

MINUTES OF THE MAY 2, 2023 STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE – DRAFT-A

Attachments

1. Roll for Attendance at May 2, 2023 Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle
2. Report of the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership

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
- NWCC New Worshiping Community Commission
- 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, EREC Ruling Elder, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Elected RE Commissioner to this meeting

Welcome and Docket Approval

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle was called to order and opened with prayer at 6:36 PM on site at Monaghan PC (Dillsburg) by Moderator TE Scott Bowerman (Central PC, Chambersburg). In advance of the meeting, presbyters had gathered for a potluck fellowship dinner; presbyters then moved outdoors for the start of the meeting. This was the first in-person-only meeting of the presbytery in three years, and there was a great spirit of collegiality.

ACTION

MSP to approve the docket.

Enrolling of Corresponding Members

Moderator Bowerman enrolled Rev. Forrest Claassen, Executive Director, Synod of the Trinity.

Intro of First-Time Commissioners, Pastors, DCEs, Special Guests

Moderator Bowerman welcomed first time commissioner Josh Boyd (Camp Krislund) and special guest Rev. Rebecca Langer (honorably retired, St. Augustine Presbytery), moving back to the area.

Framed in worship, the first part of the meeting – **The Soil is Prepared** – included singing (*Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing*), prayer (“Forgive us, help us, renew us, we pray,”), assurance (“God sows words of life and has purposed us for love, forgiveness, and new life in Christ”), and passing the peace. Presbyters moved from the yard to the sanctuary, singing *In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful* as a transition into the Proclamation section of worship – **God’s Word is Sown and Nurtured**.

TE Janice Tiedeck (Monaghan PC, Dillsburg) offered a prayer for illumination and led a responsive reading of Psalm 126 (“May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.”)

Kevin Long (Intertwined – New Worshiping Community) read Amos 5:11-27. In his sermon titled “Fluid, Flowing Fortunes” he used the illustration of climbing Pike’s Peak to describe clinging to God’s love in the face of challenges: even when the peak is out of sight and we see only obstacles, it’s always there. He observed that the Foundations of our Faith are only as far away as our phones, and praised God for the 715 new PC(USA) worshiping communities founded since the challenge to the denomination in 2012.

In the Response segment of worship – **God’s Word Sprouts and Grows** – presbyters received reports.

- **Report of the New Worshiping Communities Commission (NWCC)** – Moderator Bowerman called upon TE Allison Smith (Member-at-Large, Chair NWCC) to introduce the work of the NWCC. With a passionate appeal for input from and collaboration with the presbytery, TE Smith spoke of the newly formed NWCC tasked with supporting the development of the presbytery’s new worshiping communities. The Commission is meeting with leaders, seeking grants, creating systems that don’t bog things down yet offer accountability, helping the presbytery lean into relational / missional ministry and learn from new worshiping communities. She referred to the written report posted online in advance of the meeting with meeting materials, and highlighted the 1001 Worshiping Communities website. She thanked presbyters for NOT showing up at Intertwined; presbyters already are comfortable in traditional worship. Intertwined aims to welcome those who never will show up in traditional ministry – like children and grandchildren.
- **Informational items** – PLGCLSC Kristal Smith drew attention to reports that were available in advance of the meeting from
 - CPM – These are the people currently under care within the Presbytery of Carlisle:
 - Kevin Long – Market Square, MWS Certified ready to receive a call
 - Lynn Miller – Lower Marsh Creek, MWS Candidate
 - Rebecca Lister – St. Andrews, MWS Candidate
 - Destini Hodges – Capital, MWS Inquirer
 - Scott Stolte – Falling Spring, MWS Inquirer
 - Joe Calhoun – Christ, CRE in training
 - Brad Hill – Falling Spring, CRE In training
 - COM
 - Granted the Rev. Thomas Sweet honorably retired status effective 2022.11.30.
 - Granted the Rev. Sandra Strauss honorably retired status effective 2023.3.1.
 - Approved MIF for Christ Presbyterian Church Camp Hill
 - Approved the following Ordination Commission for Peter Billings on 2023.4.23 at St. Paul’s UCC in McConnellsburg: Scott Bowerman (Moderator), Emily McCachren (TE), Lou Nyiri (TE), Wayne Macdonald (RE), and Kathryn Finley (RE)
 - Reviewed the Presbytery’s roster of Teaching Elders in Validated Ministries (completed in December 2022).
 - Approved the Covenant of Agreement between the Rev Bill Hudson and Christ Presbyterian Church, Camp Hill on April 13, 2023.
 - Having attended the Communion Training for Ruling Elders on March 11, 2023, COM authorized 45 Ruling Elders with approval from their Session to preside at the Lord’s Table for a 3-year term in their respective congregations and, in the case of shared ministry arrangements, in their partner congregation/s as invited by the Moderator of Session and approved by action of the Session

- Treasurer – Year-To-Date reports through March 2023
 - Presbytery Checking Account Balance = \$174,716
 - Lend-A-Hand Checking Account Balance = \$65,888
 - Presbytery Mutual Funds = \$1,622,879
- Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership – see Attachment B.
 - There were no questions. PLGCLSC Smith added that the Search Team for the presbytery’s new leader has met 3 times already. They are evaluating context and values. Essential functions will continue in the transition time: presbyters should reach out to the PLGCLSC as primary contact after IEP Galan retires.

Expressions of Gratitude for the ministry of the Rev. Cheryl Galan

Moderator Bowerman invited IEP Cheryl Galan to address the body, noting that her ministry with the presbytery these past four years has not been a time of stasis.

IEP Galan shared a story about Dori Hjalmarson, our mission partner in Honduras, creating relationship and a Christian presence where there had been no church. “Dori asked us to imagine God who cultivates seed AND soil,” which leads to the prayer “make us into Good Soil.” IEP Galan also spoke of the Legacy Museum, in Montgomery, AL where jars filled with soil – dark brown, light sand, and red clay – had been gathered from the ground under the trees and other locations where hundreds of lynchings had occurred. IEP Galan asked: Might God be cultivating the soil in Carlisle Presbytery for hearing stories of our neighbors; to make the soil of our communities good and helpful.

IEP Galan left the presbytery with provoking observations and an open question: “Maybe we need God mucking around in our comfort and privilege...We stand at the edge of God’s unplowed future...What if God is working the soil of our souls? Repair, recovery, reconciliation – perhaps there is a glimmer here, of a purpose. Sowing seeds with abandon is essential...[with] some landing in unhospitable soil. I step away with hope because of glimmers I have seen in you. The Spirit is sending us out in joy, leading us back in peace.”

TE Heather Sigler (Retired) had the honor of sending IEP Galan off with reflections of former and current colleagues from her various locations of service in 26 years of ordained ministry. TE Sigler used the theologically significant image of rocks (pile of rocks in the river Jordan as they cross, Jacob’s pile of rocks), painted with words. Counted among IEP Galan’s gifts were the ability to “name it” (extract key themes in conversation), connection, supportive, creativity, collaboration (she likes to share children’s books), sincere, kind, reliable, eloquent, patient, awesome, sees things clearly, caring, liminal space, faithful, teacher, leader (even when you don’t know when you’re going), and friend.

PLGCLSC Smith had the honor of presenting IEP Galan with parting gifts from the presbytery. There was a resounding laugh when it was noted that appropriate farewell gifts which were seriously considered included a canoe and compass!

In addition to receiving a gift basket of Biblical food with a nod to the life lessons they offer – wine, bread, olives (fruit harvested from trees planted years ago), salt, honey, and fish – IEP Galan received a check in the amount of over \$4,000 which reflected contributions from congregations and individuals. Memories were recalled from IEP Galan’s years of sowing and nurturing seeds – allowing both for dormant and enriching seasons. Examples included IEP Galan’s introducing a labyrinth, helping the presbytery see that the church is not its buildings, and supporting workcamp experiences – 15 to 20 years after the fact, people who participated in workcamps felt most alive in their faith.

PLGCLSC Smith captured what was on the hearts of many: “Cheryl encouraged us to weed out what does not nourish us. She was always asking, What feeds you? What drains you? Well done, good and faithful servant. Thanks for the difference you’ve made in our lives – gifts of the heart are eternal. We pray you see the love.”

All presbyters received a party favor: a cross that has seeds in it. “Plant them trusting God will give them what they need when they need it.”

Rev. Rebecca Langer – who had preached at IEP Galan’s Ordination service 25 years ago – expressed gratitude for the invitation to “come full circle” to give the charge for IEP Galan’s retirement: “Our work always is joining with God in creative work...The soul’s slow ripening honors threshold moments ...With a profound unknowing of what comes next, the most important thing to remember is that God will accompany you; the best is yet to come. The things that your heart has yearned for will be fulfilled. Go deep into the mystery of pilgrimage.” Rev. Langer invited presbyters to stand as they were able to give IEP Galan, who has served the Lord so well, a blessing as she finds her new way of being.

An Offering in the amount of \$798.43 was collected for Central PA Food Bank’s Summer Food Service Program. Prayer petitions were lifted by Vice Moderator Presby, and again, gratitude was expressed in prayer: “Thank you for this day – for this time to be together. Special thanks for Cheryl – for serving with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. Bring comfort, restore joy, touch those who need healing.”

The meeting was drawn to a close with the *Song of Hope – God Harvests, Sends, and We Begin Again*.

ACTION

MSP to adjourn with prayer offered by Vice Moderator Presby and a Charge to all: Be sowers!
The meeting ended at 8:07 PM. The next stated meeting of the presbytery is set for September 23.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ATTACHMENT A Meeting Rolls

Totals									
Pastors		32							
Elders		33							
Voters		65							
Guest		12							
Cor. Member		1	Forrest Claassen						
Attendance		78							
Excused		0							
Honorably Retired					Active MWS				
Name		Status	Present	Excused	Name		Status	Present	Excused
Anderson	Raymond	HR			Blank	Edward	P		1
Beck	William	HR			Bowerman	David	NP		1
Beltzner	Doug	HR			Bowerman	Lucy	NP		1
Best	Charles	HR			Bowerman	Scott	P		1
Black	Jon	HR			Brungraber	Katy Yates	NP		1
Bowne	Dale	HR			Carter	Kent	P		
Bradburn	W. Wilson	HR			Chase	Lisa	P		
Buffaloe	Marie	HR			Conklin	Nancy	P		1
Carroll	Karin	HR			Cook	Robert	P		
Clark	Crea	HR			Christopher	Donna	NP		
Derrickson	Barbara	HR			Dietz	Peter	NP		
Derrickson	Paul	HR			Dunn	Arlene	NP		
Green	John	HR			Englund-Krieger	Mark	P		
Hamel	Bertha	HR			Folts	Tom	NP		
Hammann	William	HR			Graham	Fowler	P		1
Hudson	William	HR			Galan	Cheryl	EP		1
Houtz	Richard	HR			Gauthier	Vernon	P		
Humphrey	Bruce	HR		1	Gibelius	Jeff	P		
Jackman	Thomas	HR			Gordon	Gene	P		1
Jessen	Charles	HR			Hart	Andrew	P		
Kline	Darlene	HR			Hostetter	Andrew	P		1
Larson	John	HR			Johnston	Kathryn	P		1
Martin-Minnich	Ron	HR			Kang	Inho	P		1
Mater	Jeanette	HR			Lorenz	Anthony	P		1
McCall	Myrtle	HR			McCachren	Emily	P		
McKenna	Jennifer	HR		1	McClure	Caleb	P		
Medina	Mark	HR			McClure	Nancy	P		
Mitchell	Donald	HR			Meilands	Pam	NP		
Myers	Anne	HR			Melton	Stephen	P		
Myers	Charles	HR			Morgan	Robin	P		
Pace	Art	HR			Morgan	Troy	NP		
Park	John	HR			Neubaum	Christian	P		
Potter	Donald	HR			Nyiri	Louis	P		1
Reinert	Nancy	HR		1	Opitz	Don	NP		
Rhoades	Robert	HR			Robinson	Matthew	NP		
Richwine	Lois	NP		1	Saturno	Anthony	P		
Richwine	James	HR		1	Schwab	Rachel	NP		1
Roach	Timothy	HR			Seelman	Stuart	P		1
Schmidt	John	HR			Smith	Allison	NP		1
Sheffield	Dick	HR			Smith	Kristal	SC		1
Sigler	Heather	HR		1	Stewart	Anne	NP		
Sproat	John	HR			Stockstill	Andrew	NP		
Strauss	Sandra	HR			Tiedeck	Janice	P		1
Sullivan	Russell	HR			Velthius	Stephen	NP		
Sweet	Thomas	HR			Veon-Nyiri	Candace	NP		
Thomas	Thomas D.	HR			Vickery	Caroline	P		1
Trask	Edward	HR			Wadlington	Derek	NP		1
Uittenbogaard	Roger	HR			Wadlington	Kim	P		1
Uittenbogaard	Susan	HR			Wahlig	Donald	P		1
Van Schenkhof	Carol	HR		1	Whitaker	Stephen	P		
Washburn	Mary	HR			West	Howard	NP		1
Williams	Dale	HR			Wiant	Kelly	NP		
Winsheimer	Harry	HR			Yaroschuk	Kathryn	NP		
Work	Galen	HR							
Wright	David	HR							
					Corresponding Member			1	
					Total HR Pastors			7	0
					Total Installed and NP Pastors			24	0
					Total MWS			32	0

Church	Elder Commissioners	# of Elders	CREs	Total #
Big Spring				
Camp Hill	Beth Fine, Dolores Peffley	2	Roz Presby	1
Capital	Elliott Robinson	1		
Central	Patrick McNamee	1		
Centre	Wanda Hockenberry, Robert O'Toole	2		
Christ, Camp Hill				
Derry	Gregg Robertson	1		
Dickinson	Dianne Conaway, Teresa Ege	2		
Duncannon	Larry Gildner	1	Committee Chairs	
East Waterford				
Faith Immanuel	Elise Kelly Berry	1		
Falling Spring				
First, Carlisle	Fred Seltzer	1		
First United, Newville				
Gettysburg	Mary Flinner	1		
Great Conewago				
Greencastle			Christian Educators	
Harrisburg Korean				
Highland United				
Hope United	Linda Megonnell, Steve Megonnell	2		
Lost Creek				
Lower Marsh Creek	Catherine Michaliga, Denise Lockwood	2		
Lower Tuscarora			Council	
Market Square	Dale Laninga, David Lehman	2	Rose Jewell-Jordan	1
McConnellsburg				
Mechanicsburg	Katie Chase, Robert Bell	2		
Middle Spring	Danny Chamberlin, Kemper Dyson	2	Total CRE, CC, CE, Council	2
Monaghan	Nancy Brucker, Ed Urenko	2		
Mt. Olivet			Guests	
Paxton			Dick Lee - Monaghan	1
Pine Street	Elyse Rogers, Robert Kerr	2	Kathy Wells - Monaghan	1
Presbyterian Congregation Middletown	Michael Heindel	1	Lee Gettle - Monaghan	1
Second			Connie Gettle - Monaghan	1
Silver Spring	Scott Pepperman, Jerry Schnell	2	Elaine Fry - First United Newville	1
St. Andrews			Mike Fry - First United Newville	1
St. James	Barbara Hughes	1	Jack Galan - Market Square	1
Upper West Conococheague			Jim Langer	1
Warfordsburg			Rebecca Langer	1
Waynesboro	Lori Sutton	1	Kevin Long - Intertwined	1
Wells Valley			Marty Gruver - Pine Street	1
Westminster			Josh Boyd - Camp Krislund	1
	Total Elder Commissioners	32	Total Guests	12
	Total Other Personnel	2	Total Voting Elders	34

ATTACHMENT B
Report of the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership
May 2, 2023

The 226th General Assembly will soon be upon us! Over the next few months, the Presbytery of Carlisle will work to identify delegates to attend the meeting June 24 – July 4, 2024 in Salt Lake City, UT. If you are interested, please look for future announcements from the Presbytery and visit the PC(USA) [web page](#) for more information on the Assembly itself.

Items for Information

Reading of Presbytery Meeting Minutes: Rev. Lisa Chase and RE Dick Lee (Monaghan Presbyterian) read and reviewed the minutes of the February 25, 2023 meeting of the Presbytery. Sincere appreciation to Lisa and Dick for their careful attention to this task!

2023 Terms of Call: Of the 26 installed positions within the Presbytery of Carlisle, 25 Terms of Call reports are on file with the Presbytery.

Reported to the Office of the General Assembly:

- The Retirement of Thomas Sweet.
- The Retirement of Sandra Strauss.

Annual Review of 2021 Session Minutes and Registers:

Of the 42 churches of the Presbytery of Carlisle, 35 presented their 2021 Session records for review with very few exceptions noted. Our Clerks of Session are very attentive to detail and invested in doing good work. My gratitude to all who endeavor to tell and keep their congregations' stories through record-keeping!

2022 Presbytery of Carlisle Annual Statistical Report

Below is the compilation of information provided by the congregations of the Presbytery of Carlisle for the year 2022.



2022 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Carlisle
Address 2601 N Front St #107, Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone 717-737-6821 **Fax** 717-730-9137
Email office@carlislepby.org
Web Site www.carlislepby.org

Membership			
Prior Active Members	8948	Adjusted membership	8774
Gains		Losses	
Certificate	69	Certificate	58
Youth Professions	41	Deaths	183
Professions & Reaffirmations	94	Deleted for any Other Reason	419
Total Gains	204	Total Losses	660
Total Ending Active Members	8318		
Baptisms		Average Weekly Worship Attendance	3324
Presented by Others	45	Friends of the Congregation	1119
At Confirmation	1	Ruling Elders on Session	367
All Other	12	Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	32 / 6

Age Distribution of Active Members		People with Disabilities	
17 & Under	268	Hearing impairment	245
18 - 25	516	Sight impairment	87
26 - 40	1137	Mobility impairment	304
41 - 55	1250	Other impairment	309
56 - 70	2088		
Over 70	2788	Gender Distribution	
Total Age Distribution	8047	Women	4559
		Men	3042
		Non-Binary	2
Youth in Congregation			
Age 4 and under		Middle School (6th – 8th grade)	195
Elementary School (K-5th grade)	181	High School (9th – 12th grade)	312
	328	Total Youth	1016
Racial Ethnic			
Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	104	Native American/Alaska	
Black/African American/African	67	Native/Indigenous	1
Middle Eastern/North African	7	White	7687
Hispanic/Latino-a	23	Multiracial	14
		Total Racial Ethnic	7903
Budgeted Income	11,857,806		
Budgeted Expense	12,909,836		
Receipts			
Regular Contributions	10,796,598	Bequests	1,584,614
Capital Building Fund	696,558	Other Income	738,007
Investment Income	1,530,172	Subsidy or Aid	7,500
Expenditures			
Local Program	11,354,314	Investment Expenditures	1,590,299
Local Mission	987,915	Per Capital Apprt	252,547
Capital Expenditures	1,305,631	Other Mission	545,904

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to install Rev. Stephen Melton as Designated Pastor of Big Spring Presbyterian Church. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to install Rev. J Caleb McClure as pastor of Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to ordain Peter Billings as pastor of St. Paul’s UCC in McConnellsburg and Trinity UCC in Ft. Loudon. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristal Smith
 Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership