

## Provisional Minutes

### Seventh Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church

**October 4-5, 2024**

#### Westminster Presbyterian Church

2005 Washington Street  
Bluefield, West Virginia 24701

### Friday, October 4, 2024

#### **Learning Focus: NRP Identity**

As the New River Presbytery finishes its second program year, it seemed wise to the Holy Spirit and to us to spend 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.

#### **007-01 Call to Order and Prayer**

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

#### **007-02 Welcome from Host Church**

TE Jonthan Rockness, Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church welcomed the New River Presbytery. He briefly introduced the volunteer team helping to host the meeting, gave an orientation to the facilities guide and lead the NRP in prayer for the meeting.

#### **007-03 Opening Worship and a Symphony of Prayer**

TE Tom Clymer, Chaplain to the Presbytery opened the NRP's dedicated prayer time.

TE Clymer and TE Rufus Burton, the Stated Clerk, highlighted two key areas for prayer.

- 1) The arrest of a Minister Member of the NRP for a criminal sexual offense. (See 007-11.A)
- 2) The processing of the NRP Overture at the 44<sup>th</sup> GA. (See 007-11.B)

After the singing of a hymn, TE Clymer led the New River Presbytery in a fervent season of prayer which included a substantial and guided symphony of prayer in which he was assisted by TE Mike Matlack.

**007-04 Declaration of Quorum**

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

<b><u>ACTIVE TEACHING ELDER ROLL (BoG 19-2A1)</u></b>	<b><u>STATUS</u></b>	<b><u>RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS</u></b>
<b>Asbury Evangelical Presbyterian Church, West Field, North Carolina</b> CP Terry Collins	Present	RE Earl Collins RE Kim Gravely RE Carol Jessup
<b>Bethel Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Claudville, Virginia</b> TE Kevin Easter	Unexcused	Unexcused Unexcused
<b>Bouldin Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stuart, Virginia</b> CP Richard Burnette	Unexcused	Unexcused Unexcused
<b>Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina</b> TE Brian Marsh	Present	RE Caroline Paris RE Bill Sapp
<b>Christ Reigns Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia (Mission Group)</b> CP Alan Morrison	Excused	Unexcused
<b>Cleveland Presbyterian Church, Abingdon, Virginia</b> TE Rick Laney	Unexcused	Unexcused Unexcused
<b>Downtown Presbyterian Church, Lynchburg, Virginia (Mission Group)</b> TE Rich Brown (PCA Blue Ridge)	Excused	
<b>Elon Presbyterian Church, Madison Heights, Virginia</b> TE Barry Tucker	Present	RE Elijah Craft
<b>Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Elkton, Virginia</b> TE Adam Snow	Excused	Excused
<b>Falling Springs Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Virginia</b> TE Mike Matlack	Present	Unexcused Unexcused

**First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia**

Don Hardman (PCMA)	Present	RE David Smith
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**First Presbyterian Church, Eden, North Carolina**

TE Brad Milks	Present	Unexcused
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**First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia**

TE Rufus Burton (Stated Clerk)	Present	RE Joan Van Brunt
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**FORGE Community Church, Greensboro, NC (Mission Church)**

TE Eric Shipton	Excused	Excused
TE Tom Clymer (Chaplain)	Present	

**Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Eagle Rock, Virginia**

TE Emily Hook	Present	RE Jerry Caldwell
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**Greenwood Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia**

Vacant		Unexcused
		Unexcused

**Hope Presbyterian Community Church, Waynesboro, Virginia**

TE Glen Holman	Present	RE Mike Adams
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**Hurley Presbyterian Church, Hurley Virginia**

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

Philip Rice (Stated Supply)	Excused	Excused
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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**

Vacant (See 007-21E)		RE William Lotim
		RE Haifa Shahin-Johns

**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	Unexcused
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**Northminster Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Madison Heights, Virginia**

TE David Garrison	Present	RE Anne Nase Wilkins RE John Lange
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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**

Dismissed February 2024 (See 005-12C)

**Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Callaway, Virginia**

TE Brown Caldwell (Supply)	Excused	Unexcused
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**Princeton Presbyterian Church, Princeton, West Virginia**

TE Edwin Pettus	Present	RE Bill Draper RE Wilber Jones
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**Providence Presbyterian Church, Nathalie, Virginia**

Vacant		Unexcused Unexcused
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**Restoration Community Church, Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

TE Gary McGhee	Present	RE Gordon Miller (Moderator)
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**Reynolda Church, North Carolina**

TE Alan Wright	Excused	RE Rick Peacock
TE Chris Lawson	Unexcused	

**Kernersville, North Carolina**

CP Barrett Johnson	Present	
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**Clemmons, North Carolina**

TE Brandon Williams	Unexcused	
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**King, North Carolina**

TE Chuck Estes	Present	
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**Iglesia Reynolda, Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

CP Amaury Hernandez	Unexcused	
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**River Oaks Community Church, Clemmons, North Carolina**

TE David Beaty	Excused	RE Mike Bost
TE Sonny Flowers	Present	
TE Andrew Wild	Excused	
TE David Holcomb	Present	
TE Brian Edmonds	Excused	

**Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian, Lynchburg, Virginia**

TE David Weber	Present	RE Earl Weaver
TE Ron Cox	Present	RE Andrew Shields
TE Brett Eubank	Present	RE Carey Roberts
TE Shane Whelan	Present	

**Roseann Presbyterian Church, Roseann, Virginia**

CP Curtis Stacy (Counted with Hurley)	Unexcused	Unexcused
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**Slate Mountain Presbyterian Church, Meadows of Dan, Virginia**

CP Jeff Dalton	Present	RE Bob Ashcroft
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**Stuart Presbyterian Church, Stuart Virginia**

TE Danny Redman	Present	Unexcused
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**Thompson Valley Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, Virginia**

CP Danny Whitt (Counted with Mary's EPC)	Unexcused	Unexcused Unexcused
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**Walker's Creek Presbyterian Church, Marion, Virginia (Extinct)****Walker's Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Pamplin, Virginia**

TE Robert Barnett	Present	RE John Goin
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**Warm Springs Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Warm Springs, Virginia**

TE Marty Fields	Present	RE Robert Blevins
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**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, West Virginia**

TE Jonathan Rockness	Present	RE Christopher Copley RE Bob Mahood RE David Thomas
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**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina**

TE Powell Sykes	Present	RE Kathy Sykes RE Jeff Holt
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**Woodside Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia**

Evan Grey (Candidate Under Care)	Unexcused	Unexcused
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**Wylliesburg Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Wylliesburg, Virginia**

TE Peter Smith (Supply)		Unexcused
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**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 (*RUN* Ministries) Excused

TE Andy Koesters (Families Alive) Present

**Transitional Pastor Teaching Elders (BoG 19-2A1)**

TE Benjamin Williams Excused

**Pastors Without a Call (BoG 19-2A1)**

(None)

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

TE Brown Caldwell (Counted with Piedmont) Excused

TE Bucky Hunsicker Excused

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 (Counted with Wylliesburg)

TE Robert Smith

TE David Wood Present

**Teaching Elders Under Sanction (BoG 19-2B)**

Two

**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**

John Cushwa	First Church, Martinsburg
Jason Whitener	Walkers

**Guests & Observers**

Pat Coehlo	Guest	EPC OGA CFO
TE Bill McCaskill	Guest	Lebanon
Global Worker "K"	Guest	EPCWO
Global Worker "T"	Guest	EPCWO
Cindy Joyce	Observer	Asbury
Cathy Clymer	Observer	Forge/CDC
Dale Hagwood	Observer	EPC Elkton
Barbara Hardman	Observer	First EPC Roanoke
Andrea Burton	Observer	First, Martinsburg
Jeanie Cushwa	Observer	First, Martinsburg
Brian Johns	Observer	Mebane
Vance Wilkins	Observer	Northminster EPC
Barbara Pettus	Observer	Princeton
Aiden McGhee	Observer	Restoration
Jennifer Wood	Observer	Retirement
Pat Peacock	Observer	Reynolda Church
Carolanne Bost	Observer	River Oaks
Elke Cox	Observer	Rivermont
Jeanette Redman	Observer	Stuart
Theresa Barnett	Observer	Walker's
Brenda Goin	Observer	Walker's
Becky Blevins	Observer	Warm Springs
Bob Bradshaw	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield
Lorraine Bradshaw	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield
Loucinda Copley	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield
James Davidson	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield
Joanna Rockness	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield
Billie Thomas	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield
Susan Holt	Observer	Westminster – Burlington, NC
Ed Limon	Observer	Westminster – Burlington, NC
Lynn Limon	Observer	Westminster – Burlington, NC

### Numerical Attendance Summary

	Present	Excused	Unexcused	Total
Teaching Elders (Full Members)	28	8	5	41
Teaching Elders (Retired Active)	1	1		3
Teaching Elders (Associate)	1			1
For Parity	30			45
Ruling Elders	31	4		
Officers of NRP	1			
Commissioned Pastors (counted as REs)	2	1	6	9
Candidates	1			
Guests	4			
Observers	27			
<b>Total in Attendance</b>	<b>94</b>			
Parity Report TE/RE		30/33		

#### **007-05 Approval of the Docket**

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

**Motion was sustained to Approve the Docket**

#### **007-06 Approval of the Minutes of the Sixth Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery.**

Moderator Miller set before the Presbytery a motion to receive the Minutes of the 006 Meeting (5/3-5/4 2024) as they had been corrected.

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

#### **007-07 Communications and Referrals**

The Stated Clerk reported to the Moderator that there were no referrals from other courts. TE Burton informed the NRP that he would highlight ongoing communications with the National Leadership Team as a part of the Stated Clerk's report.

#### **007-08 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.

#### **007-09 Moderator's Report**

Moderator Miller gave a brief report on his work, and encouraged the Presbytery by pointing to the signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the work of the Presbytery, especially to the FORGE Church and the 2024 Bart Hess award. He encouraged outreach, generosity, and evangelism among the churches. The Moderator concluded his report by leading the Presbytery in a season of prayer.

#### **Break**



**007-10 Missional Director's Report**

TE Andy Koesters began by briefly exhorting the NRP from Romans 12:1-8. He gave a report of his work, encouraged the NRP and highlighted the importance of our mutual connection in Christ. As a part of his report he showed Bart Hess Award video highlighting FORGE Church from the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and encouraged the elders in their work of active listening – to each other, their congregations and communities. He concluded his report with prayer.

**007-11 Stated Clerk's Report**

TE Rufus Burton began his report with a brief prayer. He then gave the following report:

**A Judicial Procedure Involving Discipline.**

- 1 On 9/13/2024 The Moderator of the NRP, and the Chair of the NRP Leadership Team charged TE Jeff Smith with violations of the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment.
- 2 On 9/13/2024 TE Jeff Smith was suspended from his official functions by the Ministerial Committee (D.7-7).
- 3 On 9/14/2024 The Stated Clerk and Missional Director released the following statement:

**For Immediate Release**

From the New River Presbytery Leadership Team

On 10 September 2024 we found out about the allegations of sexual battery against Jeff Smith. As a presbytery we are very sad to hear about these accusations. Currently, the details we know, if true, are disqualifying. On 10 September Dr. Smith was put on administrative leave by the Mebane Presbyterian Church. On 13 September Dr. Smith was formally charged as part of the commencement of a church discipline process. As a part of that process, Dr. Smith has been suspended from official functions (D.7-7) and is now under church discipline. Under our process, suspension from official functions is neither a sanction nor a finding of guilt. An investigation will take place by the appropriate ecclesiastical authority, and their findings will be disclosed as part of the church discipline process.

Because a formal Ecclesiastical Judicial Proceeding has begun, the members of the Leadership Team, and the Ministerial Committee are unable to comment on an ongoing discipline case. Questions of process may be asked of the Stated Clerk. The Leadership Team and the Ministerial Committee deeply regret this situation and the evident breach of trust. We strongly condemn all sexual sin and stand with all those who have suffered because of such sin.

We are praying for the life and witness of Mebane Presbyterian Church. We are praying for anyone else involved in the incident. We are praying for Jeff and his family. Our fervent hope is that justice would be done.

/s/ Rufus Burton, Stated Clerk  
 /s/ Andy Koesters, Missional Director  
 14 September 2024

#### **4 Actions Required**

- a On Motion: That the New River Presbytery Authorize the Leadership Team to appoint a Judicial Commission in order to process the pending judicial procedure involving discipline. (G.21-1B)

**Motion was sustained to authorize the NRP Leadership Team to appoint a Judicial Commission to process the pending judicial procedure involving discipline. (G.21-1B)**

- b On Motion: That the New River Presbytery Authorize the Ministerial Committee to appoint an Investigating Committee (D.7-1C) and/or a Prosecutor (D.7-2) as it shall determine, in order to process the pending judicial procedure involving discipline.

**Motion was sustained to authorize the Ministerial Committee to appoint an Investigating Committee and/or Prosecutor in order to process the pending judicial procedure involving discipline.**

#### **B Communications**

##### **Regarding the NRP Ascending Overture (005-21/44-37)**

1. On 8/31/2024 the New River Leadership Team sent a letter to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly outlining our deep concern over the unfair treatment of the NRP Ascending Overture regarding the exclusion of “Gay-Celibate-Christians” from office bearing in the EPC at the 44<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. The Leadership Team was seeking an expression of regret adequate to the concern.
2. On 9/26/2024 the New River Leadership Team received a letter from the National Leadership Team expressing regret for current tensions and inviting the New River Leadership Team to the National Leadership Team meeting in January of 2025 in order to address the concerns outlined in the 8/31/24 Letter.

#### **C Minute Review Authorization**

On Motion: That the New River Presbytery grant the NRP Leadership Team the authority to review and approve the errata arising from the minutes of the 001 to 006 Meetings.

**Motion was sustained to grant the NRP Leadership Team the authority to review and approve the errata arising from the minutes of the 001 to 006 Meetings.**

**D Sessional Minutes Review**

The Stated Clerk gave the following report on the review of Sessional Minutes:

<b>Asbury</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Bethel	Not Submitted	
<b>Bouldin</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Buffalo	Not Submitted	
Christ Reigns (Mission Group)		
Cleveland	Not Submitted	
Down Town (Mission Group)		
<b>Elon</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>EPC, Elkton, VA</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Falling Springs</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>First EPC, Roanoke VA</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
First, Eden, NC	Not Submitted	
<b>First, Martinsburg, WV</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Galatia</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Greenwood</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Hope Community</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Hurley	Not Submitted	
<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Mary's	Not Submitted	
<b>Mebane</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Memorial/FORGE</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>New Life, Salem VA</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Northminster</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Norton	Not Submitted	
<i>Perrow</i>	<i>Not Submitted</i>	<i>DISMISSED Feb. 2024</i>
<b>Piedmont</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Princeton</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Providence	Not Submitted	
<b>Restoration</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Reynolda	Not Submitted	
<b>River Oaks</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
<b>Rivermont</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Roseann	Not Submitted	
Slate Mountain	Not Submitted	
<b>Stuart</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Thompson Valley	Not Submitted	
<b>Walker's EPC, Pamplin</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Warm Springs	Not Submitted	

Westminster, WV	Not Submitted	
<b>Westminster, NC</b>	<b>Submitted</b>	<b>Reviewed</b>
Woodside	Not Submitted	
Wylliesburg	Not Submitted	

**E 2024-2025 Parity Report**

38 Churches; 1 Mission Church; 2 Mission Groups Sending: 92 REs  
 36 TEs in Pastoral service, 2 Serving Out of Bounds Sending: 38 TEs  
*No Adjustment needed* (38TEs x 2REs = 76 92REs > 76)

**F Important Due Dates**

1. First Lord's Day after the first Monday in January:  
 Ministerial Reports are Due (5 January 2025)  
 "Annual Report on Teaching Elders" <https://epc.org/downloads/>
2. First Lord's Day in February  
 Previous Year Session Minutes are Due (2 February 2024)

TE Burton then encouraged the Elders of the NRP to do all things decently and in order. He concluded his report with an impassioned prayer for God's help.

**007-12 World Outreach Committee Report (Part 1) Least Reached People**

TE Robert Barnett, Convener of the World Outreach Committee opened the committee's report by leading the Presbytery in prayer for God's mission in the world, our missionaries, and our faithfulness in the work. He then made the following report:

**Kairos**

Kairos is a discipleship course offered by the EPC that helps transform worldviews so that every believer and every church understands God's missionary purpose, especially to least-reached people. It is a nine-session course utilizing a variety of learning methods and activities.

We have seen 12 individuals from New River Presbytery graduate from this course. The current cohort began on October 1. The next cohort is tentatively scheduled for January 15 –March 12, 2025, Wednesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 pm, via Zoom.

**Engage 2025: An update on the Presbytery's mission work in Central Asia**

Engage 2025 is an effort within the EPC whereby each presbytery engages with a people group that currently has no viable church capable of evangelizing its own people. We send and support a team of long-term disciple-makers to penetrate communities where few native Jesus followers are actively engaged in evangelism disciple-making.

As part of Engage 2025, New River Presbytery supports the work among a specific people group in Central Asia. Tim and Kim M., two of our global workers in that region, provide a timely report on that ministry.

TE Barnett concluded this portion of the committee's report by leading the NRP in prayer that the Lord would send the sons and daughters of the New River Presbytery as global workers in the service of the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus.

### **007-13 Church Development Committee Report**

The Moderator then invited the Church Development Committee to make its report. TE Chuck Estes led the NRP in prayer for the work of church planting and church development. After a brief presentation on the committee's work and the progress of God's kingdom in the NRP.

#### **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.

#### **B Recourses for Churches seeking Health, Vitalization, & Multiplication**

He then re-introduced the presbyters to the REFOCUS Church health resources from the EPC, and pointed interested congregations to the introduction on the NRP website: [nrpofepc.org/church-health/](http://nrpofepc.org/church-health/)

The Date of the Refocus training is 26 October 2024.

#### **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 the college towns of the NRP. In order to aid the work, the CDC is making a \$500 grant available to each Network in order to help fund a "Network Event." To qualify for the grant, the Network need only hold an event and apply for reimbursement of up to \$500. The NRP is reminded that the Networks are:

#### **C1 The Church Networks**

<b>Network</b>		<b>Churches</b>
C1.1	<b>1</b>	Cleveland
	<b>1</b>	Hyley
	<b>1</b>	Mary's
	<b>1</b>	Norton
	<b>1</b>	Princeton
	<b>1</b>	Rosann
	<b>1</b>	Thompson Valley
	<b>1</b>	Westminster, Bluefield
C1.2	<b>2</b>	Falling Springs
	<b>2</b>	First EPC Roanoke
	<b>2</b>	Galatia
	<b>2</b>	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

**D Funds Available for Members Needing Counseling**

TE Estes reminded the NRP that the CDC had been able to find funding for confidential pastoral counseling for Minister Members and Manse families of the Presbytery who may need financial assistance to receive the help they desire. Those seeking to take advantage of the opportunity were encouraged to speak to the Chair of the CDC, or to TE Tom Clymer, the NRP Chaplain.

**E NRP On the Move**

As a part of concluding his report, TE Estes encouraged prayer for those congregations seeking entrance into the NRP, as well as the numerous opportunities that the NRP has for church planting. He gave a description of several of the ways in which a church could parent, partner or patron a Church Plant and commended the work of Rich Brown at Downtown Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, and the ministry of Elizabeth Gibson of the Northampton Church Planting Network. (As Elizabeth had been called to the deathbed of her mother, the Chair led the NRP in a special season of prayer.)

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.

**007-14 World Outreach Committee (Part 2) Other Global Ministries**

TE Robert Barnett, climbed to the pulpit again in to introduce RE Rick Peacock, who gave the following report:

**A EPC World Outreach**

RE Peacock, introduced RE Shawn Stewart, representing EPC World Outreach, who provided an update on the many ways that the EPC serves individuals and churches to accomplish our priority of global movement.

**B Malawi Mission Trip**

RE Rick Peacock then reported on a short-term mission trip in which a team from New River Presbytery helped African Pastor Stephen Banda complete a village church in Mponela, Malawi.

**C Westminster Church Missions Program**

RE Dave Thomas described the various ways that Westminster Church, Bluefield WV, has successfully mobilized her congregation and supported missions.

TE Barnett and RE Peacock thanked the presenters and encouraged the NRP to greater engagement and faithfulness in its outreach efforts. TE Barnett concluded the committee's report with an extended season of prayer. The Moderator commented on both the fervency and the *length* of the committee's prayers.

**007-15 Stewardship Committee 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 financial report:

- 1) Of the 38 Giving Units in the NRP, 22 had contributed to the NRP in 2024.
- 2) Per Member Asking gifts in 2024 are slightly ahead / largely comparable to giving levels in 2023.

- 3) Churches are continuing to make the switch from Per Member Asking (PMA) to Percentage of Income (POI).

**A**                      **NRP Per Member Asking / Percentage of Income Comparison**  
**(through 8/31/2024)**

<b>Church</b>	<b>2023 PMA/ POI Given in 2024</b>	<b>2024 PMA/ POI YTD</b>	<b>Total in 2024</b>
<b>Asbury</b>	\$0.00	\$544.00	\$544.00
<b>Bethel</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Bouldin Memorial</b>	\$299.00	\$289.64	\$588.64
<b>Buffalo</b>	\$0.00	\$2,480.00	\$2,480.00
<b>Christ Reigns (MG)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Cleveland</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Elon</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Elkton</b>	\$0.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
<b>Falling Spring</b>	\$0.00	\$1,198.00	\$1,198.00
<b>First Roanoke</b>	\$0.00	\$3,261.00	\$3,261.00
<b>First Eden</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>First Martinsburg</b>	\$0.00	\$1,818.00	\$1,818.00
<b>Galatia</b>	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
<b>Greenwood</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Hope</b>	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
<b>Hurley</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Lebanon</b>	\$0.00	\$1,368.75	\$1,368.75
<b>Mary's</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Mebane</b>	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00	\$3,600.00
<b>Memorial/FORGE (MC)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>New Life</b>	\$0.00	\$781.25	\$781.25
<b>Northminster</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Norton</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Piedmont</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Princeton</b>	\$0.00	\$925.00	\$925.00
<b>Providence</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Restoration</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Reynolda</b>	\$0.00	\$8,680.64	\$8,680.64
<b>River Oaks</b>	\$0.00	\$15,220.00	\$15,220.00
<b>Rivermont</b>	\$0.00	\$12,246.97	\$12,246.97
<b>Roseann</b>	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
<b>Slate Mountain</b>	\$0.00	\$1,425.00	\$1,425.00
<b>Stuart</b>	\$0.00	\$2,625.00	\$2,625.00
<b>Thompson Valley</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Walker's</b>	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
<b>Warm Springs</b>	\$871.19	\$1,134.48	\$2,005.67
<b>Westminster, Bluefield</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00



Westminster, Burlington	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$600.00
Woodside	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wyliesburg	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,370.19</b>	<b>\$64,840.73</b>	<b>\$67,210.92</b>

**B NRP Balance Sheet (through 8/31/2024)**

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

<b>Operating: Pinnacle Bank</b>	\$21,192.32
<b>Money Market: Pinnacle Bank</b>	\$41,212.92
<b>CD: Pinnacle Bank</b>	\$103,639.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$166,044.24</b>

**LIABILITIES**

	\$0.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**EQUITY**

**Unrestricted Net Assets**

General Fund	\$61,214.90
<b>Total Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$61,214.90</b>

**Restricted Net Assets**

Grace and Mercy Fund	\$2,281.33
Church Development Committee Fund	\$81,018.36
Chaplain Fund	\$575.39
Missions Fund	\$6,401.67
Missionary Emergency Fund	\$4,576.62
Women's Fund	\$4,352.56
Church Health Fund	\$5,623.51
<b>Total Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$104,829.34</b>

<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$166,044.24</b>
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<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$166,044.24</b>
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**C New River Presbytery Income Statement (Through 8/31/2024)**

Account	2024 YTD ACTUAL	2024 YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE
<b>Income</b>			
Per Member Asking	\$64,840.73	\$66,666.64	-\$1,825.91
Per Member Asking Prior-Year	\$2,370.19	\$0.00	\$2,370.19
Presbytery Offering	\$1,924.09	\$1,666.64	\$257.45
Individual Giving	\$375.00	\$666.64	-\$291.64
Church Giving	\$2,750.00	\$666.64	\$2,083.36
GA Church Health Initiative	\$6,000.00	\$8,000.00	-\$2,000.00
Interest Income	\$3,046.95	\$1000.00	\$2,046.95
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$81,306.96</b>	<b>\$78,666.56</b>	<b>\$2,640.40</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Compensation</b>			
Missional Director Stipend	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$0.00
Stated Clerk Stipend	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
IT Director Stipend	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
Treasurer Stipend	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$46,000.00</b>	<b>\$46,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>			
Travel-Missional Director	\$3,390.39	\$3,333.36	\$57.03
Travel-Stated Clerk	\$4,502.34	\$3,333.36	\$1,168.98
Office Expense	\$5.08	\$333.36	-\$328.28
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$7,897.81</b>	<b>\$7,000.08</b>	<b>\$897.73</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>			
IT Expenses	\$496.17	\$666.64	-\$170.47
Treasurer Expenses	\$905.61	\$666.64	\$238.97
Liability Insurance (D/O)	\$2,869.68	\$2,000.00	\$869.68
Licenses/Fees	\$593.74	\$1,000.00	-\$406.26
Bank Fees	\$6.11	\$0.00	\$6.11
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>\$4,871.31</b>	<b>\$4,333.28</b>	<b>\$538.03</b>
<b>Committees/Commissions</b>			
Commissions	\$0.00	\$333.36	-\$333.36
Executive Council	\$1,724.88	\$666.64	\$1,058.24
Ministerial Committee	\$936.30	\$1,000.00	-\$63.70
Stewardship Committee	\$0.00	\$66.64	-\$66.64
World Mission (Outreach)	\$4,574.70	\$2,666.64	\$1,908.06
Presbytery	\$692.02	\$2000.00	-\$1,307.98
<b>Total Committees/Commissions</b>	<b>\$7,927.90</b>	<b>\$6,733.28</b>	<b>\$1,194.62</b>

<b>Benevolence</b>			
<b>Minister's Assistance</b>	\$0.00	\$333.36	-\$333.36
<b>Presbytery Offering</b>	\$1,924.09	\$1,666.64	\$257.45
<b>Commissioner's Assistance</b>	\$0.00	\$333.36	-\$333.36
<b>Benevolence – Other</b>	\$750.00	\$333.36	\$416.64
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>\$2,674.09</b>	<b>\$2,666.72</b>	<b>\$7.37</b>
<b>Church Development Committee</b>			
<b>New Church Plant Support</b>	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	-\$10,000.00
<b>Church Planter</b> <small>Assessment/Coaching</small>	\$1,450.00	\$1,000.00	\$450.00
<b>CDC Travel</b>	\$0.00	\$1,333.36	-\$1,333.36
<b>Church Planting Team Travel</b>	\$0.00	\$333.36	-\$333.36
<b>Church Health Team Travel</b>	\$722.38	\$1,333.36	-\$610.98
<b>Transitional Pastor Coaching</b>	\$730.80	\$1,666.64	-\$935.84
<b>Transitional Pastor Training</b>	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$2,250.00
<b>Church Revitalization</b>	\$0.00	\$3,666.64	-\$3,666.64
<b>Presbytery Equipping</b>	\$0.00	\$2000.00	-\$2000.00
<b>Total Church Develop. Comm.</b>	<b>\$5,153.18</b>	<b>\$21,333.36</b>	<b>-\$16,180.18</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$74,524.29</b>	<b>\$88,066.72</b>	<b>-\$13,542.43</b>
<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$6,782.67</b>	<b>-\$9,400.16</b>	<b>\$16,182.83</b>

**D Motion to Approve the 2025 NRP Budget**

TE Eubank then moved the following Budget on behalf of the committee:  
New River Presbytery EPC 2025 Budget Worksheet

<b>Account</b>	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
<b>Income</b>		
Per Member Asking	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Contributions – Church	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Contributions – Individual	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
GA Church Health Initiative	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Presbytery Offering	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Interest Income	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$118,000.00</b>	<b>\$119,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Missional Director Stipend	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00
Stated Clerk Stipend	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00
IT Director Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
Treasurer Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$69,000.00</b>	<b>\$69,000.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>		
Travel-Missional Director	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Travel-Stated Clerk	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Office Expense	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$11,500.00</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>		
IT Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Treasurer Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Liability Insurance (D/O)	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Licenses/Fees	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>
<b>Committees/Commissions</b>		
Commissions	\$500.00	\$500.00
Executive Council	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
Ministerial Committee	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Stewardship Committee	\$100.00	\$100.00
World Mission (Outreach)	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
Presbytery	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Committees/Commissions</b>	<b>\$10,100.00</b>	<b>\$10,100.00</b>

**Benevolence**

Minister's Assistance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Presbytery Offerings	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Commissioner's Assistance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Benevolence – Other	\$500.00	\$500.00
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>	<b>\$4,000.00</b>

**Church Development Committee**

New Church Plant Support	\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00
Church Planting Coordinator	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Church Planter <small>Assessment/Coaching</small>	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
CDC Travel	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Church Planting Team Travel	\$500.00	\$500.00
Church Health Coach Travel	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Transitional Pastor Coaching	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Church Revitalization	\$5,500.00	\$5,500.00
Presbytery Equipping	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b>Total CDC</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>

**TOTAL EXPENSES** **\$132,100.00** **\$133,100.00**

**NET INCOME/LOSS** **-\$14,100.00** **-\$14,100.00**

After a period of questions, answers, debate and prayer, the Moderator put the question to the New River Presbytery: Shall the New River Presbytery adopted the proposed budget for 2025?

**Motion to approve the 2025 budget was sustained.**

**E POI Report and Worksheet**

The Chair of the Stewardship Committee then presented the following Percentage of Income (POI) report, and a Percentage of Income Worksheet.

**Stewardship Committee Report on POI**

The STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE recommended, and at the Princeton Meeting (004-25.B) the NRP approved, a transition from Per Member Asking (PMA) to percentage of income (POI) beginning in 2024 as the previously adopted method by the General Assembly (2022).

POI is defined as 1.00% of the income to a congregation's general or operating fund as reported on the previous year's Annual Church Report (ACR) to the General Assembly. Designated income and restricted offerings for special projects or income derived outside of the operating budget should not be included. For example, a church operating a school should not include income from the school's operations.

We understand that there will be a transition period for our churches. While this will not substantially affect many of our churches, there are some whose expected contributions will increase and others for whom the change will allow for a decrease in the expected contribution. With that in mind, we anticipate a three-year transition period that will lead to fully funding and supporting the mission of the NRP. We are asking churches whose expected contributions are changing significantly to do the following:

- Churches whose expected contributions will increase are asked to increase their contributions incrementally over three years.
- Those churches whose expected contributions will decrease are asked to maintain their current level of giving for three years as we transition.

We are grateful for the faithful generosity of our member churches. We believe this transition will allow the NRP to strategically support the mission of *equipping, enabling, and encouraging disciple-making churches to plant disciple-making churches.*

**New River Presbytery**  
*Percentage of Income Worksheet*

1. Name of Church	
2. Income* for prior year	\$ _____
3. POI (Percentage of Income) Asking Rate	1.00%
4. Annual POI Asking (Line 2 x 0.01)	\$ _____
5. Remittance Options:	
a. Month _____ (Line 4 ÷ 12) (Fill in Month)	\$ _____
b. Quarter _____ (Line 4 ÷ 4) (Fill in Month)	\$ _____
c. Annual _____ (Line 4) (Fill in Month)	\$ _____

\*Income is defined as the amount received by a congregation's general or operating fund as reported on the previous year's Annual Church Report (ACR) to the General Assembly.

Checks should be made payable to “New River Presbytery” and mailed to:

Brett Eubank, Treasurer  
 PO Box 3124  
 Lynchburg, VA 24503  
 (434) 363-2587  
 brett@rivermont.org

TE Eubank then concluded his report with prayer.

**007-16 Order of the Day**

At the invitation of the Moderator, RE Gordon Miller, TE Andy Koesters introduced RE Mike Adams and TE Bill McCaskell, members of the Hope Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro who encouraged the New River Presbytery by sharing the mighty acts of the Spirit in Waynesboro and beyond. In particular the session focused on how to equip, encourage, and enable members of congregations for evangelistic engagement with their communities, particularly in personal faith sharing.

After which Moderator Miller asked TE Jonathan Rockness to lead the NRP in prayer over the evening meal.

**Dinner Break**

**007-17 Evening Worship & Celebration of the Lord’s Supper**

At 7:00, TE Jonathan Rockness, Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, called the New River Presbytery to worship. During the service TE Rufus Burton, Pastor of First Church, Martinsburg, and Stated Clerk, preached an expository sermon from Romans 6 entitled “Dead to Sin, Alive to God.” TE Rockness presided at the Lord’s Supper.

**Saturday, May 4, 2024**

**007-18 Call to Order and Prayer**

Moderator Miller reconvened the meeting at 8:30 a.m., declared a quorum and opened the session in prayer.

**007-19 Morning Devotion**

TE John W Cushwa, Assistant Pastor Elect of First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia was introduced by the Moderator. After a brief prayer, Dr. Cushwa preached a morning devotional sermon from John 14:1-14, entitled “Untroubled People in Troubled Times.” At the conclusion of his sermon he led the Presbytery in a second season of prayer.

**007-20 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.

The Chair then moved the Omnibus motion:

**A Ministerial Committee Omnibus Motion**

- 1 To excuse those who had requested to be excused because of hard providence: TEs Rob Buchanan, Benjamin Williams, David Beaty, Andrew Wild, Brian Edmonds, Eric Shipton, Adam Snow, Alan Wright, Bucky Hunsicker, and CP Alan Morrison.
- 2 To excuse the sessions that had requested to be excused because of hard providence: EPC Elkton.
- 3 TE **Benjamin Williams** is 70 and therefore retired. He, and the Forest Hills EPC, where he serves with the concurrence of the Costal Mid-Atlantic Presbytery as *Transitional Pastor* to Forest Hills EPC, request the NRP to authorize his call for another year expiring October 2025 (G.14-1D1).

**The omnibus motion was sustained.**

**B Examination of TE John Cushwa**

TE Smith then invited TE Powell Sykes to conduct the examination of the TE **John W. Cushwa**, Honorably Retired, from the PC(USA) to be transferred from Shenandoah Presbytery, PC(USA) to be Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

TE Sykes led the NRP in examining **TE Cushwa**. He was examined with respect to:

- 1) His experience of the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ and progress in spiritual growth.
- 2) Theology and Sacraments
- 3) English Bible
- 4) The Book of Order
- 5) The History of the Church and the Reformed Tradition
- 6) The nature and work of the office of Teaching Elder.

TE Cushwa took no exceptions to the *Westminster Standards*.

The Examination was closed, and TE Cushwa and his family were excused. The body deliberated and prayed before the Moderator put the question to the body: Shall TE Cushwa be received as a Member of the NRP.

**C The Call of TE John W Cushwa**

- 1 To Call TE John Cushwa as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia. TE Cushwa is particularly tasked with preaching



once monthly, assisting at the Lord's Supper, and pastoral visitation, not to exceed fifteen (15) hours per week. As TE Cushwa is over 70, and therefore retired, he has a one year term expiring October 2025.

- 1) Annual Cash Salary \$6,000
- 2) Housing Allowance N/A
- 3) Amount for retirement plan 10% of Salary
- 4) FICA allowance ½ SECA upon request
- 5) Continuing Education Allowance: Study leave/books when directed by the Session.
- 6) Travel Costs to Presbytery Meetings

NB: Because the Position is less than 20 hours a week – vacation and study leave are not applicable. Likewise, Dr. Cushwa is too old, and First Church too small, for EPC Medical Insurance to apply.

**Motion was sustained to call TE John Cushwa as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia.**

- 2 An Administrative Commission comprised of:
  - 1) TE Glen Holman (Hope Church, Chair)
  - 2) TE Rufus Burton (First Church, Preaching)
  - 3) RE Terry McDaniel (First Church)
  - 4) RE Alan Morrison (Christ Reigns)
  - 5) RE John Stoke (Lebanon)

To conduct a service of installation at 5:00 PM on October 20, 2024, in the sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia.

Invited to sit with the Commission are:

RE Fawn Fleagle (Falling Waters, USA)  
 RE John M. Cushwa (Eagle Heights, PCA)  
 Michael Cushwa  
 Christopher Cushwa

**Motion was sustained to Authorize the named commission to conduct the service of installation.**

#### **D Presbytery Authorized List for Pulpit Supply**

On Motion: That the New River Presbytery authorize the Ministerial Committee to assemble and maintain an approved list of those gifted in teaching and preaching who subscribe to the Essentials of Faith and the Westminster Standards.

**Motion was sustained to authorize the Ministerial Committee to assemble and maintain an approved list of those gifted in teaching and preaching who subscribe to the Essentials of Faith and the Westminster Standards.**

#### **E Dissolution of the Pastoral Relationship between TE Jeff Smith and Mebane Presbyterian Church**

TE Smith made the following report:

The Session of the Mebane Presbyterian Church, meeting 18 September, 2024 with TE Powell Sykes (Westminster, NC) moderating, voted unanimously to dissolve the call of TE Jeff Smith, effective 1 October, 2024. The Session further voted to extend the compensation package through December 31, 2024, in addition, allowing the use of the church manse until April 1, 2025. TE Smith (see 007-11.A) meeting subsequently with TE Powell Sykes, TE Andy Koesters, and the Mebane Clerk of Session, indicated agreement with the dissolution terms.

TE Smith then made the following motion on behalf of the Ministerial Committee:

On Motion: That the New River Presbytery dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE Jeff Smith and the Mebane Presbyterian Church, pending congregational action 13 October 2024 (G.14-1B).

**Motion was sustained to dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE Jeff Smith and Mebane Presbyterian Church.**

As a matter of record:

On 13 October 2024, the congregation of the Mebane Presbyterian Church, at a meeting moderated by TE Tom Clymer, concurred with the Session's request for dissolution of the pastoral relationship.

At the request of the Moderator, TE Cameron Smith lead the Presbytery in a season of prayer for the holiness of the minister members of the NRP and the health, vitality, and resilience of the Mebane Presbyterian Church.

#### **F Ministerial Committee Authorizing Resolution**

On Motion: That the New River Presbytery grant the Ministerial Committee authority to process Temporary Pastoral Relationships (G.10-7) for one (1) year.

**Motion to grant the Ministerial Committee authority to process Temporary Pastoral Relationships was sustained.**

#### **G Expression of Thanks to the Outgoing Chair**

At the conclusion of his report, TE Smith introduced TE Powell Sykes who will be the Ministerial Committee Chair from 10/5/2024. TE Smith reflected on his time on the Ministerial Committee of the old PMA and as Chair Ministerial Committee of the NRP. At the conclusion of his remarks, TE Sykes prayer over TE Smith, and the Presbytery rose to express its appreciation for Dr. Smith's faithful ministry.

#### **Break**

#### **007-21 Presentation by EPC CFO Pat Coelho**

After the break, with the permission of the Moderator, the Stated Clerk introduced Pat Coelho, the Chief Financial Officer of the EPC. Pat gave a remarkable presentation outlining his work, and in particular the opportunities for congregations to be further equipped by annual training offered by the Office of the General Assembly.

Having previously taken questions from the NRP Pat then worked through a thorough and clear presentation of the EPC's financial condition and shared with the NRP the many ways in which the Lord has blessed the finances of the EPC. Pat walked through the FY2024 and FY2025 budgets, the EPC's Statement of Financial Position. He took questions and answered them ably. At the end of Pat's report, the Moderator offered prayer for the continued financial health of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**Patrick Coelho Patrick.Coelho @ epc.org**

**007-22 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 Cameron Shaffer, Minister Member of the Presbytery of the Easter, and Co-Chairman of the *Ad Interim Committee on Same Sex Attraction* to the pulpit and equip the NRP. TE Shaffer addressed the Presbytery on the topic of "Review and Control in the Westminster Standards." In particular he highlighted the way in which the *Standards* assume, and default to, the New Testament pattern of graded courts of elders each with biblical and covenantal responsibilities to the other courts. Such graduated courts of elders are of the *benne esse* of the church. At the conclusion of his presentation, TE Burton led the NRP in prayer for TE Shaffer, for the work of the *Ad Interim Committee*, and for the courts of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**007-23 Installation of the 2025 Moderator**

RE Gordon Miller invited TE Glen Holman, the Moderator-Elect to the Moderator's Chair and led the NRP in a brief installation service for the new Moderator. Dr. Miller gave Dr. Holman the symbols of the office and welcomed him to the work. Dr. Miller led the NRP in prayer for Dr. Holman's work, and Dr. Holman led the NRP in a prayer of thanksgiving for Dr. Miller's faithful ministry.

**007-24 Expression of Thanks to the Host Church**

TE Holman, the Moderator, then led the Presbytery in an expression of thanks to the host church, and prayed for the minister, deacons, elders, members, and friends of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, praising God for their generous hospitality.

**007-25**

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

**February 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 2025, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina**

**007-26 Adjournalment**

Having been successfully moved, seconded, and sustained, Moderator Holman adjourned the 007<sup>th</sup> Meeting and closed with Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/S/ Rufus T Burton*

Rufus T Burton, Stated Clerk