

Welcome to the 139th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks! This will be our final meeting for 2025.

We are excited to gather at Northminster Presbyterian Church on October 23rd, fulfilling our mission to BEE the Presbytery: “Presbytery is the tie that binds our diverse contexts to share God’s love by: Supporting, connecting, guiding, equipping, and resourcing congregations”.

If you’re new to Presbytery meetings, you’re encouraged to attend the New Commissioner Training at 8:15am, led by Stated Clerk Pro Tem, Rev. David Baker. Lunch tickets will be \$11 and available for purchase before the meeting.

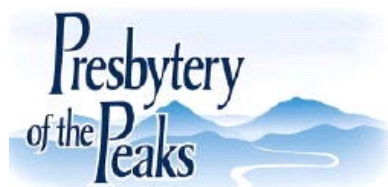
The meeting will be called to order by our Moderator, Rev. Bea Miller at 9am, followed by a worship centered on Earth Care. We’ll also be discussing the general mission of the Presbytery and discussing our new proposed priority statement, BEE the Presbytery, in focus groups just before lunch. Please be sure to review the Purpose and Priorities of the Presbytery found in the packet below.

Also at this meeting, the Stated Clerk Search Committee will nominate a new Stated Clerk to a 4 year term. After much searching, the committee is bringing forth a familiar candidate, Rev. David Baker, as their recommendation to the Presbytery. Additionally, the Transitional General Presbytery Search Committee will give an update to the Presbytery on their work.

I look forward to seeing you and engaging in the business God has set before us!

Yours in Christ,

Kym Wiederholt
Chair, Coordinating Cabinet



**Presbytery of the Peaks
One Hundred Thirty-ninth Stated Meeting
October 23, 2025
Northminster Presbyterian Church, Roanoke**

- 8:30 a.m. *Registration Opens***
- 9:00 a.m. *Call to Order/Opening Business and Welcome from Host Church***
- 9:05 a.m. *Declaration of a Quorum and Approval of Consent Agenda***
Dave Baker, Stated Clerk
- 9:10 a.m. *Worship Service***
Derrick Weston and Earth Care Subcommittee of Justice and Mercy Commission
- 10:40 a.m. *Break***
- 10:55 a.m. *Open Mic***
- 11:05 a.m. *Stated Clerk Nominating Committee Report***
Bob McLavey, Moderator
- 11:10 a.m. *Commission on Ministry***
Anghaarad Teague Dees, Moderator
- 11:40 a.m. *Examinations Commission***
Linda Dickerson, Moderator
- 12:00 p.m. *Focus Groups with Cabinet Introduction***
- 12:45 p.m. *Lunch***
- 1:45 p.m. *Cabinet***
Kym Wiederholt, Moderator
- 1:50 p.m. *Commission on Administration***
Morgan Whitfield, Moderator
- 2:00 p.m. *Constitutional Ministries Committee***
Dave Baker, Moderator
- 2:05 p.m. *Justice and Mercy Commission***
Denny Casey, Moderator
- 2:20 p.m. *Church Partnership Commission***
Isabella Fagiani, Moderator
- 2:30 p.m. *Transitional GP Search Committee***
Dave Roberts, Moderator
- 2:35 p.m. *Recognition of Moderator and Vice-Moderator***
- 2:40 p.m. *Closing Business***

CONSENT AGENDA RECOMMENDATION ITEMS

Report of the Stated Clerk:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. FOR CONSENT AGENDA:** That the minutes of the One-hundred thirty-eighth Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks (June 26,2025) as reviewed by those persons designated by the Standing Rules, be approved.
- 2. FOR CONSENT AGENDA:** That motions be reduced to writing and sent to the clerks' table before discussion.
- 3. FOR CONSENT AGENDA:** That Pam Claterbaugh be appointed as recording secretary for the October 23, 2025 Stated Meeting.

Report of the Administrative Commission for Jamestown Presbyterian Church

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **FOR CONSENT AGENDA-** That records be returned to the Jamestown Cemetery Association, LLC once they have been digitalized by the Historical Society
2. **FOR CONSENT AGENDA-** That presbytery dissolve the Administrative Commission with thanks.

Report of the Administrative Commission for Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

1. **FOR CONSENT AGENDA:** That presbytery dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks.

Report of the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee
October 2025

The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee was elected at the March 6, 2025 meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks. Committee members elected were David Baker (T.E.), John Bates (T.E.), Pam Claterbaugh (R.E.), Susan Ennis (T.E.), and Bob McLavey (T.E.).

The nominating committee met for an organizational meeting on April 21, at which time Bob McLavey was selected as moderator, and Susan Ennis was selected secretary. The job description for Stated Clerk was approved, and a deadline of August 1 was established for the receipt of applications. It was agreed that the committee would search within the Presbytery of the Peaks, recognizing that it was unlikely there would be an applicant from outside of the Presbytery. The position was announced on Peaks Postings.

At the June 26 Presbytery meeting in Martinsville, General Presbyter Carl Utley and Committee Moderator Bob McLavey discussed the fact that there had been no applications received. It was agreed that a proposal would be made to the Commission on Administration to make the Stated Clerk a half-time position (including benefits) within the staff structure of the Presbytery of the Peaks. GP Utley made that formal recommendation to the Commission on Administration, and it was approved by the CoA in early July. The revised position announcement was again announced on Peaks Postings.

On July 9, Rev. David Baker informed the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee that he intended to apply for the revised position of Stated Clerk, and, as a result, he resigned from the Nominating Committee. On July 24, 2025, the committee received the official letter of application from Rev. David Baker. Following the August 1 deadline for applications, Committee Moderator McLavey informed the committee that no further applications had been received, and an interview with Rev. Baker was scheduled for August 21.

Having reviewed the extensive qualifications of Rev. Baker, and recognizing his service to the Presbytery of the Peaks as the Acting Stated Clerk, the committee was not in question about recommending him for the position. The committee is grateful to David for his willingness to serve, and we enthusiastically place his name in nomination.

MOTION: The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee nominates Rev. David Baker for the office of Stated Clerk, and brings his name before the Presbytery of the Peaks at its meeting on October 23, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Bob McLavey, Committee Moderator,
for the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

INFORMATION

1. Held Zoom Meetings on June 12, 2025, July 10, 2025, August 14, 2025, September 11, 2025 and October 9, 2025.
2. Held 4 Small Church Listening Sessions around the Presbytery during the summer.
3. Sponsored 4 members of Peaks Presbytery to attend the Small Town Collaborative Workshop at the University of Ozarks in July.
4. Hosted a Small Church Summit at Amherst Presbyterian Church on September 27, 2025.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Approved the covenant between Old Concord Presbyterian Church and Nancy Nepage , Commissioned Pastor, effective June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2028.
2. Approved the covenant between First Presbyterian Church, Covington and Linda Trumbo, Commissioned Pastor, effective July 1, 2025 to May 31, 2027.
3. Approved the renew the commission between Buchanan Presbyterian Church and Commissioned Pastor Donna Britt effective June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026.
4. Approved the Mission Study and request to form a Pastor Nominating Committee for Amherst Presbyterian Church.
5. Approved the Administrative Commission to commission John Bates to Forest Presbyterian Church as a Commissioned Pastor on July 20, 2025.

The Commission will consist of the following:

Beth Broschart, TE, Forest
 Terri Cornwell, TE, Minister at Large
 Bea Miller, TE, First, Martinsville, Presbytery Moderator
 Carolyn Eubank, RE, Quaker Memorial
 John Klingenfus, RE, Forest

6. Approved the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Bea Miller at First Presbyterian Church, Martinsville on July 13, 2025.

The Commission will consist of the following:

Teaching Elders:

Carl Utley, General Presbyter, Moderator and Charge the Congregation
 John Wiederholt, Honorably Retired, Preacher
 Chery Peeples, Forest Hills Presbyterian, Charge the Pastor
 Maxine Edwards, Honorably Retired, Mother of the Pastor

Ruling Elders:

Kelvin Perry, Commissioned Pastor, Grace Presbyterian, Worship Leader
 Monica Stevens, First Martinsville Transition Team, Prayer of Installation
 Denny Casey, First Martinsville Transition Team, Worship Leader
 Joan Montgomery, First Martinsville Transition Team, Worship Leader
 Billy Kirby, First Martinsville Transition Team, Worship Leader
 Kym Wiederholt, First Collinsville, Chair of Cabinet, Constitutional Questions

7. Approved the Temporary Supply contract renewal between Rev. Terry Blevins and Roanoke Valley PC effective December 1, 2025 to November 30, 2026.
8. Approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Janet Chisom as Associate Pastor of Trinity Ecumenical Parish.
9. Approved to dissolve the relationship between Rev. Susi Ennis and First Presbyterian Church, Covington effective June 30, 2025 and grant her honorably retired status.
10. Approved Rev. Terri Cornwell to serve as moderator for Maysville and New Store effective July 1, 2025.
11. Approved Dick Boswell, Lisa Marshall, Herndon Jeffreys and Jan McGilliard to receive funds from the Burke Memorial Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$400.00 each.
12. Approved to adopt the Commissioned Pastor/Missional Commissioned Pastor Manual presented by the CP Subcommittee.
13. Approved the Administrative Commission to commission Nancy Nepage to Old Concord Presbyterian Church on August 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

The commission will consist of:

Teaching Elders:

Rev. Carlos Malave, Appomattox CH and New Concord
Kim Jeffreys, Madisonville and Village

Ruling Elders:

David Smith, Farmville
John Lewis, New Concord
Jan McGilliard, Blacksburg

14. Approved the Interim Pastor contract renewal between Rev. Glenn Coleman and Altavista Presbyterian Church effective July 14, 2025 to July 13, 2026.
15. Approved to renew the commission between Mercy Seat Presbyterian Church and Commissioned Pastor Joyce Perez effective August 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026.
16. Approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Tim Verhey at College PC.
17. Approved an honorarium for Bronwen Boswell in the amount of \$200.00 for services provided at the Small Church Summit.
18. Approved an honorarium for an organist in the amount of \$150.00 for services provided at the Small Church Summit.
19. Granted permission to Rev. Patterson Lyles (retired PCUSA minister living in Charlottesville) to labor within the bounds of Peaks Presbytery to provide Pulpit Supply.
20. Approved the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Janet Chisom as Associate Pastor of Trinity Ecumenical Church on Sept. 21.

The commission will include:

Teaching Elders:

Dusty Fiedler
Gary Scheidt
Jim Slate

Ruling Elders:

Margie Anderson, MCP
Karen Nelson, RE, Salem

Jodi Robinson, RE, Trinity
David Smith, RE, Farmville, Moderator of AC
Neil Strong, RE, Trinity

21. Approved a request of \$2,200 for McAllister Memorial to offset Board of Pension dues for Jim Moss.
22. Approved an honorarium of \$1000.00 plus any additional expenses to Pam Snyder for Boundary Training to be held on November 10 and 11, 2025.
23. Approved the stated supply contract renewal between Virginia PC and Rev. David Mucha effective November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026.
24. Granted permission for Rodger Linkenhoker to administer Communion at Virginia Presbyterian Church as needed from November 1, 2025 to October 31, 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommend that Presbytery approve the 2026 Minimum Terms of Call as presented.

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS—ANNUAL REVIEW AND
ANNUAL REPORT OF FINANCIAL TERMS OF PASTORS' CALLS FOR 2026

Congregational Pastors Package

The Session of _____ Presbyterian Church of Town/City
_____ has made an annual review of the Minister's Cash Payments, Deferred Compensation, Benefits, and Professional Expenses, and the congregation has voted to request the Presbytery of the Peaks to approve the following terms of call for

_____. Terms include a minimum of 4 weeks paid vacation, 2 weeks paid study leave, 12 weeks paid family leave.
(Minister's Name)

These terms of call were reviewed at a Congregational Meeting on

MINISTER _____ CLERK OF SESSION _____
(signature) (signature)

Date _____ Date _____

Pastor/ Teaching Elder Call Type

Solopastor ____ Head of church staff ____ Associate Pastor ____ Presbytery Employee ____

Campus Ministry ____ Yoked with Church ____ Other _____

Full Time Call ____ # of hours per week ____ (35 hours is considered full-time by the Board of Pensions)

Part-time Call ____ # of hours per week ____ (20 hours minimum required to qualify for BOP basic benefits)

PPO Medical Dues for the Congregational Pastors Package are **17.5%** of effective salary for Member-Only (the Pastor), plus 10% of effective salary for income protection benefits paid entirely by the congregation. Additional coverage is available for the Member's children, spouse or family as listed below.

Board of Pensions Additional Coverage

Coverage Level	Dues	Combined Minimum Dues	Combined Maximum Dues
Member + Child(ren)	17.5% + \$9,950	\$16,450	\$28,450
Member + Spouse	17.5% + \$12,250	\$18,750	\$30,750
Member + Family	17.5% + \$22,200	\$28,700	\$40,700

Terms of Call Financial Information-Congregational Pastors Package

	<u>With Manse</u>	<u>Without Manse</u>
1. Base Cash Salary	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Manse Rental Value (Equal 30% of Base Salary, Equity Escrow, Utility/Furnishing Allowance & other Compensation)	\$ _____	N/A
3. Housing Allowance	\$ N/A	\$ _____
4. Utilities & Furnishings Allowance	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. Other Compensation (Detail below)	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. Shared Housing Equity Escrow (Manse)	\$ _____	N/A
 Total Effective Salary	 \$ _____	 \$ _____
7. SECA @ 7.65% of Effective Salary (Self Employment Allowance)	\$ _____	\$ _____
8. Board of Pensions		
A. Medical Coverage (17.5% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
B. Short Term Disability (.5% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
C. Long Term Disability/Death (1% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
D. Pension (8.5% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
 TOTAL BOARD OF PENSIONS	 \$ _____	 \$ _____

ADDITIONAL DEPENDENT OR FAMILY COVERAGE

\$ _____ *Additional Dependent or Family Coverage (this amount can be all, or a portion, of the added cost to cover additional family members.)

_____ Percentage of Additional Coverage provided by church

OTHER COMPENSATION INCLUDED IN EFFECTIVE SALARY :

Church Contribution to 403B _____ Cell Phone _____
 (nonaccountable Plan)
 SECA Above 7.65% _____ Other Benefits _____

Other Compensation (Not Included in Effective Salary)

Dental _____ Vision Eyewear _____

PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES

Travel/Auto Expense: \$ _____

Continuing Education Expense: \$ _____

PAID LEAVE:	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Provided</u>
Vacation	4 weeks	_____
Study leave	2 weeks	_____
Family leave	12 weeks	_____
SABBATICAL LEAVE:	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Provided</u>
After six continuous years	2 months	_____

Please Submit to the Presbytery Office within 30 days of the Congregational Meeting

This report may be accessed on the Presbytery Website (www.peakspresbytery.org) and submitted via e-mail to julie@peakspresbytery.org. The report may also be mailed to the Peaks Presbytery office, addressed to: Presbytery of the Peaks, Commission on Ministry, PO Box 2519, Forest, VA 24551. Any questions regarding Minister's Terms of Call can be directed to the Presbytery office.

2026 Minimum Terms of Call for Congregational Pastors Package

The Commission on Ministry will recommend a 3% cost of living increase at the October 23 Presbytery Meeting. The following example reflects the 3% increase.

With Manse (Base Cash Salary with a Manse-\$36,880)	Pastor Only	Pastor + Children	Pastor+ Spouse	Pastor + Family
1. Annual Cash Salary + Utilities Allowance + Other Applicable Income	36,880			
2. Manse Value (Manse value is based upon a minimum of 30% of the total effective salary. Annual cash salary + Utilities Allowance + Other Applicable Income+ Equity Escrow)	11,424			
3. Shared House Equity Escrow	1,200			
Effective Salary	49,504			
4. Social Security Offset (7.65% of Effective Salary)	3,787			
5. Board of Pensions-Congregational Pastors Package 27.5% of Effective Salary-Pastor Only	13,614			
• Additional Medical Coverage, Child(ren) \$9,950		9,950		
• Additional Medical Coverage, Spouse \$12,250			12,250	
• Additional Medical Coverage, Family \$22,200				22,200
6. Moving Expense				
7. Continuing Education Expense	1,200			
8. Vacation	Four Weeks			
9. Continuing Education	Two Weeks			
10. Travel Expenses-mileage reimbursed at IRS business mile rate				
11. Family Leave-12 weeks family leave upon the birth or adoption of a child.				
Total	68,105	78,055	80,355	90,305

Without Manse (Base Cash Salary without a Manse-\$50,573)	Pastor Only	Pastor + Children	Pastor+ Spouse	Pastor + Family
1. Annual Cash Salary + Housing + Other Applicable Income (The amount designated for the housing allowance may not exceed the fair rental value of the home plus furnishings and utilities)	50,573			
4. Social Security Offset (7.65% of Effective Salary including housing, utilities allowance, other applicable income)	3,869			
5. Board of Pensions-Congregational Pastors Package 27.5% of Effective Salary-Pastor Only	13,908			
• Additional Medical Coverage, Child(ren) \$9,950		9,950		
• Additional Medical Coverage, Spouse \$12,250			12,250	
• Additional Medical Coverage, Family \$22,200				22,200
6. Moving Expense				
7. Continuing Education Expense	1,200			
8. Vacation	Four Weeks			
9. Continuing Education	Two Weeks			
10. Travel Expenses-mileage reimbursed at IRS business mile rate				
11. Family Leave-12 weeks family leave upon the birth or adoption of a child.				
Total	69,550	79,500	81,800	91,750

THE PRESBYTERY OF THE PEAKS—ANNUAL REVIEW AND
ANNUAL REPORT OF FINANCIAL TERMS OF PASTORS' CALLS FOR 2026

**Transitional Pastor's Participation may only be used by pastors
who were enrolled in this program in 2025.**

The Session of _____ Presbyterian Church of Town/City
_____ has made an annual review of the Minister's Cash Payments, Deferred
Compensation, Benefits, and Professional Expenses, and the congregation has voted to request
the Presbytery of the Peaks to approve the following terms of call for

_____. Terms include a minimum of 4 weeks paid vacation, 2 weeks paid
(Minister's Name) study leave, 12 weeks paid family leave.

These terms of call were reviewed at a Congregational Meeting on

_____.

MINISTER _____ CLERK OF SESSION _____
(signature) (signature)

Date _____ Date _____

Pastor/ Teaching Elder Call Type

Solo pastor ____ Head of church staff ____ Associate Pastor ____ Presbytery Employee ____

Campus Ministry ____ Yoked with Church ____ Other _____

Full Time Call ____ # of hours per week ____ (35 hours is considered full-time by the Board of
Pensions)

Part-time Call ____ # of hours per week ____ (20 hours minimum required to qualify for BOP
basic benefits)

PPO Medical coverage dues for the Transitional Pastor's Participation (pastor and family) are
37% of effective salary, plus 10% of effective salary for income protection benefits paid
entirely by the congregation.

Board of Pensions Medical Coverage Dues

Year	Percentage
2026	37%
2027	No less than 41%

Terms of Call Financial Information-Transitional Pastor's Participation

	<u>With Manse</u>	<u>Without Manse</u>
1. Base Cash Salary	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Manse Rental Value (Equal 30% of Base Salary, Equity Escrow, Utility/Furnishing Allowance & other Compensation)	\$ _____	N/A
3. Housing Allowance	\$ N/A _____	\$ _____
4. Utilities & Furnishings Allowance	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. Other Compensation (Detail below)	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. Shared Housing Equity Escrow (Manse)	\$ _____	N/A
 Total Effective Salary	 \$ _____	 \$ _____
7. SECA @ 7.65% of Effective Salary (Self Employment Allowance)	\$ _____	\$ _____
8. Board of Pensions		
A. Medical Coverage (37% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
B. Short Term Disability (.5% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
C. Long Term Disability/Death (1% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
D. Pension (8.5% of effective salary)	\$ _____	\$ _____
 TOTAL BOARD OF PENSIONS	 \$ _____	 \$ _____

OTHER COMPENSATION INCLUDED IN EFFECTIVE SALARY (See pg 4 Notes #5):

Church Contribution to 403B _____	Cell Phone _____ (nonaccountable Plan)
SECA Above 7.65% _____	Other Benefits _____

Other Compensation (Not Included in Effective Salary)

Dental _____

Vision Eyewear _____

PROFESSIONAL EXPENSESTravel/Auto Expense: \$ _____Continuing Education Expense: \$ _____

PAID LEAVE:	<u>Minimum</u>	<u>Provided</u>
Vacation	4 weeks	_____
Study leave	2 weeks	_____
Family leave	12 weeks	_____
SABBATICAL LEAVE:	<u>Recommended</u>	<u>Provided</u>
After six continuous years	2 months	_____

Please Submit to the Presbytery Office within 30 days of the Congregational Meeting

This report may be accessed on the Presbytery Website (www.peakspresbytery.org) and submitted via e-mail to julie@peakspresbytery.org. The report may also be mailed to the Peaks Presbytery office, addressed to: Presbytery of the Peaks, Commission on Ministry, PO Box 2519, Forest, VA 24551. Any questions regarding Minister's Terms of Call can be directed to the Presbytery office.

2026 Minimum Terms of Call for Transitional Pastor's Participation

The Commission on Ministry will recommend a 3% cost of living increase at the October 23 Presbytery Meeting. The following example reflects the 3% increase.

With Manse (Base Cash Salary with a Manse-\$36,880)	
1. Annual Cash Salary + Utilities Allowance + Other Applicable Income	36,880
2. Manse Value (Manse value is based upon a minimum of 30% of the total effective salary. Annual cash salary + Utilities Allowance + Other Applicable Income+ Equity Escrow)	11,424
3. Shared House Equity Escrow	1,200
4. Social Security Offset (7.65% of Effective Salary)	3,787
5. Board of Pensions-Transitional Pastor's Participation 47% of Effective Salary	23,267
6. Moving Expense	
7. Continuing Education Expense	1,200
8. Vacation	Four Weeks
9. Continuing Education	Two Weeks
10. Travel Expenses-mileage reimbursed at IRS business mile rate	
11. Family Leave-12 weeks family leave upon the birth or adoption of a child.	
Total	77,758

Without Manse (Base Cash Salary-\$50,573)	
1. Annual Cash Salary + Housing + Other Applicable Income (The amount designated for the housing allowance may not exceed the fair rental value of the home plus furnishings and utilities)	50,573
4. Social Security Offset (7.65% of Effective Salary including housing, utilities allowance, other applicable income)	3,869
5. Board of Pensions-Transitional Pastor's Participation 47% of Effective Salary	23,769
6. Moving Expense	
7. Continuing Education Expense	1,200
8. Vacation	Four Weeks
9. Continuing Education	Two Weeks
10. Travel Expenses-mileage reimbursed at IRS business mile rate	
11. Family Leave-12 weeks family leave upon the birth or adoption of a child.	
Total	79,411

2. Recommend that Presbytery approve the Church Separation Guidelines.

Presbytery of the Peaks

Guidelines on the Separation of Congregations from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Adopted: [Date]

Approved by: Presbytery of the Peaks

I. Purpose and Intent

These guidelines outline the process for congregations within Presbytery of the Peaks seeking dismissal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is grounded in the theological, ecclesiastical, and fiduciary responsibilities entrusted to the presbytery and the local congregation as members of the body of Christ.

II. Theological Foundation

In accordance with the Book of Order G-4.0203, all church property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This policy seeks to reflect the values of justice, compassion, accountability, and reconciliation in any separation process, honoring the covenantal relationship between the presbytery and its congregations.

III. Discernment and Dismissal Process

1. Initiation

- The Session of [Church Name] shall notify the Presbytery of the Peaks in writing of its desire to enter into discernment regarding dismissal.
- A Discernment Team appointed by the presbytery shall engage with the session and congregation.

2. Discernment Period

- The Discernment Team shall facilitate theological dialogue, assess mission and property concerns, and ensure the congregation is well-informed of the implications.
- A report will be submitted to the presbytery upon completion.

3. Meeting of the Congregation and Poll

- Upon approval by the presbytery, a meeting of the congregation shall be held.

- The presbytery will appoint a moderator for this meeting.
- For the process to continue according to these guidelines, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the active members present is needed. Failure to meet this threshold should cause concern for the requesting session and indicates the need for further discernment.

4. Presbytery Decision

- The final decision to dismiss lies with Presbytery of the Peaks. While these guidelines are not binding, the presbytery should consider them in its deliberations.
- A Separation Agreement will be negotiated and must be approved by the presbytery.

IV. Financial Terms of Separation

The following financial conditions should be met by the departing congregation:

1. Percentage of Financial Assets

- [Church Name] should remit ten percent (10%) of its total financial assets (defined as all unrestricted cash, investment accounts, other liquid financial holdings, and assessed value of real property as of the date of dismissal approval).
- Payment may be made over a period of [five (5) to ten (10)] years, according to a schedule mutually agreed upon in the Separation Agreement.

2. Covenant of Intent Value

- The congregation should continue contributing the Covenant of Intent amount (defined as the average annual giving toward presbytery mission and per capita over the previous three fiscal years).
- These payments should continue for a period of five (5) years following dismissal.

3. Property Considerations

- The presbytery may release its claim to church property provided the above financial terms are met. In such a case, a reversionary clause should be included in the quit claim to ensure that the church's obligations are met.

- In exceptional cases (e.g., disputed ownership, donor restrictions, historical or missional significance), the presbytery may require additional terms or retain property rights.

4. Default Clause

- If the congregation fails to fulfill its payment obligations, Presbytery of the Peaks reserves the right to pursue appropriate legal remedies, which may include reclaiming real or personal property.

V. Other Provisions

- Ecclesiastical Affiliation: The congregation must be dismissed to a Reformed denomination recognized by the PC(USA) as maintaining mutual recognition of ministry.
- Pastoral Leadership: Terms of call for installed pastors and status of minister members should be addressed as part of the Separation Agreement.
- Legal and Tax Considerations: Both the presbytery and congregation should obtain independent legal counsel prior to finalization.

VI. Conclusion

The aim of these guidelines is to ensure that separations occur in a spirit of faithfulness, transparency, and mutual respect. As stewards of Christ's Church, we commit to processes that preserve the witness of the gospel and serve the peace, unity, and purity of the church.

Signed:

Moderator of Presbytery of the Peaks: _____

Stated Clerk of Presbytery of the Peaks: _____

Clerk of Session, [Church Name]_____

Date of Approval: _____

REPORT OF THE EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE

We are bringing one candidate to the floor for the Presbytery Meeting. His Biographical Information and Statement of Faith are included.

- Rev. Jeffrey Schroeder to be ordained as a member of Peaks Presbytery and serve as pastor of Cumberland and Guinea Presbyterian Churches.

Jeffrey Schroeder Autobiographical Statement

I assumed the pastorate of Cumberland and Guinea Presbyterian Churches in the Spring of 2023. I am a native of Virginia and professed faith in Christ at the age of 9, sensed God's call to the ministry at the age of 12, preached my first sermon at the age of 13, and assumed my first pastoral responsibilities at the age of 19. I have been a minister now for over forty-two years.

I pursued my higher education in three countries, namely the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. I have extensive training in pastoral ministries, biblical studies, and doctrinal theology, having studied under internationally recognized ministers, biblical scholars, and theologians. I hold the B.S., M.A.R., M.Div., and S.T.M. degrees, the last mentioned from Yale University Divinity School. I pursued additional graduate work at the University of Toronto and the University of Oxford.

With a strong education, a photographic memory, and decades of public speaking experience, I am an effective preacher and educator. I have addressed audiences in eleven denominational settings in four countries. I have been featured on radio and television. I have pastored Baptist, Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, and Presbyterian congregations. I served, moreover, as the Senior Crisis Counselor and later as the Director of Communications of a national, faith-based crisis intervention helpline, as well as the Chaplain and then as the Director of Pastoral Care of a state-licensed adult assisted living facility and retirement community.

I am a veteran public historian, having served as a staff interpreter in a UK modern art museum and in a UK UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as in a US National Natural Landmark and in two US National Historical Landmarks. In these capacities, my employment included the roles of Lecturer, Head Guide, Senior Staff Historian, Education Specialist, Museum Curator, and Park Ranger. I am a member of the Appomattox-Petersburg Preservation Society, a Visiting Lecturer of Civil War History at Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park, and an authority on the Appomattox Campaign of the American Civil War. I specialize in the Battle of Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a Virginia Civil War Trails Site, and the same church I pastor.

My aim in life is to love Christ crucified and risen and to devote myself to the service of my Savior and Lord, confessing that the One who knows me best is the One who loves me most. I strive to share God's love in my outreach to other people. I warmly invite you to visit my Cumberland and Guinea services and events.

Jeffrey Schroeder

Statement of Faith

Within a community of faith, I stand in the legacy of the Protestant Reformation, a major corrective movement in 16th century Christianity. The Reformation has historically shaped numerous churches in many denominations. Though Christianity is the world's largest religion, I hold the conviction that Christianity, in its various forms, cannot be reduced to a mere system of human-made beliefs, rituals, and symbols about an alleged and otherwise unknown, transcendent other.

I affirm that the essence of the Christian experience is defined by embracing a personal and obedient relationship with Jesus Christ as universal Lord and Savior. I embrace Christ because Christ embraced me. My redemptive relationship with God is realized through His earthly life, death, and resurrection on my behalf.

The Christian Bible, when read through the Spirit's guidance in the corporate life of the church, is my authority on all matters of faith and practice. I actively embrace and publicly confess the essentials of the biblical witness as expressed in the ancient Apostles' and Nicene Creeds, affirmations of faith that have united Christians across the centuries.

I believe that the gospel, or the good news of Jesus Christ, has real consequences that are both spiritual and social. I find forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Christ, thereby making my relationship with God possible. My spiritual relationship with God brings with it a social responsibility to practically help people in need both near and far. I am called, thus, to love God wholeheartedly and to love other people as myself.

Within a community of believers, I publicly pose the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism and affirm the truth of its answer as it relates to me individually. Consider this question and answer.

"What is your only comfort, in life, and in death? That I belong -- body and soul, in life and in death-- not to myself, but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ, who at the cost of his own blood has fully paid for all my sins and has completely freed me from the dominion of the devil; that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, that everything must fit his purpose for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit, He also assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for Him."

So let it be in my life, may it be so in the lives of the people who belong to the Cumberland and Guinea congregations, and may it be such in your life as well.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That presbytery sustain the examination of Jeffrey Schroeder for transfer of his ordination to the PC(USA) as a Teaching Elder to serve the Cumberland and Guinea Presbyterian Churches.

REPORT OF THE CABINET

INFORMATION:

1. Held an in-person meeting on August 25, 2025 at Quaker Memorial PC.
2. Held a Zoom meeting on September 25, 2025 on Zoom.
3. Cabinet will lead Focus Groups at the October 23, 2025 meeting.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Approved the theme “BEE the Presbytery” for 2026 Presbytery Meetings.
2. Approved the following dates for 2026 Presbytery Meetings:

- **February 21 (Saturday)-Zoom (weather make-up date-March 7)**
- **May 21 (Thursday)-In-person**
- **August 20 (Thursday)- TBD**
- **October 22 (Thursday)-In-person**

3. Approved the October meeting docket.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That presbytery approve the Purpose and Priorities of the Presbytery of the Peaks.

Purpose & Priorities of the Presbytery of the Peaks 2025

Presbytery is the tie that binds our diverse contexts to share God's love by: Supporting, connecting, guiding, equipping, and resourcing congregations

Guided by prayer and the Holy Spirit, shaped by the teachings of Jesus & united in the Reformed tradition the Presbytery seeks to carry out our purpose through the following priorities:

Beloved Community:

fosters relationships, facilitates partnerships, enhances communication, builds trust, prays, and gathers regularly

Equipping the Saints

through education, leadership training, guidance, conflict resolution, the administration of grants, the sharing of ideas and technology, and communal worship

Expanding the Kingdom

through missional opportunities (near & far), sharing revitalizing resources, strengthening connections within the larger church, prayer, and facilitating faithful, generous stewardship.



Bee the Presbytery

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION

INFORMATION:

1. Held Zoom Meetings on July 8, 2025, July 15, 2025 and September 9, 2025.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

1. Approved the request of Amherst Presbyterian Church to sell property owned by the church.
2. Approved to designate from the Williamson Bequest to refund \$100,000 for Massanetta back to the financial sustainability fund, \$110,000 to the PCC and \$125,000 for the Forward in Faith project with the remainder of the funds moved to unrestricted funds.
3. Approved to empower the Financial Resources Subcommittee to invest and sequester the Newly Acquired assets funds in accordance with their judgement and the Task Force Report.
4. Approved the revision of the Stated Clerk Position description expanding the hours from 10 to 20 per week.
5. Approved the transfer of real property of Hermon Presbyterian Church to the Hermon Presbyterian Church Cemetery Corporation, with the requirement that conditional provisions be included in the articles of incorporation for the cemetery corporation ensuring the maintenance of Divine Worship in perpetuity for the life of Hermon PC and all legal due diligence for the conveyance continue to be done faithfully by the Session of HPC.
6. Approved a holiday closing for the office from December 22, 2025 to January 1, 2026.
7. Approved a 3% staff salary adjustment for 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the 2026 Budget as presented.

Presbytery of the Peaks
2026 Draft Budget

	Actual 9/30/2025	Approved 2025 Budget	Proposed 2026 Budget
Income			
Covenants of Intent	253,434	375,537	389,577
Mission Payments-Dismissed Churches		4,200	
Office Rent		1,200	
Financial Sustainability Fund (6.14%)	303,309	404,412	396,332
Missional Grant Fund (5.5%)	149,762	199,682	183,965
Camp Income	439		
Two Cents Justice & Mercy Funding	6,000	8,000	8,000
Miscellaneous	81	100	100
Total Income	713,025	993,131	977,974
Cabinet			
Cabinet Expense	894	200	500
Presbytery Meeting Expense	3113	5,500	1,300
Total Cabinet Expense	4007	5,700	1,800
Constitutional			
Moderator Expenses	83.4	1,400	1,400
Stated Clerk Expenses	10,008	14,746	400
Nominating Committee	0.40	100	100
Session Records Workgroup		100	
Sexual Misconduct Policy/Background Checks	16	300	200
Synod Unified & Per Capita	7,215	10,995	13,746
GA Unified & Per Capita Giving	59,779	103,641	103,187
Total Constitutional Expense	77,102	131,282	119,033
Administration			
Commission Expenses	311	250	350
Communications Expense	1,210	4,000	2,600
Telephone Expense	2,059		3,000
Postage	397		600
Property Expenses	3,986	12,000	5,500
Electric/Internet	3,441	3,600	4,500
Insurance	7,001	22,000	22,000
Office Contracts	9,043	14,000	14,000
Office Expenses	1,884	2,000	2,075
Presbytery Office Equipment	100	4,000	3,500
Audit Expense		15,000	15,500
Total Expenses Excluding Staff	29,431.08	76,850	73,625
Staff:			
General Presbyter & Acting GP Expense	100,287	153,452	150,000
Communications Director	35,352	60,895	52,344
Justice & Mercy Specialist	61,341	84,721	91,087
Church Leadership Specialist	53,972	73,614	55,939
Office Administrator	69,615	92,425	98,961
Accountant	54,022	70,662	86,878
Stated Clerk	0		50,793
Temporary Help	0	1,000	1,000
Office Staff Expenses	597	550	950
Search Committee Expenses	293	10,000	10,000
Total Staff Expense	375,479	547,319	597,952
Total Administration Expense	404,910	624,169	671,577
Commission on Ministry			
Commission Expenses	404	1,500	1,000
Congregations in Transition	14		
Grants	11,594	66,560	30,661
Total Commission on Ministry Expense	12,012	68,060	31,661

Presbytery of the Peaks
2026 Draft Budget

	Actual 9/30/2025	Approved 2025 Budget	Proposed 2026 Budget
Church Partnership			
CPC Expenses	216	600	300
Adaptive Church Partnership	4		
Higher Education Expenses (This comes from COI)	17,500	17,500	47,090
Grants designated for Higher Education expenses	17,818	29,500	
Scholarships	5,583		5,000
Curriculum Grants			2,500
Grants	21,000	37,060	22,062
Total Partnership Expense	62,120	84,660	76,952
Examinations Commission		100	100
Justice & Mercy			
Commission Expenses	91	100	200
Community Outreach Grants (This comes from COI)	12,500	12,500	31,000
CEDEPCA	20,250		27,000
Earth Care Grants	1,271		2,000
Grants	26,253	66,560	16,652
Total Justice & Mercy Expenses	60,366	79,160	76,852
Total Presbytery Expenses	620,516	993,131	977,974

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

INFORMATION:

1. Held Zoom Meetings on September 11, 2025 and September 23, 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That presbytery approve the following Teaching and Ruling Elders to the positions listed below.

Moderator:

David Smith RE 2026 Farmville

Vice-Moderator:

Russ Merritt TE 2026 Northminster

Cabinet:

Pam Claterbaugh RE 2028 Northminster

Commission on Administration:

Morgan Whitfield TE 2026 Moderator

Jonathan Moelker TE 2028 Campbell Memorial

Bruce Chase RE 2028 Radford

Commission on Ministry:

Anghaarad Teague Dees 2026 Moderator

Anghaarad T. Dees TE 2026 Quaker Memorial

Joyce Bolden RE 2026 Fifth Avenue

Dick Boswell CP 2027 Missional CP

Peter Thompson TE 2028 First, Lynchburg

Nancy Gray CP 2028 Missional CP

Jim Slate TE 2028 Retired

Jan McGilliard	CP	2028	Missional CP
Skip Hastings	TE	2028	Clifton Forge
Donna Britt	CP	2028	Buchanan

Constitutional Ministries Committee:

Betsy Soto	TE	2026	Moderator
Steve Willis	TE	2026	High Bridge
Jim Moss	TE	2028	McAllister Memorial
Ken Howard	RE	2028	Briery
Betsy Soto	TE	2028	Validated Ministry

Examinations Commission:

Linda Dickerson	2026	Moderator
Sydney Nordt	RE	2027 Salem
Chad McCain	TE	2028 Validated Ministry
Andrew Whaley	TE	2028 Raleigh Court

Church Partnership Commission

Isabella Fagiani	TE	2026	Moderator
Debra McKune	TE	2027	Retired
Sarah Eller	RE	2028	Salem
Jeff Garrison	TE	2028	Bluemont, Mayberry
Mike Whorley	CP	2028	Amherst
Steve Darr	TE	2028	Pearisburg
Kitty Hahn Campanella	TE	2028	Validated Ministry

Justice and Mercy Commission

Denise Pillow	RE	2026	Moderator
Holly Woodson	RE	2026	Northminster
Rachel Parson	RE	2027	Blacksburg
Kathy Carpenter	TE	2027	Member at Large
Jewel Aagaard	RE	2028	Covenant
Jude Swanson	TE	2028	Mt. Carmel
David Harrison	RE	2028	Second
George Wilson	TE	2028	Retired

Report of the Stated Clerk

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. FOR CONSENT AGENDA: That the minutes of the One-hundred thirty-eighth Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Peaks (June 26,2025) as reviewed by those persons designated by the Standing Rules, be approved.

2. FOR CONSENT AGENDA: That motions be reduced to writing and sent to the clerks' table before discussion.

3. FOR CONSENT AGENDA: That Pam Claterbaugh be appointed as recording secretary for the October 23, 2025 Stated Meeting.

4. That the docket and consent agenda be approved.

REPORT OF THE CHURCH PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION

INFORMATION:

Church Partnership Commission received reports on Higher Education ministries within the bounds of Peaks Presbytery.

1. Alliance for Excellence is overseen by Rev. Steve Daar supporting vulnerable students (minority or first gen college students) at our community colleges especially Virginia Western, Patrick Henry in Martinsville, Danville and Central. Commission funds have

gone to support an end of year banquet for these students, speakers/preachers at gatherings at the community college and in the neighborhoods where the students are from to enable their families to participate. Asked for our prayers for these vulnerable students.

2. Hampton Sydney asked for our prayers as they seek out a minister who will also serve as their college chaplain.
3. Dr. Marcia Thom Kaley, the DCE at First Pres Lynchburg, shared about a joint college ministry of students from University of Lynchburg, Sweetbriar, Randolph College, and even some Liberty students. She gathers these students together monthly for a meal, music, and a bible study. While she asked for our prayers, she also needs support from Lynchburg congregations to help lead the group.

CPC is in the process of updating grant application forms for Church Partnership and Church Redevelopment grants to make them more user friendly in the new year in addition to a new application to help churches purchase curriculum.

Curriculum Help – CPC approved to set aside \$2500 per year to help subsidize 75% of the cost of curriculum for a church so long as the church puts in the additional 25%. If this is a physical curriculum, then it can go on a list to be shared within the Presbytery so that other churches can also benefit from the resource. Be on the lookout for more information in the new year.

ACTIONS REPORTED:

1. Approved Church Partnership Grant for First Presbyterian Church of South Boston to help with a Mobile Blessing Bucket Packing Event of \$5,000.
2. Approved Church Partnership Grant for Piedmont Area Church Celebration this October for \$1,000
3. Approved reimbursing Covenant Pres and First Pres Lynchburg's Medical Mission Trip to Malawi of \$3,000.
4. Approved setting aside \$2500 of Grant Budget to support Christian Education efforts throughout the Presbytery
5. Approved Church Redevelopment Grant to Forest Presbyterian church to enhance their worship.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

REPORT OF THE JUSTICE AND MERCY COMMISSION

INFORMATION:

Updates from the Subcommittees

▪ Abukloi School, South Sudan Subcommittee

Abukloi Secondary School is blessed. Our gratitude goes to the Almighty God for the endless blessings bestowed upon us:

- Our Teachers that have kept on sharpening the minds of our student
- The Parents that continue to guide their children
- The Community and the Government that have kept the peace in Rumbek to allow our students study in a peaceful environment.
- The Donors of Abukloi Foundation: thank you for the resources you donate to us that have enabled us to meet the cost of educating the youth in South Sudan. We continue to pray to the Lord to bless you abundantly.

There have been various milestones and accomplishments but the outstanding ones are: Having all our students come back to school in great health, new classroom block constructed, Internet in the BOX installed at school for students and teachers to access learning materials on line, a 10 years strategic plan written down and continuation of the students feeding program that has not only improved the students health but also increased the learning hours and daily attendance of students. Other achievements include keeping a team of female and male qualified graduate teachers, continuous training for our teachers, opening up of school farms to teach farming skills to students and to boost their feeding, teaching our student life skills like soap making and tailoring and having 80 students sponsored by our donors in the sponsor a child project. Opening of the School Clinic has been a game changer. Having the best performing students in national examinations at state level has been one of the greatest accomplishments.

Despite the accomplishments mentioned above, the school still has challenges, namely:

- Limited classroom space to enroll more students
- Very high cost of feeding our students
- We have internet connection but lack the hardware like tablets and laptops
- Reference textbooks and science teaching aids are few
- Forced and early marriages are still affecting the girl child's stay in school.
- The tailoring program needs more sewing machines
- The clinic needs support with medicines.
- The sponsorship program should also support boys to promote equity and inclusivity in education.
- A most urgent need is to sponsor teachers (\$4200/year) so that we can retain the highly competent teachers who have continued to educate students who have achieved standings in the National School Exam. On the recent exam, Abukloi Secondary School boasted the #1 student in Lakes States followed by two students who ranked #5 and #6.

My appeal and asking point to our Donors is to provide both financial and material support to tackle the above mentioned challenges.

To all our donors, thank you for supporting Abukloi Foundation through donations and other programs like sponsoring a child in Abukloi Secondary School. As the School Principal, I promise that all the resources you contribute will be put to the right use.

Let's give a chance to young people to build their future through education. We are Abukloi – Together we can do it.

Dr. Isaiah Mutalemwa Lutashobya

Principal – Abukloi Secondary School.

Contact Beth Broschart, beth@abukloi.org

▪ **CEDEPCA Subcommittee**

The CEDEPCA subcommittee continues to meet monthly to keep all interested in what is going on at CEDEPCA apprised of their activities. We also offer support to them as we can. It is hoped that the subcommittee can expand so that more churches can have a representative that can disseminate the information first hand.

At recent meetings we learned about the team of 12 from both Peaks and the James Presbyteries who traveled to Guatemala and witnessed CEDEPCA's far-reaching ministry as they change people's lives. With a focus on Earth Care, the week included planting 100 trees in a reforestation project with church youth, delivering life-saving water filters to 110 families in the mountains, and distributing 25,000 vegetable seedlings to improve nutrition. There is no potable water in Guatemala so water must be purchased or boiled with fuel that is expensive and polluting.

They also shared God's love as they visited in homes, heard from women who had found new beginnings after surviving the genocide of the Armed Conflict and welcomed the native wisdom of a Mayan spiritual guide. Being invited into people's homes, sharing a meal, and talking to the recipients of the filters warmed their hearts!

CEDEPCA lost a very valued mission co-worker, Betsy Moe, who unfortunately has not been replaced as PC-USA has eliminated all co-workers. She and her family were a huge asset to CEDEPCA and it is hoped co-workers will soon be reinstated.

Today Give a gift that will save lives!

- A. Come to the display table for our Mission Partnership in Guatemala.
- B. See a replica of an ECOFILTER developed and manufactured in Guatemala. These very effective filters provide life-giving clean water for children and families.
- C. Make a donation for a complete filter or part of a filter and receive a colorful card which you can give to a friend or family member. The card explains that you have given an ECOFILTER as a gift in their honor. It will provide vital clean water to families in Guatemala through our Mission Partnership with CEDEPCA.

Because safe water is difficult to find in Guatemala one must either buy safe water or use a filter. Your alternative Christmas or birthday gift can save lives. Stop by the display table and make a life-saving gift to honor a loved one or friend.

Anniversary Mission Trip: July 13-20, 2026. Travel to Guatemala and experience our Mission Partnership. Save the date and celebrate the 40 years of Mission Partnership between CEDEPCA and Peaks Presbytery. See first-hand how the Mission Partnership is changing lives—with clean water, vegetable seeds for better nutrition, outreach to teen girls and boys, and always the training of lay pastors and leaders of small churches through scripture and the powerful message of God's good news through Jesus.

Come to Guatemala and experience God at work through the Mission Partnership. We have a strong Mission Partnership with CEDEPCA which changes hearts and minds and opens eyes to new realities and deeper faith. God may be calling you to consider this mission trip and this opportunity to grow in faith and service. For more information contact Bob Fiedler, rev.rafiiedler@gmail.com or Teresa Auldridge tauldridge@gmail.com

- **Grants: Community Outreach Block Grants, Earth Care Grants, Justice and Mercy Grants, and Two-Cents-A-Meal Grants**
 - As of October 7, 2025, 38 Block, Earth Care, and JMC applications received, \$103,721.68 requested, \$78,860 available to award.
 - Grants Subcommittee to meet in October to review final (2025) twenty or so Two-Cents-A-Meal grant applications (October 1 deadline).
 - Earth Care Grant application deadline was October 1 and JMC Grant application deadline October 15, JMC and Earth Care will review any remaining grant requests in November.
 - **Mark Your 2026 Calendar:** Next year, there will be 3 deadlines for Earth Care and JMC grant applications – **February 1, May 1, and October 1, 2026**; JMC grant requests typically range from \$500 to \$2,500 and Earth Care from \$200-\$400. Community Outreach Grant application deadline is **February 1, 2026** and requests are limited to \$2,000.
 - Two-Cents-A-Meal Grant application deadlines are: **April 1 and October 1, 2026.**

Respectfully,
Denny Casey, Chair
Justice and Mercy Commission

**Administrative Commission Report
Forest Hills Presbyterian Church Martinsville, VA
October 23, 2025**

Since the formation of the Administrative Commission in March of 2025, it has been a labor of love from both the church and the commission to discern the next steps in the spiritual journey of its members and pastor forward. Forest Hills has had a long history of community activism and interfaith cooperation in the Martinsville area. Such projects as serving as a “warming center” for the homeless, multiple ecumenical joint worship services, and care for an ailing world, Forest Hills has served Christ and this community well. Although an aging congregation and declining membership has made it difficult to financially maintain operating expenses indefinitely, the ministry mission will continue.

This community has taken remarkable care of the church, pastors, and members. Some natural grief for the loss of the church building will not overshadow the continued Christian Spirit living on from Forest Hills since its inception.

Actions Taken:

1. Forest Hills has agreed it is time to relinquish the facility to Peaks Presbytery through a Quit Claim Deed by October 31st, 2025. The real property and including all structures within, carry no liens and will be deeded to Peaks Presbytery as agreed to by the Session and its remaining members as of September 2025.
2. Forest Hills will maintain full use of the property, and all decisions for its use, until February 1, 2026 when its pastor retires. Forest Hills further agrees to pay for all operating expenses, including payroll and staff, through the February 1 date. All late coming bills for services during the period mentioned will also be paid for by Forest Hills. As a final financial obligation Forest Hills agrees to pay landscaping maintenance fees through April 2026.
3. A community celebration of service honoring the church and its retiring pastor Rev. Cheryl Peeples will be provided by the commission on February 1, 2026.

Recommendation:

1. **FOR CONSENT AGENDA:** That presbytery dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks

What good work God has started in Forest Hills is anxiously awaiting the next chapter of countless opportunities for the future.

Respectfully submitted in Christ service,
Rev. Mark Hinchcliff
Rev. John Weiderholt
Elder Martha Sherwood

REPORT OF THE JAMESTOWN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Date of Report – September 8, 2025

Effective Date of Dissolution – September 8, 2025

CONTEXT and HISTORY: Established 1822 as James Town Meeting House along the Appomattox River in Prince Edward County. Congregation moved to a building purchased from Pisgah Baptist Church, located closer to the village of Rice along route 619 in 1924 while the present church was constructed. In 1928 local history reports three Baptist men followed their three Presbyterian wives to begin worship in the Jamestown Presbyterian Church which still contains the pews and furnishings from the original meeting house. Although under the direction of Farmville Presbyterian Church, most often the pulpit was filled by professors and seminary students from Hampden-Sydney College. Meanwhile the first congregation of High Bridge Baptist Church utilized the original building for worship and shared a cemetery at that location until they also moved closer to Rice. Today these two congregations still share a Covenant of Mutual Purpose. As the Jamestown congregation dwindled and was unable to afford a minister, Full Circle School was established to help meet expenses. As this folded, members continued to gather and support each other until other places of worship were located. Although requesting to be dissolved by the Presbytery of the Peaks, Jamestown remains a place smiled upon by God.

FORMATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION (AC)

Formed July 26, 2025 at meeting of the Presbytery and given the necessary powers to act on Presbytery's behalf to dissolve the congregation.

Authority included: meeting with session, securing session records, generally doing what was reasonably necessary to complete the dissolution.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY AC

Held 2 meetings with existing session

Visited the present church location

Received records, congregational rolls, historical information from the church

Dissolved the congregation of Jamestown Presbyterian Church effective September 8, 2025.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **FOR CONSENT AGENDA-** That records be returned to the Jamestown Cemetery Association, LLC once they have been digitalized by the Historical Society

2. **FOR CONSENT AGENDA-** That presbytery dissolve the Administrative Commission with thanks.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

INFORMATION:

- The 37th Annual Gathering of PW in the Presbytery of the Peaks took place September 13, at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roanoke. Forty-two individuals participated in the Annual Gathering, and 17 churches were represented. The morning was filled with inspiration, information, music, fun, food, and fellowship.
- Following a welcome from Russ Merritt, pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church, Janet Chisom, Associate Pastor at Trinity Ecumenical Parish, led attendees in morning devotions.
- The theme for the Annual Gathering, “From Hopeless to Hopeful: The Plight and Resilience of Refugees from Afghanistan – Especially Women,” was discussed by three individuals: Dr. Scott Bailey, Co-Founder and President of the Board of Directors of the Blacksburg Refugee Partnership; Jordan Kane, Supervisory Analyst for the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction; and Sarah Hyska, PW Racial Equity/Justice and Peace Representative and Co-Director of Haven on Garland.
- An offering of \$628.01 was received to benefit the Eastern Appalachian Teen Challenge, a residential and private school for adolescent girls who struggle with life controlling issues.
- During the business portion of the Gathering, attendees approved the Peaks PW budget for 2026, approved some bylaws amendments, and elected new PW leaders for the 2025-2026 year.
- Pam Snyder, National Moderator of the Presbyterian Women, Inc., Board of Directors, installed the new PW leaders and affirmed those continuing in office:
 - Moderator – Shelda Wills
 - Vice Moderator – Janet Rakes
 - Secretary – Natasha Lowe
 - Treasurer – Theresa Underwood
 - Historian – Betty Oliver
 - Missions Coordinator – Diane Patty
 - Racial Equity/Justice & Peace Representative – Sarah Hyska
 - Moderator of the Search Committee – Pam Claterbaugh
 - Search Committee Member – Gail McCullough
 - Search Committee Member – Janice Wells
 - Search Committee Member – Elease Wilson
 - Neighborhoods Coordinator – Laura Crumbley
- Local PW Moderators and Contact Persons will soon receive the Presbyterian Women Fall Packet of various forms that need to be completed and returned to assist the Peaks Coordinating Team in its planning.
- The Coordinating Team will meet November 1 to begin making plans for 2026.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. No recommendations

REPORT OF THE SESSION RECORDS WORK GROUP

INFORMATION:

- The Session Records Work Group continues to receive and review both past and current Session Minutes. Please see the following pages for the quarterly report showing the running record of Session Minutes submitted for review.
- Past or current sets of Session Minutes may be submitted for review at any time. Please note, however, that **2024 Session Minutes are due for review during 2025**. The Work Group reviews Session Minutes alphabetically by church name. The remaining schedule for the **review of 2024 Session Minutes in 2025** is as follows:
 - October 23 – Churches with names beginning with F-M
- When the Presbytery of the Peaks is unable to meet in person, churches are asked to **EITHER mail hard copies** of the Minutes (no binders, please), along with a completed “Session Records Review Form,” to Shelda Wills, Session Records Work Group Chair, Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, 107 West Main Street, Christiansburg, VA 24073, **OR email digital copies** of the Minutes, along with the completed “Session Records Review Form,” to swills@usit.net. Contact Shelda with questions. **Churches should NOT send Minutes to the Presbytery Office!**
- Materials to assist Clerks of Session in their duties are available online through the Presbytery website at www.peakspresbytery.org. Click on “Resources”; then click on “Forms & Documents”; then click on “Session Records” to view these materials. The “Session Records Review Form” is available there for download.

ACTIONS REPORTED:

1. The Session Records Work Group continues to review Session Minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. No recommendations

**✓ = Session Minutes Received and Reviewed
(as of October 9, 2025)**

Name of Church	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Name of Church	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Altavista	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Covenant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Amherst	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Covington, First	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Appomattox CH								Cumberland	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Appomattox PE	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Danube	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Arvon								Danville, First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Beale Memorial								Davis Memorial							
Bedford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Diamond Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Belmont								Douglas	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belspring								Drakes Branch	✓						
Berry Hill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Fairlawn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bethlehem	✓							Falling Spring	✓						
Blacksburg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Farmville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Bluemont	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Fellowship							
Briery	✓	✓	✓	✓				Fifth Avenue							
Brookneal	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	Fincastle	✓						
Browns								Floyd	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buchanan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Buffalo								Forest Hills	✓	✓			✓		
Campbell Memorial	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		Fork Union							
Chatham	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	Gethsemane							
Christiansburg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Grace	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clarksville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Hat Creek							
Clifton Forge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Hermon	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	High Bridge	✓						
Collinsville, First	✓							Holbrook Street	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Colonial	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Jamestown						✓	
Concord								Kayser Memorial		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cool Spring								Kentuck	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Coolwell								Low Moor	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Name of Church	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Name of Church	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Lynchburg, First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			Quaker Memorial	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Madisonville	✓							Radford	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mallow	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		Raleigh Court	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Martinsville, First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Roanoke							
Mary Horner Walker	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Roanoke, Second							
Massies Mill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Roanoke Valley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mayberry	✓	✓			✓			Rocky Mount	✓						✓
Maysville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Rough Creek							
McAllister Memorial	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Rustburg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Meherrin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Saint Andrew	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Memorial	✓							Salem	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mercy Seat				✓				Sinking Spring							
Mizpah	✓	✓	✓	✓				South Boston, First	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Montvale								Trinity, Arvonnia							
Mount Carmel	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Trinity Ecumenical	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Narrows, First							✓	Unity							
New Concord	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		Village	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Dublin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Villamont	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Store	✓							Virginia							
Northminster	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	West End	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Westminster							
Oak Level	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Williamson Memorial	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oak View	✓														
Old Brick	✓	✓	✓												
Old Concord	✓	✓													
Peaks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Pearisburg	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓								
Phenix															
Pisgah															
Pulaski, First	✓							Totals	83	63	61	63	63	52	43

Grand Total of Minutes Reviewed from 2002-2024 = 2,130

Total includes: 115 (2002), 117 (2003), 117 (2004), 113 (2005), 122 (2006), 122 (2007), 117 (2008), 113 (2009), 107 (2010), 104 (2011), 102 (2012), 94 (2013), 91 (2014), 95 (2015), 88 (2016), 85 (2017)

Dismissed: Berry Hill, Bethel, Bouldin Memorial, Dublin, Elon, Falling Spring (Alleghany County), First (Roanoke), Galatia, Matthews Memorial, New Hope, Northminster (Madison Heights), Piedmont, Providence, Rivermont, Slate Mountain, Spring Garden (Danville area), Walker's. **Closed by Presbytery:** Clarktown, Covenant (Lynchburg), Laurel Grove. **Merged:** Green Ridge with Northminster, Shelton Memorial with Unity. **Dissolved:** Glasgow, Glen Wilton, Harmony, Holmes Memorial, Peace, Rustburg, Trinity (Ridgeway).