

Administrative Commission
for the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague
Report #3 to the Presbytery of Carlisle for the Presbytery Meeting on May 3, 2022

Submitted April 26, 2022 by

Co-Chair Rev. Ed Blank (Middle Spring)

Co-Chair Rev. Emily McCachren (McConnellsburg)

Clerk RE Kathryn Finley (Central, Chambersburg)

Treasurer RE Gary Russell (Middle Spring)

Recording Clerk Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber (Member-at-Large)

As reported to the presbytery in December 2021, the Administrative Commission (AC) assumed Original Jurisdiction at the request of the Session of the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church (UWCPC), Mercersburg, on October 25, 2021.

Since our December report, the Administrative Commission (AC) has met 19 times to

- maintain the weekly operational needs of UWCPC
- support the ongoing mission of the church
- provide PC(USA) Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Certified Christian Educators as pulpit supply to preach and offer personal and direct contact to the AC
- provide emergency pastoral care
- provide opportunities for the congregation to be heard via many invitations and formats
- address conflicts within the congregation
- seek counsel from the Interim Executive Presbyter, and
- bring members together to discuss Legacy options.

After the holidays, the AC called a Congregational Meeting on February 12, which yielded some good energy around clarifying a purpose for the building and property in keeping with the mission of God and the needs of those in Mercersburg who might be touched by life-changing, generous gifts. Simultaneously, some members showed high emotion around grief and fear of loss.

The AC, aware that the congregation needed more time to consider what a Legacy Path would involve, gathered the congregation again on April 3, 2022, to listen to the congregation's observations, questions and concerns about a member-led Revitalization Plan which was circulated to the congregation by email, prior to the gathering. Among the 17 members of the congregation who attended this gathering, some defended the Revitalization Plan. Others spoke with thoughtful concern about the current state of the congregation. Still others reflected a "hail Mary" perspective, suggesting that *anything* is better than closing. Some remained silent, declining the invitation to speak.

The AC continues prayerful consideration, and, trusting in God, will discern the next faithful steps in obedience to the Lord's leading. The AC thanks the presbytery for your prayers at this challenging time.