

INFORMATION PACKET & DOCKET
Holston Presbytery Stated Meeting
Saturday, August 3, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

[First Presbyterian Church](#)
[100 W. Church Circle, Kingsport, TN 37660](#)

Go to www.holstonpresbytery.org for downloadable copies of the packet for commissioners, elders and church members. Limited printed copies will be available at the meeting.

Please see that each commissioner gets a copy of the information packet prior to the meeting.

Any new business for the meeting must be sent to statedclerk@holstonpresbytery.org before July 27, 2024.

Registration will be on-line or the day of the meeting. Registration on day of meeting will open at 9:15 am.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Candidate Russ Pearson Preaching during worship.

The offering taken during worship will go to the Five Cents a Meal program.

Please do not park on Church Circle – the front doors of the building will be locked. Park in the main parking lot and enter through the doors of the main sanctuary entrance.

Lunch will be served – cost of lunch is \$10 per person.

There will be no child care or nursery for this meeting.

There may be room for displays at this meeting. Contact the Presbytery Office if you are interested in hosting a display table at the meeting.

Holston Presbytery

Moderator: Elder Kathi Cary Vice

Moderator: Rev. Collin Adams

Stated Clerk: Rev. Sharon Amstutz statedclerk@holstonpresbytery.org

Transitional Executive Presbyter: Rev. Karen Russell karen@holstonpresbytery.org

Administrative Manager: Andi White andi@holstonpresbytery.org

Appendix 2 to the Information Packet contains information about who can speak and vote at Presbytery meetings, who can speak at Presbytery meetings, rules for debate for matters before the Presbytery, and guidelines for Presbyterians during times of disagreement. Page 33

Appendix 3 to the Information Packet contains information about future events, including dates of upcoming General Mission Board and Holston Presbytery Meetings, Committee Meetings, etc. Page 35

DOCKET
HOLSTON PRESBYTERY
AUGUST 3, 2024 – Stated Meeting

- 9:15 AM Registration
- 10:00 AM Call to Order
- Welcome and Introduction of Guests & First Time Commissioners
- Consent Agenda
- All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be in the normal course of business by the Presbytery and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. Any item requiring discussion will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.
- Approve enrollment
 - Declaration of quorum (at least 3 ruling elders and 3 teaching elders from 3 different congregations)
 - Seating of Corresponding Members and New Commissioners
 - Rev. Sandra Moon, Presbyterian Foundation
 - Approve giving voice to visiting teaching elders
 - Approve minutes of May 7, 2024, Stated Meeting
 - Treasurer’s Report and Financials
 - Appointment of Committee on Thanks
 - Appointment of Bills & Overtures Committee
 - Adoption of Docket
- 10:10 AM Report and Recommendation, Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 Rev. Sam Schaus, Moderator.....Page 4
- 10:15 AM Opening WorshipCandidate Russ Pearson Preaching
 Theme: It Takes All of Us to Be Us: Building Communities of Faith, Hope, Love, and Witness – **LOVE**
 Celebration of the Lord’s Supper
 Offering will be taken for Five-Cents-a-Meal
- 11:00 AM Committee on Ministry Report and Recommendation, Part 1
 Rev. Maggie Rust, Moderator
- Recommendation that Russ Pearson be examined and approved for ordination and installation.....Page 5-8
- 11:15 AM WORKSHOPS
- 12:30 AM LUNCH
- 1:15 PM Introduction of New Business for Today’s Docket

Report from General Assembly Commissioners

Rev. Maggie Rust, Elder Kathi Cary, YAAD

Maggie Jacobs

General Mission Board Report, Rev. Rodney Norris:

Recommendation: That Sharon Amstutz' employment agreement to serve as Stated Clerk of Holston Presbytery be modified from June 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, at a monthly salary of \$1000 (\$12,000 annually). It is further recommended that Sharon Amstutz be elected Stated Clerk for a term ending December 31, 2024.

Reports from Presbytery Staff

Transitional Stated Clerk's Report, Rev. Sharon Amstutz.....page 17

Transitional Executive Presbyter's Report, Karen Russell.....page 20

Committee on Ministry Report and Recommendation Part 2, Rev. Maggie Rust.....
.....page 9

Discipleship & Evangelism, Greg Cartwright.....page 28

Administration & Personnel Sub-Committee, Rev. Dave Welch

Finance, Budget, & Stewardship, Rev. Rick Raumpage 23

Mission and Outreach, Rev. Marshall Steinle.....page 23

Representation & Nominations, Rev. Bill Anderson.....

Administrative Commission, Rev. Dan Donaldson.....page 29

Trustees Report, Dave Light.....page 30

Bills and Overtures Committee Report on New Business

Presbytery Feedback Form and Reportpage 32

Promotions

Committee on Thanks

Joys and Concerns

2:20 PM

Adjournment

Committee Reports:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Meeting Minutes
Holston Presbytery
June 4, 2024,
3pm via Zoom

Present: Brian Alderman, Ramy Marcos, Bill Reese, Carolyn Russ, Sam Schaus,

Absent: Nancy Johnson, Robert White

The meeting was Called to Order and Opened with prayer by Rev. Sam Schaus at 3:00pm.

1. The committee reviewed the status of Candidate Russ Pearson and certified Mr. Pearson as Ready to Receive a Call.
2. Ordinarily, the Inquirer and candidacy phase lasts two years (with one year being in candidacy). Russ was enrolled as an inquirer in September 2022. Russ then requested to be enrolled as a candidate at his annual consultation in June 2023. The committee approved his move to Candidacy. As part of the request to certify Russ as ready to seek a call, the committee recommended that the presbytery grant a waiver of the time requirements found in *Book of Order (BOO) G-2.0602* (The inquiry and candidacy phases shall continue for a period of no less than two years, including at least one year as a candidate.) Motion by Brian, second by Ramy. The committee considered the criteria in *BOO G-2.0607a* (a candidate's wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment) in its decision to certify Russ as ready to seek a call and to ask for a waiver of the time requirements under the provisions of *BOO G-2.0610 Accommodation to Particular Circumstances*. (When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d (ordination exams)).
3. Continue to pray for all of the Inquirers and Candidates under care:
 - a. Emily Morrell (Candidate)
 - b. John Golden (Inquirer)
 - c. Jane Wasem (Inquirer)

Recommendation:

4. Under the provisions of *Book of Order G-2.0610 Accommodation to Particular Circumstances*, recommend that the presbytery grant a waiver of the time requirements found in G-2.0602 and certify Russ Pearson as ready to seek a call.

COM Report to Holston Presbytery – August 3, 2024

COM met on May 23 and July 25 this quarter. Our next scheduled meeting is August 22.

Actions Taken for Information:

- Rev. Kaye Florence was elected vice-moderator of the committee. Approved the MDP of Cold Spring
- Appointed Rev. Karen Russell as moderator of Rock Creek, effective June 3.
- Appointed Rev. Karen Russell as moderator of Jonesborough Presbyterian Church effective June 30-September 30, at which time COM liaison Rev. Maggie Rust will be appointed.
- Appointed Rev. Karen Russell moderator of First Presbyterian Church in Bristol, effective July 25.
- Authorized the following Ruling Elders to serve the sacrament of communion in their congregations, with respective Sessions' coapproval: TJ Freshour – Cedar Creek; Suzi Hooyboer – Cold Spring; Sherry Brademeyer, Richard Brademeyer, and Mary Dobrovolc – New Bethel; Mike Garrison – New Providence; Rebecca Nunley – FPC Elizabethton

Recommendations for Action by Holston Presbytery:

1. Examine and approve Russ Pearson for Ordination
(*see attached* Statements of Faith and Call)

Reminder about exams on the Presbytery Floor: According to the Book of Order, candidates shall exhibit readiness for ordination as a minister of Word and Sacrament in their: "wisdom and maturity of faith, leadership skills, compassionate spirit, honest repute, and sound judgment" *G-2.0607a*. The council responsible for ordination shall examine each candidate's "calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry" *G-2.0104b*.

The areas of examination the PCUSA assesses are Biblical Exegesis, Reformed Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity. At the time of examination, each candidate is also expected to provide a Statement of Faith and a Narrative Statement of Call.

Examination Questions should fall into one of the above categories or be based on something the candidate has included in their written statements. Any question which is seen to fall outside the parameters of the examination, as defined by *G-2.0104b* and *G-2.06071* quoted above, will be ruled out of order.

2. Contingent on Presbytery Approval of Item #1, approve an Ordination Commission, composed of: London Williams, RYE FPC Kingsport (chair); Sharon Amstutz, TE Holston Presbytery; Karen Russell, TE Holston Presbytery; Blair Adams, RE Waverly Road; Collin Adams, TE Waverly Road; Greg Cartwright, TE FPC Greeneville; Aaron Caton, RE FPC Greeneville; Mark Knisley, TE Holston Presbytery; Kim Fifield, RE Preston Hills, to ordain and install Russ Pearson as the Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Kingsport.

3. Dissolve the pastoral relationship between Allen Huff and Jonesborough Presbyterian effective June 30
4. Approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington and First Presbyterian Church Bristol effective immediately
5. Adopt the committee's recommendation to set Minimum Terms of Call for 2025. *See attached proposal.*

Statement of Call

Russ Pearson

July 2024

My faith journey began at my baptism at First United Methodist Church in Winnsboro, SC long before I knew of God's presence in my life. I grew up in a small, dedicated congregation that nurtured me through Sunday school, worship, and vacation Bible school. I remember a feeling of warmth walking into the Sunday school wing of my church. As I grew up in church, I had different opportunities to serve as liturgist and as a weekly acolyte during my middle school years. In high school, I had the opportunity to help out with vacation Bible school. I believe these moments began to wake me up to God's calling to ministry.

One of my mentors in my youth was my pastor, Bundy Bynum. He showed me what kind of pastor I want to be. He was always present and had a calming personality that made you feel at home around him. Bundy made the Bible real through storytelling that kept my youth mind interested and focused on his sermons. He was my confirmation teacher and was the first to talk to me about going into ministry. He truly pointed to Jesus and God's amazing grace in all he did.

Throughout my summers in college I worked at Camp Fellowship in Greenwood, SC. I grew up going to this camp as a child and always wanted to work there. During my time as a counselor I learned that I truly enjoyed teaching the Bible to children and youth. I loved to see them make connections as they learned stories about Jesus. I also learned how to work within a ministry team with my fellow counselors. These summers were invaluable to my understanding of God's call on my life, even though I didn't fully understand that during my time there.

My junior year at Presbyterian College I joined the chaplain's ministry team. This decision literally changed my life. The chaplain, David Lindsey, became a mentor and a friend. He

was a great listener and had an open-door policy that allowed students to come in and talk about anything they felt they needed to. He also gave me plenty of room to explore my faith and leadership skills through the ministry team. I felt God's calling into full time ministry during a Christmas worship service led by the chaplain's office. After that worship service, I walked around campus in tears, praying to God for guidance. I had struggled with my future plans, focused on computer science, for some time and after that evening I had a clear direction. The next day I changed my major to religion, and I dove headfirst into my call to ministry. My senior year I accepted a call to be a full-time youth director, feeling seminary and ordination would come later.

The past 18 years I have worked at First Presbyterian Church in Kingsport, TN. I have had the blessing of watching kids be baptized, leading them through confirmation, and blessing them when they go to college. Walking alongside children and youth as they grow in their faith is inspiring.

Through the years at FPC I have had multiple opportunities to stretch my experience through leading sermons, planning worship services, and teaching Bible studies. Each season of the church offers a new path of ministry and I enjoy encouraging others to use their gifts to God's glory.

Working at FPC Kingsport has been a blessing and helped solidify my call to ordained ministry. The people here are full of grace and without them I feel I would not be where I am today. I have worked with some amazing pastors that have continued to encourage me to pursue ordination. People like David Cagle, Sharon Amstutz, Kemper Huber, and Mike Shelton all gave me opportunities to explore my calling through their leadership. For all of them and more I am thankful. I look forward to becoming ordained in the PC(USA) as I continue to walk along my faith journey

Statement of Faith

Charles Russell Pearson (Russ)
First Presbyterian Church Kingsport,
TN July 2024

I believe that God creates, redeems, sustains, and finds joy in us.

As creator, I believe God is uniquely involved in our lives and the world. I believe humankind is created in the image of God and called to be stewards of the rest of God's creation. I believe that God calls us away from our tendency to destroy towards a life that is in harmony with all of creation.

As redeemer, I believe God came down in the person of Jesus, who is fully human and fully God. Jesus came as Savior of the world, pointing to the coming Kingdom, and inviting us all to join him in sharing God's love by loving our neighbors more fully. When we fail to follow Christ and sin, Christ is there to redeem us, wiping away our sin through his death and resurrection. I believe individual and corporate confession of sin humbles us and reminds us

of our redemption through Jesus. Our freedom from sin invites us to a new life founded and sealed in the life, death, and resurrection of our risen Lord, Jesus the Christ. This new covenant is life-giving pointing to God's amazing grace.

As sustainer, I believe God the Holy Spirit swept over the chaos and brought a beautiful order to creation. I believe God spoke through the prophets of the Old Testament, calling people to a new way of living, centered on worship of God and love of neighbor. I believe God the Spirit began the Church at Pentecost, ushering in a new way for our relationship to flourish grounded in the person of Jesus. The Spirit maintains and upholds our faith and God's promise of steadfast love.

I believe God finds joy in our lives. Throughout Scripture God reaches out to be with humankind and continually restores the broken relationship between us. This good news of God's steadfast love and grace is greater than we can imagine or put to words. For this I am thankful.

I believe the Church is the body of Christ for the world, called and equipped for ministry today. We are called to love all our neighbors through word and deed and love God through worship, observing the sacraments, the study of Scripture, and service to our neighbor. As the church, we must work together for peace and unity for all of God's children out of thanksgiving for all God has done for us and for the world.

The further in life I get, the more excited I am to be a part of God's work in the world. I hope to share that excitement with others as we all walk this journey of life and faith together.

DISSOLUTION AGREEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Bristol gives thanks to God for the service of Rev. Dr. Samuel T. Weddington as Pastor. Mutually the Pastor, the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Bristol and Holston Presbytery agree that the best concern of each is now served by the dissolution of the pastoral relationship. The Rev. Dr. Samuel T. Weddington and First Presbyterian Church of Bristol agree to request that Holston Presbytery dissolve the Pastoral relationship that exists between them with the following terms:

Terms of Dissolution

I Financial Terms:

For a period of six (6) months ending on February 28, 2025:

Salary	\$25,500.00
Housing allowance	12,000.00
Self-employment benefits	2,868.42

For a period of twelve (12) months ending August 31, 2025:

Provision for medical and pension benefits estimate 32,990.18
TOTAL FINANCIAL PACKAGE: \$73,358.60

Pension dues will be paid on all severance payments

Severance payments will be made:

Through the church payroll service

Compensation for unused annual leave estimate \$562.89

(Vacation, personal, sick, and continuing education days to be paid in lump sum via August 2024 paycheck.)

II. Logistical Arrangements:

Effective date pastoral duties will terminate	Effective Immediately
Date pastor will return all church property and vacate church office	August 31, 2024

Other Terms

A. The pastor, acknowledging receipt of financial payments under this agreement, covenants and agrees that he or she waives all rights to demand and/or secure a civil court and/or jury trial with respect to adjudication of the matters contained in this Dissolution Agreement, in matters that pertain to his/her ministry in the Congregation, and/or the negotiations that have led up to this agreement.

B. All unaccrued financial payments to the Pastor shall cease at the date, before the end of financial payments under this agreement, the Pastor accepts another position of full-time employment or shall be adjusted if the Pastor accepts a part-time position.

C. All parties must sign the attached Covenant of Closure of Holston Presbytery. Repeated failure to conform to and abide by the Covenant shall result in a forfeiture of financial payments under this Dissolution Agreement.

It is understood that this Dissolution Agreement is a final disposition of all matters between the Pastor and First Presbyterian Church. This Dissolution Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto and any representations made before or during negotiation are hereby merged in their entirety and this agreement may not be modified. The undersigned parties have negotiated this agreement in good faith and have every intention of being faithful in fulfilling it and further agree to the releases contained herein, representing that they understand its contents and sign it as their own free act after a full review of the contents.

APPROVED BY:

Pastor _____ Date _____
(upon conclusion of negotiations)

Clerk of Session _____ Date _____
(upon approval of session)

Moderator or Clerk of Congregational Meeting _____
Date _____
(upon approval of congregation)

Chair of COM _____ Date _____
(upon approval of COM)

Copies of final, signed document to: Pastor, Clerk of Session, Executive Presbyter, Presbytery Stated Clerk, Chair of Committee on Ministry

**COVENANT OF CLOSURE HOLSTON
PRESBYTERY**

The Rev. _____, the _____ Presbyterian Church, and the Committee on Ministry of Holston Presbytery, enter into the following covenant:

1. I, the Rev. _____ agrees:

- (a) not to become involved in any leadership or advisory role (public, private or through social media) in the _____ Presbyterian Church congregation and
- (b) not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute;
- (c) not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session;
- (d) to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation, unless previously approved by the Moderator of Session;

(e) to consult with the Moderator of Session and the Presbytery (through the Executive Presbyter and/or COM) prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;

(f) to refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;

(g) to explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter or newsletter) and/or the pulpit before departing.

(h) It is understood that this policy does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals in the _____ Presbyterian Church congregation, but that pastoral services shall not be rendered.

2. The Session of the _____ Presbyterian Church agrees:

(a) to respect the terms of the Covenant agreed upon by Rev. _____ outlined above; and

(b) to interpret the terms of the Covenant to the congregation and to incorporate this agreement in the minutes of the congregational meeting when the pastoral relationship is dissolved; and

(c) to incorporate this agreement in the Session Minutes.

Signature, Pastor

Signature, COM Representative

Signature, Clerk of Session

Date

Holston Presbytery – COM Recommendation for 2025 Compensation Guidelines

The Committee on Ministry of Holston Presbytery would seek to change the way we set standards of minimum compensation in 2025. While we have previously used a minimum “effective salary” as the key metric, this Board of Pensions term has caused some confusion and reflects neither a pastor’s taxable income nor the actual impact on a congregation’s budget. Taking this into account, while also keenly aware of the changes in how the Board of Pensions is restructuring medical benefits, COM is now suggesting that we primarily focus on the **Total Cost to the Congregation** when discussing terms of call.

The goal of setting a minimum Cost to the Congregation is to allow as much flexibility as possible in structuring a pastor’s terms of call for maximum benefit, while still maintaining a standard expectation of fair compensation to support those “laboring in ministry among us,” acknowledging that the needs of each pastor, their family situation, and their congregational context is unique.

ALL Terms of Call and Temporary Supply Contracts for the coming year must be submitted to COM annually, no later than January 15th.

Beginning in 2025, we are also encouraging congregations to re-evaluate the way in which “full-time” and “part-time” work is defined in the context of ministry. Rather than a model defined by hours/week, we would encourage a model built on “units” (each unit representing a morning, afternoon, or evening period, and typically counting a Sunday morning as 2 units). Full-time work would be defined as 12 units, and part-time work would be appropriately pro-rated. *See the examples below.*

Minimum Compensation

1. All Pastoral Leaders (Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders, or those serving in Temporary Pastoral Service) working full-time (12 units/week) in a congregation of Holston Presbytery shall have a salary and benefits package with a total cost to the congregation of no less than **\$75,000** inclusive of salary, housing (allowance or manse value), deferred compensation, pension, medical coverage, SECA offset, professional reimbursements, and any other benefits extended to the pastor. At a minimum this package shall include:
 - a. Professional Reimbursements of at least \$4,000 (mileage, con. ed., etc)
 - b. Vacation Leave of at least 4 weeks & Continuing Education Leave of at least 2 weeks, including Sundays.
 - c. Up to 12 weeks paid family leave and participation in the pension and medical coverage plan through the Board of Pensions, in compliance with G-2.0804
 - d. A policy permitting a Sabbatical leave after six continuous years of service

In order to calculate the total cost & benefit of a Pastoral Leader’s Compensation Package, we strongly encourage the use of this [Terms of Call Calculator: fpce.church/toc](https://fpce.church/toc).

Notes:

- Congregations should factor in a 2.7% COLA increase for 2025 (based on the SSA).
- All pastors who are eligible for the Transitional Plan offered by the Board of

Pensions are encouraged to enroll for 2025, as the presbytery is still researching options and recommendations for spouse/family coverage.

- Unused vacation does not typically accrue.
- Unused continuing education leave and unspent related reimbursement funds may roll over into the following year, up to a maximum availability of 6 weeks in one year, upon session action to approve the accrual.
- Congregations that give extra weeks of vacation or continuing education leave may count those weeks as part of the Total Cost to the Congregation at a rate of 2% of the Total Effective Salary.
- The cost of pulpit supply should not be included in a Pastor’s Compensation Package.

2. All Pastoral Leaders and Christian Educators working less than full-time in a congregation of Holston Presbytery shall have a compensation package that is pro-rated based on the “Units” expected to work, with **each unit being calculated at a minimum \$5000** in total cost to the congregation.

%of Full-Time	#of Units	Annual Minimum Cost to Congregation
25%	3	\$15,000
50%	6	\$30,000
75%	9	\$45,000

Positions that are at least half-time (6 units) should include participation in the pension plan of the PCUSA and an exploration of the benefits available. Vacation and Continuing education leave should not be pro-rated at less than 4 weeks annually.

3. If a Pastoral Leader is engaged in Shared Ministry (serving more than one congregation simultaneously), the compensation of all congregations served will be added together to determine if the minimum standard has been met, as reviewed by the COM.
4. The compensation rate for Sunday morning Pulpit Supply is at least \$150 for anyone traveling less than 25 miles, \$175 for anyone traveling between 25 and 50 miles, and no less than \$200 for anyone traveling more than 50 miles. Expected compensation should be communicated with the invitation to preach, and mileage should be estimated in advance. Preachers may choose to donate all or part of the fee back to the congregation at their discretion.

Understanding Units

Recognizing the value of trained and educated pastoral leaders, honoring the unique mental/emotional energy that ministry can require, and seeking to encourage all our congregations to see compensation of these leaders as more than a transactional “cost of doing business” and rather a relational investment in the shared ministry, mission, and life of the church, the COM is trying to find new metrics to discuss the time, energy, and work a pastor’s vocation requires.

The idea of ‘Units,’ dividing each day into 3 – morning, afternoon, and evening, rather than the

rigidity of counting hours worked per week, seems a better reflection of the flow and flexibility ministry often requires. It also allows you to account a double value for those activities that are especially taxing emotionally or spiritually. The energy required to lead worship, make a hospital visit, or lead a contentious meeting can all be different, even when they take the same hour of time.

If we consider 12 units to be full-time: A pastor could reasonably be expected to lead worship on Sunday morning (2 units), spend 4 days in the office (morning and afternoon, 8 units), and still have 2 units spent on evening meetings, Bible study, or recognizing the additional time spent thinking about/praying over the sermon, even at home. If a pastor's weekly schedule needs to include more evenings for meetings, perhaps some of the 'morning' units are traded out. Or in seasons like Advent/Christmas, when there might be additional church commitments or special services, keeping a '12 unit per week' guideline can help ensure that pastoral leaders are appropriately balancing church work with time for renewal and rest.

Those in ministry part-time should also evaluate their work with an honest assessment of how many 'units' it takes them to adequately prepare a sermon, complete administrative tasks, make pastoral visits, or any other assignments included in their job description. The session and other church leaders should be aware of the time and energy a pastoral position requires and be prepared to sufficiently compensate those who have been called to serve. If we consider half-time to be 6 units, it needs to be understood that a third of that pastor's time/energy is spent just on preparing and leading Sunday morning worship. Expectations need to be adjusted accordingly.

All of us are called to share in ministry and show grace to one another. It is our hope that these guidelines can help our pastoral leaders and our congregations flourish together.

Report from GA226 – Ruling Elder Commissioner Kathleen Cary

I was humbled and honored to be a commissioner to the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah. Each morning, the plenary was opened with worship. The services were varied, but based on the theme “Live into Hope.” God’s presence was felt through the music and spoken word of these services. The one service that stands out was the one in which we celebrated communion together. It was an emotional moment sharing this sacrament with 500+ people.

Immediately following worship, the business portion of the meeting began. The process of the meeting was done electronically. For example, to submit an amendment, be recognized to speak, and vote, all had to be done through the GA Meeting Tools portal. The portal worked well, until it didn’t. On the brief occasions it glitched the moderators paused the meeting and we literally danced in the aisles. I learned the Electric Slide! Nothing like dance brings a group together.

The newly elected moderators, along with the stated clerk and parliamentarian efficiently and fairly ran the meetings. An effort was made to be sure all views were heard and considered before voting. I listened the Advisory Delegates (Young Adult, Theology Student, Mission and Ecumenical) speak passionately and articulate their views. When it came time to cast my vote, I felt I had heard all sides of the issue on the floor. It is an exciting time to be the member of the PCUSA! God is doing new things and is calling each of us to live into hope!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Cary

Moderator, Holston Presbytery

Report from GA226 – Teaching Elder Commissioner Rev. Maggie Rust

The 226th General Assembly of the PC(USA) gathered in Salt Lake City from June 29-July 4, after three full days of online committee meetings by Zoom the week before.

We received a warm welcome from the Presbytery of Utah, whose 20 congregations across the Beehive State wanted to make it clear that, though they are in the minority compared to their Mormon neighbors, they are thriving in beautiful and creative ways. The historic Japanese Presbyterian Church of Salt Lake City was particularly highlighted, and many commissioners enjoyed their hospitality for Sunday’s worship service and the music of their traditional Taiko Drum group at the open and close of our gathering.

It was a joy to be together for plenaries, and many felt the significance of participating in the first in-person gathering of the national Church since 2018. Worship was simple but meaningful as 1300 siblings in Christ sang together, celebrated the sacrament of communion, and heard stirring sermons from the co-moderators of GA225 Revs. Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Rev. Dr. Jerry Pillay, among others.

With the election of new Co-Moderators Revs. Tony Larson and CeCe Armstrong (both of whom moderated the meeting well and will, in this commissioner’s opinion, be great ambassadors for the Church in the coming two-year term), we were ready to begin the business of the Assembly.

Rev. J. Herbert Nelson was honored for his work as Stated Clerk of the PCUSA from 2016-2023, and the Rev. Bronwen Boswell was thanked for the year she has spent in the post (the first woman to ever hold the highest ecclesial office in the denomination). One of the first items of business for the 226th GA was to elect Rev. Jihyun Oh to the role. She is the first Korean American to serve in this office, and the Assembly celebrated her election.

Holston Presbytery Stated Meeting August 3, 2024

In the five days of our plenary meetings, the General Assembly took up 108 items of business in the form of overtures, reports, and recommendations. 70 of these passed on the consent agenda, and while they may not receive much attention, it's important to note that the Church is making statements about and creating resources to faithfully engage current issues such as student debt, artificial intelligence, plastic pollution, pay equity, prison reform, the crisis in Israel/Palestine, Christian Nationalism and Christian Zionism, among others.

On the floor, commissioners and advisory delegates passionately discussed and debated other issues. On Tuesday, we spent nearly 7 hours on two different overtures concerning divestment from the fossil fuel sector. Young Adult Advisory Delegates spoke ardently about the climate crisis their generation faces, and the complexity of fiduciary responsibility in investment and how the Church ethically engages in economic systems while maintaining our mission to care for creation and be advocates for justice and those whom Matthew 25 would label the "least of these" was all on full display. The MRTI (Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment) continues to work with the PC(USA) and its Agencies to seek ways to be faithful stewards of both creation and the Church's funds.

The only unanimous vote of the Assembly was the approval of DOE-03, an Overture Calling for Action that Children May Live Free from Gun Violence, notable both for its content and the complete support it received.

Two other items that are worth highlighting as those that will likely continue to prompt further conversation across the denomination were POL-01 and FIN-12.

As you may have heard, POL-01, also called the Olympia Overture, had two parts and was handled as such. Part 1 added "gender identity and sexual orientation" to the list of "race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, and theological conviction" in F-1.0403, which "guarantees the full participation and representation [in the Church's] worship, governance, and life" to all persons. This passed both the committee and Assembly by overwhelming margins (389-24). Part 2 was more contentiously debated and amended multiple times before its eventual approval. It involves a change to G-2.0104b, regarding examinations of candidates for ordination, and would require they include "a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.0404), the Historic Principles of Church Order (F-3.01), and in the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403." As these are changes to the Book of Order, both parts will have to be ratified by the presbyteries before taking effect next year.

FIN-12 was a report from the Taskforce to Review the Special Offerings. Substantial changes are coming in 2026, which will see the denomination-wide offerings go from 4 to 3: Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing, and World Communion (eliminating the Pentecost offering, but incorporating children and youth ministry into Christmas Joy). No part of these offerings will now be kept by the local congregation or presbytery, but 100% will go to the shared mission funds of the national church, another significant change. The Assembly concluded its business with a report from the Unification Commission handling the merger of the Office of the General Assembly and Presbyterian Mission Agency (whose final report is due at the next GA in 2026), including the proposed unified budget for the next two years. GA Per Capita was set at \$10.84 for 2025 and \$11.26 for 2026; this funds the ministry and mission work of the national Church.

More information about GA226 and the actions taken can be found at pc-biz.org, and as your Teaching Elder Commissioner for Holston Presbytery, I'm happy to have further conversation and answer questions about this year's Assembly. I'm honored to have been able to serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Maggie Rust

Holston Presbytery Stated Meeting August 3, 2024

Reports from Presbytery Staff:

Stated Clerk's Report

August, 2024

Communications

1. On 6/6/24 a copy of a letter to the congregation of Bethel (Kingsport) was received giving notice of a called congregational meeting on 6/30/24 for the purpose of voting to dissolve. Worship that Sunday would be their final service.
2. Received subsequent minutes of a called session meeting to rescind the decision to dissolve the congregation, effective 6/30/24. The congregation will continue to meet for study and worship until the sale of the property to the Believers' Church is final and financial assets are dispersed.

Session Records Review

At the direction of the General Mission Board, and in compliance with the mandates of our *Book of Order* (G-3.0108), we have scheduled three cluster meetings to peer-review session minutes.

The first two of these gatherings were held on June 29 (First Presbyterian Church, Johnson City) and July 20 (Erwin Presbyterian Church). **The final event this year will be held on September 21 (Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Dandridge).**

Report from Disciplinary Case:

Proposed Alternative Form of Resolution for Holston Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

v

Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington

After investigation of a disciplinary complaint against Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington by a duly appointed Investigating Committee ("IC") of the Holston Presbytery ("Presbytery") and following mediation and conciliation between Rev. Dr. Weddington and the IC, the IC has determined to charge Rev. Dr. Weddington with one count of disrupting the peace, unity and purity of the Church. This disruption came after Rev. Dr. Weddington did not maintain relational boundaries with a parishioner appropriate to a Minister of Word and Sacrament, as well as other personal struggles that interfered with his ability to effectively lead the congregation, leading to conflict and a breach of trust within the congregation. It is noted that the charge does not allege sexual misconduct or abuse.

The IC and the Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington agree to the following Alternative Form of Resolution according to D-7.1605:

- The Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington agrees to plead guilty to one count of disturbing the peace, unity, and purity of the Church (W-4.0404g)

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington agrees to undergo a term of supervised rehabilitation in which he will work on understanding boundaries appropriate to a Minister of Word and Sacrament more clearly, as well as continuing in counseling. The supervised rehabilitation will be completed when the following documentation has been submitted to the Executive Presbyter (who will certify its completion):

- That Rev. Dr. Weddington provide documentation that he is currently engaged in counseling and other treatment with a licensed counselor or therapist chosen by him to address his personal struggles. This requirement will be deemed satisfied upon delivery to the Executive Presbyter of a letter from a licensed counselor or therapist confirming that Rev. Dr. Weddington is under such person's care and participating in counseling and treatment. The counselor or therapist providing such confirmation shall not be required to disclose any information concerning the content of the counseling or treatment.

- That Rev. Dr. Weddington participate in and provide documentation that he has completed boundary training appropriate to a Minister of Word and Sacrament to provide the skills to avoid a similar future offense. This boundary training can be through Leaderwise or another group or therapist that emphasizes boundary training that is unique to ministers and pastors. It is understood that Rev. Dr. Weddington is currently enrolled in a Leaderwise program to occur on August 7 and 8, 2024, and agreed that this requirement will be deemed satisfied upon delivery to the Executive Presbyter of a certificate or other documentation from Leaderwise that he has completed that program.

- That a letter of censure be addressed to Rev. Dr. Weddington, which shall be read at a regular stated meeting of Holston Presbytery and entered into the minutes; this letter shall also be read at either a regular or called meeting of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Bristol, TN. Text of the letter is below.

Letter of censure:

“Whereas, you, Rev. Dr. Samuel Weddington, have plead guilty of the offense of disturbing the peace, unity, and purity of the Church (W-4.0404g) and by such offense you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); now, therefore, the Permanent Judicial Commission of Holston Presbytery, in the name and authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), rebukes you, and orders you to complete a program of supervised rehabilitation as described below:

1. Continue the counseling treatment in which you are currently engaged and provide documentation to the Executive Presbyter of this continued care.
2. Participate in Boundaries Training from LeaderWise or another group or therapist that emphasizes boundary training that is unique to ministers and pastors and provide documentation to the Executive Presbyter of this training.

This rebuke is given not with malice or vindictiveness but in Christian love to offer you correction in error and the possibility of full community restoration. You are enjoined to be more watchful and avoid such offense in the future. We urge you to use diligently the means of grace to the end that you may be more obedient to our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Rights Reserved:

If this agreement is not approved and accepted by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Holston Presbytery, the Rev. Dr. Weddington reserves his right to plead otherwise and defend any other charge or disposition. No statements written or oral, made at or in connection with the formation of this agreement shall be admissible in evidence at any subsequent investigation or trial (D-7.1601).

Transitional Executive Presbyter's Report

July 16, 2024

Spring into summer 2024 has been busy for Holston Presbytery. Committees have been meeting, plans have been made, and churches are in transition. During this quarter, I have **met with or worked with folks** at Waverly Road, Jonesborough, Cold Spring, Bethel Kingsport, Strawberry Plains, New Bethel, Hebron, and First Bristol on a variety of things. I have been with several committees as they meet: Discipleship, Mission/Outreach, Finance, Trustees, COM.

We have several churches actively seeking pastoral leadership. Jonesborough, Strawberry Plains, Rock Creek, and Cold Spring are actively seeking – and the CLC site is currently not all that helpful. The number of candidates with active files in the system right now is low, and we have experienced trouble getting the Ministry Discernment Profiles uploaded and working correctly. It behooves us to **look into other ways of recruiting leadership**, using classified ads in the Outlook, Presbyterians Today, Linked In, or possibly using consulting groups to recruit leadership. Our location as a target for retirement does give us a pool of possible recruits in the coming years, as there is a wave of retirements of pastors on the way.

I spent a week outside of Omaha, NE, with the **Presbytery Leader Formation**, learning, worshipping, and trading ideas and stories with other presbytery execs. We are not all that unique in the world of presbyteries in the challenges we face, especially with declining resources, closing churches, non-engaged congregations, and general anxiety about the future.

Conversations were lively around sharing staff, merging with another presbytery, how to structure a streamlined staff and other options available. Use of property, creative ways of congregations cooperating, and forming pastoral leaders from within congregations were all top of mind topics. By far, the hottest topic was the changes to the Board of Pensions Medical Plan. I will summarize that by saying this: there were a bunch of angry execs at that meeting.

I also travelled to **General Assembly in Salt Lake City**, where the weather was hot, the air was dry, and the Presbytery of Utah really showed up. With less than 3,000 members statewide, the presbytery managed to have people wearing blue vests everywhere, and were a great example of hospitality, getting things done, and just generally being nice. Our commissioners were GREAT – they were engaged, and prepared, and took the job seriously. Maggie Jacobs is a great example of the kind of young people who are the next generation of leaders in the church and world. And Kathi Cary wants to have a debate where we must perfect the amended motion by

voting to amend the amendment before we debated the amended main motion.

While in Salt Lake, I **met with the presbytery execs of East TN and Midsouth (Memphis) presbyteries** to talk about options and recommendations for **addressing the changes in the Board of Pensions medical coverage**. We do not want churches to simply stop providing dependent and family coverage, but we also don't want churches to take a \$20,000 hit to their annual budget to provide that coverage. Our recommendation is that if a church currently has a pastor requiring family/spouse coverage, that they take advantage of the transitional plan for 2025 while we explore options available outside the Board for churches and individuals. We also discussed a plan to have asking churches that will save money with the changes contribute to a fund that will help offset costs for churches and pastors facing difficult decisions.

Holston Presbytery will also need to make a decision about medical benefits for the TEP in 2025 – I am no longer eligible to participate in the Pastor Participation Plan. I will be covered by Medicare and not eligible for a Medicare Advantage plan if I am still working. Will medical coverage still be provided? It's less of an issue for me, but any future EP may not be covered by Medicare.

On a personal note, I had an unsuccessful surgery in May to remove a parathyroid gland. It was unsuccessful because they could not locate it. Plan b is to undergo annual infusions of a drug that may have some side effects that might keep me at home for up to a week. I picked up some sort of viral bug while recovering from that, which hung around for a couple of weeks. My mother spent a day in the hospital recently – she is fine now – and this showed me the need for a contingency plan for her care. I apparently was exposed to Covid at General Assembly, and experienced my first case of the Covid. It was mild, but it did keep me at home for a week. I am calling this the summer of my distemper, for all those things combined with the heat have kept me cranky.

At our called June meeting, the General Mission Board identified **three things that we could do between now and the end of the year to help engage congregations**. Those three things were: have 3 community building events; change committee membership (not leadership) to one year renewal terms from three years; to work to “brand” the presbytery as a “value add” to congregations. The community building events could be fellowship and/or training sessions/workshops. To that end, I would like to get some **dates on the calendar** for the remainder of the year:

- TEP vacation: August 12-25, 2024
- Pastors' Lunch: August 1, September 17, October 14, November 13
- Boundary Training with Leaderwise at Holston Camp: October 8-9 (with option to stay the night of the 9th)

- Clerk of Session Training: Sunday November 17, 3 pm, location TBD
- Boundary Training: Three Saturdays (September 7, September 21, October 5), 9 am - 12 pm. The first session will fulfill requirements for Session members; Sessions 1, 2 and 3 fulfill requirements for Teaching Elders engaged in any type of active ministry or validated ministry, as well as Commissioned Lay Pastors (or CRE's as they used to be known), and inquirers/candidates under care of the Presbytery. Anyone else is welcome to attend these trainings which will cover misconduct prevention, relationship boundaries, financial boundaries, and racism/discrimination prevention (among other things). This boundary training is required for nearly anyone in any type of leadership or ordered ministry every 36 months. Remaining in good standing requires completion of this training. It will be offered annually – and you can do it more than every 36 months.
 - o There are other options to complete the training, but some are better than others, and most have some costs associated with them. There are good online options, but Teaching elders and commissioned pastors are encouraged to take these trainings, or training through Leaderwise, which will provide the training in October.
- Post GA town hall meetings: one in person, August 10, 1 pm, location TBD; one via Zoom, Monday August 5, 6 pm.
- Small Church Gathering: Saturday September 28, 10 am – 12 pm, location TBD

Other recommendations:

- That the General Mission Board ask the Presbytery to approve changing committee membership terms to one year renewable terms; moderators will still serve for 3 years;
- Approve vacation dates for TEP;
- Approve suggested dates for training sessions and other events;

REPORT OF THE FINANCE, BUDGET AND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Holston Presbytery meeting of August 3, 2024

The Committee met on July 9, 2004

The Committee completed assigned and routine business: reviewing Financial Statements, including budget performance, per-capita payments to Synod and GA, investments, and income received from transactions related to closed and closing churches.

Between now and the end of 2025 we are on track to complete the following tasks:

- Develop a 2025 budget to present to Presbytery at the November 12 meeting (see note below)
- Complete a Financial Review
- Study issues related to Unified Giving, and its interpretation and promotion.

BUDGET NOTE

Presbytery Committees are asked to submit 2025 requests, to the Presbytery Office, by September 20.

Submitted to the August 3 Meeting of Presbytery.

Richard D. Raum

Mission & Outreach:

Five Cents a Meal Applications are available:



5¢-A-MEAL GRANT PROGRAM

Application Instructions

Holston Presbytery

Applications must be received by October 15, 2024

What Projects are included: Direct food ministries (food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.) and projects which provide safe drinking water.

Process: Grants are awarded through a three-step process.

- 1) **Application is to be completed by the organization**, and signed by the sponsoring church. Applications are to be sent to the Presbytery office to be reviewed by the appropriate committee of the General Mission Board. Applications received or postmarked after the submission deadline will not be considered for grants.
- 2) If a grant is awarded, the sponsoring church will receive the funds from the office of Holston Presbytery for distribution to the recipient (if other than the sponsoring church).
- 3) After funds have been disbursed, **acknowledgment from the recipient should be received by Holston Presbytery** within sixty days.

Qualifying Criteria: Applications that do not meet all of these criteria will not be considered.

- 1) Funds must be used to support the work of providing food and/or safe drinking water. **Five Cents a Meal grants should not be used for administrative costs, or other non-related program costs.**
- 2) All applications must be submitted and endorsed by a congregation of Holston Presbytery.
- 3) Each organization receiving grants must submit **a report of how the funds were used, with the impact of the funds on the work of the organization. Reports must be submitted by July 31 of each year a grant is received.**
- 4) Churches may sponsor up to three (3) organizations each grant year. Organizations can receive a maximum of one grant per calendar year.
- 5) **Sponsoring congregations should contribute financially to or be involved in the work of the organization.**

Award Criteria: Grants will be awarded using criteria published separately from this application and will be available on the Holston Presbytery website: www.holstonpresbytery.org.

Reporting: Each organization and/or sponsoring church should provide to Holston Presbytery a report on the use of Five Cents a Meal funds that **provides information on how the funds were used, and the direct impact of those funds on the work of the organization.** Photographs may be included and are encouraged. Churches are encouraged to provide information on the congregational support of the organization as well. Organizations who do not acknowledge the receipt of a grant or submit a report for how grant funds are used will not be considered for subsequent grants.

Grant Amounts: Local and International grants will be considered for requests up to \$3,000.

Grants will be disbursed annually in January. Applications must be received by October 15 to be considered. Acknowledgements will be sent by e mail to the sponsoring church. Checks will be sent to the sponsoring church for distribution and will be made payable to the receiving organization.



Office Use Only
Date Received

FIVE CENTS A MEAL GRANT PROGRAM Application Form 2024

Please return to: Holston Presbytery, P. O. Box 3647, Kingsport TN 37664-3647
Application Deadline: October 15, 2024

Date: ___/___/___ (check one) Global Organization _____ Regional/Local Organization _____

Organization:

Organization Address:

Organization Telephone: _____ Organization Email: _____

Sponsoring Congregation:

Please attach a description of the organization's work, and a summary annual budget for the organization

How will these funds be used? What will be the impact of these funds? (attach additional pages if necessary):

How does the sponsoring congregation support this work? (include amount of financial support directly from the congregation)

Amount Requested: _____ (\$3,000 maximum)

Signatures: Organization: _____ Title: _____

Sponsoring Pastor:

Sponsoring Clerk of Session:

Please attach to this application the following:

- ***Summary of current annual budget for receiving organization***
- ***Complete contact information for the receiving organization, including telephone and e mail address***
- ***Complete contact information for the sponsoring church, including telephone and e mail address***

Incomplete applications will be returned to the sponsoring church

Discipleship & Evangelism:

UKirk Sub-committee report:

Record of Activities from April 16, 2024 – July 16, 2024

- End of Semester Events UKirk ETSU
 - End of the Year Party on April 22
 - Finals Week Pancake Dinner on May 1
- Summer Events with UKirk ETSU
 - Bi-weekly Book Club Meetings with students on May 20, June 2, June 16, June 30, & July 14
 - Organized a trip to the AMC movie theatre with 10 UKirk students to watch “Garfield”
 - Organized Tabling for UKirk ETSU for Freshman and Transfer Student Orientations on June 6, June 7, June 13, June 14, June 27, June 28, July 11, & July 12
 - Renewed UKirk ETSU’s status as registered ETSU Student Organization on July 10
- Partnered with the ETSU Campus Ministry Association
 - Meetings on April 18 and May 2
- Served as Pulpit Supply
 - Jonesborough Presbyterian Church on May 12
 - Hopewell Presbyterian Church on June 30
- Attended UKirk National Gathering at Ferncliff Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas from June 11-14
- Collaborated with UKirk Network Campus Ministers to revise a Worship Resource for use within the Campus Ministry context
- Took hybrid classes in Reformed Theology and Intro to Christian Worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte
 - Traveled to Charlotte on April 20, May 18, June 1, and June 22
 - Assignments for Intro to Christian Worship: History of Worship Paper, Sacraments Paper, Ethnography Assignment, and Worship Planning Assignment
 - Assignments for Reformed Theology: History Quiz, Ordination Exam Question and Presentation, Research Paper on a Key Reformed Theological Concept
- Met with Campus Ministry Subcommittee on May 28
- Took a vacation from May 24-27 and June 15-17

Report of the Administrative Commission

August 3, 2024

The Administrative Commission held its first meeting on June 30, 2024 and began its work. The Commission reviewed the status of those congregations that have asked for dissolution or otherwise have become inactive. After some discussion of those congregations and their respective properties the Commission members were assigned specific churches to research and report back to the Commission. Following the meeting of July 18, 2024, this is the current status of the Commission's work:

- Amity Presbyterian Church, Greeneville – Because there is a clause in the deed which limits the sale of the property a title search will need to be conducted as well as seek an opinion from the title lawyer. Then it will be necessary to obtain a survey of the property. There is a small cemetery on the property and how to address that concern is in conversation. One member of the congregation has requested that her membership be transferred to First Presbyterian, Greeneville, and other members of the congregation are to have their membership transferred in the future.
- Mount Hermon Presbyterian Church – The Commission is seeking to determine if there is a local organization who could use the facility as a community center. That conversation is currently ongoing.
- Tabernacle Presbyterian Church – The congregation of the church has been dissolved and the membership of the last member of the church has been transferred to another local congregation. The Commission will ask for time on the Presbytery docket at an upcoming meeting for a service of thanksgiving for the ministry of Tabernacle Presbyterian. Following a meeting with the board of the Tabernacle Mission Soup Kitchen, the Soup Kitchen board expressed their willingness to purchase the property and the adjacent garden lot. The sale of the church property was approved. The Commission asked the Trustees to recommend to the Presbytery that the Commission be authorized to take full control of the adjacent garden lot since the deed is in the name of the Presbytery. That recommendation is to be acted on at today's meeting.
- Zion Presbyterian Church – The Commission determined that the dissolution of the congregation and the disposal of the property of Zion Presbyterian Church is the most complicated of the tasks assigned to the Commission. While work is being done to research the information needed for the work of the Commission, no action has been taken beyond the necessary research.
- Pam Pope resigned from the Commission. Request that the Presbytery name additional members to the AC so we can continue our work and spread the work out to make it manageable.

Trustees Report to Presbytery 8.3.24

The Trustees are dealing with the following property and Presbytery related issues:

An update from Finance, Stewardship and Budget committee has been received. Updates on Amity, Zion, Mt. Hermon and Tabernacle were given by members of the AC. -

Bethany- will probably have an offer soon. Karen will negotiate the price on behalf of the trustees. **Outstanding claim against Bethany:** Karen had conversation with the pastor of the church, they agreed that it was time to move forward. Their session will meet in early July and make an offer.

Bethel – Kingsport: The trustees received a request by the Session and congregation of Bethel to approve the sale of the property held by Bethel – Kingsport to the congregation of the Believer’s Church for the sum of \$150,000 and with Holston Presbytery retaining an equity interest and right of first refusal in and of the property.

Narrative: The representatives from Bethel – Kingsport and The Believers’ Church provided background on their four-year partnership and the discernment process both congregations have gone through as one congregation has aged and decreased in size, while the other has grown and become vital. The group was thanked for their time and the testimony they gave of their unity, partnership and faithful vision

The motion to approve and ratify the actions of the Session and Congregation that is Bethel Presbyterian Church was approved on July 12, 2024. Also included in the motion is the request for ratification these actions by Holston Presbytery.

.Recommendation:

That Holston Presbytery ratify and approve the actions of the Trustees regarding the Bethel, Kingsport, sale of the property located at 1593 Warpath Drive and 1522 Miller St, Kingsport, TN. The terms of sale are as follows: The Believers’ Church will purchase the property at 1593 Warpath Dr. and 1522 Miller St. Kingsport, TN for the sum of \$150,000. The sales agreement will specify that should Believer’s Church seek to sell the property at any point during the ten years immediately following the sale, Holston Presbytery will have the right of first refusal to purchase the property for the sale price (\$150,000).

Background: Believer’s Church and Bethel Presbyterian Church have been sharing space for more than two years, and have often worshipped together, fellowshiped together, and engaged in projects together. As Bethel sees the congregation age and dwindle in numbers and financial stability, the upkeep on the building will become difficult to undertake. The

congregation of Bethel plans to continue to worship with Believer’s Church, beginning the first Sunday in July. The session will continue to function until the remainder of the congregation’s assets are distributed, at which point the congregation will be officially dissolved.

Proceeds of the Sale: the proceeds of the sale of the property will be distributed in the following manner:

10% Holston Presbytery

10% Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast

Tennessee 10% Salvation Army of Greater Kingsport

15% Grace House (homeless housing in Kingsport - <https://www.kpthm.org/join-our-drive-to-start-grace-house-kingsport/>)

15% Family Promise of Greater Kingsport-

10% Providence Medical Clinic-

<https://www.providenceclinic.org/> 5% Recovery Resources -

<https://www.recoveryresourcestn.org/> 10% Bridge to Shore

Recovery - <https://www.bridgetoshorettn.com/>

15%: Veterans support group for Northeast Tennessee – <https://www.netvetsgroup.org/>

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

For August 3, 2024 Stated Meeting

The Trustees of Holston Presbytery bring forward the following for Presbytery’s approval;

The Administrative commission working with Amity, Tabernacle, et al, has found that the Tabernacle property includes a lot that is deeded separately from the lot the church is on, and that extra lot, where the community garden is located, was deeded directly to Holston Presbytery. While the AC can make arrangement for the sale of the church property, they need Trustee approval to make the sale of the extra lot deeded to the Presbytery.

The Trustees request that Holston Presbytery ratify granting the Administrative Commission control of that parcel of property deeded to Holston Presbytery at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church.

Sincerely,
Dave Light

PRESBYTERY FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you!

1. What part of today's meeting was meaningful to you?
2. How can we improve the meeting?
3. How can Presbytery be more sensitive to the needs of your congregation?
4. Did you experience any issues with accessibility at the meeting?
5. Would you be willing to help with worship at a future Presbytery meeting: Y N
(If yes, please include your name and contact information below.)
6. Other comments:

Your name (optional) _____

Phone _____

Email _____

You may leave your completed form in the basket on the registration table or you may email your response to info@holstonpresbytery.org. Thank you for your feedback.

Appendix 2 – Some Meeting Guidelines

Who can speak and vote at presbytery meetings:

- Teaching elders who are active members, which includes
 - Teaching elders engaged in validated ministry though installed or contracted congregational ministry in Holston Presbytery
 - Teaching elders engaged in approved validated ministries outside the congregation or outside the Presbytery
 - Teaching elders who have been designated retired
- Teaching elders who have been designated members-at-large
- Primary ruling elder commissioners
- Ruling elders commissioned to pastoral service by Holston Presbytery who are under contract with a congregation
- The presbytery moderator and vice-moderator, if ruling elders, for the term of office

Who can speak at presbytery meetings:

- Corresponding members
- Certified Christian educators
- Others permitted by the presbytery (e.g. committee moderators, staff, guests)

Rules for Debate for Matters before the Presbytery

(Adopted by Holston Presbytery, June 9, 1990)

- Up to (30) minutes will be allowed for debate for a given issue. The time can be extended if Presbytery votes to give additional time for debate.
- In debates on any pending matters, no member of the Presbytery shall be allowed to speak for more than three (3) minutes until all other members who desire to speak on the matter have been heard. The Moderator will balance debate between pro and con. The member presenting a motion or submitting a report has a right to open and close debate.
- At the end of the thirty minutes, Presbytery will proceed to vote on the matter at hand or extend the debate for a definite time.
- Distributing materials at a Presbytery meeting is a privilege, not a right.
- Materials should come from Presbytery committees, General Assembly or Synod, or one of our Institutions.
- Permission from Council is required to distribute materials at the Presbytery meeting that come from one of the various advocacy groups in the PC(USA).

Guidelines for Presbyterians during Times of Disagreement

- Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus Christ;
- We will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
- We will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.
- Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
- State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding.
- Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.
- Focus on ideas and suggestions. We will not engage in name calling or labeling of others.
- Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
- Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
- Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
- Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:
 - Urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;
 - Seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
 - Be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their freedom of conscience;
 - Abide by the decision of the majority, working for change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.

Revised: September 11, 2007

Appendix 3 – Future Events

Dates for the General Mission Board and Presbytery meetings in 2024

and 2025: 2024

General Mission Board

Presbytery

Kingsport October 22, 2024 (Tues) August 3, 2024 (Sat) – First Presbyterian,
Presbytery Camp November 12, 2024 (Tues) – Holston

and Conference Center

2025

General Mission Board

Presbytery

January 14, 2025 (Tues) February 1, 2025 (Sat) – Covenant Presbyterian Church
April 15, 2025 (Tues) May 6, 2025 (Tues) – Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church
July 15, 2025 (Tues) August 2, 2025 (Sat) – First Pres, Elizabethton
October 21, 2025 (Tues) November 4, 2025 (Tues) – Vacant

General Mission Board Meetings ordinarily meet in person at Campus Ministry House, 1412 College Heights Rd, Johnson City, at 3:00 PM.

Dates for Committee Meetings in the Next Quarter of 2024:

Committee on Ministry (Maggie
Rust)

August 22, 2024

All meetings are currently scheduled to start at 4pm.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Sam
Schaus)

September 3, 2024 at 3:00 pm, Holston Presbytery

Other Events: