

**Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle – Harrisburg, PA (by Zoom)**  
**Stated Meeting Minutes – December 1, 2020**

**Attachments**

1. Report of the Coordinating Council
2. Report of the Commission on Ministry
3. Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk

**Abbreviations**

- AC Administrative Commission
- BOO *Book of Order* – The Constitution of the PC(USA) Part II
- BOP Board of Pensions
- COA Covenant of Agreement
- COM, CPM Commission on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- GA, SOT General Assembly, Synod of the Trinity
- MSP Motion Seconded and Passed (if it comes from committee, MP only)
- NC, PNC Nominating Committee, Pastor Nominating Committee
- PC, PW Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women
- PJC Permanent Judicial Commission
- TE, RE, CCE, CRE Teaching Elder, Ruling Elder, Certified Christian Educator, Commissioned Ruling Elder

**OPENING PRAYER** – Moderator Cheryl Betts called the stated meeting to order with prayer at 7:01PM.

**ACTION** – MSP to approve the Docket.

- A question about whether retired pastors may vote was answered in the affirmative: yes; retired TE's are minister members and have voice and vote.

**INTRODUCTIONS, QUORUM, REGISTRATION, ROLL [see Roll attached]**

Moderator Betts welcomed first-time RE Commissioners– Judy Bosdorf (Hope United), Jack Galan (Market Square), Gray Lepley (Christ, Camp Hill) – and guest Susan Faye Wonderland (Interim Synod Executive). Registration was by electronic sign up, and the roll was documented by log-in through Zoom. Temporary Stated Clerk Meg Shoeman declared a quorum. Presbytery attendance was 98.

**REPORT OF THE COORDINATING COUNCIL[see report attached]**

Moderator Betts called on Interim Presbytery Executive Cheryl Galan whose presentation included

- Biblical insight from Paul's challenges in ministry (shipwreck, house arrest): this is hard; the storm isn't over yet; focus on Christ; we are loved; we have a mission; we will speak up for the most vulnerable; do not be afraid.
- Rev. Galan invited minister members and commissioners to name in the Zoom Chat function the meaning, purpose, and mission of a presbytery and prayers. Among joys and concerns named: worship attendance has increased via Zoom, virtual communion is a blessing, one congregation has 5 members with confirmed cases of COVID-19 and there have been several COVID related funerals (funeral directors are overwhelmed and need prayers as well). Rev. Galan noted how amazing it is to see transformation in the Presbytery through the storms of 2020.

- Written reflections on the past two years note the presbytery's engagement in a process that will culminate in a new vision statement in 2025 describing the soul and substance of the Presbytery of Carlisle. Experimentation included the development of digital disciples, learning components at presbytery meetings, flexible meeting schedules and new configurations of people to engage the work of the presbytery. Highlights included forging deep relationships among pastors and congregations; the presbytery coming alongside congregations in transition, conflict, struggle and change; staying connected virtually / electronically; focusing on mission.
- Council announced **2021 Presbytery meeting dates**
  - **Via Zoom:** Saturday Feb 27 (AM – with Officer training), Tuesday May 25 (PM)
  - **Hopefully, in person:** Saturday Sep 25 (AM), Tuesday Dec 7 (PM)
- Council approved a \$3,500 gift from Honduras Partnership Fund to the Presbyterian Church in Honduras, toward providing relief due to destruction from Tropical Storms Eta and Iota.
- Council approved a December 1 special offering to benefit the Presbyterian Church in Honduras.
- Year-end reporting forms will be posted on-line for clerks (rather than hard-copy packets).

#### **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

Moderator Betts called upon RE Debby Madden (on behalf of RE Mary Speedy) to introduce **the 2021 Proposed Budget and Rationale**, which was presented and discussed. Questions and comments about the proposal had been invited, welcomed, and fielded in advance of the meeting by RE Debby Madden, RE Mary Speedy, and TE Cheryl Galan. The 2021 proposed budget for *the church dispersed, deployed and distributed* reflects changes from 2020, based on current realities, giving patterns and new needs. It anticipates ministry in flux:

- What will the Church look like, in a post-pandemic world?
- What role will presbyteries play, as new forms of the gospel emerge?
- What might we learn, and with whom?
- Where is God calling us into partnerships and coalitions that engage our gifts for the sake of those most vulnerable around us?
- What needs of our communities will receive our energy and passion? What will we let go?
- What do we need, as a presbytery, to cultivate the capacities of leaders and congregations for the opportunities and challenges before us?

Moderator Betts called for the vote.

**ACTION – MP** to approve the 2021 Proposed Budget of \$414,077.50.

**The 2021 Per Capita Commitment and Mission Pledge Form** is on the website for clerks to submit.

#### **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

RE Debby Madden presented the Treasurer's Report; there were no questions about the October 31 Operating Budget Report (Income and Expense Summary), or the October 31 Designated Funds Report, which includes Mission and Grants (such as COVID and Small Church Leadership), Preparation for Ministry, Coordinating Council (such as Healthy Congregations and Minister Emergency), Presbytery Designated Missions (such as Prison Ministry and Honduras), and Strengthening our Congregations.

Total Income Jan-Oct 2020 (including \$187,091 from per capita)	\$392,289
Total Expenses for Mission and Support Jan-Oct 2020	\$429,337

RE Madden thanked the presbytery for their generosity.

#### **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Moderator Betts passed the gavel to TE Kristal Smith who invited TE Tony Lorenz to give the Nominating Committee Report. The floor was opened for discussion and nominations; there were no nominations from the floor.

**ACTION – MP** to approve TE Kristal Smith for service as Moderator of the Presbytery of Carlisle for 2021.

**ACTION –MP** to approve CRE Neal McCulloch (Dickinson) for service as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Carlisle for 2021.

**ACTION – MP** to approve the slate of nominees for committee representatives as presented:

<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Term</b>	<b>Church/Entity</b>	<b>Clergy/Lay</b>
<b>Administration Committee (Ruling and Teaching Elders)</b>			
2023 Win Cleland	2	Second, Carlisle	RE
2023 Nancy Conklin	1	Camp Hill	TE
2023 Norma Mateer	1	Middletown	RE
<b>Coordinating Council (Ruling and Teaching Elders)</b>			
2023 Scott Bowerman	2	Central	TE
2023 Janice Tiedeck	1	Monaghan	TE
2023 Emily Dame	1	Market Square	RE
<b>Commission on Ministry (Ruling and Teaching Elders)</b>			
2021 Lou Nyiri, Co-chair	1	Gettysburg	TE
2022 Ellen Crawford True, Co-chair	2	Christ, Camp Hill	TE
2023 Ed Blank	2	Warfordsburg	TE
2023 Gary Hollinger	2	Silver Spring	RE
2023 Scott Pepperman	2	Silver Spring	RE
2023 Anthony Lorenz	1	First, Carlisle	TE
2023 Howard West	1	Chaplain, Country Meadows	TE
2023 Lynn Phillips	1	St. Andrews	RE
<b>Permanent Judicial Commission (Ruling and Teaching Elders)</b>			
2023 Sally Kammerer	1	Big Spring	RE
<b>Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Ruling and Teaching Elders)</b>			
2023 John Green	2	Paxton	TE
2023 Eunice Hager	2	Monaghan	RE
2023 Candace Veon Nyiri	1	At-Large	TE
2023 Jack Keene	1	Derry	RE
<b>Joint Camp and Conference Committee (Krislund)</b>			
2023 Pamela Meilands	1	Derry	TE

RE Lorenz thanked NC members Kathy Wells, Debbie Hough, Donna Wenger (who will be the next NC chair), Barbara Rhoades, and Christian Neubaum for their good work in presenting these nominees.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY[see report attached]**

Moderator Smith called on TE Ellen Crawford True for the COM Report, which included:

- The upcoming Blue Christmas Worship service for Pastors and Educators on December 14.
- Recognition that this is the last Carlisle Presbytery meeting for TE Jane Anabe (Sliver Spring) and TE Joaquin Anabe Lopez (Hershey Medical Center CPE Resident); they're moving to LaPort, IN for TE Anabe's call as Solo Pastor; the presbytery sends them with prayer and God's blessing.
  - A question was raised about whether the presbytery needs to vote on the dissolution/transfer of membership of the TE Anabe and TE Lopez; it was clarified that COM does that, along with the congregation's action to dissolve.
- Approvals
  - Camp Hill MIF for AP and Greencastle COA with Robert Cook
  - Minimum Terms of Call for CCEs and Associate CCEs
  - Appointments of COM liaison to Wells Valley
  - Installation commission for Pam Meilands (Derry)
- A list of 11 congregations in transition with which COM is actively working.

TE Crawford True invited questions. There were none. No actions were required.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK[see report attached]**

Moderator Smith called on Temporary Stated Clerk TE Meg Shoeman for the Clerk Report.

**ACTION – MSP** to approve TE Katy Yates Brungraber (Member-at-Large) as Permanent Clerk of the Presbytery of Carlisle for the year 2021.

- Permanent Clerk, also known as Recording Clerk, is elected annually by the Presbytery.

**ACTION – MSP** to approve the requests of the Sessions of Duncannon, Waynesboro, Great Conewago and Big Spring churches respectively, as permitted by G-2.0404 in the BOO, that term limits for officers of said churches be waived as determined appropriate to their needs and limitations for the year 2021.

**ACTION – MSP** to approve that each church in the Presbytery of Carlisle be given one additional Ruling Elder beyond the membership guidelines, outlined in Standing Rule #12 of Carlisle Presbytery, who will have voice and vote at the 2021 meetings of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

- **Rationale:** In the Clerk's written report, it was noted that the Presbytery has adopted this practice since 2009. Standing Rule #12 of the Presbytery of Carlisle mandates that Presbytery shall redress annually, any imbalance between ministers and ruling elders entitled to vote at presbytery meetings. Current analysis shows an imbalance of 48 (Total Minister members = 111; Total Ruling Elders =63). Approval of the proposal brings imbalance to 6.

Information items from the Clerk included

- TE Graham Fowler (Lost Creek) and RE Nancy Sheets (Market Square) reviewed the October 3, 2020 minutes of the stated meeting of Carlisle Presbytery (and will review December 1 minutes)
- Death of TE William Harter reported to Office of GA
- 2019 session minutes review conducted through a combination of communications
- Reporting PJC members, by class, whose terms have expired within the past six years
  - Class of 2019 – TE Jon Black, RE Ginny Boynton, RE Norma Mateer
  - Class of 2017 – RE David Getz, RE Michael Zang, TE Myrtle McCall
  - Class of 2015 – TE Robert Rhoades, TE Heather Sigler, RE Anthony Potter

Note: The Committee on Representation did not meet in 2020 due to COVID-19 constraints.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Written report from Doug Portz, BOP, highlighting changes to benefit offerings in 2021
- Krislund Camp Brochure (12 pages) highlighting dates, schedules, and pricing for Day Camps (Sprout and STEM) and Residential Camps (Discoverers, Pathfinders, Pioneers, Leaders in Training) plus Mini Camp, Family Camp, Outdoor Skills Camp, and Community Camp
- Synod of the Trinity 2020 Assembly Report highlighting
  - Rev. Dr. John Welch (pastor of the Bidwell Presbyterian Church for seven years and vice president for Student Services and Community Engagement & Dean of Students of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for 13 years) spoke on “Hyperpartisanship”
  - “Acknowledgement of the Land” by Susan Nesti, moderator of the Synod’s PW, and a full-blood Native American Indian from the Chickasaw tribe in Oklahoma
    - only 14 states celebrate ‘Indigenous Peoples Day’ honoring Native American histories and cultures, which is on Columbus Day
  - Decommissioning of the Camp Hill Synod Office
  - TE Charlie Best named as co-moderator of the Synod for 2021
  - Zoom exchange with PC(USA) Co-Moderators Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley.
  - Announcement of an Executive Search Committee of eight (including one alternate) chosen by the Synod’s Governing Commission in relation to Synod Transitional Executive Susan Faye Wonderland’s contract ending in December of 2021

**ACTION – MSP** to adjourn the meeting at the close of Evening Prayer.

Worship was led by Jeff Gibelius, Scott Bowerman, Graham Fowler, Emily McCachren, Heather Sigler, Nancy Sheets, Debby Madden, Bruce Humphrey, John Carroll, and Rachel Schwab. A Litany of Light ushered the body of Christ into sharing prayers and Minister Milestones.

- TE Susan Wonderland thanked the presbytery for embracing the challenge of letting go of shared office space in Camp Hill and for being open to the new thing God is doing in the Synod
- Prayers were lifted relating to COVID-19, and for those who lost family members recently
- TE Vernon Gauthier celebrates his 20<sup>th</sup> year at First United in Newville
- TE Andrew Hostetter celebrates his first presbytery meeting as a member of Carlisle Presbytery
- TE Jim Richwine lifted TE Cheryl Galan for bringing tremendous leadership to the presbytery
- TE Lois Richwine lifted TE Charlie Best who will serve the Synod of the Trinity as Co-Moderator

**An offering in the amount of \$ 8900 was collected for our partners in Honduras** to bring hope and help to our siblings in Christ, recently struck by hurricanes Eta and Iota, still struggling with the coronavirus pandemic, and already vulnerable in on-going conditions of poverty. This amount is in addition to the **\$3500** gift approved by Council for the same purpose.

Worshippers were divided into groups of three on Zoom for personal prayer exchange.

The meeting ended with prayer at 8:30 PM. The next stated meeting of the presbytery is Feb 27 (Zoom).

**Report of the Coordinating Council  
Report to the Presbytery – December 1, 2020**

**Reflections of Interim Executive Presbyter, Cheryl Galan**

Two years ago, I accepted your call to engage the presbytery in a process that will culminate in a new vision statement describing the soul and substance of the Presbytery of Carlisle in 2025. And here's what happened next:

**Practicing Agility**.....We set out, on the way from 'what has been' to 'what will be' with digital disciples, learning components at presbytery meetings, flexible meeting schedules and new configurations of people to engage the work of the presbytery.

**Canoeing the Mountains**..... We discovered the old maps no longer serve us well and named our intention for a year of experimentation. With a spirit of adventure, we began to adapt. We became a Corps of Discovery, heading into uncharted territory with a mission worthy of our utmost dedication.

**Traversing the Rockies**...A global pandemic forces us to ditch our canoes, ask for help, find horses and cross the mountains. We proceed on:

- We forge deep relationships among pastors and across congregations, with weekly Zoom gatherings, monthly support groups, and new coaching cohorts for pastors. Zoom gathers us across congregations for book study, Pop-up seminars on timely topics, and in mutual learning and support.
- We come alongside congregations in pastoral transition, conflict, struggle or change. Through the gifts of a wise, strong and engaged Commission on Ministry, we actively support, guide and adapt with congregations, as we all navigate new challenges and opportunities.
- We stay connected in every way possible. In spite of physical distancing, e-newsletters and social media posts keep us informed; a Zoom Pro bundle for small churches puts an essential tool within financial reach; we use our website, social media and YouTube channel to curate and deliver content for congregations to use and share.
- We focus on the mission! - Vulnerable neighbors receive care. Partnership with Krislund, Lend-A-Hand, and Honduras takes new forms. We speak up in public spaces. We build coalitions across race, culture and creed. We shrink our office footprint, that we may travel more lightly.

**Now**...we are just beginning to imagine ourselves as a post-pandemic presbytery...we engage the questions of what it means to thrive as the church dispersed, deployed and distributed. As the COVID-19 fog lifts we will consider what role the presbytery will play, as new forms of the gospel emerge.

**Presbytery Meetings In 2021**

The Coordinating Council announces the following dates for the presbytery to gather in 2020. Meeting dates follow the pattern explored in 2020, with two Saturday meetings and two Tuesday meetings. For the first half of the year, we will meet on Zoom. By fall, we hope to be able to gather in person. Please note that the February meeting includes a Church Officer Training component.

Saturday, February 27

A morning meeting on Zoom that includes learning opportunities for Elders, Deacons, Clerks of Session, and Pastors

Tuesday, May 25

An evening meeting on Zoom  
Saturday, September 25

A morning meeting....hopefully in person, if pandemic conditions allow. Location TBD  
Tuesday, December 7

An evening meeting....hopefully in person, if pandemic conditions allow. Location TBD

### **Honduras Mission Partnership**

Responding to a recommendation from the Honduras Partnership Team, the Council approved a gift of \$3,500 from Honduras Partnership Funds, to the Presbyterian Church in Honduras, to be used for their efforts in providing relief aid due to the destruction of Tropical Storms Eta and Iota. This leaves sufficient funds for building one home in 2021, either by traveling to Honduras or sending money, whichever is deemed best for the partnership. The Council also approved a special offering to benefit the Presbyterian Church in Honduras at the December 1 presbytery meeting.

### **Year-End Reports**

Ordinarily, we distribute hard-copy packets containing year-end reporting forms to be returned to the presbytery after the first of the year. Since we are not able to meet in person this year, the forms will be posted to the presbytery web-site, with instructions and deadlines emailed to Clerks of Session, Moderators of Session, and Treasurers. These forms are found under Clerks of Session, on the drop-down menu under the Documents/Forms tab of the web-site. Those who are unable to complete the forms electronically may request that a hard copy be mailed to the Clerk of Session. Watch for an email coming later this month, with links to the following reports:

- Instructions for Year-End Reports and Statistical Reports for the Office of the General Assembly
- 2021 Minimum Terms of Call for Ministers of the Word and Sacrament
- Minister Terms of Call Report Form
- Necrology Report Form
- Insurance and Indebtedness Form
- Church Pledge Form
- Directory Form
- Contribution Form

### **Report of the Commission on Ministry December 1, 2020**

#### **Items for Information**

- COM approved the Ministry Information Form Submitted by Camp Hill Church regarding their search for an Associate Pastor.
- COM approved renewal of the Covenant of Agreement between Greencastle Church and Robert Cook.
- COM approved the recommendation for minimum terms of call for Certified Christian Educators and Associate Certified Christian Educators, same percentage of increase as for ministers.
- COM approved the appointment of Tony Lorenz as liaison for Wells Valley.
- COM approved the installation commission for Pam Meilands of Derry Church.
- COM is actively working with these churches which are in some form of transition: Faith Immanuel and Hope, Wells Valley, Big Spring, Waynesboro, Great Conewago, Mercersburg, Perry Valley, St. James, Lower Marsh, Mt Olivet, Camp Hill

**Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk  
December 1, 2020**

**Items for Action:**

**Action Item # 1:** The Temporary Stated Clerk moves that Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber be elected as Permanent Clerk of the Presbytery of Carlisle for the year 2021.

**Action Item # 2:** At the request of the Sessions of Duncannon, Waynesboro, Great Conewago and Big Spring churches respectively, and as permitted by G-2.0404 in the Book of Order, the Temporary Stated Clerk moves that term limits for officers of said churches be waived as determined appropriate to their needs and limitations for the year 2021.

G-2.0404 Terms of Service:

Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session or board of deacons, and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year. Election shall be to classes as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of only one class ending each year. The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms.

Action Item # 3: The Temporary Stated Clerk moves that each church in the Presbytery of Carlisle be given one additional Ruling Elder beyond the membership guidelines, outlined in Standing Rule #12 of Carlisle Presbytery, who will have voice and vote at the 2021 meetings of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

**Rationale**

The Presbytery has adopted this practice since 2009. Standing Rule #12 of the Presbytery of Carlisle mandates that Presbytery shall redress annually, any imbalance between ministers and ruling elders entitled to vote at presbytery meetings. Accordingly, the Temporary Stated Clerk did the following analysis:

Total Minister Members as of November 1, 2020	111
Ruling Elder Commissioners from churches (based on membership guidelines outlined in Presbytery Standing Rule #12)	49
Other Ruling Elders entitled to vote per Carlisle Presbytery Bylaws	14
These additional 14 Elders consist of:	
A. Committee Chairs (Ruling Elders)	3
B. Ruling Elder Members of Council	6
C. Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE)	2
D. Ruling Elders who are in CRE Program	1
E. Certified Educators who are Ruling Elders and employed in Presbytery	1
F. Moderator of Presbyterian Women	1
Total Ruling Elders entitled to vote	63
<b><u>Summary:</u></b>	
Total Minister Members	111
Total Ruling Elders entitled to vote	63
<b>IMBALANCE:</b>	<b>48</b>



GIVEN the fact that there are projected to be 42 churches in the presbytery for the year 2021 following the expected closure of Perry Valley at the end of December 2020, if the proposal above is approved by Presbytery this would result in the following:

Total Minister Members	111
Total Ruling Elders entitled to vote	105
IMBALANCE:	6

**Items for Information:**

Rev. Graham Fowler and Ruling Elder Nancy D. Sheets (Market Square) read, reviewed and approved the minutes of the October 3, 2020 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle. Rev. Fowler and Elder Sheets will read and review the minutes of the December 1, 2020 stated meeting of the Presbytery.

The Temporary Stated Clerk reported the death of minister member Rev. William Harter to the Office of the General Assembly.

The review of 2019 session minutes of the churches within the Presbytery of Carlisle has been conducted through a combination of electronic, postal and telephone communications. The results of the review will be reported in the February 2021 stated meeting of the Presbytery.

According to the Book of Order, D-5.0206.b, the Stated Clerk is required to report annually to presbytery a roster of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission, by class, whose terms have expired within the past six years:

Class of 2019- Rev. Jon Black, Ruling Elder Ginny Boynton, Ruling Elder Norma Mateer  
 Class of 2017- Ruling Elder David Getz, Ruling Elder Michael Zang, Rev. Myrtle McCall  
 Class of 2015- Rev. Robert Rhoades, Rev. Heather Sigler, Ruling Elder Anthony Potter

The Committee on Representation did not meet in 2020 due to the constraints created by COVID-19, as reported by CoR Chair Rev. Graham Fowler.

Respectfully submitted, Meg Shoeman, Temporary Stated Clerk

