 24.50% of $44,000 is $10,780 for member and family coverage.)

The Board of Pensions has developed calculators to help you determine a pastor’s effective salary, as well as dues payable based on that salary, even for part-time pastors. These calculators are available at http://www.pensions.org. Click on “Calculators & Modeling Tools” at the bottom of the page, and then select the calculator you need.

NOTES:

2 At its stated meeting on February 25, 2006, Presbytery voted to eliminate the requirement to provide dental insurance as part of the minimum salary standards for ministers.

3 At a special meeting on August 23, 2014, Presbytery voted to require churches to be responsible for the full cost of medical coverage for pastors without any cost sharing.

TO MEET THESE MINIMUM SALARY STANDARDS, A CHURCH OR AGENCY MUST PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY $59,500 PER YEAR FOR A NEWLY ORDAINED PASTOR.
TEACHING ELDERS

Rev. Jack Walker Ewart  
October 2, 1922 – May 17, 2014  
Ordained to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament by Kanawha Presbytery, October 30, 1946.

Rev. Rebecca Smith-Ritchey  
July 23, 1945 – January 12, 2014  

Rev. Eugene Hibbard Tennis (Gene)  
April 8, 1934 – October 15, 2014  
Ordained to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament by the United Presbyterian Church, June 1958.

COMMERCIAL

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Rev. Jack Walker Ewart  
October 2, 1922 – May 17, 2014  
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July 23, 1945 – January 12, 2014  

Rev. Eugene Hibbard Tennis (Gene)  
April 8, 1934 – October 15, 2014  
Ordained to the Ministry of the Word and Sacrament by the United Presbyterian Church, June 1958.

RULING ELDERS

ATHENS FIRST

John Wesley Reed  
August 21, 1956 – May 12, 2014  
Ordained: 1996

COVENANT ATHENS

Laurie Anderson  
April 9, 1945 – July 8, 2014  
Ordained: January 5, 1992

Jack Crisler  
December 13, 1936 – April 6, 2014  
Ordained: January 11, 1981

COVENANT AUGUSTA

Robert Carr (Bob)  
August 27, 1942 – April 27, 2014  
Ordained: October 15, 1985

James B. Ryner  
December 17, 1930 – December 26, 2014  
Ordained: March 5, 2014

HOPEWELL

James Luther McBath, Sr. (Jim)  
April 28, 1919 – August 31, 2014  
Ordained: 60+ years

Guyton Miller  
September 26, 1930 – September 6, 2014  
Ordained: 60+ years

COMMERCE

Bettie Harden  
July 15, 1934 – September 20, 2014  
Ordained: August 30, 1948

Floyd Washington Bramlett  
June 8, 1925 – January 18, 2014  
Ordained: January 1, 1992

Edel Pleasants  
January 2, 1924 – February 21, 2014  
Ordained: January 1, 1969

EATONTON

EATONTON

Floyd Washington Bramlett  
June 8, 1925 – January 18, 2014  
Ordained: January 1, 1992

ELBERTON FIRST

Edel Pleasants  
January 2, 1924 – February 21, 2014  
Ordained: January 1, 1969

GREENSBORO FIRST

Jack Anthony Ferland  
October 2, 1941 – December 7, 2014  
Ordained: January 1, 2006

David Winston Lusk  
April 17, 1961 – October 9, 2014  
Ordained: September 15, 2002

HELEN

ROBERTSON

James B. Ryner  
December 17, 1930 – December 26, 2014  
Ordained: March 5, 2014

James Luther McBath, Sr. (Jim)  
April 28, 1919 – August 31, 2014  
Ordained: 60+ years

Robert Carr (Bob)  
August 27, 1942 – April 27, 2014  
Ordained: October 15, 1985
JEFFERSON

Barbara Barnett Benson
January 1943 – August 8, 2014
Ordained: 40+ years

MADISON

Adah Elizabeth Whitsel Unger (Beth)
September 22, 1940 – September 1, 2014
Ordained: January 2003

MONTICELLO

Betty Jean McBryde Brady
January 15, 1941 – January 7, 2014
Ordained: December 1, 1985

REID MEMORIAL

Sherman Lester
August 7, 1924 – June 26, 2014
Ordained: 1970

Frank Williams (Bit)
September 20, 1927 – December 6, 2014
Ordained: 1978

TRINITY

Wilda Scroggs
Died: April 28, 2014
Ordained: 1988

Joanne Range
Died: June 13, 2014
Ordained: 1989

In Remembrance and Celebration of Life
Northeast Georgia Presbytery
January 1, 2014– December 31, 2014
# Northeast Georgia Presbytery Budget Report
## January - December 2014

### Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shared Mission/Unified Benevolences</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year Shared Mission</td>
<td>361,595.45</td>
<td>(5,583.55)</td>
<td>98.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Year Shared Mission</td>
<td>2,802.71</td>
<td>299.71</td>
<td>111.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Shared Mission/Unified Benevolences</strong></td>
<td>364,398.16</td>
<td>(5,283.84)</td>
<td>98.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Designated Benevolences for Budget</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Church Development</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>(2,090.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Offering for Candidates &amp; Inquirers</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>281.65</td>
<td>118.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Designated Benevolences for Budget</strong></td>
<td>1,781.65</td>
<td>(1,808.35)</td>
<td>49.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Income</td>
<td>275.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit for Health Insurance Premiums</td>
<td>5,121.63</td>
<td>(396.37)</td>
<td>92.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Income</strong></td>
<td>5,396.63</td>
<td>(121.37)</td>
<td>97.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Investment Income</strong></td>
<td>618.27</td>
<td>(481.73)</td>
<td>56.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>372,194.71</td>
<td>(7,695.29)</td>
<td>97.97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2014 Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Presbytery</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>New Church Development</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Mission</td>
<td>422.90</td>
<td>(487.10)</td>
<td>46.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Benevolences</td>
<td>2,090</td>
<td>(2,090.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total New Church Development</strong></td>
<td>422.90</td>
<td>(2,577.10)</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Campus Ministry at UGA</strong></td>
<td>18,000.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Georgia Lodge at Montreat</strong></td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>18,500.00</td>
<td>18,500</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Congregational Development</strong></td>
<td>14,141.48</td>
<td>(1,999.52)</td>
<td>87.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Let’s Talk: Communications Ministry Team</strong></td>
<td>336.00</td>
<td>(1,164.00)</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leadership Development</strong></td>
<td>9,866.13</td>
<td>(7,933.87)</td>
<td>55.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spiritual Formation &amp; Discernment</strong></td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>(500.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Committee on Ministry</strong></td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>(1,147.08)</td>
<td>81.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td>29,351.53</td>
<td>(12,744.47)</td>
<td>69.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparation for Ministry</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Mission</td>
<td>1,568.35</td>
<td>(931.65)</td>
<td>62.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Benevolences</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>281.65</td>
<td>118.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Preparation for Ministry</strong></td>
<td>3,350.00</td>
<td>(650.00)</td>
<td>83.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordinating Team/Council</strong></td>
<td>65,791.62</td>
<td>316.62</td>
<td>100.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid from Per Capita</td>
<td>40,000.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Coordinating Team</strong></td>
<td>25,791.62</td>
<td>316.62</td>
<td>101.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Staff Salaries</strong></td>
<td>310,972.42</td>
<td>(8,788.58)</td>
<td>97.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Presbytery Expenses</strong></td>
<td>388,388.47</td>
<td>(24,443.53)</td>
<td>94.08%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Notes:**
1. The value for the current year is the actual amount.
2. The value for the prior year is the budgeted amount.

---

**Eighth Six Stated Meeting:**
February 28, 2015
## NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
### BUDGET REPORT
#### JANUARY - DECEMBER 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>JAN - DEC 2014</th>
<th>2014 BUDGET</th>
<th>OVER (UNDER) BUDGET</th>
<th>% OF BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHARED MISSION</td>
<td>5,000.00</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYNOD SHARED MISSION</td>
<td>2,009.00</td>
<td>2,009</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENSES</td>
<td>395,397.47</td>
<td>419,841</td>
<td>(24,443.53)</td>
<td>94.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAID FROM PER CAPITA</td>
<td>(1,448.91)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>(1,448.91)</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAID FROM RESERVES</td>
<td>(21,753.85)</td>
<td>(23,852)</td>
<td>2,098.15</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BALANCE</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>(16,099)</td>
<td>16,099.00</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The offering received at the February 2014 Presbytery meeting was designated to support the stipends given to Candidates and Inquirers from the budget of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Team.

2 The Congregational Development Ministry Team voted to reduce their budget from $21,652 to $16,141, although it has yet to be approved by presbytery.

3 At its meeting on February 22, 2014, Presbytery encouraged congregations to receive a special offering to supplement the reduced amounts included in its budget for the General Assembly and the Synod of South Atlantic. Thus far, an additional $4,059.14 has been sent to the General Assembly and $1,446.54 has been sent to the Synod.

4 The balance in Undesignated Reserves before paying any Coordinating Team expenses was $43,852.41. Presbytery policy is to maintain a balance of $20,000 in Undesignated Reserves. $23,852.41 is the maximum amount that could be used for the 2014 budget under that policy, however, the policy was temporarily suspended for 2014 by vote of presbytery at the October meeting.

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**Complete financial reports for each ministry team are available by calling the presbytery office at 706-353-2533.**
## ACCOUNTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACCOUNTS</th>
<th>BEGINNING BALANCE</th>
<th>2014 RECEIPTS</th>
<th>TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS</th>
<th>2014 EXPENSES</th>
<th>BALANCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Assembly Special</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 82,836.61</td>
<td>$ 82,836.61</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synod Special</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,446.54</td>
<td>1,446.54</td>
<td>1,446.54</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbytery Special</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>68,885.45</td>
<td>68,885.45</td>
<td>68,885.45</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-PC(USA) Special</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13,185.00</td>
<td>13,185.00</td>
<td>13,185.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per Capita</td>
<td>7,465.94</td>
<td>116,722.58</td>
<td>124,188.52</td>
<td>124,188.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cartledge Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,033.48</td>
<td>11,033.48</td>
<td>11,033.48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia Domestic Missionary Society Fund*</td>
<td>16,232.04</td>
<td>37,453.04</td>
<td>53,685.08</td>
<td>53,685.08</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beth Duncan Fund</td>
<td>36,869.24</td>
<td>6,650.95</td>
<td>43,520.19</td>
<td>4,884.96</td>
<td>38,635.23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>(524.38)</td>
<td>7,343.50</td>
<td>6,819.12</td>
<td>5,720.10</td>
<td>1,099.02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Undesignated Reserves</td>
<td>38,999.66</td>
<td>4,852.75</td>
<td>43,852.41</td>
<td>21,753.85</td>
<td>22,098.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>25,531.10</td>
<td>23,254.89</td>
<td>48,785.99</td>
<td>21,026.68</td>
<td>27,759.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acts 16:5 Initiative</td>
<td>2,992.90</td>
<td>9,441.15</td>
<td>12,434.05</td>
<td>12,434.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Missions Ministries</td>
<td>2,226.90</td>
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<td>2,226.90</td>
<td>2,226.90</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice &amp; Peacemaking</td>
<td>7,885.80</td>
<td>1,901.75</td>
<td>9,787.55</td>
<td>9,787.55</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission</td>
<td>4,145.37</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,145.37</td>
<td>4,145.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Northeast Georgia Presbytery Campus Ministry Development Fund</td>
<td>4,795.35</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,795.35</td>
<td>4,795.35</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Church Development</td>
<td>1,093.89</td>
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<td>1,093.89</td>
<td>1,093.89</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid to Candidates</td>
<td>4,836.28</td>
<td>500.00</td>
<td>5,336.28</td>
<td>700.00</td>
<td>4,636.28</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>$ 151,456.20</td>
<td>$ 386,601.58</td>
<td>$ 538,057.78</td>
<td>$ 368,095.24</td>
<td>$ 169,962.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* At its meeting on February 25, 2006, Presbytery approved conducting a study to determine if a capital campaign would be feasible, and paying for the study with a loan from the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society if it could not be paid from the capital campaign itself. Since Presbytery decided not to proceed with the campaign, the $25,000 cost of the study was paid with funds from the Georgia Domestic Missionary Society ($12,500 in 2006 and $12,500 in 2007). This loan was repaid in March 2014 with the proceeds of the sale of the former Greene Street Presbyterian Church in Augusta, and contributions from several congregations and individuals.

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## ASSETS

- Athens First Bank & Trust Checking $ 49,734.00
- NE GA Presbytery Petty Cash Fund $ 100.00
- First American Money Market Account (MMA) $ 18,435.92
- New Covenant Retreat Scholarship Fund (MMA) $ 4,421.89
- New Covenant Retreat Program Fund (MMA) $ 9,452.27
- New Covenant Balanced Income Fund $ 91,519.16
- Fixed Assets $ 3,455.02
- Accounts Receivable $ 40,599.16
- Deposits for Lease & Utilities $ 975.00
- Prepaid Expenses $ 724.00
- **TOTAL** $ 219,416.72

## ACCOUNT BALANCES

- Budget -
- Non-Budget Control $ 169,962.54
- Accounts Payable $ 23,873.50
- Payroll Liabilities $ 3,639.39
- Sales Tax Payable -
- Credit Cards $ 264.42
- Unrealized Gain (Loss)-Balanced Income Fund $ 21,676.87
- **TOTAL** $ 219,416.72
NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY  
BUDGET REPORT  
JANUARY - DECEMBER 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>2015 PROPOSED BUDGET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SHARED MISSION - CURRENT YEAR</td>
<td>335,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHARED MISSION 2014 REC'D IN 2015</td>
<td>1,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PER CAPITA</td>
<td>117,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INVESTMENT INCOME</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER INCOME</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
<td><strong>454,876</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BILLS &amp; OVERTURES</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAMPUS MINISTRY AT UGA</td>
<td>18,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY</td>
<td>11,155</td>
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<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY</td>
<td>5,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>2,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COORDINATING TEAM/COUNCIL</td>
<td>63,650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GAP MINISTRIES</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL ASSEMBLY PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHARED MISSION</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA LODGE AT MONTREAT</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE/PJC</td>
<td>300</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>18,798</td>
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<tr>
<td>LET'S TALK/COMMUNICATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>5,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOMINATING COMMITTEE</td>
<td>250</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPIRITUAL FORMATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAFF SALARIES</td>
<td>231,872</td>
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<td>SYNOD PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT</td>
<td>11,765</td>
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<tr>
<td>SYNOD SHARED MISSION</td>
<td>2,009</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRANSFER TO UNDESIGNATED RESERVES</td>
<td>12,622</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PRESBYTERY EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>454,876</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BALANCE</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Northeast Georgia Presbytery
### Coordinating Team
### January - December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Jan-Dec 2015</th>
<th>2015 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Over/(Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banking Expenses</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>(400.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>(5,500.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant Contact</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>(400.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Copier Support</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>(300.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>(3,100.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses-Recording Clerk &amp; Moderator</td>
<td>1,300</td>
<td>(1,300.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Review (CPA)</td>
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<td>(11,000.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>(850.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>(2,300.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Service</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>(960.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IT Support/Software</td>
<td>3,650</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janitorial Services</td>
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<td>(2,650.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lease Payments &amp; Storage Fees</td>
<td>9,840</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<td>(700.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Equipment</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>(3,500.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Supplies</td>
<td>2,100</td>
<td>(2,100.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>(850.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbytery Meeting Supplies</td>
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<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbytery Worship</td>
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<td>(250.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recording Clerk Stipend</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>(800.00)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refreshments/Kitchen Supplies</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>(100.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support Staff Mileage Reimbursement</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>(500.00)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
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<tr>
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<td>300</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Events Consultant</td>
<td>7,500</td>
<td>(7,500.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>63,650</strong></td>
<td><strong>(63,650.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
## COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY
### January - December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 2015</th>
<th>2015 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Professionals Retreat</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>(500.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>(5,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Health</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>(250.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Meeting Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care</td>
<td>500</td>
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<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNC/Background Checks</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>(1,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabbatical Fund</td>
<td>900</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Ethics Seminars</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shared Grant Funds</td>
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<td>(1,000.00)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>0.0%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Funds Available to the Committee on Ministry:
- Pastoral Care 1,421.42
- Sabbatical Fund 3,400.00
- Assistance to Ministers 3,681.86
- Church Professionals Retreat 2,514.55

### NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
## COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
### January - December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 2015</th>
<th>2015 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aid to Candidates</td>
<td>3,700</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Assessment</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee Meeting Expense</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>(5,400.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Balance in Special Aid to Candidates Fund: 4,636.28

### NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY
## NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM
### January - December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Jan - Dec 2015</th>
<th>2015 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>(200.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mailings</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>(250.00)</td>
<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seed Grant Supplements</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>(5,450.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.00%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry</td>
<td>2015 Proposed Budget</td>
<td>Over (Under) Budget</td>
<td>% of Budget</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp/Conf Scholarships</td>
<td>4,700</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Retreat</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>(800.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreat</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>(1,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Retreat</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>(1,200.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Mission Trips/Triennium</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>(1,100.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Council</td>
<td>1,600</td>
<td>(1,600.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Ministry-General</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>(200.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Youth Ministry</strong></td>
<td><strong>10,600</strong></td>
<td><strong>(10,600.00)</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.0%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Adult Ministry                                    |                      |                     |             |
| JAM (Jubilee Adult Ministry)                      | 948                  | (948.00)            | 0.0%        |
| Scholarships-Lifelong Living or Presbyterian      | 500                  | (500.00)            | 0.0%        |
| Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN)            |                      |                     |             |
| **Total Adult Ministry**                          | **1,448**            | **(1,448.00)**      | **0.0%**    |

| Workshops/Events                                  |                      |                     |             |
| APCE Regional Event                               | 250                  | (250.00)            | 0.0%        |
| Leadership Event                                  | 1,600                | (1,600.00)          | 0.0%        |
| Officer Training                                  | 650                  | (650.00)            | 0.0%        |
| Scholarships (All Ages)/Other Leadership Training | 1,000                | (1,000.00)          | 0.0%        |
| **Total Workshops/Events**                        | **3,500**            | **(3,500.00)**      | **0.0%**    |

| Committee Meeting Expenses                        | 650                  | (650.00)            | 0.0%        |
| Montreat College Conference                       | 2,600                | (2,600.00)          | 0.0%        |

**TOTAL EXPENSES**                                  | **0.00**             | **18,798.00**       | **0.00**    |

---

**NORTHEAST GEORGIA PRESBYTERY**
**CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTRY TEAM**
**January - December 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jan - Dec 2015</th>
<th>2015 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Over (Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee Meeting Expenses</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>(155.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational Transformation</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>(2,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL EXPENSES**                                  | **0.00**             | **2,155**           | **0.0%**    |
### Northeast Georgia Presbytery
Staff Salaries
January - December 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>2015 Proposed Budget</th>
<th>Over/(Under) Budget</th>
<th>% of Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Northeast Georgia Presbytery</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stated Clerk</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare-Employer Portion</td>
<td>923</td>
<td>(923.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security-Employer Portion</td>
<td>4,869</td>
<td>(4,869.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/Professional Expenses</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>(1,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>(5,500.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Allowance</td>
<td>5,500</td>
<td>(5,500.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Stated Clerk</strong></td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>(12,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Transitional General Presbyter</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel/Professional Expenses</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>(12,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Plan</td>
<td>27,505</td>
<td>(27,505.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Education</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>(1,500.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security &amp; Medicare</td>
<td>5,355</td>
<td>(5,355.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salary</td>
<td>42,000</td>
<td>(42,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Allowance</td>
<td>28,000</td>
<td>(28,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Transitional General Presbyter</strong></td>
<td>116,360</td>
<td>(116,360.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administrative Assistant</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Plan</td>
<td>14,740</td>
<td>(14,740.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Wages</td>
<td>33,000</td>
<td>(33,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Administrative Assistant</strong></td>
<td>47,740</td>
<td>(47,740.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Office Manager/Bookkeeper</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pension Plan</td>
<td>14,980</td>
<td>(14,980.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Wages</td>
<td>35,000</td>
<td>(35,000.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Office Manager/Bookkeeper</strong></td>
<td>49,980</td>
<td>(49,980.00)</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENSES</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>231,872</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Balance Sheet

**Northeast Georgia Presbytery**

**As of January 1, 2015**

## ASSETS

### Current Assets
- **Cash-Athens First Bank & Trust** 49,734.00
- **Petty Cash Fund** 100.00
- **First American Money Market (Reserves)** 18,435.92
- **Accounts Receivable** 40,599.16
- **Retreat Scholarship Fund** 4,421.89
- **Retreat Program Fund** 9,452.27
- **New Covenant Balanced Income Fund** 91,519.46
- **Stock-Henry County Bancshares** 0.00
- **Prepaid Expenses** 724.00

**Total Current Assets** 214,986.70

### Fixed Assets
- **Land (1250 Lumpkin St.)** 71,492.66
- **Student Center Building** 35,926.00
- **Computer Equipment** 16,707.27
- **Other Fixed Assets** 16,190.08
- **Accumulated Depreciation** -54,919.40

**Total Fixed Assets** 85,396.61

### Other Assets
- **Greene Street Church Building** 550,000.00
- **Deposits-Office Utilities** 975.00

**Total Other Assets** 550,975.00

**TOTAL ASSETS** 851,358.31

## LIABILITIES & EQUITY

### Liabilities
- **Accounts Payable** 23,873.50
- **Credit Cards** 264.42
- **Sales Tax Payable** 0.00
- **Payroll Liabilities** 3,639.39
- **Accrued Expenses** -2,940.00

**Total Liabilities** 24,837.31

### Equity
- **Permanently Restricted Net Assets** 1,000.00
- **Temporarily Restricted Net Assets** 21,159.43
- **Unrestricted Net Assets** 781,451.83
- **Net Income** 22,909.74

**Total Equity** 826,521.00

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** 851,358.31
## BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT ASSETS
January 1, 2015 (before proposed distributions and merging of funds)

### Unrestricted Funds:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Beginning Balance</th>
<th>2015 Receipts</th>
<th>2015 Expenses</th>
<th>Current Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Petty Cash</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated Reserves</td>
<td>$22,098.56</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$22,098.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL UNRESTRICTED FUNDS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,198.56</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$22,198.56</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Flow-through Funds:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Beginning Balance</th>
<th>2015 Receipts</th>
<th>2015 Expenses</th>
<th>Current Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cartledge Fund</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assembly Special</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-PC(USA) Special</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbytery Special</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL FLOW-THROUGH FUNDS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ -</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Temporarily Restricted Funds (Presbytery):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Beginning Balance</th>
<th>2015 Receipts</th>
<th>2015 Expenses</th>
<th>Current Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aid to Candidates</td>
<td>$4,636.28</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$4,636.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to Ministers</td>
<td>$3,681.86</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$3,681.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beth Duncan Fund</td>
<td>$38,635.23</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$38,635.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Officer Training Event</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Professionals' Retreat</td>
<td>$2,514.55</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,514.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consignment</td>
<td>$(373.68)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$(373.68)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dolly Hicks Memorial Fund</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$295.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Youth Retreat/Rally</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Domestic Missionary Society Fund</td>
<td>$53,685.08</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$53,685.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Missions Ministries</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,226.90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jubilee Adult Ministries</td>
<td>$348.07</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$348.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice &amp; Peacemaking</td>
<td>$9,787.55</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$9,787.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montreat Youth Conference</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEGA Campus Ministry Development Fund</td>
<td>$4,795.35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$4,795.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Church Development</td>
<td>$1,093.89</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,093.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overnight Presbytery Meeting</td>
<td>$1,719.25</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,719.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral Care</td>
<td>$1,421.42</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,421.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoring Creation</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$800.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Program Fund</td>
<td>$9,452.27</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$9,452.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Scholarship Fund</td>
<td>$4,421.89</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$4,421.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sabbatical Fund</td>
<td>$3,400.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$3,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Youth Retreat</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Development</td>
<td>$1,077.70</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,077.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission</td>
<td>$4,145.37</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$4,145.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED FUNDS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>$147,763.98</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$0.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>$147,763.98</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:**

- **$169,962.54**
- **$0.00**
- **$0.00**
- **$169,962.54**
Allocation of Ruling Elders for 2015-2016
Presented to NEGA Presbytery's Coordinating Team 1/29/15

Hilary Shuford proposal for CT to recommend to NEGA in February 28, 2015 Report.

Allocation effective following February 2015 Stated Meeting for remainder of 2015 through February 2016.

There are currently 129 teaching elders, members of NEGA Presbytery, each of whom have the right to vote at meetings.

For parity, 129 ruling elders are sought. In calculating parity, first recognize that currently there are 2 CREPPS and 4 ruling elder committee chairs all who have vote per Manual of Operation.

It is recommended that the remainder of 123 ruling elders be divided equitably among the 55 churches/congregations of NEGA Presbytery.

NEGA's historic practice, for reasons of justice & righteousness, is committed to having its racial ethnic churches have 1 extra ruling elder commissioner. However, the historic practice of alphabetical round robin—a rotating system based on the alphabet—does not follow any classic representational model.

In narrative form, the proposal to consider for the next year 2015-2016 is described as follows (see attached chart for a visual model):

Every church, as required, has one ruling elder commissioner (29 churches will have 1).

Racial Ethnic churches have one additional (7 churches will have 2).

Every church over 100 members, two additional (10 churches will have 3).

Every church with over 250 members, three additional (6 churches will have 4).

Every church over 650 members five additional (3 churches will have 6).

Suggested to try this allocation for one year, then Coordinating Team evaluates prior to February 2016.

Some Reasons for trying this: it is more representational; possible incentive for churches to increase membership to reach next level; more opportunities for Ruling Elder participation in all aspects of presbytery workings which could result in new ideas; offers a newer esprit de corps and new opportunities for everyone to grow as newer folks challenge established traditions; and possibly younger & more diverse (economically, socially, and theologically)
### Proposed Parity 2015 - 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Churches with membership over 650</th>
<th>Churches with membership 250 - 649</th>
<th>Churches with membership 100 - 249</th>
<th>Racial/Ethnic Churches</th>
<th>Churches with membership under 100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 churches</td>
<td>6 churches</td>
<td>10 churches</td>
<td>7 churches</td>
<td>29 churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 + 5 = 6</td>
<td>1 + 3 = 4</td>
<td>1 + 2 = 3</td>
<td>1 + 1 = 2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 x 3 = 18</td>
<td>4 x 6 = 24</td>
<td>3 x 10 = 30</td>
<td>2 x 7 = 14</td>
<td>1 x 29 = 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I appreciate my friend Bob’s remarks and thoughts, and from spending time with him these past few months, and the other members of this panel, and many of you at the gatherings throughout the Presbytery. I managed to attend all to listen and learn except the one in Augusta! I live in Rabun Gap; it’s a long way to Augusta unless golf is involved!

I know now more than ever those on the other side of this proposal are truly sincere about their feelings, beliefs, and hopes, which are very pastoral and personal……but likewise those against are equally sincere about their feelings, beliefs, and hopes and also pastoral and personal.

I am here to represent a small part of the opposing view, as I am against the proposed amendment.

To be very honest, I would rather not be here. Ten years in NEGP and first time asked to speak and today is the day! And I have five minutes!!

There is a civil debate in our nation on this issue, of which only two states have voted to approve, the other 35 states it has become legal for same sex couples to marry it has been mandated by the courts, even the state of California voted to define marriage as between a man and a woman but that was overturned by the courts….and Georgia will face that same outcome as a case is already working its way up the courts.

For the PCUSA this is a scriptural debate, a morality debate one that we must argue a day after the internet was “blowing up” over if a dress was white and gold or blue and black!

Did you see that story? A dress in a certain light looked one way to some and another way to others, I wish I could say that is all that is at stake here…but there is much more…and much more ahead as other folks want to define marriage in even more different ways in years to come.
Dr. Frank Harrington taught me, it is always better to say what you are for than what you are against...Many of us in the PCUSA are for what we see clearly as a Biblical understanding of sexuality that calls all people, no matter how we are made, identify, or choose.... to “fidelity within the bounds of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness.”

I know you Commissioners today have studied the scriptures, the confessions, brushed up on polity, and thoroughly read the language of the proposed amendment, and the changes to the Worship portion of the Book of Order.

I am sure each of you know many of the scripture passages that speak against homosexual acts: Genesis 19:4, Judges 19, Leviticus 18:22, Leviticus 20:13, Romans 1:26-27, I Corinthians 6:9-10, I Timothy 1:9-10, Jude 1:7 to name a few...

I am sure many of you know the 45 scripture passages that speak against adultery of any kind, no matter how you might have been made, identify as, or feel you may have chosen.

I am sure many of you know many of the 26 verses of scripture that speak against immorality, specifically sexual immorality of any kind.

I am sure you know and remember about 1000 verses that talk about sin and warn us of its dangers, and how it separates us from the love of God.

But, I wonder have you read and thought about the affirmative scriptures that call us to reject the worlds ways, call us to die to ourselves, bring us new life, command different living, calls us to set aside our sinful nature, names us ambassadors for Christ, calls us to be in the world but no of it, challenges our actions to be above and often very different from what the world then, and even now may allow or even celebrate.

I wonder have you read and thought about the affirmative scriptures for our relationships, for marriage, and all those that refer to marriage
as a lifelong, a covenant, between a man and a woman, a husband and wife.

A key phrase of the reformation was “Scripture Alone”

Presbyterians were known as “people of the book” for much of our history, we knew it front and backwards by heart as it was our rule of faith and life, we knew it and could quote it better than our Baptist friends!

Martin Luther might say “as long as scripture doesn’t say you can’t you can.”

But Calvin, our John Calvin had higher standards and much higher place for the authority of scripture as Calvin would say, “unless scriptures says you CAN you cannot.”

Calvin said, and our current Book of Order repeats that marks of the true church are:

- Where the Word is rightly preached
- Where the sacraments are rightly administered.
- Where there is discipline

If we approve this proposed amendment are we no longer "true church"?

I was reminded a few weeks ago, as we installed a new class of elders at Rabun Gap the reality and importance of scripture to our ordination vows from the Book of Order, W-4.003

a. Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?

b. Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God’s Word to you?

c. Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenants of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to
believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God?

d. Will you fulfill your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions?

We are as Christians; we are as the Church subject to the authority of Scripture. **Scripture is not subject to us**

There are many verses of scripture that prohibit what we are being asked to vote to approve. There are many more that affirm a life different from what the world says is ok. I have been to all the meetings and listened, I have read both sides, I have searched scripture to find the verse, the passage the example that says we can approve this but I haven’t found it.

Who wouldn’t like to take a magic marker and x-out the passages that don’t affirm us?

Let’s cut out all those passages that confront us and call us to repentance?

Who wouldn’t like to re-imagine or dismiss, explain away as culturally bound those passages that condemn our sin and hold up a mirror to all of our brokenness?

This proposal is saying what scripture says is sinful isn’t, it is in fact elevating a very specific sin to a “gift” and for it to be celebrated, affirmed, even blessed in worship.

God is love, we can agree to that can’t we? God is a loving God, a loving PARENT,…then we all also know a parent that truly loves a child will say NO to the child to protect the child.

This morning I wish I could tell you a sin wasn’t a
sin............but I can’t.

I wish I could tell you one sin wasn’t as bad as another....but I can’t.

I wish I could tell you your sin or sins were no longer sins today...but I can’t.

I CAN remind and tell you that God is one who has named sin!

God does not give us His law to keep us from fun; it is to protect us from the pain and hurts of our own sinful nature.

As scripture says “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23) and “those that say they are without sin, the truth is not in them” (1 John 1:8)

But, I can reassure you! While we were sinners, God sent his son to die for our sins! John 3:16

I can warn you!!!

Yes, warn you that it is all too easy to demonize a sin that is the one, maybe the only one that you don’t personally struggle with.

I can say, ...as a teacher.....as a pastor....I am not worried about being on the wrong side of history, but I am very afraid of ever being on the wrong side of God.

Remember, Jesus said – You without sin cast the first stone.........but also remember he said, Go and Sin No MORE!

In a world filled with “fifty shades of gray” the truth of scripture speaks more black and white than we might
like on many subjects we might like to ignore.

I pray with a thankful and a peace filled heart the words I saw carved into the pulpit at Peachtree Presbyterian ……from I Peter 1:25 “The Word of the Lord endures forever.”

Amen
Here we are again.

My name is Karla Conditt Daniels and I am a teaching Elder and a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice. In 2010, at the 219th General Assembly, I served as the Vice-Moderator of the Civil Union and Marriage Issues Committee.

I would like to ask you to vote in favor of 14-F. While it is not a perfectly written document I believe it is a faithful response to an issue that has challenged our denominational unity for years. As of today, 37 states have adopted same-gender marriage. Many believe that soon the Supreme Court will decide in favor of marriage equality - as the law of the land.

Amendment 14-f provides a way forward to all, even those who are not in favor of same-gender marriage. No minister or session will be compelled to officiate and host same-gender marriages. But its approval will allow for PCUSA pastors and officials, who believe Christian marriage should be available for all people, to participate and celebrate those marriages in good conscience.

Yes. Here we are again.

For years we have haggled back and forth over biblical references to exploitive, violent, and coercive same sex activity. None of us would advocate such activities to be reflective of God's love. Nor would any of us believe such qualities were representative of relationships of loving, faithful and mutually committed same-gendered couples. We understand that the concept of an individual's sexual orientation is a modern construct that would have been unimaginable to people of the ancient world.

But here we are again to vote on same-gender marriage. In past debates we have heard people wonder why this issue keeps coming back - even after what have seemed like decisive votes.

I believe that this vote keeps coming back because it is not just "an issue". It is people's lives we are talking about. It is not just "an issue" but Christ's call to the Church to welcome and accept people as they were created by God.

We Presbyterians have a respectable record of setting things right when it comes to civil rights issues. In the past our denomination has struggled AND recognized the importance of challenging cultural norms and outgrown ideologies. We have experienced the winds of God's Spirit blowing down walls of intolerance and injustice.

I have had the privilege to work with hundreds of couples as a marriage and family therapist. Friends, no couple has ever sat down in my office and told me their marriage was threatened by gays and lesbians wanting to marry in their churches! Seems that heterosexual marriage has enough to threaten it - drugs, alcohol, pornography, gambling, unemployment, and unfaithfulness.

I think another reason that we find ourselves gathered to vote on human sexuality again has everything to do with the redemptive power of God - the redemptive power of God offering us yet another chance to get it right.
Today we are offered an opportunity to stop denying our sisters and brothers the shelter and dignity of THE covenantal relationship that the church holds up as a reflection of God's love for humanity. If we believe that marriage is a means of grace, a means through which God teaches us self-giving love, why would we block any faithful committed couple from living in covenant?

As Scripture does not provide any direct comment by Jesus regarding same-gendered relationships we must look to the larger picture of scriptural testimony.

One of the stories I look to is John's account of Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead. After calling him to "Come out" Jesus instructs those following him to "unbind" Lazarus. There were likely countless scriptural regulations about touching a dead body. But Jesus didn't seem to be concerned about what those rules might have been. He was concerned about Lazarus being loosened from the grave cloths that kept him from claiming his place among the living - and the rules of society that would have kept him apart from the community of faith.

Sisters and brothers, let us not be anxious about where the Spirit may be leading us. As the Church, we are to be in the business of inviting people into covenantal life. Let us help "unbind" those in our midst, and celebrate God's redemptive love made available to all people.

AMEN.
As our church has engaged issues surrounding human sexuality during the course of the last 15 to 20 years, I have repeatedly witnessed expressions of fear, anger, and grief from Presbyterians before and after votes are taken and decisions are made. While fear, anger, and grief are natural reactions that are to be expected from human beings, they have a tendency to cast long shadows, and these, like all emotions grow larger if we feed them. I think we can, and we must choose better.

I can’t tell you much about how to better address grief. I’m still dealing with my own grief about the split last summer of the church I grew up in. It happened over several of the issues we are voting on here today. But I have some thoughts about how to deal with anger and fear.

I understand being upset about something a session, or a presbytery, or a general assembly has decided. No matter how you feel about same sex marriage or the role of homosexual people in church leadership, you have had opportunities to disagree with a decision of the General Assembly. This gives me hope. Because friends, one of the things that unifies us in today’s PC(USA) is that we’ve all been upset. Both camps have experienced disappointment. No matter what decision is ultimately reached on this amendment, there will be people who happy, and people who are angry, who feel betrayed, who feel like the bedrock has shifted under their foundation. It is a fact that I disagree with some of you on this Amendment. I find neither choice to be perfect and no matter which way I vote, there is something for me to dislike. But I have hope, because we have lived at odds with one another before. We have lived through times when our church and our culture have changed, not always in a synchronized fashion. Jesus repeatedly was at odds with the disciples, asking them “have you not eyes to see, or ears to hear what I am telling you?” Even when he was angry with the disciples, however, his ministry with them continued. No one got fired or quit. There was room for those who caught on quickly and for those who took a while to come around. We might
be angry tomorrow about what happens today, but it is our choice to feed that fire into a roaring flame, or to turn away from our anger and listen in humility to live with and learn from those with whom we differ.

God is greater than all the things that separate us. Our unity in Christ is far greater, far more superior, and far more important than the things that separate us. My place as a member of the body of Christ is more important than my conviction about any single issue.

Sisters and brothers, we may find solace by surrounding ourselves with like-minded people, but that comfort pales in comparison to the humility we feel when we recognize our Lord Jesus in the face of one with whom we disagree. Both of these are eclipsed by the joy we feel when we remember that it is only through God’s grace that we are each seen as beloved by our God and by those who disagree with us.

I have heard many people talk about fear of what will happen to the future of the church. Some are afraid that people will leave, others are afraid that people won’t feel welcome. As my seminary education moves further into the past, I am much more a scholar of people than I am of the Bible or theology. However, I can tell you that the phrase “don’t be afraid” appears more than 100 times in scripture.

God says to Moses, and to Abraham, to Isaac in the wilderness, and to Joshua before the battle of Ai, “Do not be afraid.”

God says it to the nation of Israel through the prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah

Surrounding births of John the Baptist and Jesus, it is Mary, Joseph, Zechariah, and the shepherds who are told, “Don’t be afraid.”

Jesus says it to Simon, James, and John as he calls them to be disciples.

An angel says it to the women at the tomb, and almost immediately thereafter the resurrected Jesus tells them, “Do not be afraid.”

I don’t have to be a Biblical scholar to catch on to a pattern here. Fear is a natural human response, but over and over God urges people to reject their fear and the claim it makes on their life. This word is for us as well. Every time God’s people are told “Don’t be afraid,” God has something else planned for the future. No matter how
difficult it may be, I firmly believe that we must not allow fear to frame or drive the decisions we make about our life together in the body of Christ. We can and we must choose better. I pray that the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to meet the challenge and to embrace what God has planned for our future together.
Madam Moderator, Fellow Commissioners, Visitors... I am Bob Prim, Teaching Elder, Nacoochee Presbyterian Church...

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God is love, and those who abide in love, abide in God, and God abides in them (I John 4:16).

There is a couple in our church who had to travel to another state to get married. Georgia law prohibited their marriage. They had, however, a deep love for one another and a sense of God’s abiding presence in their lives. They were a minority couple because the young, white woman was from Georgia and the young, Asian man from Japan.

Georgia did not allow marriages between people of different races until forced to do so by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967. Until that time Georgia lived under a state
court ruling which said ... moral and social equality
between races ... does not in fact exist and never can. The
God of nature, – said the Georgia court – made it
otherwise and no human law can produce it.

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My point in sharing this story is to remind us that the form
for marriage has evolved. In the Bible prominent forms
of marriage include polygamy, arranged marriages,
concubines and wives co-existing, required marriage of a
brother’s widow who is without sons. Jesus never
explicitly condemned any of those common practices.
The Church, however, has come to the conclusion that
marriage is most life-giving when monogamous and
between consenting adults.

The Bible does give a clear sense about God’s purposes for
marriage – God has given us marriage so that human
beings might grow in *self-giving love.* In this way marriage is a beautiful metaphor for God’s relationship with Israel and Jesus’ relationship with the Church. Marriage is about coming together as one and living faithfully in plenty and want, joy and sorrow, sickness and health.

Marriage is about abiding love and finding in abiding love the presence of God.

The law of God embodied in Christ’s abiding love for all the world is for the purpose that we might become, as Psalm 1 describes – *like trees planted by streams of water ... In all that (we) do, (we) prosper.* People have found their lives rooted in goodness and love by following God’s law given in love that we might have abundant life.
For gay and lesbian Christians, however, the traditional condemnations of same gender marriages have proved destructive. In order to stay in the Church they love, many have tried very hard to be changed from gay to straight or they have decided that their lives would have to be spent either hiding their true identity or in a forced celibacy not their calling. Some have entered into incongruous heterosexual marriages that have ended in painful ways for everyone involved. These faithful Christians have not found their lives prospering by following the traditional understanding of God’s law but, instead, have found themselves uprooted and living with an abiding sense of despair.

So, maybe, as with interracial marriages, we have to rethink our understandings of God’s law. If we read very carefully the few places where same gender, sexual behavior is mentioned in Scripture we will discover that for
the most part each reference is in the context of violence, rape, prostitution, idolatry. These passages do not address same gender love that is *faithful, self-giving and monogamous*. No where in the Bible will you find condemnation of same-gender relationships of self-giving love.

I am convinced that gay and lesbian marriages *can be* reflections of the holy mystery of Christ’s union with the Church. I am convinced of this because I have seen it with my own eyes in Mike and Ted, Janice and Priscilla, Francois and Alan, Vicki and Linda ... And I have seen great faithfulness in single gay and lesbian members who deeply love Christ and the Church and want to experience the support and celebration of a congregation should they be called in the direction of Christian marriage... Adrianne, Jacki, Jeremy, Jill, Sara, Wally...
There have been several couples in our church who because of Georgia law concerning same-gender marriage have had to travel to another state to get married.

Praise be, however, they came back to their home church, Nacoochee Presbyterian Church, and we all came together to offer our blessings and support and to pray for God’s blessings, and then ...

we danced and enjoyed God’s abundant life as a family of faith.

Please vote in favor of Amendment 14-f.
I was raised to believe that there are four things you don't talk about in polite company: politics, money, religion, and sex. Oops. Looks like we'll be hitting all of those at some point...You know, as I prepared for this, I was fascinated to discover that there are a good number of Biblical scholars who endorse gay marriage but admit that Scripture makes no provision for same-sex behavior. There are many, but I would like to quote Louis Compton, professor emeritus at the University of Nebraska; Compton is a gay man & is considered a pioneer in gay academic studies; he is the author of the 600-page *Homosexuality and Civilization*. Quote: "Nowhere does Paul or any other Jewish writer of this period imply the least acceptance of same-sex relations under any circumstance. The idea that homosexuals might be redeemed by mutual devotion would have been wholly foreign to Paul or any other Jew or early Christian." Frankly, in order to approve this proposal, we just have to be honest and say we are going to ignore what Scripture plainly says.

But rather than pass along information, I want to talk about transformation. You see, God does love and accept us as we are, but he also loves us too much to leave us that way. As Paul wrote in 2 Cor. 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old life is gone - behold! the new life has come." It is to our shame that the church has failed to welcome those who are find they are wired differently, and we have failed to offer a safe haven for them to try and figure out how to express their faith in the context of those deep-seated feelings. But thanks be to God, there are many who have discovered, to their joy, that this new creation in Christ is real, and our true hope is found, not in yielding to what seems natural to us, for our natural selves are broken, but rather in yielding to God's desire for what is best for us, expressed in Scripture and implanted in our hearts through the Spirit.

People like Wesley Hill, now a seminary professor and celibate gay Christian, who writes "It's not that God makes all our difficulties go away. Sometimes God takes an ashamed, frightened, gay teenager like me - and without making me "straight" or "affirming" - makes a more honest, committed friend to those He's placed in my immediate circle...Jesus, the Light of the world, is stretching his hand out to you today. His love will change, heal, and transform you. He will meet you on the road." // Or people like Rosaria Butterfield, who was a tenured professor at Syracuse University, and lived with another woman for ten years. Through the patient friendship of a local pastor and his wife, she became a Christian. She writes, "I went from being someone who felt that I was responsible and entitled to interrogate the Bible to someone who believed that the Bible had authority over my life and therefore had the authority to interrogate me." She is now married to a Presbyterian pastor, and they have adopted four mixed race children.

Or people like Matt Moore, a 25-year-old writer living in New Orleans who became a Christian in 2010, now living a celibate life. He tells of realizing his same-sex orientation at age 7, and of begging God to remove those feelings from him. But God didn't. Matt says: "I wanted God to take away my same sex desires for my own benefit - so I could fit in, be normal, be one of the guys...I had no interest in being reconciled to God or having a relationship with Christ. But from what I see in the Bible, God is far more concerned with fixing our hearts than he is with fixing other things in our lives. Same sex attraction included."/// Matt's words remind me of Paul, when he begged the Lord to take away his "thorn in the flesh," whatever it was. But in 2 Cor.12:9 Paul records: "He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'" Brothers and sisters, our greatest test is always this: will we trust God to be God, and to keep his promises to us? Do we really believe that God will supply all our needs according to his riches in glory in
Christ Jesus? How long before we learn to love God in Christ for himself, instead of what we hope to gain from him? I urge you to vote no on this proposal. Thank you.
Northeast Georgia Presbytery – February 28, 2015
Matt Rich
As Part of Panel Discussion concerning Marriage Amendment

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My name is Matt Rich and I am the Pastor at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church. I am humbled to be here today, not in any way to speak on behalf of the congregation I serve, but to share some of my own prayers and thoughts about the proposed Book of Order Amendment concerning marriage.

We as a denomination have been talking about marriage the entire time I have been ordained as a pastor. Throughout the last fifteen years, one of the things I have most loved about the Presbyterian Church USA is that as a denomination, as presbyteries, and as congregations we are willing to wrestle, to seek to hear God’s direction and Word, concerning the real issues in the lives of our congregation members. Every congregation in this Presbytery has someone touched by our theology of marriage in general and same gender marriage in particular. I rejoice that as Presbyterians we do not have someone who tells us what we must think and do. I love that we struggle together.

However I must also share with you that one of the things I have most disliked about the Presbyterian Church USA over the last fifteen years is how so often our struggles and debates become destructive to our life and our faith as the body of Christ. Instead of building up the body, we seem to mirror the culture around us and tear one another and the church down.

So I am encouraged today by the conversation we are having first as members of this panel and in what I trust will be the conversation we share together before we vote. For I am convinced that we are all seeking the very best for Christ’s church and its mission to the world, we are all hoping for the renewal of the church, as we talk, debate, and struggle together today.

I would also urge you to remember something that I share often with the congregation and Session at Reid Memorial. I remind our members that as we come together to vote, our personal opinions about an issue are not really that important. So often in debates about marriage and sexuality (and the multitude of other issues which divide us) our focus turns to our personal opinions - this is what I believe scripture says, this is what I want the church to do for my daughter or son, this is what I think. Yet, at the risk of appearing insensitive, when we gather, I as their pastor or moderator am NOT interested in personal opinions.
Instead I remind us to take very seriously that our task is not to vote what we think is best, but to carefully discern together what is Christ’s will for Christ’s church. In this way we cannot have opinions which never change or make our decisions ahead of time. For it is through the process of prayer, studying scripture, conversation with one another, and an openness to the Holy Spirit that we might hear not our will, but God’s will.

And that my friends gives us hope. For our primary task as the church is not to hold onto any particular interpretation or tradition; neither is it to advocate for any particular cause or change. No, our only calling in every moment is to see Jesus and then be a witness to Him. So whether this afternoon you rejoice or you lament the particular decision made by this presbytery; whether you celebrate or grieve the final tally of votes across our denomination, the primary question before us is and must always be: “How is Christ at work in this moment?”

As best as I can tell, that is the only way for us to be the church today and to be the church tomorrow. Former Dean at Yale Divinity School Leander Keck once wrote about all our human plans and dreams for renewing the church: “We could bring to pass everything that has been considered, and more, and still not find the church’s renewed. And for that we should be profoundly grateful, because were it not so, the renewal of the churches would not be in God’s hands but in ours.”¹

So let us put our trust in God who calls us to be the church, let us listen for the word Christ speaks to us today, and may the power of the Holy Spirit continue to draw us into deeper relationship with God and one another today, tomorrow, and until the kingdom comes.

Thanks be to God.

¹Leander Keck, The Church Confident, 121.