

Carlisle Presbytery Minutes 2021

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle – Harrisburg, PA (by Zoom) Stated Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2021

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, OGA, SOT General Assembly, Office of 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
- TSC Temporary Stated Clerk

OPENING PRAYER – Moderator Cheryl Betts called the stated meeting to order with prayer at 9:02 AM, “Lord, we pray that your Holy Spirit will be with us as we make decisions...”

ACTION – MSP to adopt the Docket.

RE Betts invited Moderator-Elect, TE Kristal Smith, to moderate a portion of the meeting. TE Smith addressed technology and housekeeping items, welcomed first-time commissioners (identifying ministry setting), and welcomed Deacons and non-commissioners. There were no Corresponding Members.

TE Smith invited TE Jeff Gibelius to lead an acknowledgement of milestones in the lives of the ministers of the presbytery. Special celebrations: TE John Green (40th year) and TE Tom Thomas (50th year) of Ordained ministry. Also mentioned among the body: surviving technology challenges, family joys (new great grandson, honor roll in virtual high school), recognizing Black History Month with pulpit swaps, lifting pastors as improv specialists (Facebook worship, new members joining virtually), VACCINATIONS.

PLENARY

Moderator-Elect Smith called on Interim Executive Presbyter Galan to offer a Plenary to set a context for break-out workshops. Rev. Galan invited the body to think in terms of being a part of an eco system. There’s a longing in our hearts to be on the other side of the pandemic. A year into the changes the pandemic brought, think what you MISS — what you most deeply desire. Named in the Chat on Zoom: being with colleagues/ friends, travel, singing, gathering in a pub, being in the same room, sleepovers with grandchildren, hugs, in-church worship, eating out.

Noting language with which the presbytery has become familiar since reading *Canoeing the Mountains*, TE Galan showed a video on *How Wolves Change Rivers* (wolves being reintroduced after 70 years in Yellowstone National Park). Deer had eliminated vegetation. With wolves present, deer avoided certain places in the park; valleys rejuvenated. Aspen, willow, and cottonwood trees grew; birds and beavers

returned, built habitat. Wolves killed coyotes, resulting in increased fox, raven and eagle populations. More berries on shrubs – bears returned. Forests regenerated, which stabilized river banks. Less soil erosion. Wolves changed the behaviors of rivers, transformed the ecosystem AND physical geography.

TE Galan offered insights and challenges to the body, proposing that “the Gospel of Jesus Christ is flowing like a river. God is carving out new niches in fresh and life-giving ways. We are being changed collectively and individually so life can flourish. Imagine yourself as an ecosystem engineer so you can change people in your circles of influence.” Beyond institutional survival, we will consider the forces carving out new spaces for the gospel to flourish, today...and our critical leadership roles, as God transforms not just our churches, but the whole of our eco-system, so LIFE in Christ may thrive.”

The Moderator released the gathering for Church Officer Training in Break-Out Rooms at 9:30. Regrettably, despite rehearsals, there were technical difficulties. Thankfully, within about 15 minutes, over 100 people were divided into six different sections, based on registration preferences.

Tableware and Tendrils in Tempest Tossed Days - Facilitated by the Rev. Lou Nyiri, Associate Pastor, Gettysburg. While not the only Presbyterians called to provide ministries of sympathy and caring for neighbors and one another, deacons faithfully provide organized, concrete ways of bringing Christ’s love to the church and community. Join us for background on the office of Deacon and collaboration on ways to organize deacon ministries (delving a bit into how Deacons may have pivoted in this pandemic).

Post Pandemic Priorities: Serving Christ in “the Least of These” – Facilitated by the Rev. Kristal Smith, Moderator-Elect. Feeling stuck in survival mode? Want a renewed sense of purpose? We’ll look into and beyond the current crisis to see how God is calling and equipping congregations to serve Christ in the world. We’ll reflect on Jesus’ call to discipleship, the ways churches currently practice reaching out to “the least of these,” and dream together about how to lean into that vision. Focus: The Matthew 25 initiative developed by the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies as a means for further engagement.

Ruling Elders 101 – Living Into Our Ordination Vows – Facilitated by the Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber, Member-at-Large. Often, it’s not until we are called by God to ordained ministry in our congregation that we face what it takes to lead in ways that are faithful to our Reformed heritage. We don't have to re-create the wheel! This interactive workshop guides new ruling elders through basic responsibilities, exploring duties from permissible to mandated. Please have a 2019-2021 *Book of Order* for reference.

Meltdown: Leadership Skills to Maintain Sanity in Stressful Times - Facilitated by the Rev. Dr. Bruce Humphrey, Honorably Retired. The pastoral call of leadership has always been stressful. These days our congregations have been infected by inflamed distrust of leadership across most social institutions, combined with declining civility. Most pastors wrestle with feelings such as self-doubt, anxiety, stress, depression, fears of incompetence. This seminar explores a few leadership skills to help us step back from generalized anxiety in order to stay strong through times which require adaptive change.

Faith Once Delivered...And Recorded...And Properly Maintained! – Facilitated by the Rev. Meg Shoeman, Temporary Stated Clerk. Nuts and bolts of how Clerks of Session maintain orderly records and correspondence in faithful witness to the local congregation’s participation in Christ’s ministry to the world. This is a good place for new clerks to stop by, but all are welcome. There will be space for conversation as well as questions or concerns that arise from pandemic related limits and opportunities.

How Wolves Change Rivers – Facilitated by the Rev. Cheryl Galan, Interim Executive Presbyter. When wolves were reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park after being absent nearly 70 years, their presence impacted the whole eco-system, so life could thrive again. How might this story help us think about the forces carving out new spaces for the gospel to flourish, today? We'll explore the metaphors found in this story in order to consider our leadership roles to meet adaptive challenges of our time.

10:45 Break

10:55 Report of the Administration Committee

Moderator Cheryl Betts called on RE Mary Speedy, who reported that Per Capita contributions remain strong, and presbytery expenses are significantly reduced due to moving offices from Camp Hill to smaller office space in Harrisburg, seeing the retirement of two long-serving staff members, reducing Committee expenses (travel, food, postage). Our goals: transformational partnerships for communities we serve, cultivating leadership of leaders, and seeking new forms of Christian communities.

Year-End Financial Reports and a Statement on the 2021 Budget were given in good order.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Moderator Cheryl Betts called on RE Donna Wenger to bring forward a nominee for the Office of Treasurer. Explaining that Treasurer Debby Madden wishes not to continue, RE Wenger brought forward from Committee a “best of the best” nomination, following an extensive search. RE Wenger explained that the Treasurer has fiduciary responsibility for acts of the presbytery, and works in collaboration with the bookkeeper in consultation with the Executive Presbyter. No nominations from were brought from the floor.

ACTION – MP to approve the nomination from the Nominating Committee of the Presbytery of Carlisle for TE Ed Blank to serve as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Carlisle for a five (5) year term.

TE Galan thanked the NC for their work and welcomed TE Blank. TE Galan thanked Debby Madden for her extensive service (especially after her “retirement” as Christian Educator for First PC, Carlisle), care for people, care for the presbytery, and her preparing financial records for the move, noting that Debby is ready for retirement for real, and the presbytery wishes her ease and delight and rest from her labors.

Report of the Coordinating Council

Moderator Betts called on TE Galan to bring nominees for the Nominating Committee on behalf of the Coordinating Council. No nominations were brought from the floor.

ACTION – MP to elect TE Andy Hart (Falling Spring PC, Chambersburg) and RE Pam Thompson (Camp Hill PC) to the Nominating Committee.

CLERK'S REPORT

Moderator Betts called on TE Meg Shoeman for the Clerk's Report. TE Shoeman called attention to written Commission and Committee reports which were posted for information on Carlisle Presbytery website – items of note, below. No verbal reports were given. No action required.

- **The Report of the Commission on Ministry**

- Approved COAs

- Duncannon PC

Rev. and Rev. Uittenbogaards

- Great Conewago PC Rev. Brand Eaton (United Methodist)
 - RENEWAL Dickenson PC CRE Neal McCulloch
 - RENEWAL Lower Marsh Creek TE Mark Englund-Krieger
 - Dissolved pastoral relationships according to the terms voted by the congregation
 - Second PC (Carlisle) TE Donna Christopher (Jan 10)
 - Silver Spring PC (Mechanicsburg) TE Jan Anabe (Jan 15)
 - Market Square PC (Harrisburg) TE Kelly Wiant (Jan 18)
 - Warfordsburg PC TE Ed Blank (Feb 14)
 - Appointed liaisons
 - Upper West Conococheague (Mercersburg) RE Elaine Fry
 - Market Square PC (Harrisburg) TE Inho Kang
 - Second (Carlisle) RE Bill McHenry
 - Silver Spring PC (Mechanicsburg) RE Beth Fine
 - Gettysburg PC RE Gary Hollinger
 - Warfordsburg PC RE Bill McHenry
 - Appointed moderators
 - Mt. Olivet PC TE Ron Martin-Minnich
 - Warfordsburg PC TE Jim Richwine
 - Approved changes in status to Member-at-Large
 - TE Donna Christopher, TE Troy Morgan and TE Kelly Wiant
 - Dismissed the Rev. Laura Batten-Carbaugh to the Presbytery of Baltimore
 - Approved curriculum recommended by sub-committee for required Boundary Training
 - Approved Commissioning Service
 - CRE Roz Presby at St. James PC, with TE Meg Shoeman appointed to represent the presbytery with the asking of the constitutional questions
- **The Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
 - Inquirer Lynn Miller took and passed the Bible Content Exam on 5 February 2021.
 - CPM has discerned a need to review the process of preparation for Commissioned Ruling Elders, and have formed a sub-committee to that end.
 - Inquirers, Candidates and those in the CRE process are as follows:
 - Inquirers – Rebecca Lister; Lynn Miller; Matthew Robinson
 - Candidates – Rebekah Anderson; Kevin Long
 - CRE Candidate – Cindy Kneiss
 - **The Report of the Temporary Stated Clerk (including Necrology)**
 - Minutes of 2020.12.1 meeting of the presbytery approved by RE Fowler, RE Sheets
 - Reports to OGA regarding status changes, commissioning, dismissal
 - Annual Review of session minutes completed by remote correspondence, fall 2020.
 - Due to COVID-19 logistical challenges, church registers were not reviewed
 - RE Necrology report for 2020
 - Roll of TEs and CCEs in Carlisle Presbytery as of 2020.12.31, including Honorably Retired, Validated Ministries, Members at Large, CREs
 - **The Report of the Perry Valley Administrative Commission**
 - The congregation held its last worship service on December 27, 2020

- Most active members of Perry Valley transferred membership to Highland PC
- Some equipment and furniture disbursed to the other congregations comprising the Juniata Valley Shared Ministry (Highland PC and Westminster PC) to aid in their work
- Special commendation must go to Rev. Nancy McClure for her steadfast leadership of the three churches of the Shared Ministry during these challenging times
- Effective January 15, 2021, the AC assumed jurisdiction over the Church and is acting as its Session in winding up its affairs; sale of the church will bring work to conclusion
- Presbytery has incurred about \$15,000 of expense incident to closing of Perry Valley
- AC members: Rev. Graham Fowler, Donna Wenger, Marel King, David Lehman, Chair

Questions or concerns about those reports should go to respective chairs or TE Meg Shoeman.

ACTION – MSP to adjourn the meeting following worship.

WORSHIP

Rev. Galan showed a music video, followed by Powerpoint for her sermon on John 21:1-14, *Come and Get It...Breakfast*. Disciples went back to what they knew after the crucifixion: fishing. It was their way of dealing with feelings of loss, grief. Jesus (third appearance) calls them again to bring their catch in. 153 fish. The net was not torn. Jesus' nearness coincides with and meets physical needs AND the need for fellowship – he is host at last supper and first breakfast. Bread and fish represent the harvest of the earth and the sea. Jesus told his disciples he would send the Comforter. Our will? God's bigger plan?

OFFERING

The offering was collected for Covid-19 Response Fund of Christian Churches United, which helps individuals and families who have limited financial options and who may not fit the requirements of other publicly-funded programs for assistance with housing, medication, etc. Prayer was offered by TSC Shoeman for this presbytery, the greater Church, incarnation, healing of the earth, peace and justice in the world and our communities, the poor and all who struggle under oppression.

INSTALLATION

TSC Shoeman introduced Candidates TE Kristal Smith as Moderator and RE Neal McCollough as Vice Moderator; questions of the candidates and questions of the presbytery, affirmed. Prayer: "Help us to discern where your Spirit is leading." Charge offered by RE Betts, who passed the symbols of the office – cross, stole, gavel – to Moderator Smith, who offered the Benediction. Meeting ended at 12:00 PM.

NEXT STATED MEETING – May 25, 2021 (evening) on Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. Meg Shoeman, Temporary Stated Clerk