

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2022 MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE

### Attachments

1. Dissolution of McCoysville PC
2. Roll for Attendance at December 6, 2022 Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle

### Abbreviations

- ACTION MSP Motion, Seconded, Discussed, and Passed (if it comes from committee, MP only)
- AC, PJC Administrative Commission, Permanent Judicial Commission
- BOO, BOC *Book of Order* – The Constitution of the PC(USA) Part II, *Book of Confessions*
- BOP Board of Pensions
- CCE Certified Christian Educator
- COA Covenant of Agreement
- CPM Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- COM, CNWC Commission on Ministry, Commission on New Worshiping Communities
- GA, OGA, SOT General Assembly, Office of General Assembly, Synod of the Trinity
- IEP Interim Executive Presbyter
- NC, PNC Nominating Committee, Pastor Nominating Committee
- PC, PW Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women
- PLGCLSC Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk
- TE, MWS Teaching Elder, Minister of Word and Sacrament
- RE, CRE, REC Ruling Elder, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Ruling Elder Commissioner

The Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle was called to order and opened with prayer at 6:00 PM on site at Second Presbyterian Church, Carlisle, and on Zoom, by Moderator Neal McCulloch. "We give thanks that in this time of Advent we celebrate Christ in our lives each day...Allow your Spirit to be at work." Housekeeping notes were given, along with instruction for being recognized by the moderator and voting in a hybrid context. Zoom attendees were asked to keep their cameras on. Allowance was made for technical challenges; presbyters were assured that after each motion (seconded if appropriate), there would be opportunity for discussion and a pause for simultaneous in-person and on-line voting and that PLGCLSC Kristal Smith would announce whether or not the motion passed on Zoom.

**ACTION MSP** approval of the Docket.

### Introduction of First-Time Commissioners, Pastors, DCEs, Special Guests

Moderator McCulloch gave opportunity for introductions via Zoom and from the floor:

- REC Richard Bressler (First Presbyterian Church of Carlisle)
- REC DaleLynn Prokop (Dickinson PC)
- REC Natalie Coulson (Dickinson PC)
- MWS Mark Medina, who has transferred back into Carlisle from NE Georgia
- Corresponding member MWS Forrest Claussen, Synod Executive

The corresponding member was enrolled.

### Gathering in God's Word and Spirit

Moderator McCulloch led presbyters in worship liturgy adapted from prayers by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

- Prayer – From generation to generation, we are held in Your love, O God, woven into Your Story.
- Hymn – *Through the Ages* led by Jack Larson on piano
- Confession – God of mercy, a million times a day we have the opportunity to be gracious, yet...
- Assurance of Pardon – We are forgiven; we are called to love as tenderly as we have been loved.
- Advent Song of Praise – God comes! Lift heart and voice. The Savior comes, let earth rejoice.

### Presbytery Leadership Transition

Moderator McCulloch stated that in the Call to this presbytery meeting, presbyters were informed that Interim Executive Presbyter, Cheryl Galan, intends to retire from active ministry, June 1, 2023. The Coordinating Council and Administration Committee already have begun to make plans for this upcoming transition. Between now and the February presbytery meeting, a position description will be developed, envisioning the leader who will walk with the Presbytery of Carlisle into the next season of our Presbytery's life. At the February meeting, the presbytery will elect a Search Team. In much the same way as *presbytery leaders* walk with *congregations* through pastoral transitions, our connectional system through the *synod* provides support and guidance for the transition in *presbytery* leadership.

The Moderator introduced Synod of the Trinity's Executive Forrest Claassen, who encouraged the presbytery with remarks, highlighted here:

- Executive Claassen began his position January 3, 2022, based in Pittsburgh.
- Our synod includes 1000 congregations; the synod's job is to serve and guide 16 presbyteries.
- Executive Claassen will be fairly directly involved with the Administrative Team and with the Search Committee – involved, as in the clothes pins used in drying clothes on a clothes line. "Good support holds on just enough so the team/committee can do their work."
- Just as when we call a pastor to a congregation, we start with who that church is and *their* need, (rather than placing who *we* think would be a good fit), we apply that process when we call an Executive Presbyter. "I will not be vetting or vetoing your people."
- Pittsburgh's Presbytery Executive Sheldon Sorge also retires this year.

Moderator McCulloch acknowledged that with the announcement of the retirement of a such a strong and respected leader as IEP Galan, there's a period of time that the air leaves the room. "But there's a way that an educator has to connect us with a vision. Cheryl once again gets us started on a new, exciting journey." Moderator McCulloch invited IEP Galan to offer scripture interpretation.

IEP Galan offered a reflection titled *Beyond Conception: Seeking Purpose in Liminal Time*, based on the story of Joseph in Matthew 1:18-25, in which the angel tells Joseph to not be afraid – the child will be called Emmanuel. IEP Galan spoke of the presbytery having worked toward setting more intentional direction while we remain in an in-between time. She prayed that we might "brush the dust off our hearts...that we may access the same spirit of cooperation you gave to Joseph."

Referencing the painting by artist George de Latour – *Joseph the Carpenter*, 1642 – in which the image of Jesus as a child, both holds and represents the light, IEP Galan noted that Joseph's whole world had been changed by unexpected, unconventional, inconvenient salvation. "God's activity often unsettles and upsets our plans and perceptions." In May of 2019, when we engaged with concepts from Tod Bolsinger's *Canoeing the Mountains* – "The world in front of you is nothing like what is behind you" –

little did we know! Suddenly it was disorienting to be church. We got lots of practice in the art of the pivot. We seek stability but we are not there. We're between two worlds. Some long to return to go back. Some are eager to forge ahead. In liminal seasons we look for purpose found in the intersection. IEP Galan spoke about these aspects of the Presbytery:

- Identity (Who we are) – Presbyterians standing in the reformed, always being reformed tradition. A video edited to Tracy Keenan's song *This is Who We Are*, was shown with images of worship and mission from around the presbytery. "We are a people of prayer, united to serve."
- Context (Whom we serve) – we share in common care for neighbors who experience food insecurity, homelessness, domestic violence, and more. Over half of our 42 churches have created programs for neighbors in need: As a presbytery, we serve children, travel to help others, sponsor families from Afghanistan and Syria, show up in solidarity at community days and protests, and care for the survival of our planet (3 congregations have signed the Earth Care pledge). Over half of our churches are in transition and ALL are in unprecedented change. Nine congregations immersed themselves in PneuMatrix, asking themselves, what will we keep, and what will we let go? We're entering unconventional New Worshiping Community endeavors.
- Values (Who we stand for) – We Presbyterians could be bridging differences through
  - Worship – love and devotion to God
  - Soul-tending – in worship, nature, mission work
  - Learning – expand knowledge of scripture, develop competencies we need
  - Creativity – gives us hope and possibility, connects us with our Creator
  - Courage – aligning ourselves with the Son of God who pursues justice
  - Compassion – offering a healing influence in a divided culture

IEP Galan reminded presbyters of Jim Kitchens' insight ("the culture for which we know how to be church, disappeared 15 years ago"), and pointed the presbytery to the future, ripe for learning and growth. She noted the paradoxes of being in both/and realities: both displaced, and exactly where we need to be; both curious about the future and committed to past models; both diminished (fewer people in the sanctuaries) and expanding (more people reached through technology and public spaces); both afraid of the unknown, and alive in the sense of connectional church.

IEP Galan asked presbyters: what is the nature of the work that is important for the congregations and leaders of this presbytery at this time? What do we seek to do together, and why? What calls you to action, and why – what do you seek to create that would make a difference? She asked for responses which, when gathered, included themes of healing, hope, joy, inclusion, mission, intentional courage, creating sacred space for all, advocacy for the weak, overcoming differences, sharing, visitation, building relationship, prayer, collaboration, and more. IEP Galan closed by reminding presbyters that "our task in this time is to tend the garden, so others may harvest what we have tended."

### **Offering our Gifts**

Moderator McCulloch invited Nominating Committee Chair TE Christian Neubaum (Presbyterian Congregation Middletown) to speak to the work of the Nominating Committee. TE Neubaum thanked his committee members – RE Gregg Robertson (Derry PC), RE Barb Rhoades (Second, Carlisle PC), TE Caroline Vickery (Waynesboro PC), IEP Cheryl Galan, RE Ranny Singiser (Mechanicsburg PC), and RE Rosetta Gaines (Capital PC). TE Neubaum also thanked the presbytery for the many names offered to the Nominating Committee at the September presbytery meeting. He drew attention to the names listed on the Nominating Committee's report, posted with meeting materials and shown on screen. There were no nominations from the floor.

**ACTION MP** to elect Officers and Others Serving Presbytery Entities, as presented by the Nominating Committee:

Scott Bowerman (TE, Central) for service as Moderator of the Presbytery for 2023.

Roz Presby (CRE, Faith Immanuel) for service as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery for 2023.

Administration Committee, Norma Mateer, Chair [the 1 or 2 indicate “first” or “second” 3-year term]

2025 Gary Myers 1 Paxton RE

2025 Elyse Rogers 1 Pine Street RE

2025 John Shaddock 2 Mechanicsburg RE

2024 Doug Beltzner 1 Honorably Retired TE

2024 William Mulligan 1 St. Andrews RE

Coordinating Council, Cheryl Galan, Chair

2025 Kent Carter 1 Paxton TE

2025 Emily McCachren 2 McConnellsburg TE

2025 Jim Warnock 2 Derry RE

Commission on Ministry, Lou Nyiri and Tony Lorenz, Co-Chairs

2025 Mary Myers 1 Paxton RE

2025 Lucy Bowerman 1 Member-At-Large TE

2025 John Green 1 Honorably Retired TE

2025 Elaine Fry 1 First United RE

2024 Mark Medina 1 Honorably Retired TE

2023 Heather Sigler 1 Honorably Retired TE

2023 Diane Conaway 1 Dickinson RE

Camp Krislund

2024 Stuart Seelman 1 Camp Hill TE

Preparation for Ministry

2025 John Dyson 1 Middle Spring RE

2025 Carol Van Schenk Hof 1 Honorably Retired TE

2025 Nancy McClure 1 Highland/Westminster TE

2025 LaVern Collins 1 Paxton RE

2023 Jennifer McKenna 2 Honorably Retired TE

New Worshiping Communities Commission, Allison Smith, Chair

2025 Allison Smith 1 At-large TE

2025 Bruce Humphrey 1 Honorably Retired TE

2025 Caleb McClure 1 Gettysburg TE

2024 Claire Folts 1 Derry RE

2024 Marie Buffaloe 1 Honorably Retired TE

2024 Rachel Schwab 1 Validated Ministry TE

2023 Kevin Burrell 1 Market Square RE

2023 Rob Cochran 1 St. Andrews Advisory

Permanent Judicial Commission

2023 John Carroll Silver Spring RE  
2023 Kathryn Johnston Mechanicsburg TE

Synod Commissioner  
2025 Destini Hodges 1 Capital RE

### Offering

Moderator McCulloch invited TE Jeff Gibelius (Second PC, Carlisle) to call for the offering. Tonight's collection will benefit Samaritan Fellowship, a nonprofit Christian ministry located in Carlisle that strives to help neighbors in need who have exhausted every other means of securing adequate shelter, food, clothing, utilities, medical care, furniture, fuel, short-term shelter and other emergency services. 100% of every donation goes directly to client assistance. Many denominations supply resources; volunteers meet every Saturday. Samaritan Fellowship fills the gap, trying to keep people in their home. TE Gibelius offered a Prayer of Dedication: "God of love, multiply these offerings, we pray, to provide for our neighbors in need. May our giving bring comfort and joy in Jesus' name." \$382.00 was collected to benefit Samaritan Fellowship.

At 7:20 pm, the Moderator suspended the meeting for a Break for refreshment.

### Structures in Liminal Time: Deconstruction and Re-Construction

At 7:35 PM, Vice Moderator Scott Bowerman called the meeting back to order, inviting TE Edward Blank to offer the Treasurer's Report. TE Blank encouraged Sessions to use the 2023 Narrative Budget (posted with materials for both the September and December presbytery meetings) to interpret the Spirit at work, transforming congregations in our presbytery for a vital mission to their communities and beyond.

TE Blank referred to the line-item budget shown on screen and posted with meeting materials. 2023 Income projections are based on Per Capita, Shared Mission, and Designated Mission giving from Sessions. We may need to draw on anticipated gains in our reserves, for additional income; these resources will be tapped only as needed. TE Blank also noted the generosity of the Synod of the Trinity whose grants funded the 2022 PneuMatrix initiative, 2023 technology upgrades for the presbytery, and ongoing support for Small Churches.

TE Blank remarked that changes in the Personnel portion of the budget have been achieved incrementally over the past five years as we redistributed personnel dollars

- from a full-time office administrator to a quarter-time communications specialist
- from a part-time stated clerk and several part-time regional associates to one full-time Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership (formerly known as Stated Clerk)
- from maintaining office spaces for presbytery staff and committee meetings and office functions that depend on paper and postage to making use of technology for communications/ meetings

New to the presbytery budget this year is a line item called 'New Worshiping Communities.' These resources will support the work of a newly formed commission in support of leaders who are discerning God's call to create new communities of worship for those who would not be drawn to the church in its existing forms. In closing, TE Blank observed that the overall expense budget is down from where it was five years ago, and moved the adoption of the budget. There were no questions.

**ACTION MP** to adopt the 2023 budget as presented.

### **Coordinating Council Report**

Vice Moderator Bowerman called on IEP Galan who spoke on behalf of the Coordinating Council and brought forward three action items; coming from Coordinating Council, the motions required no second.

IEP Galan explained the proposed By-Law changes (presented for second reading and action) which were posted with materials available on-line in advance of the meeting. Proposed changes to the By-Laws [last amended 2013.2.6] were drafted in an effort to build flexibility and reflect current presbytery practices. The section that defines what the permanent entities shall be, for example, is problematic because functions they previously carried out either are being filled by other entities or are no longer needed; also, changes reflect alignment with the current *Book of Order*. The changes were worked out with the council working group. There were no questions or comments made during discussion.

**ACTION MP** to approve the proposed changes to the Presbytery By-laws as presented.

IEP Galan explained the proposed changes to the Standing Rules for the Administration Committee (presented for first reading and action which were posted with the materials available on-line in advance of the meeting). The revisions will allow Trustees to be eligible to serve on the Administration Committee, and clarify membership size of the committee. New language: *It shall ordinarily consist of 6 – 9 members, seeking balance among ministers, ruling elders and trustees.* IEP Galan pointed out that, after much discussion, the council working group decided to strike the stewardship function from Administration Committee responsibilities, since that function better fits elsewhere in the presbytery's revised committee structure. There were no questions or comments made during discussion.

**ACTION MP** to approve the proposed changes to the Standing Rules, as presented.

IEP Galan, explained the proposed change in Camp Krislund By-Laws (presented for second reading and action which were posted with the materials available on-line in advance of the meeting). She reminded presbyters that Camp Krislund is owned and operated under shared leadership of three presbyteries: Northumberland, Huntingdon, and Carlisle. The proposed change adds the sentence: *Three at-large members, nominated by the board members and elected by the presbyteries, may or may not be members of these three presbyteries.* Rationale: this change allows for developing partnerships in the area surrounding camp property, and allows for Presbyterians from presbyteries other than Northumberland, Huntingdon, and Carlisle to serve on the board. These three at-large members will comprise only part of the board; the majority of board members will remain members of the founding presbyteries. There were no questions or comments made during discussion.

**ACTION MP** to approve the proposed changes to the Krislund By-Laws, as presented.

### **Recommendation on Dissolution of the McCoysville Presbyterian Church – see Attachment #1**

Vice Moderator Bowerman called on TE Graham Fowler (McCoysville PC) to present a motion from the Session of the McCoysville Presbyterian Church, asking the presbytery to approve the dissolution of the congregation and corporation of the church. TE Fowler, having served as the part-time stated pastor for McCoysville PC, made the motion; after securing a second, TE Fowler then spoke to the motion:

Everyone was tired. The members agreed to sell the property. They worked with a realtor and found someone who would be respectful of property in a new use. The last service of worship was held on November 20. The congregation agreed to dissolve, distribute assets, encourage members to continue lives of faithfulness, and transfer memberships.

A question was raised from the floor: where did assets go? TE Fowler said that the church paid per capita to the presbytery for the next 3 years, and made donations to ministries in the Juniata area. He observed that in their 19-year partnership, Lost Creek and McCoysville PCs had lived into a spirit of cooperation; “how can I help the other church?” took priority over “how do we keep the church alive?” As McCoysville PC gained clarity of their own unsustainability, they asked themselves, “how can we bless the community?” TE Fowler remarked “I’m proud of them for thinking about others.” He also noted that the sale of the property was hard on the members – the new owner moved in that week. The Lord is helping them through the death of their congregation; they’ve used the opportunity to evangelize.

Vice Moderator Bowerman called presbyters to vote.

**ACTION MSP** to dissolve the congregation and corporation of the McCoysville Presbyterian Church, effective December 31, 2022.

Vice Moderator Bowerman led the presbytery in prayers of thanksgiving for the ministry of the McCoysville PC congregation (paraphrased): For all who came to know the Lord; for Presbyterian women, Officers of the church, Sunday School teachers and youth group leaders; for hundreds of lives that through obedience grew closer to the Lord; for the pastors who have served them, and the community that has been blessed by this congregation’s life and witness; and for remaining members of the congregation, as they seek a place of belonging with another congregation where they can continue to worship and serve. We lift them up to you.

#### **Update from the Administrative Commission working with the Mercersburg Presbyterian Church**

Vice Moderator Bowerman called on TE Emily McCachren (McConnellsburg PC) to give an update from the AC working with the Upper West Conococheague PC of Mercersburg. TE McCachren drew attention to the documents posted with the materials for today’s meeting:

1. The report of the Synod’s Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) determined that the Presbytery AC was properly constituted and empowered, and found it proper for the AC to continue its work.
2. A report of the AC summarized options considered by the AC, and makes a recommendation which is under consideration by the Mercersburg congregation.

These reports were provided for the presbytery’s information, with no action required at this point. When the time comes for presbytery action, more background information will be provided, with opportunity for discussion.

TE McCachren commented on the December 3 gathering of the congregation with the AC:

- Although circumstances that led the AC to announce a final worship service and work toward the congregation’s legacy have not substantially changed, the congregation wishes to continue in ministry and mission to the community; considerable time was spent exploring options.
- As a result, the AC has opened a conversation with the congregation about whether they would consider a Gracious Dismissal to another Reformed Body to align with their sense of faithfulness

to God's will. The AC also worked to clarify communications with the members of the congregation about the factors influencing the options that were considered.

- The AC's planned next step is to have a follow-up conversation, at a called congregational meeting on January 29, about whether or not they wish to explore this avenue.
- Meanwhile, the Interim Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk will assemble a Conversation Team, to be at the ready, if the congregation indicates they wish to proceed.

TE McCachren thanked the members of the presbytery for their prayers and for entrusting the AC with the discernment of a faithful path for this congregation's future.

Vice Moderator Bowerman expressed thanks for the AC members, who have met regularly for a year and a half. "We charged them with difficult and complicated work. We thank them for their faithful perseverance and the care they have shown toward the people of the Mercersburg congregation."

### **Acknowledgment of Ordinations**

Vice Moderator Bowerman called on COM Co-Chair TE Tony Lorenz to acknowledge Ministers of Word and Sacrament who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of ordination in 2022 with certificates.

10 years Katy Yates Brungraber, Drew Stockstill

25 years Nancy Conklin, Cheryl Galan, Nancy Reinert

30 years David Bowerman, Graham Fowler, Vern Gauthier, Jennifer McKenna, David Wright

40 years Marie Buffaloe, Barbara Derrickson, Tom Folts

50 years Charlie Best, Jon Black, William Hammann

(50-year ministers are invited to write reflections for upcoming newsletters)

### **Prayers of the People**

Moderator McCulloch and Vice Moderator Bowerman led presbyters in prayer:

God of step-fathers and adopted parents, God of angel messengers and newborn kings, we bow to give you thanks and praise... who else but you would pick two ordinary folks to be God's parents?

In a world full of competition, help us choose celebration.

In a world full of scarcity, help us choose abundance.

In a world of war and violence, help us choose peace and grace.

In a world of divided lines, help us choose connection and relationship.

In a world of quick assumptions and stereotypes, help us choose curiosity and compassion.

*We give praise for new birth, new pastors in the presbytery, the ministry of Cheryl Galan.*

*We lift petitions for the McCoysville Church, saints whose passing is felt deeply, churches in discernment about the next right step, the people of Ukraine and Haiti, those in recovery, those in need of surgery and medical miracles, those seeking travel mercies, those who were in a deadly car accident, those who are homeless, clergy in the season of Advent, and those in whom the beginnings of faith are stirring.*

May this story of Joseph rattle in us something loose. Help us release the need to be right or the best or have things figured out. Rather, let us be authentic witness for you. Help us live into something new that you call us to in your light, with joy...With hope in our hearts we pray as Jesus taught us, Our Father...

### **Stated Clerk Report**

Vice Moderator Bowerman invited PLGCLSC Smith to bring the Report of the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership (formerly known as Stated Clerk). Full rationale for action items was available in the full Report, posted with meeting materials online in advance of the meeting.



Action Item # 1: The Stated Clerk moved that TE Katy Yates Brungraber be elected as Recording Clerk of the Presbytery of Carlisle for the year 2023. The Stated Clerk thanked Katy for her exemplary work as Recording Clerk during her past three terms of service and is grateful for her willingness to serve again.

Vice Moderator Bowerman called for a second; gave opportunity for discussion; called for the vote.

**ACTION MSP** to elect TE Katy Yates Brungraber as Recording Clerk of the Presbytery of Carlisle for 2023.

Action Item # 2: At the request of the Session of Duncannon Church and as permitted by G2.0404 in the *Book of Order*, the Stated Clerk moved that term limits for Duncannon officers be waived as determined appropriate by its Session according to the church's needs and limitations for the year 2023. Rationale G-2.0404 Terms of Service: The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms.

Vice Moderator Bowerman called for a second; gave opportunity for discussion; called for the vote.

**ACTION MSP** to waive term limits for officers of the Duncannon PC as requested.

Action Item # 3: The Stated Clerk moved that each church in the Presbytery of Carlisle be given one additional RE beyond the membership guidelines, outlined in Standing Rule #12 of Carlisle Presbytery, who will have voice and vote at the 2023 meetings of the presbytery. Rationale: The presbytery has adopted this practice since 2009. Standing Rule #12 of the Presbytery of Carlisle mandates that Presbytery shall redress annually, any imbalance between MWS and REs entitled to vote at presbytery meetings. Accordingly, the Stated Clerk did the analysis; the recommendation brings imbalance from 51 to down to 10.

Vice Moderator Bowerman called for a second; gave opportunity for discussion; called for the vote.

**ACTION MSP** to grant each church in the Presbytery of Carlisle one additional Ruling Elder beyond membership guidelines outlined in Standing Rule #12 of Carlisle Presbytery who will have voice and vote

PLGCLSC Smith presented for the presbytery's information the following items:

- **Announcement of 2023 Presbytery meeting dates (meetings will be hybrid, except in April)** – Feb 25 (Saturday AM), April 18 (Tuesday eve – a special meeting on zoom for action on GA amendments), May 2 (Tues Eve), sept 23 (Saturday AM), December 5 (Tuesday evening)
- **Report of records review** – thank you to all who participated; a full report will be provided at the next meeting; in the future, the goal is to complete reviews in the spring.
- **Year-End Reports and Deadlines** – later this week an email will go to all Session Moderators; Clerks of Session and Treasurers, with information and links to forms for year-end reporting to the Presbytery and the Office of the General Assembly.
- **What they didn't teach you in seminary (free)** – TE Dr. David C. Wright (retired) will lead classes Jan 25, Feb 1, 8, and 15. Deadline January 10. Designed for new pastors, open to all pastors.
- **Boundary Training February 15 at Paxton PC (\$15)** – Dr. David Olsen will build on material from the workshop he led several years ago to give focused attention to helping us explore the dynamic interplay of issues within ourselves and issues in the systems we serve, especially as chronic anxiety has increased in congregations during and after COVID.

- **Communion Training for Ruling Elders March 11** – congregations may send one or two REs.
- **Posted reports** – containing information from COM, CPM, Administration Committee, and SC

#### **Report of the Commission On Ministry December 2022 Information Items**

- Granted Middle Spring permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Granted honorable retirement status to Lois Richwine and Charles “Buz” Myers.
- Granted Christ Camp Hill permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- CRE Roz Presby was commissioned to serve Faith-Immanuel on September 25, 2022.
- Appointed Kristal Smith to serve as Moderator at the annual meetings for East Waterford and Lower Tuscarora Presbyterian Churches on November 20, 2022.
- Appointed Bill Beck to serve as Moderator at Warfordsburg PC effective January 1, 2023.
- Renewed Covenant of Agreement between Pine Street PC and Rev. Matt Drumheller.
- Dismissed Larry and Angela Van Hise to Lehigh Presbytery.
- Renewed the Covenant of Agreement between Rev. Ed Blank and Middle Spring PC.
- Renewed the Covenant of Agreement between CRE Neal McCulloch and Dickinson PC.
- Approved Stephen Melton as Designated Pastor for Big Spring pending congregational vote.
- Approved Covenant of Agreement between Cece Novinger and Duncannon.
- Approved Derry to authorize Ruling Elders Debbie Hough and Craig Kegerise to officiate at Communion pending training.
- Granted permission for Graham Fowler to labor outside the bounds of Carlisle Presbytery in order that he may begin serving the Little Valley PC, Huntingdon Presbytery, beginning January 1, 2023.
- COM passed a motion requiring all pastors entering Carlisle Presbytery to obtain the appropriate PA child protection clearances at their own expense before their call is fully executed.

#### **Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry December 2022 Information Items**

- Moved Rebecca Lister to Candidacy (September 24, 2022 Presbytery meeting)
- Enrolled Scott Stolte as an Inquirer (November 17, 2022 CPM meeting)

#### **Report of the Administration Committee December 2022 Information Items**

- Authorized the Sale of McCoysville property with an accompanying right of way.
- Approved the request for a loan of \$101,077 from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program by the Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown. This loan is guaranteed by the Presbytery.
- Approved that the New Church Development Funds be released for the use of the New Worshipping Communities Commission, and be renamed as New Worshipping Communities Fund. The Administrative Committee will develop spending protocols for this fund.
- Approved the renewal of IEP Cheryl Galan for five months from January 1, 2023 to May 31, 2023 on a prorated basis, consistent with the arrangements reflected in the 2023 budget. These arrangements include \$30,000 designated as Housing Allowance.

#### **Report of the Stated Clerk December 2022 Information Items**

Past members of Permanent Judicial Commission

*Book of Order*, D-5.0206.b requires the Stated Clerk to report annually to Presbytery a roster of PJC members, by class, whose terms have expired within the past six years. These are as follows:

- Class of 2021 – RE Gary Hollinger; TE Tom Thomas; TE Dick Houtz
- Class of 2019 – TE Jon Black; RE Ginny Boynton; RE Norma Mateer
- Class of 2017 – RE David Getz; RE Michael Zang; TE Myrtle McCall

#### Approval of Presbytery Meeting Minutes

- TE Kent Carter (Paxton PC) and Ruling Elder Barbara Hughes (St. James PC) read, reviewed, and approved minutes of the September 24, 2022 meeting of the Presbytery.

#### Reported to the Office of the General Assembly

- The Enrollment of Rebecca Lister as a Candidate in the PCUSA.
- The Enrollment of Scott Stolte as an Inquirer in the PCUSA.
- The Retirement of Charles Myers.
- The Retirement of Lois Richwine.
- Requested dismissal of Stephen Melton from Whitewater Valley Presbytery to Carlisle Presbytery.
- The Death of beloved former Interim Executive Presbyter David Rich.

#### Annual Review of Session Minutes and Registers

The Presbytery offered four times for review – two in-person and two on Zoom – which were attended by 31 churches. The Stated Clerk is following up with those churches who did not attend those sessions. The final report of the annual review of session records will be offered in the Stated Clerk’s report to the Presbytery in February 2023. On behalf of the Presbytery the Stated Clerk offers gratitude for the hospitality of Westminster and Mechanicsburg Churches who opened their spaces for in-person sessions.

The Committee on Representation did not meet in 2022.

### **Adjournment, Closing prayer and Benediction**

Vice Moderator Bowerman reminded presbyters that from generation to generation, God’s people have lived in liminal time. He read from the book of Ezra 3:11-13, describing what it was like when the rebuilding of the Jerusalem temple had begun: “But many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy.” Observing that those called into leadership face unique challenges, Vice Moderator Bowerman encouraged presbyters to attend Church Officer Training on Saturday, February 25; the focus will be “Leadership in Liminal Times.”

**ACTION MSP** to adjourn. Closing Prayer at 8:22 PM “Correct and redirect us if we’ve gotten anything wrong. We entrust this meeting to you, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Moderator McCulloch offered a benediction: From generation to generation, we are not alone. The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows us by name, loves us, and calls us forth, saying, “Go be the people you are called to be: Love wildly. Do justice. Come back together soon.” May it be so. Amen

Respectfully Submitted, \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk

**ATTACHMENT #1 DISSOLUTION OF MCCOYSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

McCoysville Presbyterian Church in Juniata County recently celebrated 220 years of ministry, 150 of those years in its current location in the heart of McCoysville. In the mid 1900s McCoysville was a robust village of stores, businesses, and farms, and the congregation was thriving. However, over the decades stores and businesses closed, families moved away, and McCoysville became a small community of maybe 10 homes. As the village dwindled, so did the membership of the church, and its recent average attendance was 9 people. Thanks to generous donations and bequests the church has continued to provide a place of worship, fellowship, and ministry in its small community.

At its annual meeting in February 2020 the congregation had an informal discussion of new ways it could do ministry and grow its membership. However, the congregation was already starting to ask, “Is this the best use of God’s resources?” Then the Covid pandemic struck and the congregation put its ideas on hold. Over the next 2 years as the congregation slowly opened back up to worship and ministry, they continued to discuss the future of the church. They reflected on the repairs the building was going to need and the limits of the time and energy of its members, as well as the best way they could minister to their community.

In the spring of 2022 it became clear that, while the congregation had the financial resources to keep going, the members were running out of energy to carry on the current ministry of the church, let alone begin new ministries. Pastor Fowler suggested to the session that they look for someone to buy the building, and then decide the future of the membership. The Session sent a letter to the congregation inviting them to an informational meeting on June 5. Those who attended agreed with the idea, believing that they could help more people by dispersing the assets to multiple ministries rather than trying to keep the church open.

At the close of this informational meeting, the Session met and voted to contract with a local realtor to find a buyer for the property. The presbytery’s Administrative Committee and Commission on Ministry were notified of this decision and they provided guidance. Over the next several months the realtor showed the property to multiple parties, including 2 other worshipping communities. The Session held a yard sale in July to sell all of the contents of the building. The Session also discussed the future of the congregation and decided that, once the building was sold, the congregation would be dissolved and its members encouraged to join other worshipping communities. In the end the Session received 2 bids on the building. On September 21 they voted to accept a bid of \$50,000 from Conrad Fisher, a local country / gospel musician, who wanted to use the building as a recording studio and concert venue. They also voted to hold their last service on November 20 and close the sale on November 21. The congregation was notified in writing of these decisions. The congregation approved the sale, pending approval by presbytery, at a meeting on October 2. Since the sale was under \$500,000 the Administration Committee approved the sale on behalf of the presbytery at their meeting on October 11.

The congregation held a Service of Witness and Dissolution on November 20. The Session will meet again to disperse the assets of the church, and the church will be dissolved on December 31, 2022. Tony Lorenz, co-moderator of the Commission on Ministry, met with the Session on October 31, providing pastoral care to the Session and discussing next steps. After the meeting the congregation was notified that the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery will hold their memberships for 1 year. They have been encouraged to worship with other faith communities, and when they find a congregation they feel called to join, to notify the Stated Clerk who will transfer their membership to the new congregation. Until that time, Pastor Fowler will continue to provide pastoral care to the members.

**ATTACHMENT #2**

<b>Totals</b>	
<b>Pastors</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Elders</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Voters</b>	<b>83</b>
<b>Guest</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Cor. Member</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Excused</b>	<b>0</b>

Church	Elder Commissioners	# of Elders	CREs	Total #
Big Spring			Neal McCulloch	1
Camp Hill	Karen Taylor		1 Roz Presby	1
Capital	Rosetta Gaines	1		
Central	Douglas Vanderau		1	
Centre	Allen Kretzing			
Christ, Camp Hill				
Derry	Jim Warnock		1	
Dickinson	DaleLynn Prokop, Natalie Coulson	2		
Duncannon	Susan Long		1 Committee Chairs	
East Waterford	Dennis Long		1	
Faith Immanuel	Cheryl Caplan		1	
Falling Spring				
First, Carlisle	Charlie Thompson, Rich Bressler	2		
First United, Newville				
Gettysburg	Linda Thompson		1	
Great Conewago				
Greencastle			Christian Educators	
Harrisburg Korean				
Highland United	Bill McHenry, Abigail Worthy		1	
Hope United	Phil Noll		1	
Lost Creek	Cheryl Booker, Susan Watts	2		
Lower Marsh Creek				
Lower Tuscarora	Brenda Schickley		1	
Market Square	Sandy Bell		1 Council	
McConnellsburg	Joyce Fowler		1 Rose Jewel-Jordan	1
McCoysville			Emily Dame	1
Mechanicsburg	Katie Chase		1	
Middle Spring	Park Bierbower		1	
Monaghan	Dick Lee, Kathleen Wells		2 Total CRE, CC, CE, Council	4
Mt. Olivet				
Paxton	Robert Martin		Guests	
Pine Street	Beth Alwine, Judy Himes	2		
Presbyterian Congregation Middletown	Norma Mateer		1 Barbara Rhoades - Second	1
Second			Dianne Conaway - Dickinson	1
Silver Spring	Emily Krebs, Gary Hollinger, Scott Pepperman		3 Linda McCulloch - Dickinson	1
St. Andrews			Teresa Ege - Dickinson	1
St. James	Barbara Hughes, Jim Naber		2 Marty Gruver - Pine St	1
Upper West Conococheague				
Warfordsburg				
Waynesboro				
Wells Valley				
Westminster				
Total Elder Commissioners			31 Total Guests	5
Total Other Personnel			4 Total Voting Elders	35

