

## Provisional Minutes

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

**February 7-8, 2025**

#### **Westminster Presbyterian Church**

1126 W Webb Avenue

Burlington, North Carolina 27217

### **Friday, February 7, 2025**

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

As the New River Presbytery continues its third 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.

#### **008-01      Call to Order and Prayer**

Moderator Teaching Elder (TE) Glen Holman called the Eighth Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery to order at 1:03 p.m. and opened in prayer.

#### **008-02      Welcome from Host Church**

TE Powell Sykes, 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.

#### **008-03      Opening Worship and a Symphony of Prayer**

TE Tom Clymer, Chaplain to the Presbytery was prevented by hard providence from leading the opening season of prayer. Instead, the NRP invited TE James Banks of the Coastal Mid-Atlantic Presbytery to lead the Presbytery in its opening symphony of prayer. opened the NRP's dedicated prayer time.

At the conclusion of the season of prayer the NRP expressed its gratitude for Dr. Bank's ministry and prayed for the healing of Dr. Clymer.

#### **008-04      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 Carol Jessup RE Kim Gravely
<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	Present	Lamont Bryant Marie Bryant
<b>Buffalo Presbyterian Church, Greensboro, North Carolina</b> TE Brian Marsh	Present	RE Ronald Powers RE Bill Sapp RE Anne Yarbrough
<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)	Present	
<b>Elon Presbyterian Church, Madison Heights, Virginia</b> TE Barry Tucker	Present	RE John Oblinger
<b>Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Elkton, Virginia</b> TE Adam Snow	Present	RE Ty Phillips RE Charlie Queen
<b>Falling Springs Presbyterian Church, Hot Springs, Virginia</b> TE Mike Matlack	Present	Unexcused Unexcused
<b>First Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, Virginia</b> Don Hardman (PCMA)	Present	RE Don Andree RE Rea Brown

**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
TE John W Cushwa	Excused	

**FORGE Community Church, Greensboro, NC (Mission Church)**

TE Eric Shipton	Present	Excused
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**Galatia Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Eagle Rock, Virginia**

TE Emily Hook	Excused	Excused
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**Greenwood Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Covington, Virginia**

Vacant		Unexcused
		Unexcused

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

TE Glen Holman	Present	Excused
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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	RE John Stoke
		RE Jeffery Bowman

**Mary's Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, Virginia**

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

TE Tom Clymer (NRP/Supply)	Present	RE Shannon Taylor
		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

Excused

Excused

**Norton Presbyterian Church, Norton, Virginia**

TE Michael Porter

Unexcused

Unexcused  
Unexcused**Perrow Presbyterian Church, Cross Lanes, West Virginia**

Dismissed February 2024 (See 005-12C)

**Piedmont Presbyterian Church, Callaway, Virginia**

TE Brown Caldwell (Supply)

Present

RE Arlet Greer  
RE Joseph Greer**Princeton Presbyterian Church, Princeton, West Virginia**

TE Edwin Pettus

Present

RE Lawrence Emerson

**Providence Presbyterian Church, Nathalie, Virginia**

Vacant

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

TE Gary McGhee

Present

RE Gordon Miller  
RE Andrew Morton**Reynolda Church, North Carolina**

TE Alan Wright

Excused

RE Rick Peacock

TE Chris Lawson

Unexcused

**Kernersville, North Carolina**

CP Barrett Johnson

Present

**Clemmons, North Carolina**

TE Brandon Williams

Unexcused

**King, North Carolina**

TE Chuck Estes

Present

**Iglesia Raynolda, Winston-Salem, North Carolina**

CP Amaury Hernandez

Unexcused

**River Oaks Community Church, Clemmons, North Carolina**

TE David Beaty

Present

Excused

TE Sonny Flowers

Present

TE Andrew Wild

Present

TE David Holcomb

Present

TE Brian Edmonds

Present

**Rivermont Evangelical Presbyterian, Lynchburg, Virginia**

TE David Weber	Present	RE Earl Weaver
TE Ron Cox	Excused	RE Bert Murphy
TE Brett Eubank	Present	RE Clay Atkins
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 Mike Belcher RE Melvin Wood
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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 Nick Waddell
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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 Davis Thomas
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**Westminster Presbyterian Church, Burlington, North Carolina**

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

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

TE Peter Smith (Supply)	Present	RE Walter Welch
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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 Present

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

(None)

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

TE Brown Caldwell (Counted with Piedmont) 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 (Counted with Wylliesburg) Present

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**

TE Laura Spangler	Salem Presbytery, PC(USA)
Dale Hagwood	EPC, Elkton
Luke Dozier	Walkers

**Guests & Observers**

TE Donald Marsden (ECP of ECO)	Guest	Frontier Fellowship
TE James Banks (PCMA of EPC)	Guest	Peace Church, Durham, NC
TE Kirk Blankenship (Potomac/PCA)	Guest	Crossroads Counseling Service
Cindy Joyce	Observer	Asbury
Leigh Edwards	Observer	Berry Hill PC(USA)
Ashby Whorley	Observer	Berry Hill PC(USA)
RE Judy Edwards	Observer	Berry Hill PC(USA)
RE Jennifer Redd	Observer	Berry Hill PC(USA)
Michelle Blankenship	Observer	Eagle Heights PCA
Kathryn Tucker	Observer	Elon
Rebecca Hagwood	Observer	EPC, Elkton
Barbara Hardman	Observer	First EPC Roanoke, VA
Elizabeth Bowman	Observer	Lebanon
Bryan Johns	Observer	Mebane
Kathy Clymer	Observer	Mebane
Barbara Pettus	Observer	Princeton
Patricia Peacock	Observer	Reynolda Church
Thomas Spangler	Observer	Reynolda Church
Theresa Barnett	Observer	Walker's
Becky Blevins	Observer	Warm Springs
Billy Jean Thomas	Observer	Westminster, Bluefield, WV
Lynn Limon	Observer	Westminster, Burlington, NC
Ed Limon	Observer	Westminster, Burlington, NC
Russell Payne	Observer	Westminster, Burlington, NC
Joyce Payne	Observer	Westminster, Burlington, NC
Susan Holt	Observer	Westminster, Burlington, NC
Lisa Smith	Observer	Wylliesburg

### Numerical Attendance Summary

		Present	Excused	Unexcused	Total
Teaching Elders	(Full Members)	30	6	4	40
Teaching Elders	(Retired Active)	3			3
Teaching Elders	(Associate)	1			1
For Parity		34			44
Ruling Elders		37	12		
Officers of NRP		1			
Commissioned Pastors (counted as REs)		3	1	5	9
Candidates		3			
Guests		3			
Observers		24			
<b>Total in Attendance</b>		<b>105</b>			
Parity Report	TE/RE	34/40			

#### 008-05 Approval of the Docket

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

**Motion was sustained to Approve the Docket**

#### 008-06 Approval of the Minutes of the Seventh Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery.

Moderator Holman set before the Presbytery a motion to receive the Minutes of the 007 Meeting (10/4-10/5 2024) as they had been corrected.

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

#### 008-07 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.

#### 008-08 Introduction of Guests and First Time Commissioners

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

#### 008-09 Moderator's Report

Moderator Holman gave a brief report on his work and encouraged the Presbytery to faithful perseverance in Kingdom work. At the conclusion of his report TE Holman made a special request for prayer for his wife, Kim, who had received a devastating medical diagnosis. TE Koesters, Missional Director, led the NRP in a fervent season of prayer for Kim Holman and her husband Glen. The Moderator thanked the NRP and concluded his report with prayer.



**008-10 Missional Director's Report**

TE Andy Koesters began by briefly exhorting the NRP from Revelation 7:9. As a part of his report the Missional Directory encouraged the NRP to works of 1) faithful presence, 2) witness to the 1,3,&5 mile circles, and 3) to beware of the needs of sexual abuse victims in our communities and to be active in healing work, and vigilant in keeping with best practices in our congregations. He highlighted opportunities for continued training in Christian outreach and encouraged Ruling Elders to engage with our partners at Pastor In Residence on the topic of Elder health. TE Koesters concluded his report with prayer.

**008-11 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 The Clerk reported that the Leadership Team had appointed a Judicial Commission to process the pending Judicial Procedure Involving Discipline (007-11A.4a) and had named TE Danny Redman as the Chair of Judicial Commission.
- 2 The Clerk also reported that the Ministerial Committee had named TE Gary McGhee as Prosecutor to process the pending Judicial Procedure Involving Discipline (007-11A.4b).
- 3 The Clerk of Session of the Mebane Presbyterian Church communicated to the Stated Clerk that on 13 October 2024, the congregation of the Mebane Presbyterian Church voted to dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE J. Smith and the Mebane Presbyterian Church (007.20E).

NB: At the 007 Meeting (10/5/2025) the NRP had sustained the motion to dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE Smith and the Mebane Presbyterian Church pending congregational action (G.14-1A).

**B**

Minutes of the Commission to Install  
**The Rev. John W Cushwa** as Assistant Pastor of  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
 4:00 20 October 2024 Martinsburg, West Virginia

The Commission, according to the appointment of the Presbytery of New River, met at First Presbyterian Church with Teaching Elders: Rufus Burton, Glen Holman and Ruling Elders: Alan Morrison, Terry McDaniel and John Stoke present, and was opened with prayer by TE Rufus Burton. There was a quorum present. TE Glen Holman was elected as Moderator and TE Rufus Burton as Clerk. Also sitting with the Commission were REs Faun Fleagle, John M. Cushwa, and Michael and Christopher Cushwa.

TE Rufus Burton presided and led the congregation in a worship service. Dr. Burton preached from a sermon from Exodus 3 entitled “The Lord has Sent Me to You.” RE Stoke recited the proceedings of Presbytery leading up to this service. TE Holman propounded the constitutional questions to both the minister and the congregation. These being answered in the affirmative, TE John W Cushwa was installed as Assistant Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, agreeably to the Word of God and the form of government. The charge to the Pastor was delivered by RE Terry McDaniel. The charge to the congregation was delivered by RE Alan Morrison. The service was concluded with the benediction pronounced by the newly installed Assistant Pastor. The minutes were read and approved, and the commission was adjourned with prayer by TE Holman.

/S/Glen Holman      /S/Rufus Burton, Clerk      20 October 2024

**C      Communications**

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

In September of 2024, the National Leadership Team invited the Leadership Team of the New River Presbytery to a face-to-face conversation at its January 2025 meeting. RE Gordon Miller, and TEs Ed Pettus and Rufus Burton addressed the NLT on 14 January 2025. The meeting was positive and the NLT appreciated the candor of the deputation from NRP. Currently, the NRP Leadership Team is hoping for a written communication arising from the January meeting.

**D      Minute Review Errata (007-11C)**

The Leadership Team processed the errata arising from the Presbytery Review Committee’s examination of NRP Minutes. The page numbers of the bound *Minute Book* are now sequential from our inaugural meeting 1 July 2023.

**E      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 2025)

TE Burton then encouraged the Elders of the NRP to do all things decently and in order. He concluded his report with a fervent prayer for God’s help in preserving the peace, purity and unity of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**008-12      World Outreach Committee Report (Part 1) Least Reached People**

TE Robert Barnett, Chair 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:

Minutes of the 008 Stated Meeting of the New River Presbytery

**A Mobilizing Prayer for Global Outreach**

Beginning in January 2025, the New River Presbytery World Outreach Committee (NRP WOC) began a prayer time focused on Central and South Asia. Our purpose is to ask the Lord to bring revival and raise up workers for the harvest in that region. We meet monthly on the first Tuesday at 10:00 am via Zoom. To join, contact RE Rick Peacock.

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

The NRP WOC is committed to a frontier church planting effort, as part of the EPC World Outreach Engage 2025 vision. We support the work among two least-reached people groups: a) the Uzbeks in Central Asia and b) the Punjabi in Pakistan (jointly with the other two presbyteries of the former Presbytery of Mid-Atlantic). To be a part of the US based Home-Team, speak to RE Rick Peacock (a) or TE Brown Caldwell (b).

TE Barnett then introduced the Rev. Donald Marsden of Frontier Fellowship who made a brief presentation on the work of developing indigenous Christian leaders and additional global workers to tend the harvest in Central Asia. As a part of this presentation Rev Marsden spoke about a mission conference in Turkey, the Central Asia Consultation to which the NRP is sending TE Barnett, and RE Rick and Pat Peacock.

The offering taken during the evening worship to be designated for defraying the costs of travel and participation in the Central Asia Consultation.

**008-13 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 CDC Renamed**

TE Estes informed the NRP that the committee had determined at a re-brand was in the best interests of the ministry, and so hence forth the committee shall be known as the **Church Alive Committee** (DBA the "CAT").

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

He then re-introduced the presbyters to the various resources available to enable the work of ministry in the NRP. TE Estes made particular mention of the funds available to Teaching Elders and manse families for counseling and mental health care.

**C Church Planting and the prayers of NRP Networks**

With regret the NRP learned that Elizabeth Gibson was unable to attend the meeting because of a family emergency. TE Estes led the NRP in prayer for Mrs. Gibson, and for the work of the Northampton Church Planting Network. The Chairman then gave a preview of the work the CAT and the Planting Network

have been doing and encouraged the NRP to be in prayer for Church planting, and Church revitalization.

TE Estes then concluded his report with an extended season of prayer.

## **Break**

### **008-14 World Outreach Committee (Part 2) Other Global Ministries**

TE Robert Barnett, climbed to the pulpit again in order to continue his report:

#### **A Developing Missional Churches**

TE Barnett explained that part of the Committee's burden from the Lord is to encourage the development of missional churches that are mobilized and engaged in local, national, and world evangelism. Thus the committee has several goals:

- 1) To see every congregation engaged in missions and to identify and support "missions champions" in every church of the Presbytery.
- 2) Developing a "best practices" for mission engagement and interpretation for member congregations.
- 3) To commend the nine week Kairos Program. Information about the April 15 to June 12 Cohort is available from the WOC.
- 4) To facilitate the creation of a New River Presbytery **Missions Directory** that can be used to encourage and assist one another in missions, share "best practices" information on missions-related activities, such as short-term mission trips, and most importantly, pray. To accomplish this, the committee us using a Church Mission Information Form available on the NRP website. See <https://nrpofepc.org/resources/world-outreach/> to download and complete the form.

The Chair then introduced:

#### **B Lynn Limon and Westminster Church Mission**

RE Lynn Limon, member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Burlington gave a presentation various ways that Westminster church has been able to successfully mobilize and engage in evangelism and mission as a small church.

#### **C Sonny Flowers and the work of River Oaks and Others in the wake of Helene**

TE Barnett then introduced TE Sonny Flowers, Associate Pastor of the River Oaks Community Church, who gave a presentation in the disaster relief response of River Oaks, other congregations and pious agencies to those impacted by Hurricane Helene (late September 2024). He described the various ways in which help had been successfully delivered, and outlined the opportunities for sustained engagement in Western North Carolina. At the conclusion of his presentation he led the NRP in prayer for God's mercy and for the advancement of His kingdom through the relief work of His people.

TE Barnett then 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 brief season of prayer.

**008-15 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, 26 had contributed to the NRP in 2024.
- 2) Per Member Asking/Percentage of Income gifts in 2024 were virtually unchanged from 2023.
- 3) Churches are continuing to make the switch from Per Member Asking (PMA) to Percentage of Income (POI).

<b>A NRP Per Member Asking / Percentage of Income Comparison (through 8/31/2024)</b>			
<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	\$581.64
<b>Buffalo</b>	\$0.00	\$3,820.00	\$3,820.00
<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	\$1,494.00	\$1,494.00
<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	\$6,522.00	\$6,522.00
<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	\$1,075.00	\$1,075.00
<b>Hope</b>	\$0.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00
<b>Hurley</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Lebanon</b>	\$0.00	\$1,825.00	\$1,825.00
<b>Mary's</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Mebane</b>	\$1,200.00	\$3,600.00	\$4,800.00
<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	\$1,850.00	\$1,850.00
<b>Providence</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Restoration	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$500.00
Reynolda	\$0.00	\$13,020.96	\$13,020.96
River Oaks	\$0.00	\$23,220.00	\$23,220.00
Rivermont	\$0.00	\$18,737.61	\$18,737.61
Roseann	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Slate Mountain	\$0.00	\$1,425.00	\$1,425.00
Stuart	\$0.00	\$2,625.00	\$2,625.00
Thompson Valley	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Walker's	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00
Warm Springs	\$871.19	\$1,585.42	\$2,456.61
Westminster, Bluefield	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Westminster, Burlington	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
Woodside	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Wyliesburg	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$750.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,370.19</b>	<b>\$96,523.88</b>	<b>\$98,894.07</b>

**B NRP Balance Sheet (through 12/31/2024)**

**ASSETS**

<b>Current Assets</b>		<b>12/31/2024</b>	<b>12/31/2023</b>
Operating: Pinnacle Bank		\$22,397.03	\$17,729.29
Money Market: Pinnacle Bank		\$41,117.32	\$41,083.58
CD: Pinnacle Bank		\$104,166.18	\$100,448.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>\$1667,680.53</b>	<b>\$159,261.57</b>

**LIABILITIES**

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

**EQUITY**

**Unrestricted Net Assets**

General Fund		\$61,317.85	\$60,339.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>Unrestricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$61,317.85</b>	<b>\$60,339.43</b>

**Restricted Net Assets**

Grace and Mercy Fund		\$2,281.23	\$2,281.23
Church Development Committee Fund		\$81,018.36	\$76,018.36
Chaplain Fund		\$575.39	\$575.39
Missions Fund		\$5,513.67	\$2,513.67
Missionary Emergency Fund		\$4,576.62	\$4,576.62

	Women's Fund	\$4,352.56	\$4,352.56
	Church Health Fund	\$8,044.85	\$8,604.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>Restricted Net Assets</b>	<b>\$106,362.68</b>	<b>\$98,922.14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Equity</b>	<b>\$167,680.53</b>	<b>\$159,261.57</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$167,680.53</b>	<b>\$159,261.57</b>

### **C New River Presbytery Income Statement (Through 12/31/2024)**

<b>Account</b>	<b>2024 YTD ACTUAL</b>	<b>2024 YTD BUDGET</b>	<b>VARIANCE</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Per Member Asking	\$96,523.88	\$100,000.00	-\$3,476.12
Per Member Asking Prior-Year	\$2,370.19	\$0.00	\$2,370.19
Presbytery Offering	\$2,874.09	\$2,500.00	\$374.09
Individual Giving	\$945.00	\$1,000.00	-\$55.00
Church Giving	\$2,750.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,750.00
GA Church Health Initiative	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Interest Income	\$3,607.87	\$1,500.00	\$2,107.87
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$121,071.03</b>	<b>\$118,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,071.03</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
<b>Compensation</b>			
Missional Director Stipend	\$39,000.00	\$39,000.00	\$0.00
Stated Clerk Stipend	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00
IT Director Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
Treasurer Stipend	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Compensation</b>	<b>\$69,000.00</b>	<b>\$69,000.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>			
Travel-Missional Director	\$5,453.55	\$5,000.00	\$453.55
Travel-Stated Clerk	\$6,138.43	\$5,000.00	\$1,138.43
Office Expense	\$247.77	\$500.00	-\$252.23
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$11,839.75</b>	<b>\$10,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,339.75</b>
<b>Professional Fees</b>			
IT Expenses	\$852.57	\$1,000.00	-\$147.43
Treasurer Expenses	\$1,678.79	\$1,000.00	\$678.79
Liability Insurance (D/O)	\$2,869.68	\$3,000.00	-\$130.32
Licenses/Fees	\$884.66	\$1,500.00	-\$615.34
Bank Fees	\$6.11	\$0.00	\$6.11
<b>Total Professional Fees</b>	<b>\$6,291.81</b>	<b>\$6,500.00</b>	<b>-\$208.19</b>

**Committees/Commissions**

<b>Commissions</b>	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
<b>Executive Council</b>	\$2,944.55	\$1,000.00	\$1,944.55
<b>Ministerial Committee</b>	\$1,644.28	\$1,500.00	\$144.28
<b>Stewardship Committee</b>	\$0.00	\$100.00	-\$100.00
<b>World Mission (Outreach)</b>	\$6,084.70	\$4,000.00	\$2,084.70
<b>Presbytery</b>	\$692.02	\$3,000.00	-\$2,307.98
<b>Total Committees/Commissions</b>	<b>\$11,365.55</b>	<b>\$10,100.00</b>	<b>\$1,265.55</b>

**Benevolence**

<b>Minister's Assistance</b>	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
<b>Presbytery Offering</b>	\$2,874.09	\$2,000.00	\$874.09
<b>Commissioner's Assistance</b>	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
<b>Benevolence – Other</b>	\$750.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
<b>Total Benevolence</b>	<b>\$3,624.09</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>	<b>\$124.09</b>

**Church Development Committee**

<b>New Church Plant Support</b>	\$0.00	\$15,000.00	-\$15,000.00
<b>Church Plant Support (NHCPN)</b>	\$1,250.00	\$0.00	\$1,250.00
<b>Church Planter <small>Assessment/Coaching</small></b>	\$3,450.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,950.00
<b>CDC Travel</b>	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	-\$2,000.00
<b>Church Planting Team Travel</b>	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
<b>Church Health Team Travel</b>	\$722.38	\$2,000.00	-\$1,277.62
<b>Transitional Pastor Coaching</b>	\$730.80	\$2,500.00	-\$1,769.20
<b>Transitional Pastor Training</b>	\$2,828.66	\$0.00	\$2,828.66
<b>Church Revitalization</b>	\$0.00	\$5,500.00	-\$5,500.00
<b>Presbytery Equipping</b>	\$1,549.03	\$3,000.00	-\$1,450.97
<b>Total Church Develop. Comm.</b>	<b>\$10,530.87</b>	<b>\$32,000.00</b>	<b>-\$21,469.13</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$112,652.07</b>	<b>\$131,600.00</b>	<b>-\$18,947.93</b>
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<b>NET INCOME/LOSS</b>	<b>\$8,418.96</b>	<b>-\$13,600.00</b>	<b>\$22,018.96</b>
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**D Establishment of an Emergency Relief Fund**

TE Eubank then made the following motion on behalf of the committee:

On Motion: that \$7,500.00 of the 2024 operating surplus be used to establish an *Emergency Relief Fund* to be administered by the New River Leadership Team in consultation with the Stewardship Committee.

**Motion was sustained to use \$7,500.00 of the 2024 operating surplus to create an *Emergency Relief Fund*.**

TE Eubank then concluded his report with prayer.

**008-16 Order of the Day**

At the invitation of Moderator Holman, TE Rufus Burton introduced TE Kirk Blankenship (Potomac/PCA) who led a seminar on how Ruling and Teaching Elders might more effectively and biblically engage in their shepherding work. TE Blankenship exhorted the Presbytery from 1 Thessalonians 5:14 to preserve in patience and:

- 1) Admonish the idle.
- 2) Encourage the fainthearted
- 3) Help the weak

And most of all not to confuse the categories, thus avoiding the mistake of helping the idle or admonishing the weak. After his presentation he led the NRP in a discussion of what application of Paul's principles might look like in the churches of the Presbytery.

After TE Burton closed the session in prayer, the Moderator asked TE Powell Sykes to give the NRP dinner instructions and to lead the NRP in prayer over the evening meal.

**Dinner Break****008-17 Evening Worship & Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

At 7:00, TE Powell Sykes, Pastor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church, called the New River Presbytery to worship. During the service TE Glen Holman, Moderator, Chaplain at Augusta Health, and Pastor of Hope Church, Waynesboro, preached an expository sermon from Ephesians 4:11-16 entitled "Vital Signs of a Healthy Church." TE Sykes presided at the Lord's Supper.

**Saturday, February 8, 2025****008-18 Call to Order and Prayer**

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

**008-19 Morning Devotion**

Dale Hagwood, Assistant Pastor Elect of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Virginia was introduced by the Moderator. After a brief prayer, Dale preached a morning

devotional sermon from Genesis 12:1-4, entitled “The Call of Faith.” At the conclusion of his sermon he led the Presbytery in a second season of prayer.

## **008-20 Ministerial Committee Report**

TE Powell Sykes, 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 encouraging the NRP to fully live into an 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, John Cushwa, Emily Hook, David Garrison, Alan Wright, Ron Cox, and CP Alan Morrison.
- 2 To excuse the sessions that had requested to be excused because of hard providence: FORGE, Galatia, Hope, Northminster, and River Oaks.
- 3 Candidate **Levi Martin** has joined a PCA congregation in Charlotte, NC and has asked to be removed from the Candidate’s Roll.

**The omnibus motion was sustained.**

### **B Examination of Luke Dozier**

**Luke Dozier**, having been a member of Reynolda Church 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 Luke 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 Luke Dozier be approved as Candidate Under Care of the NRP?

**The Motion was sustained to approve Luke Dozier 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 Chuck Estes and a charge to the Candidate was given by TE Glen Holman. RE Barrett Johnson was appointed to be Luke’s advisor.

### **C Examination of M. Dale Hagwood and TE Laura Spangler**

TE Sykes then conducted the examination of **Matthew D. “Dale” Hagwood**, Licentiate of the Calvary Presbytery, PCA, to be Assistant Pastor of Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Virginia, and **TE Laura Spangler**, from the PC(USA) to be transferred from Salem Presbytery, PC(USA) to the Associate Member Roll of the NRP as a Retired Teaching Elder.

TE Sykes led the NRP in examining **Dale Hagwood** and **TE Laura Spangler**. They were examined with respect to:

- 1) Their 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 Spangler took no exceptions to the *Westminster Standards*.

Dale Hagwood took two exceptions to the *Westminster Standards*.

**The Motion was sustained to allow Dale Hagwood's exceptions to the Westminster Standards.**

The Examination was closed, and Dale Hagwood and TE Spangler and their families were excused. The body deliberated and prayed before the Moderator put the question to the body: Shall Dale Hagwood and TE Laura Spangler be received as Members of the NRP?

**The Motion was sustained to receive Dale Hagwood, and TE Laura Spangler as Teaching Elders of the New River Presbytery.**

**D The Call of TE M. Dale Hagwood**

- 1 To Call TE M. Dale Hagwood as Assistant Pastor of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Virginia. TE Hagwood is particularly tasked with pastoral care, through visitation, teaching, visitor follow up, and shepherding. As TE Hagwood is an Assistant Pastor he will have a five (5) year term expiring 2030.

- 1) Effective Salary
  - A. Annual Cash Salary: \$38,011.92
  - B. Housing Allowance: \$16,800.00
- 2) Amount for retirement plan \$6,000.00 (exceeding 10% of Salary)
- 3) EPC Group Insurance: Personal Plan
- 4) FICA allowance ½ SECA upon request
- 5) Reimbursable Accounts
  - A. Study Leave/Books \$1,200.00
  - B. Other – Covered by the Church
- 6) Annual Vacation: *Four (4) weeks or One (1) Month*
- 7) Study Leave: *At least Two (2) weeks, cumulative up to Six (6) weeks*
- 8) Relocation Expenses of up to \$2,500.00

**Motion was sustained to call TE Dale Hagwood as Assistant Pastor for Pastoral Care of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Virginia**

2 An Administrative Commission comprised of:

- 1) TE Glen Holman (Hope Church)
- 2) TE Mike Matlack (Falling Spring)
- 3) TE Adam Snow (EPC of Elkton)
- 4) RE Ricard Ammons (Hope Church)
- 5) RE Charlie Queen (EPC of Elkton)
- 6) RE Paul Anderson (EPC of Elkton)
- 7) RE Ty Philips (EPC of Elkton)

To conduct a service of installation at 5:00 PM on February 23, 2025, in the sanctuary of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Elkton, Virginia.

Invited to sit with the Commission is:

TE Jonathan Master (Calvary Presbytery, PCA)

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

TE Sykes thanks for the NRP for its piety, diligence, and attention. He then concluded his report with prayer.

**Break**

**008-21 Westminster Standards Equipping Time**

The Moderator reminded the NRP of the relevance of the *Westminster Standards* for encouraging, equipping, and enabling disciple making churches to plant disciple making churches. Dr. Holman invited TE Powell Sykes to speak about the importance of the *Westminster Standards*, and in particular highlighted the importance of being committed to a single, enforceable subordinate standard, especially as it impacts the unity, purity and peace of the church. Although the presentation was brief. The NRP was enthralled.

**008-22 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.

**008-23**

**Date and Time of the Next Meeting**

**May 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025, First Presbyterian Church, Martinsburg, West Virginia**

**008-24    Adjournment**

Having been successfully moved, seconded, and sustained, Moderator Holman adjourned the 008<sup>th</sup> Meeting and closed with Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

*/S/ Rufus T Burton*

Rufus T Burton, Stated Clerk

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