

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The **Summer Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery** was held on **Saturday, August 22, 2026**, at **Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church**. The meeting was called to order and opened with prayer by the Moderator, **Rev. Dr. Mike Bragan**. Worship followed, led by members of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, and a sermon entitled “*Trusting in the Power of the Holy Spirit*” by **Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon**, who serves as Lassiter Chaplain & Dean of Spiritual Life at Presbyterian College. Presbytery The combined choirs of our Abbeville and Upper Long Cane churches joined in singing the anthem. An offering of \$897 was received to address hunger issues in Trinity Presbytery. Below are some of the highlights from the meeting.

Total attendance of 99 was recorded as follows:

Active Clergy-30

***Honorably Retired Clergy**-5

Qualified & Commissioned Ruling Elders - 4

Corresponding Members -2

Elder Commissioners -32 (representing 32 churches)

Staff (not listed elsewhere) - 3

PCT Members (not listed elsewhere) - 3

Visitors – 20

* Automatically excused from stated meetings

Presbytery was warmly welcomed by the **Reverend Gordon Tubbs**, Pastor of Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church. Visitors and Elder Commissioners attending Presbytery for the first time were introduced and welcomed.

- Synod of the South Atlantic Exec, Elder Valerie Young brought greetings and an update on behalf of the Synod.
- Rev. Dr. Buz Wilcoxon, Moderator of the SC5 Boundary Committee made a presentation.
- Commissioned Ruling Elder Charles Weathers provided an update from Downtown PC.
- Trinity Presbytery’s 2027 Proposed Budget was presented for a first reading.
- McGregor Presbyterian Church’s \$25,000 loan application from the Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program (PILP) was approved.
- The Discipleship & Resource Team (DRT) reported on several events for church leaders, as well as a grant being offered to congregations to support collaborative faith formation initiatives between PC(USA) congregations and/or ecumenical partners. Click [here](#) to see DRT’s report from the meeting.
- Ruling Elder Andy Goforth (First Church, Greenwood) was examined and approved to serve as Commissioned Temporary Supply Pastor for our Hodges congregation.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) Inquirer Carl Burnett was approved to move to CPM *Candidate Under Care* status.
- The Mission & Evangelism Team (MET) welcomed a speaker from its Peacemaking Focus Group to talk about a ***Guns to Gardens** event being sponsored and held at [McGregor Presbyterian Church](#) on Saturday, September 26th, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Anonymous Disposal/Recycling of Unwanted Firearms*

-Continued-

Presbytery Meeting Highlights – Continued

Written Reports from the following committees, teams and commissioners were received as information:

Presbyterian Women - **Elder Amy Alexander** - Moderator

Mission & Evangelism Team - **Rev. Leon Page** - Moderator

Commissioners to the 227th OGA:

Rev. Carol Byrd, Eastminster PC

Elder Martha Casto, Eastminster PC

Elder Melanie Clarkson, McGregor PC

Rev. Don Muncie, Congaree PC

Presbytery adjourned at 12:30 p.m., and many stayed to enjoy a delicious hot, catered lunch offered by Upper Long Cane Presbyterian Church and served by volunteers from our Upper Long Cane and Abbeville congregations. Trinity Presbytery is richly blessed by the hospitality and generosity of our churches.

The next Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026 at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, convening at 9:30 a.m.

