



## Summary Report for Foothills Presbytery #117 Stated Meeting

On Saturday, May 15, 2021, Foothills Presbytery held our 117<sup>th</sup> Stated Presbytery Meeting (virtually) with 100 Minister and Elder Commissioners, Honorable Retired Ministers, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and special guests. Terri Price (Providence), Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone. She invited Craig Foster (First, Spartanburg) to share technology information and instructions to prepare our commissioners for participating in the meeting. The Moderator then invited us into a time of worship, our first Special Order of the Day. The Worship Service was created by the Worship Committee and focused on Acts 21:1-21 for Pentecost. The service will be shared through the Covenant Connections and available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Our Presbytery Leader/Stated Clerk, Debbie Foster, highlighted the future church work that is underway with the Legacy Partnership Project and Faithful Innovation Learning Communities. The Legacy Partnership Project is a joint venture between Presbyterian Foundation, the Presbytery, and a congregation. This project is a time of discernment for the congregation to identify gifts, reflect on their impact to the community, and dream/plan for the future. Faithful Innovation helps congregations and leaders develop deeper connections with God, each other, and their neighbors. More information about these activities can be found in the [Report of the Presbytery Leader and Stated Clerk](#) beginning on page 7 of the Commissioner's Handbook.

We invited two guests to share information about their organizations. Rachel Crescibene, Advancement Officer for South Carolina, shared an update from [Thornwell](#). David Staniunas provided an introduction and update for the [Presbyterian Historical Society of Philadelphia](#).

Presbytery approved adding the Personnel Policies and Practices, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Plans, and the Disaster Preparedness and Response Administrative Commission to the Manual of Operations. This new Administrative Commission will report to Council.

After reviewing the [history of the Presbytery's investments](#), we voted to approve the fourth designated fund in the amount of \$250,000 with an expected average annual return of 5%, approximately \$12,500. The Committee on Shared Mission and Ministry will discern how to infuse these funds in the work of Shared Mission and Ministry.

On behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, Dennis Latham (Easley) shared information on the 2020 Year End Financials and 2021 giving to date. He then called on Hudson Neely (Tyger River), who shared information on the second round of Staying Connected Grants (up to \$2,500 per church). To date, eight church have received these missional grants, funded by the Future Church designated investment fund.

As part of the Council report, a recommendation from David Howell (John Knox) was approved for the Nominations Committee. Oral reports were received from the Antiracism Ministry Team and Representation and Review.

The second Special Order of the Day was the commissioning of Presbytery Youth Council. Joan Jones, the PYC Clerk and Point Person, introduced the commission service. The future of our churches and presbytery looks bright with these youth folks stepping into leadership roles. The Commissioning Service can be viewed on the Foothills [YouTube channel](#).

The Committee on Shared Ministry Chair, Craig Foster (First, Spartanburg), shared the good news that we received two recognitions from the Synod of South Atlantic Association of Smaller Congregations. Elizabeth Jones, CRE, was recognized as the Lay Person of the Year. Mt. Zion was received the Congregation of the Year award. Congratulations to Elizabeth and Mt. Zion.

At the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery approved the honorable retirement of Dr. Daniel Sansbury. Gordon Turnbull (John Knox), Chair, led a Recognition Service for Dan. Robin Morris, Elder of Limestone Church, shared information about Dan's life and 41 years of ministry.

Two Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, who have been called to Foothills Presbytery, were introduced by Examinations Commission co-chairs, Elizabeth Clayton (First, Greer) and Amos Workman (Westminster, Greenville). The Rev. Julia Watkins was called to serve as the Associate Pastor for Mission and Congregational Life at Westminster Church, Greenville. The Rev. Will Shelburne has been called as the Minister to First, Greer. Julia and Will were warmly received into Foothills.

Mary Moore Driggers, an Inquirer from First, Greer, was presented by Committee on Preparation for Ministry Chair Dottie Metropol (Honorable Retired). CPM recommended Mary Moore Driggers to be enrolled as a Candidate, with her candidacy effective April 22, 2021. The Presbytery approved this recommendation. Leslie Lang (First, Spartanburg) charged Mary Moore and provided a prayer.

Our Moderator, Terri Price, adjourned the meeting with prayer.

We are grateful for the technology to gather our Minister and Elder Commissioners and other leaders of our Presbytery to worship together and conduct the business of the presbytery. We ask God's continued guidance and blessing on Foothills Presbytery and all the congregations who are seeking to serve our Lord in the update of SC.

Blessings,  
Robin Morris  
Associate Stated Clerk