

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY

Thursday, December 9, 2021, 11:00 a.m. virtual ZOOM Meeting

Roll of Presbytery

ACTIVE MINISTERS

Alvis, Joel	P
Aye-Addo, Kwasi	P
Bishop, Stephanie	P
Bogar, Fritz	P
Braga, Reginaldo	Unex
Collins, Nikki	Unex
Dunn, Tim	Ex
Evans, Joe	P
Fuller, Julie	Unex
Gray, Joan	P
Grove, David	P
Haynes, Susan	Ex
Henderson, Sam	Unex
Jones, David	Unex
Jones, Leigh	P
Jones, Ray	P
Jordan, David	P
Josey, Camille	P
Lee, Jennifer	P
Mendes, Paulo	P
Meyer, Renee	Ex
Milford, Elizabeth	P
Moore-Keish, Chris	Unex
Pezini, Jose	Ex
Renken, Catherine	P
Scott, Katie	P
Scott, Will	P
Simpson, Jim	P
Stow, Becky	P
Waddell, Bridget	Ex
Waddell, Kenneth	P
Waits, Cassie	P
Yoo, William	Unex
Zaki, Raafat	Unex

(34)

CORRESPONDING MINISTERS

Pete Paulsen(RCA) P
Cathi Parchem (Savannah)

[Excuses not required from Retired]

Italics = Laboring in mission field or out of bounds of presbytery

RETIRED MINISTERS

Beltzner, Denise	
Blackwell, Rebecca	
Brice, Joe	
Carmichael, Bert	
Cooley, Pem	
Craft, Ed	
Edwards, Maxine	
Esa, Donald	P
Estes, Coile	
Garrett, Eleana	
Glauner, David	
Gonzalez, Catherine	
Guder, Darrell	
Gunter, Sid	
Hittel, Maryellen	
Hunter, Rodney	
Jones, Walter	
Kim, Jin Hoon	
Lamberson, Zeta	
Leyden, Stuart	
Looby, Janet	
Martin, John	
Martin, Roger	
McDonald, David	
McKenzie, Ken	
Moore, Greg	
Neelly, Dick	P
Nesbit, Van	
Ottaviano, Dan	
Parr, Cyndi	
Rhodes, Jan	
Sapp, Frank	
Sapp, Mary Kay	
Scott, Carol	
Sherwood, Paul	P
Smith, Cuyler	
Smith, Ted	
Spangler, John	P
Speed, James	
Stroup, George	
Tarrant, John	
Terrell, Ken	
Wade, Carol	
Waskey, Jack	
Weathersby, Frank	
Weaver, Charles	
Wood, Tom	

(47)

CHURCH – RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Acworth
Beersheba (1)
Brazilian Christian (1)
Calhoun (1)
Cartersville (1)
Cedartown
Chickamauga (1)
Christ Fellowship
Cohutta
Covenant
Dalton (1)
Deer Creek
Ebenezer Ghan.
Faith Canton
Faith Blue Ridge (1)
Grace (1)
Heritage (2)

John Knox (1)
Kirkwood
LaFayette
Light of Hope (1)
Macland

Marietta (3)

Morton Memorial
Ray-Thomas (1)
Rockmart
Silver Creek (1)

Trinity (1)
Westminster
Woodstock

Total Allocated Ruling Elder Commissioners: 37

OTHER RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Teri Abercrombie P
Nancy Bertrand
Clay Gunter
Bob Butler
Possible Ruling Elder total – 41

In attendance:

Teaching Elders	21
HR Teaching Elders	4
Ruling Elders	19
Corresponding Members	1
Visitors	7
Presbytery Lay Staff	
Total attendance	52

Absent:

Excused Teaching Elders	5
Unexcused Teaching Elders	8
Excused Ruling Elders	0
Unexcused Ruling Elders	0

Called Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery
Minutes
December 9, 2021

A Called Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery via the Zoom platform was convened on December 9, 2021 at 11 a.m. by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Jim Simpson.

A quorum was declared with 21 active Ministers of Word and Sacrament, 4 Honorably Retired Ministers, and elders from the Sessions of 19 congregations.

Dr. Simpson read the Revised Common Lectionary passage for this coming Sunday, December 12, of Luke 3: 7-18 and lead in prayer. A video presentation of elements followed.

The Moderator stated the purpose of the meeting

1. To receive and act upon the report of the Stated Clerk Search Team;
2. To receive and act upon Ministry Team recommendations from the Committee on Representation;
3. To hear an update from the General Presbyter Search Team.

Reports and Actions

1. The Moderator recognized the Rev. Paul Sherwood to present the Report from the Stated Clerk Search Team.
 - a. Moved: That the Rev. Dr. Don Esa be elected as Stated Clerk of Cherokee Presbytery for a three-year term commencing today.
 - b. Rev. Sherwood presented Dr. Esa who made introductory comments.
 - c. The vote was held by a polls with 43 affirmative, 0 negative and 1 abstention.
 - d. Rev. Sherwood thanked the Search Team and the Presbytery.
2. The Moderator recognized Rev. John Spangler to present the Report from the Committee on Representation.
 - a. Moved that the slate of nominees for Ministry Teams and a Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD) to the 2022 General Assembly be elected as follows:
 - i. The Ministry Transitions Team: Megan Little (RE, Calhoun) 1st term/Class of 2023
 - ii. The Ministry Transitions Team: Gayle Sandlin (RE, Kirkwood) 1st term/Class of 2023
 - iii. The Ministry Transitions Team: Rev. Jim Simpson (MWS/Covenant) 2nd term/Class of 2023
 - iv. The Ministry Transitions Team: Billie Sutter (Co-Moderator) [RE-CCE/Heritage] 2nd term/Class of 2023
 - v. [The Congregational Health Team: Pete Paulsen (Co-Moderator) already in 2nd term/Class of 2022 HR
 - vi. Grace McCarl (Macland) be elected as YAAD from Cherokee Presbytery for the 2022 General Assembly
 - b. The vote was held via polls with a unanimous result of 44-0-0 to approve.

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3. The Moderator recognized the Rev. Elizabeth Lovell Milford to present an update from the General Presbyter Search Team. The Search team has received more than 40 Personal Information Forms from matching through the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection and self-referrals. They are evaluating these and plan to conduct in person interviews in January 2022.

Announcements The Moderator made these announcements
Next Stated Meeting: Saturday, February 26, 2022
Format: Zoom gathering with selected locations for in-person gathering.

The Moderator led in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.

The Stated Clerk Search Committee would like to submit to Cherokee Presbytery, the name of Rev. Dr. Don Esa, as the nominee for election to the position of Stated Clerk.

Here are a few comments from the Search Committee and from members of the Coordinating Team who have worked with Dr. Esa:

While serving as pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Don was a delight to work with. He was thorough in his work and planning. Don is detail oriented.

With his background in broadcasting, Don is a very good communicator.

Don's experience with technology enabled us to move our worship into a Zoom format during the pandemic.

Don has indicated a genuine sense of call to this special part-time ministry among us.

Don is comfortable in administrative roles.

Following his recent retirement as a pastor, Don is interested in a part-time role within the Presbytery.

Brief Biographic Statement Rev. Don Esa began serving as the Pastor Woodstock Presbyterian Church in June, 2012, and added ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church in August, 2013, making the 23-minute trip between the two churches each Sunday. He retired from serving these two churches in October, 2021. Rev. Esa served as the Associate Pastor of Education at First Presbyterian Church of Marietta for more than 12 years. He served at churches in Pittsburgh, PA (Pleasant Hills Community) and Cincinnati, OH (Madeira Presbyterian and Mt. Washington Presbyterian) before moving to West Cobb, GA in 1997. He is a graduate of the University of Denver (BA in Mass Communications), Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), and Fuller Theological Seminary (DMin). Prior to seminary, Rev. Esa worked in broadcast news for several Colorado radio stations. He tells parishioners that he decided to leave the broadcast news industry so that he could tell the "Good News" rather than merely reporting all the bad news in the world. Through the years, Rev. Esa has served on and/or chaired several presbytery committees— Cherokee Presbytery's Ministry Support Team (two terms), Cincinnati Presbytery's Preparation for Ministry (two terms), and Cincinnati Presbytery's Nominating Committee. He was elected by Cincinnati Presbytery to be a commissioner to the PCUSA General Assembly that dealt with the controversial reimagining God issue. Rev. Esa and his wife, Mary, have two grown children. Spare time activities include travel, photography, gardening, and many hikes at Kennesaw Mountain National Historical Park.

CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY

P.O. Box 1839

Cartersville, GA 30120

770-382-6280

Church (U.S.A.)

www.cherokeepresbytery.org



Presbyterian

December 9, 2021

Rev. Dr. Don Esa,

We are pleased to offer you the position of Stated Clerk for Cherokee Presbytery. The Coordinating Team will recommend that you be elected to this position by the presbytery at its called Zoom meeting on December 9, 2021. In this position you will work with the General Presbyter and the Administrative Assistant for the presbytery. We believe your skills and experience are an excellent match for this position and your experience with the presbytery will be very helpful. With successful election, you may consider this a three year term as Stated Clerk.

You have received a copy of the job description. Your responsibilities will include those described in the job description. As an employee of Cherokee Presbytery, you will be expected to follow the Cherokee Presbytery Bylaws and Manual of Administrative Operations as well as the Book of Order.

The salary for this part-time position is \$12,000.00. It will be paid on a monthly basis, starting on Monday, December 13, 2021. Appropriate payroll taxes will be paid on your behalf. There are reimbursable expense funds, budgeted as \$1000.00 for professional expenses and \$500.00 for travel expenses. There are no fringe benefits.

Your employment with Cherokee Presbytery will be on an at-will basis, which means you and the presbytery are free to terminate the employment relationship at any time for any reason. This letter is not a contract or guarantee of employment for a definite amount of time.

Please confirm your acceptance of this offer by signing on or after December 7 and then returning this letter by Monday, December 13, 2021.

We are excited to have you join the staff of the Cherokee Presbytery! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at any time.

Sincerely,

Teri Abercrombie

Moderator of Coordinating Team

December 9, 2021 Stated Meeting Cherokee Presbytery

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

To the December 9, 2021 Called Zoom Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery

Members: MWS John J. Spangler (Moderator), MWS Jennifer Lee, RE Erma Jones, RE Todd Johnson, MWS Paulo Mendes

Contact Number & Email for the Moderator: 770-819-7442 johnjspangler@hotmail.com

First things first. The most pressing need we have is for the nomination of a YAAD (Young Adult Advisory Delegate) to the 2022 General Assembly. Please advise the COR chairperson or members if you have a rising high school Senior or college-age young adult whom you believe should be considered as our YAAD, noting that such persons need to be available for the period of June 17-July9, 2022 for the hybrid meeting of the General Assembly.

Second, a pressing need is for a MWS to serve as Commissioner to our Synod of South Atlantic.

Third, as noted on the accompanying “Cherokee Presbytery Elected Leadership Roster,” there are lots of positions to be filled in the active membership of various Ministry Units in the Presbytery!

Please, please call, email, or buttonhole any member of the COR with your offer or suggestions.

Reported for Action

The COR places in nomination for election the following named persons for leadership in Presbytery positions or Ministry Units specified as follows:

***The Ministry Transitions Team: Megan Little 1st term/Class of 2023
RE/Calhoun***

***The Ministry Transitions Team: Gayle Sandlin 1st term/Class of 2023
RE/Kirkwood***

***The Ministry Transitions Team: Jim Simpson 2nd term/Class of 2023
MWS/Covenant***

***The Ministry Transitions Team: Billie Sutter (Co-Moderator) 2nd term/Class of 2023
RE/CCE/Heritage***

[The Congregational Health Team: Pete Paulsen (Co-Moderator) already in 2nd term/Class of 2022 HR]

CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY ELECTED LEADERSHIP ROSTER as of December 9, 2021

Ministry Transition Team – Manual definition = 6 members			
Class	Name	RE/MWS	Church
2021	Nancy Bertrand/2 nd term (Co-Moderator)	Commis.RE	Beersheba
2023	Jim Simpson/2 nd term **	MWS	Covenant
2022	Catherine Renken	MWS	Kirkwood
2022	Frank Cleveland	RE	Faith – Canton
2022	Nancy Tatnall/1 st term	RE	FPC – Marietta
2023	Renee Meyer/1 st term	MWS	Westminster
2023	Megan Little/1 st term **	RE	Calhoun
2023	Gayle Sandlin/1 st term **	RE	Kirkwood
2023	Billie Sutter/2 nd term (Co-Moderator) **	RE/CCE	Heritage/Acworth

Committee on Representation and Nominations – Manual Definition = 6 members			
Class	Name	RE/MWS	Church
2021	Jennifer Lee/2 nd term	MWS	At-large
2021	John Spangler/2 nd term (Moderator)	MWS	HR
2022	Todd Johnson/2 nd term	RE	Cohutta
2022	Erma Jones/1 st term	RE	John Knox
2022	Paulo Mendes/2 nd term	MWS	Brazilian C.C.
2023			
2023			
2023			

Building Leaders Team – Manual Definition = 6 members			
Class	Name	RE/MWS	Church
2022	Elizabeth Milford/2 nd term (Co-Moderator)	MWS	Heritage
2022	Chris Moore-Keish/2 nd term (Co-Moderator)	MWS	Presby. Village, Austell
2022	Rex(ford) Gyekye/1 st term	RE	Ebenezer Ghanaian
2023	Leigh Jones/1 st term	MWS	FPC-Cartersville
2023			
2023			

Congregational Health Team - Manual Definition = 6 members			
Class	Name	MWS/RE	Church
2022	Bill Byars/2 nd term	RE	Westminster
2022	Pete Paulsen/2 nd term (Co-Moderator)**	MWS	HR/RCA
2021	LaVert Jones/2 nd term (Co-Moderator)	RE	John Knox
2021	Beth Gaines/2 nd term	RE	FPC/Cartersville
2023	David Jordan/2 nd term	MWS	Grace
2023			

Ministry Support Team – Manual Definition = 6 members

Class	Name	MWS/RE	Church
2022	Honey Hite Burfield/2 nd term	RE	Trinity
2023	Paul Sherwood/1 st term (Moderator)	MWS	FPC-Marietta
2023	Cassie Waites/1 st term	MWS	FPC-Marietta
2023	Susan Haynes/1 st term	MWS	Faith-Blue Ridge

Coordinating Team – Manual Definition = 10 members -- composed of the moderators of each of the 5 Ministry Units, past presbytery moderator, present moderator, and 3 at-large members				
Class	Role	Name	RE/MWS	Church
2021	Past C.P. Moderator	Teri Abercrombie (Moderator)	RE	Trinity
2022	Current C.P. Moderator	Jim Simpson	MWS	Covenant
2023	MST	Paul Sherwood <i>or alternate</i>	MWS	Parish Assoc. FPC-Marietta
2022 2021	CHT	Pete Paulsen <i>or alternate</i> LaVert Jones	MWS RE	HR John Knox
2022	BLT	Elizabeth Milford <i>or alternate</i> Chris Moore-Keish	MWS MWS	Heritage Presby. Village, Austell
2021	COR	John Spangler	MWS	HR
2021	MTT	Billie Sutter <i>or alternate</i>	RE/CCE	Heritage
2022	At-Large	Joan Gray/1 st term	MWS	Member-at-large
2022	At-Large	Kwasi Aye-Addo/1 st term	MWS	Ebenezer Ghanaian
2023	At-Large			

Permanent Judicial Commission – Bk of Order & MAO call for 7 members & 6yr terms			
Class	Name	RE/MWS	Church
2022	William White/eligible for 4 more years	RE	Macland
2022	Beth Gaines/eligible for 4 more years	RE	FPC-Cartersville
2027			
2027			
2026	Leigh Jones/not eligible after this term	MWS	FPC-Cartersville
2026	Joan Gray/not eligible after this term	MWS	Member-at-large
2026	Susan Haynes/not eligible after this term	MWS	Faith-Blue Ridge

Moderator 2021 Jim Simpson/MWS/Covenant

Moderator 2022 Catherine Renken /MWS/Kirkwood

Cherokee Presbytery Treasurer 2021/Minette Rutenberg Deacon FPC/Marietta

Synod Commissioners: 2019-2021 Elizabeth L. Milford/MWS/Heritage (alternate in November 2021: Bridgette Waddell/MWS/Chickamauga), and Bill Byars/RE/Westminster

Synod Commissioners Class of 2022-2023: Bill Byars/RE/Westminster

Synod PJC 2019-2024 Robert Smalley RE/FPC-Dalton
Commissioners to the 225th/2022 PC(USA) General Assembly: Paulo
Mendes/MWS/Brazilian Christian Church, Nancy Tatnall, RE/FPC-Marietta & YAAD:

Actual or soon-to-be vacancies in Ministry Units and in special leadership positions

****Pending election at Presbytery meeting of Dec. 9, 2021!**