



## So What Is Going On?

February 15, 2024



Greetings, Friends!

I would like to extend a big thank you to all of those who were able to attend and participate in Saturday's Presbytery Meeting. It was a wonderful gathering of leaders. I continue to be amazed at the spirit of collegiality within our bounds. It was great to see people laughing together, serving together, eating together, and worshipping

together.

I would especially like to thank the congregation of First, Dalton for their extraordinary hospitality. Everything went so smoothly, and the number of volunteers on hand to ensure that we were greeted, felt at home, and well fed left me feeling very grateful.

Thank you all for your wonderful service to the ministry of our Presbytery. I am grateful for all of you.

Peace,

Andy  
Acting General Presbyter  
864-423-4121  
[gp@cherokeepresbytery.org](mailto:gp@cherokeepresbytery.org)

A reminder – Andy will be out of town and unavailable for calls or emails from Sunday Feb 18-28, 2024. He will return on Thursday February 29, 2024.

### February 10, 2024 Meeting Highlights

Cherokee Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Dalton, on Saturday, February 10, 2024. Commissioners were warmly welcomed by church volunteers to the historic building.

Worship was led by Acting General Presbyter, Andy Casto-Waters, who preached

a sermon titled “Uniforms” on Ephesians 6:10-20. He spoke of his pride in his high school soccer uniform, and reminded the Presbytery that we are not going into battle, but instead proclaiming the message of Christ – the love of Christ. He encouraged the Presbytery to put on the sweatshirt of compassion, the shirt of openness, and the socks of perseverance, and to wear these every day, and to encourage each other to wear them.

Elder Bill Byars, 2023 Moderator, Therese Howell, Stated Clerk, and Andy Casto-Waters, Acting General Presbyter, installed Rev. Joe Evans, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, as Cherokee Presbytery’s 2024 Moderator. Mr. Byars transferred the stole and cross to Rev. Evans, and persons present from First Marietta were recognized and welcomed.

Rev. Leigh Jones (First Presbyterian Church, Cartersville) and Rev. Joe Evans (2024 Moderator) presided over the Lord’s Supper. An offering of \$946 was collected for the Little Free Pantry, a ministry of the church which addresses food insecurity in the community.

The meeting reconvened after a break. Dr. Ken McKenzie, interim pastor of First Dalton, welcomed commissioners, and Elder Kathryn Sellers shared a brief history of the church.

Rev. Catherine Renken, outgoing Moderator of the Coordinating Team, reported on the team’s search for an Acting General Presbytery. She stated the Team met eight times after the October Presbytery meeting, and listed the reasons the Team chose Rev. Andy Casto-Waters as Acting GP. She thanked the Presbytery for the honor and privilege of serving Cherokee Presbytery, and she said it wasn’t a big deal unless there was a staff transition!

The Presbytery elected a General Presbytery Search Committee. Members are: Ruling Elder Bill Byars (Westminster); Rev. David Jordan (Grace); Rev. Zeta Lamberson (HR); Rev. Paulo Mendez (Validated Ministry); Andrea Roche (First Cartersville); Ruling Elder Robert Smalley (First Dalton); Ruling Elder Nancy Tatnall (First Marietta).

Rev. Andy Casto-Waters reported on his first six weeks in Cherokee Presbytery. He lives in Augusta, GA, where his wife serves as pastor of Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church. Andy encouraged the Presbytery to reach out to him – call, text, or email. He can be reached at 864-423-4121; [gp@cherokeepresbytery.org](mailto:gp@cherokeepresbytery.org).

Synod Executive and Stated Clerk Valerie Young brought greetings from the Synod and the other 15 Presbyteries. She reported on upcoming events sponsored by the Synod, and encouraged the Presbytery to visit the Synod’s website, [www.synodofsouthatlantic.org](http://www.synodofsouthatlantic.org), to register for events and stay up to date on the Synod.

The Presbytery heard reports from Stated Clerk, Property Commission, Building Leaders Team, the Commission on Ministry, Committee on Representation, and the Ministry Support Team, who presented the 2024 budget for information. The Presbytery heard from the Healthy Congregations Team about a new program to be offered in the Presbytery, and anyone interested should contact Rev. Steph Crossland (330-801-2520; [revnonna@hotmail.com](mailto:revnonna@hotmail.com)). The Ministry Support Team is providing funding for the program, so that participants will only need to pay \$50.

Moderator Evans led the Presbytery with humor and efficiency, and the meeting was adjourned ahead of schedule. The Dalton church were wonderful hosts, providing snacks, wifi, lunch, and hospitality all day. The next stated meeting of Cherokee Presbytery will be on Saturday, June 8, 2024 and the meeting will be hosted by the Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA.



Clerks of Session for 2024 we need your email. Please send to [sarita@cherokeepresbytery.org](mailto:sarita@cherokeepresbytery.org)

Thank you for your help.



For those who participated or would like to learn more about "The Matthew 25 Summit", we are exploring having a Zoom conversation sometime in March. If you are interested, please let us know. Email [sarita@cherokeepresbytery.org](mailto:sarita@cherokeepresbytery.org)

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