

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

**William A. (Bert) Sigmon, Stated Clerk
October 26, 2013**

The Stated Clerk presents the following:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- CA 1. THAT Don Scofield, Bert Sigmon, and Robbin Buchanan be requested to prepare the minutes of this Presbytery meeting for approval at the January 25, 2014 Presbytery meeting.**
- CA 2. THAT the minutes of the July 30, 2013 Stated Meeting of Presbytery be approved as submitted. *(The full set of these minutes, including appendices, is available for review at the Stated Clerk's table.)***
- 3. THAT the Cullowhee Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission places the following recommendations before the Presbytery of Western North Carolina. Additional information related to the recommendations from the Commission can be found in their in the written report from the Administrative Commission. (Stated Clerk Attachment 1)**
- A. The Church**
1. That the Cullowhee Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective November 24, 2013.
 2. That the Administrative Commission work with the Session for a worship service to honor the long and distinguished ministry of the Cullowhee Presbyterian Church.
 3. That the Stated Clerk arrange to transfer the remaining members to a church of their choice, or that a letter of membership be filed in the Presbytery office.
 4. That the Session be thanked for their service.
 5. That the Rev. Margie Boyd be thanked for her service.
- B. Campus Ministry**
1. That the Cullowhee Administrative Commission be authorized to continue its work to support and promote campus ministry while discerning the future of ministry in Cullowhee. Recommendations will be made to Presbytery.
 2. That the administrative commission be authorized to utilize church property to continue the current campus ministry.
- 4. THAT the Administrative Board of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approve the authorization of the First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville Administrative Commission to have the authority to exercise any and all functions**

entrusted to Administrative Commissions pursuant to G-3.-0109b of the *Book of Order*, except the imposition of original jurisdiction without further authorization of the Administrative Board.

- CA 5. THAT the following persons be appointed to serve as additional members on the First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville's Administrative Commission:**

Mr. Jim Henderson
Rev. Dr. Don Scofield

THAT Mr. Bob Forsythe and Rev. Dr. Cam Murchison be appointed to serve as co-chairs of the First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville Administrative Commission and that Mr. Bob Forsythe serve as the acting chair during the absence of Rev. Cam Murchison due to illness.

THAT the commission will now be composed of the following members:

Mr. Bob Forsythe, Co-Chair (Acting Chair), Rev. Cam Murchison, Co-Chair, Rev. Anne Morgan, Rev. Dr. Allen Smith, Rev. Dr. Don Scofield, Ms. Jane Vann, Mr. Jim Henderson.

The responsibilities of the commission will continue as:

1. Shepherding the First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville Session and Congregation considering a request to Presbytery to be dismissed.
2. Negotiating the "legal agreement" detailed in section IV.D.
3. Recommending "a decision to Presbytery" as detailed in section IV.E.3.

- CA 6. THAT the Administrative Board of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina approved the authorization of the First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville Administrative Commission to serve communion to the members of the continuing First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville in the context of worship services for this congregation.**

- CA 7. THAT the following person be appointed to serve as replacement on the Administrative Commission for the West Asheville Presbyterian Church:**

Rev. David Stover

The Commission will now be composed of the following members:

Ms. Dot Descieux, Mr. Bill Kantonen, Rev. Maggie Lauterer, Rev. Dr. Mark Stanley, Rev. David Stover, and Rev. Mark Ramsey.

The responsibilities of the commission will continue as approved at the January 29, 2011 Presbytery meeting.

- "To inquire into and settle the difficulties" (BO:G-9.0503 a(4))
- "To assume original jurisdiction" (BO: G-11.0103s), and to exercise the "responsibility and power" of the Session (BO: G-10.0102), if needed, and as needed, in the discretion of the Commission. The Commission may, from time to time, delegate any of those responsibilities and powers to the existing Session, and may likewise deny those to the Session from time to time, as it deems necessary.

- To make a report, through the Committee on Ministry, to each meeting of the Presbytery.
- CA 8. **THAT the October 26, 2013 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)**
- CA 9. **THAT the October 26, 2013 report of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Hendersonville be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 3)**
- CA 10. **THAT the October 26, 2013 report of the Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 4)**
- CA 11. **THAT the October 26, 2013 report of the Administrative Commission for Korean Presbyterian Church be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 5)**
- CA 12. **THAT the October 26, 2013 report of the Administrative Commission for the West Asheville Presbyterian Church, Asheville be received and entered into the permanent record of the Presbytery. (Stated Clerk Attachment 5)**

FOR INFORMATION:

13. **The ninety-ninth stated meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2014 hosted by the Columbus Presbyterian Church, Columbus, North Carolina.**
14. **THAT the following dates have been set for 2014 Presbytery Meetings:**
- 2014**
- January 25, 2014 ~ Hosted by the Columbus Presbyterian Church
April 29, 2014 ~ Montreat Conference Center
July 29, 2014 ~ Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church
October 25, 2014 ~ Unity Presbyterian Church

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 1

Report from the Cullowhee Administrative Commission October 26, 2013

At the August 21, 2013, Session made the following recommendation:

The Session along with the Commission recognizes that the life of the Cullowhee Presbyterian Church has been fulfilled, and the recommendation from the Session and the Commission to the COM is that the congregation be dissolved. This motion is being sent to the September 10 Committee on Ministry meeting, and with their endorsement that it will be voted on at the October 26 Presbytery meeting.

This motion passed 6 – 1. The motion was made and seconded by members of Session. Committee on Ministry endorsed the recommendation unanimously on September 10.

It is the Commission's desire to help provide closure for the congregation and craft a legacy that will live in perpetuity. A final worship service will be planned for November 24, and all people will be invited to share in celebrating Cullowhee's legacy. Presbyterian witness and mission are not finished in Cullowhee. The Commission will make recommendations about how resources from the congregation can be given a new purpose for campus ministry.

This difficult decision was made faithfully and prayerfully. Certain realities and boundaries were established: the congregation's capacity for ministry is not growing; a divisiveness exists in the congregation that does not witness reconciliation and joy in Jesus Christ; and in consultation with the Committee on Ministry, the Commission would not recommend that the congregation call another pastor.

This decision has been difficult for the congregation. Dissenting voices have asked that they be allowed to call a part-time pastor in lieu of dissolution. The Commission stands by the decision made with the Session and does not believe that such a plan increases the congregation's capacity for ministry, promote healing, nor point beyond itself to the transforming grace of Jesus Christ.

We trust that this is a faithful response to God's activity in the world, and the Commission feels committed to helping form a new vision for ministry in Cullowhee. Gratitude is owed to the current and past members, elders, and pastors of Cullowhee Presbyterian Church for their long and dedicated service.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Isaacs, Chair
Terry Hanna
John Lindsay
Judy McManus

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 2

Administrative Commission Report

New Vision Church, Conover, NC

October 2013

The summer is a busy time at New Vision. We had an evening Vacation Bible School in July, with 54 kids and about twelve adults in the Adult Café – but also with almost forty people helping out with everything from teaching and guiding the kids, to making dinner and cleaning up, to putting up the bounce house and doing recreation. Then we had a Day Camp for our kids and their friends the week before school started. There were about twenty kids from kindergarten to fifth grade, with five youth helpers and some parents along with our Co-Pastor, Ann Aichinger. We also had two youth attend Youth Triennium and five youth go to Camp Grier.

We continue to build a deeper relationship with Centro Latino as we seek to serve the Latino members of our congregation. As we hopefully get ready for immigration reform, we will have an office for the immigration specialists at New Vision. We also are able to continue our English / Spanish classes.

We have begun our sixth year of providing weekend meals at our local elementary school. So far we have about 75 bags with seven meals each week. We expect that to grow. We have ten volunteers who come out every Thursday morning, and pack the bags – they can do it in twenty minutes and have a great time. We have seen the local support of this grow and grow – and this year started with \$500 from the Shuford PTO as well as having a 50% share of the charity money raised by the Hickory Golf Classic.

We have taken a partner church in Guatemala, Bethel in El Tumbador up in the mountains. We are working on raising money for scholarships for the kids to go to school. This has strong support of our own students, and at VBS they brought in their coins and raised over \$200.

The pumpkins arrive on October 5. We will have them on sale through October 31 – or when they run out. The money from this goes into our scholarship fund that helps our children and youth go to camps and conferences that they could not afford.

Our Co-Pastor, Ann Aichinger, is currently going to class one day a week to get a certificate of Spiritual Direction. She will begin a supervised training with a member of New Vision.

Our biggest struggle continues to be financial. We see faithful giving, but there is not enough to meet the expectations. Our growth in numbers helps this, and is the way that we see becoming financially stable.

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 3

Report of Administrative Commission The First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville, October 1, 2013

The First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville continues in the transitional phase. Those members desiring dismissal to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) continue to worship, witness and serve under the leadership of the current pastoral staff and session at their location in downtown Hendersonville (699 N Grove St).

Those members of the First Presbyterian Church of Hendersonville desiring to remain part of the PCUSA continue to worship, witness and serve with pastoral leadership assistance from the Administrative Commission at an alternate location, currently 121 West Barnwell St. also in downtown Hendersonville. Opportunities for Christian education include church school for both children and adults on Sunday and Bible study during the week. Their mission support includes Black Mountain Home for Children and support of Presbytery's Guatemala Partnership. Their outreach to the community has resulted in an increased number of individuals at worship.

Selection of a licensed appraiser by the Administrative Commission, acting on behalf of Presbytery, has been completed. This selection was done in consultation with the congregation in accordance with the Presbytery "Guidelines for Congregations Considering a Request to Presbytery to be Dismissed." The appraiser has begun work, and a report is expected before early November.

We regret the untimely death, in late September, of the attorney for the group requesting dismissal. The full impact of this is unknown, but at a minimum, some significant orientation time will be required for the new attorney.

A tabulation of all forms of property is being developed by those wishing dismissal. Such a list is necessary to comply with the Presbytery Guidelines which require that "there shall be a legal agreement binding on all parties and addressing all forms of the property...."

The Commission is recommending that two members be added to the Administrative Commission, the Rev. Dr. Don Scofield and Elder Jim Henderson and that Elder Robert Forsythe be appointed Co-Chair of the Commission and Acting Chair due to the illness of Cam Murchison.

Respectfully submitted,

Cam Murchison, Chair
Robert Forsythe, Co-Chair
Allen Smith
Anne Morgan
Jane Vann
Don Scofield
Jim Henderson
Bert Sigmon, ex officio
Bobbi White, ex officio

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 4

Report from the FPC Lincolnton Administrative Commission October 26, 2013

Commission Members: Paula Wallace, Bob Ervin, Rev. Shannon Kershner, Rev. Kevin Frederick, and Jerry Ragan (moderator)

Even though his stay was only five (5) weeks, our bridge interim, Jack Davidson, was able to do significant work with this congregation. With Jack's guidance, the congregation was able to work through and resolve the question as to where it should worship. More importantly, Jack was able to impress upon this congregation the need to get started on the development and implementation of a plan and program for outreach and mission.

The congregation of FPC has made significant strides in the development of its program for outreach and mission *through its own leadership*. They have developed and adopted a new mission statement: Reach, Teach, Feed, and Love. The congregation is attempting to tailor its programs to fulfill the components of its new mission statement. The Leadership Council, with congregational input, has decided that they want the main thrust of the church's mission to address the problem of hunger in Lincoln County. While they are still working on the details of what such a program will look like, they have already engaged in a church garden (to provide fresh vegetables for the soup kitchen of Christian Ministries), have committed to do quarterly Meals for Mission for outside programs to share the needs and goals of their programs with proceeds from such dinners being given as a donation to that program, and they are attempting to determine how to address the nutrition needs of impoverished school children.

Kevin Frederick and Anita Bernhardt are leading the AC's efforts to locate the next interim minister for this church. We are hopeful that this significant need will be filled soon. Whit Malone has been wonderful about fulfilling some recent pastoral care needs for the congregation.

This congregation still has many challenges ahead of it but they appear to be fully committed to surmounting them with both energy and love. These are very exciting times in Lincolnton. Please keep these wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ in your prayers

Jerry Ragan, Moderator

STATED CLERK ATTACHMENT 5

Administrative Commission Report The Korean Presbyterian Church of Asheville October 26, 2013

The Korean Presbyterian Church of Asheville continues to meet faithfully for worship under the leadership of Rev. Hee Yoon Lee. Rev. Lee is an ordained PCA pastor who lives in Charlotte and serves this church on a week to week basis. The congregation had a joint worship celebration with their host, First Presbyterian of Asheville, on World Communion Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,
Administrative Commission for the Korean Presbyterian Church

Administrative Commission Report West Asheville Presbyterian Church October 26, 2013

The commission will be meeting with the Session before the end of the year to determine what would be most helpful over the next year in regard to the congregation's next steps.