

Report from the Stated Clerk Search Committee

The Process

The committee was formed according to the Standing Rules of Grace Presbytery with two members from the Personnel Committee, Rev. Thom Lamb and Rev. Katy Rigler and three members from the Presbytery Council, Rev. Dr. Ron Holloman, Rev. Elizabeth Boulware Landes, and Elder Cindy Miller with Rev. Dr. Steve Shive serving as ex-officio.

The committee agreed that this would be a prayerful process of discernment. The committee proceeded with ZOOM interviews of six candidates, spending time in prayer prior to each interview. Following those preliminary interviews, the committee was pleasantly surprised by the high caliber of all the candidates. We prayerfully ranked the top three candidates. We then gave all six candidates four written questions on polity, and the presbytery's vision and strategic initiatives. After receiving their responses, the names were removed and read blind by the committee. Without knowing who wrote which responses, we again ranked the top three candidates. Once the names were revealed, the top three candidates from the initial interview were the same following their written responses. It was clear that the Spirit was moving. Finally, we scheduled three in-person interviews with the top three candidates. Following excellent interviews with all three, we voted by secret ballot, and it was unanimous.

The Candidate

The Search Committee presents to Council, Rev. Dr. Kyle Walker as candidate for Stated Clerk of Grace Presbytery. Here is a brief excerpt from Kyle's cover letter to the committee:

"I'm aware that Grace Presbytery faces challenges that are confounding. Whether through meetings or processes, the most basic and transformative responsibility of a good clerk is to help ruling and teaching elders fulfill their ordination vow to 'be active in government and discipline, serving in the councils of the church; and in [their] ministry [to] try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ.' To do this well, we need a permission-giving ethos that is transparently inviting the full agency of the full diversity of our presbytery into fulfilling this Ordination vow."

Kyle received his M.Div (Global Mission and Evangelism) from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and his D.Min (Gospel and Culture) from Columbia Theological Seminary. As a member of Grace Presbytery, Kyle has served faithfully with the Social Justice Task Force, and he serves the Synod of Sun as a member of the Network for Dismantling Racism. Kyle also serves on the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary Alumni Board and the Texas Impact Board of Directors.

Kyle speaks as a person of humility and faithfulness. Throughout the interview process he spoke of processes that lead to transparency, rebuilding trust, helping to change the perceptions (real or imagined) of Grace Presbytery leadership and to allow time for faithful discernment. Kyle notes:

"I have dedicated myself to transparency and integrity in any organization that I am called. I believe that in our current world, we need to move toward what frightens us with the assurance of a mature faith and confidence in our good potential and integrity. When we are our best, courageous faithful selves, it brings out the best in the world and each other."

Ron Holloman

Thomas Lamb

Elizabeth Boulware Landes

Cindy Miller

Katy Rigler

Introducing...

Greetings Siblings in Christ of Grace Presbytery!

It is a pleasure to introduce myself to you as your **potential new Stated Clerk**. I am humbled by this nomination and encouraged for our work ahead.

My current relationship with Grace Presbytery began in the fall of 2019 when I moved to Dallas from Austin following my husband Nelis Potgieter as he began his position at TCU where he is an Associate Professor of statistics in the math department. During this period, I have served in the area as a trained transitional pastor for Midway Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and then for Emmanuel Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Bedford, Texas where I am currently. I have also served with wonderful colleagues on the Social Justice Task Force of Grace Presbytery since 2020.



Previously, I spent part of my upbringing in this presbytery. I was baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Denton, Texas and even attended camp at Prairie Valley when it was one of our presbytery camps. These 25 years of ministry God has blessed my life's work with have been in no small part due to that early formation. While I consider this a calling to the role of Stated Clerk, this is also an opportunity for me to give back to you having been a child and youth of Grace Presbytery.

As to the work ahead of us, I am convinced beyond any doubt that Grace Presbytery has a wealth of talent and resources that are often scarce in other places. I believe our ability to live into our new vision is limited only by our trust in and investment in Christ and each other. The character of our collaboration and the generosity of our inclusion as covenant community will make all the difference as the Spirit leads us toward **“...Boldly Living in God’s Abundance [while] Sharing and Creating in Christ.”**

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kyle M. Walker".

Rev. Dr. Kyle M. Walker
Minister of Word and Sacrament (Teaching Elder)
Grace Presbytery