

**Administrative Commission**  
**Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church, Mercersburg, PA**  
**Report #2 to Presbytery of Carlisle as of November 22, 2021**

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

- Sep 18 **The Administrative Commission (AC) and Session met for a Retreat at the church building** to glean shared values of the congregation from the Aug 22 Meeting of the Congregation, and to consider legacy path options. Noted: recent worship attendance is as low as 7, as high as 14.
- Sep 20 With the AC's support, after much discussion Session sent a letter to the Congregation, again **establishing the need for steady worship and income equal to expenses**. The letter clarified that, unless sustainability issues are addressed, leadership will move forward with legacy plans, come the new year, seeking congregation input on how best to use "riches" to help others. As Session members had discerned and affirmed, **"Running out the clock, or going until the money they have is exhausted, is not a faithful option."**
- Oct 11 **The AC met with Session; Session members reported receiving on-going attacks from other church members.** Conversations about the AC assuming Original Jurisdiction began prayerfully. Session elected a new Treasurer, removing the former Treasurer due to health and other concerns.
- Oct 17 After a Special Meeting of Session with the AC that went into Executive Session, Session sent a **letter in reply to 10 members who had called for motions that were out of order** (undated letter from the 10 received October 7). Session's letter encouraged all members to follow the polity of the PC(USA); polity which includes responsibilities of members and ordained officers.
- Oct 18 The AC met to debrief the tensions in the congregation and pray for the Lord's leading.
- Oct 25 After much prayerful consideration, **the Session of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague voted to ask the Administrative Commission to assume Original Jurisdiction.** The AC prayerfully accepted Session's request, and assumed Original Jurisdiction.
- Oct 27 The AC met to address logistics – sending a letter to the congregation, calling a Stated Meeting of the Congregation, arranging for proper signature authority at the banks, clarifying clerk duties (RE Finley will be Clerk, TE Brungraber will be Recording Clerk) – and to address **further demands from church members that were received by the Session on October 26.**
- Oct 29 **The Temporary Clerk for UWPC signed the Resolution with the Presbytery of Carlisle** for the Administrative Commission to assume Original Jurisdiction.
- Nov 1
1. **TE Brungraber met with the former members of Session** to ratify votes via Zoom and approve Minutes of October 25. Instructions for next steps moving forward were provided.
  2. AC met to assess needs: pastoral care, pulpit supply, signature authority at bank, keys, etc.
  3. **The AC sent a letter to the Congregation explaining Original Jurisdiction (attached below)**
- Nov 8 The AC met to prepare for the upcoming Meeting of the Congregation (since there was no Deacon representative identified to serve on the Nominating Committee – a By-Laws requirement – there were no names brought forward from the NC for election by the congregation), and address building use requests and pulpit supply concerns. Updated membership lists and clarification of Officers (terms) for Nov 14 will be provided.
- Nov 14 **The AC held a properly called meeting of the congregation, per UWPC By-Laws,** to elect Deacons and receive the 2022 Budget and information about Original Jurisdiction. After several members declined to serve, one member who lives in New Jersey was elected from the floor, leaving one vacancy in the Class of 2024. The congregation was encouraged to worship well in the upcoming Advent season, to enjoy Christmas, and to not worry – the AC

will act as the Session, make decisions with input from the former Session and others, and be responsible for pulpit supply. **TE McCachren was identified for emergency pastoral care.**

*An article summarizing the meeting was submitted for the UWPCPC December Newsletter.*

Nov 15 The AC met to discuss a safety deposit box, annual/statistical reports, website, Reading Room.

Nov 22 The AC met to address 2022 dates for the celebration of the Lord's Supper; end-of-year items.

The AC is grateful for the presbytery's continued prayers, as they seek the Lord's leading.

*Carlisle UWPCPC AC Report #2 to Presbytery as of 2021.11.22*

November 1, 2021

Dear Members of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague,

We write to inform you that after much prayerful consideration, discernment, and consultation with the Session, the Administrative Commission (AC) has assumed Original Jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague. This means:

1. The Session will continue to partner with and support the AC.
2. The AC now has responsibility and authority for the congregation and the work of the church, operating as the Session of this congregation.
3. The congregation will continue to glorify God, honoring PC(USA) responsibilities of membership. This means the work of the church will remain the same: worship, Bible Study, Reading Room, Deacon collections, Body and Soul, etc.

The decision for the AC to assume Original Jurisdiction reflects this congregation's abiding faith in the Lord who provides leaders and partners in ministry. In this case, God has called the Administrative Commission to step in as leaders of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague. Ruling Elders will continue to lift up the values of the congregation as they work closely with the AC as advisors.

The Administrative Commission is calling a Stated Meeting of the Congregation at 1:30 PM on the second Sunday of November (November 14, 2021) for the specific purpose of receiving information from the Administrative Commission, electing Deacons, and reviewing the proposed Budget for 2022. Since the AC now operates as the Session of this congregation, elections for Ruling Elders for the Class of 2023, and vacancies, are unnecessary.

Your work as the Body of Christ continues. Therefore, you are encouraged to pray for unity and reconciliation within this Body. Let these prayers overflow into kindness and compassion for one another (Ephesians 4:32). You remain in our prayers always,

The Administrative Commission of the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague

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