

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2023
STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE
Hybrid Meeting at Capital Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg PA and via Zoom

Attachments

1. **Final Report of the Administrative Commission** serving the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church, Mercersburg
2. **Approved changes to the presbytery ByLaws and Standing Rules**, relative to the new leadership structure in the presbytery: transitioning from an Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk model to a Co-Presbytery Leader model
3. **Report of the Stated Clerk**, including information items relating to Permanent Judicial Commission, COM Approved Validated Ministries, COM Approved At-Large Status, Reading of Presbytery Minutes, Review of 2022 Presbytery Minutes, Reports to the Office of GA (dismissals of congregations, ordinations and dismissals of Ministers of Word and Sacrament), Annual Review of 2022 Session Minutes and Registers, Update on 225th General Assembly Amendments
4. **Roll for Attendance** at the December 5, 2023 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
- CC Coordinating Council
- CCE Certified Christian Educator
- CLC Church Leadership Connection
- COA Covenant of Agreement
- CPM Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- COM, NWCC Commission on Ministry, New Worshiping Community Commission
- GA, OGA, SOT General Assembly, Office of General Assembly, Synod of the Trinity
- IEP Interim Executive Presbyter
- MAL Member-At-Large
- MDP Ministry Discernment Profile
- NC, PNC Nominating Committee, Pastor Nominating Committee
- PC, PW, PHS Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women, Presbyterian Historical Society
- PLGCL/SC Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk
- PLVT, BPL Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation, Bridge Presbytery Leader
- TE, MWS Teaching Elder, Minister of Word and Sacrament
- RE, CRE, EREC Ruling Elder, Commissioned Ruling Elder, Elected RE Commissioner to this meeting
- VM Vice Moderator

Welcome and Docket Approval

The Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle was called to order and opened with prayer in worship at 6:00 PM on site in the sanctuary of Capital PC (Harrisburg) by Moderator TE Scott Bowerman (Central PC, Chambersburg) and via Zoom. Zoom tutorial instructions had been provided with the Docket. Instructions were given for clergy and commissioners to be recognized in an orderly manner by the Moderator in person and on Zoom.

The Moderator thanked Capital PC for hosting presbytery and providing a wonderful meal. Host pastor, TE Gene Gordon (Capital PC), welcomed presbyters and provided hospitality tips.

ACTION

MSP to approve the Docket.

*[Note: throughout the Minutes, **MSP** indicates Motion, Seconded, Discussed, and Passed; in each case, the Moderator paused for the vote and waited to hear results from the Stated Clerk.]*

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

The Moderator welcomed first-time ruling elder commissioners, elected by their Sessions,

George Blashford (Market Square PC, Harrisburg)

Bob Frank (Paxton PC, Harrisburg)

Kitty Taylor (Paxton PC, Harrisburg)

Michelle Beck (Faith Immanuel PC, Harrisburg)

Susan Anthony (Faith Immanuel PC, Harrisburg)

Pastors who are new to the presbytery, attending a presbytery meeting for the first time,

Anne Ross (Market Square PC, Harrisburg)

and those wishing to be enrolled as Corresponding Members.

Rick Boyer (Northeast New Jersey)

The meeting proceeded, framed in the language and practice of worship.

GOD GATHERS US Scripture, Song, and Prayer

Moderator Bowerman led a responsive Call to Worship – “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... Authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” – and the singing of verse 1 of O Holy Night.

Bridge Presbytery Leader (BPL) TE Lucy Bowerman (Member-at-Large) led the Call to Confession – “it’s easy to focus on what’s wrong with the world...Knowing our weakness, God looks at us with mercy and invites us to love” – and Prayer of Confession – “Lord, your Spirit enlightens the whole world wherever people turn to you; forgive us for our failure to open our lives to your presence in the Spirit.” After a time of silence, and the singing of the Gloria Patri, presbyters passed the Peace of Christ.

GOD PROCLAIMS TO US A Pilgrimage Story

Moderator Bowerman introduced TE Gene Gordon (Capital PC, Harrisburg) who, in 2019, traveled to Ghana, Africa, to visit sites that were integral parts of the Transatlantic slave trade. The pilgrimage was a visceral reminder of the treacherous and violent ways of humankind. Presbyters joined in a responsive reading from Psalm 35:17-28 which laments acts of human depravity, yet, in the end, looks to God. “How long, O Lord, will you look on? Rescue me...Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness and of your praise all day long.”

Wearing his *batakari* (traditional attire from Ghana), TE Gordon spoke of his homeland, Accra, Ghana, explaining that “Ghana” means warrior king. Ghana gained independence from the British in 1957 and is known for producing the most gold in Africa. TE Gordon conveyed how impactful it was to return to native shores some 400 years after ancestors were captured by the Portuguese, Dutch and others. TE

Gordon shared pictures of the Elmina castle-turned-dungeon, which became a trading post (one of 50 posts along the West African coast) with courtyard, drawbridge, mote – and the iron “door of no return” which went directly out to ships where those captured were packed like sardines in a can on ships to the Americas. This was a site of unfathomable abuses. TE Gordon and others on his tour poured libations “In everlasting memory of our ancestors... may humanity never again perpetuate such injustice.” One of the piercing questions he posed was: how does the oppressed become the oppressor? TE Gordon appealed to presbyters: “We have not learned from these lessons – our sins are repeated.”

Moderator Bowerman invited forward the coordinator of the presbytery’s Racial Reconciliation Team. TE Bruce Humphrey (retired) announced an opportunity to explore *Bible and Race* – a Zoom-only study on Tuesday evenings, 6:30-7:30 PM, starting January 16, 2024. TE Humphrey noted that many of our congregations are reflecting on how to discuss race and loving our neighbors in our 21st century highly anxious American society. Presbytery is sponsoring this Bible study led by various pastors in order to engage scriptures related to race and spiritual practices. Since many churches don’t have their own clergy to lead their own conversations, this effort is designed as a presbytery-wide conversation, with members of congregations not served by pastors especially welcome.

1. Jan 16: Rev. Bruce Humphrey, retired: "Vision of God’s Kingdom with every tribe tongue nation, Rev 7"
2. Jan 23: Rev. Gene Gordon, Capital PC: “Myth of separate races as a human construct, Acts 17”
3. Jan 30: Rev. Stephen Melton, Big Spring PC: "Lamenting past misbehaviors as Spiritual Practice, Matt 5”
4. Feb 6: Rev. Allison Smith, Market Square PC: “Confession of failures for healing, Luke 15”
5. Feb 13: Rev. Nancy Conklin, Camp Hill PC: “Forgiveness is good for everyone, Matt 6”
6. Feb 20: Rev. Jeff Gibelius, Second PC Carlisle: “Repentance – tearing down walls of distrust, Matt 3”
7. Feb 27: Rev. Caroline Vickery, Waynesboro PC: “Endurance rather than growing weary, Heb 12”
8. Mar 5: Rev. Kristal Smith, Presbytery Leader: “Prayer as Spiritual Warfare, Eph 6”
9. Mar 12: Rev. Heather Sigler, retired: “Love as the Ultimate Goal of God’s Kingdom, 1 Cor 13”
10. March 19: Kevin Burrell, Chair Market Square PC Anti-Racism Committee: “Epilogue, Thy Will Be Done on Earth”

A registration link was sent in the presbytery’s November newsletter, and anyone interested may contact the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership (PLGCL/SC) Kristal Smith.

The meeting transitioned into the next section with the singing of *O Holy Night* – verse 3:
 “Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name all oppression shall cease.”

WE OFFER OUR WORK

Historical Documentation, Coordinating Council, Administration Committee, Synod

Presbyterian Historical Society

Moderator Bowerman welcomed via Zoom Mr. David Staniunas, Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) Records Archivist since 2011. Mr. Staniunas shared with presbyters that PHS:

- Has 36,000 cubic feet of records from national and mid-council bodies, and Sessions
 - If a church possesses original documents, PHS is the appropriate repository
- Shoots 60,000 pages every year – last year, Capital PC was one of 7 churches that joined the program to have their records shot; this year 11 churches joined
- Responds to 2,000 requests every year by 5 staff members
- Is compelled to represent the whole church

- Experience tells us that white congregations of high socio-economic status respond affirmatively to the call of historic record; most archives don't represent minorities well
- Stewards a dedicated pool of funds to support the African American Leaders and Congregations Collecting Initiative (AALCCI), thanks to the family of Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, the first Black woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church, and a founding voice in womanist theology who taught at Union Theological Seminary (Richmond, VA)

Moderator Bowerman thanked Mr. Staniunas for introducing presbyters to the important work of the PHS. Mr. Staniunas put a link in the Zoom chat to Dr. Cannon's papers and his own contact information.

- <https://www.history.pcusa.org/blog/2021/10/presbyterians-and-palestine>

Coordinating Council – ByLaws and Standing Rules Changes

Moderator Bowerman called forward BPL Lucy Bowerman for the first item of Coordinating Council (CC) business.

On behalf of CC, BPL Bowerman presented the proposed By-laws and Standing Rules changes for a second reading and vote. She explained that these were presented for a first reading in September and have to do with changes relative to the new leadership structure in the presbytery. The documents were included with the meeting materials; BPL Bowerman offered to answer any questions. The only clarification in discussion was that leadership titles in ByLaws and Standing Rules had been changed from the old Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk model to reflect the new Co-Leader structure.

Since the motion came from committee, a second was not needed.

ACTION

MP to approve the changes as presented to the ByLaws and Standing Rules relative to the new leadership structure in the presbytery: transitioning from an Executive Presbyter/ Stated Clerk model to a Co-Presbytery Leader model. [SEE BYLAWS AND STANDING RULES CHANGES, ATTACHED]

Coordinating Council – Administrative Commission

For the next item of business from the CC, Moderator Bowerman referred presbyters to the 4-page Final Report of the Administrative Commission (AC) serving the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church (UWCPC) in Mercersburg, which had been submitted with presbytery meeting materials.

Moderator Bowerman called forward the Co-Chair of the AC, TE Ed Blank (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg) who reported that

- the AC for UWCPC consisted of RE Gary Russell (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg), RE Kathryn Finley (Central PC, Chambersburg), TE Katy Yates Brungraber (Member-At-Large), TE Emily McCachren (McConnellsburg PC), and himself.
- What was thought would be a 6-month commitment to assist with legacy turned into 2.5 years.
- UWCPC was a deeply troubled church – particular church members engaged in attacks on its Session; stress levels of Session members were off the charts.
- Session asked the AC to assume Original Jurisdiction, saying, “We simply cannot take it anymore;” the church was on the verge of implosion.
- After trying to discern a path forward, the AC realized the members of the congregation were no longer interested in dissolution; at the same time, leaders repeatedly rejected PC(USA) polity.
- After some 150 meetings, dismissing the church to another Reformed body, ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterian Churches, seemed to be the most faithful resolution.

TE Blank thanked the members of the AC for using their God-given talents to the glory of God in what turned out to be a very long journey of discernment culminating in gracious dismissal of UWPC from the PC(USA).

Moderator Bowerman commended the members of the AC for the tremendous amount of work done on behalf of the presbytery, and invited questions from presbyters about the report. There were none.

ACTION

MSP to receive the Final Report of the Administrative Commission to the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church, Mercersburg, and dismiss the Administrative Commission with the presbytery's gratitude. [SEE FINAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, ATTACHED]

Coordinating Council – Stated Clerk Report

Moderator Bowerman invited PLGCL/SC Smith to come forward.

PLGCL/SC Smith called presbyter attention to the many informational items in her report, located with the meeting materials on the temporary presbytery web site. Information items from the Stated Clerk related to: Permanent Judicial Commission, COM Approved Validated Ministries, COM Approved At-Large Status, Reading of Presbytery Minutes, Review of 2022 Presbytery Minutes, Reports to the Office of GA (dismissals of congregations, ordinations and dismissals of Ministers of Word and Sacrament), Annual Review of 2022 Session Minutes and Registers, Update on 225th General Assembly Amendments [SEE STATED CLERK REPORT, ATTACHED]

PLGCL/SC Smith then brought forward three action items for consideration. The first item was to elect a Recording Clerk. PLGCL/SC Smith moved to elect TE Katy Yates Brungraber (Member-At-Large), who has served in this role since 2020.

ACTION

MSP to elect Katy Yates Brungraber as Recording Clerk for 2024.

At the request of the Sessions of the Monaghan and Waynesboro PCs, and as permitted by G-2.0404 in the *Book of Order*, PLGCL/SC Smith moved the waiver of term limits for officers.

ACTION

MSP to waive term limits for officers for the Monaghan PC and Waynesboro PC as determined appropriate by their respective Sessions according to the churches' needs and limitations for 2024.

The final action item was presented to redress the imbalance between Ministers of Word and Sacrament (MWS) and REs entitled to vote at presbytery meetings. In response to a question, PLGCL/SC Smith explained that the presbytery – in comparison with the number of minister members serving congregations and validated ministries – has a significant number of retired minister members [50] who have the privilege of, and often do, attend meetings.

ACTION

MSP that each church in the Presbytery of Carlisle be given one additional Ruling Elder beyond the membership guidelines outlined in Standing Rule #12 of Carlisle Presbytery, who will have voice and vote at the 2024 meetings of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

Presbyters affirmed: For the work of the Coordinating Council, **we give thanks to God.**

Administration Committee

Moderator Bowerman asked Presbytery Treasurer TE Ed Blank (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg) to give the final presentation of the 2024 budget. Treasurer Blank explained that 2024 Line-Item Budget and Narrative Budget (telling the presbytery's story in photos) – which were presented in September for a first reading – had been updated since the first reading and were posted with materials for this meeting. For example, income through investments was raised to \$90,000 (not touching principle).

Mission giving – which comes to nearly \$200,000 – reflects the presbytery's commitment to Camp Krislund, New Worshipping Communities (NWC), Intertwined, General Assembly and Synod Per Capita, and General Assembly Shared Mission. NWC is new in 2024, with a \$30,000 grant. All told, presbytery has a surplus of \$1,899. A deficit of \$11,000 through October will be absorbed through Operating Expenses. There was one question from the floor about where certain money should be sent. Treasurer Blank referred the question for follow up with the CC and Administration Committee.

ACTION

MSP to approve the proposed budget for 2024 as presented.

Synod of the Trinity Report

Moderator Bowerman called on Synod Commissioner, RE Destini Hodges (Capital PC, Harrisburg), to come forward to present her report.

RE Hodges described gathering in Bedford, PA, with Synod commissioners October 29 – 31, 2023 at the Omni Hotel, which was used as a hospital during the Civil War. Commissioners were joined by Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Co-Moderator of the 225th PC(USA) General Assembly, who touched on hardships seen in Fiji, and asked presbyteries to face challenges head on – both within and beyond the walls of our church buildings. Takeaways from this prayer-filled Synod gathering were that our denomination must find a way together to capture and write down stories as congregations struggle to maintain themselves. RE Hodges spoke passionately about collecting stories from the margins and footnotes to hear the voices of those long silenced. “We don't have to compete with one another... we need to pool resources.”

Synod is inviting presbyteries and congregations to apply for innovation grants. To be clear, technology is not considered to be “innovative” anymore; technology is a given, essential. Each presbytery will have \$30,000 set aside to develop new ecclesiastical structures for something that's never been done. Additionally, Synod commissioners collected \$580 for Bower Hill Church in Pittsburgh that has a ministry for eliminating medical debt. RE Hodges closed with good news: the 2025 Per Capita not changing – it remains at \$2.40.

Moderator Bowerman thanked RE Hodges for her good report, and asked Vice Moderator (VM) Roz Presby (Faith Immanuel PC, Harrisburg) to moderate the remainder of the meeting.

WE OFFER OURSELVES

Commission on Ministry, Nominating Committee, Offering

Commission on Ministry - Examination

VM Presby noted to presbyters that in response to the Word proclaimed tonight, we offer our work and ourselves with gratitude to God. She called on the Chair of the Commission on Ministry (COM), TE Tony Lorenz (First PC, Carlisle), and also the Candidate for ordination, Mr. Kevin Long.

TE Lorenz spoke about the call to ordered ministry in the Church being the act of the Triune God, evidenced by the movement of the Holy Spirit in the individual conscience, the approval of a community of God's people, and the concurring judgment of a council of the Church. (G-2.0103 *Book of Order* Call to Ordered Ministry). He provided background about Mr. Long:

- was under care of the Presbytery of Carlisle since 2019
- graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree in 2022
- certified ready to receive a call in May 2022
- worked since then to establish a New Worshipping Community called Intertwined.

After a Fit interview¹ and full examination by the COM, the COM now brings Kevin for ordination to the position of Organizing Pastor/Evangelist in the Presbytery of Carlisle. In the materials posted for today's meeting, Kevin provided a recorded and written sermon, based on [John 2:14–22](#), which presbyters were asked to view and read ahead of this meeting. TE Lorenz asked Mr. Long to read his Statement of Faith.

After the Statement of Faith was read, Moderator Presby instructed presbyters that the purpose of this examination was NOT to evaluate the viability or purpose of Intertwined as a New Worshipping Community; rather, the following topics were appropriate for questions: relative to the sermon, his Statement of Faith, Spiritual Autobiography (posted with meeting materials), the Bible, Sacraments, Polity, Theology, and Mr. Long's sense of call as an Organizing Pastor.

Compliments about how Mr. Long connects scripture in a relatable way with today's cultural and world situation, were mixed with questions around the themes of

- the doctrine of sin and original sin – tendencies toward selfishness are displayed in infancy
- authorship of scripture – the divine inspiration, not inerrancy, of the Bible
- how his world view has expanded – quite a bit from growing up in a homogeneous community
- the Holy Spirit in relation to the pursuit of justice – Mr. Long is compelled to take action toward ecological justice, which spills over into racial and socio-economic justice – churches too often treat symptoms rather than causes (consider "sacrifice zones" around factories)
- how worshipping outdoors affects his ministry – always-changing surroundings bring fresh insight
- how he came to be Presbyterian from a Methodist upbringing
- his sense of call – shortly after he became a Candidate, he started wrestling with creating something new for the unchurched with a focus on ecology.

ACTION

MSP to arrest examination.

Mr. Long was excused to a waiting room. Moderator Presby called for a motion to approve Kevin Long for ordination to Ministry of Word and Sacrament, which was moved, seconded and discussed. Pastors and REs from three churches – Market Square PC, Christ PC, and Silver Spring PC – spoke in affirmation of God's call on the life of Mr. Long, how he handled himself as a seminary intern during COVID, and how the COM Fit interview team believed this to be the next step of faithfulness.

¹ A Fit Interview is a process by which the Candidate and call committee meet with 2 members of COM prior to meeting with the full Commission. The purpose is to provide opportunity for deeper conversation than could be feasible with the larger body.

ACTION

MSP to end discussion.

MSP to approve the ordination of Kevin Long as Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Candidate Long was escorted back from the waiting room; VM Presby informed him of the affirmative outcome, celebrating that the way is clear for him to be ordained by the Presbytery of Carlisle – location to be determined. TE Lorenz was asked to lead the presbytery in prayer; he invited forward those who were present from Market Square. “Thank you for your call on Kevin’s life – thank you for being relentless in calling him. We pray for your blessing as he goes forward.”

TE Lorenz then called presbyter attention to new Family Medical Leave and Sabbatical Guidelines that have been approved by COM, and offered a quick word of thanks for his exiting COM members, Class of 2023, especially TE Gary Hollinger (Silver Spring PC, Mechanicsburg), RE Scott Pepperman (Silver Spring PC, Mechanicsburg), and TE Ed Blank (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg).

Presbyters affirmed: For the call to ordained ministry and the work of the Commission on Ministry, **we give thanks to God.**

Nominating Committee

VM Presby called forward RE Gregg Robertson (Derry PC, Hershey), Nominating Committee (NC) Chair.

RE Robertson thanked the presbytery for the list of names that had been put forward under IEP Cheryl Galan’s leadership at the September 2022 presbytery meeting; the NC has used that list for two years. The NC’s written report had been posted with meeting materials and shown on screen; RE Robertson emphasized the need for a YAAD to represent the Presbytery of Carlisle at the 226th General Assembly in Salt Lake City this summer. He appealed that if presbyters know of someone who has the gifts for serving in the areas where there are vacancies, please be in touch with him or PLGCL/SC Smith. RE Robertson moved the election of the slate of nominees as presented. Coming from committee, the motion required no second.

VM Presby asked if there were nominations from the floor, indicating that those asked must have agreed to be willing to serve, if elected. There were none.

ACTION

MP to elect the slate of officers, commissioners, and committee members as nominated:

(* indicates Committee/Commission Chair)

1. Administration Committee
 - a. 2026 Betsy Neilson (1st Term, Silver Spring PC, RE); Nancy Conklin (2nd Term, Camp Hill PC, TE); *Norma Mateer (2nd Term, Middletown PC, RE)
2. Coordinating Council
 - a. 2026 Jeff Gibelius (1st Term, Second Carlisle PC, TE); Two vacancies for REs
 - b. 2024 Moderator: CRE Rosamond Presby (Faith Immanuel PC, Harrisburg)
 - c. 2024 Vice Moderator: TE Janice Tiedeck (Monaghan PC, Dillsburg)
3. Commission on Ministry
 - a. 2026 Stephen Melton (1st Term, Big Spring PC, Shippensburg, TE); Kelly Jones (1st Term, Gettysburg PC, RE); *Tony Lorenz (2nd Term, First Carlisle PC, TE); Barbara Hughes (1st

- Term, St. James PC, Mechanicsburg, RE); Donna Ankney (1st Term, McConnellsburg PC, RE)
- b. 2024 Heather Sigler (1st Term, Honorably Retired, TE)
 - c. 2025 *William McHenry (1st Term, Highland United PC, Newport, RE) Arlene Dunn (1st Term, Validated Ministry, TE); Two vacancies: one for RE and one for TE
4. Nominating Committee
 - a. 2026 Gene Gordon (2nd Term, Capital PC, Harrisburg, TE); One vacancy for a RE
 5. Camp Krislund Committee
 - a. 2026 Stuart Seelman (2nd Term, Camp Hill PC, TE)
 6. Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 - a. 2026 Diane Lupia (1st Term, Silver Spring PC, Mechanicsburg, RE), *Buzz Myers (2nd Term, Honorably Retired, TE), Jack Keene (2nd Term, Derry PC, Hershey, RE), David Bowerman (1st Term, Member-At-Large, TE)
 - b. 2024 Dennis Tressler (1st Highland United PC, Newport, RE); Stephen Melton (1st Term, Big Spring PC, Shippensburg, TE)
 7. New Worshipping Communities Commission
 - a. 2026 Rob Cochran (1st Term, St. Andrews PC, Lebanon, RE); two vacancies for REs
 8. Permanent Judicial Commission
 - a. 2029 George Porter (Derry PC, Hershey, RE); Lisa Chase (Silver Spring PC, Mechanicsburg, TE); two vacancies for REs
 9. 2024 General Assembly Commissioners
 - a. Katy Yates Brungraber (Member-At-Large, TE); Gene Gordon (Capital PC Harrisburg, TE); Kemper Dyson (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg, RE); Rose Jewell-Jordan (Faith Immanuel PC, Harrisburg, RE); one vacancy for YAAD= Young Adult Advisory Delegate

[Clerk's Note: The Nominating Committee put forward its slate of nominees with helpful information about class, term, church, and officer designation. Much effort went into balancing TEs, REs, gender, large church and small church per the intentions of a Committee on Representation.]

Presbyters affirmed: For the call to presbytery service and the work of the Nominating Committee, **we give thanks to God.** “May each person who said yes be fruitful and fulfilled in their service to the larger church.”

Offering

VM Presby called on TE Gene Gordon (Capital PC, Harrisburg) to introduce the collection of the offering. TE Gordon informed presbyters that Capital's Session decided that the offering will benefit the Bethesda Mission, a nonprofit Christian ministry. Bethesda Mission mentors and equips Harrisburg's rising generation, seeking to develop relationships with children, youth, and families. Instructions for giving through the temporary website or by check were shared. The amount of \$ [REDACTED] was collected.

Following a Prayer of Dedication – “Multiply these offerings, we pray, to provide community and connection in Christ. May our giving bring comfort and joy in Jesus' name.” – presbyters affirmed: For opportunities to bless as we've been blessed, **we give thanks to God.**

WE OFFER OUR THANKS
Peacemaking, Ordinations

Peacemaking Award Presentation

VM Presby called forward PLGCL/SC Smith to present the Peacemaking Award – one of the ways the ways God works in our midst and brings life, light, and love to the world.

PLGCL/SC Smith explained that each year, when churches in the presbytery collect a Peacemaking Offering, monies collected are divided three ways: among Presbytery, GA, and the individual church. A group of Peace Advocates gathered to determine how to distribute Presbytery's portion. The 2023 recipient of the annual Peacemaking Prize of \$1000 is the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank (CPF), a non-profit organization serving 202,000 people each month. 58% of the people served by the CPF are working families with children. PLGCL/SC Smith called forward Kir Evancho, Development Coordinator for Organizational Giving to receive the certificate and check, and say a few words.

Ms. Evancho spoke about the people who are the heart of the CPF, and shared a meaningful story about a family experiencing food insecurity, noting, "We never turn anyone away.... It's such a privilege to be able to provide for our neighbors. Food is connection. Food is community." Ms. Evancho stated that she is willing to travel to individual churches to speak about the CPF.

Presbyters affirmed: For the Central PA Food Bank and all Peacemakers, **we give thanks to God.**

Acknowledgment of Ordinations

Vice Moderator Presby called on COM Chair Tony Lorenz (First PC, Carlisle) who acknowledged those MWS who are celebrating milestone anniversaries of ordination in 2023; if present, they received their certificate at the front of the sanctuary.

10 years	Donna Christopher
20 years	Andy Hart, Anne Ross
30 years	Jeff Gibelius, Lois Richwine
40 years	Myrtle McCall, Nancy McClure
60 years	Dale Bowne (Dale is contributing a reflection for the presbytery's next newsletter)

Presbyters affirmed: For these Ministers of Word and Sacrament, **we give thanks to God.**

Camp Krislund Report

VM Presby called on Mr. Josh Boyd, Camp Krislund Director, to report on the good things that are happening at camp; he was accompanied by Ms. Lindsey Burkholder.

Mr. Boyd shared with presbyters that 230 people came to Camp Krislund in August to celebrate the camp's 60th year of ministry. He and Lindsey are grateful for the presbytery's support and are excited about what's next. Announcement: Cabin #6 (with a great view of the mountain and a small kitchenette) is free of charge Mondays-Thursdays to pastors for personal retreat. Also, "keep an eye out for next year's summer line up."

Ms. Burkholder added that she's excited to be back at Krislund as Retreat and Program Manager, after years of being a camper and counselor. She's lining up summer Chaplains, who are resources for the counselors who come from a wide range of faith traditions. VM Presby proudly noted that Ms. Burkholder is her daughter, and confirmed that Camp Krislund has great retreat facilities. She put in a plug that being a Chaplain always ends up being an amazing experience with comfy cabins and delicious food. "It's a great way to serve God and influence the next generation, sometimes helping young people hear God's call on their lives."

Presbyters affirmed: For work and play and lives touched and changed at Camp Krislund, **we give thanks to God.**

VM Presby led the Prayers of the People – “O God of wisdom and light, Remind us to seek your might in the most unlikely places-as a child in a stable, and in an empty tomb.” – and the singing of verse 2 of *O Holy Night*: “The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our Friend.”

Adjournment and Benediction

ACTION

MSP to adjourn.

“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 again soon.” May it be so. Amen. “

The meeting ended at 8:59 PM. The next stated meeting of the presbytery is set for January 17, time and location to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Kristal Smith

Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk

ATTACHMENT #1 – REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Report of the Stated Clerk (aka Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership)

December 5, 2023

Items for Action

Action Item # 1: The Stated Clerk moves that Rev. Katy Yates Brungraber be elected as Recording Clerk of the Presbytery of Carlisle for the year 2024. The Stated Clerk is grateful to Katy for her exemplary work as Recording Clerk during her past four terms of service and is grateful for her willingness to serve again. Readers of Katy’s minutes have commented on her ability to transport them to that time and space with her vivid and accurate recording of events.

Action Item # 2: At the request of the Sessions of Monaghan Presbyterian Church and the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro and as permitted by G-2.0404 in the Book of Order, the Stated Clerk moves that term limits for their officers be waived as determined appropriate by its Session according to the church’s needs and limitations for the year 2024.

Rationale

G-2.0404 Terms of Service: Ruling elders and deacons shall be elected to serve terms of no more than three years on the session or board of deacons and may be eligible for reelection according to congregational rule. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year. Election shall be to classes as nearly equal in number as possible, with the term of only one class ending each year. *The presbytery may, upon written request and by majority vote, grant a congregation a waiver of this limitation on terms (italics mine for emphasis).*

Action Item # 3: The Stated Clerk moves that each church in the Presbytery of Carlisle be given one additional Ruling Elder beyond the membership guidelines, outlined in Standing Rule #12 of Carlisle Presbytery, who will have voice and vote at the 2024 meetings of the Presbytery of Carlisle.

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 ministers and ruling elders entitled to vote at presbytery meetings. Accordingly, the Stated Clerk did the following analysis:

Total Minister Members as of November 18, 2022 109

Ruling Elder Commissioners from churches (based on membership guidelines outlined in Presbytery Standing Rule #12) 44

Other Ruling Elders entitled to vote per Carlisle Presbytery Bylaws 11

These additional 11 Elders consist of:

A. Committee Chairs (Ruling Elders) 2 – Norma, Gregg

B. Ruling Elder Members of Council 4 – Rose, Nicki, Emily, Jim

C. Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) 2 – Neal, Roz

D. Ruling Elders who are in CRE Program 2 – Joe, Brad

E. Certified Educators who are Ruling Elders and employed in Presbytery 0

F. Moderator of Presbyterian Women 1

Total Ruling Elders entitled to vote 11

Summary: Total Minister Members 109 / Total Ruling Elders entitled to vote 55 / IMBALANCE: 54

GIVEN the fact that there are projected to be 39 churches in the presbytery for the year 2024, if the proposal above is approved by Presbytery this would result in the following:

Total Minister Members 109 / Total Ruling Elders entitled to vote 94 / IMBALANCE: 15

Reported to the Office of the General Assembly

- The Dismissal of the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church to ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians on September 23, 2023.
- The Ordination of Emily Sutphin on September 10, 2023.
- The Dismissal of the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church to ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians on October 1, 2023.
- The Dismissal of the Rev. Derek Wadlington to Muskingham Presbytery on November 9, 2023.

Annual Review of 2022 Session Minutes and Registers:

Of the 42 churches of the Presbytery of Carlisle, 39 presented their 2022 Session records for review with very few exceptions noted. Our Clerks of Session take great care to “write the vision and make it plain” (Habakkuk 2). Thank you!

Update on 225th General Assembly Amendments:

All the amendments have been approved and are now included in the Book of Order. These items represent the most significant work for our Presbytery:

- Boundary Training required every 36 months for Inquirers, Candidates, Certified Christian Educators, and all those serving on councils;
- All councils must implement policies on harassment and antiracism;
- Terms of call for pastors must include provision for 12 weeks of family medical leave

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to ordain and install Rev. Emily Sutphin as Minister of Word and Sacrament. She will serve as Associate Pastor of Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative. SPECIAL NOTE: The Stated Clerk has verified the Rev. Sutphin’s successful completion of the MDiv requirements and her graduation from the program in May 2023.

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to ordain Rev. Peter Billings as Minister of Word and Sacrament. He will serve as pastor of St. Paul’s (McConnellsburg) and Trinity (Ft. Loudon) United Church of Christ. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to install Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger as Pastor of Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

Commission Report: Received the report of the Commission to install Rev. Lisa Chase as Associate Pastor of Silver Sprig Presbyterian Church. All the constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted, Kristal Smith Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership

ATTACHMENT #2 – REPORT OF THE BRIDGE PRESBYTERY LEADER

(Included with the meeting materials)

Bridge Presbyter Report

December 2023

Rev. Lucy Bowerman

I joined the Presbytery Staff in late August and entered into co-Leadership with Rev. Kristal Smith. My function is to bridge the function of the co-Leader (formerly Executive Presbyter) until a search is complete to call the permanent and full time Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation. My position is ¾ time.

My focus has been on understanding the functions of the various Presbytery Committees and learning about those serving on them. I am very impressed with those serving. I take primary responsibility to support the Administrative Committee and the New Worshipping Communities Commission. Kristal, the Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership takes primary support for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, while the Commission on Ministry and the Coordinating Council are supported by both of us. Each of us attends all the meetings.

As support for the Administrative Committee, I have seen how the financial structures are overseen. Critical to the care of assets, they work with the Treasurer and the co-Leaders to assure the budget is realistic. Additionally, subcommittees are working to envision investment options to sustain the Presbytery to further support the ministries of Jesus Christ in our congregations. The Administrative Committee cares for the personnel of the Presbytery. Recently the Committee Chair, Norma Mateer and Personnel committee member Nancy Conklin interviewed each of the staff to check in with an annual review. The Admin Committee also approved the sale of one congregation's property this past month.

The Commission on Ministry oversees the health of the Ministers of Word and Sacrament, Certified Ruling Elders, and their congregations. Members of the COM are assigned to one or more congregations as Liaisons. Liaisons are available to attend to the urgent needs of congregations. They take a special role in walking with Pastoral Nominating Committees as they search. The COM sees that Pastors-at-large and Pastors in Validated Ministries are also remembered and supported. Whenever there is a transition in a congregation the COM is there to support each step of the way.

The New Worshipping Communities Commission is making way for two new worshipping communities to thrive. The NWCC is laying down policies and procedures for forming new procedures which means coordinating with both the COM and Administrative Committee. NWCC is blazing new trails.

Coordinating Council is like the Session of the Presbytery approving decisions, like approving the two recent dismissals, and policies that effect all the congregations. Currently, the Council is looking to envision new presbytery-wide ministry to be funded by a large grant of the

Synod. They will be working to present a policy on anti-racism and harassment, as recently updated to the Book of Order, including an understanding of what it means to pay tribute to history of the lands on which we now live.

Behind the scenes of the committees, the Presbytery Leaders are troubleshooting constantly. You probably heard about our website challenges. With the new data system for pastoral searches, the CLC, there have been numerous issues. Training needs change requiring programs to be developed. And don't forget the pastoral needs of the Presbytery! We recently began gathering the Retired Pastors for lunch fellowship. Did you know that we have nearly 50 retired pastors in our Presbytery?

Churches are putting into action their visions and missions, so providing resources is a role that comes to Presbytery Leadership. Fortunately, we are a part of the larger network of the Synod. This Fall we both attended the Synod Assembly where we gathered additional resources that will become useful going forward. We also meet regularly with other Presbytery Leaders who accompany us through meeting the needs of the congregations. It is a constant flow of ideas and information.

It is an honor to work with Carlisle Presbytery for this between time!

Peace,

Rev. Lucy Bowerman
Bridge Leader

**ATTACHMENT #3
ATTENDANCE ROLLS**

Totals									
Pastors		40							
Elders		43							
Voters		83							
Guest		18							
Cor. Member		1							
Attendance		102							
Excused		1							
Honorably Retired					Active MWS				
Name		Status	Present	Excused	Name		Status	Present	Excused
Anderson	Raymond	HR			Billings	Peter	NP		
Beck	William	HR			Blank	Edward	P		1
Beltzner	Doug	HR			Bowerman	David	NP		1
Best	Charles	HR			Bowerman	Lucy	NP		1
Black	Jon	HR			Bowerman	Scott	P		1
Bowne	Dale	HR			Brungraber	Katy Yates	NP		1
Bradburn	W. Wilson	HR			Carter	Kent	P		1
Buffaloe	Marie	HR		1	Chase	Lisa	P		1
Carrroll	Karin	HR			Conklin	Nancy	P		
Clark	Crea	HR			Cook	Robert	P		1
Derrickson	Barbara	HR			Christopher	Donna	NP		
Derrickson	Paul	HR			Dietz	Peter	NP		
Galan	Cheryl	HR		1	Dunn	Arlene	NP		
Green	John	HR			Englund-Krieger	Mark	P		
Hamel	Bertha	HR			Folts	Tom	NP		
Hammann	William	HR			Fowler	Graham	P		1
Hudson	William	HR			Gauthier	Vernon	P		1
Houtz	Richard	HR			Gibelius	Jeff	P		1
Humphrey	Bruce	HR		1	Gordon	Gene	P		1
Jackman	Thomas	HR			Hart	Andrew	P		
Jessen	Charles	HR			Hostetter	Andrew	P		
Kline	Darlene	HR			Johnston	Kathryn	P		1
Larson	John	HR			Kang	Inho	P		1
Martin-Minnich	Ron	HR			Lorenz	Anthony	P		1
Mater	Jeanette	HR			McCachren	Emily	P		1
McCall	Myrtle	HR			McClure	Caleb	P		1
McKenna	Jennifer	HR		1	McClure	Nancy	P		1
Medina	Mark	HR		1	Meilands	Pam	NP		
Mitchell	Donald	HR			Melton	Stephen	P		
Myers	Anne	HR			Morgan	Robin	P		
Myers	Charles	HR		1	Morgan	Troy	NP		
Pace	Art	HR			Neubaum	Christian	P		
Park	John	HR			Opitz	Don	NP		1
Potter	Donald	HR			Robinson	Matthew	NP		
Reinert	Nancy	HR			Saturno	Anthony	P		1
Rhoades	Robert	HR			Schwab	Rachel	NP		1
Richwine	Lois	NP		1	Seelman	Stuart	P		1
Richwine	James	HR		1	Smith	Allison	NP		1
Roach	Timothy	HR			Smith	Kristal	SC		1
Ross	Anne	HR		1	Stewart	Anne	NP		
Schmidt	John	HR			Stockstill	Andrew	NP		
Sheffield	Dick	HR			Sutphin	Emily	P		
Sigler	Heather	HR		1	Tiedeck	Janice	P		1
Sproat	John	HR			Velthius	Stephen	NP		
Strauss	Sandra	HR			Vickery	Caroline	P		1
Sullivan	Russell	HR			Wadlington	Kim	P		1
Sweet	Thomas	HR			Wahlig	Donald	P		1
Thomas	Thomas D.	HR			Whitaker	Stephen	P		
Trask	Edward	HR			West	Howard	NP		
Uittenbogaard	Roger	HR			Wiant	Kelly	NP		1
Uittenbogaard	Susan	HR			Yaroschuk	Kathryn	NP		
Van Schenkhof	Carol	HR							
Washburn	Mary	HR			Rick Boyer - Corresponding Member from Coastlands Presbytery				
Williams	Dale	HR			Corresponding Member				1
Winsheimer	Harry	HR			Total HR Pastors				10
Work	Galen	HR			Total Installed and NP Pastors				29
Wright	David	HR		1	Total MWS				40

