

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY**  
**Saturday, February 27, 2016, 10:00 a.m., First Presbyterian Church**  
**Cedartown, Georgia**

**Roll of Presbytery**

ACTIVE TEACHING ELDERS:

Baker, Arch	P
Beltzner, Denise	P
Bogar, Fritz	P
Braga, Reginaldo	Unex
<i>Bridges, Sam</i>	Ex
<i>Dunn, Tim</i>	Ex
Coile Estes	Ex
Ferguson, Julie	P
Fuller, Julie	Unex
Gonzalez-Gertz, Edwin	P
Grove, David	P
Henderson, Sam	Ex
Hill, Richard	Unex
Hittel, Maryellen	P
Jensen, Julie	P
<i>Jones, Ray</i>	P
Jordan, David	Ex
Josey, Camille	P
Lamberson, Zeta	P
Lee, Jennifer	P
Lund, Greg	P
Martin, John	P
Mendes, Paulo	Ex
Meyer, Cathy	P
Moore, Greg	P
Moore-Keish, Chris	P
Parr, Cyndi	P
<i>Pezini, Jose</i>	Ex
Renken, Catherine	P
Scott, Carol	Ex
Scott, Katie	Unex
Scott, William	P
Simpson, Jim	P
Waddell, Bridget	P
Waddell, Kenneth	P
<i>Yoo, William</i>	P

(36)

RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS:

Corresponding Teaching Elders:

Jack Westlund (Gr. Atlanta)	P
Pete Paulsen(RCA)	P
Nikki MacMillan	P

36+ 53 = 89

*[Excuses not required from Retired]*

*Italics = Laboring in mission field or out of bounds of presbytery (6 + 4)*

Allen, Herschel	
Ballesteros, Tino	
Blackwell, Rebecca	
Brice, Joe	P
Bunkley, Jack	
Carmichael, Bert	
Cooley, Pem	P
Craft, Ed	P
Davis, Archie	
Edwards, Maxine	
Esa, Donald	
Feast, Charles	
Gantz, Robin	
Garrett, Eleana	
Glauner, David	
Gonzalez, Catherine	
Guder, Darrell	
Gunter, Sid	
Hammett, Jenny	
Hunter, Rodney	
Jones, Walter	
Kim, Jin Hoon	
Kimmons, Homer	
Kvam, Roger	P
Looby, Janet	
Martin, Roger	
McAliley, Elizabeth	
McDonald, David	
Neelly, Dick	
Nesbit, Van	
Ottaviano, Dan	
Reggin, Susan	
Rhodes, Jan	
Rogers, Tom	
Sapp, Frank	
Sapp, Mary Kay	
Smith, Cuyler	
Smith, Ted	
Spangler, John	P
Speed, James	
Stroup, George	
Tarrant, John	
Terrell, Ken	P
Wade, Carol	P
Ward, Gil	
Waskey, Jack	
Weathersby, Frank	
Weaver, Charles	
Wells, Debbie	
Wells, John	
Wilson, Thurston	
Wood, Tom	

Wright, Donn  
(53)

CHURCH – RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Acworth	
Beersheba	Nancy Bertrand
Brazilian Christian	
Calhoun	
Cartersville (3)	Emma Johnson
	David Dundee
	Kathy Farnon
Cedartown	Sheri Grove
Chickamauga	James McGregor
Christ Fellowship	Travis Law
Cloudland	Tom Carter
Cohutta	
Covenant	Eva Whitaker
Dalton	Kathryn Sellers
Deer Creek	Mel Smith
Faith Canton	Frank Cleveland
Faith Blue Ridge	Randy Blankinship
Grace	
Heritage (2)	Ben Hadaway
	Hollene Darby
John Knox	Shelby Robert
Kirkwood	Susan Miles
LaFayette	Laura Wilson
Light of Hope	Pamela Moseley
Macland (2)	Freida St. Germain
	Russ Conger
Marietta (4)	Judith Bullard
	Wilkie Schell
	Claire Francis
	Beth Eckford
Menlo	James Spears
Morton Memorial	
Providence	Paul Holmes
Ray-Thomas	Susan Monk
Rockmart	Pinkie Owens
Silver Creek	Fred Hastings
Trinity	Teri Abercrombie
Westminster	
Woodstock	Sharon Shuda

*Total Allocated Ruling Elder Commissioners: 39*

OTHER RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Anita Errickson  
Coy Temples  
Possible Ruling Elder total - 41

**Absent:**

Excused Teaching Elders	8
Unexcused Teaching Elders	4
Excused Ruling Elders	0
Unexcused Ruling Elders	7

**In attendance:**

Teaching Elders	24
HR Teaching Elders	7
Ruling Elders	32
Corresponding Members	3
Visitors	27
Presbytery Lay Staff	1

**Total attendance 94**

## Call to Order

Following the opening ritual, welcome and opening prayer by Moderator RE Susan Monk from Ray-Thomas, the stated meeting of Cherokee Presbytery was called to order. The Interim Stated Clerk, TE John Spangler, confirmed that a quorum was present to do business.

## Approval of the Docket

The Interim Stated Clerk moved the approval of the docket. Seconded and **APPROVED**

- 9:00 am      Registration and Coffee
- 10:00am      Declare Quorum and Open with Prayer  
                Approve Docket  
                Seat Corresponding Members  
                Welcome New Commissioners  
                Good News from the Pews  
                Welcome from the Hosts
- 10:30am      Business Meeting
- Consent Agenda (contained in SC Report)
- Stated Clerk's Report
- Nominating Committee Report
- Election and Installation of New Moderator
- Committee on Ministry Report
- Examination for Membership
- Election of New Stated Clerk
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- Administrative Commissions Reports
- Sixes Presbyterian Church
- Cloudland and Menlo Churches
- Providence Presbyterian Church
- Coordinating Team Report
- Ministry Support Team Report
- Worship Team Report
- Cherokee Retreat Center Presentation

Mission Coordinator Report

Other Business

11:45am      Worship to conclude over lunch in Fellowship Hall

### **Seat Corresponding Members**

Nikki MacMillan, Pete Paulsen and Jack Westlund were recognized as corresponding members, and, after a motion by the Interim Stated Clerk and a second, they were given the privilege of the floor. **APPROVED**

### **Introduction of First Time Commissioners and Others**

Various Teaching elders introduced Ruling elders attending Presbytery for the first time. A number of visitors were also welcomed.

### **Good News from the Pew**

Good news was shared by several Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders about ministry in their churches. The Moderator led the presbytery in prayer for Rome. A Neo-Nazi group is planning a protest there and the churches are planning a response.

### **Greetings from the Host Church**

TE Dave Grove, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Cedartown for the past 22 years, brought greetings from the host church.

### **Stated Clerk's Report**

The Interim Stated Clerk, elected at the November meeting of Cherokee Presbytery, is John Spangler, a retired Teaching Elder.

### **Special Note**

I am confident that you all share with me a sense of joy and gratitude that Teaching Elder Nikki MacMillan has been on board and hard at work with us since the beginning of the year as our new Stated Clerk (in nomination)/Mission Coordinator. Nikki's creativity, energy, enthusiasm, and leadership skills already are evident in our shared Cherokee Presbytery mission and ministries. Such an auspicious beginning affirms for us the promises of God, akin to the proclamations of the prophet Jeremiah (29:11) to People of the Covenant in troubled and disruptive times: *"I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out--plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for."*

### **Items for Action (with discussion)**

1. Approve minutes of the November 17, 2015 Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Heritage Presbyterian Church as prepared and circulated.

**APPROVED**

2. Correspondence from Jieun Kim Han, a Program Assistant with the Office of the General Assembly Meeting Services, informs us *"that Katherine B. Orth, a student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary has been nominated by that theological institution to be their Theological Student Advisory Delegate (TSAD) to the 222nd General Assembly, June 18-25, 2016 in Portland Oregon."*

The Stated Clerk consulted with chairpersons of the presbytery's Committee on Preparation for Ministry and Nominating Committee, and verified the following: (A) Katherine (Katie) Orth is a member of FPC/Cartersville; (B) She is an Inquirer in good standing with the Presbytery's CPM; (C) She is the Director of Youth & Children Ministries at FPC/Cartersville; (D) She is an active student in the Master of Divinity distance education program of the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary; and (E) She is both willing and able to serve in the TSAD role for which she has been nominated.

Therefore it is recommended **that Cherokee Presbytery affirm the nomination of Katherine (Katie) B. Orth and elect her to serve as a TSAD to the 222nd General Assembly, June 18-25, 2016 in Portland, Oregon; and that Katie be asked subsequently to provide a written and/or oral report of her experiences and observations to the Cherokee Presbytery stated meeting of August 23, 2016. APPROVED**

The Moderator led the council in prayer for Katie and her service.

Item to Enter Into the Record:

1. In the judicial matter of #2016-01 vis-a-vis IC #2015-03 (a Petition for Review), on February 18, 2016 the Stated Clerk received email correspondence from the two Designated members of the Permanent Judicial Commission who reported their finding *"that the IC (Investigating Committee) properly acted in deciding that the Discipline process should not be invoked based upon the Petition for Review."*

**The PJC has properly notified the Petitioner of this finding, and subsequently the matter is concluded.**

**Items for Action (by consent) APPROVED**

1. Confirm these decisions and actions of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:
  - A. The CPM unanimously approved the removal of Inquirer Dorothy Lott from the Cherokee Presbytery Inquirer Roll (The action completed the process of removal begun by CPM in October 2015.)
  - B. The CPM unanimously approved the removal of Inquirer Camille Turner-Townsend from the Presbytery Inquirer roll (no longer under care of a session in the boundaries of Cherokee Presbytery)

**Items to Enter into the Record:**

1. Correspondence received by the Stated Clerk:

A. On January 6, 2016, the Stated Clerk received a Petition for Review, which petition was designated as IC #2016-01 vis-a-vis #2015-03).

2. Actions of the Stated Clerk

A. After its December 3, 2015 unanimous decision, on December 8, 2015 Investigating Committee #2015-03 reported that no charges would be filed and concluded its inquiry; and subsequently letters from the former Stated Clerk Rebecca Blackwell notified all parties of that fact.

B. On December 14, 2015 former Stated Clerk Rebecca Blackwell notified all of the presbytery's Clerks of Session about the need to prepare and submit online (on or before February 21, 2016) the Session Annual Statistical Report for the Year 2015, with helpful links cited at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/churchwide-ministries/stats/>. Further, on January 21, 2016, Mission Coordinator Nikki MacMillan sent a reminder about this matter to all Clerks of Session.

C. The Stated Clerk properly referred the Petition for Review (as cited above in the preceding 1.A. item of correspondence) to the Investigating Committee #2015-03, and to the Permanent Judicial Commission, and notified the Petitioner of this referral.

D. Former Stated Clerk Rebecca Blackwell, together with Assistant Stated Clerk Ken Terrell, prepared and circulated Minutes of the November 17, 2015 Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Heritage Presbyterian Church. The Minutes were reviewed for accuracy and completeness by the Moderator and a committee appointed by the Moderator and then were posted on the presbytery website, with print copy available today at the Stated Clerk's table at this meeting.

**Item for Information:**

**1. This is an important and timely reminder (compliance with which is a vital matter of polity, insurance, and law) to all Pastors and Clerks of Session regarding the following information cited at the presbytery's stated meeting of November 17, 2015:**

*"Please be aware that the Overtures that were approved from the last General Assembly (221st in 2014) include the **requirement** that all councils of the church (which includes Sessions) must have a child protection policy in addition to a sexual misconduct policy. Clerks of Session will be required to show evidence of such a policy being adopted when the 2016 minutes of their churches are reviewed. See your insurance agent or go to **[http://oga.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/sm\\_&\\_cp\\_policies\\_&\\_procedures.pdf](http://oga.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/sm_&_cp_policies_&_procedures.pdf)** for assistance with this matter.*

## **Nominating Committee Report**

The Cherokee Presbytery Nominating Committee is a broadly representative body whose task is to ensure that our presbytery is served by leaders who representative of our congregations. The members of the Nominating Committee are: TE Maryellen Hittel, Moderator, TE Zeta Lamberson (Covenant), RE Marx Borges (RTM), RE Nate Marini (Marietta), RE Erma Jones (John Knox), TE John Wells (Honorably Retired)

### **Items for Action (with discussion) APPROVED**

1. Elect TE Greg Lund (Westminster) 2016 Moderator of Presbytery
2. Elect RE Bill Byars (Westminster) Committee on Ministry Class of 2018
3. Elect TE Pete Paulson (Providence) Worship Team Class of 2018
4. Elect Mary Charlotte Smalley (Dalton) 2016 General Assembly YAD Alternate
5. Elect TE Ken Terrell as 2016 Assistant to the Stated Clerk
6. Elect RE Mike Elliott (Westminster) Ministry Support Team Class of 2017
7. Elect TE Robin Gantz Committee On Ministry Class of 2017

### **Items for Information**

Cherokee Presbytery is still seeking leadership and service on several of our committees and teams. Please prayerfully consider your willingness to serve if invited and please help our Nominating Committee identify members of your congregations who would be potential leaders in our common ministry and mission.

### **Installation of New Moderator**

Moderator Monk led the installation service for the new moderator, TE Greg Lund, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rome, which concluded with prayer and a charge.

### **Moderator Appointments**

Moderator Lund appointed RE Erma Jones as Discernmentarian and TE Fritz Bogar as Parliamentarian for 2016.

He further appointed TE Jim Simpson and RE Ginny Tebo-Grimes(Providence) to serve as the Minutes Review Committee.

### **Committee on Ministry Report**

The Cherokee Presbytery Committee on Ministry is composed of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders who together serve the Presbytery by facilitating the call and installation of pastoral leaders in our churches and in providing resources, support, and encouragement for our congregations and ministers.

The members of the Committee on Ministry are: TE Camille Josey, Moderator, TE David MacDonald (Honorably Retired), TE Jack Waskey (Honorably Retired), RE LaVert Jones (John Knox), TE Fritz Bogar (John Knox), RE Paul Phillips (Marietta), RE Nancy Bertrand (Beersheba), RE Bill Byars (Westminster), RE Marlene Michalke (Macland), TE Jim Simpson (Faith, BR)

## Dates Committee met since last Presbytery meeting:

December 3, 2015, January 7, 2016, February 4, 2016

## Items for Action (with discussion)

1. Recommend Nichole Collins MacMillan, member of Flint River Presbytery, for membership in Cherokee Presbytery. **APPROVED.** The Moderator led the council in prayer for Nikki.

## Items for Information

1. Approved a motion that Nikki Collins MacMillan be allowed to labor within the bounds of Cherokee Presbytery beginning January 1, 2016 pending COM examination on 1.7.16.
2. Approved a motion to release Dan Nail from ordered ministry under G-2.0507, effective 12-3-2015.
3. Approved the contract for bridge interim Nicole Locke (Greater Atlanta Presbytery) in service to Macland Presbyterian Church and approved Nicole laboring within the bounds of Cherokee Presbytery for the terms of the current contract.
4. COM and the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church Marietta as the church calls TE Joan Gray as Interim Pastor. Rev. Gray will be examined by COM and recommended for membership in Cherokee Presbytery at a future meeting.

## Attachments

1. Statement of Faith and Sense of Call for Nichole Collins MacMillan – Attachment B

## **Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report**

The Cherokee Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry serves the presbytery by entering a covenant relationship with those preparing to become teaching elders and their sessions and congregations on behalf of the larger presbytery. The CPM provides encouragement, insight, accountability, and assessment for women and men seeking to understand their call to ministry in the PC(USA).



The members of the Committee on Preparation are: TE Julie Ferguson, Moderator, TE Greg Moore (Acworth), RE Sean Ireland (Cartersville), TE Will Scott (Dalton), TE Catherine Renken (Kirkwood), RE Annie Trimmer (RTM), TE Erma Jones (John Knox), TE Jennifer Lee (Hospice)

### **Dates Committee met since last Presbytery meeting:**

December 10, 2015.

### **Items for Action (consent)**

1. The CPM unanimously approved the removal of Inquirer Camille Turner-Townsend from the Cherokee Presbytery Inquirer roll (no longer under the care of a session in the boundaries of Cherokee Presbytery) **APPROVED**
2. The CPM unanimously approved the removal of Inquirer Dorothy Lott from the Cherokee Presbytery Inquirer roll. This action completed the process of removal begun by the CPM in October 2015. **APPROVED**

### **Items for Information**

1. The CPM unanimously approved Candidate Jeff Cain as "certified ready to receive a call" at its December 10, 2015 meeting.
2. RE Erma Jones, TE Julie Ferguson, and TE Carrie Scott served as Cherokee Presbytery's ordination exam readers during 2016 exam reading week #1 (February 1-5, 2016)

### **2015 Candidates/Inquirers in Cherokee Presbytery**

Kwasi Aye-Addo, Inquirer  
Jeff Cain, Candidate certified ready to receive a call  
Clyde Bearss, Candidate certified ready to receive a call  
Silvio Estevez, Inquirer  
Katie Orth, Inquirer  
Ana Sara Pinto, Candidate  
Raphael Pinto, Candidate  
Cassie Waits, Inquirer  
Dorothy Young, Inquirer

## **Administrative Commission for Sixes Presbyterian Church Report**

### **Items for Information**

Sixes Presbyterian Church of Canton, GA held their final worship service on December 25, 2012. Since that time the Administrative Commission has been responsible for the business of the church. As of December 31, 2015, all assets of the Sixes Church have been sold or transferred

Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery, February 27, 2016      9

and the books closed. A note receivable for \$250,000 from the sale of the property has been transferred to Cherokee Presbytery Properties.

### **Item for Action (with discussion)**

The Administrative Commission for Sixes Presbyterian Church requests dissolution by Cherokee Presbytery. **APPROVED**

## **Administrative Commission for Cloudland and Menlo Presbyterian Churches Report**

The AC met with representatives of both the Cloudland and the Menlo Presbyterian Churches on Sunday, January 3, 2016.

The churches have provided the documents needed for the AC to recommend to the Cherokee Presbytery that these two churches be graciously dismissed to the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians. AC member, Attorney Robert Smalley is in possession of the legal documents and is reviewing them. Rev. Dave Grove has the other documents, or copies thereof.

The Cloudland Church has minimal Session Records and those appear to be printed from a computer. These minutes are for recent years as the former Clerk of Session passed away a while back and any other Session minutes she was in possession of were unable to be recovered after her death.

The Menlo Church has turned over copies of their Session minutes and has requested that they be allowed to keep the original documents as they have sentimental value for the remaining members of the congregation. We pass this request on to the Cherokee Presbytery Coordinating Team for their consideration and determination.

The unanimity of the membership of these two congregations that they and their property be dismissed to ECO leads the members of the AC to conclude that there are no active members who desire to remain as members of the PCUSA. Should anyone so desire, the Beersheba Church of Cherokee Presbytery is located less than eight miles from the Menlo Church and less than eleven miles from the Cloudland Church.

The AC has recommended that the Sessions of the Menlo and Cloudland churches determine what gift, if any, these two churches will leave with the Presbytery upon their departure. It was recommended to the representatives of the churches that they consider the amount they wish to leave based upon a tithe of the value of their assets. The representatives appeared to be very amenable to our suggestion that they consider how they might support the continuing ministry of the PCUSA in Chattooga County through the Beersheba Church. We suggested that they can 'weight' their gift in that direction and that they gift considerable prayer and thought to what percentage of their 'gift' be given to the Beersheba Church and what remainder percentage will be given to the Cherokee Presbytery. Both Sessions have assured the members of the AC that they will expedite this discussion and reply to the AC within a couple of weeks.

While our work is not yet concluded, we are confident that the CT will be able to pass on, in a timely manner, our recommendation that gracious dismissal be given to these two churches by the Cherokee Presbytery at its February 2016 Stated Meeting .

The Cherokee Presbytery Administrative Commission assigned to the Cloudland, GA Presbyterian and Menlo, GA Presbyterian churches moves the following: **APPROVED**

That the Cloudland Presbyterian Church be dismissed, with name, real property, and title, to the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians [ECO] Presbytery of East Central; and that the Menlo Presbyterian Church be dismissed, with name, real property, and title, to the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians [ECO] Presbytery of East Central upon the satisfaction of the following:

- 1) That the Clerks of Session of each church submit the entirety of all hard-copy original Session minutes to Cherokee Presbytery.
- 2) That the Treasurers of each church, under the direction of their Session, submit a check made out to Cherokee Presbytery in the amount of \$15,000.00 [fifteen thousand and zero dollars] from the Cloudland Presbyterian Church and also \$10,000.00 [ten-thousand and zero dollars] from the Menlo Presbyterian Church for a total of \$25,000.00 [Twenty-five-thousand and zero dollars]. This amount, that is to be given to Cherokee Presbytery, represents a tithe of the current estimated value of each church.
- 3) That all legal and ecclesiastical documents concerning this dismissal, with due regard to the disposition of all real property and title, be finalized and properly filed as necessary.
- 4) That the Stated Clerk of Cherokee Presbytery [PCUSA] receive a letter of reception regarding these two churches from the moderator and/or clerk of the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians [ECO] Presbytery of East Central.

Submitted this day:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. David Grove,  
Moderator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elder Gloria Eberhart

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elder Robert Smalley

Substitute motion by TE Fritz Bogar with second that:

1. Presbytery dissolve the Cloudland and Menlo congregations;
2. The ministries of the two churches be remembered and celebrated at a future Presbytery meeting;
3. And that the Administrative Commission make recommendation to the Presbytery at its May meeting regarding a fair and fitting disposition of the material remains of the Cloudland and Menlo congregations.

The substitute motion **FAILED** to become the main motion.

Following the votes, the Moderator led the council in prayer for the two congregations which will be dismissed to the ECO.

### **Administrative Commission for Providence Presbyterian Church Report**

The Administrative Commission for Providence Presbyterian Church is: RE Marlene Michalke, Macland; TE Greg Lund, Westminster; TE Ken Terrell, Honorably Retired

The Administrative Commission for Providence Presbyterian Church recommends the following resolution for dissolution to Cherokee Presbytery: **APPROVED**

*WHEREAS, Providence Presbyterian Church of Dallas, GA has faithfully served Jesus Christ since her founding in 2003, and*

*WHEREAS, the Session in consultation with the Administrative Commission has deemed the current membership is unable to sustain the financial needs of the congregation's mission and property and recommends dissolution of the congregation,*

*THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Providence Presbyterian Church in Dallas, GA be dissolved following worship on March 27, 2016; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all assets and liabilities remaining after that date transfer to Cherokee Presbytery Properties, Inc, and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Administrative Commission be authorized to take steps to dissolve the Providence Presbyterian Church Corporation.*

The Moderator prayed for the Providence Church.

### **Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Marietta**

To Cherokee Presbytery Commissioners,

For several months now I have been privileged to serve as Chair of presbytery's Administrative Commission (AC) to First Presbyterian Church of Marietta. Others serving on the AC are Ben Atha, Fritz Bogar, Charles Jarman, Camille Josey, Debbie Peterson, Carrie Scott, John Spangler,

The church has been going through much turmoil for approximately a year and a half. It was at the beginning of that time that the church officially began a process of discernment to determine if it would feel led out of the PCUSA. There were many reasons identified as driving that season of discernment.

A "Next Steps" Team was put together by the session to study the situation and the options, eventually to report back to the session with a recommendation as to whether the congregation should remain or leave the PCUSA. Cherokee Presbytery assembled a Response Team to walk with the church through this process. Eventually, a recommendation came to the congregation for the FPCM to stay with the PCUSA and the session approved the recommendation.

The Senior Pastor and about 250 members, however, eventually have left the denomination and have established a new church, Marietta Community Church, associated with the ECO denomination. FPCM maintains a membership of approximately 1500.

The transition precipitated by the split has been difficult territory to negotiate. The Personnel part of the church budget, for instance, has had to be reduced by approximately \$500,000. Quite a few people lost their jobs. The past few months since the split has been to FPCM a wilderness experience.

Even so, Christ has been putting some important pieces together. The AC was instrumental in Joan Gray becoming FPCM's Interim Senior Pastor. Denise Beltzner has continued to provide steady and stable pastoral leadership during this long stretch of time. The staff is going through a reorganization process and is being positioned to provide effective leadership. An impressive group of Elders and Deacons are prepared to provide important lay leadership to the church.

The AC believes the church is turning the corner. The "fall-out" from the split, and all the negative developments leading up to it, has basically been contained and the church is beginning to find itself positioned to begin claiming its new promise in Christ. It's a new day at FPCM and the future is bright. The Holy Spirit has been and continues to be with them. Keep them in your prayers.

TE David L. McDonald

## **Coordinating Team Report**

The Cherokee Presbytery Coordinating Team works to encourage, coordinate, and maintain the presbytery's focus on its vision and mission. Its membership includes the Presbytery Moderator, the moderator-elect, ministry team and committee moderators, and at-large members. The team is moderated by the previous year's moderator of Presbytery. They are: RE Susan Monk, CT Moderator; TE Greg Lund, Cherokee Presbytery Moderator; RE Robert Smalley, CP Moderator Elect; TE Cyndi Parr, Worship Team; TE Edwin Gonzalez-Gertz, Congregational Care and Mission Team; TE Camille Josey, Committee on Ministry; TE John Martin, Mission Support Team; TE John Spangler, At Large; TE Denise Beltzner, At Large; RE Bob Brown, At Large

### **Items for Action (with Discussion)**

1. Recommend that Presbytery suspend the bylaws section specifically dealing with the term of the Stated Clerk for the next two years or until the Coordinating Team brings a revision of the

bylaws, whichever occurs sooner. Below is the excerpt from the bylaws that is to be suspended: **APPROVED**

*“The Stated Clerk shall be nominated by the presbytery’s Nominating Committee and elected by the presbytery for a three year term.” (G-9.0203b)*

2. Recommend that Presbytery elect Nichole Collins MacMillan as our transitional Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator for two years. **APPROVED**

3. Recommend that Presbytery take the following action regarding God’s Will Love Church (Korean Fellowship) **APPROVED**

*WHEREAS presbytery, through prior actions of its former Cherokee Presbytery NCD Commission and the former Tri-Presbytery NCD Commission, recognized and established a relationship with God’s Will Love Church (Korean Fellowship); and*

*WHEREAS God’s Will Love Church (Korean Fellowship) now is interested in merging with one of the churches or fellowships in the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta; therefore be it*

*RESOLVED that effective immediately Cherokee Presbytery dissolves all formal recognition of and relationship with God’s Will Love Church (Korean Fellowship) in order to pursue other options for mission and ministry, and which action will be communicated to the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and GWLC (Korean Fellowship).*

### **Items for Information**

1. Coordinating Team is undertaking a complete review and revision of the bylaws and remainder of the Ministry Manual. As changes are proposed, these will be brought to Presbytery.
2. Coordinating Team granted permission for a presentation by Rev. Joe Brice on Cherokee Retreat Center and Camp.

## **Ministry Support Team Report**

### **Items for Information**

The Mission Support Team thanks congregations for keeping their contributions to the Unified Budget current. If your congregation has lapsed in your contributions to Cherokee Presbytery,

the MST urges you to remit your gifts that we may faithfully carry out our common mission. Financial statements for 2015 and YTD 2016 are provided. See Attachment A

## **Attachments**

Financial Statements – Attachment A

## **Worship Team Report**

### **Items for Information**

The following churches have agreed to host the 2016 Presbytery meetings:

February 27 Cedartown - daytime Saturday meeting

May 24 Deer Creek Shores - evening meeting

August 23 Kirkwood - evening meeting

November 15 Acworth – daytime meeting

Please note: Childcare will be available at each meeting. Please invite your commissioners who need child care to call the Presbytery office no later than the Wednesday afternoon before. Also, at each meeting, we will hear, watch, or experience one of the unique qualities of the host church and/or its neighborhood. You are invited to come and see the Presbyterian presence in each of our church's towns.

### **Cherokee Retreat Center Presentation**

TE Joe Brice presented information about the coming summer schedule at the Cherokee Retreat Center, including a Work Day on Saturday, April 30.

### **Mission Coordinator Report**

TE Nikki MacMillan presented the ball award to TE John Spangler for his work as the Interim Stated Clerk. A second award was presented to Sarita Morris for making things run on time. Nikki is scheduling walks around the presbytery and invited people to join her. Coffee with Nikki is another event to get to know her and her to know you.

### **Cherokee Presbytery Worships Together Rev. Pete Paulson and TE Nikki Collins MacMillan**

A motion was made by TE DAVE Grove to adjourn the meeting with the benediction following worship, lunch and the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Seconded and **APPROVED**

### **Gathering**

Votum: *Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.*

\*Call to Worship: Psalm 43:3-5

O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me;

**let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.**

Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy;

**and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.**

\*Hymn: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

\*Prayer of Confession Ps. 91:1-2; 9-16; Rob 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

Almighty God, you are our refuge and our fortress, our God in whom we trust; yet we confess we are often tempted to seek bread that does not satisfy, to worship other gods, and to put you to the test. Forgive us, we pray, and answer us. Be with us in trouble, and rescue us from every snare. Show us your salvation in our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, who we confess as Lord. Hear us now, O Lord, as we continue to pray silently.... Amen.

Words of Assurance Romans 10:8b-13

For those who are baptized in Christ Jesus there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; Jesus Christ, the same Lord, is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

The Law

## The Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Jeremiah 29:1-14a

Sermon *Rooted*

## The Response

Offering

\*Doxology



Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Instructions for Lunch and Communion

Invitation to the Table

Grace

Processional

Lunch

Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

\*Gloria Patri

Benediction

Passing of the Peace

*\* Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*Congregational responses are indicated in bold type.*

The offering during the worship service was \$812, which will be used for hunger ministry in Cedartown.

The benediction was pronounced by the newly elected stated clerk/mission coordinator, TE Nikki MacMillan, and the commissioners greeted one another with the signs of peace and went on their merry way home at 12:56p.m.

TE *Kenneth J Terrell*

Assistant to the Stated Clerk

**Attachment A**

## Presbytery Profit &amp; Loss

**Jan - Dec 15****Ordinary Income/Expense****Income**

44009 · Budgeted Receipts	177,738.04
47000 · CRC Income	93,529.16
48000 · Berry College Ministry Income	12,727.36

**Total Income**283,994.56**Gross Profit**

283,994.56

**Expense**

51300 · Misc. Presbytery Expense	18,062.50
51216 · Pby Office Operating Expense	31,651.30
52201 · Desig/ Cap/ Debt	4,305.97
48300 · Berry Campus Operation Expense	12,727.36
51000 · Salaries & Benefits	140,582.09
54105 · Committee on Ministry	40.18
54200 · Coordinating Team	1,319.07
54505 · Committee on Prep for Ministry	120.00
55199 · Campus Ministry Support	4,000.00
55109 · Mission (Synod & CCM)	650.00
56500 · Cherokee Retreat Ctr Support	10,000.00
57000 · CRC Expense	93,529.16
60001 · Payroll Expenses	78.90

**Total Expense**317,066.53**Net Ordinary Income**

-33,071.97

Net Income

-33,071.97

Balance Sheet

Dec 31, 15

**ASSETS**

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

417,730.42

Total Current Assets

417,730.42

Fixed Assets

3,250,332.78

Other Assets

301,836.06

**TOTAL ASSETS**

3,969,899.26

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Other Current Liabilities

29.03

Total Current Liabilities

29.03

Long Term Liabilities

253,687.07

Total Liabilities

253,716.10

Equity

3,716,183.16

**TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

3,969,899.26

Presbytery Profit & Loss

Jan 16

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

44009 · Budgeted Receipts

13,558.87

47000 · CRC Income

1,350.00

48000 · Berry College Ministry Income

1,000.00

Total Income

15,908.87

Gross Profit

15,908.87

Expense

51300 · Misc. Presbytery Expense

1,062.50

51216 · Pby Office Operating Expense

1,977.35

52201 · Desig/ Cap/ Debt

684.35

48300 · Berry Campus Operation Expense

1,000.00

51000 · Salaries & Benefits

7,078.25

57000 · CRC Expense

6,693.18

60001 · Payroll Expenses

7.00

Total Expense

18,502.63

Net Ordinary Income

-2,593.76

Net  
Income

-2,593.76

Presbytery Bal. Sheet Jan 31, 16

**ASSETS**

Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery, February 27, 2016

<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	<u>242,777.47</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	242,777.47
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	3,250,332.78
<b>Other Assets</b>	<u>477,392.51</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><b>3,970,502.76</b></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	<u>449.03</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	449.03
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	<u>253,687.07</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	254,136.10
<b>Equity</b>	<u>3,716,366.66</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><b>3,970,502.76</b></u>

### 2015 Unified and Per Capita Pledges Received/Paid

<b>Church</b>	<b>Membership/ Attendance</b>	<b>Unified Pledged</b>	<b>Per Capita Pledged</b>	<b>Unified Received</b>	<b>Per Capita Received</b>
Acworth	69/42				
Beersheba	60/-			1,800.00	145.00
Bethany		4,800.00		4,800.00	
Brazilian Christian	77/			700.00	660.00
Calhoun	159/66			1,200.00	1,559.88
Cartersville First	615/210			20,160.69	2,026.74
Cedartown	90/-			2,750.00	789.25
Chickamauga	62/41	980.00	468.93	1,100.00	468.36
Christ Fellowship	31/28	400.00	354.09	400.00	354.09
Cloudland	45/-				
Cohutta	33/25			648.60	351.40
Covenant	205/111	15,000.00	2,191.53	16,375.00	2,377.10
Dalton First	116/69	8,000.00	1,033.56	8,000.04	1,050.00
Deer Creek Shores	103/67			2,250.00	900.00
Faith Canton	75/40	3,000.00	710.00	3,000.00	710.00
Faith North Georgia	90/68	2,000.00	689.04	2,000.00	689.04
Grace	127/87	13,452.42	0.00	13,314.45	
Heritage	382/200				
John Knox	114/-			3,750.00	1,630.77
Kirkwood	171/83	6,000.00	1,454.64	6,000.00	1,454.64
LaFayette	22/21			3,000.00	
Light of Hope	142/	14,155.00	1,264.00	14,155.00	1,264.00
Macland	331/128	1,200.00		1,200.00	2,404.50
Marietta First	2226/625	50,000.00		51,583.34	

Menlo	12/-				
Morton Memorial	32/-			900.00	306.24
Providence	123/45				
Ray-Thomas Memorial	159/37			500.00	1,937.95
Rockmart	82/50	6,500.00	794.31	6,500.00	767.00
Silver Creek	47/31			1,800.00	425.25
Trinity	37/				710.03
Westminster	238/123			1,125.00	
Woodstock	28/31		287.10		287.10
	6103/2228				
Miscellaneous Receipts				3,575.00	
<b>Totals 12/31/15</b>		<b>125,487.42</b>	<b>9,247.20</b>	<b>172,587.12</b>	<b>23,268.34</b>

Unified received in 2015 for 2014 Grace 4,173.65, John Knox 1,250.00, Marietta 1<sup>st</sup> 5,750.00, Rockmart 1,625.00, Covenant 1,375.00  
 Unified received in 2014 for 2015 Menlo 1,000 and per capital 114.84

2016 Unified and Per Capita Pledges Received/Paid

Church	Membership/ Attendance	Unified Pledged	Per Capita Pledged	Unified Received	Per Capita Received
Acworth	69/42	No Pledge			
Beersheba	60/-				
Bethany					
Brazilian Christian	77/				
Calhoun	159/66	100.00		100.00	127.46
Cartersville First	615/210				
Cedartown	90/-	1,000.00		250.00	71.75
Chickamauga	62/41	930.00		930.00	569.46
Christ Fellowship	31/28				
Cloudland	45/-				
Cohutta	33/25				
Covenant	205/111				
Dalton First	116/69	8,000.00			
Deer Creek Shores	103/67			750.00	255.96
Faith Canton	75/40	3,000.00			
Faith North Georgia	90/68	3,000.00			
Grace	127/87	6,262.80		2,976.30	
Heritage	382/200				
John Knox	114/-				
Kirkwood	171/83			500.00	138.02
LaFayette	22/21	4,200.00			
Light of Hope	142/	14,155.00		971.00	112.00
Macland	331/128				796.10
Marietta First	2226/625			4,166.66	
Menlo	12/-				
Morton Memorial	32/-				307.84
Providence	123/45				
Ray-Thomas Memorial	159/37				
Rockmart	82/50	6,500.00		1,625.00	191.75
Silver Creek	47/31	2,000.00		500.00	108.00
Trinity	37/				
Westminster	238/123	5,000.00		83.00	
Woodstock	28/31				
	6103/2228				
Miscellaneous Receipts				3.00	
<b>Totals</b>		<b>54,147.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>12,854.96</b>	<b>2,678.34</b>

## Cherokee Presbytery Loan Worksheet

Church Name	Loan Amount	Balance	Loan Date	Maturity Date	Next Reset Date	Bank	Rate %	Monthly Payment	Co-sign By Pby.	Pd. By Pby	Pd. By Tri-Pby	Pd. By Church	Update
Acworth	200,716	150,000	7/19/06			NW	6.75	1582				x	12/12
Beersheba	No Loans												
Bethany 10244706	300,000	208,981	3/18/08	3/25/28		PCUSA	3.80	2022	x			x	12/15
Braz. Christian	?												
Calhoun 1026807	920,000	668,502	1/16/08	5/1/30		PCUSA	3.99	5,428	x			x	12/15
Cartersville	414,000	399,000	Int. Only			?	2.00					x	12/12
Cedartown	No Loans												12/12
Chickamauga	No Loans												12/10
Christ Fel.	No Loans												12/10
Cloudland	No Loans												12/12
Cohutta	No Loans												12/12
Covenant	No Loans												12/12
Dalton	No Loans												12/13
Deer Creek	175,000	143,000					4.50					x	10/14
Faith N. GA	No Loans												12/12
Faith Canton	No Loans												12/12
Grace 1022405	400,000	253,687	2/3/06	3/1/26		PILP	4.45	2,572				x	12/15
Heritage 1038211	2,000,000	1,804,634	2/21/12	2/1/2032		PILP	4.25	13,618				x	12/15
John Knox	250,000	250,000				Bk N. Ga.	4.75	1,660				X	3/14
Kirkwood	No loans	Paid 0.00										x	12/12
LaFayette	No loans												11/13
Light of Hope 1011701	1,024,000	Paid in full	2/4/02	10/1/23		PCUSA	4.47	4600	x			x	11/13
Macland 1169006	78,500	Paid in full	5/25/93	4/28/13		PCUSA	6.25	881		x			6/13
Macland	1,600,000	1,405,605	12/16/13	1/1/2034		PCUSA	4.25	9,289				x	12/15
Marietta	No Loans												12/12
Menlo	No Loans												12/10
Morton Mem.	No Loans												12/10
Providence 5080201638	200,000 92 Prop.	Paid in full	2/21/12	2/21/14		United Comm.	5.75	3008		X			3/14
Providence 1038812	798,043 Building	713,541	8/23/2012	9/1/2032		PCUSA	4.25	4968				X	12/15
Ray-Thomas 33042206	350,000	101,377	12/6/99	12/25/19		PCUSA	3.50	2557	x			Pd. by Bethany	12/15
Ray-Thomas 1004298	425,000	106,540	1/15/99	2/1/19		PCUSA	4.25	3089	x			Pd. by Bethany	12/15
Rockmart	No Loans												12/12
Silver Creek	No Loans												12/11
Sixes 1021505	800,000	Paid in full	9/30/05	2/1/30		PCUSA	3.92	4515	x			x	1/15
Trinity 5304103	90,000	Paid in full	11/3/11	11/25/16		PCUSA	4.00	1658	X			X	3/14
Westminster	1,577,422	1,385,000	5/1/2009	1/25/2033	1/25/2013	Sun Trust	5.00	9765				X	12/12
Woodstock 6093804	300,000	72,996	3/6/96	3/25/21		PCUSA	4.75	1550	x			x	12/15
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11,902,681</b>	<b>7,662,862</b>											

Updated 2/1/16

Church	Mother's Day/ PresHome	One Great Hour	Pntcost	P'making	Christ/Joy	Med Benv	Mission	Disaster Relief	TheoEd	Thornwell	NCD/ NVision	Berry	CRC	O
Acworth														
Beersheba														
Bethany											3600			
Brazilian Christian														
Calhoun	403	459	210	184						158				
Cartersville	1875	470						38				900	932	
Cedartown	274				275		275			184		907		
Chickamauga		441												
Christ Fellowship														
Cloudland														
Cohutta														
Covenant	975	1009	500		1512					819			1550	
Dalton														
Deer Creek		182												
Faith/Canton		390	155	187	350									
Faith/Blue Ridge	320	440	99		282					690				
Grace		304		124	842					699				
Heritage														
John Knox	152	1442	353	208	1165			75						
Kirkwood	225	716											1200	
LaFayette													1000	
Light of Hope	1010	301										3000	15000	
Macland	120						1050							
Marietta		3926			2086		10000			5848			4000	
Menlo														
Morton Memorial					564			200					200	
Providence					220									
Ray-Thomas		205	252	35	25							41		
Rockmart	805	1158			335	500			504	477		1000	220	
Silver Creek												500		
Trinity	1185	924	375	80	2082			200					450	
Westminster	2457	354	46		273					246		4942	5040	
Woodstock														
Other							500					1341	1664	
Grand Total 2015	9801	12721	1990	818	9766	500	11825	513	504	9121	3600	12631	31696	



## Statement of Faith, Nichole Collins MacMillan

Every day, I seek to put my trust in God who Jesus says is Love.

Every day, I work to put my energy into following Jesus who teaches me to love God and love my neighbor as I love myself.

Every day, I offer my soul to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit who teaches me to pray and fills in the gaps when my words or my will come up short.

I trust God created, redeemed, and sustains the universe and calls each of us into generous and grace-filled relationships with one another, the earth, and God's own self. Our faithfulness to this call is fractured, broken, and marked pain and sin, but God continues to love us, offers us mercy and grace before we even know to ask for it, and sets us on our feet with a chance to begin anew at every turn. We most clearly see this love in the person of Jesus who humbled himself to a stable birth, attended dinner parties with questionable characters, touched lepers, made friends with outcasts, and offered himself to death on a Roman cross. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do," may be the bravest, most loving, and truest words ever spoken. It is this grace that compels me to follow Him and inspires me to serve Him.

I long for the day when the reign of Christ will come thoroughly in my life and in the world – when we will see a new Heaven and a new Earth, when the nations will know peace, when the hungry are full, and death is no more. I give thanks for the moments of surrender allowing us to catch a glimpse of this promise fulfilled even in our midst.

## Sense of Call, Nichole Collins MacMillan

Serving in the position of Stated Clerk and Mission Coordinator for Cherokee Presbytery will be an honor and a privilege. Having once been a member-at-large of this presbytery and having deep and affectionate ties to the congregations in Cohutta and Dalton, it is much like coming home. You have often been in my prayers during these recent difficult years.

During this time of transition, I believe God is calling me to serve you as one who:

- faithfully prays for you and your ministry in Northwest Georgia
- listens to and supports the pastors and their families and the leaders of Cherokee Presbytery as you seek to be faithful to the call of God in your communities

- encourages you to courageous and faithful witness
- attends to the details of good order and communication that our common work may be open, efficient, and in service to our larger aims

As a leader among you, I hope that together we will be on the lookout for opportunities to build and rebuild trust, affection, and hope. I aim to help us celebrate our successes as congregations cooperating for God's mission in the world. I expect our gatherings will point to the joyful reign of God and should always bear witness to the life-giving work of the Spirit in our midst. And, finally, I trust we will fix our eyes on the abundant opportunities we have to serve God and our neighbors.

We can anticipate a joyful future when we are willing to take risks, to love deeply, and to trust like children in a new heaven and a new earth.

I look forward to being a part of it with you.

## Journey of Faith, Nichole Collins MacMillan

Grateful to be gifted with parents who love God, I cannot recall a moment in which I did not trust in God's love for the world and presence in my life. As a very young child in a Baptist congregation, I sought to give myself over to Jesus Christ. The Baptist preacher was convinced he knew better and denied my baptism. Thanks be to God, the Spirit held me close and protected me from mistaking the preacher's rejection for God's.

A few years later, my parents moved their church membership around the corner to Morningside Presbyterian Church in Columbus, Georgia, and we found a community of faith in which we could all grow and serve. I was baptized, confirmed, married, and ordained to ministry by these faithful saints who rejoiced in faith-filled yet faltering witnesses and embraced tender and weary pilgrims.

As a teenager, when I made an appointment to tell my pastor of my call to ministry, his response was, "I was wondering when you were going to come and tell me that." These are the same words I hear echoed when I pray whether it is in offering praise, voicing doubts, confessing sin, or rejoicing in new understanding. My journey of faith is coming to know a God in whom I am already fully known.

For good or for ill, I have never worked a professional job outside the Church. As of late, however, I have been especially aware of the movements of the Spirit beyond the Church walls. Seven years of ministry planning, launching, and running a coffee shop and new church development have given me a first-hand witness of some of what God is up to beyond our traditional ways of seeking to worship and to grow as disciples. It has been a delight to share Holy Communion over a cup of coffee, to engage in youth ministry in a restaurant kitchen, to

invite the faithful and the doubting to serve Jesus together as we feed the hungry and care for the lonely.

In this moment in the life of the Church, I am convinced God is doing a new thing. It is a frightening time as we are called to let go of systems and structures that have brought order and comfort to our common life. It is also an exciting moment, pregnant with possibility and brimming with signs of the Spirit leading us into deeper faithfulness and broader connection with a world God has already redeemed and loves.