

## Summary of May 22, 2018 Carlisle Presbytery Meeting

### Stated Clerk- Jim Speedy

Before I summarize the May 22<sup>nd</sup> presbytery meeting I would be remiss if I didn't heap deserved praise on the wonderful and faithful members of First Presbyterian Church, Carlisle. They, along with their pastor Rev. Tony Lorenz and Director of Educational Ministries Debby Madden, provided a welcoming, friendly and well organized venue for the meeting. Oh yea, I forgot to mention the wonderful dinner. Good Job. The presbytery is very grateful!

The presbytery worship was new and different. It was an inspiring mix of music (St. Paul's Brass), prayer for all of our churches, scripture reading in English, Korean and Spanish. It involved contributions from 34 Ruling Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament. It celebrated Pentecost; everyone was given a red stole to wear during worship. There were plenty of prayers, improvisation, lots of singing and celebration. It was something that you really had to be there to appreciate. Much thanks to all who participated, but especially Rev. Jeff Gibelius, Pastor at Second Carlisle, whose vision and faithful leadership made it happen.

The presbytery enrolled four Corresponding Members for the meeting.

#### **Rev. Doug Portz and Rev. Anaya Teter, both members of Pittsburgh Presbytery.**

Doug is the Senior Church Consultant for the Board of Pensions for our area and Anaya also serves with the Board. Doug spoke to the presbytery highlighting the proposed new program entitled *Pathways to Renewal*. This program will allow specific **qualifying** churches to have Board of Pension dues decreased. More information will be provided once the program is fully established.

#### **Rev. Tricia Dykers-Koenig- member of Western Reserve Presbytery**

Tricia is the Associate Director for Mid Council Relations in the Office of the General Assembly. Tricia spoke to the presbytery about some of the issues coming before the General Assembly this summer. Specifically the proposal for some reorganization of the church in terms of how the denomination is incorporated. She also gave a report on the proposal to significantly increase the per capita amount paid to the General Assembly. She reminded the presbytery that all of these issues are subject to changes and an affirmative vote by the Commissioners to the General Assembly.

**Rev. Ruth Ward-** Ruth is the new Interim Pastor at the Waynesboro Presbyterian Church. She is a retired minister and a member of the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church.

The Presbytery commissioned Rev. Heather Sigler, Rev. Tony Lorenz, Ruling Elder Chantal Atnip, (Pine Street) and Ruling Elder John Shaddock (Mechanicsburg) as Commissioners to the

223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly along with Paul Um as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD). Paul is a member of the Market Square Presbyterian Church. It was noted that Chantal is standing to be the Moderator of the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

The following committees gave reports:

#### **Administration Committee:**

Action by Presbytery to transfer \$10,000 from the Operating Fund to the Strengthening our Congregations Committee's Designated Funds for Church Buildings.

Action by Presbytery to move \$20,000 from Operating Fund to the Legal Reserve Fund.

#### **Strengthening Our Congregations Committee**

Reported on the "Wee Kirk" program taking place within the Juniata Valley Shared Ministry- especially Westminster Presbyterian Church, Mifflintown

#### **Coordinating Council**

The Council, in response to the comments made by former Executive Presbyter Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger's at the February 27, 2018 Presbytery meeting regarding "letting Sessions lead", met with Mark to get a better understanding of his comments. As a result the Coordinating Council reported to presbytery that "*Council remains of the opinion that the Presbytery continue its historical practice of having an Interim Pastor serve a church upon the pulpit being vacated by the installed pastor until a duly elected PNC is formed, a thorough search conducted and a new pastor called and installed.*"

#### **Education Committee**

Mandated Report Training will be offered on June 2, 2016 at Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church and October 20, 2018 at Great Conewago Presbyterian Church near Gettysburg. Both events from 9 a.m. to Noon.

A brochure describing the next "Refresh" educational event was distributed. It will be on September 22, 2018 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle. More information can be found on the presbytery's website ([www.carlislepby.org](http://www.carlislepby.org)) by clicking the **Committees Tab** and then choosing the **Education Committee's** link on the menu. Scroll down the page to Events.

#### **Mission Advocacy Committee**

Kathy Wells gave report on the presbytery's most recent trip to Honduras and encouraged anyone who can, to travel do mission in Honduras the next time a trip is made.

## **Interim Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee**

Debby Madden, Chairperson the Committee, reported that Ministry Information Form is now active on the Denomination's Church Leadership Connection website. The Committee has received eight Personal Information Forms so far. It is hoped the committee can make a nomination to the Coordinating Council sometime this summer. The Coordinating Council has the authority to hire the Interim Executive Presbyter. She also reported that a letter was sent to all the Clerks of Session in Carlisle Presbytery giving an update. This letter, along with a copy of the Ministry Information Form can be found on the presbytery's website under the Stated Clerk's tab.