

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY**  
**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church**  
**Austell, Georgia**

**Roll of Presbytery**

ACTIVE MINISTERS

Anderson, Mike	P
Aye-Addo, Kwasi	P
Beltzner, Denise	Ex
Bogar, Fritz	P
<i>Braga, Reginaldo</i>	P
<i>Bridges, Sam</i>	Ex
Collins, Nikki	Ex
<i>Dunn, Tim</i>	Ex
Evans, Joe	P
Gonzalez-Gertz, Edwin	Ex
Gray, Joan	Ex
Grove, David	Ex
<i>Henderson, Sam</i>	P
Hittel, Maryellen	P
Jones, David	P
<i>Jones, Ray</i>	Ex
Jordan, David	P
Josey, Camille	P
Lamberson, Zeta	P
Lee, Jennifer	P
Martin, John	P
Mendes, Paulo	Ex
Milford, Elizabeth	Ex
Moore, Greg	P
Moore-Keish, Chris	P
Parr, Cyndi	Ex
<i>Pezini, Jose</i>	Ex
Renken, Catherine	P
Scott, Carol	P
Scott, Katie	Ex
Scott, Will	Ex
Simpson, Jim	P
Waddell, Bridget	P
Waddell, Kenneth	
ex	
<i>Yoo, William</i>	P
(34)	

CORRESPONDING MINISTERS

Pete Paulsen(RCA)  
 Cathi Parchem (Savannah)

35+ 49 = 84  
*[Excuses not required from Retired]*

*Italics = Laboring in mission field or out of bounds of presbytery 7*

RETIRED MINISTERS

Allen, Herschel	
Ballesteros, Tino	
Blackwell, Rebecca	
Brice, Joe	
Carmichael, Bert	
Cooley, Pem	
Craft, Ed	
Edwards, Maxine	
Esa, Donald	P
Coile Estes	
Gantz, Robin	
Garrett, Eleana	
Glauner, David	
Gonzalez, Catherine	
Grohman, Donald	
Guder, Darrell	
Gunter, Sid	
Hammett, Jenny	
Hunter, Rodney	
Jones, Walter	
Kim, Jin Hoon	
Looby, Janet	
Martin, Roger	
McDonald, David	
Meyer, Cathy	
Neelly, Dick	P
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	
Ward, Gil	
Waskey, Jack	
Weathersby, Frank	
Weaver, Charles	
Wells, Debbie	
Wells, John	
Wood, Tom	
Wright, Donn	

(49)

CHURCH – RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Acworth  
Beersheba  
Brazilian Christian  
Calhoun  
Cartersville (3)  
  
Cedartown  
Chickamauga (1)  
Christ Fellowship  
Cohutta  
Covenant  
Dalton (1)  
Deer Creek (1)  
Ebenezer Ghan. (1)  
Faith Canton (1)  
Faith Blue Ridge (1)  
Grace (1)  
Heritage (2)  
  
John Knox (1)  
Kirkwood (1)  
LaFayette (1)  
Light of Hope (1)  
Macland (1)  
  
Marietta (4)

Morton Memorial  
Ray-Thomas  
Rockmart (1)  
Silver Creek  
Trinity (1)  
Westminster (1)  
Woodstock (1)

*Total Allocated Ruling Elder Commissioners: 37*

OTHER RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS:

Anita Errickson  
Coy Temples  
Teri Abercrombie P

Possible Ruling Elder total – 39

**In attendance:**

Teaching Elders 20  
HR Teaching Elders 1  
Ruling Elders 25  
Corresponding Members 0  
Visitors 27  
Presbytery Lay Staff 1

**Total attendance 75**

**Absent:**

Excused Teaching Elders 13  
Unexcused Teaching Elders 2  
Excused Ruling Elders 0  
Unexcused Ruling Elders 11

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY**  
**Saturday, February 23, 2019, 10:00am**  
**Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church**  
**Austell, Georgia**

**Call to Order**

At 10:05am the host pastor, Kwasi Aye-Addo, offered the opening welcome and prayer for the day. The assembly then shared in worship and celebration, including the sermon preached by John J. Spangler and the Sacrament of Holy Communion. An offering of \$711.00 was received to help support the Austell-based Sweetwater Mission's walk-in food and clothing ministries.

Bridge Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk Camille Josey presented to the Rev. Kwasi Aye-Addo, the newly ordained and installed Pastor of Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church, a large framed copy of the Covenant and names of the Charter Members of the newly chartered church.

Thereafter, at 11:05am Chris Moore-Keish introduced the program and leadership team for the leadership summit portion of the meeting. Teresa Waggener, from the OGA Office of Immigration Services, and Zeta Lamberson led the timely program focused on immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

**Stated Business Meeting**

After Lunch, at 1:05pm the Stated Business Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery was called to order by the Moderator, Carrie Scott, and the Bridge Stated Clerk Camille Josey confirmed that a quorum was present to do business. It was announced that 2018 Session Minutes were being reviewed in a nearby conference room.

**Installation of Presbytery's New Moderator**

Current Moderator Carrie Scott, together with Stated Clerk Camille Josey, called the moderator-elect forward and presided over the Service of Installation for RE Teri Ambercrombie (Trinity) as the new presbytery Moderator, who then proceeded to preside over the meeting.

## Approval of the Docket

### DOCKET

9:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome by Host Pastor Kwasi Aye-Addo

Opening Prayer

Sermon by Rev. John Spangler

“Seeing & Welcoming the Many Faces of God!”

Worship Service (Bulletins available on registration table)

10:45 Program

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Stated Meeting

Installation of new moderator RE Teri Abercrombie

Approval of the Docket

Seating Corresponding Members & Welcoming New Commissioners

Good News from the Pews

Reports from Staff and Ministry Teams

Coordinating Team

Carrie Scott

Ministry Transitions Team

Nancy Bertrand

Committee on Representation

John Spangler

Building Leaders Team

Will Scott

Congregational Health Team

LaVert Jones

Ministry Support Team

Greg Moore

Bridge Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk Camille Josey

2:30 Benediction and Adjournment – Rev. Kwasi Aye-Addo

Bridge Stated Clerk Camille Josey moved approval of the docket, with one small change by adding to the Ministry Transitions Team Report, the printed page 10

Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk Search Committee Report the Committee's recommendations and prosecution of the Call. Seconded and **APPROVED**.

### **Seat Corresponding Members**

Motion was **Made-Seconded-PASSED** to seat Rev. Dr. Joel L. Alvis, Jr. as a corresponding member.

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

Various Ministers introduced Ruling Elders attending a Presbytery meeting for the first time. Several visitors were also welcomed.

### **Good News from the Pews**

Several Ruling Elders and Ministers shared good news about mission and ministries in their churches.

### **Moderator Appointments**

The Moderator appointed RE Sally Poole (Woodstock) and RE LaVert Jones (John Knox) to the Presbytery Minutes Review Committee.

### **Special Reports from Guests**

**T. Clark Simmons** provided an update on the work of the Board of Pensions, citing the elimination of "vacancy dues," and the start of several new programs focused on strengthening the ministries of pastors and congregations. **Clare Lewis**, East Coast Representative of the Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program, highlighted the churchwide work of PILP and commended Cherokee Presbytery, and several of its churches, for positive and productive involvement with the PILP program. **Cheryl Hartman**, Director of Program Development at Calvin Center, provided both descriptions and invitations to participate in programs and ministries of Calvin Center, including and upcoming Mustard Seed Gathering.

### **Coordinating Team ~ Carrie Scott**

Team Members: Carrie Scott TE Moderator, Greg Moore TE, John Spangler TE, Will Scott TE, Nancy Bertrand RE

Meeting Dates: Nov. 28, 2018, January 24, 2019

Items for information:

CT met electronically Nov. 28, 2018 and voted unanimously to extend Joan Gray's contract from Dec. 15, 2018 to Jan. 15, 2019.

CT met January 24, 2019 and voted to hire Camille Josey as Bridge Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk from Jan 16, 2019 to May 1, 2019.

CT also unanimously approved the recommendation of the Search Committee to propose Presbytery extend a call for next Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk. Details of that information will be provided in an addendum to the handbook to be emailed on February 18.

## **Committee on Representation ~ John J. Spangler**

Team Members: Paulo Mendes TE, Todd Johnson RE, Jennifer Lee TE, and John Spangler HR (Moderator)

Contact number/email: John Spangler [johnjspangler@hotmail.com](mailto:johnjspangler@hotmail.com)

404-431-8397

No report currently.

## **Ministry Transitions Team ~ Nancy Bertrand**

### **Report presented by Rev. Fritz Bogar**

#### **Items of information to enter into the Presbytery record:**

##### **From the February 7, 2019 MTT meeting--**

1. Elected Nancy Bertrand as the new Chair of the Ministry Transitions Team.
2. Approved motion for Rev. Camille Josey to be an ex officio member of MTT for such time as she serves as Bridge Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk.
3. Rejoiced at the chartering of Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church and the ordination and installation of Rev. Benjamin Kwasi Aye-Addo.
4. Approved the request from Rev. David Jordan for 1001 funding application for ministry to restaurant/bar staff in the Dawsonville/Dahlonega area.

##### **From the December 6, 2018 MTT meeting—**

1. Approved the formation by FPC/Marietta of a new Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.
2. Approved the request from honorably retired Rev. Debbie Wells for transfer of membership to Trinity Presbytery.
3. Approved Rev. Katie Scott to moderate the session of Cohutta Presbyterian Church.
4. Approved Rev. Camille Josey to moderate the session of Westminster

Presbyterian Church until a new interim pastor is in place.

5. Approved Rev. Dr. Sam Henderson as Interim Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church and the related terms of call.

6. Approved Rev. Dr. Joan Gray to serve as liaison to Beersheba Presbyterian Church.

7. Approved Clay Gunter to serve as occasional pulpit supply CRE at Lafayette Presbyterian Church.

### **Item Recommended to Presbytery for Action:**

Sustained the examination of Candidate Rev. Dr. Joel L. Alvis, Jr. and recommend him to Cherokee Presbytery for membership and service as the new Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk, which recommendations are reflected in the subsequent report and recommendations of the Search Committee. **APPROVED**

### **Report and Recommendations of the Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk Search Committee**

Greg Moore, Chair of the Search Committee, presented the written and oral reports of the committee, including the candidate's Faith Statement, Faith Journey, and Sense of Call, together with the committee's recommended Terms of Call. Fritz Bogar reported on the review and evaluation process of the Ministry Transitions Team with Joel Alvis, who then was subject to a time of questions and answers, with various members of the presbytery offering affirmations or addressing questions to him. **The motion to approve Joel Alvis' call as the presbytery's new Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk and to receive him as a minister member of presbytery was APPROVED.** Also, **the motion to approve his Terms of Call (see attachment \_\_\_\_\_) was APPROVED.** Mr. Alvis will begin his term of service effective as of May 1, 2019, with plans for his installation to be set at presbytery's Stated Meeting of May 18, 2019

### **Building Leaders Team ~ Chris Moore-Keish**

Team Members: Will Scott TE, Co.Moderator, Sean Ireland RE, Elizabeth Milford TE, Mike Anderson TE, Erma Jones RE, Chris Moore-Keish TE, Co. Moderator

Contact number/email: Will Scott [wscott@firstpresdalton.org](mailto:wscott@firstpresdalton.org) 704-500-6323 Chris Moore-Keish [christopherelliott1933@gmail.com](mailto:christopherelliott1933@gmail.com) 404-687-4589

Meeting dates: Nov. 8, 2018, Jan, 10,2019, March 7, 2019

Items for information:

1. Kwasi Aye-Addo Ordained
2. Worked with PC(USA) Office of Public Witness for February Meeting programming
3. Presbyterian Foundation to Present at May meeting

No items recommended to Presbytery for Action.

### **Congregational Health Team ~ LaVert Jones**

Printed information was highlighted regarding the 7 presbytery churches participating in the PneuMatrix program and regarding the upcoming March 8-9, 2019 Mustard Seed Gathering focused on providing support to pastors of congregations with 100 or fewer members.

### **Ministry Support Team ~ Greg Moore**

No new report currently beyond printed material in the handbook/docket. (In the handbook/docket, see page 10-15 for the Team report and the financial reports.

### **Bridge Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator Report ~ Camille Josey**

#### **Items for Action by Cherokee Presbytery**

1. Approve the minutes of the November 3, 2018 Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Ray-Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church, Marietta, GA as prepared and circulated. **APPROVED.**
2. Heard from RE Robert Harper the respectful request of the session of First Presbyterian Church Marietta for the Presbytery's adoption of a memorial statement to be incorporated into the minutes of this meeting as testimony to the long and faithful service that RE P. Harris Hines provided to the church and our denomination. **APPROVED.**
3. The ten Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA) received from the General Assembly were presented as a CONSENT AGENDA. There was a request to divide the question, with one item [18-C: Officers (on Amending G-3.0104)] being removed from the Consent Agenda. **The nine items remaining in the Consent Agenda were APPROVED.** After discussion, **the singular item 18-C was APPROVED.**



## Items to Enter into the Record of Cherokee Presbytery

1. On January 20, 2019, Cherokee Presbytery hosted a service of worship at Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church for the purpose of constituting the congregation and for ordaining and installing Benjamin Kwasi Aye-Addo as Pastor and ordaining and installing six newly elected Ruling Elders. It was a joyful celebration and we rejoiced with the members of Ebenezer at this new chapter in their life together.
2. In Accord with the *Book of Order*, the Stated Clerk determined that there will be no change in the parity determination for 2019, per G-3.0301 - ... *The presbytery shall adopt and communicate to the sessions a plan for determining how many ruling elders each session should elect as commissioners to presbytery, with a goal of numerical parity of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders. This plan shall require each session to elect at least one commissioner and shall take into consideration the size of congregations as well as a method to fulfill the principles of participation and representation found in F-1.0403 and G-3.0103. Ruling elders elected as officers of the presbytery shall be enrolled as members during the period of their service. A presbytery may enroll, or may provide by its own rule for the enrollment of, ruling elders during terms of elected service to the presbytery or its congregations....*
3. The stated Clerk submitted the 2017 Cherokee Presbytery Minutes to the Synod of South Atlantic for review. The Minutes were read on November 6, 2018 and approved with comments.
4. We are grateful to Rev. Ken Terrell for his dedication and effort to keep us “decent and in order” by taking minutes at Presbytery meetings. Ken has decided that it is time to pass the baton on this task and the Presbytery is seeking an individual willing to take notes at Presbytery meetings in the future. Ken is willing to “train” the individual who steps up to take on this task.

### Adjournment

At 2:30pm the day’s business of Cherokee Presbytery was concluded, whereupon a motion to adjourn was **M-S-Passed**. The meeting was closed with a Benediction by Rev. Kwasi Aye-Addo.

## 2018 Unified and Per Capita Pledges Received/Paid

Church	Membership/ Attendance	Unified Pledged	Per Capita Pledged	Unified Received	Per Capita Received
Acworth	69/-			1,094.13	705.87
Beersheba	47/-	1,500.00		1,920.00	480.81
Bethany				3,600.00	
Brazilian Christian	77 /			600.00	600.00
Calhoun	159/-	1,200.00		1,200.00	1,626.48
Cartersville First	611/201	7,000.00	3,000.00	9,966.63	6,033.33
Cedartown	90/-			1,000.04	905.79
Chickamauga	58/36	870.00		870.00	593.34
Christ Fellowship	27/-	500.00		500.00	276.21
Cohutta	26/23			900.00	265.98
Covenant	198/97	8,000.00	2,025.54	8,993.37	2,367.24
Dalton First	117/68	8,000.00		8,000.04	1,196.91
Deer Creek Shores	96/-	3,000.00		3,750.00	1,222.08
Faith Canton	67/30				685.41
Faith North Georgia	110/77	3,000.00	1,125.30	3,000.00	1,665.30
Grace	103/			5,361.09	
Heritage	342/150			1,241.56	3,386.86
John Knox	111/-			1,250.00	555.00
Kirkwood	146/98	6,000.00		5,500.00	1,368.58
LaFayette	18/21	7,500.00		5,015.86	184.14
Light of Hope	104/65			9,968.00	1,063.92
Macland	243/				2,485.89
Marietta First	1544/320			18,333.34	
Morton Memorial	32/-			1,100.00	327.36
Ray-Thomas Memorial	122/-				1,084.00
Rockmart	91/50	6,500.00		6,500.00	767.00
Silver Creek	50/29			2,200.00	500.00
Trinity	37/	2,500.00		2,500.00	
Westminster	214/110	5,000.00		5,000.00	
Woodstock	24/24				245.52
<b>12/20/18</b>					
Miscellaneous Receipts				732.44	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4933/1473</b>	<b>60,570.00</b>	<b>6,150.84</b>	<b>110,096.50</b>	<b>30,593.02</b>

Deer Creek 750, Heritage 500, John Knox 1,250, Westminster 417, Covenant 1666.70, Cedartown 83.37, Grace 1,560.14 for 2017 in 2018  
 Faith/BR 540 per capita in 2018 for 2017

### 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 Church	Update
Acworth	200,716	60,754	5/1/16			Regions	4.95	712		x	6/18
Bethany 10244706	300,000	155,321	3/18/08	3/25/28		PCUSA	3.50	2022	x	x	12/18
Braz. Christian	?										
Calhoun 1026807	920,000	431,705	1/16/08	5/1/30		PCUSA	3.89	5,052	x	x	12/18
Cartersville	400,000	400,000				?				x	11/18
Deer Creek	175,000	115,000				Citizens	4.50			x	3/16
Faith/BR 1052318	1,182,960	1,182,960	12/21/18	1/1/2038		PILP	4.04			X	12/18
Grace 1022405	400,000	188,368	2/3/06	3/1/26		PILP	4.25	2,572		x	12/18
Heritage 1038211	2,000,000	1,374,621	2/21/12	3/1/2032		PILP	4.25	11,607		x	12/18
John Knox	250,000	63,191				Synovus	4.75	1,617		X	9/18
Kirkwood 9013803	150,000	146,751	6/28/18	7/25/33		PCUSA	3.28	1,056		X	12/18
Macland 1041813	1,600,000	1,231,231	12/16/13	1/1/2034		PCUSA	4.25	9,263		x	12/18
Ray-Thomas 33042206	350,000	13,175	12/6/99	12/25/19		PCUSA	3.50	2557	x	Pd. by Bethany	12/18
Ray-Thomas 1004298	425,000	2,813	1/15/99	2/1/19		PCUSA	4.25	2823	x	Pd. by Bethany	12/18
Westminster	1,577,422	1,017,475	5/1/2009	3/27/20		Gr Rome Com	4.00	6,530		X	9/18
Woodstock 6093804	300,000	9,424	3/6/96	3/25/21		PCUSA	3.50	1550	x	x	12/18
Woodstock 0263904	23,000	22,595	1/1/2018	1/1/2028		PCUSA	2.50	217		X	12/18
<b>Totals</b>	<b>10,254,098</b>	<b>6,415,385</b>									
12/31/18											
<b>Churches</b>	<b>No Loans</b>										
Beersheba											
Cedartown											
Chickamauga											
Christ Fellowship											
Cohutta											
Covenant											
Dalton											
Faith/Canton											

LaFayette													
Light of Hope													
Marietta 1st													
Morton Mem.													
Rockmart													
Silver Creek													
Trinity													

Updated 2/5/19

### 2018 Special Offerings

Church	Mother's Day/	One Great	Pntco st	P'making	Christ/Joy	Me d Ben v	Missi on	Disast er Relief	Theo Ed	Thor n-well	NCD/ NVisi on	CR C	Other Givin g
	PresHome	Hou r											
Acworth													
Beersheba		214											
Brazilian Christian													
Calhoun		70			516					1.50			
Cartersville								1235					
Cedartown	80	350					615			35			
Chickamauga													
Christ Fellowship													
Cohutta		200	120		200								
Covenant	860	1153	733		840			1550		1620			
Dalton													
Deer Creek													
Faith/Canton													
Faith/Blue Ridge	240	200	242										
Grace		674	183	110	919					100			
Heritage		383											
John Knox	118	70	124	105				705					
Kirkwood	420	521			192								
LaFayette													
Light of Hope	425	720			450								
Macland													
Marietta		1674					3125	1365		28.50			
Morton Memorial													
Ray-Thomas	50	125		25									

Rockmart	1650	1025			200	500		105					
Silver Creek													
Trinity		351			689								
Westminster	220	504	99		191					25			
Woodstock													
Other													
Grand Total 2018	4063	8234	1501	240	4197	500	3740	4960	0	1810			

**Profit & Loss**

**Jan 19**

**Ordinary Income/Expense**

**Income**

44009 · Budgeted Receipts 35,050.78

**Total Income** 35,050.78

**Gross Profit** 35,050.78

**Expense**

56219 · Ebenezer Ghan Grant Expense 10,000.00

51300 · Misc. Presbytery Expense 500.00

51216 · Pby Office Operating Expense 1,704.84

51000 · Salaries & Benefits 6,841.35

54105 · COM/Cong Health Team 3,000.00

60001 · Payroll Expenses 5.25

**Total Expense** 22,051.44

**Net Ordinary Income** 12,999.34

**Net Income** 12,999.34

**Balance Sheet Jan 31, 19**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

Checking/Savings 152,477.99

**Total Current Assets** 152,477.99

**Fixed Assets** 2,708,591.69

**Other Assets** 1,148,027.36

**TOTAL ASSETS** 4,009,097.04

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

Accounts Payable 3,486.92

**Total Current Liabilities** 3,486.92

**Long Term Liabilities** 188,367.99

**Total Liabilities** 191,854.91

**Equity** 3,817,242.13

P. Harris Hines  
September 1943 – November 2018  
In Memoriam

Elder Harris Hines served First Presbyterian Church in Marietta faithfully for nearly 45 years in many roles including Clerk of Session for 1996, 1997, 2001 and 2002. Elder Hines was the deliberate, efficient and unemotional Clerk of Session providing wise guidance to young elders and unexperienced pastors alike. He helped lead the church through the retirement of long-serving Senior Pastor James Speed and during a difficult period for church leadership in 2002.

Born in Atlanta on September 6, 1943, Harris Hines graduated from Emory University in 1965 and Emory University School of Law School in 1968. He moved to Cobb County with spouse Helen Hines in 1971 to practice law in Marietta, Georgia. Harris and Helen Hill Hines raised their two children in Marietta and quickly became pillars of the community. The Hines family attended First Presbyterian Church in Marietta.

Georgia Governor Jimmy Carter appointed Harris Hines to serve on the Cobb County State Court in 1974 and then serve on the Cobb Superior Court. Governor Zell Miller appointed Judge Hines to the Georgia Supreme Court in 1995, serving as Presiding Justice (2013 to 2016) and Chief Justice from 2016 until retirement in 2018.

Chief Justice Harris Hines possessed an exceptional legal mind and is described by United States Senator Johnny Isakson as “a Cobb County legend whose faithful service and expertise on the bench made a positive impact on our entire state.” Georgia Governor Nathan Deal describes Supreme Court Justice Harris Hines as “one of those fellows who brought dignity to the bench but also brought a sense of humanity with his personality, with his sense of humor.”

Elder Harris Hines personified the admonition in Micah 6:8, "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." In the midst of controversy, he showed patience, listened intently, reasoned wisely, and judged fairly. Elder Hines offered a measured response, fair and accurate, respecting all parties, guiding with firmness when needed. He spoke the truth in love – love of the church he faithfully served, love of each individual and their perspective, but saying and acting as the truth led him to speak and act.

Elder Hines' quiet confidence had a steadying influence on all who knew him. This, together with his selfless manner, made him an effective leader wherever he went. Short in stature but tall in

character, Harris served as a model for others. He could always be counted on "to do the right thing."

Harris Hines loved life, and those in his life loved him. Harris had a great capacity for fun with family and friends. He loved his family first, but he made those around him feel like family. The stories of how Harris enjoyed life will entertain and bring fond memories to many of us for the rest of our lives. His laugh, his smile, his gift for gab enamored Harris Hines to all.

First Presbyterian Church in Marietta, the community of Cobb County and the State of Georgia has lost a person of rare intellect, rare talent, superb character, and beautiful spirit. He is missed by all.

Presented for adoption by the Session of First Presbyterian Church in Marietta and by the Cherokee Presbytery to be spread upon the pages of minutes for each respective body as a perpetual memorial to Elder P. Harris Hines.

Adopted by First Presbyterian Church in Marietta on December 16, 2018

### **Report of the Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk Search Committee**

Attached to this report you will find four (4) documents:

- Faith Statement
- Faith Journey
- Sense of Call
- Compensation Terms

The Search Committee is excited to recommend to you Rev. Dr. Joel Alvis as candidate for Cherokee Presbytery Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk.

In taking this recommendation to the Coordinating Team, Search Committee member Elder Erma Jones wrote the following:

*It was a pleasure for me to serve as a member of the Search Committee for the Mission Coordinator. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give my personal support and endorsement of the Reverend Dr. Joel Alvis.*

*As head of staff and interim pastorate, Reverend Alvis has a variety of excellent work experience that I know will be an asset to our presbytery.*

*He has impeccable qualifications, credentials in continuing education, participation in organizational and professional boards that accentuate his career. Yesterday, I discovered that he was a member of the Conference of Ghanaian Church of North America. This is just a glimpse of the varied examples of his participation in organizations and leadership positions beyond the church pastorate.*

*Additionally, I am impressed by his leadership style which will lend itself to effectively leading our presbytery's diverse composition, responsibility and programmatic function. If we choose a ministry action plan on stewardship as a goal for Cherokee, his experience would be beneficial for this objective.*

*Per his references, he works well with others, and leaves no stone unturned in completing a task. His standard of expertise and adherence to ethical guidelines are flawless.*

*If compensation is a challenge, I highly recommend that we try all options available to us to meet that challenge.*

*Based on all that I have reviewed regarding Reverend Dr. Alvis, it is without reservation that I full endorse him as our next Mission Coordinator.*

It is with a great deal of excitement that the Search Committee presents to you Rev. Dr. Joel Alvis as candidate for Cherokee's Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk!

**Cherokee Presbytery  
P. O. Box 1839  
Cartersville, GA 30120-3548**

February 18, 2019  
Reverend Joel Alvis, Jr., Ph.D.  
2473 Fontainebleau Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30360

RE: Cherokee Presbytery Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator

Dear Reverend Alvis,

Thank you so much for submitting an application for the position of Cherokee Presbytery Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator. Our committee thoroughly enjoyed reviewing your qualifications, talking with you on zoom and meeting you in person about our position. You met with The Coordinating Team and it was decided that you are the person who God is calling to lead us. Our committee and The Coordinating Team recognize your many wonderful accomplishments and experience, and it is with thankfulness and excitement that we offer our position to you under the following terms of call:

Salary:	\$ 37,000
Housing:	25,000
Travel Reimbursement	7,500
CPE & Other Expenses	3,200
Full Participation in the Board of Pensions	<u>22,940</u>
Total Package	<u>\$ 95,640</u>

We look forward to your leadership and your ministry with us and understand that your start date will be May 1, 2019. You have indicated that May 5-10, 2019 you will be attending Presbyterian Leadership Formation training in Louisville, KY.

God bless.



Rev. Greg Moore  
Chair, Cherokee Presbytery Stated Clerk/Mission Coordinator Search Committee

**Statement of Faith: Joel L. Alvis, Jr.**

*Jesus is Lord!* is a simple confession. It is an ancient creed that says what I have come to know, believe and trust as a follower of God in Jesus Christ.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that I know the reality of God in three persons – the Trinity. The Word was, is, and will be the generative power of God to create, redeem and bless the world. Through the gift of our ancestors we know the persons of the Trinity as the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that God created the world from a void and breathed life into that creation. God created humankind. Despite rebellion against God, humankind is called by God into a special relationship through the children of Israel. From that relationship Jesus was born. In the life, death and resurrection of Jesus we are blessed to be restored in our relationship to God and seated at the table of the Lord's banquet.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that through the Scriptures of the Bible known as the Old and New Testament we have a testimony to share in the world of the Word of God made flesh in Jesus Christ. This Word provides challenge and opportunity even as it is also a gives refreshment and encouragement.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that the Church is the body of Christ. We find this community where there is the proclamation of the Word of God, sharing and receiving of the sacraments and a covenant community of Jesus' disciples.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that if any one part of the church is blessed, all are blessed. If any one part of the church is hurt, all are hurt. The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper nurture us to see and hear things that are not seen with our eyes and hear things that are not heard with our ears.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that I confess having been sealed in baptism and living into a covenant of grace within the community of the Church where I join others in sharing the wholeness of

God and seeking reconciliation in the Church and world.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims that I confess having been nourished with the fruits from grain and grape at the Lord's Table not due to any merit but by God's grace so that I may receive the spiritual nourishment all follower of Jesus need.

*Jesus is Lord!* proclaims hope that we are part of a cloud of witnesses that connects us not only with the past but extends into the future and by which we live in the present. The wonder of God's grace and faith is that we are offered to share a foretaste of those fruits by participating with others in living out the good news that Jesus is Lord!

*Jesus is Lord!* It is a simple confession. And it is sufficient.

### **Joel L. Alvis, Jr. -- Faith Journey**

*Come Holy Spirit Heavenly Dove, With all Thy quickening power,  
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love, And that shall kindle ours.*

This fourth verse of an Isaac Watts hymn was the Prayer for Illumination used each week by the pastor of the congregation where I became a Presbyterian. The verse has remained with me for forty years. Growing up in a Christian home, I saw faith lived out as my parents responded to God's call in a Baptist church. My father shared his medical arts on mission trips and in the community and my mother participated as a key volunteer of women's mission activities. But growing up in Mississippi in the 1960s I felt some disjuncture between the church world and the rest of the world. I now know God was a calling me to serve in the church from a young age. However, I did not want to be a Baptist preacher.

For a season I was an Episcopalian. There I asked a priest about seeking Holy Orders. He replied: "Joel do not go into ministry unless there is nothing else you can do." Some hear a rebuke in that comment. I did not. The Lord speaks to us often in the words of others. It was not my time.

I completed my Ph.D. in American History at Auburn University and began a career as an archivist at the Historical Foundation, now the Presbyterian Heritage Center, in Montreat, NC. But there was still a yearning to serve in some other way. Eventually with the direction of Vicki, my wife, and our pastor at the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, I said yes to preparing for ordained ministry.

We spent the next three years at the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. It was a privilege to participate in *The Presbyterian Presence Study Project* coordinated by Seminary faculty. As a result, I published an article about how different Presbyterian denominations lived with and contributed to racial tension. Later I published my Ph.D. dissertation, *Religion and Race: Southern Presbyterians, 1946-1983*. My first opportunity to serve as Minister of Word and Sacrament came from St. Pauls, NC where I served for eight plus years. After five years as an associate pastor at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Dunwoody, GA, I entered a time of discernment for future ministry. One day my phone rang. It was an inquiry to be interviewed as an interim pastor. I said yes. Through that encounter I discovered the power of interim ministry. I learned that an interim is not a person, it is a process. What happens in the interim time is not all that different than what happens during an installed pastorate. What is different is the intensity and rapidity of these movements.

I have served eleven congregations as an interim pastor in the Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta, New Hope, Tampa Bay and Flint River. Through this calling and service, I have been a colleague in ministry by service on multiple committees in these Presbyteries, including Committee for Preparation for Ministry, and a commissioner to the 2008 General Assembly. In different seasons, I taught Presbyterian History at Johnson C. Smith Seminary and was part of the faculty for the Interim Pastor Training at Calvin Center. In other places I have been a resource person for transitional matters and a member of an Administrative Commission.

Last fall a colleague that knew of the Cherokee Presbytery search suggested that I apply for the position of Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk. I consulted those who knew my work. I prayed. And I applied. Throughout my ministry I have worked with presbytery leaders, both staff and volunteers. In each place I have sought to share the love of God through the fruits of the Holy Spirit. As I come to Cherokee Presbytery, I pray that the quickening power of God's Spirit will use me in ways that are useful and good for the benefit of the body of Christ.

**Sense of Call**  
**To the Ministry of Cherokee Presbytery as**  
**Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk**  
Joel L. Alvis, Jr., Ph.D.

In the fall of 2018, a colleague that knew of the Cherokee Presbytery search for Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk suggested that I apply for the position. I consulted others with Presbytery leaders with whom I had worked, as well as church members and family. I prayed. And I contacted the Search Committee.

Three phrases that describe my ministry are:

- Developing relationships grounded in Christian faith,
- Identifying and utilizing resources found in the Church, and
- Sharing the joy and responsibility of Christian community.

The purpose of a presbytery is to be a place to provide connection and build support. Your mission structure highlights three functions:

- Cultivate leaders
- Support Congregations
- Facilitate Mission

These priorities resonate with my calling to build relationships, identify and connect resources and share community. I sense that your priorities and my skills may be blended together in a purposeful and useful ministry for the work of Jesus Christ through Cherokee Presbytery.

