

COM Report to Presbytery

December 3, 2019

Action Item: Appoint an Administrative Commission to Work with the Session and Congregation of Christ Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, Pennsylvania

The Commission on Ministry (COM) of The Presbytery of Carlisle, **recommends and moves** that the Presbytery of Carlisle appoint an Administrative Commission to work, on its behalf with the Session and Congregation to establish the legacy path of the Christ Presbyterian Church, Lebanon, PA.

COM further moves that the Administrative Commission be authorized to:

Meet with the Session to assess the location of Christ Church its life cycle (growing, thriving, declining, struggling).

Meet with the Session and Treasurer to ascertain the financial status and outstanding financial obligations of the congregation.

Meet with the pastor to discuss the leadership needs of the congregation at this crossroads.

Empower and Equip the Session to meet with the congregation to identify and explore the implications of various options for the time that remains, including, but not limited to:

- Continue on the current course until financial resources run out.
- Act now to turn the building and property into an asset for the congregation's continued sustainability:
 - Sell the building and use the proceeds to re-locate the congregation and redevelop its ministry, relative the needs of the Lebanon community.
 - Sell or lease the building to another (perhaps Spanish-speaking) congregation and nest the Christ congregation within the building.
- Act now to dissolve the current congregation, determine how the church's remaining assets may be directed to fund something else in the community that reflects the values and mission of the people of Christ Church.
- Explore the possibility for rebirth and the development of a new Presbyterian witness in Lebanon. This may entail dissolving the current congregation and designating the property or the proceeds from its sale to an entirely new ministry based upon the needs of the unchurched of the community.

The Administrative Commission is authorized to assume original jurisdiction, if it deems necessary.

In the event that a dissolution of the existing congregation is warranted, the Administrative Commission is authorized to:

- Arrange for the pastoral care and option for re-location of the members.
- Secure the Session records, legal rights to all property (real or personal) held by or for the benefit of the congregation,
- Dispose of the moveable personal property of the congregation,
- Secure the building and property; Attend to matters of insurance,
- Dispose of the building and grounds or convey the building and grounds to the “The Presbytery of Carlisle of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)”
- Having discerned, with the congregation, its legacy intentions, recommend to the Presbytery the use of the remaining assets of the congregation, after all costs related to the work of Administrative Commission have been reimbursed to the Presbytery.
- Plan and conduct a Service of Witness

The Administrative Commission may secure the assistance of other individuals, as appropriate, to assist with its work, and generally to do such things and take such actions, for, in the name of, and on behalf of the Presbytery of Carlisle as shall be reasonably necessary to accomplish the general purpose of this resolution.

Information Items

COM voted to approve the **St. James Presbyterian Mission Study** and also granted the St. James Congregation permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, pending the inclusion of comments made and suggestions given by the congregation’s members into the Mission Study. Once this is completed, the PNC is to write a Mission Information Form (MIF) and present it to the COM. If COM approves the MIF, the PNC will be permitted to begin the search process for a new pastor.

COM voted to approve the Ministry Information Form of **Centre Presbyterian Church**. Ellen Crawford True will provide the PNC with the “codes” needed to upload the MIF to the Church Leadership Connection so the PNC can begin its search.

COM voted to appoint Rev. Katy Brungraber as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague in Mercersburg.

By email vote, September 17, 2019 approved the Covenant of Agreement between Roz Presby and Centre Presbyterian Church’s Session, to be their Commissioned Ruling Elder.

COM voted to grant CRE Roz Presby permission to celebrate the Sacraments and moderate the Session of the Centre Presbyterian Church.

As permitted by G-2.0506 of the Book of Order, COM granted Rev. Dr. Robert Cook, a Methodist Minister, temporary membership in Carlisle Presbytery. He was granted voice but no vote at the meetings of Carlisle Presbytery. Rev. Cook serves as Interim Pastor of the Greencastle Presbyterian Church.

COM approved the Ordination Service of Joaquin Anabe Lopez on Sunday October 27, 2019 at the Silver Spring Presbyterian Church at 5:00 p.m.

COM approved the Ordination Commission for Joaquin Anabe Lopez. Following are the members of the Commission:

- Rev. Jane Anabe (Associate Pastor Silver Spring Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Graham Fowler (Moderator Presbytery of Carlisle)
- Ruling Elder Scott Pepperman (Silver Spring Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Anne Myers (Temporary Associate Pastor , Camp Hill Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Don Wahlig (Pastor Silver Spring Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Cheryl Galan (Interim Executive Presbyter Presbytery of Carlisle)
- Ruling Elder Susan Neville (Silver Spring Presbyterian Church)
- Ruling Elder Gary Hollinger (Silver Spring Presbyterian Church)
- Ruling Elder Barbara Hughes (St. James Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Kathryn Johnston (Pastor Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church)
- Ruling Elder Jim Speedy (Stated Clerk of Presbytery of Carlisle)
- Rev. Dr. Gene M. Gordon (Pastor Capital Presbyterian Church)

Other Participants:

- Rev. Dr, Hunter Farrell (World Mission Initiative Pittsburgh Theological Seminary)

COM approved the service of Baptism of Ian Anabe, by Rev. Dr. Hunter Farrell as part of the Ordination service.

COM approved the serving of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as part of the service with Rev. Jane Anabe and Rev. Joaquin Anabe Lopez officiating.

COM approved the Installation Service of Rev. Dr. Nancy Conklin as Pastor of Camp Hill Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 23, 2019 at 4 p.m. followed by a "feast of thanksgiving."

COM approved the Installation Commission for Nancy Conklin's Installation service:

- Rev. Graham Fowler, Moderator, Carlisle Presbytery
- Ruling Elder Jim Speedy, Stated Clerk of Carlisle Presbytery
- Rev. Don Potter- Honorably Retired member of Carlisle Presbytery
- Ruling Elder Mondie Cunningham -Centre Presbyterian Church
- Rev. Ellen Crawford True- Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church- Camp Hill
- Ruling Elder Mary Swartz - Camp Hill Presbyterian Church

COM approved the celebration of the Lord's Supper for the Installation Service of Nancy Conklin. Nancy will officiate.

COM voted to approve the extension of Rev. Phil Unger as Temporary Pastor of the Mt. Olivet Presbyterian Church in Hancock, MD

COM approved guidelines for Boundary Training. The first training opportunity will be February 4, 2020 at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church.

Boundaries in the Church The Presbytery of Carlisle Commission on Ministry

Rationale

As God exists eternally in community, humanity also exists in community – distinct individuals who share a common purpose and Spirit for the sake of Christ, one another, and the world. As beings who participate in relationships, clergy, church leaders, and members routinely enter each others' physical space, emotional space, and mental space with varying degrees of sensitivity and permission. The Commission on Ministry (COM) recognizes the complexity of navigating human relationships and the difficulties that arise as individuals and groups encounter formal and informal power structures and vulnerable persons within our communities. As followers of Jesus, we are to seek to provide safe spaces for nurturing the faith of people from every background. A regular time set apart for teaching, reflection, and conversation around the issues of boundaries is necessary for continued growth into the persons and communities God intends.

Expectation

To that end, COM expects the following persons to engage in Boundary Training every three years:

- Teaching Elders in active ministry including Validated Ministries and Members at Large
- Certified Ruling Elders
- Certified Christian Educators, Associate Certified Christian Educators and paid staff who serve as Christian Educators

COM also strongly encourages Inquirers, Candidates, those actively in CRE training, retired Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders, and other church leaders to participate because the more we live in awareness and practices of healthy relationships, the stronger witness we are to the love of God given to us in Christ Jesus. This training will be offered at a nominal cost to participants and a certificate of completion will be awarded.

The Presbytery of Carlisle will offer this training once per year. If someone is unable to attend the scheduled event, he/she may attend a similar event in another venue and provide the Presbytery with a certificate of completion as well as information about the content.

If a person entering the Presbytery of Carlisle has participated in Boundary Training within the three years prior to becoming part of the Presbytery of Carlisle, that person may submit documentation to the Presbytery Office indicating the date and content of the training event.

COM Process

- Contract with a professional provider; establish training date and location.
- Communicate the event at least 3 months ahead of time to allow people to make it a priority.
- The Stated Clerk will keep attendance records and provide a certification of completion to each participant.

November 2019