

Administrative Commission
Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church, Mercersburg, PA
Report #1 to Presbytery as of September 7, 2021

TE Ed Blank and TE Emily McCachren (Co-Chairs)
RE Kathryn Finley, RE George Marguglio, TE Katy Yates Brungraber (Clerk)

- May 22 The Administrative Commission (AC) was formed by vote of the Presbytery of Carlisle. The AC is tasked with working with the Session and Congregation **to establish the legacy path** of The Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church (UWCPC)
- Jun 22 The AC met with Interim Executive Presbyter Cheryl Galan to discuss their assignment. The AC decided to **establish Monday afternoons for weekly AC meetings**, starting July 5, and elected TE Blank and TE McCachren as co-Chairs (with TE Brungraber as AC Clerk).
- July 12 The AC met for the first time with the UWCPC Session to begin **building relationship**. The AC starts to understand the congregation's realities and struggles. Session starts to understand what the AC is empowered to do. Date set for conversation with the congregation.
- Aug 9 The AC met again with the Session to plan the first Special Meeting of the Congregation
- Aug 22 At the **Special Meeting of the Congregation**, UWCPC Temporary Clerk Dian Bishop read a report on the status of the congregation, which has been experiencing an increase of health concerns of aging membership – the result has been a diminished pool of leadership; monthly income consistently is less than monthly expenses. The AC engaged the congregation in reflection and conversation about shared values. The congregation expressed love of the church and one another, and concern for the poor in the community who need support. Questions were asked and answered about the role of the AC. After extensive discussion, **the congregation voted 11-3 (2 abstaining) to support Session's leadership** to “move forward with conversations about blessing the Mercersburg community in a way that honors all the members and saints who supported the church in the past, in alignment with God's purposes.”
- Aug 23 The AC and Session set **September 18 as a date for an AC/Session Retreat** to glean shared values of the congregation from the Aug 22 meeting, and consider legacy path options.

The AC and UWCPC Session are grateful for COM's continued prayers, as they seek the Lord's leading.

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