

**THE PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA  
STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

**William A. (Bert) Sigmon, Stated Clerk  
October 21-22, 2011**

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

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| OM | 1. | <b>THAT James Aydelotte, Bert Sigmon, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the January 28, 2012 Presbytery meeting.</b>   |
| OM | 2. | <b>THAT the minutes of the July 26, 2011 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted. <i>(The full set, including appendices, of these minutes is available for review at the Stated Clerk's table.)</i></b>          |
| OM | 3. | <b>THAT the October 21-22, 2011 Report of the Administrative Commission for the Iglesia Presbiteriana Emanuel Fellowship be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1)</b>   |
| OM | 4. | <b>THAT the October 21-22, 2011 Report of the Administrative Commission for the New Vision, Conover New Church Development be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 2)</b> |
| OM | 5. | <b>THAT the October 21-22, 2011 Report of the Administrative Commission for the West Asheville Presbyterian Church be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 3)</b>         |
| OM | 6. | <b>THAT the October 21-22, 2011 Report of the Administrative Commission for the Cullowhee Presbyterian Church be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 3)</b>              |
| OM | 7. | <b>THAT the minutes of the ordination/installation of the following be placed into the record of Presbytery:</b>  |

**Esta Jarrett  
Melissa Upchurch**

**FOR INFORMATION:**

- 8. The ninety-first stated meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the First Presbyterian Church in Belmont, North Carolina.**
  
- 9. THAT the 2010 Minutes of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina were reviewed by Stated Clerks of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic in Boone, NC on June 18, 2011. The minutes were read to insure complete and accurate records of those meetings. The 2010 minutes of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina were approved as submitted.**

# **STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1**

## **Report to Presbytery of Western North Carolina Steering Team for Iglesia Emanuel August 28, 2011**

The Steering Team met on August 28, 2011 at the church.

Over the past months, the congregation and the Pastor have been having an extremely constructive dialogue about what their future could look like. They are discussing joining with another congregation to help build a “mosaic congregation.” This would bring together their gifts and strengths with an established church, meeting their needs for nurture for their children and youth.

For the first part of the meeting, we met with a significant part of the congregation. They expressed their appreciation for all the Emanuel had meant to them and the ministry that it had; they shared their fears of changes that might come in any future; and yet they affirmed they realized that a mosaic congregation was a healthier future for them. There were a couple of members not in attendance. Gary shared that two of them are opposed to any changes, and one significant leader was having some tension with others.

In the next part of the meeting, the Steering Team met with Gary VanBrocklin, their pastor. We affirmed the work that Gary has done in this congregation. They are healthier and more energized than any time in the recent future, much to be owed to his leadership. And he feels that this is just the time to help these changes alone. He also agreed to negotiate a contract to continue through the transition time, on a reduced schedule. The chair and associate presbyter will negotiate this at a later time, however he felt that this assurance would ease some of the fears of the people.

We reviewed the reason for this transition. Some of it is the simple financial and facilities question. The building, owned by the Presbytery, is old and will continue to need upkeep that the congregation cannot afford alone. Although the location is central to the current membership, it is not in a conducive location for outreach. There has been a continuing need for a children’s and youth ministry that is more reflection of the Anglo world they live in. We also acknowledged the challenge of finding trained pastoral leadership for this congregation.

But beyond even that, there is the theological question of the greater unity of the church of Jesus Christ. Can we make a more powerful statement to the world as a “mosaic congregation” than as two separate congregations?

Some research into the successful Hispanic NCD’s have shown that most are “nested” in some form or the other in another congregation, and that most of the failures have been the independent ones. There are a variety of models, from two congregations using one building, to one service with translation and a unified and representative Session. The Presbytery of Atlanta seems to have been successful in bringing together Anglo and Latino congregations.

The Steering Team and the congregation know there is a lot more to do if this vision will become a reality. We will begin a dialogue with two neighboring congregations who have been open to the idea. We covet your prayers as this brave people continue to move out in faith and trust.

Grace and peace,  
Frank Aichinger, Chair

# STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

## Report to Presbytery of Western North Carolina New Vision Presbyterian Church September 2011

It was a good summer at New Vision. We have had a slow but continual growth of new people coming, and becoming part of the ministry. We had a Covenant Class in August, and there were six new covenant members, and we have about a dozen more who probably will be taking the class in October.

We had a great Vacation Bible School, with a consistent forty-five kids and almost forty youth and adults who helped out. A dozen were under five years old. There were between ten and twenty adults in the Adult Café each week. We had a new playground up for VBS.

We have begun a new outreach ministry of LifeTree Café. Part of the commitment was to create a welcoming café space in our fellowship hall. We repainted and put in four person café tables, as well as a flat screen TV and sound system. We launched the LifeTree Café the second week in August. We have had over twenty people every week as we consider the issues of life and faith. LifeTree Café helps people to learn to think theologically and not dogmatically about issues we face in our everyday life.

With the departure of Mark Watson, Greg Smith (First, Hickory) was nominated and approved as chair of the Steering Team. We also added Ryan Brakemyer from Northminister in Hickory.

We are in dialogue with Iglesia Emanuel about what their future might look like, and the possibility of creating a “mosaic congregation.”

We continue to struggle with finances. Many of our members are struggling on their own finances, and give as faithfully as is possible.

Other happenings at New Vision:

- Two of our members have applied for the School of the Laity program.
- One of our new covenant members is a college student at Montreat College who is interested in becoming an Inquirer.
- We have opened our building for an ecumenical men’s Bible Study on Monday nights.
- The Pumpkins will arrive on Sunday, October 2. We feel this is as much an outreach as fund raiser.
- We will begin our fourth year providing weekend food for Shuford Elementary School. In August, New Vision Church was recognized by the Newton-Conover School Board for their contribution to the school system. We received a grant from the Nickel a Meal program that helped us end last year in the black.
- In August, the Pastors attended the PCUSA NCD Conference in St. Petersburg Beach, FL. This was a time to make contacts with the national staff as well as get ideas of how other Presbyterian NCDs are working.

Submitted,

Dr. Frank Aichinger  
Co-Organizing Pastor

# **STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 3**

## **Report from the West Asheville Commission for the Presbytery Meeting October 21-22, 2011**

The Administrative Commission working in partnership with West Asheville Presbyterian Church is playing a supportive role as the new stated supply and Session work on their ongoing ministry focus and viability. The Commission's activity will increase toward the end of the year as we anticipate another joint meeting with the Session.

Mark Ramsey, Moderator for the Commission

## **Administrative Commission Cullowhee October 2011**

The Administrative Commission appointed by Committee on Ministry to walk along side the session of the Cullowhee Presbyterian Church is pleased that Margie Boyd has been called as Designated Pastor to the church. The commission and session worked hard the last month to prepare for her coming and will continue to work together to support Cullowhee's new pastor as she begins the work of building a ministry to students at Western Carolina University and to the church in Cullowhee. Gratitude goes to the members of the commission: Ed Brenegar, Judy Covin, Susan Denne, Dick Graham, and Anne Morgan.

Submitted by Terry L. Hanna