

**Administrative Commission**  
**for the Presbyterian Church of the Upper West Conococheague**  
**Report #4 to the Presbytery of Carlisle for the Presbytery Meeting on September 24, 2022**

Submitted September 12, 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)

Trusting in God, the Administrative Commission (AC) – which assumed Original Jurisdiction at the request of Session on October 25, 2021 – sent to the congregation a letter dated May 2, 2022 to share its prayerful discernment of the Lord’s leading to

- hold a final service of worship on June 5, 2022
- work side-by-side with the congregation to lay out a Legacy Path, including a timeline, for the congregation’s future witness in the Mercersburg community, and
- act on dissolution of the congregation and corporation after other work was complete.

The congregation challenged the Administrative Commission’s authority to make this decision, responding with an article to the local newspaper, e-mails to Clerks of the churches within the presbytery, and letters to members of the AC, Interim Executive Presbyter, and Synod Executive Presbyter and Clerk. The Synod’s Governing Commission appointed on June 6 a Special Committee for the “administrative review of the actions of the Presbytery of Carlisle in regards to the presbytery’s oversight of the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church of Mercersburg.”

Out of respect for the Synod’s work, the AC decided to “go on pause” until a report came in. The AC felt it best not to proceed with any actions on Legacy (such as asset inventory, property sale, membership transfers) while the Synod determined if the AC and presbytery had done things decently and in order, according to polity. The AC simultaneously asked the congregation to go on pause until a report came in, feeling it best that the 16-20 worshiping members worship only during this time, and not pursue any new initiatives.

Since the Administrative Commission submitted on April 26 its report for the May 4, 2022 meeting of presbytery, the AC has met 15 times to maintain the weekly operational needs of UWPC and support the ongoing mission of the church by providing emergency pastoral care, maintaining buildings and grounds, overseeing finances, and securing pulpit supply.

The AC respectfully awaits the Synod’s findings and seeks the prayers of the presbytery for UWPC members – several of whom are dealing with health concerns. While official work and action are paused, the AC continues to discern possible options for the future of the Mercersburg church.