

MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY  
 Tuesday, September 27, 2011, 5:30 p.m., Bethany Presbyterian Church, Marietta, Georgia

*Multi-Cultural Ministry* was the theme as Cherokee Presbytery met at the Bethany Presbyterian Church for its September 27, 2011, Stated Meeting.

**THE FOLLOWING TEACHING ELDERS WERE PRESENT: (46)**

Cido Araujo	Keith Gunter	David McDonald (HR)	Bridget Waddell
Denise Beltzner	Sid Gunter	O. Gregory Moore	Carol Wade
Rebecca Blackwell	Bryant Harris	Dick Neelly (HR)	Jack Waskey (HR)
Fritz Bogar	Sam Henderson	Cyndi Parr	Charles Weaver (HR)
Joe Brice	Julie Jensen	Pete Paulsen	Debbie Wells
Catherine Cavazos	Young Jeon	Carol Scott	John Wells
Byeongho Choi	Ray Jones	Mickey Shealy	Tom Wood
Pem Cooley (HR)	Zeta Lamberson	Ted Smith	(HR = Honorably Retired)
Tyler Downing	Ben Laughlin	John Spangler	(6)
Julie Ferguson	Jennifer Lee	Ron Stoker	
Jack Foley	Peter Lim	George Stroup	40 Active + 6 HR=46
Bill Ford	John Martin	Ken Terrell (HR)	
Dave Grove	Tim McConnell	Pete Ullmann	

**THE FOLLOWING TEACHING ELDERS WERE GRANTED EXCUSED ABSENCES: (14)**

Sam Bridges	Stephen Hayner	Dan Nail	Ken Waddell
Tim Dunn	Maryellen Hittel	Jose Pezini	Taekhan Yoon
Don Esa	David Horton	Lucas Pina	
Darrell Guder	Janet Looby	Susan Reggin	

**THE FOLLOWING HONORABLY RETIRED TEACHING ELDERS WERE ABSENT AND DID NOT REQUIRE**

**EXCUSES: (37)** Herschel Allen, Tino Ballesteros, Ewell Black, Jack Bunkley, Bert Carmichael, Archie Davis, Maxine Edwards, Tim Erskine, Charles Feast, Eleana Garrett, David Glauner, Catherine Gonzalez, Jenny Hammett, William Hammond, Rodney Hunter, Walter Jones, Jin Hoon Kim, Homer Kimmons, Roger Kvam, Ed Langham, Larry Lewis, Jake Marshall, Roger Martin, Elizabeth McAilley, Van Nesbit, Jan Rhodes, Tom Rogers, Frank Sapp, Mary Kay Sapp, Cuyler Smith, Jim Speed, John Tarrant, Gil Ward, Frank Weathersby, Thurston Wilson, Donn Wright.

**THE FOLLOWING TEACHING ELDERS WERE ABSENT WITHOUT EXCUSE: (4)** Reginaldo Braga, Ed Craft, Mike Jackson, Daewang Kim.

**SESSION COMMISSIONERS PRESENT – 51; UNEXCUSED – 13; EXCUSED - 2 = 66**

<b>Acworth</b> – (Unexcused)	<b>Mars Hill</b> – <i>Joe Baker</i> , Debra Kasson-Jones
<b>Bearsheba</b> – (Excused)	<b>Menlo</b> – (Unexcused)
<b>Bethany</b> – (Unexcused), (Unexcused), (Unexcused)	<b>Morton Memorial</b> – (Unexcused)
<b>Brazilian Christian</b> – (Unexcused)	<b>New Lebanon</b> – Dayton Adams, Don Martin
<b>Calhoun</b> – Laurie Kersey, (Unexcused)	<b>Parkway</b> – <i>Roger Blackstock</i> , David Miller
<b>Calvary</b> – David Boozer	<b>Providence</b> – <i>Janet Yoak</i>
<b>Cartersville</b> – Jo Clark, Nannette Enloe, Chris Mullinax	<b>Ray-Thomas</b> – Marx Borges, Susan Monk
<b>Cedartown</b> – Allen Copeland	<b>Rockmart</b> – Janet Moody
<b>Chickamauga</b> – Wendy Wrinn	<b>Silver Creek</b> – Charles Walls
<b>Christ Fellowship</b> – (Unexcused)	<b>Sixes</b> – (Excused)
<b>Cloudland</b> – (Unexcused)	<b>Southminster</b> – David Markle
<b>Cohutta</b> – DeMaris Davenport	<b>Summerville</b> – Sue Spivey
<b>Covenant</b> – Robert Foster, <i>Alan Frutchey</i>	<b>Trinity</b> – Teri Abercrombie
<b>Dalton</b> – Jamie Jones, James Lesslie, David Snyder	<b>Westminster</b> – Marie Carlisle, Richard Merritt
<b>Deer Creek</b> – Linda Snowden	<b>Woodlawn</b> – Freida St. Germain
<b>Eastminster</b> – <i>Jo Byrd, Dick Du Bose</i> , Chuck Frew	<b>Woodstock</b> – (Unexcused)
<b>Euharlee</b> – (Unexcused)	
<b>Faith, Canton</b> – Richard Peterson	<i>Bold Italics = first time attending as elder commissioner (9)</i>
<b>Faith, North Georgia</b> – Judy Evans	<b>Elder Coordinating Team Member with Voting Rights (1):</b>
<b>Grace</b> – Kay Parrish	Nate Marini (Cherokee Retreat Center Board of Directors)
<b>Heritage</b> – Barbara Jesse, <i>Cassie Waits</i> , Ralph Walker	<b>Elder Commissioners Present: 51 + 1 Coordinating Team</b>
<b>John Knox</b> – Erma Jones, (Unexcused)	<b>Member = 52</b>
<b>Kirkwood</b> – Susan Jarman	
<b>LaFayette</b> – Laura Wilson	
<b>Macland</b> – Scotty McAilley, <i>Amy Smith</i>	
<b>Marietta First</b> – Becky Cameron, <i>Scotty Gregory</i> , Theo Park, Wilkie Schell, Mary Varella, Ben Whitaker	

**REGISTERED VISITORS: (21)** Presbyterian Foundation Development Officer Mark Shoemaker, Sonny Oakley (Calvary), Brenda Terrell (Chattooga Parish), Beth Briggs (Cohutta), Palmer Griffin, Carolyn Smith (Dalton First), Jerry Snowden (Deer Creek Shores), Frances McDonald (Morton Memorial), Norm Bruinsma, Suzie Dominique, Stephen Edge, C. W. Hoffs, Shannon Holthaus, Eloise Newton, Billy Saville (Parkway), Carol Osborne (Providence), Betty Cheek, Kelly Howington, Sarita Morris (Presbytery Staff), and Visiting Ministers Rev. Brahm Luckhoff (Elizabeth, NJ), and Rev. Paulo Mendes (Greater Atlanta).

**Total attendance: 46 ministers, 52 elders = 98 with voting rights; + 21 registered visitors = 119 Total.**

### **We Gather Together in God's Name**

During the gathering and fellowship hour from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., a delicious Korean meal was served by the Bethany congregation.

### **Declaration of Quorum, Call to Order, Convening Prayer**

The Gathering Ritual and Liturgy were led by Rev. Keith Gunter, Elder Erma Jones (John Knox), Elder Marx Borges (Ray-Thomas), Rev. Carrie Scott, and Rev. Peter Lim. Stated Clerk Rev. Rebecca Blackwell declared that a quorum was present; Moderator Elder Velma Tilley was excused because of illness. Acting Moderator Rev. Ted Smith called the meeting to order and led the opening prayer.

### **Introduction of Visitors and First-time Elder Commissioners**

Presbytery welcomed visitors and corresponding members. Nine first-time session commissioners stood for introduction.

### **Seating of Corresponding Members**

**Action #1 – Presbytery seated corresponding members Brazilian Christian Church Pastor Rev. Paulo Mendes (Presbytery of Greater Atlanta), and Faith/Canton Church Stated Supply Pastor Rev. Brahm Luckhoff (Elizabeth NJ).**

### **Visit from the Presbyterian Foundation**

Presbyterian Foundation Development Officer Mark Shoemaker reviewed the program of the Presbyterian Foundation and invited those present to visit the table of displayed material.

### **Moderator's Appointments**

Rev. Bridget Waddell and Ruling Elder Jo Clark (Cartersville First) were appointed to read the minutes of the September 27, 2011, Stated Meeting. Rev. Joe Brice and Ruling Elder Betty Cheek (Presbytery Staff) were appointed to the Absentee Committee for the meeting. At the February meeting the Moderator appointed Rev. Pete Paulsen as Discernmentarian, Rev. John Spangler as Parliamentarian, and Ruling Elder Betty Cheek (Presbytery Staff) as Recording Clerk for the duration of the Moderator's Term.

### **Welcome from our Hosts**

Rev. Byeongho Choi brought greetings from the Bethany session and congregation. A video about the Bethany mission outreach program was shown.

### **Approval of Docket**

The Moderator called on Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk Rev. Rebecca Blackwell, who moved the docket.

**Action #2 – Presbytery approved the Docket for the Gathering and Stated Meeting.**

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Docket for Gathering and Stated Meeting  
of  
Cherokee Presbytery  
September 27, 2011

4:30 – 5:30: Meal and registration

### **WE GATHER TOGETHER IN GOD'S NAME**

5:30 Gathering Ritual

Call to Order/Declaration of Quorum/Opening Prayer (Velma Tilley)

Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery, September 27, 2011

Welcome of first time commissioners and seating of corresponding members  
Welcome visitors  
Moderator Appointments  
Welcome from Hosts  
Approval of Docket  
Call to Worship  
Hymn  
Confession  
Assurance

### **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture  
Sermon           Rev. Paulo Mendes preaching (Brazilian Christian Church)  
Hymn  
Affirmation of Faith

### **WE SHARE OUR GIFTS WITH GOD AND WITH ONE ANOTHER**

Offering Our Financial Gifts  
Offering the Gifts of our Time and Skills  
    Communications Task Force  
    Report from Engage Conference  
    Ministry Support Team  
    CPM report  
    Nominating Committee Report  
Prayer of Dedication  
Committee on Ministry Report

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE AND GOD'S WORD**

Coordinating Team Report, Part I  
    Change in By-laws – vote (requires 2/3 vote)  
    Gracious Dismissal Policy introduction  
    Questions and Answers related to Gracious Dismissal Policy  
Small group conversations related to dismissal policy  
Coordinating Team Report Part II  
    Parkway Dismissal Recommendation  
    Debate and Vote on Parkway Dismissal  
    Gracious Dismissal Debate and Vote  
Mission Coordinator's Report  
Thinking the Faith Together – Fritz Bogar  
Sharing our Joys and Concerns with one another  
Prayers of the People

### **WE DEPART TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE WITH THE WORLD**

Present and Act on Consent Agenda  
Attendance Report  
Other Business  
Announcements  
Motion to Adjourn after Benediction  
Closing Hymn  
Benediction  
Closing Prayer  
9:00 p.m. – Adjourn

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**Action #3 – The motion was approved to limit speaking time for each person to three minutes during debates, and to alternate between those for and those against a motion.**

## **We Listen for God's Word**

Following the Call to Worship, Confession and Assurance, Rev. Paulo Mendes, Pastor of the Brazilian Christian Church, preached the sermon based on Ephesians 4:1-16, *How can we develop our unity in Christ in a diverse world?* Rev. Peter Lim led the Affirmation of Faith.

## **We Share Our Gifts with God and with One Another**

### **Offering Our Financial Gifts**

A special offering in the amount of \$1076, which included donations for the meal, was received to support the ministry of Cherokee Retreat Center.

### **Offering the Gifts of our Time and Skills**

#### **Communications Task Force**

A report was given on the Communications Task Force, a sub-team of the Ministry Support Team which is considering communications needs for the presbytery.

#### **Report from Engage Conference**

Report was heard on the recent *Engage* conference on Evangelism, which was attended by Covenant and Heritage members.

#### **Ministry Support Team – Maryellen Hittel, Acting Moderator**

*Overview: The Mission Goal of the Ministry Support Team is to provide the infrastructure for the presbytery's mission and ministry so that the members and staff will support, respect, and be accountable to one another. This includes Personnel, Budget and Finance, and Communications.*

*Team Members: Dayton Adams (2013), Jack Foley (2013), Judy Greeson (2011), Maryellen Hittel (2011, (Acting Moderator), Stan Tilley (2012), Vacancy in Class of 2012. Ex-Officio Member: Greg Moore.*

#### **September Presbytery Meeting Update:**

The Ministry Support Team has been steadily working on a number of different things. First of all we want to thank all of you for your continual commitment to the Presbytery and its role in our lives through your financial contributions. We know that ministry is so much more than money, but it does take funds to pay staff, to run buildings and to support outreach. The past few years have been a challenge but each year, you have all come through and it is with great praise that we continue to rely upon God to meet needs and to give us vision. We pray that this same generosity and support will continue.

With that said, it is once again time to begin to submit budgets for the year 2012. In order to meet the financial needs of the Presbytery, we will be asking for support for this budget from all of the congregations. When we all give, like the food at the feeding of the 4000 and 5000, we see our resources multiply. Camp Cherokee and the Campus Ministry program have to rely upon additional funding. We would love to be able to fully fund these programs but our budget has not been able to do so. Please consider additional gifts to these ministries and to New Church Development. Currently, the camp is facing a shortage for the year and the team will be doing a drive to help offset the expenses. Summer camp was a success. Many weekends remain available so if your church is planning an outing, please consider our own Camp facilities.

One of the tasks that the Ministry Support team has been undertaking over the last few months has been a complete look at our line items in our balance sheet. We have identified several accounts that have been dormant. These accounts are being examined to see how they can be used for ministry now and we will update you on how they are distributed. Areas such as debt reduction, helping pay a mortgage or two when a congregation runs into tight financial times, camp ministry, campus ministry and new church development remain priorities for funds. The team remains committed to being good stewards of our financial dollars.

Last year, as we were reviewing jobs and creating the budget, it was determined that a close look at the communications position was needed. This position was cut from the budget and a task force to help us examine the best practices and needs of the Presbytery was created. This group has been meeting off and on focusing on how to use technology and how to create and maintain a web-site that can be used by all and managed effectively. After careful consideration and after hours of our Mission Coordinator managing the Presbytery's web-site, this task force and the committee believe that creating a new position to manage the web-site and assist our local congregations in the maintenance and creation of web-sites is essential to helping us spread the good news. We believe that, as Presbyterians, we have something vital to offer this community, particularly at this time. Information is moving to the internet as we all know – staying current will enable us to reach beyond all of our doors. Serving the smaller churches that do not have individuals equipped to manage and maintain web-sites is a concern and we hope to be able to provide this support.

In addition, technology can be used to help us reach beyond our doors in our own communities. The ability to stream church services on-line can be available and much more. Ben Atha, with the Communications Task Force can assist the local congregations. You will find in your packet (Page 43) a survey asking for technical information and the contact person for the

church for technology. Please take the time right now to locate this sheet of paper and to fill it out. Return it to Betty Cheek or at the sign in desk. If you do want to pursue learning more about live streaming, please inform the Presbytery office and we will have someone contact you.

We continue to work with congregations who need assistance in restructuring loans, in financing new projects and in other financial matters. With this in mind, if your church has available funds to help offset some of our struggling congregations we ask that you consider making donations to these churches or towards a fund to be used for this purpose. We are in ministry together and as Presbyterians, connectional, which is one of our greatest gifts when lived out.

We are grateful for our excellent staff, who serve the Presbytery with enthusiasm, intelligence and love. Phone calls are quickly answered and questions dealt with. Information is readily available and it is all done by a kind word. The employees help to maintain information and to distribute it. Continuing to create avenues of communication and making sure that all have access to information remains a priority. Cherokee Chat is one of our best resources. Please remember to email this communications source to your elders and others who are interested in receiving it.

Faith in Blue Ridge has negotiated a new lease in a new location in the center of town. This allows them to have their own space for growth and identity. We celebrate with Faith this move and look forward to seeing how God will use the new space in mission and ministry. This is a 2 year lease with an option for 2 more years and does not encumber the Presbytery.

We value your input and if you have any questions or responses please let us know.

#### **Actions:**

**As part of the consent agenda, the Ministry Support Team submitted the August 31, 2011 Financial Statements (pages 28-31), as information.**

#### **Report of the Treasurer – Rev. O. Gregory Moore**

The 2010 Cherokee Presbytery Properties Financial Records have been reviewed by Charles A. Hall, Certified Public Accountant, Calhoun, Georgia with the following statement:

*We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of Cherokee Presbytery Properties, Inc. as of December 31, 2010 and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of Organization management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.*

*Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.*

*Our responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our report.*

*Based on our review we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.*

*Charles A. Hall, PC  
Certified Public Accountant*

**Action #4 – Presbytery approved the motion to receive the report as information and to enter the full review report into the minutes of the September 27, 2011, Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery (Page 44).**

#### **CPM Report**

##### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Fritz Bogar, Moderator**

*Overview: The work of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry is to represent the Presbytery in partnership with local Sessions, overseeing the constitutional process of preparation of individuals for the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Committee is responsible for engaging with individuals in a process of mutual discernment of God's particular call and in practical preparation for the demands of the office.*

*Committee Members: Fritz Bogar (Moderator) (2011), Walt Beamer (2013), Becky Cameron (2011), Julie Ferguson (2011), Helen James (2012), Julie Jensen (2013), Roger Kvam (2013), Tim McConnell (2012), O. Gregory Moore (2013), Carol Scott (2011), Chris Townley (2012), Bridget Waddell (2012).*

For Information:

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on September 20, 2011, and interviewed Dorothy Mae Lott, a member of John Knox Presbyterian Church. She is currently a senior at Columbia Theological Seminary, expecting to graduate by the end of December 2011 or January 2012. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry voted unanimously to enroll Dorothy as an Inquirer. Her Faith Statement is below.
2. There have been changes made in the grading of ordination exams. Anyone interested in participating in computer grading should contact the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

CHEROKEE PRESBYTERY INQUIRERS and CANDIDATES (9/21/11)

Clyde Bearrs	Candidate from Ray-Thomas – certified ready to receive a call (5/19/09)
Silvio Estevez	Inquirer from Ray-Thomas (7/21/09)
Stephen Fearing	Inquirer from Dalton (2/15/11)
Bermsoo Kris Kim	Candidate from Bethany (3/16/10)
Dorothy Lott	Inquirer from John Knox (9/20/11)
Elizabeth Luangphakdy	Candidate from Brazilian Christian Church (11/16/10)
Charles Nyaga	Candidate from Southminster (5/24/05)
Samuel Pack	Inquirer from Bethany (11/9/10)
Ana Sara Pinto	Candidate from Brazilian Christian Church (3/22/11)
Raphael Pinto	Candidate from Brazilian Christian Church (3/22/11)
Carolyn Smith	Candidate – certified ready to receive a call (2002)
Joseph Song	Inquirer from Bethany (12/15/09)
Kira Stringer	Inquirer from First Marietta (6/21/11)
Camille Townsend	Inquirer from Macland (8/21/07)
William Yoo	Candidate from Bethany – certified ready to receive a call (1/20/09)

## Dorothy Mae Lott

### Faith Statement

I accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and was baptized at an early age. I believe in Holy Sacraments: Baptism, the Lord's Supper. These practices have helped me to understand what it means to be a Christian. Jesus Christ came to show us the way for salvation and hope, love, peace, joy, and happiness. My personal testimonies from worshipping with others in church; praying, and giving praises to God has helped to strengthen my spiritual walk and understanding of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said "where there are two or three that have come together in my name there will I be also" - Matt 18.20. When times seem hard and difficult to handle, my early life in the church has been my backbone and support to keep me afloat and to move me forward in life and in my spiritual growth. The Holy Spirit has helped me understand about putting others first: Forgoing college at the age of 18; offering my self as sacrifice rather than my family when strangers pushed their way into my home at gun point and tied-up my mother and myself. I immediately said to the stranger, my mother is half-blind, and she can't see you so shoot me and let them go. Time stood still; the next thing I heard was a voice saying, "Leave them alone, they don't know anything." Sometime later I heard a voice saying "get up." I believe that the Holy Spirit works in mysterious ways. Just as God saved that woman over 2000 years ago that was accused of committing adultery (John 8), GOD also saved me and my family over 23 years ago. I can only think about being more and more like Jesus; that is to minister to and to help others come to believe and to find Jesus as the center of "Hope" in their lives.

### Nominating Committee Report

**Nominating Committee** – Ted Smith, Acting Moderator

*Overview: The Nominating Committee nominates persons to fill all vacancies on continuing committees (except the nominating committee), councils, boards, and other bodies that require election by the presbytery or synod.*

*Team Members: Ted Smith (Acting Moderator) (2013), Charles Allen (2013), Tim Erskine (2013), Jane McDonald (2011), Van Nesbit (2011), Susan Reggin (2012), Jean Strain (2012), (one vacancy in class of 2011), (one vacancy in class of 2012).*

For Information

The Nominating Committee met on August 18, 2011, to consider nominations for vacancies on presbytery committees, commissions, board and teams.

**Action # 5 – Rev. Ted Smith presented the recommendations of the Committee, nominating those indicated in bold type on the Nominating Committee report. Presbytery approved the recommendations and elected those nominated to serve on presbytery committees, commissions, board and teams (Pages 15-16).**

## Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Ted Smith led Presbytery in prayer, dedicating the time, talent, and financial gifts of the people.

### Committee on Ministry Report

**Committee on Ministry** – Dave Grove, Moderator

*Overview: The Committee on Ministry serves as pastor and counselor to the ministers of the presbytery, facilitates relationships between congregations, ministers, and the presbytery, and settles difficulties on behalf of the presbytery when possible and expedient.*

*Committee Members: Dave Grove (Moderator) (2011), Marx Borges (2011), Gloria Eberhart (2012), Jesse Hunter (2012), Todd Johnson (2011), Dick Neelly (2011), Carol Osborne (2012), Robert Smalley (2013) John Speiser (2013), George Stroup (2012), Jack Waskey (2013), Debbie Wells (2013).*

For information:

At its August 11, 2011, meeting the Committee on Ministry:

1. Approved the Stated Supply Contract between Rev. Ken Terrell and the Summerville and Beersheba sessions effective August 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011.
2. Reviewed and approved the pastoral call and dismissal of Rev. Paul Bayerl to the Belton Presbyterian Church of Belton, SC in Foothills Presbytery beginning July 17, 2011.
3. Considered the Coordinating Team referral regarding the Parkway Presbyterian Church request for dismissal and voted to not challenge the Evangelical Presbyterian Church as being outside the theology and polity of the Reformed tradition.

At its September 13, 2011, meeting the Committee on Ministry:

1. Approved the following changes in status of minister members:  
Julie Ferguson – concluded Woodstock Stated Supply contract; to At Large effective August 1, 2011  
Zeta Lamberson – to Interim, Covenant PC effective June 1, 2011  
Cyndi Parr – from Kirkwood Interim to Woodstock Stated Supply effective September 1, 2011  
Pete Paulsen – one year renewal of Stated Supply contract, Calvary/Southminster effective July 1, 2011  
Brahm Luckhoff – permission to labor in bounds as Faith/Canton Stated Supply, one year effective 1/1/11  
Van Nesbit – permission to labor outside bounds as Stated Supply, Eatonton PC, effective April 2, 2011  
Roger Kvam – one year renewal of Stated Supply contract, Cloudland/Menlo, effective May 1, 2011  
Owen Gregory Moore – one year renewal of Stated Supply contract, Trinity PC, effective July 1, 2011
2. Reconsidered and approved a policy regarding teaching elders leading congregations out of the denomination (Pages 33-34).

## **We Respond to God's Grace and God's Word**

### Coordinating Team Report, Part I

Report of the Coordinating Team was given by Rev. Ken Terrell.

**Presbytery Coordinating Team** – Velma Tilley, Moderator

*Overview: The Mission Goal of the Coordinating Team is to encourage, coordinate and maintain the presbytery's focus on its vision and mission while giving other ministry teams, committees and commissions permission to carry out their functions.*

*Team Members: Velma Tilley (Presbytery Moderator), Teri Abercrombie (Nurturing Disciples Team Moderator), Tyler Downing (Mission Team Moderator), Maryellen Hittel (Ministry Support Team Acting Moderator), Sam Henderson (New Church Development Commission Moderator), Zeta Lamberson (Worship Team Moderator), Pete Paulsen (Spiritual Development Team Moderator and Discernmentarian), Susan Monk (Campus Ministry Commission Moderator), Ken Terrell (Presbytery Moderator Elect), Nate Marini (Cherokee Retreat Center Board Chair), Tom Wood (Celebration & Hospitality Team Moderator), Ex officio member Rebecca Blackwell.*

For Information:

1. The Coordinating Team met on August 11, 2011. Present were Teri Abercrombie, Velma Tilley, Nate Marini, Susan Monk, Tyler Downing, Sam Henderson, Maryellen Hittel, Zeta Lamberson, Pete Paulsen, Ken Terrell and Rebecca Blackwell (Staff).
2. Business included a Gracious Dismissal Document, update on the Parkway request for dismissal, and action concerning the number of presbytery meetings to be held each year. Motion was approved to recommend to Presbytery a change in the Bylaws to have four stated meetings of presbytery each year, generally the fourth Tuesday of the month: February (morning), May (evening), August (evening), and November (morning, not Thanksgiving week). If adopted the 2012 dates would be: February 28 at 10:00 a.m.; May 22 at 5:30 p.m.; August 28 at 5:30 p.m.; and November 27 at 10:00 a.m.

3. Reports were heard from New Church Development, Worship, Nurturing Disciples, Campus Ministry, Cherokee Retreat Center, Mission, Spiritual Development, Ministry Support, Hospitality, and Committee on Ministry moderators and from the Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk.
4. The Coordinating Team met for a called meeting on September 8, 2011. Present were Velma Tilley, Nate Marini, Teri Abercrombie, Maryellen Hittel, Pete Paulsen, Tom Wood, Ken Terrell, Sam Henderson, Zeta Lamberson, Rebecca Blackwell, Julie Ferguson and Warren Herron. Following a report from the Parkway Administrative Committee (Page 25), the Coordinating Team approved the recommendation that Presbytery:
  - a. Approve Parkway's request to be dismissed with title, assets and liabilities to the Presbytery of the Southeast of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church
  - b. Approve motion to forgive any amounts that Parkway might have owed the Presbytery had the Gracious Dismissal Policy been in place
  - c. Approve designating any financial gift received from Parkway for the Tri-Presbytery Commission for New Church Development
5. The Coordinating Team approved recommending to Presbytery the proposed changes in the Presbytery By-Laws drafted by the Stated Clerk having to do with the number of presbytery meetings held each year.

### **Change in By-laws – vote (requires 2/3 vote)**

**Action #6 – Presbytery approved two changes in the Bylaws presented by the Coordinating Team as follows:**

#### CHAPTER 1: THE BYLAWS

#### **3. MEETINGS**

**A. Cherokee Presbytery shall hold ~~six (6)~~ four (4) Stated Meetings each year ~~and at such times and places as the Worship Team may determine~~ generally the fourth Tuesday of the month in February (morning), May (evening), August (evening) and November (morning, not Thanksgiving week) unless otherwise ordered by the presbytery.**

**B. ~~Special meetings may be held when called in conformity to the Book of Order, G—11.0200.~~ Special meetings: The moderator shall call a special meeting at the request, or with the concurrence, of two teaching elders and two ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three teaching elders and three ruling elders, the ruling elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The synod may direct the presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten days in advance to each teaching elder and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.**

### **Gracious Dismissal Policy Introduction, Questions and Answers, Conversations**

Rev. Ken Terrell introduced the dismissal policy submitted by the Coordinating Team (Pages 35-41). Following a time for questions and answers regarding the policy, presbytery moved into small groups to discuss their feelings and reactions on the policy.

### **Coordinating Team Report Part II – Parkway Dismissal Recommendations**

#### **Debate and Vote on Parkway Dismissal**

Following debate on the recommendations of the Coordinating Team, presbytery took the following actions:

**Action #7 – Presbytery approved the recommendation of the Coordinating Team to: Approve Parkway's request to be dismissed with title, assets and liabilities to the Presbytery of the Southeast of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.**

**Rev. Fritz Bogar registered a dissent.**

**Action #8 – Presbytery approved the recommendation of the Coordinating Team that: In light of Parkway's willingness to provide a fiscal gift, that Cherokee Presbytery make no efforts to collect the \$202,525.80 that would be owed had Cherokee Presbytery's Gracious Dismissal policy been in place.**

**Action #9 – Presbytery approved the recommendation of the Coordinating Team to: Designate any financial gift received from Parkway for the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission.**

**Action #10 – Presbytery empowered the Moderator, in consultation with the Stated Clerk, to appoint an Administrative Commission to effect dismissal of Parkway Presbyterian Church to the Presbytery of the Southeast, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, and report back to Presbytery.**

**Action #11 – Presbytery granted permission to the Committee on Ministry to dismiss minister members Rev. Cido Araujo and Rev. Bill Ford to the Presbytery of the Southeast, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, upon receiving their formal requests.**

**Rev. Bryant Harris led Presbytery in prayer.**

### **Gracious Dismissal Debate and Vote**

**Following a time of debate on the floor, the following actions were taken:**

**Action # 11 – Presbytery approved one amendment to the policy as follows:**

**Add to Section VI, Paragraph D –**

*Should the teaching elder(s) of any disaffiliating congregation wish to be dismissed to the denomination that will receive the congregation, the presbytery, upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and the Stated Clerk, will take the appropriate actions to facilitate the dismissal(s).*

**Making Paragraph D read:**

D. Should the teaching elder(s) of any disaffiliating congregation wish to remain in the PC(USA), the disaffiliating congregation must provide the teaching elder(s) with a minimum of one year's salary and benefits in order that they will not be grievously harmed by the actions of the congregation. *Should the teaching elder(s) of any disaffiliating congregation wish to be dismissed to the denomination that will receive the congregation, the presbytery, upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and the Stated Clerk, will take the appropriate actions to facilitate the dismissal(s).*

**Action #12 – Motion was approved to postpone further consideration of the policy until the November 15, 2011 stated meeting so sessions can review and commissioners are informed before voting.**

### **Mission Coordinator's Report**

In her report, Rev. Rebecca Blackwell shared some stories of congregations in the presbytery – liturgical arts at Cartersville First and Grace; 175th Anniversary Celebration at LaFayette; Faith's new place of worship and outreach in downtown Blue Ridge; and Trinity's new building almost ready to occupy. Congregations were urged to partner together in their mission and ministry, seeking ways to study and serve side by side.

### **Thinking the Faith Together: Pre-Presbytery Book Study Opportunity for November 2011 – Fritz Bogar**

Rev. Fritz Bogar introduced the book, *Imagining Redemption* by David H. Kelsey, and urged presbytery commissioners to read the book before the November 15 stated meeting and join in a discussion during the hour prior to the meeting.

### **Celebrating with those in the ministry**

Celebration and Hospitality Moderator Rev. Tom Wood presented Certificates of Appreciation to teaching elders that recently reached 25 years or more of ordained ministry: Rev. Denise Beltzner, Rev. Joe Brice, Rev. Tyler Downing, Rev. Bryant Harris, Rev. Van Nesbit, Rev. Sam Henderson, Rev. Ted Smith, and Rev. Thad Wilson.

### **Sharing our Joys and Concerns with one another: Prayers of the People**

Presbytery shared joys and concerns and, led by Rev. Carrie Scott, prayed with and for each other.

### **We Depart to Share God's Love with the World**

### **Present and Act on Consent Agenda**

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

1. The Stated Clerk prepared and circulated the Minutes of the July 23, 2011, Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Providence Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Georgia. The minutes were reviewed for completeness and accuracy by the Moderator and a committee appointed by the Moderator consisting of Teaching Elder Rev. Cyndi Parr and Ruling Elder Michael Elliott (Westminster), were emailed to pastors and clerks of session, and posted on the stated clerk's table at this meeting. **Recommend approval. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**
2. The Stated Clerk has reviewed the 2010 Session Minutes for Cloudland, Deer Creek Shores, and Parkway Churches. Those 2009 Session Minutes remaining to be reviewed are: Bethany, Brazilian Christian, Christ Fellowship, LaFayette, Marietta First, Ray-Thomas, and Woodstock (7). Those 2010 Session Minutes remaining to be reviewed are: Beersheba, Brazilian Christian, Christ Fellowship, Euharlee, LaFayette, Marietta First, Menlo, Morton Memorial, Ray-Thomas, Trinity, and Woodstock. (11). **Recommend receiving as information. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**

3. The Stated Clerk has received the August 15, 2011 minutes of the Cherokee Presbytery Commission for Campus Ministry for Presbytery approval to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery (Pages 18-20). **Recommend receiving to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**
4. The Stated Clerk has received the August 10, 2011 DRAFT minutes of the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery (Pages 21-24). **Recommend receiving to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**
5. The Stated Clerk has received minutes of the July/August email meeting of the Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission (Page 17). **Recommend receiving to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**
6. The Stated Clerk received from the Administrative Committee a letter from the Parkway Session dated August 23, 2011 (Page 27). **Recommend receiving to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**
7. The Stated Clerk has written a letter to the Office of the General Assembly (page 32) dated September 13, 2011, requesting that Cherokee Presbytery be granted forgiveness for the remainder of the 2010 per capita (\$9139.67). **Recommend receiving to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery. (This action is part of the consent agenda.)**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Action #13 – Presbytery approved the Consent Agenda, which included the following recommendations:**

1. **That Presbytery approve the Minutes of the Tuesday, July 23, 2011, Stated Meeting of Cherokee Presbytery at Providence Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Georgia. The minutes were reviewed for completeness and accuracy by the Moderator and a committee appointed by the Moderator consisting of Teaching Elder Rev. Cyndi Parr and Ruling Elder Michael Elliott (Westminster), were posted on the presbytery website, and posted on the stated clerk's table at this meeting.**
2. **That Presbytery receive as information the report of the Stated Clerk regarding review of 2009 and 2010 Session Minutes.**
3. **That Presbytery receive as information the August 31, 2011 Financial Statements as submitted by the Ministry Support Team and Treasurer (Pages 28-31).**
4. **That Presbytery receive the August 15, 2011 minutes of the Cherokee Presbytery Commission for Campus Ministry to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery.**
5. **That Presbytery receive the August 10, 2011 minutes of the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery.**
6. **That Presbytery receive minutes of the July/August 2011 email meeting of the Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery.**
7. **That Presbytery receive from the Administrative Committee a letter from the Parkway Session dated August 23, 2011, to include in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery.**
8. **That Presbytery receive as information from the Stated Clerk a letter dated September 13, 2011 requesting that Cherokee Presbytery be granted forgiveness by the Office of the General Assembly for the remainder of the 2010 per capita (\$9139.67) and that a copy of the letter be included in the September 27, 2011 minutes of Cherokee Presbytery.**

The Stated Clerk reported that the 2010 Cherokee Presbytery Minutes had been submitted to Synod for review and were approved without exception.

Presbytery's Ministry Manual is being updated by the Stated Clerk to comply with the new *Book of Order*.

### **Attendance Report**

Preliminary attendance report was given by Rev. Joe Brice. See page 1.

### **Motion to Adjourn after Benediction**

**Action #14 – The motion to adjourn carried. The meeting was ended at 8:55 p.m.**

### **Benediction**

**The Benediction was given by Rev. Paulo Mendes.**

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## **Reports for Information**

### **Committees**

#### **Committee on Representation – John Spangler, Moderator**

*Overview: The main function is to advise the governing bodies with respect to their membership and to that of their committees, boards, agencies, and other units in implementing the principles of participation and inclusiveness to ensure fair and effective representation in the decision making of the church.*

*Team Members: John Spangler (Moderator) (2013), Dan Boles (2011), LaVert Jones (2012), Marty Lindeman (2011), Gail Meacham (2011), Charles Nyaga (2012), Jose Pezini (2013), Kate Tutwiler (2013), Vacancy in Class of 2012.*

**Administrative Committee – Parkway** – On July 23, 2011 Presbytery approved the recommendation to: *appoint a committee to consult with the Parkway congregation to (1) attempt to facilitate reconciliation; (2) afford all persons affected by the dismissal request an opportunity to be heard on the subject; and (3) determine if there is a faction that is entitled to the property as the true church within the PC(USA) and is capable of functioning as a viable, independent congregation; (4) consult with the presbyteries of Greater Atlanta and Northeast Georgia who are our partners in new church development; and report the results of its efforts to the Coordinating Team. This is to comply with the ruling of the General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission in Sundquist v Heartland Presbytery and with the requirement in the New G-4.0207 relating to congregations in schism.* Parkway representatives concurred with this motion. The following Administrative Commission members were appointed: Ruling Elders Warren Herron (Marietta First) (Moderator), David Miller (Parkway), and Chris Townley (Chickamauga), and Teaching Elders Rev. Maxine Edwards, Rev. Julie Ferguson, and Rev. Sid Gunter. The Administrative Committee completed their work and reported to the Coordinating Team.

### **Commission Reports**

G-9.0502: *A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a governing body. The appointing body shall state specifically the scope of power given to a commission. A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to its governing body to be incorporated in its minutes and to be regarded as the actions of the governing body itself.*

#### **Permanent Judicial Commission – Coy Temples, Moderator**

*Overview: The functions of the Permanent Judicial Commission are to consider and decide a case of process for the governing body according to the Rules of Discipline. In the cases transmitted to it, the permanent judicial commission shall have only the powers prescribed by and conduct its proceedings according to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).*

*Team Members: Harris Hines (2016), Zeta Lamberson (2016), Robert Smalley (2016), Peter Olson (2012), James Osborn (2012), Debbie Wells (2012), Jack Foley (2012), Teri Abercrombie (2014), Maryellen Hittel (2014), Coy Temples (2014)*

*[Roster of those members whose terms have expired within the past six years for purposes of record (D-5.0206b): Thurston Wilson (2010), Todd Johnson (2008), Chuck Frew(2006), Robert Walther(2006), Jack Waskey (2006), Catherine Gonzalez (2004), Warren Herron (2004).]*

#### **Cherokee Presbytery Commission for Campus Ministry – Susan Monk, Moderator**

*Team Members: Joe Brice (2011), Sid Gunter (2012), Cheryl Jenkins (2012), Jodi Johnson (2013), Susan Monk (2013) (Moderator), Katheryn Preston (2012), Mickey Shealy, George Taylor (2011), Dan Boles, (ex officio), Sheri Grove (ex officio).*

**The Cherokee Presbytery Commission for Campus Ministry met on August 15, 2011. As part of the Consent Agenda, minutes of the meeting (draft to be approved at the next Campus Ministry meeting) were submitted to the Stated Clerk and included in the minutes of presbytery (Pages 18-20).**

#### **Tri-Presbytery Commission for Campus Ministry – Susan Monk, Moderator**

*Overview: The mission goal of the Cherokee Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission is promoting, supporting,*

*connecting, and expanding Christian ministry in institutions of higher education within the bounds of Cherokee Presbytery, in cooperation with the Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission. In 2006 the Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission was established by action of Cherokee, Greater Atlanta, and Northeast Georgia Presbyteries to oversee campus ministry efforts within the bounds of the three presbyteries.*

**The Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission met by email July/August, 2011. As part of the Consent Agenda, minutes of the meeting (draft to be approved at the next Campus Ministry meeting) were submitted to the Stated Clerk and included in the minutes of presbytery (Page 17).**

**Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission – Sara Hayden, Executive Director; Joanna Adams, Moderator**  
**The Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission Quarterly Meeting was on Wednesday, August 10, at the Brazilian Christian Church/John Knox Presbyterian Church, Marietta. As part of the Consent Agenda, minutes (DRAFT) of the meeting were submitted to the Stated Clerk and included in the minutes of presbytery (Pages 21-24).**

## **Report**

The New Church Development Commission (NCDC), a shared ministry of the Presbyteries of Greater Atlanta, Cherokee and Northeast Georgia, is entrusted with the joyful responsibility of starting new churches within the bounds of our three presbyteries. The hope and goal -- that we might grow Christ's church deep and wide by catalyzing the development of diverse new churches in our Presbyteries as they join us in calling, nurturing, and equipping disciples of every nation.

Since the beginning of the Christian movement, our Lord called disciples to go forth into the world, sharing the good news, praying, teaching, and inviting others to join in faith and mission. Across the generations, churches in our presbyteries have generously shared their resources to birth new faith communities. God has blessed these efforts, reflecting the spiritual reality that, each part of the body, “when working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love” (Ephesians 4:16). Did you know that each church within our presbytery is invited to be a part of this central mission of Christ's church, right in our midst?

This mission is made possible through the efforts and encouragement of:

- [Nearly 30 local new Presbyterian churches](#) who meet in church buildings, schools, and storefronts serving in contexts as diverse as God's kingdom
- The twenty-one elders and pastors who serve as [staff and commissioners](#) to this mission (seven from each presbytery)
- [The partner churches and individuals who share their gifts](#) to ensure the empowerment and growth of this mission
- The liaisons that walk with one particular new church from first meeting all the way to chartering
- [Chartered churches that offer their wisdom and encouragement to new congregations](#) and give back the gift they've receive so that others may benefit
- Anyone who shares good news about what is happening through this mission

Anyone can learn or share more about [Our Mission](#) and how to [Support New Churches](#) on our website: [www.tpncdc.org](http://www.tpncdc.org). You can also share this mission on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/tpncdc](http://www.facebook.com/tpncdc). Each time someone posts an encouraging word or picture, the mission grows!

New churches strengthen and bless the ministry of existing churches and that long-time congregations bless the growth and vitality of new ones. In these partnerships, we receive the gift of vitality by living out Christ's Great Commission and the joy of discipleship that comes whenever diverse and creative people partner with God in doing a new thing together.

This fall, your pastor or church session will receive a special invitation to become a partner in this mission and a copy of the DVD debuted at our summer Presbytery meeting. Please take some time to share the video with each other, and to consider ways in which your gifts might grow and support this central ministry of the church.

**Cherokee Presbytery New Church Development Commission – Sam Henderson, Moderator**

*Overview: The purposes of the New Church Development Commission are to study and choose the best locations for New Church Developments (NCDs), call organizing pastors, seek and allocate funding, and initiate New Church Developments in the Cherokee, Greater Atlanta, and Northeast Georgia tri-Presbytery area.*

*Team Members: Sam Henderson (Cherokee Moderator) (2011), Tom Barrentine (2013), Peter Lim (2012), Chuck Holmes (2011), Ted Smith (2012), (Vacancy in Class 2013), George Gitahi (Co-opt).*

## Boards

### **Cherokee Retreat Center Board of Directors** – Nate Marini, Chair

*Overview: The Mission Goal of the Cherokee Retreat Center is to provide a space apart for focusing on Christian education, spiritual development, fellowship, and retreat from the material world.*

*Board Members: Nate Marini (Chair) (2011), Corrin Baines (2012), Frank Byrd (2013), Brian Enlow (2013), Stephen Fearing (2012), Mary Gilreath (2013), Jon Hayes (2012), Heather Perrin (2011), Ron Stoker (2013), Mark Thompson (2011), John Wells (2012), John Zavitz (2011), Kelly Howington – Executive Director of Cherokee Retreat Center, Ex Officio.*

For Information

The Cherokee Retreat Center Board of Directors met on August 16, 2011.

## Ministry Teams

### **Worship Team** – Zeta Lamberson, Moderator

*Overview: The Worship Team has the responsibility to focus the presbytery on being a Christ-centered worshipping community of faith.*

*Team Members: Zeta Lamberson (Moderator) (2012), Julie Ferguson (2013), Keith Gunter (2011), Tom Holder (2013), Domitila Bicudo (Co-opt), Vacancy in Class of 2011, Vacancy in Class of 2012.*

For Information:

The Worship Team met on August 1, 2011, to plan worship for the stated meeting of Cherokee Presbytery on September 27, 2011.

### **Mission Team** – Tyler Downing, Moderator

*Overview: The purpose of the Mission Team is to facilitate the presbytery in its responsibilities to encourage, coordinate, and resource mission common to the presbytery.*

*How you can help: If you have a mission project idea or if you are going on a mission trip, and you would like your sister churches to know about it, please contact the Mission Team. The presbytery office can forward your idea to the current chair.*

*Team Members: Tyler Downing (Moderator) (2011), Stuart Leyden (2013), Howard Moore (2013), Roberta Sarchet (2012), Laura Wilson (2011), Vacancy in Class of 2012. Ex officio members: Karen Jones (PATH), Barbara Elliott (Presbyterian Women).*

For Information:

The Mission Team met on August 8, 2011.

### **Presbyterian Women** – Laura Gunter, Moderator

Presbyterian Women of Cherokee Presbytery met on August 20, 2011, at Cartersville First PC for Leadership Training and Bible Study Review. The PW Coordinating Team was scheduled to meet September 17, 2011.

### **Presbyterian Answer to Hunger** – Karen Johnson, Moderator

The PATH Committee met on July 11, 2011. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2011.

### **Celebration and Hospitality Team** – Tom Wood, Moderator.

*Overview: The purpose of the Celebration and Hospitality Team is to celebrate disciples whose words and actions demonstrate the proclamation of God's Kingdom in the world.*

*Team Members: Tom Wood (Moderator) (2013), Tim Erskine (2013), Larry Lewis (2012), Ann Stubbs Maddux (2011), Brenda Terrell (2012), Carol Wade (2011).*

### **Spiritual Development Team** – Pete Paulsen, Moderator

*Overview: The purpose of the Spiritual Development Team is to encourage and support presbyters as they live and proclaim God's Kingdom, enabling the presbytery to more effectively listen to God and one another.*

*Team Members: Pete Paulsen (Moderator) (2013), Maxine Edwards (2011), Caron Gruben (2013), Marshall Jenkins (2011), Susan Reggin (2012), Vacancy in Class of 2012.*

For Information:

The Spiritual Development Team met on August 20 at the Presbytery Office. Among the items discussed was the Team's role in the life and work of the presbytery. Is there more we can do to stimulate and meet spiritual growth needs among our presbyters and ultimately among all the members of our congregations? We discussed the presbytery's decision to return to four meetings a year and wondered if that is not a step back from the bold vision we affirmed when we decided to re-organize. We will produce an Advent CD for those who wish to use the

discipline of *Lectio Divina*. We are reviewing our section of the presbytery's web site to see if we can make it more user-friendly. We meet again on October 1.

**Nurturing Disciples Team** – Teri Abercrombie, Moderator.

*Overview: The purpose of the Nurturing Disciples Team is to support ambassadors by God to change the world in which we live.*

*Team Members: Teri Abercrombie (Moderator) (2012), Pem Cooley (2013), Laurie Kersey (2011), Lucas Pina (2012), Mickey Shealy (2011), Sue Spivey (2013).*

**Future Stated Meetings of Cherokee Presbytery:**

Tuesday, November 15, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Marietta

Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – open for invitation

Tuesday, May 22, 2012, 5:30 p.m. – open for invitation

Tuesday, August 28, 2012, 5:30 p.m. – open for invitation

Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 10:00 a.m. – open for invitation

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Rev. Ted Smith, Acting Moderator

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Rebecca M. Blackwell, Stated Clerk

**REVISED** Nominating Committee Worksheet 2011**PRESBYTERY MODERATOR**

Moderator Elect, Class of 2012 Rev. Ken Terrell Moderator Elect, Class of 2013 \_\_\_\_\_

**220th General Assembly, June 30 – July 7, 2012, Pittsburg, PA**Young Adult Advisory Delegate: **Karah Tarplay (Westminster)** YAAD Alternate: **Abby Ferguson (Cartersville 1st)**Ruling Elder **Robert Smalley (Dalton)** Ruling Elder \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate \_\_\_\_\_Teaching Elder **Carol Wade** Teaching Elder **Ben Laughlin** Alternate **Sam Henderson****SYNOD COMMISSIONERS** (Four-Year Terms, Bi-Annual Meetings: March & September)

2011-2013 Commissioners: Teaching Elder Ben Laughlin Ralph Walker (Heritage)

2011-2013 Alternate Commissioners: Teaching Elder Byeongho Choi Pat Alverson (Calvary)

Class of 2013 Committee on Representation Teaching Elder John Spangler

2011 Synod Nominating Committee Teaching Elder Jack Foley

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Moderator – Rev. Zeta LambersonClass of 2012Rev. Zeta Lamberson  
\_\_\_\_\_Class of 2013

Tom Holder (Westminster)

Rev. Julie Ferguson

Co-op: Domitila Biculo

Class of 2014**Pam Radford (Cartersville)****MISSION TEAM:** Moderator – Rev. Tyler DowningClass of 2012

Roberta Sarchet (New Lebanon)

Class of 2013

\*Rev. Stuart Leyden

**Howard Moore (Heritage)**Class of 2014**\*Rev. Tyler Downing****\*Laura Wilson (LaFayette)****CELEBRATION & HOSPITALITY TEAM:** Moderator – Rev. Tom WoodClass of 2012Rev. Larry Lewis  
Brenda Terrell (Covenant)Class of 2013

\*Rev. Tim Erskine

Rev. Tom Wood

Class of 2014**\*Rev. Carol Wade****NURTURING DISCIPLES TEAM:** Moderator – Teri AbercrombieClass of 2012Rev. Lucas Pina  
Teri Abercrombie (Trinity)Class of 2013

\*Rev. Pem Cooley

Sue Spivey (Summerville)

Class of 2014**Rev. Reggie Braga****SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM:** Moderator – \*Rev. Pete PaulsenClass of 2012J. Marshall Jenkins (Westminster)  
Rev. Susan RegginClass of 2013

\*Rev. Pete Paulsen

\*Caron Gruben (Kirkwood)

Class of 2014**MINISTRY SUPPORT TEAM:** Acting Moderator – Rev. Maryellen HittelClass of 2012

Stan Tilley (Cartersville First)

Class of 2013

\*Dayton Adams (New Lebanon)

Rev. Jack Foley

Class of 2014**\*Judy Greeson (Calhoun)****\*Rev. Maryellen Hittel****CHEROKEE RETREAT CENTER (CRC) BOARD:** Moderator – Nate MariniClass of 2012Rev. John Wells  
Jon Hayes (Eastminster)  
Corrin Baines  
Stephen Fearing (Dalton First)Class of 2013

Frank Byrd (Eastminster)

Brian Enlow

Mary Gilreath (Cartersville 1<sup>st</sup>)

Rev. Ron Stoker

Class of 2014**Rev. Julie Ferguson****\*Nate Marini (Marietta First)****\*Heather Perrin****Michael Elliott (Westminster)****CAMPUS MINISTRY COMMISSION:** Moderator – Susan MonkClass of 2012Katherine Preston (Calvary)  
\*Rev. Sid GunterClass of 2013

\*Susan Monk (Ray Thomas)

**Jodi Johnson (Dalton First)**Class of 2014**\*George Taylor (Covenant)****\*Rev. Joe Brice**

NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: Moderator – Rev. Sam Henderson

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Rev. Peter Lim	*Tom Barrentine (Faith/BR)	* <b>Rev. Sam Henderson</b>
*Rev. Ted Smith	<b>Michael Adams (Eastminster)</b>	_____
Co-opt: George Gitahi		

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION: Moderator – Peter Olson

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>	<u>Class of 2016</u>
Peter Olson (Cartersville First)	Coy Temples (Dalton First)	*Harris Hines (Marietta First)
James Osborn (Providence)	Rev. Maryellen Hittel	*Rev. Zeta Lamberson
Rev. Debbie Wells	Teri Abercrombie (Trinity)	*Robert Smalley (Dalton First)
Rev. Jack Foley		

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION: – Moderator – \*Rev. John Spangler

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Charles Nyaga (Southminster)	Rev. Jose Pezini	<b>Rev. Paulo Mendes</b>
LaVert Jones (John Knox)	*Rev. John Spangler	_____
_____	Kate Tutwiler (Southminster)	_____

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION: Moderator – Rev. Carrie Scott

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Helen James (Southminster)	*Walt Beamer (Kirkwood)	* <b>Rev. Carrie Scott</b>
Rev. Tim McConnell	Rev. Julie Jensen	_____
Chris Townley (Chickamauga)	*Rev. Roger Kvam	_____
*Rev. Bridget Waddell	Rev. O. Gregory Moore	_____

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY: Moderator – Rev. Dick Neelly

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
*Gloria Eberhart (Westminster)	*Robert Smalley (Dalton First)	* <b>Marx Borges (Ray-Thomas)</b>
*Jesse Hunter (New Lebanon)	John Speiser (Eastminster)	* <b>Todd Johnson (Cohutta)</b>
Carol Osborne (Providence)	Rev. Jack Waskey	* <b>Rev. Dick Neelly</b>
Rev. George Stroup	*Rev. Debbie Wells	<b>Rev. Pete Ullmann</b>

\*Serving second consecutive term.

*Bold = Standing in Nomination for Election*COORDINATING TEAM

2011 Coordinating Team Moderator: Velma Tilley

<u>Velma Tilley (Cartersville First)</u> <i>Presbytery Moderator</i>	<u>Rev. Ken Terrell</u> <i>Presbytery Moderator-Elect</i>	
<u>Rev. Zeta Lamberson</u> <i>Worship Moderator</i>	<u>Rev. Tyler Downing</u> <i>Mission Moderator</i>	<u>Rev. Tom Wood</u> <i>Celebration &amp; Hospitality Moderator</i>
<u>Teri Abercrombie</u> <i>Nurturing Disciples Moderator</i>	<u>Rev. Pete Paulsen</u> <i>Spiritual Development Moderator</i>	<u>Rev. Maryellen Hittel</u> <i>Ministry Support Acting Moderator</i>
<u>Susan Monk</u> <i>Campus Ministry Commission Moderator</i>	<u>Rev. Sam Henderson</u> <i>NCD Commission Moderator</i>	<u>Nate Marini</u> <i>CRC Board Moderator</i>
<u>Rev. Rebecca Blackwell</u> <i>Mission Coordinator, ex officio</i>	<u>Rev. Pete Paulsen</u> <i>2011 Discernmentarian, ex officio</i>	

\*\*NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Ted Smith, Moderator

<u>Class of 2012</u>	<u>Class of 2013</u>	<u>Class of 2014</u>
Rev. Susan Reggin	*Charles Allen (Southminster)	_____
Jean Strain (Dalton First)	*Rev. Ted Smith	_____

\*\*Nominating Committee Members are nominated by the Coordinating Team.

Tri-Presbytery Campus Ministry Commission  
Minutes for Virtual Meeting – July/August 2011

I would like to welcome Jodi Johnson as a new Commissioner from Cherokee Presbytery replacing Mickey Shealy.

In lieu of a face to face meeting the Commission made the following decisions via email vote:

Motion: Jim Heyl moved and Susan seconded that we approve a grant for seed funding to First Presbyterian in Milledgeville as partial seed funding for starting a Campus Ministry at GCSU and GMC. The seed funding would be 1/2 salary for an interim part-time coordinator of campus ministries August – December 2011. Goal of this effort is to determine if this is a viable ministry.

The following votes were received via email and the **motion is passed**.

Jim Heyl – Yes	George Taylor – Yes
Nancy Heyl – Yes	Shannon Ball – Yes
Susan Monk – Yes	Katherine Higgins – Yes
Ann Clay Adams – Yes	Katheryn Preston – Yes
Beverly Tompson – Yes	Robert Hay – Yes
Joe Brice – Yes	Nancy Peterson – Yes

Motion: That Rev. Ashley-Anne Masters be invited to give 2 keynote addresses and 1 sermon at the Statewide Retreat on October 14-16, in exchange for a \$500 honorarium plus travel expense up to \$150.

Motion was made by Shannon Ball and seconded by Joe Brice. The discussion included a request for a biography for Rev. Masters. Shannon provided information that “she finished at Columbia in 2006 and is working in Chicago as a chaplain at Children’s Memorial Hospital”. Here is a link to her bio provided by Jull [http://www.amazon.com/Ashley-Anne-Masters/e/B0055HYRQQ/ref=ntt\\_athr\\_dp\\_pel\\_1](http://www.amazon.com/Ashley-Anne-Masters/e/B0055HYRQQ/ref=ntt_athr_dp_pel_1)

The following votes were received via email and the **motion is passed**.

George Lawson – Yes	George Taylor – Yes
Joe Brice – Yes	Jody Johnson – Yes
Nancy Peterson – Yes	Jim Heyl – Yes
Katheryn Preston – Yes	Nancy Heyl – Yes
Susan Monk – Yes	Shannon Ball – Yes

Susan Monk

Cherokee Campus Ministry Commission  
Minutes 8/15/11

- Attendees: Susan Monk, Dan Boles, Sheri Grove, Jodi Johnson, Susan Cummings, Dan Williams
- Opening Prayer
- Review minutes from July meeting and approve  
Minutes were reviewed and minor spelling corrections made. Jodi made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded and approved.
- Discussed action items from previous meeting
  - Joint ministry team with FULC – Have not had our first meeting yet. Pastor Tony has been on paternity leave and has just returned to the church.
  - Fundraising through expanded Script program – RTM has approved adopting this program and has kicked it off. Sheri has discussed with Westminster and is working through the Mission Committee there. Getting on the agenda for the next Cedartown Session meeting.
  - Possible 5K – The real source of funds is from sponsors. Need to find sponsors. Recommendation on the time of year is Winter. Budget would be \$3000 - \$4000 to put on the race. Target would be 200-300 racers. Consider being in the “Run and See Georgia” series. Cost to apply to that series is \$250. Need to check on insurance and if Presbytery insurance would cover. Dan W. will check on possibility of scheduling for mid March at KSU. Next challenge will be to sign up sponsors. Sponsorship levels:
    - Platinum \$10K
    - Gold \$5K
    - Silver \$2K
    - Bronze \$1K
  - Intern planning at KSU – Dan had one possible intern but she has withdrawn her application. Still need to work on the documentation for future interns.
  - Monthly stipend for Berry Fellowship student leaders – Sheri will email grant request to Mickey.
  - 501c3 open questions – nothing to report on this item. Will add to agenda for next meeting so that specific questions can be documented.
- Review Financial Reports
  - Reviewed financial reports – Commission requests that the funds for Berry and KSU in Account #55102 be used for salary and other expenses first before payments are made from any designated accounts unless otherwise specifically request on an expense reimbursement.  
Commission would like to explore more meaningful financial reporting with the MST. One of the challenges is that the meaningful budget calendar for Campus Ministry is June 1 – May 31. Susan will request time on MST agenda to discuss.

- Commission Responsibilities – Memorandum of Understanding – distributed draft to those present. Will discuss draft at next meeting.
- Open Discussion
  - Berry – see attached report from Sheri on activities at Berry. Classes start next Monday, 8/22/11.
  - KSU – Dan provided copies of the brochures he had printed. Plans are well underway for the year with speakers lined up for the year and many activities planned.
  - Need to find out the status of contracts for Sheri and Dan. When were the contracts signed and for what period of time? Need to get a copy of the contracts for review.
- Closing Prayer

Next meeting is September 19, 2011 at 7:00 pm in Cartersville at the Presbytery office.

## **Berry College “The Fellowship”**

8-15-2011 Report to the Cherokee Campus Ministry Commission

### Summer progress:

Completed design and have Berry Fellowship Banner on Order. YEA!!

Had a wonderful Alumni lunch and meeting in August. Plans made include:

Two Alumni volunteers to rework Berry’s Facebook as an event page to be more user friendly for both alum and current students.

Alumni voiced desire to meet at least quarterly and are already planning a fall event.

Alumni were eager to support the current Fellowship as speakers and with their service/mission events. The hope is that once more organized this can be a growing foundation of financial support as well.

Contact with current students and other alum from both Berry and Shorter was maintained through email and Facebook.

### Fall Outlook:

Executive leaders planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday August 18.

Classes begin Monday August 22 – One WEEK!

The Fellowship will host a booth at the organizational fair on campus after school starts and begin outreach to freshmen who indicate a connection or interest in the Presbyterian Fellowship.

Guest speakers and participation in creating clay bowls “for hungry souls” are already planned for the fall as well as an opening worship event.

Statewide Campus Ministry retreat in October

### In the works:

Awaiting word on funding of student internship(s)

Talked with staff at 2 churches about timing of approaching about Script fundraising program.

Contacts with their session and mission teams needs to be made.

Though we lost a couple of our most committed students to transfer in May, we are hopeful in reaching out to both moderately connected students last year and new students this year.

Looking forward to a great year!

Prayerfully submitted,

Sheri Grove  
Campus Minister Berry College  
“The Fellowship”

Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission  
Minutes – DRAFT  
August 10, 2011

In Attendance:

Cherokee – Rebecca Blackwell, Sam Henderson, Ted Smith

PGA – Joanna Adams, Tom Bagley, Tom Barrow, Johnson Kinyua

Northeast Georgia – Tom Barrentine, Warren Combs, Ken Meeks, Jose Torres, Rindy Trouteaud,  
Cathy Vining, Blaine Walker

Staff – Sara Hayden, Betsy Turner

*Gathering*

- Joanna Adams declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:10 am
- Commissioner members introduced themselves.
- Devotional – Ted Smith read from Revelation 22. We shared a prayer for our visions of the kingdom of God, and asked to be empowered to be about this vision-work.
- The minutes of the April 7, 2011 meeting were approved.
- Joanna left the room while Sara moderated a discussion about the leadership of the commission. Tom Barrow made a motion to elect Joanna Adams as Moderator for the term August 2011 - August 2012. The motion passed unanimously, with enthusiasm.
- Sara brought an update from April Love-Fordham – she has taken a new call at North Avenue, and therefore is resigning as the chair of the Oversight Advisory Team.

*Equipping: Our Resources and Teams, and Responding to God's Call*

Financial Report:

- Sara gave an outline of the quarterly financial status of the NCDC, as of end of June 2011.
- Joanna encouraged all commissioners to ask their Sessions to support the NCDC with their budgeted giving.

Committee Reports:

Funding/Development Task Force – (Ted Smith)

- The Task Force plans to initiate a letter campaign targeting all churches in the Presbytery. A specific requested amount will be suggested in the letter, based on church size.
- The hope is to get all churches involved, and to increase involvement and enthusiasm about this mission each year.
- Rindy Trouteaud suggested identifying a “seed” amount needed to start local congregations, trying to connect churches with one local congregation. Rebecca Blackwell suggested providing presbyteries with a “wish list” of church needs. It was also suggested that the commission share its video with churches as a part of this effort (available on website).
- The Task Force will meet in person on August 24. A letter will be drafted and shared with each council for support prior to sending.

Special Order: SW Atlanta Task Force

Rev. Billy Honor, pastor of New Life Presbyterian Church and co-chair of the SW Atlanta Task Force, and Sharad Creasman, Task Force member, brought a report from the Task Force. name of the proposed ministry is Pulse Church.

The vision: *To see everyday people in the West Midtown/Midtown West (Atlanta, GA) areas live the gospel of Christ by connecting to the pulse of God and the community.*

Vision Statement: *Pulse Church is a Christian faith community called to incorporate the African American Culture and the best of our Presbyterian tradition to bring everyday people into the family of God by demonstrating the all-engaging love of God through communal connectedness, worship that engages the whole-self, and contagious hospitality.*

There was great affirmation about the vision and work of this team.

Sam Henderson asked about the plan and attitude toward this church growth – recruiting people to a plan vs. a church growing naturally from the neighborhood. Ken Meeks asked about the timeline, and Sara outlined that they are working on editing and completing the Mission Program Grant with the hope of submitting the proposal this fall. Johnson Kinyua

highlighted the idea of multiculturalism.

Blaine Walker made a motion, and a friendly amendment was made by Ted Smith, to endorse the vision of the Task Force, and to officially request Greater Atlanta to recognize this vision as a fulfillment of the stipulations on the SW Atlanta funds, and to recommend the Presbytery eliminate the location restriction for the use of the funds (which were originally ended for the nearby SW Atlanta outside of I-285). The motion passed unanimously.

Sara spoke about next steps related to the leadership of Pulse. She suggested a dedicated search team (as opposed to a traditional PNC), in order to keep the vision and energy going, perhaps a 5-7 member team with representation from the Task Force and the Commission. Rebecca and Sam asked about the model for this ministry, and suggested the possibility of using a missionary (rather than attractional) model. Warren Combs made a motion that Joanna and Sara be authorized to put together a search team for organizing pastor leadership. The motion passed unanimously.

### Procedures/Training Task Force—no report

#### Strategic Planning Task Force –(Tom Bagley)

- The team invited suggestions from various leaders throughout the presbyteries, and engaged in significant demographic study using MissionInSite.
- Cherokee Presbytery is committed to the ministry of new church development, but is not interested in starting new churches at this time.
- Northeast Georgia has two areas of interest: the UGA/Athens area and Augusta.
- Greater Atlanta has several possibilities – including the north side Alpharetta, possibilities in Flowery Branch.
- The team invites further input.
- Tom compelled the team to remain active about the many possibilities we have to develop vital new faith communities.

#### Oversight Advisory Team –

- The team is in search of a new chairperson who feels a call to this particular ministry. Talk with Sara if you are interested.
- Through the work of our new liaisons (one per church), we have identified five categories of churches that will better enable our connection and action with new churches:
  - green - go, active church, intentionally PCUSA, likely want to charter
  - blue - in touch, active, discerning next steps – for example - flexible governance
  - orange - active, but we need more discernment with them about denominational identity
  - red - we have attempted to contact and gotten no response – don't exist, out of touch
  - purple – church is successfully merging with a chartered church. Once transition is complete they will go off our rolls and be supported by the appropriate presbytery team
- All Green churches will receive the first OAT Annual Meetings. If contact is not determined for red churches prior to November's meeting, we will move to dissolve these congregations and send appropriate notification.
- Update on Neighbors Abbey – Joanna reported about the status of this NCD. They are doing good work in Atlanta, but ultimately, Neighbors Abbey did not demonstrate a viability or commitment of members/growth/generosity that was leading to a vital, new church. Jose spoke about the prayerful discernment that went into the decision, and made a motion to officially dissolve the NCDC's oversight relationship with Neighbors Abbey, in gratitude for their ministry and prayer that they will be a continued blessing to their community. The motion passed unanimously.

Presbytery reports:

Cherokee –

- Former new church, Sixes, has worked with an administrative commission to look at their health, and there is evidence of positive trends and will continue to pursue ministry.
- Presbytery is trying to sell Paulding property (on which NCDC is paying principle and Cherokee is paying the interest), but does not have any good leads. Rebecca will contact the presbytery about contributing more to our regular payments. The property loan is for \$153,000. Property was a gift used to offset the Providence Church loan (chartered 2003 in Dallas, GA)
- Parkway has voted to request dismissal to the EPC, and the Presbytery has appointed a committee to research the congregation (to see if there is a viable remnant) and asked COM to make a decision about dismissal. Property is still an issue, with about \$1.25M invested (between the NCDC and Cherokee and denominational investment). Rebecca intends to suggest that the Council make a statement about the debt of gratitude that the Council chooses to forgive. Joanna suggested that we draft language and policy related to financial investment and property of new churches. Ted reiterated the importance of making sure that pastors that are called to new churches are committed to the denomination, and ensure that this situation is not repeated.

Northeast Georgia–

- Ken reported that the Presbytery Council voted to request that the Commission do demographic research in the Athens area and discern about the possibility of a new church in that area.
- They meet again in October and would like to hear more about demographics and possibilities

Greater Atlanta–Sara reported that the Council of the Presbytery has approved a resolution that when churches dissolve and property is sold, that 50% of proceeds will go to new church development and 50% to revitalization. There are 2 pieces of property currently for sale.

Discerning New Opportunities

- SW Atlanta (previously discussed)
- Oak Mountain proposal – Joanna shared a letter from David Bowie, congregational consultant of Oak Mountain, saying that the church is interested in closing to become revitalized as a NCD. Oak Mountain could provide a building, and the gifts of some 30 people who could be involved. Rebecca suggested that we refer it to either the Presbytery Council or COM. Sam expressed some concerns about the proposal, and the need for the distinction between revitalization and new church development. A motion was passed to defer this to the congregational consultant and COM.
- UGA Campus Ministry Discussion – tabled to the next meeting
- Looking toward the future – points for discussion
- Cherokee MOU - Sam presented a “Memorandum of Understanding with Cherokee Presbytery” that outlines the relationship between Cherokee’s NCD Commission (CPNCDC) and the Tri-Presbytery NCDC. Action was tabled to the November meeting.
- New forms of NCD and Supporting Validated ministry – Sam outlined some informal conversations that have been happening related to new flexible forms of leadership. For example, Presbytery minimums as they impact new church developments (KACC as an example), the need to leave room for a group to become what it is (congregation, other group, PCUSA or not), how to handle inquirers and candidates for ministry and who supervises the

ordination and ministry of leaders in different settings. What are the polity latitudes with regard to using lay leaders instead of ordained clergy?

- Mileage discussion – Joanna explained the possible need for mileage reimbursement for liaisons, from the NCD budget line item “NCD travel.” NEGA provides 75% of IRS mileage reimbursement for all presbytery committee members. NCDC will work with presbyteries and NCD travel budget to provide reimbursement as needed.

*Closing Matters*

Upcoming Quarterly Meetings

- Tuesday, November 9th, 2011 does not work – new date will be Tuesday November 15<sup>th</sup>. Good Shepherd Presbyterian in Lilburn), 10:00am-2:00pm
- Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 10:00am-2:00pm in Northeast Georgia Presbytery (First Presbyterian Church Gainesville)
- Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 10:00am-2:00pm
- Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 10:00am-2:00pm

Upcoming Mission Opportunities

- Annual Celebration on March 3, 2012, 5:30-8:30pm
- Taking Your Generosity to the Next Level on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-2:30pm
- “Taking Your Creative Imagination to the Next Level” with Professor Kim Long on Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-2:30pm
- Urban Ministry Seminar with Tony Campolo on Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am-2:30pm at First Presbyterian Atlanta

Charge and Blessing – Joanna closed the meeting with a recitation of the Great Commission. The meeting was adjourned at 2:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Betsy Turner

**PARKWAY COMMITTEE REPORT  
(TO COORDINATING TEAM)  
September 8, 2011**

On July 23, presbytery established this committee to (1) attempt to bring about reconciliation, (2) give all Parkway members an opportunity to be heard, (3) determine whether there is a viable minority that could continue as a PCUSA congregation, and (4) consult with Greater Atlanta and NE Georgia presbyteries. The Moderator appointed Maxine Edwards, Julie Ferguson, Sid Gunter, Chris Townley, David Miller, and Warren Herron to the committee.

1. The committee met with the Parkway session and discussed several possible avenues that might lead to reconciliation. The session members listened patiently to the points raised but strongly indicated that none offered any realistic hope for reconciliation, because they did not change the circumstances that led to their request for dismissal. The session sent a letter (Attachment A) to the committee that reiterated its position and stated: “the session is committed to providing a fiscal gift once the situation concerning our request for dismissal has been resolved.” It does not give a specific figure because church’s financial outlook will be impacted by presbytery’s action on their request for dismissal. From the discussion, the letter, and the vote taken by the congregation on June 26, the committee concludes that further efforts to achieve reconciliation will not succeed.

2. At the meeting on June 26, with 74% of the congregation and three representatives of presbytery present, the members cast secret ballots and 273 (94.5%) voted for dismissal, 14 (4.8%) voted against, and 2 did not vote. Thirty members who did not attend sent messages indicating they would have supported dismissal. On August 22, the committee sent a letter (Attachment B) to all members of the congregation, encouraging them, whether or not they had attended the June 26 meeting, to express their views. They were assured that their names would not be revealed. In particular, they were asked to indicate whether they would continue as members of Parkway if it is dismissed, or would seek to join another PCUSA church, or some other church. The committee believes that this process afforded all members an opportunity to be heard.

3. Attachment C gives the responses, with names redacted, of the nine members who responded to the committee’s letter. Seven intend to go with Parkway if it is dismissed, one intends to leave, and one will wait and see. Based on the vote on June 26 and the responses to the letter, the committee concludes that there is no viable minority that could continue as a PCUSA congregation.

4. The committee prepared a summary (Attachment D) of the Parkway situation as of August 30 and sent it to the Committee on Ministry of Northeast Georgia Presbytery and asked for their comments and advice. The committee met with the council of Greater Atlanta Presbytery and used the summary as the discussion outline. Their individual comments, which expressed widely differing views, are given in Attachment E. The committee believes that adequate consultation has occurred.

Respectfully submitted, \_\_\_\_\_  
Warren Herron, Moderator

## COORDINATING TEAM REPORT REGARDING PARKWAY DISMISSAL REQUEST

The Coordinating Team, to which was referred the motion to approve the Parkway session's request for that congregation to be dismissed with its name and property to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, submits the following report:

The team has received reports from the committee appointed to consult with the Parkway congregation and from the Committee on Ministry, and has determined the following:

The Parkway congregation with 289 of its 398 active members and three representative of presbytery present, voted 273 (94.5 % of those present) for dismissal and 14 (4.8%) against.

The consulting committee has afforded all persons affected by the dismissal request an opportunity to be heard on the subject and has consulted with the Parkway congregation to attempt to facilitate reconciliation. These attempts were unsuccessful and the committee found no faction that is entitled to the property as the true church within the PC(USA) and is capable of functioning as a viable, independent congregation on the Parkway site.

Parkway's property has been appraised at \$2,400,000 and there is an outstanding loan of \$2,376,630. The annual debt service on the loan is \$180,000, about 24% of the church's income. The presbytery has not guaranteed that loan and will have no obligation if Parkway is dismissed to the EPC. If Parkway is not dismissed, it is very likely that many members will leave, and the remaining members will not be able to make the loan payments. In that event, Parkway would lose the property, or presbytery may be liable due to the "held in trust" provision of the PC(USA) Constitution. The annual debt service is about one-third of presbytery's annual budget.

Units of the PC(USA), primarily Cherokee Presbytery and the Tri-presbytery New Church Development Commission, provided about \$1,500,000 in financial support for start-up in 1996, land acquisition, and construction. Under the terms of Cherokee Presbytery's proposed policy for Gracious Dismissal, Parkway would be required to repay \$202,525.80 (the amount they received from denominational sources in the last five years). However, this policy is not yet in place and so the requirement cannot be enforced. The Parkway session has submitted a letter that stated, "the session is committed to providing a fiscal gift once the situation concerning our request for dismissal has been resolved."

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church is (a) doctrinally consistent with the essentials of Reformed theology as understood by the presbytery; (b) governed by a polity that is consistent in form and structure with that of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); and (c) is of sufficient permanence to offer reasonable assurance that the congregation is not being dismissed to de facto independence.

The Presbytery of the Southeast of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church is willing to receive the Parkway Presbyterian Church upon its dismissal.

### **The Coordinating Team recommends that Cherokee Presbytery**

1. Approve Parkway's request to be dismissed with title, assets and liabilities to the Presbytery of the Southeast of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
2. In light of the Parkway's willingness to provide a fiscal gift, that Cherokee Presbytery make no efforts to collect the \$202,525.80 that would be owed had Cherokee Presbytery's Gracious Dismissal policy been in place.
3. Designate any financial gift received from Parkway for the Tri-Presbytery New Church Development Commission.

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Moderator of the Coordinating Team

# PARKWAY CHURCH

*Connect – Grow – Serve*

**Rev. Bill Ford, Senior Pastor**

August 23, 2011

Warren Herron  
Committee Chair  
Cherokee Presbytery

Dear Warren,

Thank you for the comments and concerns that you and the committee expressed to our session Monday night during our meeting. We value the friendships that have been formed over the years, and look forward to continuing those ministries to which each of us has been called. As has been discussed, our decision to leave the PC(USA) was not easy or taken lightly. However, with the recent decisions by PC(USA) and their continued direction, the path chosen by our congregation is a clear one. As a confessing church, and staying true to the original confessions under which we were formed, there are several principles that are non-negotiable and we feel are in conflict with the direction that PCUSA is taking. Our interpretation of the directives (not guidelines) of scripture are different from many of those now espoused by the PC(USA).

Further, we take seriously the feelings and concerns that you had shared with respect to the fiscal support that Parkway has been given to establish a church and grow in the mission to share the good news of Jesus Christ with our community, and the mission fields where the Lord has led us. The investment in expanding the church corporate and reaching out to both the lost and the searching has been very successful when one considers the humble beginnings of Parkway and all of the various ministries currently underway. Please be assured that our mission to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in another reformed denomination will continue.

As an expression of Christian love and thanks for helping us to launch this ministry those many years ago, the session is committed to providing a fiscal gift once the situation concerning our request for dismissal has been resolved. As you are aware, the decision on the part of the Presbytery has a significant impact on our financial position as an ongoing ministry. Until our dismissal has been fully resolved, we are unable to fully understand and analyze the financial landscape that we will be dealing with as we move forward. We recognize that there will be some members of the Presbytery that will be looking for a specific figure, and the best we are able to do at this time is make you aware of our desire to continue our friendships, grow together as brothers and sisters in Christ, and commit to sharing that love in a fiscal capacity in the future.

With all respect,

Eloise Newton  
Clerk of Session  
Parkway Presbyterian Session

## Cherokee Presbytery Profit and Loss Statement, August 31, 2011

	<u>Jan - Aug 11</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
44009 · Budgeted Receipts	220,189.66
47000 · CRC Income	246,650.71
48000 · Berry College Ministry Income	12,626.27
49000 · KSU Ministry Income	21,163.66
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>500,630.30</u>
<b>Expense</b>	
51304 · Office Renovation Loan	16,154.96
51216 · Pby Office Operating Expense	24,390.62
52201 · Designated/ Cap/ Debt	15,909.51
49300 · KSU Operation Expense	21,163.66
48300 · Berry Campus Operation Expense	12,626.27
51000 · Salaries & Benefits	118,891.36
51318 · New Church Development-Tri Pres	5,000.00
51600 · Spiritual Development Team	225.50
54105 · Committee on Ministry	932.93
54505 · Committee on Prep for Ministry	614.30
55199 · Campus Ministry Commission	9,025.69
55109 · Mission Team	2,000.00
56110 · Nurturing Disciples Team	2,074.90
56500 · Cherokee Retreat Center	50,000.00
57000 · CRC Expense	247,929.54
60001 · Payroll Expenses	-2,212.85
<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>524,726.39</u>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<u>-24,096.09</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<u><u>-24,096.09</u></u>

## Cherokee Presbytery Balance Sheet, August 31, 2011

	<u>Aug 31, 11</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	380,462.26
Other Current Assets	6,021.38
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>386,483.64</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	4,673,389.82
<b>Other Assets</b>	302,541.41
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>5,362,414.87</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	-958.98
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<u>-958.98</u>
<b>Long Term Liabilities</b>	509,380.94
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<u>508,421.96</u>
<b>Equity</b>	4,853,992.91
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<u><u>5,362,414.87</u></u>

## 2011 Unified and Per Capita Pledges Received/Paid

Church	Unified Pledged	Per Capita Pledged	Unified Received	Per Capita Received
Acworth			100.00	689.15
Beersheba	4,200.00			
Bethany	9,000.00	5523.00	6,000.00	3,681.00
Brazilian Christian				
Calhoun	8,820.00		5,880.00	1,079.92
Calvary	8,862.00	519.10	5,169.50	302.82
Cartersville First	40,000.00	5,647.45	14,999.94	2,365.75
Cedartown			3,333.36	632.48
Chickamauga	660.00	393.80	660.00	393.80
Christ Fellowship				
Cloudland				384.85
Cohutta				
Covenant	12,000.00	2,058.50	8,000.00	1,372.32
Dalton First	54,000.00		40,500.00	
Deer Creek Shores	3,000.00	1,002.40	1,500.00	502.00
Eastminster	30,000.00	5,146.25	17,500.00	3,001.95
Euharlee				
Faith Canton	6,400.00	465.40	3,200.00	232.70
Faith North Georgia	1,100.00	492.25	825.00	492.25
Grace			5,088.73	
Heritage			5,000.04	4,394.60
John Knox			1,250.00	729.42
Kirkwood	7,200.00	1,238.40	4,800.00	818.15
LaFayette	3,000.00	300.00		
Macland	4,500.00			1,919.76
Marietta First	110,000.00	15,000.00	73,333.34	7,500.00
Mars Hill	3,000.00	4,385.50	1,250.00	1,827.28
Menlo	1,000.00	116.35	1,000.00	
Morton Memorial				268.50
New Lebanon	10,000.00		6,664.00	
Parkway	2,000.00		1,500.00	1,500.00
Providence	2,000.00			1,225.88
Ray-Thomas Memorial				
Rockmart	7,200.00	751.80	3,500.00	375.90
Silver Creek	1,200.00	425.00	600.00	212.52
Sixes	1,000.00			
Southminster	3,300.00	984.54	1,925.00	492.26
Summerville	2700.00		900.00	
Trinity	500.00	384.85		384.85
Westminster	5,000.00	2,864.00	3,752.00	2,144.50
Woodlawn	600.00	626.50	450.00	469.89
Woodstock	3,600.00	456.45		456.45
Miscellaneous Receipts			3,264.00	
<b>Totals 9/7/2011</b>	<b>345,842.00</b>	<b>48,781.54</b>	<b>221,944.91</b>	<b>39,850.95</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	181,681	7/19/06			NW	6.75	1582				x	3/10
Beersheba	No Loans												
Bethany 10244706	300,000	269,920	3/18/08	3/25/28		PCUSA	5.25	2022	x			x	6/11
Bethany 33021909	197,000	Pd in Full	10/17/89	12/28/11		PCUSA	6.25	2212		X pass thru			6/11
Brazilian Christian	?												
Calhoun 1026807	920,000	885,395	1/16/08	5/1/30	5/1/12	PCUSA	5.52	6339	x			x	6/11
Calvary 10223603	150,000	Paid in Full	12/15/92	1/25/13		PCUSA	6.00	1125	x			x	12/10
Cartersville	414,000	414,000	Int. Only			?	4.00					x	12/10
Cedartown	No Loans												12/10
Chickamauga	No Loans												12/10
Christ Fellowship	No Loans												12/10
Cloudland	No Loans												12/10
Cohutta	No Loans												12/10
Covenant	No Loans												12/10
Dalton	No Loans												12/10
Deer Creek	175,000	175,000					5.00					x	6/11
Eastminster	1,330,995?	1,330,995					6.75						12/10
Euharlee	No Loans												12/10
Faith N. GA	No Loans												12/10
Faith Canton	No Loans												12/10
Grace 5036129809	35,000	Pd in Full	6/4/09	6/4/11		United Com.	5.00	60	x			x	9/10
Grace 1022405	400,000	329,930	2/3/06	3/1/26		PILP	6.00	2870			x		6/11
Heritage #1	1,414,386	1,387,252	8/20/04	6/22/12		Atlanta Business	7.60	10,938				x	12/10
Heritage #2	669,635	656,789	6/30/04	6/22/12		Atlanta Business	7.60	5179				x	12/10
John Knox	? 117,000	117,000					5.9						12/10
Kirkwood	43,374	25,000	7/2/08	6/15/11 Balloon		BB&T	4.75	1043				x	12/10
LaFayette	?												
Macland 11169006	78,500	17,958	5/25/93	4/28/13		PCUSA	6.25	881		x			6/11
Macland	2,200,000	2,000,000	3/2/05			Wachovia	5.5	15,687				x	12/10
Marietta	No Loans												
Mars Hill	?												
Menlo	?												
Morton Mem.	No Loans												
New Lebanon	No Loans												
Pby Office R 712302	98,401	13,301	3/27/07	3/27/12		Hamilton	8.25	2019		x			08/11
Parkway	2,452,295	2,342,744	7/1/08	7/1/13		Signature	6.5	16,705				x	12/10
Parkway 33039300	400,000	Paid in Full	12/12/97	12/24/17		PCUSA	6.00	3375			x		2/11
Providence 5080201638	200,000 92 Property	145,520	12/22/09	1/5/2011		United Comm.	6.51	2065		X Prin	X Int.		08/11
Providence 400246900	1,375,000 Building	823,735	12/19/05	10/19/12		Affinity	6.00	5944				X	12/10

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	
Ray-Thomas 33042206	350,000	206,294	12/6/99	12/25/19		PCUSA	5.00	2557	x			Paid by Bethany	6/11
Ray-Thomas 1004298	425,000	237,856	1/15/99	2/1/19		PCUSA	5.75	3176	x			Paid by Bethany	6/11
Rockmart	No Loans												
Silver Creek	No Loans												
Sixes 1021505	800,000	686,341	9/30/05	2/1/30		PCUSA	4.88	4662	x			x	6/11
Southminster 1011701	1,024,000	595,622	2/4/02	10/1/23		PCUSA	5.42	5815	x			x	6/11
Summerville	No Loans												
Trinity	No Loans												
Westminster	1,577,422	1,463,353	5/1/2009	1/25/2033	1/25/2013	Sun Trust	5.00	9765				X	3/11
Woodlawn	No Loans												
Woodstock 6093804	300,000	142,728	3/6/96	3/25/21		PCUSA	4.75	1550	x			x	6/11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17,647,724</b>	<b>14,448.415</b>											

(updated 8/31/11)



# Cherokee Presbytery

183 West Main Street, Suite A, Cartersville, GA 30120  
Phone: 770-382-6280, Toll Free: 888-384-6554, Web: [www.cherokeepresbytery.org](http://www.cherokeepresbytery.org)  
Rev. Rebecca M. Blackwell, Mission Coordinator and Stated Clerk

September 13, 2011

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Office of the General Assembly  
PO Box 643683  
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3683

RE: Your letter of 7 July 2011  
Dear Friends;

I am writing at the request of our Ministry Support Team (Admin. and Finance). Your communication of 7 July indicates that we are \$9139.67 in arrears for 2010 Per Capita and \$42,383.94 in arrears for 2011.

It is the policy of this presbytery to forward on to Synod and General Assembly 100% of what we receive from our congregations. If we are able to contribute beyond that, we will attempt to do so, but at present, our financial situation does not allow for that possibility. We currently have a number of congregations that are close to default on their property-related debt, and so feel that we must use what we have to build reserves to assist them if need be.

Therefore, we respectfully request that we be granted forgiveness for the remainder of the 2010 per capita (\$9139.67). We anticipate that we will also need forgiveness for a portion of the 2011 amount, but will wait until after we close our books for the year before we know the exact amount we will be able to pay.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Rebecca Blackwell".

Rev. Rebecca Blackwell  
Mission Coordinator/Stated Clerk

## Cherokee Presbytery COM statement on Clergy Dismissal

The Committee on Ministry of Cherokee Presbytery takes seriously the ordination vows taken by all teaching elders in the PC(USA) (W-4.4003.e.g.)<sup>1</sup>. Therefore be it resolved that the COM will not dismiss<sup>5</sup> ‘members of this presbytery as ministers in ‘good standing’ when that minister is found to be schismatic. We define a schismatic minister to be one who foments a congregation’s departure from the PC (USA) by misinformation or words of undue influence toward leaving this denomination and who plans to leave the PC(USA) with the congregation and continue ministry with that community. If the congregation is considering dissolving its relationship with the PC(USA), it is the minister’s duty at first opportunity to inform them that while a congregation may decide to leave the PC(USA) and a minister may also decide to leave the denomination, they cannot leave together.

If, after appropriate inquiry, a pastor is found to have publicly<sup>3</sup> announced their intention to leave with all or part of the congregation, the COM will determine that by the action of leading the way to dissolution, the minister has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Furthermore, pastors found to be engaging in activities and/or making public statements that are clearly beyond the bounds of the ‘Freedom of Conscience’ clause<sup>4</sup> in the Book of Order will also be deemed to have renounced the jurisdiction of the PC(USA).

We offer these guidelines for pastors during times of controversy in the church:

- Err on the side of Unity. Explore a variety of ways to address your concerns short of leaving the denomination.
- Examine Scripture as part of your discernment about how to deal with your concerns
- Allow for fair presentation and discussion of all sides of an issue.
- Maintain a non-anxious presence. Do not fan the flames of anger, fear or stress.
- Practice maintaining good boundaries. Do not impose your issues/convictions on your congregation. Do share them, do discuss them, but do not impose them on others.
- Help your congregation/session to faithfully explore the scriptures as well as their concerns, questions. Help them to get clarity about their concerns and desires.
- Honor and care for those in the minority position.
- Inform the Committee on Ministry about your concerns and/or congregational struggles early on in the process.

Statement Approved September 13, 2011  
Vote Recorded – 10 ‘in favor ‘ and 1 ‘opposed’

## Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> – Ordination Questions (W-4.4004 e., g. – 2011-2-13 & 2009-2011 PCUSA Book of Order)
- e. “Will you be governed by our church’s polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God’s Word and Spirit?”
- g. “Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church?”

- <sup>2</sup> - CHAPTER 3: The Structure of Cherokee Presbytery (Cherokee Presbytery Manual, Sec. 4, par. C.3)  
 “The Committee on Ministry will have the authority of presbytery to dismiss ministers to another presbytery, to provide permission for ministers “to labor outside the bounds,” and to dissolve the pastoral relationship in cases where the congregation and the pastor concur.” (G-14.0602)
- 3 - Renunciation of Jurisdiction (G-2.0509 - 2011-2013 PCUSA Book of Order)  
 “When a teaching elder (or authorized representative) submits to the stated clerk of the presbytery of membership a written statement renouncing the jurisdiction of this church, the renunciation shall be effective upon receipt. When a teaching elder persists in work disapproved by the presbytery having jurisdiction, the presbytery shall consult with the teaching elder and shall give notice of its disapproval. If after having been provided opportunity for consultation and upon written notice of its disapproval, the teaching elder persists in the work, the presbytery may then conclude that he or she has renounced the jurisdiction of this church.”
- <sup>4</sup> - Freedom of Conscience (G-2.0105 - 2011-2013;and G-6.0108 – 2009-2011 PCUSA Book of Order)  
 “It is necessary to the integrity and health of the church that the persons who serve it in ordered ministries shall adhere to the essentials of the Reformed faith and polity as expressed in this Constitution. So far as may be possible without serious departure from these standards, without infringing on the rights and views of others, and without obstructing the constitutional governance of the church, freedom of conscience with respect to the interpretation of Scripture is to be maintained. It is to be recognized, however, that in entering the ordered ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), one chooses to exercise freedom of conscience within certain bounds. His or her conscience is captive to the Word of God as interpreted in the standards of the church so long as he or she continues to seek, or serve in, ordered ministry. The decision as to whether a person has departed from essentials of Reformed faith and polity is made initially by the individual concerned but ultimately becomes the responsibility of the council in which he or she is a member.<sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> - Very early in the history of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, even before the General Assembly was established, the plan of reunion of the Synod of New York and Philadelphia contained the following sentences:

‘That when any matter is determined by a majority vote, every member shall either actively concur with or passively submit to such determination; or if his conscience permit him to do neither, he [she] shall, after sufficient liberty modestly to reason and remonstrate, peaceable withdraw from our communion without attempting to make any schism. Provided always that this shall be understood to extend only to such determination as the body shall judge indispensable in doctrine or Presbyterian government.’

(Hist. Dig. (P) p. 1310.) (Plan of Union of 1758, par. II.)”

Cherokee Presbytery  
Policy for Congregations Considering Disaffiliation

I. Preamble

A. Cherokee Presbytery is but one corporate manifestation of the Body of Christ and the Church Universal. To that end, we understand ourselves to be one church in many locations and our mission is to be a holy expression of God's intention for the world, obediently following Christ together with confidence, joy and hope. The Presbytery serves God by nurturing, supporting, and providing oversight to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations within its midst. This responsibility includes ministries of reconciliation when a congregation questions PC(USA) doctrine, policy or practice to the extent that disaffiliation from the denomination is being discussed or considered.

B. The 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (June 2008) expressed its will that presbyteries and synods make available to councils and local congregations a process that exercises the responsibility and power "to divide, dismiss, or dissolve churches in consultation with their members (Former Book of Order, G-11.0203i; equivalent language is in current G-3.0301a), with consistency, pastoral responsibility, accountability, gracious witness, openness, and transparency." In response, this policy is hereby established by Cherokee Presbytery, in the fervent hope that its use shall never be necessary.

C. This policy seeks to honor our unity in Christ, in that in all cases in which a congregation or some of its members express unhappiness with the Presbytery, or with other parts of the denomination, the goal shall be loving, honest, compassionate reconciliation, so that harmony may be restored and mission strengthened. It shall be the policy of the Presbytery to treat decisions of congregations considering or seeking dismissal primarily as a matter for pastoral care. The Presbytery will also seek first to adopt a pastoral response to ruling elders and teaching elders who serve a congregation considering or requesting dismissal.

D. Although the Book of Order sets out property rights, property is not the basis of our spiritual unity. This Presbytery believes we can, in mutual regard and guided by the Spirit, create greater wholeness in conversation with one another.

E. As a Presbytery, we recognize that the Book of Order provides that congregations may leave the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in possession of their property through the action and request of the session. We are all reminded that the Presbytery itself is the only body empowered to approve a congregation's dissolution, split, or withdrawal. We ask all congregations to act with love, forbearance, dignity, and discretion should they find themselves led by the Spirit of God to pursue this right.

F. In the spirit of the Apostle Paul in I Corinthians 6:1, we peacefully seek first to discuss and arbitrate any disagreements, as brothers and sisters in Christ, before seeking any civil remedies afforded by law.

G. It is the will of this Presbytery to create both a setting and a process of graciousness, in which the will of God is sought, in which reconciliation is the goal, and through which it will be accomplished with a graciousness befitting those who claim Jesus as Lord. With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39 – paraphrased).

## II. Overview of Process

A. When the leadership of the Presbytery becomes aware through informal contacts that a congregation is in some degree of turmoil or serious disagreement with either the Presbytery or the denomination or when it becomes apparent that there is some significant desire within a congregation to consider disaffiliation, the following steps shall be taken:

1. The Presbytery Moderator, in consultation with the Stated Clerk, shall appoint a Pastoral Response Team (“PRT”) which shall be composed of both ruling elders and teaching elders. The PRT will offer visitation to the congregation. The purpose of this visit shall be to engage the leaders of the congregation or the congregation as a whole (as circumstances dictate) in a time of prayer and conversation aimed at understanding the conflict and identifying steps toward reconciliation. Should the congregation (or its leadership) refuse visits or discussion with the PRT, the matter shall be referred to Presbytery for the appointment of an Administrative Commission (“AC”). Assuming the congregation and its leaders receive the PRT, in all matters relating to this subject, the following two questions will be deemed paramount:

a. Question #1: Is God leading this particular congregation to be restored fully to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or to disaffiliate from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)? and,

b. Question #2: If God is leading this congregation toward disaffiliation from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), how can that be accomplished in a way that honors Jesus Christ and that strengthens both the congregation and the Presbytery?

2. Process for Addressing Question #1:

a. If the PRT determines that progress can be made toward reconciliation through continued and constructive dialogue, the PRT will engage in such dialogue. The PRT, in its work, will engage the teaching elder, the session, and members of the congregation, as it sees fit, in order both to discover the areas of concern and to understand them. There is no time limit to such dialogue, though either side may bring it to a close by moving toward the next step.

b. If, after the time of dialogue, the PRT determines that unresolved issues and concerns remain, the PRT will report this to the Presbytery Coordinating Team (“CT”) and will continue work with the congregation toward achieving a mutually agreeable resolution to any important issues that remain open.

3. Process for Addressing Question #2:

a. If, following the time of prayer and conversation between the PRT and the congregation (see II-A.1.a, above) the session of the congregation continues to consider disaffiliation, then the PRT will report same to the Coordinating Team. At this time, the Moderator (in consultation with the Stated Clerk) will appoint an Administrative Committee (“ACE”) to work with the session going forward, and the PRT will be dismissed with thanks.

b. The ACE will work with the session of the congregation to explore the implications of disaffiliation for a congregation, the Presbyterian teaching elder(s)

of such congregation, other PC(USA) entities and congregations with which the congregation has covenant relationships, contracts, or shared facilities, and the Presbytery. This would include a thorough review and discussion of this policy and consideration as to whether disaffiliation would require dismissal or dissolution of the congregation.

c. Following this review and discussion, the session shall proceed to call for a congregational meeting as outlined in Section IV.

B. It is within the authority of the ACE to recommend to the CT what action, including dissolution if appropriate, should be taken to resolve the continuing concerns. All recommendations of the ACE must be submitted to the full Presbytery, together with the advice of the CT with respect to those recommendations. Only the full Presbytery, in meeting, has the authority to approve the terms of any congregational disaffiliation, or to approve any legal action, if such is recommended.

C. If a congregation is approved for Dismissal or for Dissolution, then the Moderator, in consultation with the Stated Clerk, shall appoint an Administrative Commission (“AC”) to execute all actions necessary to execute the decision of the Presbytery (including but not limited to transferring the congregation, transferring assets, and handling matters outlined in Sections V and VI.

D. In the event that any congregation’s request for disaffiliation is approved under the terms of this policy, the Presbytery shall, in conjunction with the congregation, hold a final worship service to celebrate our common life in Jesus Christ and to pray for the effectiveness and well-being of both the congregation and the Presbytery. Those departing the PC(USA) may be commissioned by the Presbytery to further their work for the kingdom as they go forward in ministry. The service will be jointly planned by members of Presbytery’s Worship Team and the Session and all congregations of Cherokee Presbytery shall be invited.

### III. Expectations and Understandings

A. By means of this policy we establish the following mutual expectations:

1. Members of the PRT, ACE and AC, as well as members and ruling elders of the congregation, shall work together in mutual trust.
2. It is to be expected, in light of the reconciling nature of this policy, that the congregation, through its Session, will invite or welcome a visit from the PRT, ACE and/or AC.
3. That they shall be open and honest with each other in all dealings.
4. That they shall provide to each other all relevant and useful information and documents, and,
5. That the congregation’s ruling elders and teaching elder(s) shall refrain from any unilateral changes in the way that their congregational property and assets are held or managed.

B. Care of Members with Minority Views

1. At all times the rights and privileges of those members of the congregation who are in the minority with respect to views held about disaffiliation or related matters shall be affirmed and protected.

2. In the event that any congregation is approved for disaffiliation under the under the terms of this policy, the Presbytery and the session shall take all steps possible in order to provide for the pastoral care and congregational life of those members who did not wish to depart the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Their protection and nurture shall be a matter of paramount concern to both the departing congregation and to the Presbytery.

#### IV. Procedures if Session/Congregation Wishes to Pursue Disaffiliation

A. The Session shall call for a meeting of the congregation for the purposes of advising and further informing the Session's proposal with respect to disaffiliation. Advance notice for the meeting shall be by written letter to each member on the Active Roll of the congregation, as well as through Sunday worship announcements. The letter shall be mailed at least thirty days in advance of the meeting date and public worship announcements shall be made at all worship services between the date of the call and the actual congregational meeting. Representatives of the Presbytery, (members of the ACE, the CT, as well as the Stated Clerk, Mission Coordinator and Moderator of Presbytery) shall also be invited to the meeting with the right to address the body gathered.

B. A quorum for this congregational meeting shall be sixty percent (60%) of the active membership, the attendees being recorded by name.

C. The Session shall make a written proposal to the congregation that it deems to be in fulfillment of the congregation's intentions. This proposal shall include a mutually agreed upon settlement with any other PC(USA) entities and/or congregations with which the congregation has covenant relationships, contracts, or with which it shares its facilities.

D. All members present, as well as the representatives of Presbytery, shall have the right to speak. When the discussion is concluded, an advisory vote shall be taken, by written ballot, of the active members of the congregation present. At least two-thirds of those present and voting must vote in favor of disaffiliation in order for the proposal to move forward.

#### V. Disposition of Assets when a Congregation is Granted Approval for Dismissal

##### A. Real Property

1. **BACKGROUND:** The fact that the various congregations within Cherokee Presbytery have their origin from different earlier arrangements of congregations within the United States has a bearing on this entire matter:

a. Some congregations were formerly members of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, which had a long-standing held-in-trust property provision in its constitution

b. Some congregations were formerly members of the Presbyterian Church in the United States ("PCUS") and exercised the exemption clause of the property chapter of the Book of Order (G-4.03). The exemption from this provision, claimed by some formerly PCUS congregations pursuant to Article 13 of the Plan

of Union (1983), covered only exemption from the requirement to obtain Presbytery's consent to buy, sell, or encumber church property and it did not confer sole ownership of property upon the congregation.

c. Some congregations were formerly members of the Presbyterian Church in the United States but did not exercise the exemption clause of the property chapter of the Book of Order; and

d. Some congregations were organized after re-union and therefore have no relationship to earlier property clauses in existence prior to re-union.

2. Rules for Disposition of Real Property when a congregation votes in favor of disaffiliation and the Presbytery concurs:

a. If ninety percent or more of those present and voting, vote in favor of disaffiliation, the Presbytery shall agree to the disaffiliation, permitting the congregation to depart with all of its property intact, subject to the provisions of Section VI, below.

b. If the majority percentage is greater than sixty-six and two-thirds percent and less than ninety percent, then the congregation and the AC shall work to determine a fair monetary and/or property amount to be given to Presbytery, in order for the congregation to depart with its property.

c. If a motion for disaffiliation is affirmed by only the requisite majority (sixth-six and two-thirds percent of those voting), then the Stated Clerk shall ask the AC to begin a process of negotiation with the congregation to determine the terms of dismissal, including the disposition of the real and personal property. This process should be concluded within a reasonable time, normally within twelve months from the time that the first step of the process was instigated by either congregation or Presbytery. The terms of disaffiliation agreed upon in this negotiation process must then be returned to the congregation for a subsequent congregational meeting, called and announced in the same manner as required for the prior meeting, and with at least two-thirds of the active congregation present, accepted by a two-thirds majority, in order to be the effective decision of the congregation.

B. Disposition of Other Assets

1. A congregation that is approved for disaffiliation may take its name with it, but shall not use the PC(USA) symbol or any facsimile thereof.

2. A congregation that is approved for disaffiliation will work with the AC to determine the disposition of any trusts or bequests.

VI. Other Provisions

A. Any disaffiliating congregation that has benefited from funds received from any branch of the PC(USA) within the five (5) years prior to the decision to disaffiliate (amounts generating "benefit" to be determined in consultation with the AC), will be required to repay them over a period of no more than five (5) years as follows:

1. If the congregation voted 90% or more in favor of disaffiliation, then 100% of the funds shall be repaid.
2. If the congregation voted less than 90% in favor of disaffiliation, then the funds shall be repaid in proportion to the percentage vote. (Example: 72% of those voting voted in favor of disaffiliation...therefore, only 72% of the money received in the prior five years would have to be repaid.)

B. Any disaffiliating congregation will be required to pay off any loans outstanding to any entity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Matters of loans of the congregation held by non-Presbyterian entities are the responsibility of the congregation and the Presbytery shall be legally relieved of any responsibility related to such loans prior to dismissal of the congregation.

C. Any other congregation leaving with its property is encouraged to make some monetary contributions to the Presbytery for several years as a way of expressing its gratitude for the historic and on-going work of its life as a congregation of the PC(USA) through Cherokee Presbytery and to aid in providing ministry for those members of the departing congregation who decide that they want to remain within the PC(USA), or to aid in initiating new PC(USA) ministry in the community.

D. Should the teaching elder(s) of any disaffiliating congregation wish to remain in the PC(USA), the disaffiliating congregation must provide the teaching elder(s) with a minimum of one year's salary and benefits in order that they will not be grievously harmed by the actions of the congregation. *Should the teaching elder(s) of any disaffiliating congregation wish to be dismissed to the denomination that will receive the congregation, the presbytery, upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry and the Stated Clerk, will take the appropriate actions to facilitate the dismissal(s).*

E. Any disaffiliating congregation will be required to close out its financial and membership books as of the official date of disaffiliation and to file all reports required by the Presbytery for statistical record-keeping.

F. Any disaffiliating congregation will be required to work with the Presbyterian Board of Pensions to effect a clean break as of the time of disaffiliation.

G. Any disaffiliating congregation will work closely and diligently with the Presbytery to assist in the transfer of membership of members who do not desire to remain with the disaffiliating congregation.

H. There are some practical considerations to be addressed, should a congregation be approved for disaffiliation. These are listed as an attachment below, for information, but are not binding for the purposes of this policy.

## VII. Effect

A. This policy shall take effect on \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Approved by Cherokee Presbytery in meeting on

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Stated Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

## ATTACHMENT A

### Other Considerations and Tasks

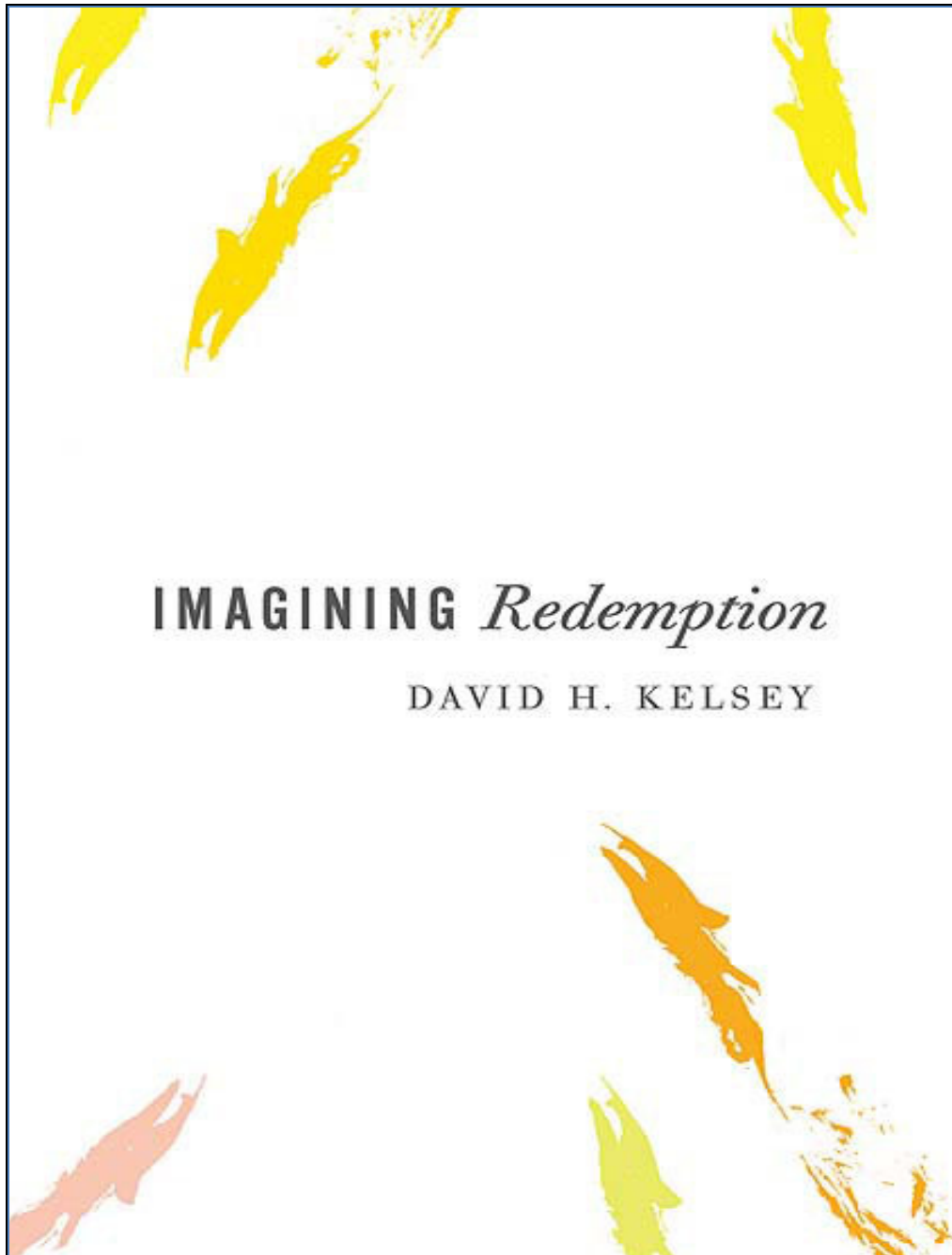
#### For the Congregation

- Legal release of obligation for Presbytery ref: debts, liabilities, etc.
- New articles of incorporation/by-laws
- 501(c) 3 may need to be re-established under the new denomination to which the congregation is being dismissed
- New Insurance documentation
- Communicate with Board of Pensions to terminate Pastor on plan and make any transition arrangements
- Review loans and property titles to make sure that PC(USA) is not on them anywhere

#### For the Presbytery Commission

- Process the dismissal of congregation and pastors as appropriate
- Remove congregation and pastor from insurance policies, etc.
- Notify OGA of dismissal
- Transfer members as needed

***Pre-Presbytery Book Study Opportunity for November 2011***



Plan now to join with your Presbytery friends and colleagues for a discussion of this thought-provoking and challenging book. We will meet for an hour prior to the **November** Presbytery meeting, so be sure to order your copy today (available at Amazon and other stores) and start reading!

For further information, contact Rev. Fritz Bogar at [cfbogar@comcast.net](mailto:cfbogar@comcast.net)

## Church Network Information

	A	B
1	Church Name	
2	Address	
3	City, State	
4	Zip	
5	Phone	
6	Fax	
7	Website	
8	Pastor	
9	Pastor Email	
10	Associate Pastor	
11	Associate Pastor Email	
12	Administrative Contact	
13	Administrative Contact Email	
14	Administrative Contact Phone	
15	IT / Communication Director	
16	IT / Communication Director Email	
17	IT / Communication Director Phone	
18	Network Type	
19	Network Bandwidth	
20	Network Provider	
21	Network Information	
22	Web Information	

*(Please complete form for each church and return.)*