

Cherokee
Presbytery
June 17, 2017
10am

Leadership Summit

*First Presbyterian
Church*

101 S. Selvidge St.

Dalton, GA

This handbook contains the reports needed for commissioners participating in the governance and decision-making for Cherokee Presbytery.

Schedule for the Day

9am	Refreshments and Registration	Martin House Foyer
10am	Worship	Sanctuary
10:45	Discuss, Discern, Decide	Sanctuary
12:30pm	Focused Conversation/Lunch	Hollis Hall
1:30	Workshop Electives	Hollis Hall/Sanctuary
3:00	Wrap Up and Depart	

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- Ministry Support Team

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- Financial Reports
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- Providence Administrative Commission Report

A Message from Our Hosts

Dear Friends in Christ,

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We are delighted to host Cherokee Presbytery and all of you for the Presbytery's June Leadership Summit.

First Presbyterian Church of Dalton began when 12 souls met for worship in a building known as the Town House at an old crossroads in 1847. The church grew with the community, rooted in its downtown home, preaching, teaching, and serving. The members of First Presbyterian Church started initiatives in childcare for low income families and assistance for the housing insecure. The old church sanctuary was the site for the debut of the popular Gospel hymn, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" in 1887.

In 1989 we left our home in downtown for a building on the outskirts of town, returning to our roots in the heart of Dalton after a church split in 2012. We are excited to welcome you to our new church home which was completed in 2015. (What better place for a Presbyterian church to reform than the old town library!)

The community of Cherokee Presbytery has provided tremendous support during our transition these past five years through your hard work, kindness, hospitality, and prayers. We are eager to open our doors for you as you have done for us countless times. We hope that our story can be a part of the greater witness of Cherokee Presbytery to the God who loves us and has a future for us all!

Grace and Peace,

Will Scott, Pastor

- Take Exit 333 on I-75 and go West on Walnut Avenue (GA-52)
- Turn Left onto Thornton Avenue in 1.8 mi
- Turn Right onto Crawford Street in .7 mi.
- Take the first Right at the four-way stop in front of the church on Selvidge Street.
- Public parking is in the lot in front of the church.
- Street parking is also available nearby on Gordon and Crawford Streets.
- There will be greeters on the sidewalk of the church to direct you to overflow parking if necessary.
- There is a drop-off with elevator access behind the church in the alley.
- There is limited handicap accessible parking in a small lot accessed from Crawford Street (immediately past the four way stop).

Alphabet Soup

The meanings of the many acronyms you may hear during the meeting

AC: Administrative Commission

MTT: Ministry Transitions Team

BLT: Building Leaders Team

CRCC: Cherokee Retreat Center and Camp

CT: Coordinating Team

CRE: Commissioned Ruling Elder

CCT: Community Connections Team

CHT: Congregational Health Team

GA: General Assembly

MC: Mission Coordinator

MST: Ministry Support Team

RE: Ruling Elder

SC: Stated Clerk

TE: Teaching Elder

Are you new to all of this?

If you are a new commissioner in the presbytery, welcome! Your pastor will probably introduce you when the moderator requests first-time elder commissioners stand early in the meeting. The information below should help you during your first meeting. This handbook contains all of the papers that will assist in your decision making in this meeting. It will help you if you read it before you arrive. Please make sure you download a copy to your computer/device or print a hard copy before you arrive.

We ask that everyone attending the meeting register online at www.cherokeepresbytery.org and sign in at the registration table upon arrival. If you include your email address, we will add you to the mailing list for the presbytery. Voting commissioners are asked to wear blue nametags and visitors wear white nametags. This helps a moderator if a standing vote is taken during the meeting. As a voting commissioner, you are entitled to request clarification at any time if there is something you do not understand.

Before the meeting, we will gather for registration and light refreshments in the foyer. Lunch will be served around 12:30pm and the cost is \$8 per person. An offering will be received during worship and will be shared with a cause designated by the host church.

Childcare is available for our meetings, but reservations are required by Thursday prior to our meeting. You can reserve a space for your child either when you register online or by contacting Sarita in the presbytery office by phone or email.

When speaking to the presbytery, please stand, use a microphone, and state your name and the name of your congregation. Speaking time may be limited by the moderator during a debate. Any New Business must be placed in the hands of the Stated Clerk before the approval of the docket. Any motion made from the floor of the presbytery, be it a new motion, a substitute motion an amended motion must be given to the Stated Clerk at the time the motion is made.

Proposed Docket

10:45 am	Call to Order	Robert Smalley, Moderator
	Declaration of Quorum	
	Prayer	
	Approval of Docket	
	Seat Corresponding Members	
	Welcome New Commissioners	
	Welcome from the Hosts	
11:00 am	Reports to the Presbytery from Staff and Ministry Teams	
	Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator	Rev. Nikki Collins MacMillan
	Coordinating Team Report	Rev. Greg Lund, Moderator
	Ministry Team Reports	
	Ministry Transitions	Rev. Camille Josey, Moderator
	Examination of Rev. Joseph Evans	
	Building Leaders Team	Rev. Will Scott, Co-Moderator
	Examination of Inquirer Kwasi Aye-Addo	
	Community Connections	Rev. David Jordan, Moderator
	Congregational Health	RE Lavert Jones, Co-Moderator
	Ministry Support	Rev. Greg Moore, Moderator
12:15pm	A Time for Conversation: <i>Vocation and Discipleship</i>	
	"Worship is Life" with Marlon Hall	
	<i>Marlon Hall uses photography, anthropology, filmmaking, and writing to share stories of love, imagination, and passion. He is the cultural architect and spiritual leader of The Awakenings Movement, a grassroots community of social visionaries and culture shapers in Houston, Detroit, and Nairobi. He is the General Manager of The Eat Gallery, a gallery for emerging culinary artists that features art on plates where traditional galleries feature art on walls. He is the author of <u>Wake Up: Hip Hop Christianity and the Black Church.</u></i>	
	A time of conversation around tables will follow the viewing of a short film in the sanctuary. Feel free to make notes during the film. Questions for conversation will be on your tables and members of Cherokee Presbytery's Coordinating Team and Vision Team will be at each table to facilitate discussion.	

Stated Clerk and Mission Coordinator Report

Nikki Collins

MacMillan

nikki@cherokeepresbytery.org

478.731.4609

Items for Action by Cherokee Presbytery (with discussion)

1. Approve the minutes of February 4, 2017 Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Trinity Presbyterian Church Atlanta, GA as prepared and circulated.

Items for Action by Cherokee Presbytery (consent agenda)

1. Dismiss Rev. Arch Baker at request of Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
2. Dissolve the Administrative Commission for FPC Marietta at the request of the commission
3. Receive report of the Providence Administrative Commission and act upon their request for dissolution
4. Elect Rev. Maryellen Hittel to serve on the Cherokee Presbytery Vision Team as an at-large member

Actions of the Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator

1. Together with Assistant Stated Clerk Ken Terrell, prepared and circulated minutes of the February 4th meeting of Cherokee Presbytery. 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's website with print copies available today at the Stated Clerk's table.
2. Reported results of Cherokee Presbytery's vote on proposed constitutional amendments to General Assembly Office of the Stated Clerk
3. Work with PJC Moderator Robert Smalley to appoint and train Investigating Committee 2017-01. IC 2017-01 completed its work on March 10, 2017 and determined no charges were to be filed.
4. Preached and led worship at Ebenezer Ghanaian Fellowship, Heritage Presbyterian Church, Faith Blue Ridge, Grace Dawsonville, FPC Cartersville, John Knox, and Chickamauga
5. Executed an interim Operational Agreement with Bartow County for the management of CRCC during the lease transfer process
6. Served as a resource to the Administrative Commission appointed by the Coordinating Team to assist FPC Cartersville
7. Attended the Board of Pensions Regional Benefits Conference at Columbia Seminary on April 24, 2017
8. Attended the Presbytery Leader Formation Residency program sponsored by the PC(USA) and the Synod of the South Atlantic in Richmond, VA May 7-12, 2017
9. Moderated the Session of FPC Cartersville on May 16, 2017
10. Served as a resource for Cherokee Presbytery Ministry Teams in their work
11. Represented Cherokee Presbytery at a meeting of the FPC Marietta Gift Trust Fund Committee to seek funding for a new recreational ministry and outreach of Cherokee Presbytery

Coordinating Team

Items for Information:

1. Acting on behalf of Cherokee Presbytery, the Coordinating Team appointed an Administrative Commission to inquire into the difficulties of FPC Cartersville. The Administrative Commission includes:

Rev. Zeta Lamberson (Teaching Elder)
 Rev. Jim Simpson (Teaching Elder)
 Bill Byars (Ruling Elder, Westminster)

The charge of the Administrative Commission is as follows:

1. Inquire into the difficulties of the FPC of Cartersville, Georgia and determine if there is any possibility of reconciliation between the pastor and the Session
 2. Should it be determined that the pastor and session cannot be reconciled, work with both parties to negotiate a separation agreement which would be presented to the congregation with the motion to dissolve the call. The time allowed for the parties to reach an agreed upon settlement should be no more than 3 weeks.
 3. Should the parties not be able to reach an agreed upon separation agreement, the AC shall have the power to establish the terms of separation to be presented to the congregation with the motion to dissolve the call.
 4. Approve the terms of the separation agreement on behalf of Cherokee Presbytery.
 5. Approve the outcome of the congregational meeting on behalf of Cherokee Presbytery should the congregation vote to dissolve the call.
 6. Should either party not concur with the dissolution request, the Administrative Commission should refer the matter to the entire presbytery for consideration at its next stated meeting.
 7. Should the pastoral relationship be dissolved, the AC shall assist the congregation in work of healing and repairing relationships as well as reengaging in the mission of the congregation.
2. Approved allocation of matching funds for new recreational ministry initiative to come from Cherokee Retreat Center funds. This opportunity has been made possible through a special gift from First Presbyterian Church of Marietta.
 3. Approved allocation of funds to share the cost of a congregational health consultant for FPC Cartersville according to the separation agreement negotiated by the Administrative Commission.
 4. The Coordinating Team is studying the position descriptions and staff design for the presbytery in light of the end of Stated Clerk and Mission Coordinator contract position in December 2018. The CT will have recommendations for staff design and personnel for consideration by the presbytery at the October meeting.

Recommendation to the Presbytery for Action (consent agenda):

1. Coordinating Team nominates Maryellen Hittel to serve on the Cherokee Presbytery Vision Team as an at large member.

Ministry Transitions Team

Moderator

Camille Josey

kcjosey@gmail.com

404.840.1485

Recommendation to the presbytery for Action:

1. That Cherokee Presbytery approve reception of Reverend Joseph Evans to serve as Pastor and Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church, Marietta.
2. That Cherokee Presbytery approve the terms of call for Rev. Joe Evans as printed in the Addendum.
3. That Cherokee Presbytery appoint an Administrative Commission as presented from the floor for the installation of Rev. Joseph Evans on Sunday, August 27, 2017 at 4pm.

Members:

Nancy Bertrand

Fritz Bogar

Paul Phillips

Jim Simpson

Brandon Bowen

Items to enter into the Presbytery Record:

1. Received the recommendation of the Administrative Commission for FPC Cartersville regarding the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between Rev. Dr. Chris Jones and FPC Cartersville
2. Approved Dr. Joel Snider for the consulting work to be done at FPCC and for him to preach as his schedule permits during the summer
3. Approved Dr. Pete Paulsen to serve as session moderator at FPPC as well as to preach and provide pastoral care in this interim period
4. Approved Carol Wade to minister beyond the bounds of Cherokee Presbytery to serve as Interim Pastor of FPC Paris, Tennessee
5. Approved extension of interim contract for Rev. Dr. Joan Gray at FPC Marietta
6. Approved concept/job description and contract for a part-time interim associate pastor at FPC Marietta
7. Approved Rev. Lisa Jajoros to minister within the bounds of Cherokee Presbytery to serve as Interim Associate Pastor at FPC Marietta
8. Approved renewal of contract for Rev. Cyndi Parr at Faith Canton
9. Authorized a RE at Grace Dawsonville to moderate the portion of the annual meeting where terms of call for the pastor are discussed
10. Added to pulpit supply list: Dr. Iain Ingliss, Ashley Piper, and Rev. Coile Estes.

Meeting Dates:

January 5, 2017

March 2, 2017

March 8, 2017

May 4, 2017

May 10, 2017

What does the Ministry Transitions Team do?

We work to provide congregational support from the dissolution of a call to the installation of a new pastor and through the first year of a new ministry

Building Leaders Team

Co-Moderators

Will Scott

704.500.6323

wscott@firstpresdalton.org

Chris Moore-Kisch

404.788.9703

christopherelliott1933@gmail.com

Members:

Elizabeth Milford

Erma Jones

Bridget Waddell

Sean Ireland

Meeting Dates:

March 8, 2017

May 4, 2017

Recommendation to the presbytery for Action:

1. Enroll Kwasi Aye-Addo as an Candidate in Cherokee Presbytery

Items for Information:

1. Building Leaders Team will sponsor a sexual misconduct prevention education opportunity for all minister members of Cherokee Presbytery in the second half of 2017. All minister members in active service must participate either in our event or in one of two approved events offered by Greater Atlanta Presbytery.
2. Today's workshop offerings are a result of the work of the Building Leaders Team. The team is looking for suggestions from members of Cherokee Presbytery so that we can plan additional learning opportunities for future gatherings.
3. BLT is currently working to establish requirements for a final assessment for all candidates seeking to be certified ready to receive a call.
4. Dr. William Yoo, Assistant Professor of American Religious and Cultural History will preach and offer a talk on the Reformation at the October 21, 2017 Leadership Summit.

What does the Building Leaders Team do?

We create learning opportunities for pastors and other leaders in Cherokee Presbytery congregations and oversee the preparation of inquirers and candidates for ministry. We are the people to call when you are seeking help for officer training and other leadership development needs. We are eager to know how we can serve your congregation.

Community Connections Team

Moderator

David Jordan

770.309.7222

davidjordan@gracedawsonville.com

Members:

Julie Fuller

Sarita Jones

Joe Brice

Meeting Dates:

March 8, 2017

May 4, 2017

Items for Information:

1. The Community Connections Team is seeking additional members to help us help Cherokee Presbyterians build bridges in our local communities and beyond. If you or someone you know is interested in working with us, please speak to David Jordan.
2. Joe Brice recommended a day of ministry and recreation at Camp Cherokee with residents of Action Ministries in Atlanta on June 24. Sarita Jones agreed to be the point person on this project. From the newsletter: ***“On Saturday, June 24, Cherokee Presbytery will host a group of women and their children who are experiencing homelessness at the Cherokee Retreat Center for a day of health screenings, manicures, fun, games, and prayer. Our partner in this project is Atlanta Action Ministries. WE NEED YOU! Come spend time getting to know your neighbors and serving new friends. We are looking for people to cook lunch, paint fingernails, play games, create art, listen, hike, lifeguard, paddle, and just be a friend. If you are able to spend the day or part of it with us, contact Sarita Jones to volunteer.”***
3. CCT voted to postpone organizing and recruiting staff and campers for a two-week summer camp allotment at Camp Cherokee until 2018, due to schedule and personnel restraints. From the newsletter: ***“After prayerful work to identify leadership for Camp Cherokee 2017, our Community Connections Team has determined the best plan for our camping ministry is to focus our energy on planning Camp Cherokee 2018. However, we still have the Cherokee Retreat Center available for use by congregations in the presbytery June 18 - July 1. If your congregation would like to host a picnic, pool party, lake day, or retreat at the Retreat Center during this time, please contact the presbytery office to inquire about available dates and requirements.”***
4. CCT voted to approve the recruitment of a part-time employee for recreational ministry in Cherokee, utilizing available restricted CRC funds and FPC Marietta grant money.

What does the Community Connections Team do?

We are working to help congregations in Cherokee Presbytery understand the changing context of our ministry and build capacity for connecting to the world beyond us. We have our eyes on the world beyond our congregations are thinking about outreach opportunities, the possibilities of new church development and campus ministry, and how we might cooperate for youth ministry within the presbytery.

Moderator*LaVert Jones*

706.429.8442

lavjn@yahoo.com

Congregational Health Team

The Congregational Health Team does not have items for action for Cherokee Presbytery today. Members of the team are working to establish connections with leaders from each congregation to better understand the mission and ministry of our local congregations and how this team can help support you in your work. Pastors should anticipate a phone call from a member of our team. Please take them up on the opportunity to build a stronger connection with you. If you have not received a call from a CHT member, find LaVert Jones at today's meeting or contact him by phone or email.

Members:*Bill Byars**Robin Gantz**Marlene Michalke***What does the Congregational Health Team do?**

The mission of CHT is to assist congregations of Cherokee Presbytery in their witness and wellness. We want to help you develop your sense of mission in your community and build best practices for ministry. We will walk with you and assist you in times of conflict and crisis and are a resource for you in the development of policies that protect the health and welfare of our leaders and children in our communities.

Meeting Dates:*May 4, 2017*

The Congregational Health Team has vacancies. If you would like to be a part of your work, please speak to LaVert Jones.

Moderator*Greg Moore*

678.654.3733

moore.owen@att.net

Ministry Support Team

The ministry support team does not have action items for Cherokee Presbytery today. The financial reports through May 31, 2017 are included in this handbook.

Members of the Ministry Support Team would like to visit with your Session or Stewardship or Finance teams to share with you the collaborative mission of Cherokee Presbytery and to talk with you about how your congregation can be a part of our mission in Northwest Georgia in 2018. Please respond to our request and grant us a few minutes at an upcoming meeting.

Members:*Eva Whitaker**Ben Haddaway**James Ray**Sid Gunter**Mike Elliot***What does the Ministry Support Team do?**

MST supports the stewardship and finances of Cherokee Presbytery by building, monitoring, and managing our annual budget. In addition, the team is available to assist congregations with matters of property and the development of sound financial practices and in the training and support of church treasurers.

Meeting Dates:*February 2, 2017**April 6, 2017**June 1, 2017*

Addendum

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	89,000	7/19/06			NW	6.75	1582				x	2/16
Bethany 10244706	300,000	186,700	3/18/08	3/25/28		PCUSA	3.80	2022	x			x	3/17
Braz. Christian	?												
Calhoun 1026807	920,000	548,430	1/16/08	5/1/30		PCUSA	3.89	5,052	x			x	3/17
Cartersville	478,000	478,000				?						x	3/16
Deer Creek	175,000	115,000				Citizens	4.50					x	3/16
Grace 1022405	400,000	226,597	2/3/06	3/1/26		PILP	4.25	2,548				x	3/17
Heritage 1038211	2,000,000	1,618,186	2/21/12	2/1/2032		PILP	4.25	12,493				x	3/17
John Knox	250,000	104,522				Bk N. Ga.	4.75	1,617				X	5/17
Macland	1,600,000	1,330,268	12/16/13	1/1/2034		PCUSA	4.25	9,289				x	3/17
Providence 1038812	0 Building	0 Pd. In Full										X	6/16
Ray-Thomas 33042206	350,000	64,399	12/6/99	12/25/19		PCUSA	3.50	2557	x			Pd. by Bethany	3/17
Ray-Thomas 1004298	425,000	59,639	1/15/99	2/1/19		PCUSA	4.25	2823	x			Pd. by Bethany	3/17
Westminster	1,577,422	1,123,724	5/1/2009	1/25/2033	1/25/2013	Sun Trust	5.00	9765				X	3/16
Woodstock 6093804	300,000	47,959	3/6/96	3/25/21		PCUSA	3.50	1550	x			x	3/17
Totals	8,976,138	5,992,425											
3/31/17													
Churches	No Loans												
Beersheba													
Cedartown													
Chickamauga													
Christ Fellowship													
Cohutta													
Covenant													
Dalton													
Faith/BR													
Faith/Canton													
Kirkwood													
LaFayette													
Light of Hope													
Marietta 1st													
Morton Mem.													
Rockmart													
Silver Creek													
Trinity													

Updated 6/1/17

2017 Unified and Per Capita Pledges Received/Paid

Church	Membership/ Attendance	Unified Pledged	Per Capita Pledged	Unified Received	Per Capita Received
Acworth	69/-			610.00	690.00
Beersheba	47/28			600.00	470.00
Bethany				2,400.00	.00
Brazilian Christian	77/			250.00	250.00
Calhoun	159/-	100.00		400.00	530.00
Cartersville First	611/177			13,666.65	8,000.00
Cedartown	90/-			416.73	358.75
Chickamauga	60/-	900.00	600.00	900.00	600.00
Christ Fellowship	27/25			200.00	.00
Cohutta	28/18			600.00	280.00
Covenant	205/106	10,000.00	2,050.00	4,166.65	854.15
Dalton First	114/63			2,666.68	.00
Deer Creek Shores	96/62	3,000.00	960.00	2,250.00	735.56
Faith Canton	75/-			.00	.00
Faith North Georgia	108/78			1,500.00	540.00
Grace	116/74			3,548.14	.00
Heritage	375/170			200.00	625.00
John Knox	111/-			.00	.00
Kirkwood	159/90	6,000.00		2,500.00	662.50
LaFayette	21/21			3,000.00	.00
Light of Hope	110/81	12,314.00		5,132.00	466.00

Macland	243/117			.00	1,215.00
Marietta First	1843/602			7,482.09	.00
Morton Memorial	32/-			.00	320.00
Ray-Thomas Memorial	148/35			.00	702.40
Rockmart	89/50	6,500.00		3,250.00	383.50
Silver Creek	48/26	2,200.00		.00	.00
Trinity	37/			.00	725.94
Westminster	231/109	5,000.00		2,081.00	.00
Woodstock	25/26			.00	.00
Miscellaneous Receipts				235.00	
Totals 5/31/17		46,014.00	3,610.00	58,054.94	18,408.80

Christ Fellowship 200.00, Rockmart 1,625.00, Westminster 417.00 received in 2017 for 2016, Deer Creek 1500.00, Grace 1626.89 for 2016 rec in 2017

Cartersville 9000.00 for 2016 rec. in 2017

P&L 05/31/17	<u>Jan - May 17</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
44009 · Budgeted Receipts	60,328.45
47000 · CRC Income	<u>4,900.00</u>
Total Income	<u>65,228.45</u>
Gross Profit	65,228.45
Expense	
51300 · Misc. Presbytery Expense	3,898.40
56217 · Consult Fee/Expense Contingency	1,963.60
51216 · Pby Office Operating Expense	10,314.09
56900 · Permanent Judicial Commission	37.94
52201 · Desig/ Cap/ Debt	843.56
51000 · Salaries & Benefits	41,119.82
54105 · Committee on Ministry	142.77
54505 · Committee on Prep for Ministry	47.78
57000 · CRC Expense	14,041.95
60001 · Payroll Expenses	<u>36.75</u>
Total Expense	<u>72,446.66</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-7,218.21</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-7,218.21</u></u>

Balance Sheet	<u>May 31, 17</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	<u>282,764.38</u>
Total Current Assets	282,764.38
Fixed Assets	2,746,820.89
Other Assets	<u>971,376.61</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>4,000,961.88</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	<u>29.03</u>
Total Current Liabilities	29.03
Long Term Liabilities	<u>226,597.19</u>
Total Liabilities	226,626.22
Equity	<u>3,774,335.66</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>4,000,961.88</u></u>

Biographical Sketch and Sense of Call

Biographical Sketch: The Rev. Joe Evans is a native of Georgia, baptized at Morningside Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, confirmed and nurtured by First Presbyterian Church of Marietta, graduate of Presbyterian College where he earned a B.A. in religion, and Columbia Theological Seminary where he was nominated for the “David HC Reed preacher/scholar award.” He was ordained into the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament at First Presbyterian Church, Marietta GA in March of 2007. From ordination to 2010 Rev. Evans served Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Lilburn, GA as Associate Pastor of Mission and Outreach and as Interim Pastor. Beginning in 2011, he has served First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN as Senior Pastor.

At Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church Rev. Evans assumed Head of Staff responsibilities in September of 2009 at a time when the church faced a budget deficit of \$200,000. After significant changes in staffing and a dramatic increase in revenue, the deficit was reduced, during the 2009 calendar year 54 new members joined the church, and the fiscal year closed with an \$85,000 surplus.

At First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN he served faithfully, following in the footsteps of his predecessor, Dr. Bill Williamson, who served the church for 22 years. From 2011 to 2017, First Presbyterian received over 150 new members, and from 2016 to 2017, tithes jumped by \$70,000.

Rev. Evans served as editor of *Lectionary Homiletics*, contributed to the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, the *Journal for Preachers*, *The Daily Herald*, as well as *Lectionary Homiletics*, and is a six-time preacher on *Day 1*.

Sense of Call: I first felt the nudge towards ministry as a member of the Youth Group at First Presbyterian Church, Marietta. It was in service, building houses in Mexico, that I felt most alive and most purposeful. As a high school student at the Montreat Youth Conference I heard the Word proclaimed, and it felt like it was directed at me.

All of this I reported to Dr. Jim Speed in 1998. It was his practice to meet with graduating High School Seniors on their way out in to the world. I also told him that I would be attending Presbyterian College where I would major in Religion in preparation for ordained ministry. Dr. Speed looked me in the eye and he said, “Joe, take this decision very seriously. You’re talking about being a part of every person’s most important relationship, between them and their God.” This description of ordained ministry so terrified me I decided to major in History instead. I knew then that there was no way I would ever measure up to such a calling.

However, I felt the call still. The next time was on a subway in New York City, but still I wrestled with the ministry wondering, “Could God really want me?”

This current call to First Marietta means so much to me, mostly because I can’t hide behind a resume. This PNC knows much more about me than what’s printed on my PIF or what they’ve heard in recorded sermons. This church knows who I truly am. They knew me as a confirmand who spent more meetings behind the church at the railroad tracks than in the actual building. They knew me as a high school student who wandered from the fold. They have watched me grow, and yet they call me anyway.

I feel so affirmed in my ministry because this church has called me. And, knowing this church’s history, I hope and pray that I can be a steady leader, bridging divides, and representing the love of God to them as they have to me.

Statement of Faith

I believe that the Triune God who created this earth has been and is still present in the workings of this earth today. I believe that God's desire to be present in this earth and for God's created people is best evidenced in the fully human, fully God, Jesus Christ who died for my sins and for the sins of all people. To use the words of John Calvin: by the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been "effectually united" to Jesus Christ, and we may therefore look forward to the glory of life eternal.

I believe that the Bible testifies to the truth of our God, the one who delivered the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt, made them a covenant people and brought them into the land. We are heirs to this covenant, and when we turned away our God called us back by speaking through the prophets. This same God fulfilled the covenant through the incarnation of Christ, his death and resurrection. He is the sure sign that the God of creation has redeemed us and sustains us still by the mighty workings of the Holy Spirit.

As a member of the Reformed Tradition, I believe that it is God, present to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, who is working towards the Kingdom. It is only God who can make the promise of the Kingdom a reality.

It has become a tradition among Reformed theologians to offer two essential characteristics of God. James Cone offers "freedom and righteousness," and Shirley Guthrie offers "freedom and love." The claim that God is always free and always loving is especially important for my personal faith. I have always heard that "God so loved the world that he gave his only son," but to interpret that claim in the light of Guthrie's two essential characteristics helps me to understand that the mighty work of salvation made real through the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ is a gift freely given out of love. This sacrifice was not an obligation, but, above all else, an act of love. Because God is free God was able to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ, and because God is love, I can know that God wanted to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ. This truth is the most powerful piece of knowledge that is in my head and in my heart, and while this radical freedom and radical love still defies my understanding and remains to some degree a mystery, the truth that Jesus Christ lived and died among us shows God's free love for us and deepest desire that we be reconciled and saved.

I believe that we, the Church, created in the image of God, redeemed by Jesus Christ, and sustained by the Holy Spirit, are called to model this kind of freedom and love through our words and deeds. We testify to the truth of the Gospel when we live the life God has called us to, serving each other, lifting each other up, forgiving each other, seeing each other as blessed children of God, and by modeling our lives, not according to the standards of the world, but by the standards of the Kingdom of God.

First Presbyterian Church of Marietta – Employment At Will Agreement
Church Pastor – Senior Pastor
Rev. Joseph Belton Evans

Organizational Placement:

- Reporting Sequence: Session
- Member of Executive Staff (Head of Staff) and Ad Hoc member of all Councils and Committees
- Immediate Report Supervisor for Pastoral Staff and Executive Staff Directors; indirect reporting of all church employees as Head of Staff

Compensation and Benefits:

- **Pension Benefits:** PCUSA Benefits Board retirement
- **Paid Time Away** (annual, non-accruing): Four weeks vacation and three weeks study leave for continuing education, conferences, seminars, etc.
- **Medical/Dental Benefits:** Pastors Participation (family) and Dental PPO (family) provided
- **Reimbursable Expenses:** Annual Maximum, non-accruing of \$10,000 to cover the following areas
 - **Cell Phone:** reimbursement for 1 line voice and data, up to \$1,500 annually
 - **Vehicle:** mileage reimbursement at current IRS rate with documentation
 - **Continuing Education:** Tuition reimbursement for DMin program at Columbia Theological Seminary – 4 year total of \$13,734, plus other appropriate programs, seminars, certifications, subscriptions, publications
 - **Travel Expenses:** travel expenses associated with ministry function
- **Base Salary Compensation:** \$125,000 (Effective Salary)
- **SECA ‘Employer Equivalent’ Match:** 100% Funded for OADSI to annual cap, Medicare on all income
- **Sabbatical:** 3 month sabbatical after 7 years service in call

“One Time” Compensation at Initial Hiring

- **Housing:**
 - Reimbursement of Closing Costs on house purchase: up to \$2,500
- **Moving and Interim Expenses:**
 - Moving costs – Columbia to Marietta: actual cost for professional moving services, up to \$10,000
 - Interim Living Expenses during housing transition: up to \$200/day for up to 2 weeks
- **Income Tax Implications:**
 - Increased personal income tax and FICA tax obligations for payment of Closing Cost and Moving/Interim Expenses will be paid by FPC Marietta

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

To: Coordinating Team of Cherokee Presbytery

From: Administrative Commission for Providence Presbyterian Church
Zeta T. Lamberson, Moderator; Marlene Michalke;
Peggy Rollins

The Administrative Commission is pleased to inform the Coordinating Team of Cherokee Presbytery that all matter related to the closing of Providence Presbyterian Church have been finalized.

On February 22, 2017 we received notice from the Secretary of State's office of the State of Georgia that the Corporation had been dissolved.

All minutes and official records have been sent to the Historical society.

All property has been sold, disbursed or disposed of.

All debts have been paid, insurance policies canceled and financial obligations satisfied.

Membership records have been finalized and a final listing of members resides at the presbytery office pending their transfers of membership to other churches.

Therefore the Administrative Commission for Providence Presbyterian Church respectfully requests that Cherokee Presbytery dissolve the Providence Presbytery Administrative Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Zeta T. Lamberson