

Presbytery of the Highlands  
Stated Meeting  
Stated Clerk's Report  
November 14, 2023

**Items for Consent Agenda:**

**SC-1**

Approve the minutes of the Presbytery meeting held September 9, 2023.

**SC-2**

Approve excuses for the Presbytery meeting of November 14, 2023.

**SC-3**

Receive the report of the 2022 Session Minutes Review - Part 2.

**SC-4**

Receive the 2024 Imbalance Correction.

**SC-5**

Receive the interim report of the Administrative Commission for the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

**SC-6**

Receive the interim report of the Administrative Commission for the Fairmount Presbyterian Church.

**SC-7**

Receive the report of the Administration and Coordinating Team.

**SC-8**

Receive the report of the Committee on Ministry.

**SC-9**

Receive the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

**SC-10**

Receive the report of the Nominating Committee.

**SC-11**

Receive the report of the Church Development Team.

### **SC-12**

Receive the report of the Property and Insurance Team.

### **SC-13**

Receive the report of the Young Leader Formation Team.

### **SC-14**

Receive the report of the Committee on Representation.

### **SC-15**

Receive the report of the Discernment Team.

### **Items for Action:**

None.

### **Items to Report:**

### **SC-16**

On October 17, 2023, the Synod of the Northeast Permanent Judicial Commission heard the appeal "Scott Foster v The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey," based on the decision rendered in January 2023. The appeal was heard, in person, outside of Albany NY, and Chair of the Prosecuting Committee, the Rev. Dr. Christopher Doyle was in attendance, as well the Presbytery's Counsel, Tania Nemeth, and the Presbytery's Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dr. Steven H. Shussett.

Four Specifications of Error were claimed by Mr. Foster:

1. Manifestation of prejudice in the conduct of the case.
2. Injustice in process or decision.
3. Error in constitutional interpretation.
4. Undue severity of censure

**In each case, the specification of error was not sustained.**

**The order of the decision of the Presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission was affirmed.**

The Synod of the Northeast Permanent Judicial Commission has ordered that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey report this Decision to the presbytery at its next meeting, that the presbytery enter the full Decision upon its minutes, and that an except from those minutes showing entry of the Decision be sent to the Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Northeast. (D-13.0404f).

It is noted that Mr. Foster has 45 days after this decision was communicated to file an appeal with General Assembly Permanent Judicial Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven H. Shussett,  
Synod of the Northeast Decision and Order 2023-01 and Disciplinary Case  
No. 001 (Attached to this report).