

Foothills Presbytery Stated Meeting #113
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Foothills Presbytery

2242 Woodruff Road
Simpsonville, SC 29681
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COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK
May 16, 2020 – 10:00 am

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Foothills Presbytery

Caring, Empowering and Celebrating the Churches in Foothills Presbytery

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

MISSION

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

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

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

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

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



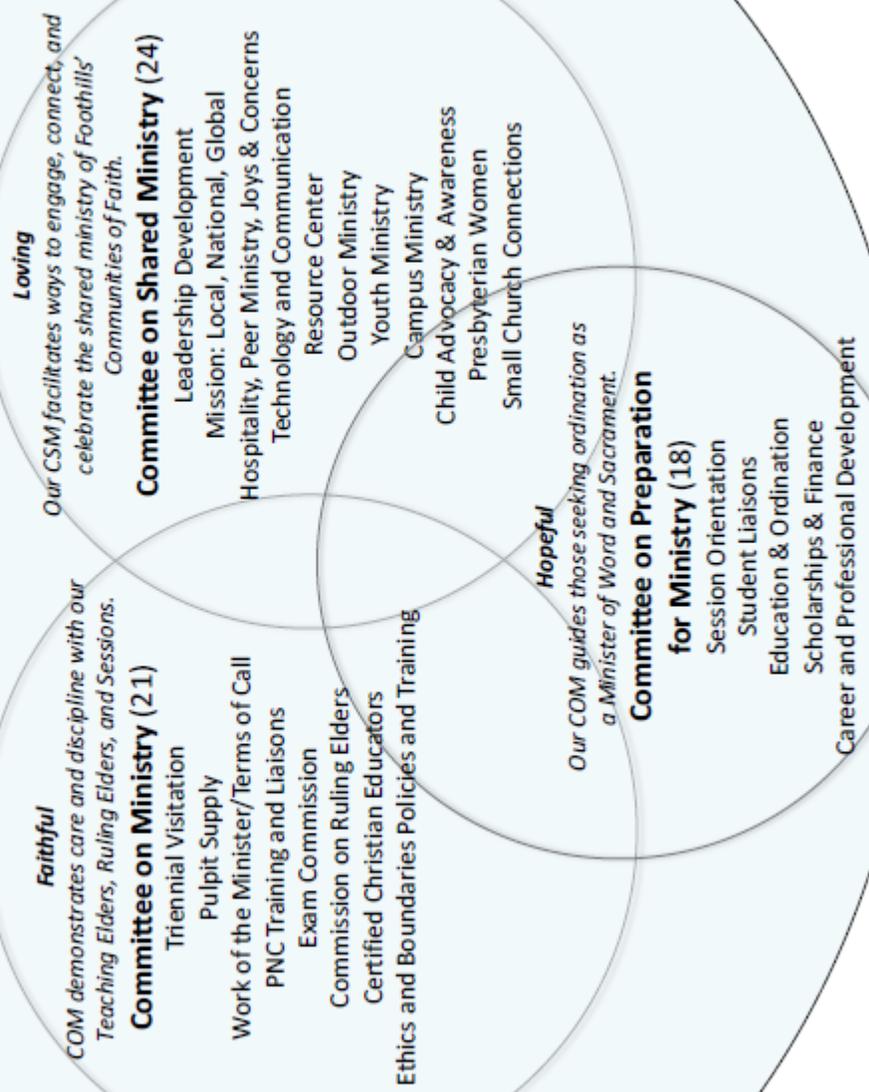
Foothills Presbytery

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

CORDINATING COUNCIL

(Worship, COM, CSM, CPM, Finance, Personnel, Bills & Overtures, Representation & Review, Nominations, REC)

CORE MISSIONAL COMMITTEES



Foothills Presbytery
The 113th Stated Meeting
May 16, 2020
10:00 A.M.
Virtual Meeting

OPENING AND WORSHIP

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer: Sidney Mize 10:00
- II. Welcome and Announcements
- III. Presentation & Approval of the Docket
- IV. Welcoming the New Moderator: Rev. Tom Evans
- V. Worship

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION AND VOTE

- VI. Amending the Manual of Operation: Virtual Meetings
- VII. Additional Administrative Commission Powers for the Coordinating Council

CONSENT AGENDA

VIII. Reports:

Report of the Stated Clerk

Ecclesial & Diaconal Committees

- A. Committee on Ministry*
- B. Examinations Commission*
- C. Committee on Preparation for Ministry*
- D. Committee on Shared Ministry*

Report of the Coordinating Council

- A. Council*
- B. Representation and Review*
- C. Finance and Stewardship*
- D. Racial Ethnic Cabinet*
- E. Bills and Overtures: no report*
- F. Nominations: no report*
- G. Personnel*
- H. Worship: no report*

- IX. New Business
- X. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

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

Next Stated Meeting: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at First Spartanburg

Coordinating Council
Recommendations for Operations
(Second Reading)
May 16, 2020

Having received majority approval via electronic communication to all Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners on April 10, 2020, the Coordinating Council **recommends** the following two items:

1. On amending the Foothills Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations:

Foothills Presbytery may meet by electronic means if all Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, discern the will of God, and vote on business items. While we shall strive for full participation, per the Book of Order (G-3.034) the Quorum for a Virtual Meeting shall be three Teaching Elders and Three Ruling Elder Commissioners from three different congregations.

2. On granting Foothills Presbytery Temporary Administrative Commission Powers:

In light of the current COVID 19 Health Crisis Foothills Presbytery authorizes the Coordinating Council to have the following additional Administrative Commission Powers:

- A. Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, approve Honorable Retirements*
- B. Upon the recommendation of the Examination Commission, approve the Ordination and Installation of Candidates for Ministry, and approve Ordination and/or Installation Commissions*
- C. Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, approve those under care to be approved as Candidates for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.*
- D. Upon the recommendation of the Stated Clerk, approve excused absences for the May 16, 2020 virtual Stated Meeting.*
- E. That this rule be in effect until the November 2020 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.*

Respectfully submitted, Mike Hoyt, Chair of Council

The Report of the Presbytery Leader & Stated Clerk May 16, 2020

The Stated Clerk & Presbytery Leader reports:

1. The Committee on Shared Ministry's decision to send \$5,000 (budgeted funds) to Camp Fellowship, to be used to for the unexpected expenses. Camp Fellowship is graciously hosting the Imani Milele Children's Choir (Uganda), as they shelter in place at the camp during the COVID 19 crisis.
2. Endorsement from the Presbytery's Coordinating Council of the Committee on Shared Ministry's application for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Initial Assistance Grant of \$7,500.
3. In response to the COVID realities mid-March, I reached out to all our Ministers, CRE's, and Clerks, as they took steps to halt all in-person worship. Each conversation was unique. Themes included: plans for alternative ways to worship, Christian Education, pastoral care, developing alternative giving options, self-care, and interpretation of the CARES act. I will continue to keep in touch.
4. The COM developed a plan to reach out to all Pastoral Leaders and offer support and, if needed, connect them with presbytery resources.
5. I am pleased to announce the offer of free coaching sessions for Church Leaders by International Coaching Federation trained coaches, and the formation of Learning Cohorts for Pastors and Church Leaders during the climate and context of COVID 19. Writer, Speaker, and Coach MaryAnn McKibben Dana will facilitate.
6. Coordinating Council approved Foothills Presbytery's Application for Payroll Protection Loan.
7. The Covenant Connection blog focus is on God's wisdom, new learning, prayer, and the hope that arises in the amid challenge.
8. In partnership with the Presbyterian Foundation, we were able to offer a webinar/workshop on Stewardship in Times of Crisis. We are grateful to Olanda Carr and Paul Grier for their continued commitment to the work of Foothills Presbytery. Resources from the webinar can be found on the presbytery website.
9. The General Assembly of the PCUSA announced that we will not gather in Baltimore this year. We will have a condensed virtual meeting. The traditional committee process will not take place this time around, but those who were appointed as committee moderators and vice-moderators will continue to function as the Assembly Committee on Business Referral. COGA has identified a list of business to be considered in this pared-down assembly, based on items identified as "core and critical to our governance and ecclesiology." According to this plan, most business will be referred to the 225th General Assembly (2022).
10. The privilege of serving alongside our presbytery's ministry leaders during this unprecedented time. Your steadfast leadership and creative spirit reflect the love of God in Jesus Christ

The Stated Clerk recommends:

1. Having received requests for an excuse for the May 16, 2020, Stated Meeting of Foothills Presbytery, and having found them in order, moves their approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Foster, Stated Clerk

Committee on Ministry Report May 16, 2020

The Committee on Ministry **reports:**

1. The following Temporary Pastoral Relationships have been approved: Teaching Elder Dan Sansbury to serve as Stated Supply at Limestone (COM voted to allow him to Labor within the Bounds of Foothills Presbytery and refer him to the Examinations Commission to transfer his membership from New Harmony Presbytery).
2. Triennial visits were held with the Inman, Providence, and Nazareth Sessions.
3. The following Moderators were elected: Lud Weaver, Fountain Inn, and Rev. Michael Sullivan (Regular Pulpit Supply) as Temporary Moderator at Nicholtown in consultation with the Stated and Associate Stated Clerks.
4. The following Exit Interview was completed: Jon Van Deventer
5. Heard “the State of the Presbytery Update” from Debbie Foster. COM appointed a committee to work with Debbie on supporting ministers and church leaders in this time of the Covid 19 crisis.
6. Teaching Elder Merwyn Johnson was permitted to Labor Outside the Bounds of Foothills Presbytery in his work with “InChrist Supporting Ministries” in Charlotte Presbytery.
7. Heard updates from Elizabeth Little about Board of Pensions policies and programs.

The Committee on Ministry **recommends:**

1. That Foothills Presbytery approve the status of Honorably Retired for Teaching Elder Tim Holland as of April 1, 2020, and celebrate his retirement at the November 10 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.
2. That Foothills Presbytery approve the status of Honorably Retired for Teaching Elder Frank Strickland as of May 1, 2020, and celebrate his retirement at the November 10, 2020 Stated Meeting of Foothills Presbytery.

Respectfully submitted,
Nath Briley, Chair

Members: Nath Briley, Chair; Gordon Turnbull, Vice Chair, Christi Brown, Tom Hinchman, Julie Schaaf, Beth Templeton, Scott Berry, Ann Broom, Trish Gwinn, Patrick Jinks, Barbara Moran-Faile, Jacky Stamps, Sandy Thrasher, Art Williams, David Bailey, Phil Beckwith, Elizabeth Clayton, Ben Dorr, Mary Morrison, Ted Morlock, Judy Snipes; Ex Officio, Debbie Foster, Gordon Raynal

The Examinations Commission met on Thursday, February 20, 2020 at the Foothills Presbytery office. Those present were Patty Felten, Bill Burns, Scott Berry, Elizabeth Clayton, Mary Morrison, Julie Schaaf, Ann Coleman, Audrey Reese, Debbie Foster, and Gordon Raynal. Elizabeth Clayton opened the meeting with prayer and a quorum was present.

The Commission met with Mary Margaret Fischer and Adam Brian Fischer by video conference to examine them for a call as co-pastors/heads of staff for St. Giles Presbyterian Church of Greenville, South Carolina. Their examination was opened with prayer by Audrey Reese. They were examined together for their calls to ministry and fit. They were examined separately in the areas of Bible, Theology, Sacraments, and Polity. Their examinations were unanimously approved. The meeting was closed with prayer by Adam Fischer.

After the congregation vote they will begin work in June and go before Presbytery at the November meeting. Their installation commission will be approved at a later date.

Their separate and identical terms of call are as follows: Cash Salary \$47,100, Housing Allowance \$18,000, SECA \$4,980.15, Pension \$7,708.82, Medical \$17,520.04, Death/disability \$700.80, FICA \$4,980.15, Reimbursable Professional expenses \$4,900, Cell phone service \$600. 4 weeks paid vacation including 4 Sundays taken concurrently with Co-Pastor, 2 weeks paid continuing education including 2 Sundays can be taken concurrently, a three month Clergy Renewal Leave in the sixth year of service with salary and benefits may be taken concurrently with Co-Pastor, pre-approved moving expenses reimbursed, and annual compensation review.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Clayton, co-chair

Amos Workman, co-chair

Biographical Information

I was born in Ozark, Alabama where my father served as a church musician. My parents moved our family to Bristol, TN, while my brother and I were still young. Our days were idyllic; we played in the horse pastures around our house, worked in the garden, and ate Sunday dinners with extended family. My father's professorship at a small Presbyterian college shaped our family's faith practices, education, and community. We were surrounded by Christians who demonstrated their faith in ordinary and kind ways.

After graduating from Furman University (Greenville, SC), I went to Belfast, Northern Ireland with the Young Adult Volunteer program. Working as a peacemaker on behalf of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) was extraordinarily difficult and life-changing. I returned from Belfast to serve in the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery. Campus ministry and congregational worship reaffirmed a sense of call into ministry. Although I had not planned to attend seminary, when presented admissions forms, the essays practically wrote themselves. Thus, I followed the Spirit's energy and call to Columbia Seminary (Decatur, GA).

I served as Associate Pastor at both First Presbyterian Church (Dunedin, FL) then First Presbyterian Church (Clarksville, TN) before accepting a call to work on the *Glory to God* hymnal project (Louisville, KY). It was my privilege to serve as pastor and educator to the denomination, interpreting the committee's work to Presbyterians across the country. This unique opportunity used a number of my gifts and interests: music, teaching, writing, traveling, the larger church, and more. At its conclusion, however, I was glad to return to congregational ministry in the bounds of the Presbytery of Long Island (Melville, NY). The daily rhythm of parish life is one that I missed. From weekly prayer groups and Bible studies to monthly committee and Session meetings to local Presbytery gatherings, I truly relish my work as pastor.

While living in Louisville, KY, I met and married Rev. Adam Fischer. We have two young children, Huck (3) and Finch (infant). We enjoy adventuring outdoors and to new places, playing tabletop games, and watching binge-worthy shows. We are excited to work together as co-pastors and look forward to immersing our family in that of St. Giles!

Personal Faith Statement

I believe in the Triune God: Almighty God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Creator God. The world was formed by and subjected to this God. Each individual is created by and invited into relationship with God.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, Immanuel – “God with us” – who became fully human. Jesus became incarnate out of the Triune God’s love for creation. He lived and died in order that all of creation might be redeemed from sin’s death and destruction.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. This Spirit is the continuous breath of God, flowing through the world as a sustainer, inspirer, protector, unifier, and nurturer.

I believe that while creation was formed from and in God’s goodness, sin now disrupts God’s goodness. All of creation suffers from sin and death. Sin is our state of being, not just something we do.

I believe in God’s overwhelming grace. We experience this grace in God’s forgiveness, the gift of new life, glimpses of peace, and opportunities for service and discipleship.

I believe that our role as Christians is to bring God’s grace and peace to earth. We must work to further the kingdom of God in realistic and tangible ways every day, with friend and stranger.

I believe that the Triune God has spoken through peoples of every generation, revealing God’s self in writings and Holy Scriptures. These words, images, ideas, and individuals are meant to inspire, guide, and challenge our daily lives.

I believe that God calls creation into community with one another and with God’s Triune self. Community models the dance between each of the three persons of God; their different gifts and tasks are complimentary of one another. Community reminds members of God’s love and promises, and holds one another accountable within those sacred boundaries.

I believe that, while we are called to be at work in the world today, we are also called to keep our eyes fixed heavenward, waiting for God’s return to earth. Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Rev. Adam B. Fischer
Biography and Call to Ministry

I was born and raised in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, grew up in the Pacific Northwest, the middle of three sons, romping and roaming through the wild mountains, lakes, and forests. My favorite place to be was my grandparent's lake home where they maintained a more than 100-acre wildlife sanctuary on their property. I learned to admire God's creation and live as harmoniously with it as possible.

I have attended a Presbyterian Church since I was born and have always identified as a Christian. However, it wasn't until I was on a mission trip during my junior year at Albertson College that I began to feel a call to the ministry. In the streets of Tijuana, I awakened to the reality of inequality and injustice present in the world: it was clear that God's kingdom was not fully present and that there were many people seeking to build the Kingdom of God. Returning from that trip, I sought to embody Christ's call to serve the least and I began to see the face of Christ reflected in strangers, neighbors, friends, and foes. I was well supported and nurtured by a spiritual director, campus minister, and pastoral mentor who helped me recognize and understand my call to ministry.

I went to Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary feeling strongly called and completely out of my league because I graduated college with honors in psychology having only taken a single religion class. I quickly discovered seminary nurtured my gifts and honed my skills. I volunteered and lived in Cape Town, South Africa for four months where I learned about forgiveness, reconciliation, and resurrection through the people's stories and the wisdom of Linda Biehl and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I was a Theological Advisory Delegate to 217th General Assembly in Birmingham. I was a candidate under care of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest. After graduating with an M.Div., I continued my education and earned a Master of Theology with a focus on environmental ethics and eco-theology. Throughout all of these experiences, I learned to listen and speak to people with different Biblical interpretations, theological perspectives, cultural backgrounds and practices, and life journeys. I continue to grow in understanding that the Body of Christ is one body with many members.

I have worked for the church in many ways. While earning my Th.M, I worked with the Presbyterian Hunger Program. I created the "Just Living" series to help people of faith embody the scriptures through practical living. I have written for Presbyterians Today, creating the 2012 Advent Calendar devotional, "Simple Gifts." I have worked with the Montreat Youth Conference leadership teams as a small group manual writer, small group trainer, and conference leader. I have served as a pastor in ordained ministry for more than a decade.

While living in Louisville and serving at Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church, I met the Rev. Mary Margaret Flannagan. We married in 2015 and dreamed of one day working together in ministry. We moved to Long Island, New York where we have been serving two churches in transition. During this time we have grown our family and welcomed two boys, Huck and Finch who remind us to see the world with wonder. I attended interim ministry training to bolster my skills as a transitional pastor. With the help of the Presbyterian Foundation, I shepherded First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin through Project Regeneration to nurture church growth and renewal. I helped the church discover their identity by having intentional conversations and developing a mission statement to articulate God's call. I chair the Salt and Light Committee, the Presbytery of Long Island's mission committee; we strive to empower and lead the presbytery to put their faith in action.

My life has been filled with many adventures and experiences. The Spirit has led me around the world to learn about the depth and breadth of God's mercy and love. I am excited to continue to grow as a pastor and partner with the church to share the Light of Christ with the world.

Rev. Adam B. Fischer

Faith Statement

I believe there is a cost to proclaiming Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; it is to live sacrificially. I believe that people are saved by God's grace, and our response to the gift of grace is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God in defiance of evil, greed, and temptations of power. I believe that sin is real and present in the world. Christ died as a sacrifice of love to free the world from the clutches of sin. In Christ's resurrection, we are all called to die to the life-draining ways of the empire and live as forgiven and forgiving disciples; we are called to share this good news with all.

I believe deeply in grace. We have all done wrong and fallen short of God's call in our lives. Christ is in the only position to condemn, yet it is Christ who sets us free. Therefore our task is to model and share this love with others through how we live. I don't believe we have the luxury of holding grudges or bearing a witness that would further separate ourselves or others from God's abounding love. The grace of God has set me free, so I strive not to imprison others.

I believe that the Spirit is the source of Wisdom and speaks to us still. The Spirit calls us to right action and stirs our hearts in the face of injustice. The Spirit allows us to hear the voice of God in the Bible and compels us to action so that we can be the church, Christ's hands and feet, to the world.

I believe that we encounter our living God in the sacraments. Ordinary elements of water, bread, and wine connect us with God as a part of a sacred ritual. We are sealed and claimed as God's own, reminded of God's grace and love poured out in living waters and overflowing cups. In the sacraments, we are woven afresh into the tapestry of the church where we are all one in Christ.

I believe in continually listening to where God is still speaking through prayer, meditation, and discernment. By studying the scriptures with others, we continue to discern God's will. The confessions enhance our understanding and guide the church further toward right action.

Christ's outreach to the poor, the downtrodden, the rejected, the oppressed, and those who do not have a voice, still serves as a prophetic witness to the entire church. I believe that the actions we take on a day-to-day basis reflect our commitment to God, testifying to our love for God and God's ability to work in and through us.

Christ has reconciled the world to God and God is working in our hearts to help us live as reconciled people, choosing love over hate, mercy over vengeance, generosity over greed, and to continually seek forgiveness. I am delighted to be a child of God and to share God's love with the world around me.

CPM REPORT TO PRESBYTERY

May, 2020

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reports that:

1. On January 23, 2020, we:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Reviewed list of pending/"ready to launch" students
 - c. Received and discussed report on conversation with online education program of Dubuque Seminary.

2. On February 27, 2020, we:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Met with Rev. Tim Cargal, Assistant Stated Clerk of the Office of General Assembly about trends impacting the PCUSA ordination process. Tim emphasized the difference in ordained ministry from many other vocations—DISCERNMENT and PREPARATION are part of this process; it is not just about the credentials.
 - c. Met with Mary Moore Driggers and approved her as inquirer and her CPE.

3. On March 26, 2020, we met by ZOOM video conferencing:
 - a. Received reports and updates on students under care of CPM.
 - b. Met with Candidate Whitney Moss and approved her Final Assessment with prayer and thanksgiving.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Dr. Dennis Tedder, CPM Chair

Current Members of the Foothills CPM

RE = Ruling Elder TE = Teaching Elder

<i>Class of 2020</i>	<i>Class of 2021</i>	<i>Class of 2022</i>
TE Jennifer Fouse Sheorn*	RE Jennifer Biber*	RE John Byce
TE Dottie Metropol	RE Ed Irick	TE Leslie Lang*
RE Cherie Setzler	RE Judy Pearson*	TE Will Nickles*
RE Mary Strom	TE Terri Price*	TE Allen McSween*
RE Fred Tolly*	TE Stan Reid*	TE Dennis Tedder*
RE David Weneck		TE David Howell
TE Amos Workman*		

*LeAnne White, Staff and Debbie Foster, ex-officio; * denotes 2nd Term;*

List of Students Currently Under Care of Foothills CPM

Candidates (5)

<u>Date of Cand.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Educational Status</u>	<u>Liaison to CPM</u>
08.27.15	Ginger Shuler*	1 st Spartanburg	2017 Grad of Union Pres - Chlt	Judy Pearson
08.17.13	Landon Hammett	1 st Spartanburg	2017 Grad of Union Pres - Chlt	Dottie Metropol
01.28.16	Whitney Moss*	1 st Greer	4/2020 Grad of Union - Chlt	Fred Tolly

(Signifies "Certified Ready" for a call)*

Inquirers (4)

<u>Date of Inquiry</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Educational Status</u>	<u>Liaison to CPM</u>
02.23.15	Glenda Wickstrom	John Knox	Columbia Sem. (4 th Yr 17-18)	
12.15.16	John DuBose	Easley	Union - Chlt (4th Yr 19-20)	Allen McSween
03.23.17	Martin Pruitt	1 st Anderson	2018 Grad of Union - Chlt	Jennifer Biber
02.27.20	Mary Moore Driggers	1 st Greer	Union – Rchmd (1 st Yr 19-20)	Leslie Lang

Pre-Inquirers (4)

Sarah Cornell (Fair Play) Currently CRE at Belton - Dubuque

Lindsey Odom (Easley) - Union Charlotte

Ashley Brown (Westminster) – Columbia Seminary

Eddie Hall (Covenant) – In the application process

Committee on Shared Ministry
May 16, 2020

2020	2021	2022
Pressley Cox 2 (C)	Beth Burris 1	Craig Foster 2
Jane Frost 2	Mary Kathleen Duncan 1	Peggy Hayes 1
Ralph May 2	David Ellenburg 1	Aaron Ochart 2
Pat Shufeldt 2	Joseph Gaston 1	Jackie Putnam 1
Ken Schafer 2	Jessica Meggs 1	Noelle Read 1
Debbie Foster (Ex-Officio)	Audrey Reese 1	Natalie Schwartz 1
	Cassie Wolfe 2	Peggy Swann 1

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

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

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

The Committee on Shared Ministry met on Tuesday, March 21 via Zoom. The committee reports the following:

After a prayer from Craig Foster, the CSM committee spent some time discussing the Covid-19 pandemic and checking in with those present.

- Debbie distributed a document about celebrating the Lord's Supper while worshiping online.
- One licensing is offering free licensing necessary to stream music as part of online worship
- The communications manager at Fourth Presbyterian has emailed some links for information
- Gratitude was expressed for the ability to stay connected during this time
- Debbie has been in touch with 53 of the 58 churches in the Presbytery
- Presbytery's recommendation is that congregations do not meet for in-person worship
- Presbytery has cancelled all in-person meetings

Leadership Development

The College and Vocation Discernment Team is exploring other grant options for the Intern Program for 2021. The team needs to recruit more members.

The John Roberto (Vital Faith) SC5 Leader of Leaders Event has been postponed.

The team is exploring offering workshops and training events for educators, pastors, and volunteers.

There will be an SC Minister/Educator Retreat October 26-28 in Montreat.

The 50th anniversary of APCE is in 2021. We are hoping to find creative ways to celebrate our educators in Foothills. CSM would love to see a large contingency from Foothills at the Annual Event in Chicago.

Mission Outreach

In response to a proposal from Westminster Presbyterian Church (Greenville), Greenville area congregations were contacted about partnering to build a Habitat home in the spring of 2020. At the present time, nine congregations have expressed interest in partnering to provide both finances and volunteers to enable a build. There is not enough financial backing for construction of a home. Instead, the congregations are hoping to assist with the renovations of two homes.

Rick Turner, former PDA Associate, suggested creating a PDA Program in Foothills that works with Presbyterian Women to become trainers. Recommendation made by Debbie Foster that Presbyterian Women subcommittee work with PDA on this; Natalie Schwartz will facilitate.

Hospitality, Peer Ministry, and Joys and Concerns

The Hospitality team continues to explore best practices in welcoming people into Foothills Presbytery in meaningful ways.

The following peer groups are active in our presbytery and supported by the CSM:

- Lake Panera Group – Western Region (Clergy)
- 7% Lunch bunch – Under 40ish pastors
- Women’s Clergy Group
- Large Church Children’s Educators
- Youth Leader Roundtable: First Tuesday of each month
- Church Music Directors/Leaders

Joys and Concerns- For more info contact Mary Kathleen Duncan (Westminster)

Communications

After a successful pilot with church websites in Foothills, Worship Times has let us know that they need 15 congregations in order to continue with \$600 per year rate. There are 21 congregations in Foothills that do not have websites. There are other churches who are in need of an update to their current website. Presbytery website in also need of a reboot.

It was mentioned that communication in this new space and time of unexpected changes in ability to worship and/or meet is an ongoing learning process. Debbie will post links for resources on our website.

Curriculum and Resources

New curriculum and resources have been ordered from Amazon and Westminster John Knox.

Outdoor Ministry

Camp Fellowship is currently housing the Imani Milele Choir. With normal operations suspended, the camp’s Board of Directors met and along with staff made a commitment to shelter, feed, and nurture the group until such time as the immediate crisis ends and the choir is able to travel again. CSM sent \$5000 of the designated Outdoor Ministry budget to assist with providing shelter, food, and other needs.

Youth Ministry

The Senior High Mini Montreat was cancelled due to Covid-19. PYC is considering creative ways to celebrate the 2019-2020 year.

Applications are open for the 2020-2021 PYC.

The next meeting of the Committee on Shared Ministry will be on Tuesday, May 19 at noon. The meeting will be held via Zoom if in person meetings are still restricted at that time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pressley Cox- chair

Foothills Presbytery Coordinating Council Report

May 16, 2020

- I. The Coordinating Council **reports** the following actions since the February 18, 2020 Stated Meeting of Presbytery:
- A. Approved the request of First Simpsonville to rent their facilities to the Deeper Life Bible Fellowship and for them to use the sanctuary.
 - B. Approved the request of First Simpsonville to allow the Lamb of God Lutheran Fellowship to use the sanctuary.
 - C. Approved the listing of the property of the former Pelzer Presbyterian Church with Berkeshire Hathaway Realtors.
 - D. At its April 7 Stated Meeting approved a three-part proposal to recommend to the Sessions of the 58 Congregations of Foothills Presbytery, and in this time of the COVID 19 crisis for these proposals to represent a first reading regarding changing the Foothills Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations:
 - 1. *Foothills Presbytery may meet by electronic means if all Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elder Commissioners have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss, deliberate, discern the will of God, and vote on business items. While we shall strive for full participation, per the Book of Order (G-3.034) the Quorum for a Virtual Meeting shall be three Teaching Elders and Three Ruling Elder Commissioners from three different congregations.*
 - 2. *Pending the approval of the above to hold the May 16, 2020 Stated Meeting of Presbytery via electronic means.*
 - 3. *In light of the current COVID 19 Health Crisis Foothills Presbytery authorizes the Coordinating Council to have the following additional Administrative Commission Powers:*
 - Upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, approve Honorable Retirements*
 - Upon the recommendation of the Examination Commission, approve the Ordination and Installation of Candidates for Ministry, and approve Ordination and/or Installation Commissions*
 - Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, approve those under care to be approved as Candidates for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.*

Upon the recommendation of the Stated Clerk, approve excused absences for the May 16, 2020 virtual Stated Meeting.

That this rule be in effect until the November 2020 Stated Meeting of Presbytery.

(See Docket items IV and V for the recommendations for a Second Reading and Approval of the above.)

- E. Heard the reports and communications from the Committees and Commissions of Presbytery and from Presbytery staff, and reviewed and approved the Proposed Docket for the May 16, 2020 Stated Meeting of Foothills Presbytery (#113). The Report of the Stated Clerk and all committee reports were placed on the *Consent Agenda*. The only action items will be the consideration of the above-mentioned proposals for change and temporary modification of the Foothills Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations. Also, the Coordinating Council thanks Ruling Elder Sidney Mize (Central Church) for her faithful service as Moderator for the last year. Sidney will pass the gavel to the Moderator-Elect, Teaching Elder Tom Evans (First Spartanburg) as he begins his term of service. In addition, the April 7, 2020 Stated Meeting of the Council was the last for Gordon Raynal who served Foothills for 6 ½ years as Stated Clerk, and now as Associate Stated Clerk. He is scheduled to retire on July 31st, but may stay on additional time until the new Associate Stated Clerk is employed and trained. The Coordinating Council **recommends** adoption of the Docket. The Stated Clerk will present this recommendation as the usual time.

II. The Coordinating Council **reports** the following information:

- A. The Council received a report from the Stated Clerk and an update on the ongoing work of the Transition Think Tank:

Debbie began the report by talking about her and the staff's work during this COVID 19 crisis. At the outset she was in touch with all the pastors. All congregations have closed down in-person worship. She expressed thanks to all the leaders for their faithful work amidst the crisis. On the Presbytery level we have canceled all in-person meetings and have shifted to Zoom meetings. The Presbytery Office is open in shifts for Presbytery Staff alone. Leanne is there on Monday and Wednesdays. Debbie is there on Tuesday and Thursdays. Warren works 2nd shift Monday, Wednesday and when needed, on Fridays. Gordon works from home.

Future Church Update:

Debbie continues her conversations with Olanda Carr (Presbyterian Foundation) regarding the Legacy Project. Focus has shifted to the immediate circumstances. Olanda and Paul Grier are scheduled to do a Zoom Webinar on stewardship on

April 16th. Work in terms of Faithful Innovation has shifted to work on learning cohorts focused around adapting to the circumstances of the crisis.

Various Council members described their adaptive work in terms of worship and congregational life during this crisis. Tom Evans noted an increase in worship attendance. Others concurred with this observation. Other conversation centered around youth work and focus on worship at home for those who don't utilize the internet.

- B. Council received the following Communications from the Stated Clerk, the Associate Stated Clerk and the Treasurer:
 1. Gordon reported about the ongoing work on the other parts of the Manual of Administrative Operations: Sexual Misconduct policy draft being worked on; Personnel Manual at the attorney for review; Finance & Stewardship: the Investment Committee part is complete and approved by Presbytery at the February 2020 Stated Meeting; the pieces on usual office practices and best practices for our congregations is in development.
 2. Debbie reported that some of the members of the Scholarship Working Group met via Zoom to review the work completed by the previous group appointed by Discernment Task Force, and reviewed the areas for the work ahead. Another meeting has been scheduled to begin to work on the policies, procedures and forms necessary to put the new program for scholarships for Candidates, and those seeking to become CRE's and CCE's in place.
 3. Debbie and Gordon reported that the Search Committees for the Associate Stated Clerk and the Associate for Mission and Ministry were continuing to meet by Zoom and that both were interviewing or preparing to interview candidates for the positions.
 4. Gordon reported that the 2020 SC5 Convocation had been canceled due to the COVID 19 crisis. The hope is that it will be rescheduled for next year.
 5. Gordon shared the thank you letter from the pastor and Session of Tyger River.
 6. There was no "Circle Up" update at this time.
 7. There was no report regarding GA Connections at this time.
 8. Debbie reported about the great support and work of our Synod Stated Clerk and Executive, Joyce Lieberman.
 9. There was no report regarding Regional Connections at this time.
 10. Stan reported on the good work of the Investment Committee. Like all we have lost money in the falling Stock Market (down approximately \$159,000), but that

over the last year we have earned approximately \$66,000. Presbytery continues to have a strong “cash on hand” position.

11. Gordon reported regarding the West Georgia Road and Pelzer properties. The house at West Georgia Road was vandalized. The police were notified and are investigating. The house mover still wants the house and will hopefully move it in the months to come. After that, we will get the property cleaned up. Gordon reported that the attorney and small group of citizens in Pelzer continue to complain about the closure of the church. They offered \$35,000 for the property, which we ignored. Debbie emphasized the need to care for the community as the current pastor, Aaron Ochart is taking a new call this summer. The Pelzer property is listed.
12. CARES Act: Debbie, Dennis Latham and Stan presented information on the CARES Act passed by the U.S. government. The F&S Committee will seek to be a resource to our congregations seeks these government loans. Council approved Presbytery seeking one of these loans. Debbie and Warren are working on the paperwork.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Hoyt, Chair

Members: Mike Hoyt, Chair; Sidney Mize, Moderator of Presbytery; Tom Evans, Moderator-in-Nomination of Presbytery and Chair of Personnel, Holt Andrews (Worship), Nath Briley (COM), Dick Christopher (Nominations), Pressley Cox (CSM), Elizabeth Jones (R&R), Bill Lancaster (B&O), Dennis Latham (F&S), Michael Sullivan (REC), Ex Officio: Debbie Foster, Presbytery Leader & Stated Clerk; Gordon Raynal, Associate Stated Clerk; Stan Reid, Treasurer; De Calvert, Parliamentarian.

Representation and Review Committee Report
May 16, 2020

Due to the current restrictions necessitated by the Covid-19 crisis, the annual reading of minutes in Foothills Presbytery has been postponed.

Considering it is unlikely the reviews can be held this spring, the committee is tentatively planning to hold the readings in the fall. This would enable us to stay within the BOO guidelines of reviewing minutes within the calendar year and hopefully allow enough time for the threat from the virus to pass. However, the health and safety of our clerks and others involved in this process is our priority and we will not hold readings until we are confident it is safe to do so. This is a process which does not easily lend itself to the use of technology, but we will consider this option if it becomes necessary.

The readings when held will be at Central in Anderson, First Spartanburg, Pickens Presbyterian, and at the Presbytery office. As always, at least a month's notice will be given and all relative information will be passed on to pastors and clerks. If you are serving as Clerk of Session for your church and are unsure if your name is on the current distribution list, please contact LeAnne White and she will add your contact information.

My committee and I appreciate the faithful work of all those involved in this important work.

We look forward to seeing you and in the meantime, may you be safe and well.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elizabeth Anne Morris Jones
Representation and Review, Chair

Committee members: Rev. Tandy Taylor, Rev. Michael Sullivan, Mr. Harold Gilbert, Mr. Fred Hyslop, Rev. Morton White

Racial Ethnic Cabinet – Unity Choir Rehearsal/Meeting

Date: Sunday, Feb 19 2020, @3:10pm – Walker’s Chapel Presbyterian Church

Churches in Attendance: Walker’s Chapel (8), Nicholtown (4), Westminster Saxon (1)

Meeting Notes (prepared by Elder Bonita Chester):

Opening Prayer: Rev. Sullivan

- Elder Herman Glenn gave an overview of the choir’s purpose and vision of the choir being a permanent fixture, being utilized more in the community. Elder Belton Lane reminded us that this Racial Ethnic Cabinet choir can be used to sing at the Presbytery events and get involved in Presbytery meetings. Mrs. Sullivan inquired if SC had a mass choir, and that we should give some thought to creating one.
- “Order My Steps” -Rev. Sullivan suggested there should be soloist(s) for the verses and the choir should sing the chorus. Tabled for next practice. Rev. Sullivan also suggested “On Time God” & “Glory, Glory” be sang as a melody.
- Copies of songs that were sang (those not in Hymnal) will be provided at each practice
- Suggestion made that during practices we group ourselves according to our voice range (soprano, alto, tenor, etc.)
- Discussion of Unity Day and tentatively getting Rev. Nelson to attend, and possible venue (Tyger River, East Minister); Unity Day is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd or 3rd Saturday in May.
- Elder Herman Glenn talked about his on-going efforts in getting connected with drummers at Mattoon and Bethesda and inquired about Nicholtown’s piano players
- Discussion on next practices: **All in attendance agreed to keep practices at Walker’s Chapel for the first community event (Unity Day), and then rotate practices to another church for the next event.**
- **Next Practice: Sunday, March 30th @ 3pm at Walker’s Chapel.** Westminster will have their 5th Sunday dinner, but will be in attendance.
- Elder Belton Lane communicated membership needs of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus Upstate Chapter, for at least 2 members from each church if possible. Please have membership applications in before the end of March. NBPC convention in Jacksonville, FL in July. Elder Belton stated he would get hotel information to the churches.
- Rev. Sullivan provided information on working with the US Census
- Rev. Sullivan requested that the meeting minutes be sent to him and he will forward to the member churches so that copies can be made for everyone.

Choir practiced the following songs:

* Total Praise

*On the Battlefield for My Lord – pg.480

* He’s An On Time God

*Glory, Glory Hallelujah – pg.500

Meeting/rehearsal ended at 4:10pm, and was closed in prayer by Elder Herman Glenn, Choir Director