

Highlights of the 157th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte Saturday, February 11, 2023



Laura (Lia) Benton



Mary Kate McAlister Sykes

In part two of the COM Report, **Rev. Dr. Peter Henry** recognized the Honorable Retirement of the **Rev. Alexander Porter**, effective December 31, 2022. Rev. Porter most recently served as pastor at Bethpage United, prior to that he served at Matthews-Murkland.



Rev. Dr. Peter Henry (COM)



Rev. Alexander Porter

Rev. Pendleton Peery (First-Charlotte), Chair of the Presbytery's Bills and Overtures Task Force presented the Consent Agenda with the Amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution. The Presbytery approved all 33 amendments.



Rev. Pen Peery (Bills & Overtures)



Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley



It was with great joy and thanksgiving that we gathered at **Covenant-Charlotte Presbyterian Church!** The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by our **2022 Moderator, the Rev. Sonya McAuley-Allen**, Pastor of Bellefonte Presbyterian Church. She then turned over the gavel to the **2023 Moderator, Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley** (Trinity). Rev. Lindsley formally thanked Moderator McAuley-Allen on

behalf of the Presbytery, for outstanding service as 2022 Moderator and presented her with a certificate of appreciation from the Presbytery. Rev. Lindsley then introduced **2023 Vice-Moderator, Elder Tommy Lawson** (Covenant-Charlotte). **Rev. Dr. Bob Henderson**, Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church, welcomed the body and gave a brief overview of the church's history and highlighted mission and ministries of the church.

The Presbytery entered into a time of worship with **Mary Kate McAlister Sykes** (Covenant-Charlotte) leading the call to worship. **Rev. Dr. Steve Scott** led the invitation to confession and **Serenity Taylor** (First United) led the prayer of confession and the assurance of pardon. **Woodland Church's 'Angels of Praise' Mime Dancers, Danielle Brown, Jordyn McLean, and JaNiyah Johnson**, did a special presentation of 'The Creation' by James Weldon Johnson.. **Rev. Sonya McAuley-Allen** preached the sermon entitled, 'More Than Conquerors', based on Romans 8:28-39. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was led by **Rev. Sonya McAuley-Allen** (Bellefonte) and **Rev. Katherine Kerr** (Covenant-Charlotte). A special musical selection during communion was led by **Rev. Dr. Amantha Barbee** (Quail Hollow).. Other worship participants included **Marcellus Hoover** and **Rev. Gregory Busby** (McClintock); **Lia Benton** (Caldwell); **Darieon Malone** (Quail Hollow); **Rev. Dr. Jan Edmiston** and **Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill**.



Covenant Church Choir



Rev. Sonya McAuley Allen

**The 158th Stated Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2023
at Davidson College Presbyterian Church**



"Angels of Praise" from Woodland PC



Rev. Katherine Kerr and Rev. Sonya Allen

Rev. Rebecca Davis (Union Presbyterian Seminary), led a special recognition for Rebecca Guzman (South Mecklenburg) upon her completion of the requirements to become a Certified Christian Educator.



Rev. Dr. Amantha Barbee



Rebecca Guzman, Certified Educator

COM Co-Moderator, Rev. Dr. Peter Henry (Davidson College Church), welcomed Rev. Dr. Douglas Hicks, President of Davidson College, and Rev. Dr. Stephen Scott (HR), as new members of Charlotte Presbytery.



Rev. Dr. Douglas Hicks



Rev. Dr. Stephen Scott

Olanda Carr (First United), introduced 'The Legacy of the Catawba Presbytery', a film project sponsored by the Presbytery's Anti-Racism Ministry Team and the Presbyterian Foundation.



Olanda Carr



Adreonna Benette & Rev. Dr. Julia Robinson-Moore

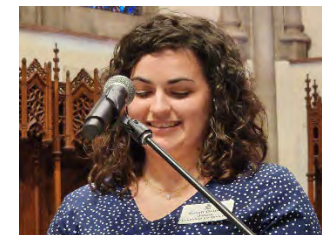
The Presbytery heard a special presentation on African-American Presbyterian history by the Rev. Dr. Julia Robinson-Moore, UNCC Dept. of Religious Studies and Adreonna Benette, Community Engagement Archivist, UNCC Atkins Library.

Rev. Dr. Alice Ridgill updated the Presbytery on the resources available through the MRC, including videos from the 'Nuts and Bolts' Workshop that was held in January. The MRC has updated their Grants for 2023. Information is on the Presbytery website. Rev. Ridgill also thanked the Presbytery for their prayers and support of her service as a Chaplain in the US Air Force Reserves. Rev. Dr. Whitney Bayer gave a brief update on upcoming events sponsored by the Ministry Resource Committee.

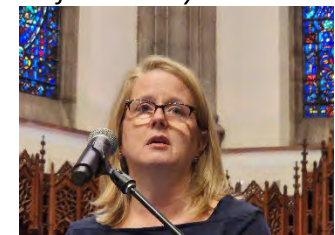
Elder Kathy Pilkington (First-Concord) and Rev. Chaz Blasdel (Gilwood) presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. Allyson Anderson (Myers Park), Sarah Dianne Jones (Sardis) and Melissa White (South Mecklenburg) were approved to be enrolled as Candidates for Ministry.



Allyson Anderson



Sarah Dianne Jones



Melissa White

Mary Kate McAlister Sykes (Covenant-Charlotte) and Laura 'Lia' Benton (Caldwell) were examined and approved to be ordained as Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Mary Kate will be serving as a Pastoral Resident at Covenant and Laura will serve as Temporary Pastor of Meadowlake Church, pending ordination.