

Information for First-Time Elders



Welcome to this meeting of the Presbytery of Charlotte! We are glad that you have joined us today to play a role in the leadership of the denomination. This information sheet is designed to assist you throughout the day as you participate in this presbytery meeting. You will find information regarding the format of the meeting, your role as an Elder Commissioner and some helpful hints.

Presbytery Membership

Elders elected by their Sessions as commissioners to a presbytery meeting are members, or presbyters, during the period of their service. You are a presbyter with voice and vote.

Prior to the Meeting

Be sure to pre-register online for the meeting. Presbytery meetings have been designed so that each item of business fits into the movement of the service of worship. Please see the Presbytery Packet for the Docket, committee reports, and other items to be addressed at the meeting.

Voting

Decisions at presbytery meetings are reached by a majority vote. Your congregation trusts you, as a presbyter, not to vote the will of the people, but rather to seek together the will of Christ. We believe that God alone is Lord of each person's conscience. You are encouraged to vote according to your own conscience.

When You Arrive At the Presbytery Meeting

If you have pre-registered online, you do not need to sign in. Just stop and pick up your Presbytery Packet at the Pre-Registered table.

If you have not pre-registered, please follow the signs to the Elders registration table and sign in. Pick up your Presbytery Packet and any other materials.

*Both pre-registered commissioners and those registering at the meeting will still need to purchase their lunch ticket(s).

COM Clusters

The Presbytery of Charlotte is divided up into four geographic regions (called clusters) to keep our churches closely connected. The clusters attend to some of the work of the Committee on Ministry on behalf of the Presbytery.

2023 COM Cluster Moderators:

North Cluster: Alan Buckner and Herbert Hill

South Cluster: Lisa McLennan & Vicki Smith

East Cluster: Ardy Skidmore and Neal Watkins

West Cluster: Mark Lee and Tamera Sanders

Terms and Acronyms You May Hear

Term/Acronym	Name	Role
PC(USA)	Presbyterian Church of the United States of America	The broader denomination of which our churches are a part.
COM	Committee on Ministry	Oversees relationships between pastors and congregations
CPM	Committee on Preparation for Ministry	Guides potential ministers through the ordination process
MRC	Ministry Resource Committee	Builds relationships and strengthens congregations around the shared vision of the Presbytery
PJC	Permanent Judicial Commission	Conducts its proceedings according to the Constitution of the PC(USA)
CP	Commissioned Pastor	A Ruling Elder who is commissioned to a particular pastoral service.
AC	Administrative Commission	Designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process.
PNC / APNC	Pastor Nominating Committee / Associate Pastor Nominating Committee	Church committee focused on the search for an installed pastor or associate pastor
Inquirer		Person responding to a call to ministry.
Candidate		Person responding to a call to ministry.
ECO	Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians	An evangelical, Presbyterian denomination in the US established in 2012.
EPC	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	An evangelical Presbyterian denomination established in 1981 based on the Westminster Confession of Faith