

Provisional Minutes

Fifth Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

February 2-3, 2024

Reynolda Church EPC, Kernersville Campus

367 West Bodenhamer Street

Kernersville, North Carolina 27284

Friday, February 2, 2024

Learning Focus: NRP Identity

As the New River Presbytery opens its second year, it seemed wise to the Holy Spirit and to us to continue spending time intentionally building and developing our identity as a Presbytery, in Christ. To this end we are seeking to focus on what it means for healthy Ruling Elders to be Evangelical, Missional, Reformed, and Presbyterian in a Presbytery that strives to encourage, enable, and equip disciple making churches to plant disciple making churches.

005-01 Call to Order and Prayer

Moderator Ruling Elder (RE) Gorgon Miller called the Fifth Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery to order at 1:00 p.m. and opened in prayer.

005-02 Welcome from Host Churches

RE Barrett Johnson, Campus Pastor of Reynolda Church, Kernersville Campus welcomed the New River Presbytery. He briefly introduced the volunteer team helping to host the meeting, and lead the NRP in prayer for the meeting.

005-03 Opening Worship and a Symphony of Prayer

TE Tom Clymer, Chaplain to the Presbytery led the New River Presbytery in an extended season of prayer which included a substantial and guided symphony of prayer in which he was assisted by TE Jeff Smith.

005-04 Declaration of Quorum

Stated Clerk TE Rufus Burton declared a quorum as evidenced by the following record of attendance.

ACTIVE TEACHING ELDER ROLL (BoG 19-2A1)

STATUS

**RULING ELDER
COMMISSIONERS**

Asbury Evangelical Presbyterian Church, West Field, North Carolina

CP Terry Collins

Present

RE Earl Collins

RE Carol Jessup

RE Michael Khuri

RE Kim Gravely

Bethel Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Claudville, Virginia

TE Kevin Easter Unexcused Unexcused
Unexcused

Bouldin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stuart, Virginia

CP Richard Burnette Present RE Marie Bryant
RE Lemont Bryant

Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

TE Brian Marsh Present RE Janice Hawley
RE William Sapp

Christ Reigns Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia (Mission Group)

CP Alan Morrison Excused Unexcused

Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, Virginia

TE Rick Laney Unexcused Unexcused
Unexcused

Downtown Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia (Mission Group)

TE Rich Brown (PCA Blue Ridge) Present

Elon Presbyterian Church, Madison Heights, Virginia

TE Barry Tucker Present RE John Oblinger

Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Elkton, Virginia

TE Adam Snow Present RE Ty Phillips
RE Charlie Queen

Falling Springs Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Virginia

TE Mike Matlack Present RE Al Durham
RE Mike Henderson

First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia

Don Hardman (PCMA) Present RE Michael Ridenhour
RE Don Andree

First Presbyterian Church, Eden, North Carolina

TE Brad Milks Present RE Everall Peele
RE William Robertson

First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia

TE Rufus Burton (Stated Clerk) Present Excused

FORGE Community Church, Greensboro, NC (Mission Church)

TE Eric Shipton	Present	RE John Rich
TE Tom Clymer (Chaplain)	Present	

Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Eagle Rock, Virginia

TE Emily Hook	Present	RE Natalie Saville RE Rusty Saville
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Greenwood Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia

Vacant		Unexcused Unexcused
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Hope Presbyterian Community Church, Waynesboro, Virginia

TE Glen Holman	Present	Unexcused
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Hurley Presbyterian Church, Hurley Virginia

CP Curtis Stacy (Also Roseann)	Present	Unexcused
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Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Greenwood, Virginia

Philip Rice (Stated Supply)	Present	RE John Stoke
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Mary's Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, Virginia

CP Danny Whitt	Unexcused	Unexcused
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Mebane Presbyterian Church, Mebane, North Carolina

TE Jeff Smith	Present	RE Rob Latimer
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Memorial Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina

(Now Operating as FORGE Community Church) See Above

New Hope Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia (Mission Group)

(Now Operating as Downtown Presbyterian Church) See Above

New Life Presbyterian Church, Salem, Virginia

TE Camron Smith	Present	RE Christopher Chandler
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Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Madison Heights, Virginia

TE David Garrison	Present	Excused
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Norton Presbyterian Church, Norton, Virginia

TE Michael Porter	Unexcused	Unexcused Unexcused
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Perrow Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes, West Virginia

CP Ryan Fulmer	Unexcused	Unexcused
		Unexcused

Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Callaway, Virginia

Vacant (See 005-24.A.3.b)

Princeton Presbyterian Church, Princeton, West Virginia

TE Edwin Pettus	Present	RE Larry Emerson
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Providence Presbyterian Church, Nathalie, Virginia

Vacant		Unexcused
		Unexcused

Restoration Community Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

TE Gary McGhee	Present	RE Ken Trivette
		RE Gordon Miller (Moderator)
		RE Jordan Leonard
		RE Andrew Morton

Reynolda Church, North Carolina

TE Alan Wright	Excused	RE Richard Peacock
TE Chris Lawson	Unexcused	RE Mike Comer
		RE Karen Deneui
Kernersville, North Carolina		RE Mitch Garrison
CP Barrett Johnson	Present	RE Stephen Elmore
Clemmons, North Carolina		RE Carleton Irving
TE Brandon Williams	Present	RE Hugh McPherson
King, North Carolina		RE Rusty Russell
TE Chuck Estes	Present	RE Diane Finger
Iglesia Reynolda, Winston-Salem, North Carolina		
CP Amaury Hernandez	Present	

River Oaks Community Church, Clemmons, North Carolina

TE David Beaty	Present	RE Mike Bost
TE Sonny Flowers	Excused	RE Frank Carter
TE Andrew Wild	Present	RE Paul Scott
TE David Holcomb	Present	
TE Brian Edmonds	Present	

Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian, Lynchburg, Virginia

TE David Weber	Present	RE Bert Murphy
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TE Ron Cox	Present	RE Massey Ware
TE Brett Eubank	Present	RE Clay Atkins
TE Shane Whelan	Present	RE Warner Hall
		RE Russ Matney
		RE Andrew Shields
		RE Earl Weaver
Roseann Presbyterian Church, Roseann, Virginia		
CP Curtis Stacy (Counted with Hurley)	Present	Unexcused
		Unexcused
Slate Mountain Presbyterian Church, Meadows of Dan, Virginia		
CP Jeff Dalton	Unexcused	Unexcused
		Unexcused
Stuart Presbyterian Church, Stuart Virginia		
TE Danny Redman	Present	RE David Hoback
		RE Adam Birkett
Thompson Valley Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, Virginia		
CP Danny Whitt (Counted with Mary's EPC)	Unexcused	Unexcused
		Unexcused
Walker's Creek Presbyterian Church, Marion, Virginia (Extinct)		
Walker's Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pamplin, Virginia		
TE Robert Barnett	Present	RE Nick Waddell
Warm Springs Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Warm Springs, Virginia		
TE Marty Fields	Present	RE Robert Blevins
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, West Virginia		
TE Jonathan Rockness	Present	Unexcused
		Unexcused
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina		
TE Powell Sykes	Present	RE Kathy Sykes
		RE Jeff Holt
Woodside Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia		
Vacant		RE Barry Rakes
Wylliesburg Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Wylliesburg, Virginia		
Vacant		RE Walter Welch

Teachers (BoG 9-5B)

(None)

Evangelists (BoG 9-C)

(None)

Administrative Members (BoG 9-5D)

(None)

Chaplains (BoG 9-5E)

(None)

Serving Outside the Boundaries (BoG 9-6)

TE Rob Buchanan (<i>RUN</i> Ministries)	Excused
TE Andy Koesters (Families Alive)	Present

Transitional Pastor Teaching Elders (BoG 19-2A1)

TE Benjamin Williams	Excused
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Pastors Without a Call (BoG 19-2A1)

(None)

Retired Teaching Elders (Active) (BoG 19-2A2)

TE Brown Caldwell	Present
TE Bucky Hunsicker	Present
TE Lowell Sykes	Present

Associate Teaching Elders (BoG 19-2B1)

TE Marina Gopadze

Inactive (BoG 19-2B1)

(None)

Retired Teaching Elders (Inactive) (BoG 19-2B3)

TE Clarence Brown	
TE Michael Brown	
TE Peter Smith	Present
TE Robert Smith	
TE David Woods	

Teaching Elders Under Sanction (BoG 19-2B)

One

Officers of the Presbytery (BoG 19-3)

TE E Pettus	Moderator	Present*
TE A Koesters	Missional Director	Present*
TE R Burton	Stated Clerk	Present*
Mr B. Kanode	IT Director	Present
TE B Eubank	Treasurer	Present*

*(Counted with their ministry above)

Candidates / Ministers to be Examined

Evan Grey	Woodside
Levi Martin	Rivermont

Guests & Observers

Elizabeth Gibson	Guest	Northampton Church Planting Network
RE Shawn Stewart	Guest	EPC World Outreach
TE Mark Ingles	Guest	EPC Chaplain Endorser (OGA)
Rev Percy Muleba	Guest	Biblical Worship Training Centre, Zambia
TE Doug Vinez	Guest	Lake Norman Fellowship/ICM, Zambia
Abby Vinez	Guest	Lake Norman Fellowship
Patricia Peacock	Guest	Reynolda Church/EPCWO
TE S. Donald Fortson III	Guest	RTS Charlotte, PCC
Nancy Fortson	Guest	RTS Charlotte
Cindy Joyce	Observer	Asbury
Cindy Durham	Observer	Falling Springs
Barbara Hardman	Observer	First EPC Roanoke
Lisa Smith	Observer	First, Eden
Kathy Clymer	Observer	FORGE Church
Serrell Stoke	Observer	Lebanon
RE Rachel Jackson	Observer	Lloyd Presbyterian (USA)
RE Tom Spangler	Observer	Lloyd Presbyterian (USA)
TE Laura Spangler	Observer	Lloyd Presbyterian (USA)
Bruce Alexander	Observer	Mebane
Pamela Chandler	Observer	New Life
Barbara Pettus	Observer	Princeton
David Morgan	Observer	Reynolda
Chris Colangelo	Observer	Reynolda
Mary Comer	Observer	Reynolda
Luke Dozier	Observer	Reynolda
Ethan Mathis	Observer	Reynolda
Leah Wheeler	Observer	Reynolda

Keith Wheeler	Observer	Reynolda
Debbie Elmore	Observer	Reynolda
Wilma McPherson	Observer	Reynolda
Edward Finger	Observer	Reynolda
Carolanne Bost	Observer	River Oaks
Jeanette Redman	Observer	Stuart
Theresa Barnett	Observer	Walker's
Scott Whitener	Observer	Walker's
Rebecca Blevins	Observer	Warm Springs
Susan Holt	Observer	Westminster – Burlington, NC
Rhonda Burnette	Observer	Bouldin

Numerical Attendance Summary

	Present	Excused	Unexcused	Total
Teaching Elders (Full Members)	33	4	5	42
Teaching Elders (Retired Active)	3			3
Teaching Elders (Associate)	1			2
For Parity	37			46
Ruling Elders	57	4		
Officers of NRP	1			
Commissioned Pastors (counted as REs)	5	1	3	9
Candidates	2			
Guests	9			
Observers	29			
Total in Attendance	141			
Parity Report TE/RE	37/57			

005-05 Approval of the Docket

Moderator Miller set before the Presbytery a motion to approve the docket.

Motion was sustained to Approve the Docket

005-06 Approval of the Minutes of the Forth Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery.

Moderator Miller set before the Presbytery a motion to receive the Minutes of the 004 Meeting (10/6-10/7 2023) as they had been submitted.

Motion was sustained to Approve the Minutes as they had been submitted.

005-07 Communications and Referrals

The Stated Clerk reported to the Moderator that there was one ascending overture received from the Session of the Princeton Presbyterian Church and noted its place in the Docket for the Commissioners. (See 005-21).

005-08 Introduction of Guests and First Time Commissioners

Moderator Miller encouraged the presbyters to introduce their guests and for TEs to help introduce any first-time commissioners.

005-09 Moderator's Report

Moderator Miller gave the Presbytery an update on the declining numbers of Christian professions, and Christian belief in the culture in general. Pointing to recent Pew Research numbers, the Moderator encouraged the NRP in its important work. He also pointed to several ways in which the Kingdom of God had been advanced by the congregations of the New River Presbytery. The Moderator concluded his report by leading the Presbytery in a season of prayer.

005-10 Leadership Team Report

RE Gordon Miller, the Moderator, invited TE Ed Pettus gave a report from the NRP Leadership Team and highlighted the Leadership Team's continued commitment to ensuring that 1) Prayer, 2) Connection, 3) Disciple Making and 4) Church health are built into the foundations of the NRP. The report concluded with prayer for the commitments outlined.

005-11 Missional Director's Report

TE Andy Koesters began by briefly exhorting the NRP from 1 Thessalonians 5:11-24. He gave a report of his work, encouraged the NRP and highlighted the importance of our mutual connection in Christ. He encouraged the connectionalism of the body and highlighted several resources for congregations and Kirk Sessions:

- 1) The weekly NRP Prayer Meeting
- 2) The ruling elder training and equipping time at each NRP meeting @ 11:00
- 3) Opportunities for TEs and CPs to be trained as *Transitional Pastors*
- 4) The EPC's national Church Health website epc.org/cpch/churchhealth/
- 5) The Three Circles personal evangelism tool and the EPC's national resource page for three circles personal evangelism epc.org/threecircles/
- 6) The Church Health work being undertake by each presbytery and the Church Health resources available to the churches of the NRP.

He concluded his report with prayer.

005-12 Stated Clerk's Report

TE Rufus Burton began his report with prayer for the decency and good order of the NRP and her congregations. He gave a brief report on the state of his work and recorded the minutes of the Commission arising from the 004 Meeting.

A

Minutes of the Commission to Install
The Rev. J. Martin Fields as Pastor of
Warm Springs Evangelical Presbyterian Church
4:00 15 October 2023 Warm Springs, Virginia

The Commission, according to the appointment of the Presbytery of New River, met at Warm Springs Evangelical Presbyterian Church with Teaching Elders: Emily Hook, Michael Matlack, Barry Tucker, and Ruling Elders: Richard Thompson, Ashley Seabolt, and Scott Robertson present, and was opened with prayer by TE Emily Hook. There was a quorum present. TE Barry Tucker was elected as Moderator and RE Ashley Seabolt as Clerk.

TE Emily Hook presided and led the congregation in a worship service. TE Barry Tucker preached from a sermon from Psalm 133 entitled “Dwelling in Unity.” TE Tucker recited the proceedings of Presbytery leading up to this service, and propounded the constitutional questions to both the minister and the congregation. These being answered in the affirmative, TE J. Martin Fields was installed as Pastor of Warm Springs Evangelical Presbyterian Church, agreeably to the Word of God and the form of government. The charge to the Pastor was delivered by TE Mike Matlack. The charge to the congregation was delivered by TE Emily Hook. The service was concluded with the benediction pronounced by the newly installed Pastor. The minutes were read and approved, and the commission was adjourned with prayer by TE Tucker.

/S/Barry Tucker /S/Clerk Ashley Seabolt 15 October 2023

B

Minutes of the Commission to Install
The Rev. Dr. Bradley Milks as Pastor of
First Presbyterian Church

4:00 22 October 2023 Eden, North Carolina

The Commission, according to the appointment of the Presbytery of New River, met at First Presbyterian Church, Eden, North Carolina with Teaching Elders: David Garrison, Andy Koesters, Brian Marsh, and Ruling Elders: Gordon Miller, Curt Southard, and Ken Trivette present, and was opened with prayer by RE Gordon Miller. There was a quorum present. TE Brian Marsh was elected as Moderator and RE Curt Southard as Clerk.

RE Gordon presided and led the congregation in a worship service. TE David Garrison preached a sermon entitled “All Together Now” from 1 Corinthians 3:5-17. RE Gordon recited the proceedings of Presbytery leading up to this service, and propounded the constitutional questions to both the minister and the congregation. These being answered in the affirmative, TE Bradley Milks was installed as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Eden, North Carolina agreeably to the Word of God and the form of government. The charge to the Pastor was delivered by RE Gordon Miller.

The charge to the congregation was delivered by TE Brian Marsh. The service was concluded with the benediction pronounced by the newly installed Pastor. The minutes were read and approved, and at the invitation of the moderator the commission was adjourned with prayer by TE Andy Koesters.

/S/Brian Marsh /S/Clerk Curt Southard 22 October 2023

The Clerk then made the following motion:

C Dismissal of Perrow Church

On Motion: That the New River Presbytery dismiss the Perrow Church from the presbytery into independency.

TEs Andy Koesters, Bucky Hunsicker, and RE Larry Emerson have been the NRP representatives to the Perrow Session, and to the congregational meetings required of G.5-10A-C. The Elders of the Perrow Church having embraced credo-Baptist convictions requested release from the EPC in the summer of 2023. Having fulfilled the conditions of G.5-10A-C. The NRP must now dismiss the congregation into independency.

With Regret, the Motion was Sustained to Dismiss the Perrow Church to independency.

The Clerk then reminded the NRP of the various due date for reports and encouraged the body in the biblical virtues of EPC polity and concluded his report with prayer.

005-13 Church Development Committee Report

TE Chuck Estes opened the committee's report by leading the Presbytery in prayer for the work of church planting and church development in the NRP. After a brief presentation on the committee's work and the progress of God's kingdom in the NRP, TE Estes introduced three topics:

A The Opportunities to serve with the Church Development Committee

TE Estes encouraged prayerful discernment of the Lord's call to this important work. He particularly outlined the benefits of service with the CDC:

1. More fun than other committees
2. Fewer Zoom meetings than other committees
3. Sweeter fruit from the labors
4. Glory exponentially manifest

B Recourses for Churches seeking Health, Vitalization, & Multiplication

With excitement and praise to God, the CDC introduced the REFOCUS Church health resources from the EPC, and pointed interested congregations to the introduction on the NRP website: nrpofepc.org/church-health/

C Church Planting and the prayers of NRP Networks

TE Estes gave an update on the work of Church Planting within the NRP and outlined the prayer, work, and discernment taking place in Lynchburg, and Charlottesville. In order to aid the work, TE Estes encouraged the Church Networks to gather for prayer between presbytery meetings in order to help advance the work.

He then led the NRP in an exercise to remind the churches of their networks.

C1 The Church Networks

Network		Churches
C1.1	1	Cleveland
	1	Hyley
	1	Mary's
	1	Norton
	1	Princeton
	1	Rosann
	1	Thompson Valley
	1	Westminster, Bluefield
C1.2	2	Falling Springs
	2	First EPC Roanoke
	2	Galatia
	2	Greenwood
	2	New Life
	2	Piedmont
	2	Warm Springs
	2	Woodside
C1.3	3	Asbury
	3	Bethel
	3	Bouldin
	3	First EPC Eden
	3	River Oaks
	3	Slate Mountain
	3	Stuart
C1.4	4	Elon
	4	Northminster
	4	Providence
	4	Rivermont
	4	Walker's
	4	Wyliesburg

C1.5	5	Christ Reigns
	5	EPC of Elkton
	5	First EPC Martinsburg
	5	Hope
	5	Lebanon
C1.6	6	Buffalo
	6	Forge
	6	Mebane
	6	Restoration
	6	Reynolda
	6	Clemmons
	6	King
	6	Winston-Salem
	6	Kernersville
	6	Westminster, Burlington

TE Estes then concluded his report with an extended season of prayer for the health of the Sessions and congregations of the NRP, for the Church Planting efforts of the NRP and for the growth in grace of the Elders of the NRP.

005-14 World Outreach Committee

TE Jeff Smith, chair of the World Outreach committee began his report with prayer for the evangelization of the world, the strength of the global church, and for the work of NRP in God’s kingdom.

- A** TE Smith then presented Percy Muleba of the Biblical Worship Training Centre in headquartered in Livingstone, Zambia. He spoke of their mission to raise, train, and equip worship leaders and redemptive entrepreneurs to help advance Kingdom work in west Africa. He encouraged the involvement of the churches in the work God is doing in Africa. He concluded his remarks with prayer.
- B** TE Smith then introduced Keith Wheeler of Reynolda Church, who introduced the NRP to the work of Jumpstart a growing ministry to prisoners and prison leavers primarily in North Carolina, but seeking to grow into Virginia, and South Carolina. His presentation was centered on how the ministry of Bible Study built around the simple tools of observation, interpretation, and application helped drop recidivism rates to less than 4%. RE Wheeler also encouraged the NRP to the work of prison ministry. Having concluded his report, RE Wheeler led the NRP in prayer for Jumpstart, for prison leavers and for prisoners.
- C** RE Rick Peacock was introduced by TE Smith, and began to update the NRP on the Kingdom work among our E2025 People Group the Uzbeks. RE Peacock highlighted the opportunities for Home Team Support, Prayer Support, and for the special projects being undertaken by our workers in the field. In particular our partners are looking to build a capital fund of \$11k to \$14k in order to leverage

their work among the Uzbek people more effectively. The NRP then undertook a fervent season of prayer for the conversion of the Uzbeks.

- D** RE Peacock, then introduced TE Brown Caldwell who gave an update to the NRP on the Kingdom work among our E2025 People Group the Punjabi. In particular, TE Caldwell extolled the virtues of Cricket as an evangelistic tool in south Asia and he extended a warm invitation to participate in the 2024 Taste of Pakistan either at the Black Mountain Inn, or by traveling with members of the World Outreach Committee to London in June. Brown then led the NRP in prayer for our Global Workers, for the conversion of the nations and the advancement of God’s Kingdom.
- E** TE Caldwell reintroduced RE Peacock who alerted the NRP to the opportunity to do short term mission work in Malawi from April to June with EPCWO. He was excited and encouraged prayerful discernment.
- F** TE Smith then introduced TE Robert Barnett who invited the churches of the NRP to join the next round of Kairos courses starting in the Spring. TE Barnett encouraged the NRP to view their work missionally, and encouraged the Kairos training as a good way into understanding our current cultural context as a mission field.

TE Smith thanked the presenters, thanked the NRP, and then led the NRP in prayer for our mission, our outreach, and the global work of the Church.

Break

005-15 Stewardship Committee Report

The Moderator gaveled the meeting back into order and invited the Stewardship Committee to make its report. TE Brett Eubank, Chair of the Stewardship Committee began his report by leading the Presbytery in prayer for the work of the Stewardship Committee and for the financial health of the NRP and her congregations.

After describing the ways in which the Stewardship Committee was working to advance the cause and purpose of the NRP, TE Eubank gave the following detailed report:

- 1) In 2022 there were 42 Churches and 2 Mission Groups, of which 27 contributed.
- 2) In 2023, given Perrow’s request for dismissal, there are 41 Churches and 2 Mission Groups of which 28 contributed.
- 3) Giving in 2022 totaled \$96,163. Giving in 2023 totaled \$96,268 with the expectation of another \$1,000 to \$1,500 PMA/POI contributions from 2023 which were received in January of 2024.

NRP Per Member Asking Comparison (through 12/31/2023)

Church	2022 Total	2023 Total
Asbury	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bethel	\$0.00	\$0.00
Bouldin Memorial	\$700.00	\$292.00
Buffalo	\$1,915.00	\$2692.00

Christ Reigns (MG)	\$0.00	\$0.00
Cleveland	\$0.00	\$0.00
Elon	\$1,800.00	\$1,925.00
Elkton	\$3,750.00	\$3,750.00
Falling Spring	\$1,225.00	\$1,350.00
First Roanoke	\$0.00	\$4070.00
First Eden	\$0.00	\$0.00
First Martinsburg	\$2,000.00	\$4,000.00
Galatia	\$1,350.00	\$750.00
Greenwood	\$1,000.00	\$1,350.00
Hope	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Hurley	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lebanon	\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00
Mary's	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mebane	\$4,800.00	\$3,600.00
Memorial/FORGE (MC)	\$750.00	\$375.00
New Hope (MG)	\$0.00	\$0.00
New Life	\$2,150.00	\$1,725.00
Northminster	\$1,650.00	\$0.00
Norton	\$0.00	\$0.00
Perrow (Dismissed 005-12C)	\$2,325.00	\$0.00
Piedmont	\$1,000.00	\$1000.00
Princeton	\$2,175.00	\$2,175.00
Providence	\$0.00	\$0.00
Restoration	\$500.00	\$500.00
Reynolda	\$13,020.72	\$13,020.96
River Oaks	\$20,880.00	\$20,880.00
Rivermont	\$16,999.92	\$17,358.27
Roseann	\$250.00	\$1,000.00
Slate Mountain	\$1,425.00	\$1,425.00
Stuart	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00
Thompson Valley	\$875.00	\$875.00
Walker's	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Warm Springs	\$2,747.34	\$1,228.34
Westminster, Bluefield	\$0.00	\$0.00
Westminster, Burlington	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Woodside	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wyliesburg	\$500.00	\$500.00
Total	\$96,162.98	\$96,267.50

NRP Balance Sheet (through 12/31/2024)

ASSETS

Current Assets

	Operating: Pinnacle Bank	\$17,729.29
	Money Market: Pinnacle Bank	\$41,083.58
	CD: Pinnacle Bank	\$100,448.70
Total	Current Assets	\$159,261.57

LIABILITIES

		\$0.00
Total	Liabilities	\$0.00

EQUITY

Unrestricted Net Assets

	General Fund	\$60,339.43
Total	Unrestricted Net Assets	\$60,339.43

Restricted Net Assets

	Grace and Mercy Fund	\$2,281.33
	Church Development Committee Fund	\$76,018.36
	Chaplain Fund	\$575.39
	Missions Fund	\$2,513.67
	Missionary Emergency Fund	\$4,576.62
	Women's Fund	\$4,352.56
	Church Health Fund	\$8,604.31
Total	Restricted Net Assets	\$98,922.24

Total	Equity	\$159,261.67
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Total	Liabilities and Equity	\$159,261.67
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New River Presbytery Income Statement (Through 8/31/2023)

Account	2023 YTD ACTUAL	2023 YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE
Income			
Per Member Asking	\$96,267.50	\$90,000.00	\$6,267.50
Per Member Asking Prior-Year	\$6,137.34	\$0.00	\$6,137.34
Presbytery Offering	\$3,923.25	\$2,000.00	\$1,923.25
Individual Giving	\$439.26	\$2,000.00	-\$1,560.74
Church Giving	\$950.00	\$2,500.00	-\$1,550.00
GA Church Health Initiative	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Transitional Pastor Training	\$2,720.00	\$0.00	\$2,720.00
Interest Income	\$1,532.28	\$20.00	\$1,512.28
Total Income	\$124,019.63	\$108,520.00	\$15,499.63

Expenses			
Compensation			
Missional Director Stipend	\$39,000.00	\$39,000	\$0.00
Stated Clerk Stipend	\$15,000.00	\$15,000	\$0.00
IT Director Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$0.00
Treasurer Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$0.00
Total Compensation	\$66,000.00	\$66,000.00	\$0.00
Personnel			
Travel-Missional Director	\$4,606.57	\$5,000.00	-\$393.43
Travel-Stated Clerk	\$4,537.75	\$2,000.00	\$2,537.75
Office Expense	\$15.43	\$1,000.00	-\$984.57
Total Personnel	\$9,159.75	\$8,000.00	\$1,159.75
Professional Fees			
IT Expenses	\$814.36	\$1,000.00	-\$185.64
Treasurer Expenses	\$1,135.92	\$500.00	\$635.92
Liability Insurance (D/O)	\$1,602.35	\$200.00	\$1,402.35
Licenses/Fees	\$2,790.73	\$500.00	\$2,290.73
Bank Fees	\$14.96	\$0.00	\$14.96
Total Professional Fees	\$6,358.32	\$2,200.00	\$4,158.32
Committees/Commissions			
Commissions	\$132.94	\$500.00	-\$367.03
Executive Council	\$2,721.05	\$1,000.00	\$1,721.05
Ministerial Committee	\$1,051.65	\$3,000.00	-\$1,948.35
Stewardship Committee	\$0.00	\$320.00	-\$320.00
World Mission (Outreach)	\$7,406.45	\$2,000.00	\$5,406.45
Presbytery	\$1,388.66	\$5,000.00	-\$3,611.34
Total Committees/Commissions	\$12,700.78	\$11,820.00	\$880.78
Benevolence			
Minister's Assistance	\$460.00	\$500.00	-\$40.00
Commissioner's Assistance	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
Benevolence – Other	\$0.00	\$1000.00	-\$1,000.00
Total Benevolence	\$460.00	\$2,000.00	-\$1,540.00
Church Development Committee			
New Church Plant Support	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	-\$10,000.00
Church Planter <small>Assessment/Coaching</small>	\$1000.00	\$1,500.00	-\$500.00
CDC Travel	\$297.25	\$3,500.00	-\$3,202.75

Church Planting Team Travel	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
Church Health Team Travel	\$202.81	\$3000.00	-\$2797.19
Transitional Pastor Coaching	\$340.77	\$2,500.00	-\$2,159.23
GO Center	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Presbytery Equipping	\$2,763.54	\$3,000.00	-\$236.46
Total Church Develop. Comm.	\$15,604.37	\$35,000.00	-\$19,395.63
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$110,283.22	\$125,020.00	-\$14,736.78
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$13,736.41	-\$16,500.00	\$30,236.41

TE Eubank then concluded his report with prayer.

Break

005-16 Order of the Day

RE Gordon Miller then introduced the Reverend Professor S. Donald Fortson, Professor Emeritus of Church History at Reformed Theological Seminary. TE Fortson, a member of the Central Carolina Presbytery was invited to join the Moderator at the pulpit, whereupon the Moderator offered a brief prayer for TE Fortson. Dr. Fortson then began his presentation: *Ruling Elders: The Pride of Presbyterians*. Beginning with Acts 15 and the Reformation, Dr. Fortson encouraged the Ruling Elders of the NRP to view their work theologically, biblically, and historically. Of particular note was Dr. Fortson's appeal to Samuel Miller, second professor of the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, and his seminal work on the Ruling Elder. He concluded his presentation with appeal to 1 Peter 5:1-4, and exhorted the presbyters to honor Christ through obedience to His will. He ended with a brief prayer.

After which Moderator Miller asked RE Johnson to lead the NRP in prayer over the evening meal.

Dinner Break

005-17 Evening Worship & Celebration of the Lord's Supper

At 7:00, RE Barrett Johnson, Campus Pastor of Reynolda Church, Kernersville Campus called the New River Presbytery to worship. During the service he preached an expository sermon from Hebrews 11 entitled "Overcoming by Faith." TE Brandon Williams, Campus Pastor of Reynolda Church, Clemmons Campus presided at the Lord's Supper.

Saturday, February 3, 2023

005-18 Call to Order and Prayer

Moderator Miller reconvened the meeting at 8:33 a.m., declared a quorum and opened the session in prayer.

005-19 Morning Devotion

RE Evan Gray, Stated Supply at Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia was introduced by the Moderator, who led the Presbytery in prayer. RE Gray then preached the morning sermon from Hebrews 4:14-16. At the conclusion of his sermon he led the Presbytery in a second season of prayer.

005-20 Ministerial Committee Report

TE Cameron Smith, Moderator of the Ministerial Committee led the Presbytery in prayer for the work of the Ministry and the ministry of the congregations of the NRP. He began his report by reminding the NRP of

- 1) The duties of the Ministerial Committee
- 2) Encouraging evangelical, missional, Reformed and Presbyterian ministry.

A Ministerial Committee Omnibus Motion

- 1 To excuse those who had requested to be excused because of hard providence: TE Rob Buchanan, TE Alan Wright, TE Sonny Flowers, TE Benjamin Williams, CP Alan Morrison.
- 2 To excuse the sessions that had requested to be excused because of hard providence: First Martinsburg, and Northminster.
- 3 To Approve the Annual Reports of the Teaching Elders that have been/are being received.

B Examination of Evan Gray

Evan Gray, having been a member of Woodside Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, VA for at least six months, and having been endorsed by that church's Session as a candidate to come under care of the Presbytery, was examined by the Ministerial Committee and recommended for approval as a Candidate Under Care. In accordance with G.11-2C, the Presbytery examined Evan in Christian experience and growth, motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry. At the close of the examination the Moderator put the question to the body: Shall Evan Gray be approved as Candidate Under Care of the NRP.

The Motion was sustained to approve Evan Gray as Candidate Under Care of the New River Presbytery.

The Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the Moderator (G.11-2C). Prayer for the Candidate was offered by TE Cameron Smith and a charge to the Candidate was given by RE Gordon Miller. TE Cameron Smith was appointed to be Evan's advisor.

TE Smith then concluded his report with a brief prayer for the work ministry in the New River Presbytery.

005-21 Ascending Overture from the Princeton Presbyterian Church

The Moderator spoke briefly to the NRP and explained some of the context necessary for the body to fully appreciate the gravity and urgency of the matter being put before the presbytery. After a brief prayer, the Moderator recognized TE Ed Pettus, the pastor of the Princeton Presbyterian Church who introduced the overture and made the opening affirmative speech.

OVERTURE from Princeton Presbyterian Church

“Amend **G.9-3** to Disqualify from Office Persons Identifying as Homosexual”

Whereas, God created Adam and Eve and ordained the first marriage and family consisting of one man and one woman in sexual union, establishing the context for the biblical sexual ethic (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:24; 4:1); and

Whereas, God has established the one flesh sexual union between a husband and wife, as a great mystery in reference to Christ and his Church (Eph. 5:25; 31-32); and

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures declare that the sexual union and desire between one man and one woman, in the covenant of marriage, is righteous and holy, and all other sexual activity is unrighteous and sinful, including homosexuality, which the Holy Scriptures describe as “degrading passions” (Rom. 5:18-19; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6 9-11; Eph. 5:3-5; Heb. 13:4, *WCF* 24:1 & 2; *WLC* 138,139); and

Whereas, the application of the 7th Commandment forbids the sins of homosexuality, unnatural lusts, and unclean affections, affirming that homosexual acts and the desires to commit those acts are both sinful (*Matt.* 5:27-28; *WLC* 139); and

Whereas, the Biblical qualifications for a church officer require him to be “above reproach” and the “husband of one wife,” officers and candidates for office must conform their lives to Biblical sexual ethics, which include denying and mortifying all sexual passions and desires toward anyone to whom they are not married (1 Tim. 3:2); and

Whereas, identification as a “homosexual,” is sinful and against nature itself, is something God detests, and is not fitting for an officer of the Church of Christ (Lev. 18:22; 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:5-6); and

Whereas, the Christian’s identity is rooted in Christ so that he is a “new creation” in Him, his identity cannot be defined by sexual and/any other desires or lifestyles that are contrary to the Holy Scriptures; for the Christian there is a clear distinction between self conception (“this is who I am”) and their remaining indwelling sin (“this is what I must daily mortify”) (Rom 6:1-14; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:1-5); and

Whereas, the sexual revolution and LGBTQ+ movement are infiltrating many quarters of the Church and causing no small amount of confusion; and

Whereas, the *Pastoral Letter on Human Sexuality* adopted by the 38th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in order to guide the churches within the EPC affirms that “Those who make their S[ame] S[ex] A[ttractive] tendencies their primary identity are not comprehending and embracing their full identity as image bearers of God.”

Therefore, be it resolved that Princeton Presbyterian Church overtures the 005 Meeting of the New River Presbytery, to overture the 44th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to amend the Book of Government Chapter 9 such that a new clause, G.9-3C, be added which reads as follows (new words underlined):

C. Men and women who identify as homosexual, even those who identify as homosexual and claim to practice celibacy in that self-identification, are disqualified from holding office in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Adopted by the Princeton Presbyterian Church at a called meeting 28 January, 2024.

Attested by /s/ Lawrence D Emerson, Clerk of Session

At the conclusion of the debate, the Moderator asked TE Glenn Holman to pray for the Church, and for the New River Presbytery. The Moderator then put the question to the body: Shall the NRP advance the overture to amend G.9-3C to the 44th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church?

By a unanimous vote the motion to advance the overture to amend G.9-3C to the 44th General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was approved.

Break

005-22 TE Mark Ingles Chaplain Endorser of the EPC

RE Miller then introduced TE Mark Ingles, the Chaplain Endorser of the EPC. After a brief prayer, TE Ingles introduced his work to the NRP and spoke movingly of the way in which God is advancing the cause of His Kingdom through the work of Chaplains. Part of his ministry is to encourage all members of the EPC who are Chaplains to their various local agencies to be endorsed. He closed his report by exhorting the NRP from 2 Corinthians 1:4 and leading the presbytery in a season of prayer.

005-23 Westminster Standards Equipping Time

The Moderator reminded the NRP of the importance of the *Westminster Standards* for encouraging, equipping, and enabling disciple making churches to plant disciple making churches. Dr. Miller invited TE Powell Sykes, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina to the pulpit and equip the NRP. TE Sykes began by leading the NRP in prayer and then continued the NRP’s Saturday morning Westminster Standards Equipping Time by exhorting the Elders of the NRP to greater faithfulness in their ministerial work. TE Sykes spoke about the *Standard’s* clear

exposition on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. He concluded his presentation with a song based on Chapter 34 of the *Confession* and with prayer.

005-24 Prayer for the Moderator

Asking for a moment of privilege, TE Gary McGee, of Restoration Church informed the NRP of a hard providence in the life of the Moderator. The NRP then gathered around RE Miller to lay hands on him, pray for him, and beseech the Lord for his healing and health.

005-25 Date and Time of the Next Meeting

May 3rd and 4th 2024, Rivermont Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia

005-26 Adjournment

Having been successfully moved, seconded, and sustained, Moderator Miller adjourned the 005th Meeting and closed with Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

/S/

Rufus T Burton, Stated Clerk