

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORTS  
FEBRUARY 22, 2020

Additional elders for the 2019 Necrology report are:

Ruling Elders:

Buena Vista

William Doyel

Front Royal

Mary Helen Loftin

John Wertz

Teaching Elders:

Braxton Garriss and Donald Jones

SUSANNE HOOKER TAYLOR  
STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in the Triune God. I believe, although I cannot explain, that God is at once Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Because God gave me faith, I accept the following even though I cannot prove it or adequately explain it.

I believe in God who has been classically named the Father Almighty. God created all that is for God's own glory. God is all powerful and is the definition of love. I believe that while God could have created the world by figuratively snapping fingers, God instead set in motion the most intricate and ingenious processes by which all life came to be. And in one moment of incredible love, God created humanity, giving humans the responsibilities to care for the rest of God's creation. God is past, present and future, all at once. God always was, is now and always will be. God is in control, even when it is difficult for us to see it.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten son, at once both fully divine and fully human. As previously stated, faith is believing something that cannot be proven, so I accept this inexplicable nature of Christ. Jesus was a human being, a man, who was the embodied incarnation of the Christ, born to a human mother. He lived a human life, he grew, he learned, he worked, he preached, he taught, when he was flogged, he bled and when hung on the cross, he died a human death. The Christ was always part of Jesus' nature. Christ was bound to God the Father (or Creator, or Parent, or Lover) by the love of God. He was the Beloved to God's Lover. Jesus was God's Divine Son, born of a human woman to live and minister as the fully divine and fully human Son.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. In a way, the Holy Spirit is almost more tangible to me than the other two natures of God. To continue the limiting analogy, the Holy Spirit is the Love that binds Father and Son (or Lover and Beloved) together and binds us to them. The Holy Spirit lives and acts in us today, as Jesus Christ is not incarnate, to my knowledge. We are the humans who, with the power of the Holy Spirit, can be the hands, feet and mouths of God on earth at this moment. In many instances of my own life, I have felt the Spirit with me, acting with me, acting FOR me and guiding my thoughts and actions. The Spirit guides my understanding in reading Scripture and interpreting what that means for life's struggles today. The Spirit moves me to speak and act, even when I know others will not agree. Because of the Holy Spirit connecting me to God the Almighty and Jesus the Christ, I feel the responsibility to think, speak and act in accordance with God's love for all humanity and all creation.

I believe that the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper ingraft us to Christ in a couple of ways. First, the Lord's Supper does so in direct analogy to actually partaking in the body and blood of Christ by the use of bread and wine/grape juice. Jesus instituted this practice so that we believers share in his death and resurrection, becoming children of the resurrection. I believe that the Lord's Supper serves as the reminder to all of us that we are brothers and sisters of Christ through his sacrifice and resurrection.

I believe that baptism marks us as the children of God, whether we are baptized as infants or as adults. When baptized as infants, our later confirmation process confirms our parents' intent for our lives as Christians. When an adult is voluntarily baptized, that individual is affirming faith and voluntarily being marked as Christ's own. For those witnessing the baptism, it is a reminder and confirmation of our own baptisms, and the claims God has on our lives.

The role of worship in our lives assists us in keeping our priorities straight, and in defending us from the power of sin. Ensuring that God is the first devotion in our lives - - even ahead of family, work, country, etc. - - helps us to make wiser decisions. Worship is more than that. Worship is when two or more are gathered in God's name to give praise to God for all the blessings bestowed on us, and again, helps to order our lives in proper priority. We are not the center of the universe; God is.

Finally, but not least, is the role of the church. To borrow a catch phrase from society, “Together We are Better”. God gives each of us faith and spiritual gifts. God expects that these gifts will be used to God’s mission, purposes and always, God’s glory. In a recent study I did of the Beatitudes, one can look at the 9 Beatitudes as characteristics of the child of God. Jesus managed to embody all of them. But to my knowledge, Jesus is the only human to have mastered all nine. Most of us fall short in one or more. But a community, a church, might be able to find each of the characteristics by looking at all the members who share in the work of God. This is where a community is critical. A single talented individual may be able to do a lot, but a lot of talented individuals with different skill sets can make a community effective in its maximum sense. Together, we confide, console, exhort each other to keep up the work.

All Glory be to God - - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - - forever and ever! Amen.

### SUSANNE HOOKER TAYLOR BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

I am 63 years old, originally from Nashville, Tennessee, and the daughter of a Presbyterian Teaching Elder and his wife. I went through public schools in Nashville and in Birmingham, Alabama. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 1978, and my Master of Business Administration from California State University, Hayward in 1986. I had private sector Human Resources positions in Florida and California, which involved extensive travel within the United States. I eventually moved back east to Charleston, SC in 1991. I met my husband, John Anthony Taylor in 1992 at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We married there in November 1993, with my sibling, the Rev. Dr. Paul K. Hooker, performing the ceremony. Since John was from Virginia, we moved directly here following the ceremony!

Once I arrived in Virginia, I found employment as Human Resources Director in the public sector, first with Culpeper County government for 12 years, then at the City of Fredericksburg for 5 years. Due to some complications with fibromyalgia, I was forced to retire early in 2012. I held the professional certification of Senior Professional in Human Resources for 9 years prior to my retirement. During this time, John and I had first been members of Manassas Presbyterian Church for a few years, then joined Warrenton Presbyterian Church in 1997. I was ordained as ruling elder in 1999 and served on Session 3 years. In 2009, I was again elected to serve on Session. I served Shenandoah Presbytery as commissioner to the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis. I served on the presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry, having started on this committee in 2013, following John’s death in July 2012. I have served as ordination examination reader for several years since the fall of 2012 as well. I was asked to serve as a Synod Commissioner in 2016 and was installed as Vice Moderator in September 2017. In September 2018, I was installed as Moderator of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. I served as Moderator for one year, ending my term on September 14, 2019. I am currently still on Synod Executive Committee. I am also on the task force planning our “Montgomery Immersion Experience” in which a group from the Synod will tour the Legacy Museum and the Memorial for Peace and Justice, owned and operated by the Equal Justice Initiative. The denomination’s emphasis on Racial Harmony is one that has elicited a high degree of passion in my soul, in part from my experiences growing up in Birmingham in the 1960’s.

I have a keen interest in Christian Education for adults, having led Disciple I through IV, Christian Believer, Jesus in the Gospels, several Kerygma courses and several of the Faith Seeking Understanding series offerings. I wrote my own curriculum to emphasize the Book of Confessions to the congregation. I utilized the confirmation course material designed for teens and team-presented it to an adult audience a couple of years ago. Additionally, I used the book, *Christian Doctrine* by the late Shirley Guthrie as a Sunday School class. I remembered that it was originally written as a part of the old PCUS’ Covenant Life Curriculum, and have memories of seeing it in the car when I was a child and my father was teaching it. I was Commissioned by Shenandoah Presbytery as a Commissioned Ruling Elder for Warrenton

Presbyterian Church in a part time capacity effective January 1, 2019. I have also preached in a number of other churches: Some of these are: Woodstock, Winchester 1<sup>st</sup>, Broadway, Berryville, PALS Church in Bealeton (a Presbyterian/Lutheran combined congregation) Mt. Hope and Sherando. Since October 2019, I have conducted worship several times at Burnt.

Outside of the church, my interests include my beautiful German Shepherd, reading, taking care of my mother's finances, researching genealogy, occasional video games when I have time, and CrossFit three or four times per week. I have been Secretary/Treasurer of my homeowners' association for the past three years - - a task I am eager to pass along to someone else! I love to laugh and especially enjoy puns and British humor (think Monty Python). A true child of my generation, I love rock music and usually attend the Lockn' Music Festival in Arrington, Virginia every year. I have seen too many bands and artists to list, but high among my favorites were Gregg Allman, Dan Fogelberg, the Revivalists, Tedeschi Trucks Band and Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY (CRM)

I. FOR INFORMATION:

CRM continues to work on a policy for part-time installed relationships.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Renewed the supply pastor contract between the Hot Springs Session and Teaching Elder Scott Conrad from March 1, 2020- March 1, 2021.
- B. Renewed the supply pastor contract between the Nineveh Session and Teaching Elder Ed Dawkins from February 1, 2020-January 31, 2021.
- C. Renewed the supply pastor contract between the Waynesboro Second Session and Teaching Elder Beth McCrary from January 1-December 31, 2020.
- D. Renewed the supply pastor contract between the Smyrna Session and Teaching Elder Hank Scoggins from March 12, 2020-March 11, 2021.
- E. Renewed the supply pastor contract between the Williamsville Session and Teaching Elder Helen “Punker” Robertson from January 1-December 31, 2020.
- F. Validated the ministry of Teaching Elder George Chapman to serve the United Protestant Church of France beginning March 1, 2020.
- G. Transferred Teaching Elder Rosalind Banbury to the Presbytery of the James effective January 9, 2020.
- H. Granted waiver of the limitation of terms of service for ruling elders for 2020 to the Craigsville Session.