



*Rev. Neal Carter presented the report of the Committee on Ministry. The Presbytery granted honorable retirement to **Rev. Jane Mitchell**, retiring from Union Presbyterian Seminary, and **Rev. Walt McCanness**, who will be retiring as Pastor of Providence Church at the end of the year.*

*Elder **Don Presson** spoke on behalf of the members of Sharon Church in honoring **Rev. Rob Blumer**, retiring as Pastor after 12 years of service at Sharon.*



*Don Presson*



*Rev. Rob Blumer*



*Rev. Allysen Schaaf*

*The Presbytery welcomed **Rev. Allysen Schaaf** who was approved as new Associate Pastor at Sardis Church. **Rev. Julie Walkup Bird** was approved to serve as Interim Pastor of Sharon Church, following the retirement of Rev. Rob Blumer.*

*Elder **Katie Dunlap**, COM Co-Moderator, presented **Elder Kim Stamey** to serve as Commissioned Pastor to Star Church. Participants in the Commissioning Service were: **Carol Stuart** (Star), **Neal Watkins** (First-Rockingham), **Rev. Lynne Keel** (First-Concord).*



**The 153<sup>rd</sup> Stated Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 9:30 am Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte**

## **Highlights of the 152<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

***“What Now? What Next?: Exodus. Exile. Return. Rebuild.”***



*It was with great joy and thanksgiving that we gathered by Zoom at 9:30 am for our final Presbytery meeting of 2021. Our Presbytery Moderator, the **Rev. Dr. Joseph Clifford** (Myers Park) called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. Moderator Clifford acknowledged the indigenous peoples that once lived on the land on which we gathered - including the Waxhaw, Cheraw, Sugaree and Catawba tribes.*

*The Presbytery entered into a time of worship with **Rev. Savannah Demuynck**, Associate Pastor at Myers Park Church, leading the call to worship and opening prayer. Presbytery Moderator, the **Rev. Dr. Joseph Clifford**, preached the sermon, based on Ezra 3:10-13. **George Banda**, Musician with M2M Fellowship, rendered a musical selection, “The Love of God”. **Serenitye Taylor** (First United) Pastoral Resident at Covenant-Charlotte Church, led the Prayers of the People.*



*Rev. Savannah Demuynck*



*George Banda*



*Associate General Presbyter, **Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill**, who also serves as a Chaplain Captain in the US Air Force Reserves, led the Presbytery in honoring veterans of the Armed Forces. She invited members of the Presbytery to post their branches of service in the chat. We give thanks to all of those that have served our country.*



**General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston** gave a brief update to the Presbytery on a few key items. She informed the body about changes to the forms in the Church Leadership Connection Pastor Nominating Committees and those seeking a call will begin using the new forms in 2022.

Jan also lifted up the fact that Charlotte Presbytery is a Matthew 25 Presbytery. So far, 13 of our churches have signed up as Matthew 25 congregations. Jan encouraged all of our churches to join the Presbyterian Mission Agency's initiative.

### We are a Matthew 25 Presbytery

- Bellefonte Presbyterian Church
- Cornelius Presbyterian Church
- Davidson College Presbyterian Church
- Ebenezer Presbyterian Church
- First-Concord Presbyterian Church
- First-Monroe Presbyterian Church
- First United Presbyterian Church
- McClintock Presbyterian Church
- Meadowlake Presbyterian Church
- Memorial Presbyterian Church
- Seigle Avenue Presbyterian Church (The Avenue)
- the Fellowship place Presbyterian Church
- The Grove Presbyterian Church



*What we do matters to God.*

*We are not saved by our works but what we do is a result of who we are*



**David Staniunas**, Records Archivist with the Presbyterian Historical Society, gave an overview of the services that are provided to churches and mid-councils. He also updated the Presbytery on the PHS projects to archive videos and records of African-American Churches in the PCUSA.



Committee on Representation Moderator, **Rev. Katie Harrington** presented the slate of nominees to serve on Presbytery and Synod Committees. **Rev. Sonya McAuley-Allen** (Bellefonte) was elected to serve as 2022 Presbytery Moderator. **Rev. Steve Lindsley** (Trinity) was elected as 2022 Presbytery Vice-Moderator.

COR member, **Harry Greyard** invited members of the Presbytery to apply to serve on Presbytery Committees as the COR will continue to recruit over the next several months.



**Rev. John Magunson** presented the report of the Ministry Resource Committee. He gave an update on the Ambassador program and invited churches that have not selected ambassadors to join in the coming year. Rev. Magunson invited churches to seek MRC grants to assist with new missions and ministries.



He introduced Rev. Kate Murphy (The Grove) to share information about a ministry that The Grove Church has been able to start as a result of an MRC grant. **Rev. Murphy** gave an overview of The Bulb ministry that her church has started in which they donate fresh vegetables and other healthy foods to their neighbors. She encouraged Charlotte Presbytery congregations to reach out to the MRC to inquire about grants for new initiatives.

**Rev. Deborah Conner and Rev. John Earl** presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). **Van Herring** (DCPC) was enrolled as an Inquirer in the preparation for ministry process. **Serenity Taylor (First United)** was examined and approved as a Candidate in the preparation for ministry process.



**Rev. Deborah Conner**



**Serenity Taylor**



**Rev. John Earl**



**Elizabeth Little**, Church Consultant with the Board of Pensions gave an update on new benefits for 2022. There are a number of new benefits and resources available for both active and retired members of the pension plan.