PROVIDENCE presbytery

Fall Stated Meeting Summary
November 8, 2026



Riverview Presbyterian Church

Providence Presbytery held its Fall Stated Meeting on November 8, 2026, at Riverview Presbyterian Church, with Moderator Tim Cureton presiding. The meeting included reports from Presbytery leadership and committees, consideration of administrative and ministry matters, and worship with communion led by the Transformation Grant Team.

Executive Presbyter's Report



Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Steve Lindsley reported on congregational visits, the Better Together stewardship campaign, and resources available through the Ministry Toolbox broadcast. He also emphasized the importance of fulfilling year-end giving commitments which are due December 4th. He also expressed appreciation for the faithful service of clergy and educators throughout the Presbytery.

Actions Taken by Presbytery

The following actions were approved:

- **Administrative Commissions:** Established an Administrative Commission to assist Beaver Creek Presbyterian Church in celebrating and closing its ministry and a separate commission to assist Douglas Presbyterian Church in exploring the possibility of celebrating and closing its ministry.

- **Presbytery Leadership:** Elected Rev. David Bender to a new three-year term as Stated Clerk, beginning in February 2027.
- **Ministry Resource Consultant:** Approved the position description for a new Ministry Resource Consultant, amended to specify 20 hours per week.
- **2027 Presbytery Meetings:** Approved the proposed meeting dates and locations for 2027.
- **Nominations and Representation:** Approved the committee's report and individuals nominated to serve in designated Presbytery positions.
- **Committee on Ministry:** Approved an alternative method of assessing Rev. Strauss Moore's theological proficiency as part of the PC(USA) ordination process, as well as a request from Wade Memorial Presbyterian Church for a waiver of the six-year consecutive service limitation for ruling elders.
- **2027 Terms of Call:** Approved the 2027 Salary Studies and Minimum Terms of Call.

Financial and Administrative Matters

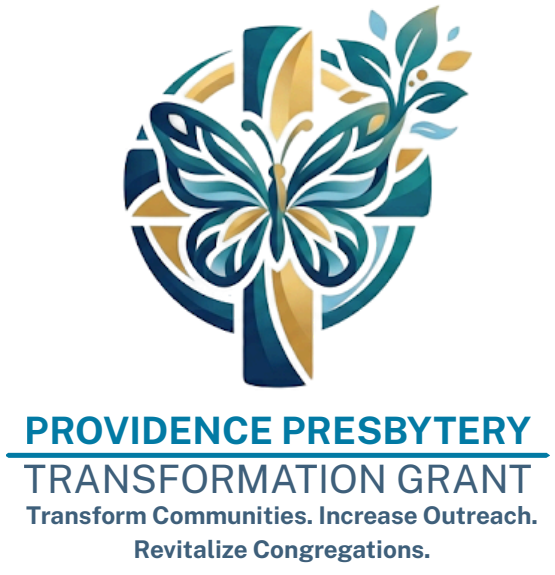
The Administration Team presented the proposed 2027 Presbytery budget for its first reading. Discussion included potential changes to staff benefits and the financial sustainability of Bethelwoods. Improvements in camper attendance, revenue accounting, and operational practices were reported as positive developments toward achieving a balanced camp budget.

The Committee on Ministry also presented proposed amendments to the Commissioned Pastor Policy. These amendments would permit Commissioned Pastors, when authorized by Presbytery through the Committee on Ministry, to officiate weddings within Providence Presbytery. The proposed policy will return for consideration and a vote at the February 2027 meeting.

Transformation Grant Program

The Transformation Grant Team introduced a new grant initiative funded by proceeds from the sale of the former Presbytery office on Oakland Avenue.

The program is intended to support congregations in developing innovative ministries that bring transformation to their congregations and/or surrounding communities. Two grant application and review cycles are planned for 2027. Additional information will be available through the Presbytery website at www.providencepres.org/transformation-grant



Ministry and Committee Reports

Faith Formation and Technology



Preparations are underway for LeaderFest in Spring 2027, which will provide educational workshops and resources for congregational leadership and ministry. More informatoin can be found at www.providencepres.org/leaderfest.

Efforts are also underway to reestablish the Presbytery Youth Council.

Mission and Advocacy

The Living Waters ministry reported plans for an additional clean water installation in Guatemala in Fall 2027, building upon a completed installation in November 2025. Of the funds needed for the upcoming project, $29,000 has been raised, with an additional $11,000 remaining. Congregations are encouraged to participate through financial support, prayer, and mission involvement.

The committee also reminded congregations to submit all 2026 Dimes for Hunger contributions to the Presbytery office by January 4, 2027.

Bethelwoods

Bethelwoods reported encouraging progress in summer camp attendance, which is approaching pre-pandemic levels. Approximately 30% of 2026 campers came from Providence Presbytery congregations. Churches were encouraged to utilize Bethelwoods for retreats, fellowship events, and other congregational activities.

The next Bethelwoods & Bowties fundraiser is scheduled for May 1, 2027.

Presbyterian Association of Musicians

Rev. Elizabeth Deibert presented information about the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and encouraged participation in the Montreat Worship Conference.

Synod of South Atlantic

The Synod report included the election of Christina Greenawalt as 2027 Synod Moderator, committee appointments, personnel matters, and financial planning.

Upcoming Dates and Items for Consideration

- **December 4, 2026:** Deadline for Mission Partner Giving

- **January 4, 2027:** Deadline for 2026 Dimes for Hunger contributions.
- **February 2027:** Consideration and vote on amendments to the Commissioned Pastor Policy.
- **Spring 2027:** LeaderFest.
- **May 1, 2027:** Bethelwoods & Bowties fundraiser.
- **Fall 2027:** Planned Living Waters installation in Guatemala.
- **2027:** Two Transformation Grant application cycles.

Closing

The meeting concluded with recognition and appreciation for outgoing Moderator Tim Cureton and his service to Providence Presbytery.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 4:47 p.m.

This summary is provided for informational purposes. The official minutes of the November 8, 2026 Stated Meeting remain the authoritative record of Presbytery actions.