

Elder Tom Chester was approved to serve as Commissioned Pastor to Stephenson Church. *Elder Cindy Fisher* was approved to serve as Commissioned Pastor to Saint Andrews Church.



Tom Chester



Cindy Fisher

The Presbytery approved a motion to concur with an Overture to the 225th General Assembly from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery. The overture will be presented at the GA as an item of business.

At the end of its business for the day, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. McAuley-Allen.

Highlights of the 153rd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte Saturday, February 12, 2022

It was with great joy and thanksgiving that we gathered by Zoom at for our first Presbytery meeting of 2022. The meeting began with a Black History Month presentation with the poem, 'The Hill We Climb', by Amanda Gorham, read by Elder **Doris Boyd**. Then a video with a brief history of our oldest historically African-American Church, McClintock, narrated by Elder **Phyllis Bridges**.



Elder Doris Boyd



McClintock Presbyterian Church



Our new Presbytery Moderator, the **Rev. Sonya McAuley-Allen** (Bellefonte) called the meeting to order at 9:30 am and opened with prayer. Moderator McAuley-Allen 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 **Nicholas Carson**, Pastoral Resident at Myers Park Church, leading the call to worship. The **Rev. Gregory Bentley**, Co-Moderator of the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) preached the sermon, "Further and Deeper", based on Luke 5:1-11. **Molly Smerko** Pastoral Resident at Covenant-Charlotte Church, led the Prayers of the People. The Necrology of Ministers and Elders who passed in 2021 was read by Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston, Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill and Elder Tamara Williams.

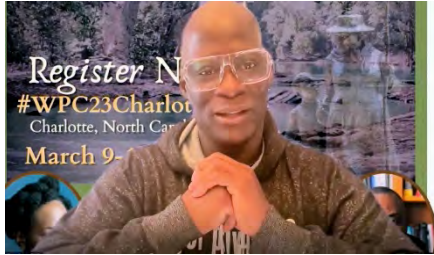


The Reverend Gregory Bentley

**The 154th Stated Meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at 9:30 am
South Mecklenburg Presbyterian Church, Charlotte**



Following worship, Rev. Bentley gave an overview of the state of the PC(USA) and shared his thoughts on how things are going across the denomination in the midst of the pandemic. He is very hopeful for the future and challenged us to look at the opportunities for new mission and ministry using Matthew 25 as our focus.



Dr. Eddie Moore, founder of The Privilege Institute, gave an overview of the upcoming 23rd National White Privilege Conference, March 9-11, co-sponsored by Charlotte Presbytery. For the first time in its 23-year history, the conference is being hosted by a religious organization.

General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston gave a brief update to the Presbytery. She thanked churches for their 2021 mission giving to the Presbytery - \$786,647. However, there are 23 of our 93 congregations that did not make any contribution to the Presbytery. For 2022, the goal is that 100% of our churches will contribute.

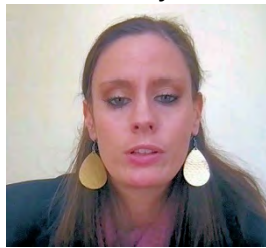


Doug Faris presented an overview of the 20th anniversary of the Union Presbyterian Seminary's Charlotte Campus. Rev. Dr. Richard Boyce will be retiring as Dean at the end of the spring semester. **Rev. Lisa McLennan** will be the new Vice-President after his retirement. **Rev. John Kuykendall and Mrs. Missy Kuykendall** have established a fund to support the new position and with a capital campaign to raise \$2.7 million dollars.

Elder Kathy Pilkington and Rev. Deborah Conner presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. **Jordan Loud** (Paw Creek) and **Victoria Krebs** (Paw Creek) were enrolled as Inquirers in the preparation for ministry process. **Sarah Mayer** (The Grove), **Lindsey Odom** (South Mecklenburg), and **Kim Stamey** (First Concord) were approved to be enrolled as Candidates in the preparation for ministry process. **Nick Carson and Molly Smerko** were examined and approved for ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament.



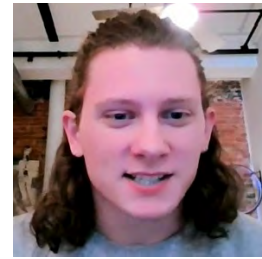
Sarah Mayer



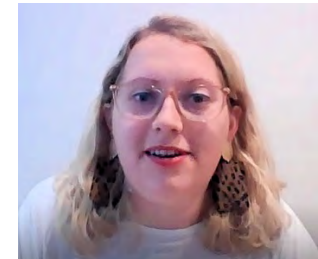
Lindsey Odom



Kim Stamey



Nick Carson



Molly Smerko



Rev. Whitney Bayer presented the report of the Ministry Resource Committee. She introduced MRC member, Elder **Katie Sloan** to share information about a ministry at Philadelphia Church. Elder Sloan began working with "Christmas Tree Santas" several years ago at Sugaw Creek Church and at Statesville Avenue Church. Philadelphia Church began the ministry a couple of years ago and it has been highly successful. Rev. Bayer invited **Andrew Brown**, South Mecklenburg Church to share his experience as a Church Ambassador and encouraged other churches to participate.

Rev. Peter Henry presented the report of the Committee on Ministry. **Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis** was approved to serve as Pastor of Memorial Church. The Presbytery welcomed new members, **Rev. Stuart Dugan** (HR) and **Rev. Stephen Nickle** (member at-large)



Rev. Peter Henry



Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis



Rev. Stuart Dugan



Rev. Stephen Nickle