

Commission on Ministry (COM)
Report to Presbytery
May 23, 2017

Action Item #1

The Commission on Ministry of Carlisle Presbytery recommends and moves that Carlisle Presbytery permit Rev. Nancy McClure to be called and installed as the Pastor of the Highland United and Westminster Presbyterian Churches **as permitted by the Book of Order- Section G-2.0504c.**

Rationale

Section G-2.0504c states- *“A presbytery may determine that its mission strategy permits a teaching elder currently called as an Associate Pastor to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor or co-pastor, or a teaching elder employed in a temporary pastoral relationship to be eligible to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor. Presbyteries that permit this eligibility shall establish such relationships only by a three-fourths vote of the members of presbytery present and voting.”*

The Commission on Ministry believes that the “mission strategy” of the presbytery is clearly represented by the successful first year of the Juniata Shared ministry. The three churches involved, Highland United, Perry Valley and Westminster have been energized by this program, with attendance increasing and the congregations feeling a new sense of self-worth and excitement. The COM believes it is time for Rev. Nancy McClure, who has been serving as Temporary Pastor at the Highland United and Westminster Churches, as well as the called and installed pastor at Perry Valley, to be allowed to be called and installed by these two churches as permitted by Book of Order Section G-2.0504c. A more detailed report follows:

The Rationale for “calling” the Rev. Nancy McClure to be the pastor of the Highland United and Westminster Presbyterian Churches.

In 2015, HUPC and WPC were congregations in transition. Membership and attendance were in decline, and those remaining felt neglected and in disarray. Then God spoke to us and to Rev. Nancy McClure, through our Presbytery, and our outside of the box thinking. Wonderful things are happening in the Juniata Valley Shared Ministry, and we feel impelled to continue them. Our team has strived to bring the Congregations together, while maintaining that sense of individuality for each. We began with joint services and social events, youth events, and holiday services, allowing Pastor Nancy to be with all three congregations. These events are now a fixture. We have dined, we have communed, we have partied, and we have shared. Our youth are beginning to find joint mission work, through the preexisting HUPC’s Youth in Mission, to be the base which has led to the first intergenerational mission trip for the JVSM. This is planned for June of this year at Camp Krislund. We have found music where none had been available in recent years. Our Seasonal Joint Choir filled all three sanctuaries with music for Advent and Christmas, and is now rehearsing for Lent and Easter services.

These two congregations feel cared for once more. Visitation, not only with those hospitalized, but with those homebound, regularly and vigorously, is occurring for the first time in years for each church. Both Sessions are pleased with the development of this care, and the only negative comments which are heard involve the need to have pulpit supply on the Sundays on which Pastor Nancy is not scheduled. Lay worship leaders from each congregation fill in for her in both their own church, and in the others, when asked.

This Shared Ministry has allowed two congregations to stabilize and begin growth. Currently, a new member's class is being planned. The class will be open to those wishing to join from all three churches and will be led by Pastor Nancy with assistance from Ruling Elders.

This Shared Ministry has allowed our sister congregation, Perry Valley, to discover its strengths, and to get support to maintain its identity. It is felt strongly that without this partnership, PCPV might well be gone. It has given them new strength and a plan to maintain stability. Hope is alive again for all three congregations, but reality is still in front of us. That reality can still be difficult.

To that end, these congregations wish to care for Pastor Nancy. By calling her now as pastor, we assure her that this position, and the Shared Ministry which it supports, are alive and well. We assure her that stability has been achieved and planned sustainable growth is possible. It will allow us to begin evaluating our strengths to determine if adding to the staff for ministry and visitation can occur.

We, the Sessions of HUPC, WPC, and PCPV wish to thank the Presbytery and the Commission on Ministry for supporting us in this venture, and consenting to the next steps on this journey.

Information Items

COM voted to approve the Call of Allison Spooner, along with her Terms of Call, to be the Designated Pastor of the Faith and Hope United Presbyterian Churches for a two year term and to grant her membership in Carlisle Presbytery, pending the affirmative vote of the two congregations and the examination of Allison and approval by the Presbytery of Carlisle that she be ordained as a Teaching Elder.

COM voted to authorize the Sessions of Hope United Presbyterian Church and Faith Presbyterian Church to call congregational meetings, the purpose of which would be to vote on calling Allison Spooner, along with her Terms of Call, to be their shared Designated Pastor.

COM requested that Stated Clerk Jim Speedy call a Special Presbytery meeting for March 21, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. The purpose of the meeting would be to examine Allison Spooner for ordination as a Teaching Elder.

COM voted to approve the renewal of the Covenant of Agreement for 2017, between CRE Beckie Drover and the Session of Wells Valley Presbyterian Church.

COM voted to grant the request of Donegal Presbytery to transfer to them, the membership of Rev. Jack Craft.

COM voted to approve the Call, along with the Terms of Call of the Candidate for Associate Pastor of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church and to grant the Candidate membership in the Presbytery of Carlisle. These actions are pending the affirmative vote of the congregation of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church to call the Candidate and examination by and approval of the Presbytery of Carlisle to be ordained as a Teaching Elder.

COM voted to authorize the Session of Silver Spring Presbyterian Church to call a Congregational Meeting on June 11, 2017 the purpose of which would be to vote on the Call, along with the Terms of Call, of the Candidate to be their Associate Pastor. The affirmative vote of the Call by the congregation would be pending the Candidates examination by and approval of the Presbytery of Carlisle to ordain the Candidate as a Teaching Elder and subsequent ordination.

COM voted to approve the Call, along with the Terms of Call of Rev. Ron Gilmer to be the Pastor of the St. James Presbyterian Church and to grant him membership in the Presbytery of Carlisle, pending the affirmative vote of the St. James Presbyterian Church's congregation to call him.

COM voted to authorize the Session of St. James Presbyterian Church to call a Congregational Meeting for April 30, 2017 the purpose of which would be to vote on the Call, along with the Terms of Call, of Rev. Ron Gilmer to be Pastor of the St. James Presbyterian Church, effective June 18, 2017.

COM voted to approve the Call, along with the Terms of Call of Rev. Stephen McKinney-Whitaker to be the Pastor of the Derry Presbyterian Church and to grant him membership in the Presbytery of Carlisle, pending the affirmative vote of the Derry Presbyterian Church's congregation to call him.

COM voted to authorize the Session of Derry Presbyterian Church to call a Congregational Meeting for May 7, 2017 the purpose of which would be to vote on the Call, along with the Terms of Call, of Rev. McKinney-Whitaker to be their Pastor effective July 1, 2017.

COM voted to approve the 2017 Terms of Call as submitted of 26 of the Pastors who are in "called and installed" positions in Carlisle Presbytery.

COM voted to approve the Mission Information Form (MIF) as submitted by the Harrisburg Korean Presbyterian Church. Chairperson Sproat will give the "Codes" to their PNC so the MIF can be uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection. (CLC)

The Mission Information Form for Dickinson Presbyterian Church was approved by an email vote of COM on April 6, 2017. Comments made by the members were forwarded to the PNC. The codes necessary for uploading the MIF to the Church Leadership Connection web site were sent to the church leadership.

COM voted to appoint the Rev. David Wright as Moderator of the Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church for the months of April through June 2017.

COM voted to validate Rev. Ann Myers' position as "Presbytery Associate for Connection and Communications with our Sessions" and to give her the Ecclesiastical Designation of "Other Validated Ministry", Office of General Assembly Designation #791.

COM voted to recommend to Carlisle Presbytery at its May 23, 2017 meeting, that Rev. Nancy McClure be permitted to be called and installed as the Pastor of the Highland United and Westminster Presbyterian Churches as permitted by the Book of Order- Section G-2.0504c."

COM voted to appoint Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger as Moderator of the congregational meetings of Westminster and Highland United Presbyterian Churches that will be called to vote on calling Rev. Nancy McClure as their Pastor.

COM voted to approve renewal of the Covenant of Agreement between the Session of Derry Presbyterian Church and Rev. Marie Buffaloe to be their Temporary Pastor.

COM voted to approve a revised Covenant of Agreement between the Session of Progress-Immanuel Presbyterian Church and Commissioned Ruling Elder Roz Presby. The revision allowed Roz to work additional hours and to increase her compensation.

COM voted to grant Revs. Stevens Lytch, Paul Fulmer and Jan Nolting Carter the status of Member at Large in Carlisle Presbytery. Steve and Jan have completed their service as Interim Pastor at the Faith and St. James churches respectively and are looking for another call. Paul has resigned his position, as Chaplain at Lebanon Valley College to return to San Francisco because of family needs.