

The Presbytery of Denver | Stated HYBRID Assembly | October 25, 2022
 ZOOM and Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

MINISTERS	Special Called					
	Jan 12	Jan 22	Mar 22	May 24	Aug 13	Oct 25
Adams, Joel	X				X	X
Aguilar, Claudia Rubalcava					X	
Amo, Evan				X		X
Anderson, John E.	X	X				
Aylor, Richard					X	X
Beal, Clover	X	X			X	
Bell, Diana						
Bell, John	X			X		X
Blackstock, Steven				X	X	
Boucher, Susan						
Bretz, Paul						
Buchanan, Amelia					X	
Buckley, Blair						X
Cameron, Heather	X	X				X
Cearley, Cynthia	X	X			X	X
Cooper, Dee		X		X	X	X
Cummins, Ian	X	X				
Darbonne, Wayne						
Davis, Katie Robb	X	X		X	X	X
Davis, William	X	X		X	X	X
Dempsey, Whitney	X	X				X
Doehring, Carrie	X	X				X
Emig, James	X					X
Fenn, Julia						
Flory, Robert	X	X			X	
Fouther, James					X	X
Friesema, Doug	X			X	X	X
Fry, Sheri		X		X	X	X
George, Mark						X
Graber, Kim	X	X		X	X	
Heil, David	X	X			X	
Herrington, Leta	X					X
Huff, Ruth McCollum	X			X	X	X
Irwin-Jordan, Rebecca	X					
Johnson, Bill						X
Kane, Russ (retired 7/31/22)				X		
Kim, Eunjoo						
Kim, Johann						
Kitchen, Patricia						

The Presbytery of Denver | Stated HYBRID Assembly | October 25, 2022
 ZOOM and Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

Koerner, Sandra		X			X
Lyons, Barbara Lefevre				X	X
Marshall, Peggy	X	X			X
McWilliams, Frances					
Meeks, Mark		X		X	X
Mooney, Timothy	X				
Parsons, Carol		X			
Pettit, David		X			
Poos-Benson, Stephen		X			X
Rabideau, Mark					
Reeves, Katherine					
Rodriguez, Fernando	X	X	X	X	X
Rosewall, Ann	X	X	X	X	X
Ross, John					
Sandahl, Cody					
Sausville, gretchen		X			X
Scheiber-Sjostrom, Anne	X				
Shaw, Kenny	X	X			X
Shrumm, Don		X			X
Smith, Olivia Hudson	X	X	X	X	X
Smith, Sandy		X			X
Spotts, Christopher	X	X	X		
Spurlock, Justin	X				
Steinbacher, Paula	X	X	X	X	X
Stringer, John					
Stuart, James					
Swaney, Julie					
Syrdal, Matthew		X			X
Taylor, Ashley Seaman	X				
Traylor, Charles					
Troxler, Loye	X	X	X		
Van Deren, David		X	X		X
Vanderborgh, Susan					
VanderWal, Jill		X			X
VanderWal, Scott					X
Van Oort, Harlan		X	X		X
Velasco, Lemuel				X	
Warntjes, Jordan		X			
Westfall, Louise	X	X	X		X
Whitehead, Jason					
Wigger, J. Bradley					
Wilson, Gretchen Hope	X	X			X
Wright, David		X			X

The Presbytery of Denver | Stated HYBRID Assembly | October 25, 2022
 ZOOM and Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

Yu, John	X	X	X	X	X
RETIRED-Ministers					
Angus, Lawrence					
Avery, Lester F					
Avery, William Leslie					
Bailey, Clover		X			X
Baird, John					
Barley, Kenneth					
Barrett, Phil					
Becker, David					
Beitzel, Christine		X			
Blackstock, Dwight		X	X		X
Bock, Paul					
Bollinger, Richard					
Brown, Don					
Calhoun, William					
Casberg, Sylvia					
de Bree, Thomas					
Dhonau, Donald					
Dixon, Miriam					
Gallegos, Gary					
Gilliland, James					
Granath, Rolfe					X
Grimm, Larry					X
Groff, Kent					
Grothe, Lance		X			
Gwaltney, Robert					
Hampel, Robert					
Hanner, Alfred					
Hartman, David					
Henderson, Randi					
Heuer, Holly					X
Hole, Jonathan					
Jacobsen, Martin					
Johnson, Robert					
Kelly, Jerry					
Kingsbury, Nancy					
Kugler, Burton					
Lafollette, Robert					
Lindsey, Suzanne					
Lodwick, Robert					
Mares, Joseph			X	X	X

The Presbytery of Denver | Stated HYBRID Assembly | October 25, 2022
 ZOOM and Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

McDonald, J. Edgar			
McGinness, Heidi			
Melting, Marquita			
Minear, John			
Muldrow, Elizabeth			
Neal, Laurel Smith			
Neal, Thomas Fitz			
Ngatia, Jemimah			X
New, Rebecca			
O'Lane, John			
Olthoff, Terry	X	X	X
Oram, Robert			
Park, Augustine			
Piper, Annie			
Piper, John			
Plummer, Stuart			
Purvis-Smith, Terry		X	
Purvis-Smith, Ginny		X	
Raath, Ethan			X
Ritterson, Jane			
Ross, Robert J.	X		
Sanders, William	X	X	X
Schlenker, Janet			
Sewell, Rodney			
Shaffer, Patricia			
Smidt, H. John			
Smith, Parker			
Song, John			
Spear, Bruce			X
Stewart, Richard			
Taylor, Bruce	X	X	X
Thwaites, Edward			
Vestal, B. Clarke			
Vickstrom, Mark			
Warming, Patricia			
Wehrman, Karen			
Wilbanks, Dana			
Wolf, Pamela			
Woodson, Joseph			
Wright, John			

Ruling Elder Commissioned/Eligible-Represented Churches (80 eligible)

Arvada (2) –

Ann Butcher

Bethel (2) - not represented

Byers (1)

Charla Musgrave

Calvary (1)

Diane Ritzdorf

Capitol Heights (1) – not represented

Central (2)

Celeste Habiger

Chris Ptimus

Ch. of the Eternal Hills (2) – not represented

Church of the Hills (2)

Judy Jenson

Heidi Smithson

Columbine United (2) – not represented

Eagle River (2) - not represented

Elbert (1)

Doris Smith

Elizabeth (1)

Amy Biewenga

First Avenue (1)

Greg Garner

First PC –Aurora (1) – not represented

First-Brighton (2)

David Olson

Lisa Smith

First PC – Englewood (2)

Whitney Mayhew

First PC – Georgetown (1) – not represented

First PC - Golden (2)

Chris McCarraher

First PC – Leadville (1)

Sarah Savage

First PC - Littleton (2)

Rick Wilson

Genesis (1)

Chuck Sparks

Good Shepherd (2)

Joyce Matthews

Noel Matthews

Grace (2)

Susan Pilcher

Green Mountain (2)

Pat Queen

Iglesia Valverde (2) not represented

Montbello United (2) not represented

Montview (4)

Bob Horniak

Michael Horsford

Mountain View (1)

Marcia Hall

New Hope (3)

Alice Aldridge-Dennis

Peoples (2)

Vicki Terry

Presbyterian Church of Covenant (2)

Beth Carlisle

Mike Norris

Providence (2) – not represented

Shepherd of the Hills (2) – not represented

South Park (1)

Georgia Comstock

St. Andrew (1)

Deborah Gile

St. James (2)

Sharon Lynch

St. Paul (2)

Lee Boteler

Lukke Hopkins

Strasburg (1) – not represented

Trinity-Arvada (2)

Brad Drenth

Michael Reed

Trinity Church in the Pines (1) - not represented

True Light (2) - not represented

United Ch. of Idaho Springs (1) – not represented

Wellshire (3)

Maggie Bronson

Betsey Hadley

Paul Day-Lucore

Westminster (2)

Peggy Smith

Don Goodman

Wheat Ridge (2)

Marny Eulberg



The Presbytery of Denver | Stated HYBRID Assembly | October 25, 2022
 ZOOM and Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church

Corresponding Members (4)

Stephen Keizer (Presbyterian Foundation)
 Joseph Moore (Plains & Peaks)
 Barbara West (South Dakota)
 Corey Schlosser-Hall (Presbyterian Mission Agency)

Others Voting Member (6)

Tu Bui
 Georgia Comstock
 Susan Cornman
 Dave Goss
 Teddie McConnell
 Sandy Safford

New Worshiping Communities

Martha Gyimah | Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church
 Mindy Heimer | A Stoked Life
 Nathan Heimer | A Stoked Life
 Edwin Sunder | Telgua
 Lipposh Wamabagu | Neema Fellowship
 George Wilson | Ebenezer Ghanaian Presbyterian Church

Others Present/Visitors (10)

Tom Bacon
 Anne Bond
 Steve Cearley
 Jane Douglass
 Beth Hewlett
 Peter Hulac
 Dick Lynch
 June Scott
 LeaAnn Underwood
 Karen Yarberry

SUMMARY

Ruling Elders Present **41**
 Ruling Elders Absent **39**
 Ministers present (including retired) **54**
 Ministers absent (excluding retired)
 Corresponding Member **4**
 Other Voting Members **6**
 (Others Present) Visitors **16**
Total Present 121

Call to Order and Establishment of a Quorum. The meeting came to order at 6:03 p.m. Moderator Paula Steinbacher and Stated Clerk Olivia Hudson Smith were present. A quorum was established.

Prayer

Presbytery Moderator Paula Steinbacher opened with prayer.

Introductions and Welcome | Paula Steinbacher

Paula welcomed corresponding members and asked them to introduce themselves including their home Presbytery. New ruling elder commissioners were asked to introduce themselves identifying the congregation which they represent.

Host Church Welcome | Matt Syrdal

Matt welcomed the Assembly to Shepherd of the Hills by posing the questions, “Who is the real host?” “Who is welcoming us?”

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Preliminary Business (Omnibus Motion – Consent Agenda)

The Assembly **Approved**:

1. The Docket as distributed, with such changes as may be announced at the start of the assembly.
2. Enrolling the Corresponding Members that were introduced and grant them permission of the floor. The names and presbytery of membership of such persons must be written on the attendance roster or given to the Stated Clerk.
3. The minutes of the Stated August 13, 2022, Assembly as posted on the Presbytery website, except for any changes in the attendance roll that may be required.
4. Receipt of the reports contained in the Assembly packet.
5. Receipt of the Stated Clerk’s Report: The 2021 Minutes of the Presbytery of Denver were approved by the Assembly of the Synod of the Rocky Mountains on September 19, 2022, with no exceptions or comments.
6. Receipt of the report of the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly Report, 2022: The full report submitted by RE Synod Commissioner, Jean Demmler, is found in the Assembly packet.
7. Receipt of the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry: The full report submitted is found in the Assembly packet.
8. The dates of the 2023 Presbytery Assemblies: January 24, 2023, March 28, 2023, May 23, 2023, August 12, 2023, and October 24, 2023.

Committee on Ministry | Diane Ritzdorf

Diane introduced and the Assembly welcomed new minister members, Rev. Richard Aylor, serving at Church of the Hills and Rev. Bill Johnson, serving First Presbyterian, Littleton.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry | Carrie Doehring

Carrie presented the report and the motion to ordain Joanna Douglass on behalf of the committee. Joanna Douglass was examined by the Assembly and escorted out during discussion.

Motion: On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, I move that Joanna Douglass be approved for ordination to Ministry of Word and Sacrament. **Approved.**

Lead Presbyter | Dee Cooper

Dee spoke to Denver Presbytery's transition and the major changes that the Presbytery has gone through, and the process of creating new things. The first step in the process of creating begins with believing and being open to new things. She assured the Presbytery that it has done so brilliantly. She reminded the Assembly that God is calling us to create and is equipping the Presbytery to move into the next phase of becoming, living into its Mission, Vision, and Values. The Presbytery is currently in an in between time, a preparing and planning time, not a time to become dormant and sit back and wait, but a time to actively engage. Reminding the Assembly that they are needed to serve with energy and imagination, that their gifts and passions are needed now in this period of brackish waters where we can sometime get disoriented and where there are not clearly defined boundaries.

Council

Racial Equity Diversity Workshop: Evan Amo and Tom Bacon

Evan and Tom lead the Assembly Wealth Gap Simulation that demonstrates how systems, structures, institutions, and policies have created the wealth disparities between white and Black Americans.

Committee on Ministry | Cindy Cearley

Cindy reported on behalf of the committee presenting and explaining the recommendation for the minimum compensation for pastors in 2023.

Motion: The Committee on Ministry recommends to Presbytery that the minimum effective salary for Denver Presbytery in 2023 be increased by 5% from the 2022 minimum. **Approved**

(Effective salary moves from \$54,070 to \$56,773; an increase of \$2,703)

Nominating Committee | Dave Goss

Dave brought the report and offered the following motions:

Motion: The Nominating Committee recommends to the Presbytery for approval **Moderator of Presbytery Assembly** – Rev. John Yu (True Light Community Church) for the year 2023. **Approved**

Motion: The Nominating Committee recommends to the Presbytery for approval **Vice Moderator of Presbytery Assembly** – Elder Pat Queen (Green Mountain) for the year 2023.

Approved

Treasurer | Sue Pilcher

The Presbytery received income of \$249,812.75 in September 2022 bringing the year-to-date income to \$889,435.40. For the same period, the realized and unrealized income (loss) on investments was (\$281,869.56) bringing the year-to-date loss to (\$1,119,784.15).

Council (part 2) | Rob Habiger

Rob introduced this portion of the Council report, and staff were asked to leave the room. Following the Personnel report the staff were invited back into the Assembly.

Personnel | Karen Yarberry

Karen brought the report on behalf of Council:

Motion. Council recommends to the Assembly the approval of a 5% COLA increase for Dee, Olivia, Fernando, Sue, and Chuck. **Approved**

Motion. Council recommends to the Assembly the approval of a 7% COLA increase for Beth. **Approved**

Motion. Council recommends to the Assembly the approval of the 2023 terms of call for Olivia Hudson Smith, Stated Clerk. **Approved**

Motion. Council recommends to the Assembly the approval of the 2023 terms of call for Dee Cooper, Lead Presbyter. **Approved**

Motion. Council recommends to the Assembly the approval of the 2023 terms of call for Fernando Rodriguez, Associate Presbyter for Mission. **Approved**

Finance and Property | Pat Queen

Pat brought the report on behalf of Council. In addition to the motions, the Assembly was advised that per capita for 2023 would remain at \$32.00. The Presbytery will absorb the increase of the allocation that goes to the PC(USA) rather than pass it on to congregations.

Motion. That Council recommend to the Assembly the approval of an additional \$300,000 request from Central Presbyterian to be added to their existing PILP loan to complete their renovations. **Approved**

Motion. That Council recommend to the Assembly the approval of the revised Presbytery Expense Reimbursement and Investment Policy to allow for mortgage assistance loans to churches for pastors. **Approved**

Motion. That Council recommend to the Assembly the approval of the Presbytery of Denver Mortgage Assistance and Investment Policy to allow for presbytery assistance with mortgages. **Approved**

Presbytery Foundation | Joseph Moore

The Foundation offers free resources that are found on its website, offering that churches are not alone. Resources include the Church Financial Leadership Academy, Stewardship Navigator, Project Regeneration, and Church Finances, A Day of Learning on November 8, 2022.

Colorado Council of Churches | Adrian Miller

Executive Director, Adrian Miller presented information on areas in which the CCC is currently active: Advocacy and Legislation; Health Equity; Multifaith Leader Trip on Racial Justice, Social Justice, including a Social Justice Fellow from Iliff School of Theology. The signature event is the yearly Easter Sunrise Service at Red Rocks. Adrian expressed gratitude for the presbytery's continual support and involvement in the CCC.

Council (part 3) | Rob Habiger*Agency Review Task Force (ARTF)*

Rob brought the report and the following motion.

Motion. Council through the Agency Review Task Force recommends to the Assembly approval of the terms of all current agencies and members in the Presbytery be extended through February 2023. **Approved**

A QR Code was provided on the docket to the Passion Discovery Form. The Assembly was challenged to access the code and those who did were given a fun token for participating. The Assembly was reminded that as leaders they are encouraged to complete the passion discovery form.

Stated Clerk | Olivia Hudson Smith

Olivia outlined recent actions on Highlands Camp and Retreat Center. The Presbytery of Plains and Peaks (PPP) and the Presbytery of Denver (DP) have been in Covenant relationship for many years which resulted in the formation of the Joint Highlands Camp and Retreat Center Committee (Joint Committee). The Joint Committee consisted of eighteen members, nine from each Presbytery with the Moderator alternating every two years between each Presbytery and the Vice-Moderator coming from the other Presbytery. During the relationship, the Presbytery of Denver provided both considerable financial support in addition to the saints from the Presbytery that served in Highlands' ministry. Following a change in the camp's administration, PPP hired consultants that discussed camp governance and mission going forward.

Considering DP's evolving mission, DP focused on whether a new camp mission aligned with its new Mission, Vision, and Values. This concern was discussed in various settings, including meetings between the two presbytery council moderators and other leadership; however, governance was the focus of PPP. Highland's future mission is yet to be determined by PPP.

In May 2022, PPP's Council established a Highlands Governance Task Force. In a letter dated July 5, 2022, PPP recommended changes to the Joint Committee, including that it become the Committee on Highlands Ministry (CHM) and be composed of five members from PPP and four from DP with the moderator coming from PPP. The council received the letter, and a task group was asked to have further discussion with PPP. Discussions addressed governance but not the camp's mission going forward.

On September 22, 2022, DP Council received a letter from Rev. Christopher Brown, Moderator of PPP Council stated that PPP had put in place an Administrative Commission to assume original jurisdiction over the Joint Committee, affectively disbanding the

original covenant. DP Council responded stating that considering that action it was not able to enter a new covenant with PPP regarding the Highlands Camp and Retreat Center.

Rev. Peggy Marshall who provided faithful service on the Joint Committee, recognized, and thanked all in the Assembly with any connection to Highlands over the years. Dee offered a prayer of thanksgiving for the Denver Joint Committee members and for who have connection to Highlands.

ASSEMBLY AT WORSHIP

The actions of the Assembly are acts of worship. Worship was held throughout the Assembly and included land acknowledgement of those who lived on the land before us, the first stewards of the land. Corey Schlosser-Hall offered the message based on Acts 16:6-15, focused on expecting the unexpected. Worship music was provided by Shepherd of the Hills Choir, led by Jill Schroeder-Dorn, accompanied by a cellist.

Adjournment: Paula Steinbacher

Closing Prayer: Paula Steinbacher

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Olivia L. Hudson Smith, J.D.
Stated Clerk