



## CONFIRMATION CLASS 2017



This amazing group of young people not only professed their faith publicly by sharing their faith statements when introduced to the congregation on June 11th, but they also led both worship services. Each of you is challenged to write a statement about what you believe. Are you up for the challenge? Read their statements and then take some time to write one of your own.



Hello, I'm Alex.

I have been attending FUPCDC for as long as I remember. For the longest of times Jesus has been ingrained in my life. Trying to think about a time without Jesus is like trying to think about a time without a home; it's simply impossible for a person like me.

John 11:35 "Jesus wept". This proves Jesus was human -- one of you, one of me, one of us. We aren't that different. It is important to recognize that Jesus is human to better understand his struggles.

Our religion has three parts built in, different but one of the same. God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The guiding hand, the human preacher, and God within us all.

The Father -- a guiding hand. Creator of heaven and earth. When people think of God they think of the Father ; however the Father is only the first part in the holy trinity.

Jesus is more than a friend, more than a leader. He is an example, one to follow when you have no place else to go. Jesus is human, while at the same time divine. He is the great empathizer. He made the ultimate sacrifice for our wrong doings, our sins.

The Holy Spirit is God working through people. It is working in the person

who helped you on your way, yet also what gave you the strength to help others. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the holy trinity.

A sacrament is a time of celebration within the church. As Presbyterians we have two sacraments.

Baptism is the invitation of a new member to join the church by wetting their head with water. It is the time when all members of the church vow to properly raise a child of Christ with the teachings of God.

A time to remember what Jesus did, to think and meditate on the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. The Lord's Supper is the second sacrament.

At our church we have two services. The early traditional service, as well as the later contemporary service. I've grown up going to both types, so my favorite is the unity service, when we all come together as one diverse congregation. I enjoy the unity service because I can enjoy the choir, organ, praise band, and piano. While all in the same hour hearing a sermon, and seeing all our friends from church.

*Continued next page.*

To be a member of the church means to have proven your knowledge of the church, to be an active voter in congressional meetings. Or that's what some people would say. It may not be the exact definition of a member of the church, but to me a member is a person who regularly attends and truly believes. This congregation has helped me develop as a Christian my entire life. Because of your guidance, as a youth, I have wanted to give back to the world through Mission Trips.



#### A Journey To My Faith

My name is Alberta Kyeretwie. I attend Northern Virginia Community College. I was baptized by Pastor Bob. The first time I heard about Jesus Christ was from my Mother Akosua Kwakye. My mother would have us read the bible every night when we were children stopping to ask us what the Word meant to us. In a way it made me understand as I was growing older how Faith in God and Jesus Christ is important. I am now nineteen years old and I have been attending First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City for nineteen years. I believe God gives us wisdom through the bible. Also God is the Almighty Father and creator of heaven and earth. I believe in God's son, Jesus Christ. Fully man and fully divine, it is Him that I worship. I believe He died for my sins. I believe I can talk to Him when my loved ones are not there through prayer. I believe He rose again on the third day after He was crucified giving me a promise of eternal life. I believe in the Holy Spirit who protects and guides me.

The two sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's supper holds a special place in my heart because as it shows the forgiveness of our sins. The fact that Jesus Christ, forever my Lord and Savior died on the cross, shows he truly cares for me. The Lord's Supper has the bread

which the body is broken and the wine for the blood Christ shed, was for the forgiveness of sins, and for God to continue adding grace in our lives.

My favorite bible verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I feel I have applied this bible verse to my life especially when I am having struggles. This bible verse used to be my lockscreen throughout my senior year in high school because there were so many challenges I have faced. Coming to First United Presbyterian Church has made me stronger than I was my senior year. Friendships and relationships were broken and I did not know what to do. After I looked at Philippians 4:13 I knew everything was going to be okay. After I went to Chrysalis, it made me want to read the bible more. My favorite story from the bible is "Jesus Walks On Water". This story is when Jesus wanted to test his disciples faith as Peter was looking at Jesus and walked out of the boat to walk into the water his eyes was on Jesus, but the second he looked off he fell in. To me, this story meant to have faith and trust into everything you do because if you have Jesus then he will provide you the way. Jesus is the source and the light.

Worship is important to me because it shows a way with God. Worship is to love, honor, and give thanks to what he has done for us. The service I prefer is Contemporary Service because I enjoy singing hymns and it makes me feel at peace and I can speak to God one on one. What it means to be a member of this church is to happily accept that the Lord is my favor and also helping and doing God's work from my heart. How I plan to serve in church is to be apart of mission trips, which I enjoy. Taking part in doing God's work helps me get closer to him and what I want is to grow a stronger bond with Him and me. I want to thank Pastor Jeri and the Congregation for leading me to the right path.

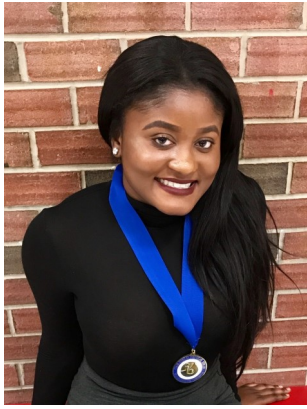


#### Nana Kyeretwie - Faith Statement

I remember my first encounter with Jesus was through my mom as a kid and she continued to strengthen my belief in Christ. A memory that I remember is that once before she went to work she said that if we pray that we would get what we need, I thought she said play and I went around telling my siblings that she said if we play we would get stuff. Luckily my mom forgot something and stopped the house from being destroyed. My favorite bible story is David and the Goliath and it's been my favorite for a long time due to the fact that it proves anything can be done through God, even if no one else believes in you as long as you have faith anything can be done. My favorite verse also goes along with this as it is from one of David's psalms. Psalm 118 verse 6: "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"

I believe in God, The Father, The creator of life and the world. Through his mercy and grace he gave his only son to die for us and helped us through the many hardships of life. I believe in His son, Jesus Christ, The Redeemer who give his life in order to cleanse me of my sins; due to his love for humanity he went through great pain. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Counselor who shows me right from wrong and allows me to take the path of good then that of sin.

I believe that the church is the house of God and a place in which all can gather to praise God's work. The church is also the place in which many can work in God's name by helping the community and anyone in need by doing mission trips, the packing of food, and other things. The church also stands as a foundation for all in their faiths as they continue to learn the scripture. The role of Christians is to not only to praise God and spread the word but also to support those who are learning among you as this congregation has always done. Communion is when we eat the body of Christ in order to maintain connection with God.



Hello, my name is Stephanie Kyeretwie and I am the daughter of Akosua Kwakye, who is a member at this church—First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. My parents are from Ghana and I am a Gar-field High School senior, who will be attending James Madison University next fall. To begin with, I first learned about, from what I can remember – when I was a toddler, my mother use to gather my siblings and I up in a circle and talk to us about Jesus and read the bible to us, however, I was not able to fully comprehend who Jesus was until about 10 years old when I attended bible school.

I have been attending First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City for about 17 to 18 years because a few months after I was born – I was baptized here by Pastor Bob. My favorite story is the story of Job because sometimes God tests our faith and even when bad things come, God always has a plan.

We all can relate to the story because I know sometimes we think God is not there through the hard times but God is always there! He always has a plan. God’s plan is always the right plan! My favorite verse in the bible is Philippians 4:13- “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” because whenever I feel insecure I just always remember this quote and I know that God is on my side.

I believe that God, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are there to protect and guide us into the journey that life brings. Furthermore, I believe that Jesus, God’s one and only son died for our sins and I am very grateful.

Furthermore, the two sacraments of Baptism and The Lord’s Supper hold significant value to me because of how important they are to us as Christians. The Lord’s Supper symbolizes our acceptance of the body and the blood of Jesus that was spilled and body that was broken for us. Moreover, baptism signifies the purification and regeneration of the church. Overall, the two sacraments serve to highlight and advance our faith as Christians.

Worship is important to me because it helps me grow closer to God and always serves as a solution to my problems. Being a member of the church is very meaningful to me because I grew up in this church. Also, I prefer going to the contemporary worship service because it has music that I sing along to and I have heard on the radio and it is upbeat! Overall, I just want to thank the congregation as well as Pastor Jeri for the opportunity to present the faith statement.



I’m Reagan Smith and I have been attending FUPCDC my entire life. God and Jesus have been part of my life for as long as I can remember. Growing up I was told amazing stories about God and all of the wonderful things he does. I was amazed at stories like David and Goliath in the Book of 1 Samuel, 17:1 -25:7. I was fascinated by the fact that something that was impossible could be achieved if you have God on your side.

I believe that God left his one and only son to Earth to die for our sin. I believe that God is amazing and that it is important to serve God in every way possible. I believe that God is the Creator of the heavens and Earth.

I believe that as a Christian it is important to worship with others. I like the traditional service because I feel that I am closer to God when I worship him in that way.

The Sacraments of the church are an important to me.. I was baptized in this Church. I know that when I confess my sins and ask for forgiveness that my wrongdoings are washed away. When I participate in Communion, I am following the Christian tradition of accepting Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior that goes back to the very beginning of Christianity. When I do good deeds, such as feeding the hungry along with other church members during the 30 hour famine, I am practicing my faith and following the example Jesus has set and also following his teachings. It’s very important to me to become a member of the church because I have grown up with the church. I plan to serve the Church by going on mission trips to spread the Good News and the word of God.



**Each youth has a heart for mission.  
Four of them are in Lexington, KY  
for the youth mission trip.  
The other is at Girl Scout camp.  
WOW!**

***Blessings for the journey, Confirmation Class of 2017!  
We love you and you are in the prayers of many!***

## Session Report — June Session Meeting

At its June meeting, the Session approved changes to the 2017 budget based on information from the committees about their spending thus far and the recommendations from the Finance and Administration committee.

Session approved a new cleaning contract as recommended by the Building and Grounds committee. The charter of the Congregational Connections committee was also approved.

Fund raiser activities for various committees and the Little Hands Preschool for the 2017 - 2018 program year were approved following the Stewardship committee's clearance.

The church hallways look cleaner and brighter after the Peace Church painted them recently. Another enhancement is the Prayer Garden in the front of the church near the driveway, an Eagle Scout project organized and carried out by Spence Perry. A dedication ceremony will take place in the fall. Please visit and enjoy this quiet space.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

## Children's Ministry

### Summer Hours:

Kidz Church at 9:45 AM & 11:00 AM will be on Summer Break during July and August. Nursery will be available for children through five years old\*. Older children will attend worship with parents. Worship bags are available in the Narthex. **\*Please note: There are situations where older children are permitted in the Nursery. Those situations are: children whose parents serve during the Worship hour (Sound board, Audio/Visual and Worship Leaders).**

Vacation Bible School is coming during the week of July 17-21. Children will really use their imaginations as we travel to Ancient Rome to spend time with Paul and the Underground Church.

Registration is OPEN until Sunday, July 9th. A letter will be sent the week prior providing parents with information on VBS. Please join us on this adventure!

**VBS is a volunteer run program. We need volunteers! We are seeking a teacher and one teen to join Ms. Mayra in teaching our 4 and 5 year olds. We are seeking two adults to teach and one teen to assist with Grades Kindergarten—Fifth grade. Please see Becky George, VBS Director, if you are able to help!**



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City  
Vacation Bible School Registration Form 2017  
July 17-21  
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Open to children ages 4 -11. Limited space is available for age 4 group**

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Rising Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Photos and Videos will be taken to capture the fun during the week.  
Please indicate whether or not photos are OK.

**PHOTOS/VIDEOS? YES** \_\_\_\_\_ **NO** \_\_\_\_\_

Return forms to:

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City  
Attn: Children's Ministry  
14391 Minnieville Road  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

or scan and email to: [children@fupcdc.org](mailto:children@fupcdc.org).

Please contact Becky George for questions or information at [children@fupcdc.org](mailto:children@fupcdc.org)



# Adult Ministry

***“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.” - Matthew 25:35***

## **Expand Your Circle!**

This summer as you're enjoying a little down time, traveling, and welcoming guests into your home take a moment to consider those who are outside your "circle". We all need time to relax and enjoy our friends and family, but this year let's leave openings for God to work in. How can you expand your "circle"? Start by setting an extra place at the table, either at your next gathering or in your heart, and ask God to help you be a blessing to someone new. Put your trust in Him and His blessings will abound for you both!

## **Growing in Love, Faith, and Joy Through Bible Study and Fellowship**

### **Sunday mornings at 9:45AM:**

The Book of Acts: Join Rev. Dr. Larry Greenslit in the Triple Room as he continues to explore the Book of Acts and the beginning of the Christian Church.

### **Summer Sunday Seminars starting on July 9th in Room 22:**

Each week we will watch and then discuss a different video in the "Alpha with Nicky Gumbel" DVD series. Attend one or all of them and feel free to bring your middle and high school aged youth. Topics include: "Is There More to Life than This?", "Why Did Jesus Die?", "What Does the Holy Spirit Do?".

### **Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM:**

Come join us at Marti Hall's home for "A study of I & II Thessalonians, Children of the Day" by Beth Moore. All are welcome, just contact Marti at [martihall@comcast.net](mailto:martihall@comcast.net).

### **Wednesday Night Movies!**

If you're missing Wednesday Night Alive this summer you'll be happy to know we have two pot-luck movie nights just for you! Come at 6PM with a simple supper casserole, salad, or dessert to share (We'll provide eating utensils, drinks.) so we can eat together. Then at 7PM we'll watch a movie together. Expand your circle and invite a friend!

**July 19th: Family friendly movie for all ages (probably "How to Train Your Dragon")**

**August 16th: Adult and Youth friendly movie (probably "Luther" 2013 with Joseph Fiennes)**

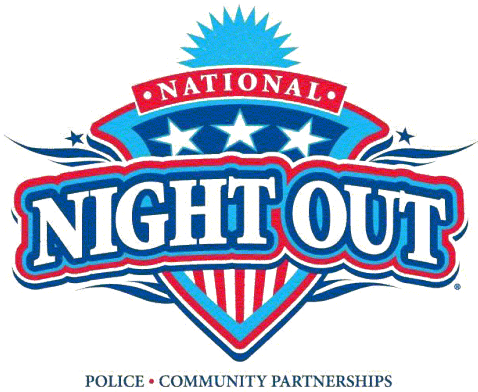
### **Growing in Discipleship through Small Groups:**

**Prayer and Praise Team:** Meets for prayer and praise at 3:00PM every Thursday. Led by Sue Johnson in the church library. **Devotional Fitness:** We are taking a break for the summer and will resume in late September.

**Spreading the Warmth:** Meets monthly on the third Monday at 7:00PM in the Church Library to knit and crochet items to share with those in need. Led by Elizabeth Glycer.

*Submitted by: Nancy Hummer, Adult Education Elder*

## Mission and Outreach

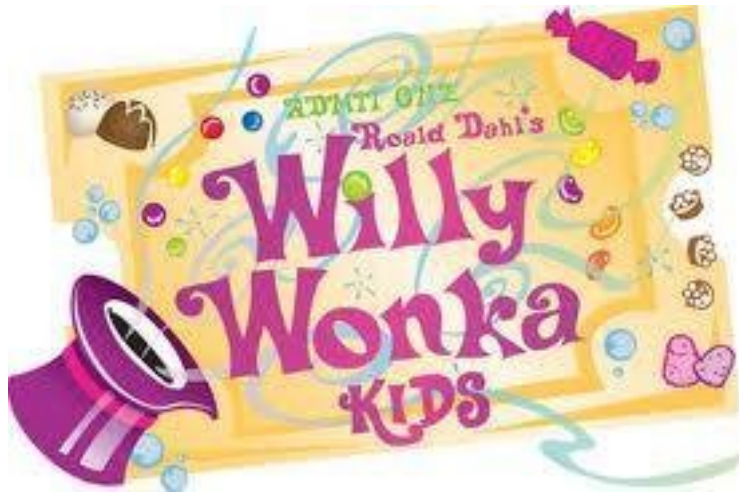


**National Night Out Tuesday, August 1st  
5:00 PM—8:30 PM**

SAVE the date....on the evening of August 1st ,the Mission and Outreach Committee will be hosting National Night Out in honor of national crime prevention. There will be snacks, music, and Prince William County Police members to discuss how to keep safe in your home, job, or everyday events. Please plan to join us and bring friends. More information to follow in the weekly bulletins.

## Lighthouse Drama Camp

Lighthouse Drama Camp invites everyone to join them on Friday, July 14th at 6:00 PM! The children are busy rehearsing and are looking forward to showcase their talents with Willy Wonka! We hope you can join us!



**GOD invented hugs to let people know that you love them without saying anything.**



# A BIG THANK YOU

## TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED TO KEEP THE CHURCH CLEAN FOR THE LAST 6 MONTHS!!!

Sometimes it takes a whole village to raise a child. Sometimes it takes dedicated people to come clean the church every week until a cleaning contract is secured. And so, in particular, we say a big thank you to the following people who were so faithful in their commitment to help keep the church clean and ready for Sunday mornings. God bless you! If we missed your name, our apologies. Know you are appreciated.



- Tim Camus
- Scott Camus
- Gloria Coffield
- Homer Detrich
- Jon Guest
- Victoria Guest
- Gaylene Guest
- Mike Gundel
- Karen Gundel
- Kim Parker
- Pastor Jeri
- Preschool staff



*Good News*

**A contract with a professional cleaning company has been approved by the Session.**

The group started this past week and, seemingly, is off to a great beginning.

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY**



Saying good-bye is never easy. Over the last few months we have said good-bye to a number of faithful members and friends. Know we miss you and love you and hope you will stop by if ever in the area.

- \* Don Brodie—moved to Oklahoma
- \* Barbara, Richard and Gabby Bushby—moved to Canada (job transfer)
- \* Guilaine Fowka—moved to Ohio
- \* Tim and Kay Ketchum—moved to Williamsburg
- \* Julia and Ju Kim—moved to Fairfax
- \* Jane MacDonald—moved to Colorado
- \* Dave and Kathy Markley—moved to North Carolina
- \* Kathy Morton—moved to Fredericksburg (*We will miss her faithful care providers.*)
- \* Shaira, Ramon, Gavin Trevino—moved to Texas
- \* Toni (Mariani) Ward—moved to California
- \* And now we say good-bye to Myra Annan—moving to South Carolina



**The Jubilation Handbell choir treated Myra to a special lunch in Stafford and presented her with an engraved crystal bell.**



**GOD  
BLESS  
YOU**

# Eagle Scout Project—Memorial Garden

As an Eagle Scout project, church member and Boy Scout, Spence Perry has made a memorial garden on the right side of the church in the trees near the mailbox. It is a beautiful place for peaceful prayer, meditation, and contemplation. Thank you to everyone who donated a brick for the Memorial Garden.



# PENTECOST SUNDAY

**A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF MUSIC  
You are indeed blessed with the quality of music at FUPCDC!**



**Chancel, Notes of Salvation, Jubilation Handbells**



**Notes of Salvation**



**Jubilation Handbells**



**Children's Choir**



**Looks like everyone got the same message to wear red.**

## **Congratulations to Our Graduates**

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. – Jeremiah 29:11*

### **High School**

#### **Elizabeth Green**

Osbourn Park High School  
Future Plans: George Mason University  
Physical Therapy

#### **Dylan Gundel**

Garfield High School  
Future Plans: NOVA and Stardom!

#### **Austin Judy**

Forest Park High School  
Future Plans: College - Newberry, SC,  
Nursing

#### **Justin Judy**

Lexington, SC High School

#### **Stephanie Kyeretwie**

Garfield High School  
Future Plans: James Madison University,  
Medical Sciences

#### **Rob Palisin**

Osbourn Park High School  
Future Plans: Virginia Tech, Engineering

#### **Elizabeth Swetz**

Forest Park High School  
Future Plans: Christopher Newport University

#### **Rachel Washburg**

Woodbridge High School  
Future Plans: George Mason University

#### **Emily Weatherholtz**

Osbourn Park High School  
Future Plans: Christopher Newport University, So-  
cial Work, Elementary Education

#### **Henry Wilson**

High School – Homeschool  
Future Plans: Christopher Newport University,  
Future Plans: Working at Amazon  
General Studies

#### **Collin Judy**

Auto & Diesel Mechanic Certification,  
Ohio Technical College  
Future Plans: Working at Malloy Group,  
Woodbridge, VA

### **College**

#### **Scott Camus**

George Mason University  
Bachelor of Arts in History  
Future Plans: Leesylvania Park - summer work,  
Christian Life! Job Hunting

#### **Morelle Fokwa**

College of William and Mary  
Bachelor of Science in Biology  
Future Plans: Gap Year to work, Medical School

#### **Paige Palisin**

University of Mary Washington  
English Major/Geospatial Information Minor  
Future Plans: University of Mary Washington,  
Geospatial Systems Analysis Master’s Degree

### **Other**

#### **Collin Judy**

Auto & Diesel Mechanic Certification,  
Ohio Technical College  
Future Plans: Working at Malloy Group,  
Woodbridge, VA

#### **David Gibbs**

Cisco CCENT Certification



# MONTREAT CONFERENCE CENTER

This year, for the first time in years, part of the music staff attended the Worship and Music Conference at Montreat, located near Black Mountain, North Carolina. Justin and Chris and Becca are excited about their experience. Perhaps next year some more people will be able to attend. The site is beautiful. It is a place to experience God, learn, and unwind from the busyness of life.





**Nothing like a glass of ice tea following an inspiring workshop!!!**

**Until next year...**





## Youth Mission Trip in Pictures (so far)



Youth Mission team is currently serving in Lexington, KY. These are pictures from just the first couple of days!



## More Youth Mission Trip in Pictures (so far)



## Yet More Youth Mission Trip in Pictures (so far)



These are but a few of the pictures that have been taken. Please check out the church Facebook for many more!

Photo credits: Cathy Albrecht, Amy Greenslit, and Ruth Washburg

# State of the Presbytery

The State of the Presbytery overall is pretty good. Compared with other Presbyteries across the country we are one of the best. We could be better however.



Some information:

In the standard Statistical reports we have 22 churches out of 89 reporting that indicated net growth last year. Percentagewise that is 24% of our congregations which saw numerical growth in membership. This is compared to 40 which reflected growth last year (with closer to 100 churches reporting) and 42 which reported growth the year before.

We have been seeing an average total membership reduction of about 400 members a year over the past several years. This last year we have seen a reduction of 826 members from those churches reporting. This dip is roughly twice what it has been over the last few years.

In years past we have received statistical reports from almost every congregation. This year 19 congregations did not submit statistical reports at all. 43 congregations gave no information about their financial receipts. Measuring the State of the Presbytery is not possible unless we have every church's statistical report. Please make plans now to complete this report next January. Jan Moody has assumed the position of Assistant to the Stated Clerk and will be asking for you to complete the online report next January. She, Sara Coe and I are eager to help you get online and complete these reports every January. We especially need membership figures, attendance records, and financial reports.

Of those churches reporting we see that the Presbytery has 20.4% non-majority (i.e. non-Caucasian) membership.

We speak twelve different languages in worship on a Sunday. We may be the most linguistically diverse Presbytery in the General Assembly.

Over the last five years our work has been guided by certain emphases which were derived from our Mission Statement. In the future look for a report measuring our accomplishments in those areas over the past five years. Also, the extent of our mission activity can be seen in the numerous Mission Videos which can be found on the Presbytery webpage and in the Mission Highlights bulletin inserts and short videos. One of the roles of a Presbytery commissioner is the communication of the range of Presbytery mission to the Session and congregation. Our webpage gives you every tool you need to communicate that mission. Please promote the use of these resources in your congregations.

We approved a new Mission Statement at the Last Presbytery meeting with a new set of mission emphases to direct our common work over the next five years. The previous Mission Statement had four sentences. Our new one has one sentence. "Sent by the Triune God to be agents of salvation, reconciliation and justice, we empower and challenge our congregations to be Missional, Pastoral and Prophetic."

Our Committee on Ministry is exemplary across the denomination for the processes for managing installed minister searches, interim ministry, conflict management and increasing the capacity for leadership in congregations. Our documents are replicated extensively across the General Assembly.

One Presbytery adopted our Mission Statement word for word. Once our COM administrator received a phone call from a church in another Presbytery with a question about procedures. Annemarie asked why the person was calling her and not someone on that other Presbytery's staff. "Well it says right here in the form to call you at this number." Our forms are widely copied, but perhaps not as widely edited.

We see the need for attention to evangelism. In that regard we are developing supporting networks for church renewal, transformation and evangelism through our Church Development Committee programs. We have trained about 20 interpreters for the Church Analysis Tool which aids in transformation endeavors, pastoral searches, and the evaluation of congregational ministry capacity. We have good training that too few churches

## State of the Presbytery continued

take advantage of. We have grants at the ready for churches who are ready to bump their ministries up with additional staff or programs for evangelism. We also are actively fostering New Worshipping Communities. Our newest is in partnership with Riverside Presbyterian Church in Luckets, just north of Leesburg.

We also have funding to support ministry networks sponsored by at least seven churches. If you have a passion, we want to bring a gift to it. We have international mission grants available to bring a gift to a congregation's international mission initiative. We have over the past year engaged an additional staff person, Mike McNamara to help these networks come together.

We also have a goal for each church to devote 5% of their giving (minus benevolence expenditures and capital expenditures) to Presbytery and General Assembly Mission. We send a letter each fall to congregations with a specific request for this support and hope you will give it your consideration for the support of Presbytery mission. As you will see from the Webpage reports of activity, we are committed to making a difference together for the benefit of our congregations and our leaders.

We have also developed systems for the support of our pastors:

An annual Parish Pastor/ Educator Beach Retreat for refreshment and community.

We augment several facilitated support groups for pastors.

We have developed a Care Team to support clergy self-care and appreciation and support.

- d. We are developing a cohort of coaches to support pastors and leaders in churches embracing intentional transformation.

We do have certain threats which are important to remember as well.

- a. It is more difficult to recruit people to serve Presbytery committees. When asked to serve please give it serious consideration. The system only works with wise, hard workers bringing their gift to the Presbyterian way of getting the business done.
- b. We do have one church property for sale which is costing the Presbytery \$20,000 a month in interest expenses which will not be recouped at the sale. Since that decision was made many years ago we have developed robust criteria for the approval of loans. Also, we are still a little over extended in our ratio of assets to contingent liabilities. We presently carry \$17MM in contingent liabilities. While we still enjoy approving loans for prudent congregations with a realistic plan, we are careful and will now decline support for risky building endeavors.
- c. Our Sexual Misconduct Prevention training is required every three years. A remarkable number of pastors are now out of compliance. If you have not taken that training in the last four years sign up tomorrow. We are sending weekly emails to those out of compliance. See the registration opportunities on the Presbytery webpage under "events." The policy requires mandatory administrative leave when a pastor is out of compliance.

We have entered complex agreements around the sale of congregational property for three churches now.

Those creative ministries are only possible with careful legal work to reduce the risks to both those congregations and the Presbytery. We must continue to be diligent in this regard so that we can be creative.

14. In summary, this Presbytery has remarkable resources, remarkable disciples, remarkable opportunities. May God bless us into bold faithfulness as we expose the idolatries of our time as we act as agents of God's salvation, reconciliation and justice.

G. Wilson Gunn, General Presbyter (*Wilson is now on sabbatical until September 1, 2017*)

## State of the Presbytery

**We are not dying. We are Reforming.**  
**Significant Aspects of the 2016 Statistical Report**  
**May 24, 2017**

**Office of the General Assembly**  
**Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, II**  
**Stated Clerk of the General Assembly**  
**Louisville**



*We are moving towards a new future as a denomination.* Membership loss, which was experienced since the 1970s, is slowing down. Congregations are refocusing on their mission. Mid councils are experimenting with ways to provide meaningful leadership in challenging times. Congregations are celebrating both anniversaries and new beginnings. Young adults are asserting their desires to serve in both domestic and international mission. Despite cries proclaiming the death of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we remain a viable interfaith and ecumenical partner in many local communities while proclaiming a prophetic witness throughout the world. Our eulogy as a denomination has been written too soon, because God's Kingdom has not yet come. We are engaged both in the United States and around the globe. We are well-respected for our priestly and prophetic voice within Christendom. Our challenge is to see the powerful opportunities that are before us while declaring with Holy Spirit boldness that God is doing amazing work within us right now.

*We have much more than we recognize.*

It is my hope that initially we will make bold moves to embrace the communal nature of our theology and practice. I want to encourage mid councils to implement strategies to move congregations categorized as "Fellowships" to the status of chartered congregations, particularly when they have met membership requirements to charter. Many racial ethnic immigrant congregations are classified as

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**“Fellowships.”** These congregations are participating in the PC (USA), but are not fully brokered into the membership of the denomination. They are not required, in most instances, to pay per capita, while remaining non-voting members of presbyteries. This “half-in/half-out” status creates a perceived, racially motivated compromise that limits full participation even when many of these congregations outnumber by large margins long-term member congregations. My international travel offers clarity related to the new evangelism field of immigrants that know well the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We should embrace these immigrants with a sense of kinship while recognizing their long-term familiarity and association with our missionary work. Immigrants are not strangers. Therefore, we must not categorize immigrants as such through existing membership double standards. They are Presbyterians and should be accepted and embraced as we do all Presbyterians. This effort alone could demonstrate our intentionality towards fulfilling our failed commitment to increase racial ethnic participation 20 percent by 2010.[1]

***God through Jesus Christ awaits our commitment.***

**As we are challenged to become a more racially diverse denomination in order to grow into the future, it is imperative that we invite new immigrants into our congregations as members; connect with those who benefitted from our ministry partnerships across the globe; hear the voices of our youth and young adults regarding their vision for the future of the church; train a new generation of leaders; and creatively engage in inviting people to a transformative experience in our worship and mission. Take the risk of asking those persons in your midst (both members and nonmembers) the question Jesus asked Bartimaeus “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mk. 10: 51). This question has power when offered in love.**

**I pray that a move of the Spirit will come over us in this new period of reform. Claiming persons to both experience the joy of fellowship and the faith within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).**

[1] Resolution on Racial Ethnic New Church Development and Redevelopment, *Minutes*, 1996, Part I, p. 378, paragraph 33.148.