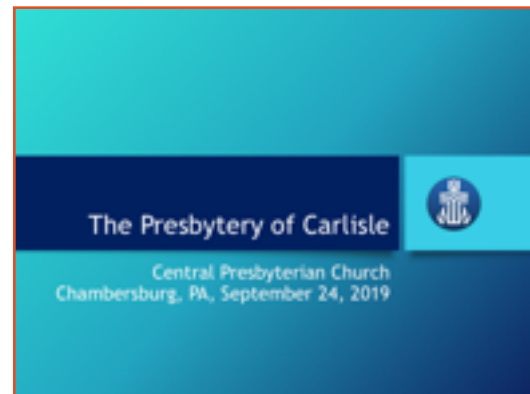


# Summary of the September 24, 2019 Meeting of The Presbytery of Carlisle

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*On a wonderful fall evening in September*, 117 Pastors, Ruling Elder Commissioners, and guests met at Central Presbyterian Church in Chambersburg. The last time Carlisle Presbytery met at Central Church was in 2002 (why did we wait so long?). The wonderful folks of Central did a great job of welcoming, participating and feeding the assembled people.



## What happened at the Presbytery Meeting?

### *The Gift of God's Call*

Joaquin Anabe Lopez was examined for Ordination. The Commission on Ministry validated his call as a Clinical Pastoral Education Resident at Hershey Medical Center. He preached a Sermon on John 21: 15-19, reminding us that Peter is affirmed by God's love and shown acceptance but that he also represents the broken relationship between God and humanity. Acts 9 and 10 were also invoked to underscore Christ's message to follow him to care for God's suffering people. Joaquin read his statement of faith. The presbytery questioned Joaquin on theology, his Statement of Faith, Sermon etc. The presbytery voted unanimously to approve Joaquin for Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The Ordination service will be on October 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church.

### *The Gifts of Food and Fellowship*

After the Ordination Exam, the presbytery recessed and went to a fabulous dinner! During this time, the presbytery recognized and celebrated the 33 years of service to the Presbytery by Suzi Souder. Suzi retired from her position as Associate for Communication and Office Management on September 5, 2019.

### *The Gift of Worship*

The presbytery participated in a worship service led by Ruling Elder Debra Hough and Rev. Scott Bowerman, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church. Other members of the Central Church also participated with music, dancing and celebration.

### *The Gift of our Ministry with Leaders and Congregations*

The Honorable Retirement of Rev. Myrtle McCall was celebrated. Myrtle was unable to attend the meeting, but Ellen Crawford True read a note of thanks from Myrtle.

The Presbytery approved the following **Minimum Effective Salaries** for 2020:

<b>For Full Time Pastors:</b>	\$53,410.00
<b>For Full Time Certified Christian Educators:</b>	\$43,035.00
<b>For Full Time Associate Certified Christian Educators:</b>	\$39,160.00

COM also announced that the Board of Pensions Dues will not be raised in 2020. This is the second year in a row that the dues have not been increased. They will remain at 37% of Effective Salary for those in full time Called and Installed ministry.

### ***The Gifts of Conversation and Learning***

Cheryl Galan introduced the “educational block” of the meeting, invoking Sherron George’s *The Neighborhood Church* and Tod Bolsinger’s *Canoeing the Mountains*, and the assertion that in order to love the world as God loves, we need new tools, different training, and guides/partners to help us see and discover what we cannot know, on our own. The learning component focused on ***transforming mission partnerships***.

Cheryl introduced Rev. Dori Hjalmarson the Mission Co-Worker in Honduras, who was interviewed by Rev. Kim Wadlington, pastor at Middle Spring. Through the question and answer format, presbyters learned about the work God is doing in Honduras. We heard about Dori’s work, facilitating theological education and leadership development. And, through Dori and Kim’s conversation we saw what is transformative about the partnership between the Presbytery of Carlisle and the Presbytery of Honduras.

Presbyters next engaged in ‘interviews’ with pre-arranged table hosts who are engaged in transformative mission partnerships in various places, locally, nationally and globally. Table hosts included: Debra Hough – **Pakistan**, Derry; Margee Kooistra – **Israel/Palestine**, Market Square; Kelly Want – **Network Cafe, Denver**, Market Square; Susan Cann – **Downtown Daily Bread**, Pine Street; Dottie Bush – **Diaper Depot**, Central; Nancy and Dan Flint – **MATE**, Camp Hill; Violet Barr – **Migrant Ministry, Middle Spring**; Drew Stockstill – **Allison Hill**; Jim Davis – **Lend-A-Hand**; Kathy Miller – **Honduras**, First United, Newville; Gene Gordon – **Ghana**; Ann Cavanaugh – **Honduras**.

Presbyters interviewed table hosts, asking questions about the mission partnership and learning about relationships that have been transformative. After the interviews, all were asked to consider: What opportunities does your congregation have to encounter people from the margins? How can you be more intentional about bringing voices from the margins into dialogue with those at “the center”?

**HONDURAS PARTNERSHIP** – Kim Wadlington, Vern Gauthier, Tony Lorenz, and Cheryl Galan discussed the proposed “Covenant of Agreement by The Presbytery of Carlisle and The Presbytery of Honduras.” On Sunday, November 3, 2019 between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at First Church in Carlisle, there will be a fuller conversation about the covenant and ways for individual churches to connect. Two 2020 trips are planned, dates to be determined.

**Please Note:** The following linked document contains details of the [Covenant](#).

### ***The Gift of Our Service***

The Presbytery elected Ruling Elder Margaret Mielke (Mechanicsburg) to a second term as Synod Commissioner and Ruling Elder Justin Fleming (Market Square) to the Synod of the Trinity Permanent Judicial Commission.

### ***The Gifts of Our Time, Purpose and Place***

The Presbytery approved a recommendation from the Coordinating Council to change the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Presbytery. The changes are meant to give more flexibility to the Coordinating Council regarding the scheduling, location and content of Presbytery meetings.

**Please Note:** The following linked documents contain details of:

1. The proposed changes to the [“Bylaws of the Presbytery of Carlisle,”](#) and
2. The adoption of a change to the [“Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Carlisle.”](#)

### ***The Gift of Our Financial Resources***

Mary Speedy, Chair of the Administration Committee, presented for a First Reading the proposed Presbytery Budget for 2020. The details of the budget can be found [here](#). The Administration Committee will bring the budget for action at the December 3 meeting of the presbytery. Questions or comments on the Budget should be sent to Mary Speedy – [mspeedy@comcast.net](mailto:mspeedy@comcast.net) or Debbie Madden – [dmadden.fpccarl@pa.net](mailto:dmadden.fpccarl@pa.net).