



59th Annual Meeting

Western North Carolina Association

Southern Conference

United Church of Christ

October 3, 2026

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION
Southern Conference, United Church of Christ
2026 Annual Meeting Agenda

Saturday, October 3, 2026
Abernethy Laurels, Newton, NC

“Prophetic Advocacy in a Fragmented Season”

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEADER / SPEAKER
8:00am - 9:00am	Arrival, Continental Breakfast, Fellowship	
9:00am	Call to Order	<i>Dr. Mark S. Thomas, WNCA President</i>
	Centering Song <i>“Woke Up This Morning”</i>	<i>Pianist: Leona Hunter Jones</i>
	Opening Devotions	<i>Rev. Suzanne Graves</i>
	Approval of Agenda	<i>Dr. Mark S. Thomas, WNCA President</i>
	Approval of Minutes of 2025 Annual Meeting	
	Greetings from Abernethy Laurels	<i>Rev. Maria Yocum</i>
	Welcome Back Dr. Davis!	<i>Rev. Dr. Tom Warren, Associate Conference Minister</i>
	Greetings from SOC Conference Minister	<i>Rev. Dr. Ed Davis, Conference Minister</i>
	News of Youth Empowerment	<i>Rev. Belinda Sledge, Minister of Finance & Church Consulting</i>
	Greetings from Blowing Rock Conference Center	<i>Ted Wilson</i>
	Greetings from Catawba College	<i>Rev. Larry Bolick</i>
	Greetings from E&R Library and Archives	<i>Rev. Larry Bolick</i>
	Greetings from Johns River Valley Camp	<i>Kevin Russell, Executive Director</i>
	Greetings from WNCA Church Women	<i>Rev. Angela Roberson</i>
	Greetings from Franklinton Center & Afro-Christian Archives	<i>Brenda James</i>
	Greetings from EveryAge	<i>Rev. Thad Austin, VP of Philanthropy</i>
	Welcome of Guests Rev. Dr. Katrina Marsh Director of Spiritual Life Piedmont Crossing	<i>Dr. Mark S. Thomas</i>

REPORTS

WNCA President	<i>Dr. Mark S. Thomas</i>
WNCA Associate Conference Minister	<i>Rev. Dr. Tom Warren</i>
WNCA Committee on Ministry	<i>Revs. Meghan Young & William Sowers</i>

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	LEADER / SPEAKER
	Vote to welcome Beloved Community Charlotte as a UCC* Church in full standing	
	Vote to welcome Shalom Church Santiago de Cuba as a Satellite church of Peace UCC Greensboro	
	WNCA Association Treasurer	Rev. Terry Parrish & Cindy Bowman (Incoming Treasurer)
	Financial Reports	
	Growing The Church Grant Report	
	Action on Proposed Budget	
	Proposal: Emergency Contingency Fund	Kathy Alexander
OLD BUSINESS		
	Report: Investment in Youth Fund	Rev. Dr. Darek McCullers & Rev. Paul Ford
KEYNOTE		
11:00am	"Prophetic Advocacy in a Fragmented Season"	Rev. Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, Brig. Gen, USAF (Ret.)
11:45am – Noon	Q & A Follow Up with Keynote Speaker	
Noon	Break for Lunch	
NEW BUSINESS		
1:00pm	Nominating Committee, Elections	
1:15pm	"WNCA/SOC Fifth Sunday" (January 31, 2027)	Rev. Dr. Tom Warren
CLOSING WORSHIP		
1:20pm	Call to Worship	Ava Chambers
	Opening Hymn <i>"Part of the Family"</i>	
	Service of Installation of Officers	Rev. Dr. Ed Davis, Conference Minister
	Opening Prayer	Rev. William Vanderburg
	Scripture <i>James 1:19-25</i>	Ava Chambers
	Moment of Remembrance	Rev. Dr. Ed Davis, Conference Minister
	Offering & Blessing of Humanitarian Aid	Rev. Dr. Tom Warren
	Closing Prayer <i>Prayer of Thanksgiving The Lord's Prayer (using "debts")</i>	Rev. Terry Parrish
	Closing Hymn <i>"I Thank You, Jesus"</i>	
2:00pm	Adjournment	Dr. Mark S. Thomas

**Western North Carolina Association
2026 Annual Meeting
Standing Rules**

1. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall always be followed, unless a Special Rule of Order supersedes a rule in Robert's.
2. Matters deemed by the Association President to be non-controversial in nature, routine, or formal may be handled by Unanimous Consent. However, if there is an objection, the President must state the question on the motion and follow the rest of the formal process for handling a motion.
3. A written copy of any main motion or resolution presented at the Annual Meeting must be given to the secretary immediately after the motion is made. If there is a second to the motion, the President will read or direct the secretary to read the motion again before placing it before the assembly for debate.
4. Amendments or other procedural motions may be made to a main motion.
5. If the amendment is brief and there is a second, the President may simply restate the motion as amended prior to allowing debate on the amendment. However, if the amendment is long or complicated and is seconded, it shall be submitted in writing to be read again prior to debate.
6. An amendment may be amended. However, an amendment to an amendment must be dealt with before any additional amendments can be made.
7. Prior to speaking, delegates must be recognized by the President. After they are recognized to speak, they shall first state their name and the church or agency they are affiliated with.
8. During debate on a motion, no delegate shall speak without first being recognized by the President.
9. During debate, no delegate may speak to the same motion more than twice.
10. Debate on any motion shall be limited to a total of 20 minutes.

11. A delegate who makes the main motion (or their representative) shall be granted five minutes to present the case for the motion after the President has put the motion before the assembly. Additional speeches for or against the main motion shall be limited to two minutes each.

12. The proper motion to close debate on a motion is "I move the previous question." ("I move to close debate" would also be recognized by the President as the same motion.) The mover must first gain recognition from the chair, and the motion must be seconded. The motion to close debate cannot be amended and requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

It is always out of order to simply call out "Question" if there are still delegates who wish to speak, and/or the time limit has not been reached.

13. The Association may vote to allow a guest the right to speak to the Association but shall not grant that person the right to vote.

14. Resolutions may be submitted by any voting delegate, congregation, or committee of the Association for consideration at the annual meeting. These resolutions must be submitted in written form to the Association office not less than 45 days prior to the annual meeting to allow for their distribution and review by churches and delegates prior to the annual meeting.

15. Please be courteous.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Ordinary Standing Rules are rules in the nature of administrative duties of the Association.

The Special Standing Rules are rules that supersede a rule in Robert's Rules of Order. (Examples: Standing Rules 10 & 11.)

Both Ordinary Standing Rules and Special Standing Rules remain in effect from one year to the next unless they are changed or deleted.

Ordinary Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of those attending the Annual Meeting of the Association.

Special Standing Rules (Rule 10 & 11 above) may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of those attending the Annual Meeting of the Association.

Opening Devotions

“There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place”

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it’s the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet heavenly Dove,
Stay right here with us, filling us with Your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
Without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived,
When we shall leave this place.

[Acts 1:8](#)

But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon **you**;
and **you shall** be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and
Samaria and to the end of the earth.” RSV

Prayer

“There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place” was written by Doris Mae Akers,
a prominent African American gospel songwriter, in 1962.

**58th Annual Meeting of the
Western North Carolina Association
Southern Conference
United Church of Christ**

October 4, 2025
Abernethy Laurels (Newton, NC)

Opening Business

- Rev. William Sowers, President of the Western North Carolina Association, called the meeting to order at 9:15am.
- Rev. Dr. Tom Warren, Interim Associate Conference Minister of the WNCA, introduced the opening hymn, "Part of the Family," which he learned from the people of the Lavastida Christian Center in Santiago, Cuba.
- Rev. Dr. Julia Myers O'Brien, keynote speaker, offered a devotion on Psalm 126.
- Rev. Sowers declared a quorum.
- Rev. Sowers appointed Rev. Dr. Warren Casiday as parliamentarian for the meeting.
- Rev. Michael Baldonado moved to accept the agenda as distributed. The motion was seconded by Mark Thomas and approved by acclamation without objection.
- Brenda James moved to adopt the standing rules as distributed. The motion was seconded by Rev. Karla Miller and approved by acclamation without objection.
- Mark Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the 2024 WNCA Annual Meeting, with one correction (page 2, item 6 should say "Growing the Church" not "Growing the Youth"). The motion was seconded by Rev. Terry Parrish and approved by acclamation without objection.

Greetings from Ministry Partners

- Rev. Maria Yocum offered Greetings from Abernethy Laurels, focused on the logistics of the day's meeting.
- Ted Wilson offered greetings from the Blowing Rock Conference Center, reflecting on the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. He reported that BRCC offered emergency housing to 75-100 individuals in Watauga County last fall and announced BRCC's 75th anniversary.
- Rev. Dr. Ken Clapp brought greetings from Catawba College. He shared that US News & World Report has ranked Catawba #4 among colleges and universities in the South, a success he attributes to the college remaining true to its mission. He reports that 98% of students are employed within 6 months of graduation, many in service and ministry roles.
- Rev. Larry Bolick brought greetings from the Evangelical & Reformed Library and Archives (formerly the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society), which is located on the campus of Lancaster (PA) Theological Seminary and Eden Seminary (St. Louis). He highlighted the upcoming 300th anniversary of the first communion

service at a German Reformed Church (Oct 15, 1725 at Faulkner Swamp in New Hanover, PA). He asked churches with Evangelical and Reformed backgrounds to submit historical documents.

- Rev. Thad Austin brought greetings from EveryAge, the parent organization of Abernethy Laurels. To give back to the churches and in recognition that 60% of American adults don't have a will or estate plan, EveryAge has established a partnership with Free Will and is hosting a series of webinars about reducing tax burdens and increasing charitable giving.
- Kevin Russell brought greetings from Johns River Valley Camp, where he has served for just over 1 year (his tenure began the day Hurricane Helene hit). He applauded the recovery efforts by volunteers and donors, and reported that JRVCC is on track to continue their ministry.
- Rev. Tanya Best brought greetings from the Southern Conference Church Women. She celebrated the long history and important work of women in the church. She asked all churches to provide a contact information for a person who can keep their church's women's groups aware of the Southern Conference Women's events.
- Rev. Belinda Sledge brought greetings from the Southern Conference on behalf of the Board of Directors and Conference Minister Rev. Dr. Edward Davis. She noted that all Associate Conference Ministers retired in the last 18 months, and all three associations now have Interims in place. She shared the Southern Conference's "Call to Care Tour" priorities: (1) visitation, (2) church and clergy health and vitality, (3) technology, visibility and communication, and (4) youth and young adults.

10-Minute Testimonies

- Edith Russell, member of First Congregational UCC in Concord, offered a testimony of her redemption and healing.
- Rev. Steph Kelly of Unifour Church read a testimony by Rev. Susan Smith of Exodus Missionary Outreach UCC, about Rev. Smith's battle against cancer.

Reports

- Rev Sowers referred attenders to the distributed President's Report.
- Rev. Tom Warren read the Associate Conference Minister Report, as distributed.

Keynote Presentation

- Rev. Dr. Julia Myers O'Brien offered a presentation from Isaiah 49:13-18 on "The Peril and Promise of Remembering the "Former Things." Several participants shared stories of remembering and identity.

Announcements and Lunch

- Brenda James shared about the Afro-Christian archives at Franklinton Center.
- Rev. Nathan King from Trinity UCC Concord shared about the church's partnership with a Palestinian American teenager who is detained in Israel. Handouts were provided outlining ways to help.

Reports, cont.

- Rev. Terry Parrish presented the Treasurer's financial reports for calendar year 2024.
 - A report from the Board does not need a motion or second. The financial reports were accepted by acclamation, without objection.
 - Rev. Parrish, on behalf of the WNCA Board, proposed the establishment of a new emergency contingency fund, to be used to support local churches. The proposed fund would be funded by special donations (including today's collection) and 50% of the interest from the United Church Funds.
 - A request from the Board does not need a motion or second. Concerns were voiced from the floor about diverting interest from the Growing the Church and Youth funds, and the lack of guidelines for evaluating projects for disbursement.
 - Mark Thomas moved to refer the contingency fund proposal back to the WNCA Board for further discussion and clarification. The motion was seconded by Kathy Alexander and approved by acclamation without objection.
 - Rev. Sara Wilcox made a motion for the offering from the annual meeting to be given to the Afro-Christian Archives at Franklinton Center. The motion was seconded by Rev. Meghan Young and approved by acclamation without objection.
 - Rev. Parrish announced the recipients of Growing the Church Grants, with each church receiving \$1,500. Recipient churches are: Emmanuel UCC (Greensboro), Exodus Missionary Outreach UCC (Hickory), First UCC (Salisbury), First Congregational UCC, First Congregational (Hendersonville), Holy Covenant UCC, Land of the Sky UCC, Mt. Hope UCC (Whitsett), Peace UCC (Hickory), Ursinus UCC.
 - Mark Thomas moved to approve the 2026 Budget as distributed. The motion was seconded by Rev. Derrick McCullers and approved by acclamation without objection.
- Mark Thomas moved to accept the Nominating Committee report as distributed. The motion was seconded by Virginia Himmelheber.
 - Rev. Renee Griffith nominated Rev. Paul Ford to fill the vacant clergy position on the WNCA Board of Directors for the Davidson/Forsyth district.
 - Rev. Derrick McCullers self-nominated for to fill the vacant clergy position on the WNCA Board of Directors for the Rowan district.
 - The motion, with the additional two nominations noted above, was approved by acclamation without objection.
 - Rev. Belinda Sledge installed the new members of the Committee on Ministry, Board of Directors, and Committee on Nominations.

10-Minute Testimonies

- Deborah Battle, member of St. Stephen UCC (Greensboro), shared a testimony of God's faithfulness in her life.

Keynote Presentation

- Rev. Dr. Julia Myers O'Brien offered a presentation from Isaiah 65:17-25 on "Retelling our Story for the Sake of a New Earth."

Reports, cont.

- Rev. William Sowers reviewed the distributed Committee on Ministry report.
 - Rev. Curly Stumb noted that Sarah Parker should be listed as having "Lay Ministerial Standing," rather than "Approved for Licensed Ministry for 1 Year."

10-Minute Testimonies

- Steve Marks, member in discernment from High Country UCC, shared a testimony about the power of the presence of God.

Closing Business

- Rev. Warren recognized the service of Rev. Casiday as Associate Conference Ministry and Rev. Sowers as WNCA Board President.

Worship

- The meeting concluded with a service of worship and anointing.
- Rev. Sowers adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Amy Rinehults

E&R Library & Archives—A Genealogy and History Center Report to Western North Carolina Association October 3, 2026

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was formed in 1934 when the Reformed Church in the United States merged with the Evangelical Synod of North America. The Southern Collection of the ERHS was housed at Catawba College until 2007 when they were moved to Lancaster Theological Seminary, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA 17603. The collection includes archives from Evangelical and Reformed Church (1934-1957) and the collections from PA, WI, OH and NC. For many years, WNCA—SOC has included ERHS Archives in their annual budgets.

The E&R Library & Archives exists to engage, inspire, and educate people through the study and preservation of family and church history, putting to good use the record of the E & Church and its predecessor denominations, which the ERLA collects, preserves, and makes accessible to the public.

Due to the merger of Lancaster Theological Seminary and School of Theology of Moravian University, the E&R Library & Archives which has been housed at LTS is being relocated to its new home: ERLA, 3150 Houfnaggle Road, Lewisburg, WV 24901. A ribbon cutting and community open house was held on August 21, 2026.

Here is the link for the Website of E&R Library and Archives:

<https://erlibrary-archives.org/>

Submitted by Rev. Larry Bolick, Former President of ERHS Southern Chapter

President's Annual Report

Report of the President of the Western North Carolina Association, Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ

With what some might describe as a complex journey through the mystery of divine providence, I prefer to see it as the rich, diverse tapestry of God's grace. I could never have imagined that the Spirit would lead me to such a season of blessing, affording me the holy privilege of serving alongside the faithful in the Western North Carolina Association (WNCA) and the broader Southern Conference (SOC). From my early days singing praise in the choir at Corinth to the profound grace of serving as president of the WNCA, I thank each of you for allowing me to reflect Christ's love by ministering among you.

I extend my deep gratitude to the faithful stewards who served on the WNCA Board of Directors. Thank you for your sacrificial service—from late-night pastoral calls to Saturday morning gatherings where we sought God's wisdom together over Zoom. In every meeting, the Holy Spirit equipped our team with willing hands, spiritual wisdom, and thoughtful discernment. Yet, with a heavy heart, I recognize that this gathering marks the final time I will introduce "the Terry Show," as Rev. Terry Parrish shares the report of our financial stewardship. Terry, thank you for your faithful ministry in guiding our financial resources with wisdom and integrity. As you close QuickBooks, may God richly bless your mind and spirit as you dedicate your gifts to your Doctor of Ministry research at Wake Forest School of Divinity (Go Deacons!).

Stephanie, my covenant with you for the coming year is to submit meeting agendas with greater promptness and diligence. Thank you for your steadfast ministry and tireless service to the WNCA. Managing the practical realities of our shared conference life is a vital ministry, and we are profoundly grateful for your God-given gifts.

God has been moving vibrantly across our conference, making it difficult to pinpoint a single sign of grace. Through the refined Growing the Church Grant program, the Spirit has empowered our congregations to expand their ministries and share the Gospel through diverse avenues of outreach. We have also sought to nurture the spiritual growth of our youth through the Investment in Youth program, trusting that God will use this rising generation to lead and shepherd the Church long into the future.

Finally, our holy calling to care for one another is clearly reflected in the pending motion for the Emergency Contingency Fund. When we learned that our siblings at Zion UCC in Lenoir suffered acts of vandalism and damage to their facility, our hearts were moved with Christian compassion. In a unanimous display of connectional unity, the board recognized our sacred duty not only to offer immediate aid to rebuild, but to establish a lasting structure of care to protect and support all our church families in times of trial.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, support, and collaboration as we work together to strengthen the bonds between our churches and widen the invitation to others, letting them know that His house is open to everyone.

"²³ Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving" (*New International Version*, 1978/2011, Col. 3: 23-24).

In His name and for His service,

Mark S. Thomas, PhD, MBA
President – WNCA SOC

Western North Carolina Association
Annual Meeting 2026
Southern Conference, UCC

Report of the Associate Conference Minister
Rev. Dr. Tom Warren

To My Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On Sunday, June 1st, 2025, I officially began my ministry as your Associate Conference Minister. I have now been “on the job” for over a year and remain grateful for this opportunity to serve in this capacity. I look forward to engaging with each and every one of you as my ministry continues to unfold.

Over the last year, my ministry has been focused in four primary areas: 1). Reaching out to WNCA pastors in support of the faithful work that they do; 2). Assisting local congregations during their times of pastoral leadership transition in helping them find leadership that addresses the needs and desires of their particular faith communities; 3). Assisting where I can as local churches and/or pastors face unexpected challenges in their personal lives or the life of their congregations; 4). Participating fully in the life of the WNCA and Southern Conference by engaging with both the WNCA and SOC Boards of Directors, the WNCA Committee on Ministry, as well as additional opportunities when they arrive.

I am beginning to see and hear a growing excitement – in the midst of real struggles –for our Association, Conference, and national church settings. A dialogue has been reignited around what it means to be UCC in the best sense of our *covenant*. Let me report what I am “seeing” as I continue in my travels around our Association:

- A. We are a very diverse Association racially, economically, and perhaps most importantly, theologically. This is a strength which we need to actively acknowledge, embrace, and strengthen. *The threat of various forms of “fundamentalism” lurks around, so our rightful claims to “diversity”*

perhaps need to be revisited as our local church bodies run the theological gamut from “progressive” to “traditional.”

Many of our congregations are in very delicate situations in terms of membership, resources, and general orientation towards the future. This reality remains, but the sense of local church isolation and/or alienation from the Association and Conference has begun to wane and will be a continued focus of my ministry. We are the **body of Christ** as the Apostle Paul has reminded us in 1 Corinthians 12: 14:

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

We are called into a covenantal relationship based in mutual responsibility and love for one another and God through Jesus the Christ. This is a critical component of the joy of ministry. When local congregations have needs, ask me or other Association leaders for help.

B. Many of our congregations continue to be infected with the anxiety that is running rampant in our wider world. There is a sense that our culture is unraveling, deeply divided, and in many ways broken, which causes life in our local congregations to be anxious as well. Yet, we are not alone in these anxieties and must be strengthened in our “faith in action” for the long haul. ***Part of this strengthening requires self-care for our members, pastors, and congregations. Perhaps our covenantal relationships can include “taking care of one another.”***

This report is an overview of what I am seeing and experiencing in my ministry as your Associate Conference Minister. Upon request, I can provide specifics as to my activities (I turn in a detailed monthly Pastors Report to Rev. Dr. Edward Davis). I still have many churches to visit and people to meet. ***Please do not hesitate to call me to set up a meeting of local church visit. I can be reached at 931-267-2836 or by email at Rev.tomacm@wnca-soc.org***

**Western North Carolina Association
Committee on Ministry Report
Oct 4, 2025 – Oct 3, 2026**

INSTALLATIONS

Foster Carney	Hedrick's Grove Reformed Lexington	11/2/25
Rev. Terry Parrish	Associate Pastor at Peace UCC Hickory	1/4/26
Rev. Josh Fitterling	Bethany UCC Claremont	3/22/26
Rev. Lester Smith	Mt. Tabor UCC Lexington	3/29/26
Rev. Mary Elizabeth Hanchey	Circle of Mercy Asheville	scheduled for 10/4/2026
Rev. Stan Wilson	Circle of Mercy Asheville	scheduled for 10/4/2026

ORDINATIONS

Rev. Steve Marks	High Country UCC Vilas	3/21/26
Rev. Sarah Parker	High Country UCC Vilas	8/29/2026

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL VOTED APPROVED ORDINATION

Sarah Parker	High Country UCC Vilas	10/25/2025
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ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL VOTED APPROVED ORDINATION PENDING CALL

Steve Marks	High Country UCC Vilas	10/25/2025
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GRANTED PRIVILEGE OF CALL WITH FULL ORDAINED MINISTERIAL STANDING IN UCC

Rev. Sandra Hood	Peace UCC Hickory	3/18/26
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APPROVED FOR DUAL STANDING IN THE UCC

Rev. Glencie Rhedrick	Baptist / UCC	12/3/25
Rev. Helms Jarrell	(Pending Acceptance of Beloved Community Charlotte as UCC)	8/19/26

ACCEPTED AS A CANDIDATE SEEKING DUAL STANDING IN THE UCC

Rev. Lester Smith	Baptist / UCC	met w com 1/21/26
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AUTHORIZED FOR LAY MINISTERIAL STANDING (to be reviewed & renewed yearly)

Foster Carney	Hedricks Grove Reformed UCC Lexington	10/15/25
Peter Anderson	First Congregational UCC, Prison & Women's Prison	8/19/26

APPROVED AS A CANDIDATE OF THE PRIVILEGE OF CALL PROCESS

Rev. Mia Hash-Sloan	Congregational UCC Greensboro	4/15/26
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ACCEPTED AS A CANDIDATE SEEKING LAY MINISTERIAL STANDING

Gisella Lavastida	Peace UCC - Greensboro / International – Cuba	
Tiffany Gray-Napier	Exodus Missionary Outreach Hickory	9/16/26

REVIEWED & RENEWED LAY MINISTERIAL STANDING

Foster Carney	Hedricks Grove Reformed UCC Lexington	8/19/26
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TRANSFER OF STANDING OUT OF WNCA & UCC

Rev. Brenda Lewis	Returned to United Methodist Church	8/19/26
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TRANSFER OF STANDING INTO WNCA

Rev. Paul Ford	Chicago Metropolitan Association, Illinois Conference	0/15/25
Rev. John Danner	Florida Conference , N/a Associations	(pending)
Rev. Josh Fitterling	Sunrise Association, Maine Conference	(pending)

MEMBERS IN DISCERNMENT

Gisella Lavastida	Peace UCC Greensboro / International	Cuba	8/16/2023
Jamie Hazel	Peace UCC Hickory	1/17/2024	(check-in w/COM 2/18/26)
Ekin Üstünel	Mt Hope UCC Whitsett	10/16/2024	(check-in w/COM 2/18/26)
Foster Carney	Hedrick's Grove Reformed Lexington	10/15/25	(check-in w/COM 8/19/26)
Dr. Lee Brigman-Parrish	Holy Covenant UCC Charlotte		12/3/25
Peter Anderson	First Congregational UCC Asheville		1/21/26
Ryan Calderone	Peace UCC Hickory		2/18/26

RETIREMENTS

Rev. Mark Bonnema		7/22/25
Rev. Eric Griffin	St. Stephen UCC Greensboro	6/21/26
Rev. Jim Luck	Second Reformed UCC Lexington	8/2/26
Rev. Paula Wells	Second Reformed UCC Lexington	8/2/26

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHURCHES SEEKING STANDING IN THE UCC

Beloved Community Charlotte is seeking full standing in the UCC	9/16/26
Shalom Santiago de Cuba to be recognized as satellite church, Peace Greensboro	9/16/26

DEATHS

Rev. James Peeler	multiple congregations UCC	11/7/25
Rev. Billy Joe Willett	First E & R Church Asheville	12/6/25
Rev. Benjamin Whitlock	New Emmanuel Congregational UCC Charlotte	4/30/26
Rev. Bobby Bonds	Trinity UCC Concord	5/2/26
Rev. Patricia Boswell	Congregational UCC Greensboro	6/4/26
Rev. Melissa Wike	Grace Reformed UCC Newton	6/26/26
Rev. James (Jim) Humphrey	Holy Covenant UCC Charlotte	9/1/26

YEAR ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY DATES (25 & 50 YEARS)

75 Years	Rev. Nevin H. Feather	6/3/51
50 Years	Rev. D. Lee Jessup Jr	6/20/76
50 Years	Rev. Mike Hickcox	1976
50 Years	Rev. Delores "Kay" Smith	1976
25 Years	Rev. Kelly Barefoot	11/12/2000
25 Years	Rev. Maria Yocum	4/29/01

2026 SIGNIFICANT CHURCH ANNIVERSARIES (Multiples of 25 years)

175 Years	Catawba College	
125 Years	First Reformed UCC	High Point 1901
125 Years	First Reformed UCC	Lexington 1901
75 Years	First Congregational UCC	Hendersonville 1950
25 Years	Circle of Mercy	Asheville 2001

Western NC Association of the Southern Conference

Balance Sheet
As of Dec 31, 2025

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 Westrn NC Assn Southrn Conf UCC	7,151.06
10100 Certificate of Deposit	21,503.45
10200 UCF Investment Account	
10201 Growing the Church Fund	85,628.85
10202 Investment in Youth Fund	32,973.20
Total for 10200 UCF Investment Account	\$118,602.05
Total for Bank Accounts	\$147,256.56
Other Current Assets	
Uncategorized Asset	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	\$0.00
Total for Current Assets	\$147,256.56
Total for Assets	\$147,256.56
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2020 Restricted Funds	
2021 Church Emergency Fund Temp Res	0.00
2022 Scholarship Funds Temp Restr	142.54
2023 Mission Funds Temp Restr	2,907.46
2025 Youth Events Temp Restr	1,600.00
Total for 2020 Restricted Funds	\$4,650.00
Total for Other Current Liabilities	\$4,650.00
Total for Current Liabilities	\$4,650.00
Total for Liabilities	\$4,650.00
Equity	
30000 Opening Balance Equity	33,697.95
32000 Unrestricted Net Assets	96,177.22
Net Income	12,731.39
Total for Equity	\$142,606.56
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$147,256.56

Western NC Association of the Southern Conference

Profit and Loss
January-December, 2025

	Total
Income	
46400 Other Types of Income	
46430 Miscellaneous Revenue	250.00
Total for 46400 Other Types of Income	\$250.00
47100 Per Capita Dues	10,486.00
47200 Prior Year Per Capita Dues	1,210.50
47400 WNCA Annual Meeting Regist/Meal	2,425.00
47401 Spring Workshop Registration	220.00
47402 OCWM for WNCA	1,625.00
47404 Boundary Awareness Training Registration	1,203.40
49000 Investments	
49020 Interest on Checking	2.10
49040 Dividend Income-UCF Accounts	28,602.05
Total for 49000 Investments	\$28,604.15
Total for Income	\$46,024.05
Gross Profit	\$46,024.05
Expenses	
50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence	
50102 Congregational Vitality	12,000.00
50104 SOC Covenant Support	2,000.00
50105 Contingency Fund	2,000.00
50111 General Synod Support	3,000.00
50112 Education Workshop Expenses	300.00
Total for 50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence	\$19,300.00
50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence	
50202 Boundary Awareness Tng	1,082.12
Total for 50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence	\$1,082.12
50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness	
50302 Johns River Valley Camp	1,100.00
50306 Meeting Offerings	-783.00
Total for 50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness	\$317.00
50400 Committee on Ministry	
50401 Candidate Assessments	-989.56
50403 Recognition Materials	211.00
Total for 50400 Committee on Ministry	-\$778.56
50500 Association Support	
50501 Printing & Office Supplies	180.27
50503 Equipment (New/Replacement)	1,562.16
50504 Postage	46.80
50505 Comm (Web) Software/Contract	2,759.09
50509 Other (P.O. Box, etc.)	345.79
50512 ACM Support	2,000.00

Western NC Association of the Southern Conference

Profit and Loss
January-December, 2025

	Total
50513 Electronic Processing Fees	487.78
50514 Staff Appreciation	2,800.00
Total for 50500 Association Support	\$10,181.89
50600 Annual Meeting	
50601 Postage	46.80
50603 Meals	1,993.41
50604 Programming	1,150.00
Total for 50600 Annual Meeting	\$3,190.21
Total for Expenses	\$33,292.66
Net Operating Income	\$12,731.39
Net Income	\$12,731.39

Budget vs. Actuals_Budget_FY25_P&L_Report
January-December, 2025

	TOTAL			
	Actual	Budget	Over budget by	Percent of budget
Income				
43400 Direct Public Support		500.00	-500.00	0.0 %
46400 Other Types of Income		\$500.00	-\$500.00	0.0 %
46430 Miscellaneous Revenue	250.00		250.00	
Total for 46400 Other Types of Income	\$250.00	\$500.00	-\$250.00	50.0 %
47100 Per Capita Dues	10,486.00	20,000.00	-9,514.00	52.43 %
47200 Prior Year Per Capita Dues	1,210.50		1,210.50	
47400 WNCA Annual Meeting Regist/Meal	2,425.00	2,400.00	25.00	101.04 %
47401 Spring Workshop Registration	220.00	350.00	-130.00	62.86 %
47402 OCWM for WNCA	1,625.00		1,625.00	
47404 Boundary Awareness Training Registration	1,203.40		1,203.40	
49000 Investments				
49020 Interest on Checking	2.10		2.10	
49030 Interest-Savings, Short-term CD		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0 %
49040 Dividend Income-UCF Accounts	28,602.05		28,602.05	
Total for 49000 Investments	\$28,604.15	\$1,000.00	\$27,604.15	2860.41 %
Total for Income	\$46,024.05	\$24,750.00	\$21,274.05	185.96 %
Gross Profit	\$46,024.05	\$24,750.00	\$21,274.05	185.96 %
Expenses				
50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence				
50101 Lay Leadership Training		200.00	-200.00	0.0 %
50102 Congregational Vitality	12,000.00	500.00	11,500.00	2400.0 %
50103 WNCA Resource Center		100.00	-100.00	0.0 %
50104 SOC Covenant Support	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	100.0 %
50105 Contingency Fund	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	200.0 %
50106 WNCA Delegates to Gen Synod		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0 %
50107 Youth Ministries		750.00	-750.00	0.0 %
50108 Young Adult Ministries		750.00	-750.00	0.0 %
50111 General Synod Support	3,000.00		3,000.00	
50112 Education Workshop Expenses	300.00	750.00	-450.00	40.0 %
Total for 50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence	\$19,300.00	\$7,050.00	\$12,250.00	273.76 %
50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence				
50201 Min in Discernment Fin Aid		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0 %
50202 Boundary Awareness Tng	1,082.12	600.00	482.12	180.35 %
Total for 50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence	\$1,082.12	\$1,600.00	-\$517.88	67.63 %
50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness				
50302 Johns River Valley Camp	1,100.00	1,100.00	0.00	100.0 %
50303 Local and Nat. Disaster Relief		250.00	-250.00	0.0 %
50305 Evang/Reformed Historical Socie		700.00	-700.00	0.0 %
50306 Meeting Offerings	-783.00		-783.00	
Total for 50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness	\$317.00	\$2,050.00	-\$1,733.00	15.46 %

Budget vs. Actuals_Budget_FY25_P&L_Report
January-December, 2025

	TOTAL			
	Actual	Budget	Over budget by	Percent of budget
50400 Committee on Ministry				
50401 Candidate Assessments	-989.56	3,000.00	-3,989.56	-32.99 %
50402 Consulting Resources		200.00	-200.00	0.0 %
50403 Recognition Materials	211.00	350.00	-139.00	60.29 %
50410 Administration		250.00	-250.00	0.0 %
Total for 50400 Committee on Ministry	-\$778.56	\$3,800.00	-\$4,578.56	-20.49 %
50500 Association Support				
50501 Printing & Office Supplies	180.27	150.00	30.27	120.18 %
50503 Equipment (New/Replacement)	1,562.16	100.00	1,462.16	1562.16 %
50504 Postage	46.80	100.00	-53.20	46.8 %
50505 Comm (Web) Software/Contract	2,759.09	3,500.00	-740.91	78.83 %
50509 Other (P.O. Box, etc.)	345.79	200.00	145.79	172.9 %
50510 Assoc Support Ministry Areas		200.00	-200.00	0.0 %
50512 ACM Support	2,000.00		2,000.00	
50513 Electronic Processing Fees	487.78		487.78	
50514 Staff Appreciation	2,800.00	2,800.00	0.00	100.0 %
Total for 50500 Association Support	\$10,181.89	\$7,050.00	\$3,131.89	144.42 %
50600 Annual Meeting				
50601 Postage	46.80	50.00	-3.20	93.6 %
50602 Printing and Supplies		250.00	-250.00	0.0 %
50603 Meals	1,993.41	2,500.00	-506.59	79.74 %
50604 Programming	1,150.00	400.00	750.00	287.5 %
Total for 50600 Annual Meeting	\$3,190.21	\$3,200.00	-\$9.79	99.69 %
Total for Expenses	\$33,292.66	\$24,750.00	\$8,542.66	134.52 %
Net Operating Income	\$12,731.39	\$0.00	\$12,731.39	
Net Income	\$12,731.39	\$0.00	\$12,731.39	

Budget vs. Actuals_Budget_FY25_P&L_Report

January-December, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Total Over budget by	Percent of budget	Proposed 2027 Budget v1
Income					
46400 Other Types of Income		500.00	-500.00	0.00%	
46430 Miscellaneous Revenue	250.00		250.00		500
Total for 46400 Other Types of Income	\$250.00	\$500.00	-\$250.00	50.00%	\$500.00
47100 Per Capita Dues	10,486.00	20,000.00	-9,514.00	52.43%	20,000.00
47200 Prior Year Per Capita Dues	1,210.50		1,210.50		
47400 WNCA Annual Meeting Regist/Meal	2,425.00	2,400.00	25.00	101.04%	2,400.00
47401 Spring Workshop Registration	220.00	350.00	-130.00	62.86%	350.00
47402 OCVM for WNCA	1,625.00		1,625.00		
47404 Boundary Awareness Training Registration	1,203.40		1,203.40		
49000 Investments					
49020 Interest on Checking	2.10		2.10		
49040 Dividend Income-UCF Accounts	28,602.05		28,602.05		
49030 Interest-Savings, Short-term CD		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Total for 49000 Investments	\$28,604.15	\$1,000.00	\$27,604.15	2,860.41%	\$1,000.00
43400 Direct Public Support		500.00	-500.00	0.00%	500.00
Total for Income	\$46,024.05	\$24,750.00	\$21,274.05	185.96%	\$24,750.00
Cost of Goods Sold					
Gross Profit	\$46,024.05	\$24,750.00	\$21,274.05	185.96%	\$24,750.00
Expenses					
50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence					
50102 Congregational Vitality	12,000.00	500.00	11,500.00	2,400.00%	500.00
50104 SOC Covenant Support	2,000.00	2,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%	2,000.00
50105 Contingency Fund	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	200.00%	1,000.00
50111 General Synod Support	3,000.00		3,000.00		
50112 Education Workshop Expenses	300.00	750.00	-450.00	40.00%	750.00
50101 Lay Leadership Training		200.00	-200.00	0.00%	200.00
50103 WNCA Resource Center		100.00	-100.00	0.00%	100.00
50106 WNCA Delegates to Gen Synod		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
50107 Youth Ministries		750.00	-750.00	0.00%	750.00
50108 Young Adult Ministries		750.00	-750.00	0.00%	750.00
Total for 50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence	\$19,300.00	\$7,050.00	\$12,250.00	273.76%	\$7,050.00
50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence					
50202 Boundary Awareness Tng	1,082.12	600.00	482.12	180.35%	600.00
50201 Min in Discernment Fin Aid		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Total for 50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence	\$1,082.12	\$1,600.00	-\$517.88	67.63%	\$1,600.00
50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness					
50302 Johns River Valley Camp	1,100.00	1,100.00	\$0.00	100.00%	1,100.00
50306 Meeting Offerings	-783.00		-783.00		
50303 Local and Nat. Disaster Relief		250.00	-250.00	0.00%	250.00
50305 Evang/Reformed Historical Socie		700.00	-700.00	0.00%	700.00
Total for 50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness	\$317.00	\$2,050.00	-\$1,733.00	15.46%	\$2,050.00
50400 Committee on Ministry					
50401 Candidate Assessments	-989.56	3,000.00	-3,989.56	-32.99%	3,000.00
50403 Recognition Materials	211.00	350.00	-139.00	60.29%	350.00
50402 Consulting Resources		200.00	-200.00	0.00%	200.00
50410 Administration		250.00	-250.00	0.00%	250.00
Total for 50400 Committee on Ministry	-\$778.56	\$3,800.00	-\$4,578.56	-20.49%	\$3,800.00
50500 Association Support					
50501 Printing & Office Supplies	180.27	150.00	30.27	120.18%	150.00
50503 Equipment (New/Replacement)	1,562.16	100.00	1,462.16	1,562.16%	100.00
50504 Postage	46.80	100.00	-53.20	46.80%	100.00
50505 Comm (Web) Software/Contract	2,759.09	3,500.00	-740.91	78.83%	3,500.00

50509 Other (P.O. Box, etc.)	345.79	200.00	145.79	172.90%	200.00
50512 ACM Support	2,000.00		2,000.00		
50513 Electronic Processing Fees	487.78		487.78		
50514 Staff Appreciation	2,800.00	2,800.00	\$0.00	100.00%	2,800.00
50510 Assoc Support Ministry Areas		200.00	-200.00	0.00%	200.00
Total for 50500 Association Support	\$10,181.89	\$7,050.00	\$3,131.89	144.42%	\$7,050.00
50600 Annual Meeting					
50601 Postage	46.80	50.00	-3.20	93.60%	50.00
50603 Meals	1,993.41	2,500.00	-506.59	79.74%	2,500.00
50604 Programming	1,150.00	400.00	750.00	287.50%	400.00
50602 Printing and Supplies		250.00	-250.00	0.00%	250.00
Total for 50600 Annual Meeting	\$3,190.21	\$3,200.00	-\$9.79	99.69%	\$3,200.00
Total for Expenses	\$33,292.66	\$24,750.00	\$8,542.66	134.52%	\$24,750.00
Net Operating Income	\$12,731.39	\$0.00	\$12,731.39		\$0.00
Other Income					
Other Expenses					
Net Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Net Income	\$12,731.39	\$0.00	\$12,731.39		\$0.00

Cash Basis Wednesday, September 02, 2026 09:01 PM GMT-04:00

Budget vs. Actuals_Budget_FY25_P&L_Report

January-December, 2025

	Total				Proposed 2027
	Actual	Budget	Over budget by	Percent of budget	Budget v2
Income					
46400 Other Types of Income		500.00	-500.00	0.00%	
46430 Miscellaneous Revenue	250.00		250.00		500
Total for 46400 Other Types of Income	\$250.00	\$500.00	-\$250.00	50.00%	\$500.00
47100 Per Capita Dues	10,486.00	20,000.00	-9,514.00	52.43%	20,700.00
47200 Prior Year Per Capita Dues	1,210.50		1,210.50		
47400 WNCA Annual Meeting Regist/M meal	2,425.00	2,400.00	25.00	101.04%	2,400.00
47401 Spring Workshop Registration	220.00	350.00	-130.00	62.86%	350.00
47402 OCWM for WNCA	1,625.00		1,625.00		
47404 Boundary Awareness Training Registration	1,203.40		1,203.40		
49000 Investments					
49020 Interest on Checking	2.10		2.10		
49040 Dividend Income-UCF Accounts	28,602.05		28,602.05		
49030 Interest-Savings, Short-term CD		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Total for 49000 Investments	\$28,604.15	\$1,000.00	\$27,604.15	2,860.41%	\$1,000.00
43400 Direct Public Support		500.00	-500.00	0.00%	500.00
Total for Income	\$46,024.05	\$24,750.00	\$21,274.05	185.96%	\$25,450.00
Cost of Goods Sold					
Gross Profit	\$46,024.05	\$24,750.00	\$21,274.05	185.96%	\$25,450.00
Expenses					
50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence					
50102 Congregational Vitality	12,000.00	500.00	11,500.00	2,400.00%	500.00
50104 SOC Covenant Support	2,000.00	2,000.00	\$0.00	100.00%	2,000.00
50105 Contingency Fund	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	200.00%	1,000.00
50111 General Synod Support	3,000.00		3,000.00		
50112 Education Workshop Expenses	300.00	750.00	-450.00	40.00%	750.00
50101 Lay Leadership Training		200.00	-200.00	0.00%	200.00
50103 WNCA Resource Center		100.00	-100.00	0.00%	100.00
50106 WNCA Delegates to Gen Synod		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
50107 Youth Ministries		750.00	-750.00	0.00%	750.00
50108 Young Adult Ministries		750.00	-750.00	0.00%	750.00
Total for 50100 Ministry of Cong. Excellence	\$19,300.00	\$7,050.00	\$12,250.00	273.76%	\$7,050.00
50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence					
50202 Boundary Awareness Tng	1,082.12	600.00	482.12	180.35%	600.00
50201 Min in Discernment Fin Aid		1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.00%	1,000.00
Total for 50200 Ministry of Pastoral Excellence	\$1,082.12	\$1,600.00	-\$517.88	67.63%	\$1,600.00
50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness					
50302 Johns River Valley Camp	1,100.00	1,100.00	\$0.00	100.00%	1,100.00
50306 Meeting Offerings	-783.00		-783.00		
50303 Local and Nat. Disaster Relief		250.00	-250.00	0.00%	250.00
50305 Evang/Reformed Historical Socie		700.00	-700.00	0.00%	700.00
50307 Afro Christian Archives					700.00
Total for 50300 Ministry of Justice & Witness	\$317.00	\$2,050.00	-\$1,733.00	15.46%	\$2,750.00
50400 Committee on Ministry					
50401 Candidate Assessments	-989.56	3,000.00	-3,989.56	-32.99%	3,000.00
50403 Recognition Materials	211.00	350.00	-139.00	60.29%	350.00
50402 Consulting Resources		200.00	-200.00	0.00%	200.00
50410 Administration		250.00	-250.00	0.00%	250.00
Total for 50400 Committee on Ministry	-\$778.56	\$3,800.00	-\$4,578.56	-20.49%	\$3,800.00
50500 Association Support					
50501 Printing & Office Supplies	180.27	150.00	30.27	120.18%	150.00
50503 Equipment (New/Replacement)	1,562.16	100.00	1,462.16	1,562.16%	100.00
50504 Postage	46.80	100.00	-53.20	46.80%	100.00

50505 Comm (Web) Software/Contract	2,759.09	3,500.00	-740.91	78.83%	3,500.00
50509 Other (P.O. Box, etc.)	345.79	200.00	145.79	172.90%	200.00
50512 ACM Support	2,000.00		2,000.00		
50513 Electronic Processing Fees	487.78		487.78		
50514 Staff Appreciation	2,800.00	2,800.00	\$0.00	100.00%	2,800.00
50510 Assoc Support Ministry Areas		200.00	-200.00	0.00%	200.00
Total for 50500 Association Support	\$10,181.89	\$7,050.00	\$3,131.89	144.42%	\$7,050.00
50600 Annual Meeting					
50601 Postage	46.80	50.00	-3.20	93.60%	50.00
50603 Meals	1,993.41	2,500.00	-506.59	79.74%	2,500.00
50604 Programming	1,150.00	400.00	750.00	287.50%	400.00
50602 Printing and Supplies		250.00	-250.00	0.00%	250.00
Total for 50600 Annual Meeting	\$3,190.21	\$3,200.00	-\$9.79	99.69%	\$3,200.00
Total for Expenses	\$33,292.66	\$24,750.00	\$8,542.66	134.52%	\$25,450.00
Net Operating Income	\$12,731.39	\$0.00	\$12,731.39		\$0.00
Other Income					
Other Expenses					
Net Other Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		\$0.00
Net Income	\$12,731.39	\$0.00	\$12,731.39		\$0.00

Cash Basis Wednesday, September 02, 2026 09:01 PM GMT-04:00

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore III is President and Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling, Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, North Carolina. He is a native of Charlotte, NC and received his primary and secondary education in the Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools. He received the B.A. (with high honors) in Social Welfare from Livingstone College (1975), Salisbury, NC and the M. Div. from Duke University Divinity School (1977), Durham, NC. He holds the Ph.D. in Pastoral Psychology and Counseling from Northwestern University (1984), Evanston, IL. He was married to Joy R. Powell for 42 years before her death by cancer in October 2021 and they have three adult children. In December 2024, he married Alcecia S. Carr and he was pleased to embrace two beautiful adult bonus daughters.

Dr. Lattimore is Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Care and Counseling and former Director of the M.A. in Counseling Ministries, Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO) (1990-2012). He served as Director of Counseling, Addiction and Psychological Services (CAPS), Syracuse Community Health Center, Inc. (1988-90). He also worked as a Core Staff Pastoral Counselor/Area Coordinator, Onondaga Pastoral Counseling Center (1983-88), Syracuse, NY. He was Assistant Dean, Office of Minority Affairs, Duke University (1977-79).

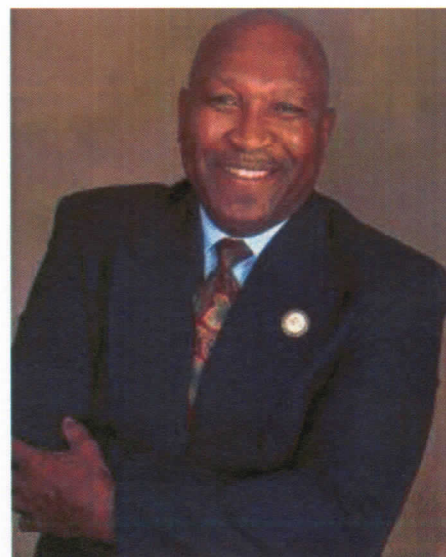
He is a published poet in Beyond the Stars (1995/96), National Library and author of Instruments of Peace: The Viable and Strategic Role of Religious Leadership Factors in Averting War (2013)

He is an ordained an Elder in the A.M.E. Zion Church. In the Air National Guard (ANG), he served as Assistant to the Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Air Force, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC (2003-2005). He was the first African American chaplain to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force and the ANG.

He is a Psychotherapist Member, Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE, 2019-); Clinical Member, Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT, 1992-) a licensed Independent Marriage and Family Therapist (IMFT, Ohio, 2004-); member, Atrium Healthcare System, Professional Advisory Group (2012-); member, Salisbury Rotary Club (2012-); F & M Bank, Board of Directors (2016-); and Board Chair, The Gift of Black Theological Education & Black Faith Traditions, Inc. (Gift Collaborative)(2023 -).

While at Duke University, Durham, NC he was the founding advisor for the Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus. As a Northwestern University doctoral student, he served as Residence Director/Minority Student Advisor at Kendall College, Evanston, IL (1980-1983). At Kendall College, he was the founding advisor for The Students for Black Awareness (S.B.A.) In Syracuse, NY, he was elected as president of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance of Syracuse and Vicinity, Inc. (1986-1988). While at MTSO, he participated in the Hartford Seminary (now the Hartford International University for Religion and Peace) Executive Development Program for Seminary Leaders and Religious Executive (1990-1993).

His honors (selected) include: Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities; Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society; North Mecklenburg High School Hall of Fame (Charter Inductee, 1997); Outstanding Young Men of America (1977, 1979, 1981, 1998); Life Member, Livingstone College Alumni Association; Life Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. ; President's Meritorious Service Award, Livingstone College (2004); Livingstone College Alumni Leaders Hall of Fame Inductee (2005); The Air Force Legion of Merit Medal (2005); State of Ohio National Guard – Distinguished Service Medal (2005); Who's Who in Black Columbus (2008, 2009) ; Who's Who in Black Charlotte (2012); Livingstone College Presidential Award (2015); and The Bishop Alfred G. Dunston, Jr. Salute to Service Award, International Ministers & Lay Association, A.M.E. Zion Church (2018); A North Carolina, Historically Black Colleges & Universities (HBCU) Living Legend Inductee (2019).



WNCA 2026 SLATE OF NOMINEES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Mark Thomas		1 term 2027
Vice President Ava Chambers		1 term 2027
Secretary Caleb Myers		2 of 2 2028
Treasurer Cindy Bowman		1 of 2 2028
Catawba	Dr. Lee Alexander Parrish	1 of 2 2028
	Rev. Walter Barker	1 of 2 2027
	Rev. Deloris Kay Smith	1 of 2 2027
Davidson/Forsyth	Rev. Ted Wilkinson	2 of 2 2027
	Rev. Paul Ford	1 of 2 2027
	Vacancy (lay)	1 of 2 2028
Guilford/Randolph	Rev. Amelia Fulbright	1 of 2 2027
	Rev. Angela Roberson	1 of 2 2027
	Gwen Adamson	1 of 2 2028
Rowan	Mrs. Phyllis Little	2 of 2 2027
	Rev. Dr. Darek McCullers	1 of 2 2027
	Rev. Melissa McQueen-Simmons	1 of 2 2028

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Catawba	Rev. William Sowers (Co-Chair)	1 of 2 2027
	Rev. Meghan Young (Co-Chair)	1 of 2 2027
	Vacancy (lay)	1 of 2 2028
Davidson/Forsyth	Elizabeth Conrad	1 of 2 2027
	Rev. Ches Kennedy	1 of 2 2027
	Rev. Andrea Mitchell	1 of 2 2027
Guilford/Randolph	Rev. Thelma Flowers	1 of 2 2028
	Rev. Dr. Henry Simmons	1 of 2 2028
	Monica Isbell	1 of 2 2028
Rowan	Laura Hankins	2 of 2 2028
	Rev. Terry Parrish	2 of 2 2027
	Vacancy (lay)	1 of 2 2028

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Catawba: Libby Herman-Lay member of St. Matthews – Maiden Term 2 Class of '28

Rowan: Rev. Nathan King-Pastor at Trinity Reformed UCC- Concord Term 2 Class of '27'

Davidson/Forsyth:

Rev. Elizabeth Parker Horton – Pastor First Reformed UCC – Lexington Term 1 Class of '27

Guilford/Randolph: Vacancy

Board of Directors

Treasurer **Cindy Bowman** joined Peace United Church of Christ in Greensboro three and a half years ago, returning to the church she attended as a child. Peace UCC has deep family roots and fond memories from her childhood. She is currently serving on the Consistory. Professionally, prior to retiring in December, Cindy's background included planning, scheduling, forecasting and revenue projections. She is grateful to be part of the Peace and UCC community and looks forward to serving as Treasurer.

Catawba **Dr. Lee Alexander Parrish** is a member of Peace United Church of Christ, where he worships with his husband, Rev. Terry Parrish, who is their associate pastor. They have 3 children, 3 grandchildren, 4 dogs, and 11 chickens. He graduated from the University of South Carolina and the University of Kentucky. He has held several positions over the past 35 years. He is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity and hopes to complete it by June 2029. He is looking forward to working with each member of the Board of Directors for the Western North Carolina Association.

Davidson/Forsyth **Rev. Paul Robeson Ford** was nominated from the floor last year at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Rev. Ford was ordained in 2007, is a member at Wentz UCC in Winston Salem and resides in Kernersville.

Guilford/Randolph **Mrs. Gwen Adamson** I am Gwen Adamson and this past summer I turned 75 😊 I've been married to the same man for over 53 years; we have two children and four grandchildren. I am a retired school counselor. I love to travel and we lived in Germany for eight years during my husband's military career. I have been a member of St. Stephen UCC for nearly 30 years. I enjoy working with youth and I believe my main purpose in life is to share the good news of Jesus with the next generation and all others who will hear it. God has emboldened me to never be ashamed of the Gospel. One of my favorite things to do is to share Jesus with others. I believe all of God's promises, especially that "He will give you the desires of your heart." In 2025, God allowed me to live in my favorite city...Paris, for two months. Studying the language and the culture was a dream come true.

Rowan **Rev. Dr. Darek McCullers** is active in both Religious Affairs and Social Justice Advocacy. Currently, he is completing his PhD in Humanities and Culture at Antioch University while simultaneously enrolled in the MA with Concentration in The Study of Black Faith and Life at CTS. He is supported by his Wife of 26 years, Sherry Lassiter-McCullers, his diva Terrier/Chihuahua mix named Queen, his parents, The Rev. Benjamin and Dr. Elgean McCullers, relatives, and friends.

Rowan

Rev. Melissa McQueen-Simmons was ordained in 2016. A member of Holy Covenant UCC in Charlotte. For the past four years, she faithfully served two terms with the WNCA Committee on Ministry and has been serving as pulpit supply.

Committee On Ministry

Guilford/Randolph

Rev. Thelma Flowers

Rev. Neal Flowers MDiv. MSW.. is an ordained UCC minister, liberationist, womanist theologian, 2012 graduate of the The Iliff School of Theology, (concentration in Justice and Peace) and a certified spiritual director. She is a New Mexico transplant and served as a regular supply pastor for a United Methodist and an Episcopal church in Grants/Milan New Mexico. Thelma is a retired 30 year mental health professional and college instructor. In NC she has served on the WNCA Board of Directors and as a workshop presenter. Currently, under the Leadership of Pastor Amelia Fulbright, Rev Flowers is a very active member of Congregational UCC in Greensboro where she juggles many hats.

Guilford/Randolph

Henry T. Simmons

retired in 2019 as Pastor Emeritus of St. Albans Congregational Church in Queens, NY. After receiving a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University in 1973, he was ordained in 1974 in the Potomac Association, Central Atlantic Conference, UCC. He served local churches in Washington, DC and Detroit, MI and on the evangelism-church development staff of the former United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in New York City. He is the recipient of honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees from Ursinus College and Huston-Tillotson College. A native North Carolinian, he now resides in Jamestown, NC with his wife, Gayle Hudson Simmons, a retired special educator.

Guilford/Randolph

Monica Isbell

is the Director of Academic Accommodations & Accessibility at Elon University. On April 15, 2026 she received the "Grateful Award" from Dean of the School of Health Sciences Maha Lund during the School of Health Sciences Faculty/Staff Awards where she and four colleagues were highlighted for their dedication to the School of Health Sciences and work to benefit the greater Elon community. Monica's membership resides with First Congregational UCC in Asheboro.

GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH

Polyclinic Hospital, Santiago de Cuba

Requirements for the sustainability of health services

Medicines:

- 1. Analgesics**
- 2. Antipyretics**
- 3. Anti-inflammatories**
- 4. Antibiotics**
- 5. Antihypertensives**
- 6. Antiallergics**
- 7. Diuretics**
- 8. Urinary antiseptics**
- 9. Treatment for prostatic hyperplasia**
- 10. Vitamins A, B-complex, C, Calcium, D3, Prenatal, etc.**

Medical Supplies and Consumables:

- 1. Surgical gloves; sterile and non-sterile examination gloves; nitrile gloves; powder-free and household gloves (sizes 7 to 8½)**
- 2. 100% cotton fabric rolls (green, white, or blue) for hospital linens/garments**
- 3. Syringes (2.5, 3, 5, 10, and 20 ml)**
- 4. Infusion sets**
- 5. Venipuncture cannulas/trocars (various gauges)**
- 6. Scalp vein sets (butterfly needles)**
- 7. Adhesive tape**

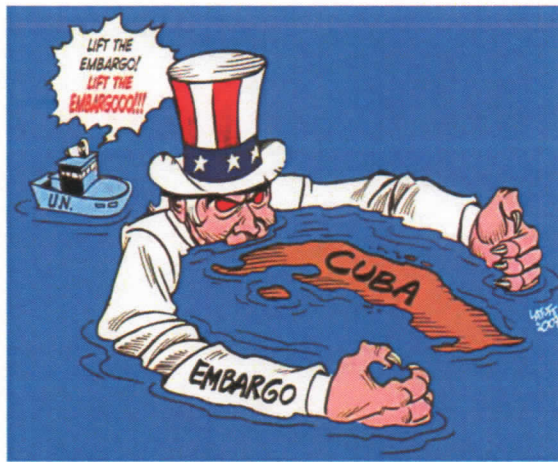
8. Pediatric and adult cuffed endotracheal tubes
9. Blood lancets
10. Frosted-end microscope slides (25.4 x 76 mm)
11. Colostomy bags
12. Urine collection bags
13. Wound care materials and solutions
14. Oxygen masks and nasal cannulas
15. Foley catheters
16. Surgical orthopedic padding (cotton wool)
17. Three-way stopcocks
18. Syringes (1, 2.5, 5, 10, and 20 ml)
19. Adult and pediatric urine collection bags
20. Pediatric dual-lumen temporary catheter
21. Adult permanent catheters
22. Glucometer
23. Infrared thermometer
24. Gallium axillary thermometer
25. Cooler for storage and transport of blood bags, samples, and other purposes (30-liter and 20-liter capacity)
26. Sphygmomanometer
27. Oxygen pressure gauge and oxygen regulators
28. Pulse oximeters

U.C.C. Cuba Study Seminar

Friday, January 22nd - Sunday, January 31st, 2027

-Solidarity in Santiago - Standing with a Nation Under Siege

Join us for a 10-day humanitarian aid/solidarity trip to gain firsthand knowledge of the struggles of the Cuban people under the 66-year U.S. economic blockade and the recent oil embargo imposed by the Trump administration. Our trip will include visits to an elementary school, San Juan Hill, and a local hospital to witness the destructive impacts of U.S. policy on education, health care, and food security. We will meet with Cuban doctors, representatives from the CCP Religious Affairs Department, Cuban economists and historians knowledgeable about the current Cuban reality and its historical development. We will learn about revolutionary visionaries Fidel Castro and Che Guevara while having person-to-person dialogue with local Cuban residents. As part of our trip, we will deliver humanitarian aid to the people of Santiago.



Schedule at a Glance:

- Thursday, January 21st – Meet in Miami for Group Dinner/Orientation
- Friday, January 22nd-Fly to Santiago de Cuba to Begin Solidarity Tour
- Sunday, January 31st-Fly to Miami and Return Home

Trip costs (TBD) include round-trip airfare from Miami, all lodging, meals, bus transportation, bilingual tour guide, bus driver, and programming.

Trip Leaders are Kimberly G. Miller and Rev. Tom Warren

For more Information:

Email: uccubastudy@gmail.com

Call Rev. Tom Warren at 931-267-2836





Western North Carolina Association

Southern Conference United Church of Christ

PO BOX 4265
Salisbury, NC 28145

Phone: 704.633.3191
Email: office@wnca-soc.org

August 18, 2026

Dear Members of the Western North Carolina Association,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. On behalf of the Executive Committee and in accordance with our Association's Constitution and Bylaws, I hereby issue this Call to the Annual Meeting of the Western North Carolina Association of the United Church of Christ, to be held on:

Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Location: Abernethy Laurels, 102 Leonard Ave, Newton, NC

Topic: "Prophetic Advocacy in a Fragmented Season"

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Vergel L. Lattimore, III, Brig. Gen., USAF (Ret.)

Rev. Dr. Lattimore is the President and Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling at Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, North Carolina. While serving in the Air National Guard (ANG), he served as the Chief of Chaplains, USAF, Bolling Air Force Base in Washington, DC (202-2005). He was the first African American chaplain to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the USAF and ANG. His full biography can be found here:

<https://www.hoodseminary.edu/employee/vergel-l-lattimore>

During our time together, we will:

- Worship and celebrate the life of our churches and shared ministries
- Receive updates from the various committees and working groups
- Elect new leadership for Association roles
- Engage in meaningful dialogue about the mission and future of our faith communities
- Fellowship

This year, as part of our Annual Meeting, we will include, a medical supply drive to benefit the main hospital (called a polyclinic) in Santiago, Cuba.

As many of you know, Rev. Dr. Tom Warren and wife Kim Miller have been deeply involved with mission work in Cuba as illustrated most prominently through their *UCC Cuba Study Seminar* annual trip. You may also know that Cuba is facing a tremendous humanitarian crisis at this time due to 64 years of U.S. economic blockade and a more recent oil embargo that has almost brought the island to a stand still.

Their upcoming trip in January will include a significant humanitarian aid component collecting and delivering medical supplies directly to the main hospital in Santiago. His contacts in Cuba are meeting with hospital administrators to provide a list of medical supplies that they need, which we can distribute prior to the meeting. We will have a designated area set up at the meeting to collect donations to be sent with Rev. Warren and Kim. During the meeting we will offer a WNCA blessing upon these supplies. ***The list of needed items will be forthcoming prior to our meeting.*** We also have a member of the WNCA (Gisela Maria Lavastida) who is a member of Peace UCC Greensboro and is also a Member in Discernment to become a UCC pastor.

Register Today at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wnca-2026-annual-meeting-registration-1998025834055?aff=oddtcreator>

Each congregation is encouraged to send its pastor(s) and delegates, as outlined in our bylaws. Each church is entitled to two delegates. Local churches with more than 300 members will be entitled to have one additional lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof:

- Churches with up to 300 members shall be entitled to have 2 lay delegates.
- Churches with 301 to 500 members shall be entitled to have 3 lay delegates.
- Churches with 501 to 700 members shall be entitled to have 4 lay delegates.
- Churches with 701 to 900 members shall be entitled to have 5 lay delegates.
- Churches over 900 members shall be entitled to one additional lay delegate for each additional 200 members or fraction thereof.

A registration fee of \$25 helps offset the costs of the meeting, with lunch provided. Materials such as the agenda and reports will be sent out in advance and made available on the Association's website. You will be asked to indicate your lunch preference when you register.

We look forward to your presence, your voice, and your prayers as we do the work of the Church—together.

In Christ,
Mark S. Thomas, PhD, MBA, CSM, CSPO
President, Western North Carolina Association
Southern Conference, United Church of Christ
Mark.thomas@msn.com