

## Summary of December 3, 2019 Meeting of Carlisle Presbytery

The final 2019 Stated Meeting of Carlisle Presbytery took place at the historic Silver Spring Presbyterian Church (SSPC) in Mechanicsburg on December 3, 2019, where presbyters were greeted warmly by SSPC members and staff.

### What happened at the Presbytery Meeting?

After calling the meeting to order and offering an opening prayer, Moderator Graham Fowler, recognized Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Cheryl Galan. Cheryl proceeded to offer a **Learning Lab**, based on the theme, *Becoming a Corps of Discovery*. The learning and conversation cited statistical trends impacting our churches, given the changed North American landscape. In light of these changes, a thoroughgoing change in leadership functioning is needed, one that seeks to transform traditional churches into missionary churches. This new leadership model envisions both leaders and followers of Jesus as a Corps of Discovery. Through learning and experimentation, we don't try harder with what we know, but we start new adventures and make new and unexpected discoveries. Ultimately, we embody the transformation needed, and invite others into it.

At the conclusion of this time of learning, the presbytery moved to Silver Spring's historic Meeting House for a "Blue Christmas" service of lamentation and hope. After worship everyone returned to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch. (LOVED THE LASAGNA!)

During lunch, our new Communications and Technology Specialist, **Christie Ward**, was introduced to the presbytery. Stated Clerk Jim Speedy announced several **Minister Milestones**:

- The engagement of Rev. Allison Spooner, pastor at Hope United and Faith Immanuel churches and Conrad Smith, Director of Music Ministry at Second Presbyterian Church in Carlisle. They were greeted with "wedding bubbles" as they entered the room. Great Fun!!
  - The publication of **Rev. Ellen Crawford True's** book "And So I Kept Living"
  - The first anniversary of **Rev. Emily McCachren's** Ordination and Installation as a Minister of Word and Sacrament at McConnellsburg Presbyterian Church.
  - The first anniversary of **Rev. Donna Christopher's** installation as Associate Pastor at Second Presbyterian Church.
  - The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Rev. Ed Blank's** ministry as pastor at the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church
  - **St. James Presbyterian's** sale of property that allowed them to pay \$418,000 on their mortgage. The church hopes to pay the final \$22,000 of mortgage within the next six months.

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As the meeting resumed, presbyters took the following actions:

### *The Corps Engages with the Spirit's Work of Peace*

The 2019 Peacemaking Award was presented to **Sadler Health Center** in Carlisle. The award was received with gratitude by Manal Elharrak, the CEO of the health center. This award was presented in memory of Dr. Harold Kreitzing, the Moderator of Carlisle Presbytery in 2010. Dr. Kreitzing had a long and fruitful relationship with the Sadler Health Center.

### *The Corps Gathers Provisions for the Mission*

**The Carlisle Presbytery Budget for 2020 was approved unanimously.** The per capita for 2020 will be \$27.20 per member broken down as follows:

General Assembly	\$8.95	
Synod of the Trinity	\$2.40	This is a .10 increase over 2019
Presbytery of Carlisle	\$15.85	
TOTAL per member	\$27.20	

Ruling Elder Carlin Wenger spoke on the timeline of events relating to the legal dispute between the **Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church** and its Cemetery Association. As of May 2019, all legal issues have been resolved. The Moderator recognized **members of Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church Session** who read a statement expressing their gratitude to the presbytery for “protecting [their] church when it came under attack from within.” They specifically thanked Carlin Wenger and the legal team for their hours of financial, professional, and spiritual support.

### *The Corps Crosses Mountains*

The **Commission on Ministry** (COM) presented a proposal and Presbytery **voted to approve** the assignment of an Administrative Commission (AC) walk with Christ Presbyterian Church in Lebanon, PA, in discernment of a legacy path for the church. The following persons were elected to serve on the Administrative Commission:

- Rev. Charles Best (Honorably Retired) – Chairperson
- Ruling Elder Gregg Robertson (member, Derry Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Kristal Smith (Validated Minister), Lutheran Cooperative, Lebanon, PA
- Ruling Elder Larry Smith (member, Christ Church, Lebanon)
- Rev. Larry Van Hise (Honorably Retired)

COM chair Ellen Crawford True announced an up-coming opportunity for **Boundary Training**, offered by COM. The event will take place Feb. 4, 2020 at Silver Spring Church. Ellen interpreted COM's expectations about attendance at this important training.

### *The Corps Embarks with a Spirit of Adventure*

The Coordinating Council announced the dates of the 2020 meetings of Carlisle Presbytery, with locations and specific start times to be determined:

Saturday February 22, 2020- A Daytime Meeting  
Tuesday May 5, 2020- An Evening Meeting  
Saturday October 3, 2020- A Daytime Meeting  
Tuesday, December 1, 2020- An Evening meeting

It was noted that the February meeting will also include the Church Officer Training event formerly known as Saturday Seminar. Workshops will be offered for Elders, Deacons, Clerks of Session, Treasurers, and Pastors. Presbyters were encouraged to bring these individuals and groups, in addition to Ministers and Ruling Elder Commissioners. The day will also include worship, lunch, and the typical business conducted when the presbytery meets.

### **Provisional Changes in Some Presbytery Functions**

In 2020 the Coordinating Council will experiment with changes in how we fulfill some of the tasks and functions of the presbytery, so we may also create space for addressing the adaptive challenges we face as leaders and congregations.

- On a one-year provisional basis, the Education, Mission Advocacy, and Strengthening our Congregations Committees will enter a year of dormancy, in which the Nominating Committee will not populate these groups and they will not meet in their current configuration. Instead...
- A Grants Review team will be constituted to handle all of the grant applications formerly handled separately by these committees.
- Several working groups will handle tasks relative to our expanding mission partnership in Honduras, including two opportunities for groups to travel to Honduras in 2020 (April 20-27 and July 27-August 3).
- We will continue to offer learning experiences at presbytery meetings, drawing especially on the themes found in *Canoeing the Mountains*, and a new team will gather to discern and implement new models to deepen and expand this learning.

### ***The Corps Asks for (and Receives Help)***

The Nominating Committee submitted and **the presbytery approved** its slate of Nominees for various Committees, Commissions and Special Positions to serve Carlisle Presbytery. Among them were Ruling Elder Cheryl Betts and Rev. Kristal Smith as **2020 Moderator and Vice Moderator** respectively.

**Commissioners to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**, June 2020 in Baltimore, were elected:

- Ruling Elder Cheryl Betts (Gettysburg)
- Ruling Elder Pat Butler (Second Carlisle)
- Rev. Graham Fowler ( Pastor, Lost Creek Presbyterian Church)
- Rev. Ron Martin-Minnich (Honorably Retired)

### *The Corps Charts its Course*

Stated Clerk Jim Speedy recognized Moderator Graham Fowler for 18 years of faithful service as Permanent Clerk. Graham is retiring from this responsibility. Jim pointed out that in his 12 years as Stated Clerk, the Synod has approved WITHOUT EXCEPTION, the minutes of our presbytery, written by Graham!

Jim also thanked Ruling Elder Nancy Sheets for her fine work as 2019 Permanent Clerk so Graham could fulfill his role as Moderator of the Presbytery.

Jim placed into nomination and the **presbytery approved, Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber**, a Member at Large of Carlisle Presbytery, to serve as Permanent Clerk for 2020.

To address an imbalance between Minister and Ruling Elders with voice and entitled to vote at presbytery meetings, **the Presbytery approved** giving one additional Ruling Elder beyond the membership guidelines in Standing Rule #12.

The meeting was adjourned with the singing of a hymn and with prayer offered by Cheryl Betts, Vice-Moderator.

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle is Saturday, February 22, 2020!