

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 23, 2023 STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE – DRAFT-A
Hybrid Meeting at Paxton Presbyterian Church Harrisburg and via Zoom

Attachments

1. Roll for Attendance at the September 23, 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
- BPL Bridge Presbytery Leader
- 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
- 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 Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation
- 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 in worship at 9:02 AM on site in the sanctuary of Paxton PC (Harrisburg) by Vice Moderator RE Roz Presby (Faith Immanuel PC), and via Zoom.

Worship was led by Bridge Presbytery Leader (BPL) TE Lucy Bowerman, with prayers and hymns leaning into themes of grace, forgiveness and blessing. Chris Schwab, Pastor of the First United Church of Christ (Carlisle) offered a timely sermon titled “Beloved Community – Sacredness in Action,” based on Exodus 17:1-7 and Acts 4:31-35. Pastor Schwab spoke of the importance for Christians to be accountable and committed: clearing their schedules to share time, talent, and treasure so that when conflict happens (and it will), we can see beyond our own interests to find agreement and common ground. “We have to listen to the Spirit to see what’s happening today.” He reminded presbyters that while a stuck community is based in fear – it reduces options, shows less opportunity for sacredness, and less hospitality – the focus of any sacred group prioritizes healthy relationships. He asked the presbytery:

- What is the purpose of the church gathering?
- When we enter into a gathering, what is our level of commitment to that group?
- How do we handle accountability and blame?
- If we desire sacred connections, what are we willing to do? How much time will we invest?

Offering in the amount of \$592.00 was collected for the Joshua Group, a nonprofit organization focused on the guidance and support of at-risk youth living in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg, through education, vocational training, mentoring and the shaping of positive role models.

Host TE Kent Carter (Paxton, Harrisburg), offered *A Prayer* by Archbishop Oscar Romero which spoke to the incomplete work we do in Christ's kingdom: *"It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view. The Kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, It is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete...We plant the seeds that one day will grow...We are workers, not master builders, Ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own.*

With thanks to the members of the Paxton PC for their gracious hospitality, Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk (PLGCL/SC) TE Kristal Smith released presbyters to regather in the social hall following the benediction.

Welcome, Zoom Instructions, Approval of Docket

At 10:00 AM Vice Moderator Presby resumed the business portion of the meeting, welcomed presbyters, and addressed logistics for presbyters voting on Zoom. She invited TE Carter (Paxton PC, Harrisburg) to come forward to offer instructions for on-site attendees. Vice Moderator Presby asked for a motion to adopt the docket.

ACTION

MSP to approve the docket.

Enroll Corresponding Members

Vice-Moderator Presby asked if there were corresponding members to be enrolled. There were none.

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

Vice-Moderator Presby extended a special welcome to members of Warfordsburg PC and Upper West Conococheague PC (UWCPC), with gratitude for their being present for the meaningful work of dismissal from the denomination. Then she acknowledged TE Anne Ross (Market Square, Harrisburg) transferred recently from Shenandoah, newly ordained TE Emily Sutphin (Mechanicsburg), and first-time Elected Ruling Elder Commissioners (EREC): Hank Har (Gettysburg PC), John Gillespie (2nd PC, Carlisle), and Kevin Burrell (Market Square).

ORDER OF THE DAY – Covenant of Gracious Separation and Dismissal (Upper West Conococheague PC)

Vice-Moderator Presby invited forward the presbytery's Conversation Team for UWCPC, and also PLGCL/SC Smith from the presbytery's Coordinating Council (CC). Formed and called into service by former Interim Executive Presbyter (IEP) TE Cheryl Galan in April 2023, the Conversation Team included TE Mark Medina (Member-at-Large), RE Anne LaRew (Greencastle PC), and TE Heather Sigler (Retired).

PLGCL/SC Smith moved, on behalf of the CC, the dismissal of Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church (Mercersburg) to ECO: A Covenant Order of Presbyterians, according to the terms detailed in the Covenant for Dismissal that was included in the meeting materials. She noted that the CC reviewed the document and believes that it reflects the spirit of a gracious separation. PLGCL/SC Smith invited the Conversation Team to speak about the process the church and presbytery went through to reach this covenant.

- TE Medina (Member-at-Large) spoke about the overall process since April 2023 – the Conversation Team met with the church’s Transitional Team, walked them through the steps, and compiled the dismissal covenant; all historical materials were received by the Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS).
- RE LaRew (Greencastle PC) spoke about co-drafting the dismissal covenant with Cindy Kneiss and described how the Conversation Team negotiated an agreement with the Transition Team. The draft covenant was submitted to the Administrative Commission (AC), which had Original Jurisdiction and acted as the Session. The AC reviewed the covenant and engaged in additional negotiation with the church’s Transition Team. Finally, all documents were submitted to the CC.
- TE Sigler (Retired) spoke of it being a long, thoughtful process; bases were covered.

Vice Moderator Presby opened the floor for discussion; speakers were allowed two minutes.

- Since the documents related to the UWCPC dismissal were so long – they included the Letter to Congregation (1 page), Covenant (2 pages), Timeline (3 pages), Letter from ECO (1 page), and Appraisal (114 pages) – it was hard to find the financials; what is the sum of money the presbytery will receive on property appraised at over \$727,000? Answer: \$17,045
- Cindy Kneiss, Chair of the UWCPC Transition Team, noted that this has been a long process, and while the church is small in membership, they feel ECO will be able to help them to proceed.

When discussion ended, Vice Moderator Presby called for the vote, stating that only a simple majority was needed for approval.

ACTION

MSP to approve the dismissal of the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church (Mercersburg) to ECO: A Covenant Order of Presbyterians, according to the terms detailed in the Covenant for Dismissal.

Vice Moderator Presby offered a prayer for the ongoing ministry of Carlisle Presbytery and UWCPC.

“We find ourselves in such a time of holding on and releasing...As we dismiss in peace your servants, our siblings at the Upper West Conococheague Presbyterian Church, bless them with faith, hope, and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord and for His sake. Amen.” Presbyters are invited to the special worship service being planned for October 8 at 2:00 PM at UWCPC so as to bear witness to the history of shared ministry, the ending of our formal relationship, and blessing for the future.

There being no objection, the next Order of the Day was moved up by a few minutes.

ORDER OF THE DAY – Covenant of Gracious Separation and Dismissal (Warfordsburg PC)

Vice Moderator Presby invited forward Bridge Presbytery Leader (BPL) Lucy Bowerman from the presbytery’s CC, and also the presbytery’s Conversation Team for Warfordsburg PC. Formed and called into service by former IEP Cheryl Galan in January 2023, the assigned Conversation Team members included TE Bill Beck (retired), RE Bill McHenry (Highland United PC, Newport), and TE Doug Beltzner (Retired).

BPL Bowerman moved, on behalf of CC, the dismissal of the Warfordsburg PC to ECO: A Covenant Order of Presbyterians according to the terms detailed in the Covenant for Dismissal – as amended prior to the meeting – that was included in the meeting materials. She noted that CC has reviewed the document and believe it reflects the spirit of a gracious separation. BPL Bowerman invited the Conversation Team to speak about the process the church and presbytery went through to reach this covenant.

- TE Beck explained that since one of the Conversation Team members had surgery in April, they paused briefly, then met by Zoom; he also noted that WPC is not a big-steeple church.
- Since there was concern about “reactionary” language in the original Covenant, a REVISED introduction to the Covenant of Gracious Separation was drafted.
- Vice-Moderator Presby clarified that the motion is being presented as already amended – in agreement from the Conversation Team and the CC; no separate vote of presbytery is needed.

When finished with the summary presentation, Vice Moderator Presby opened the floor for discussion; speakers were allowed two minutes. Members of WPC contributed the following observations:

- WPC Missions include a preschool program for at risk-children for Fulton County residents, blood mobile, and food bank assisting 28 different families.
- The financial amount coming to the presbytery from WPC is a normal tithe (10% of \$80,000), based on the precedent of two other churches that requested dismissal from the presbytery several years ago: Shippensburg and Port Royal.
- WPC commended the presbytery for their good ministry, expressed their thankfulness for the PC(USA) and the presbytery (“they are great people”), and admitted that “The hardest thing is leaving the people in the presbytery. We’ll keep you in our prayers. We give thanks to God.”

There was only one question from the floor: Rationale for dismissal mentioned concern about positions taken by General Assembly and Carlisle – what were those positions? The response from a WPC representative centered around WPC being an extremely conservative “hearth and home” congregation, as evidenced by being “almost off the chart” when every member of the church filled out the Holy Cow survey. Members believe in strict biblical interpretation; several people in the community who are active in the WPC mission will not join the congregation because of postings and positions on the PC(USA) website. The Transition Team and congregation believe that people in the community deserve to have a church; continued affiliation with the PC(USA) blocks that ministry. When discussion ended, Vice Moderator Presby called for the vote, stating that only a simple majority was needed for approval.

ACTION

MSP to approve the dismissal of the Warfordsburg Presbyterian Church to ECO: A Covenant Order of Presbyterians, according to the terms detailed in the Covenant for Dismissal.

It was asked that Minutes reflect “The motion passes with regret.” A special worship service is being planned for October 22 at WPC at 2:00 PM. Presbyters are invited to attend so as to bear witness to the history of shared ministry, the ending of our formal relationship, and blessing for the future.

Vice Moderator Presby’s prayer for the ongoing ministry of Carlisle Presbytery and WPC included these words: “O Lord God, we find ourselves in this gut-wrenching place not once, but twice today. Help us be generous in our gratitude for shared ministry over the years. Let us be gracious as we forgive one another for words said and left unsaid, for actions done and left undone. May we be loving and respectful to one another, seeking to uphold the dignity of all your beloved children...Amen.”

Break

The Stated Clerk, Clerks of Session, and appropriate parties from the two congregations that requested dismissal from the PC(USA) withdrew from the floor to sign the documents to actualize these dismissals. Vice Moderator Presby called for a 10-minute break at 11:00 AM. Presbyters reconvened at 11:10 AM.

History / Rationale for Co-Leader Position from the Coordinating Council

Vice Moderator Presby called forward TE Kent Carter (Paxton PC) from the CC who gave a presentation about the presbytery staffing structure and how the presbytery is moving from an Executive Presbyter model to a Co-Leader model so as to adapt and collaborate in a changed world. The idea of presbytery Co-Leaders was presented with the 2023 budget; Co-Leaders will be equal with different responsibilities, and both will work with congregations. Implementation took an incremental approach. The presbytery called TE Smith as PLGCL/SC; her role includes Stated Clerk duties as well as resourcing congregational mission. Several months later, Interim Executive Presbyter (IEP) Cheryl Galan, retired. Since April of 2023, the Presbytery Leader Search Team worked to define the new position and put the Co-Leader plan into practice. Coordinating Council voted to approve the Co-Leader model, recognizing that though the leadership responsibilities are differentiated, the Co-Leaders generally will share authority and power – which is to be reflected in equal compensation. Those decisions were ratified by Council in July.

Questions about Co-Leaders included

- Is there a general breakdown of responsibilities? They are described in overarching terms in the Standing Rules and ByLaws, and more specifically, in a Venn Diagram found on the presbytery's website. PLGCL/SC Smith noted that this new model is "something we're living into."
- Is there a plan to divide responsibilities for particular congregations between the two positions? No, not at this time. COM has assigned Liaisons to all the congregations.
- What if the two Leaders don't agree – shouldn't there be a single head leader with authority? PLGCL/SC Smith shared the vision that – like the image of the Trinity – we're looking at shared power and authority with shared love to the world. It's an ideal. Living into it is a whole other thing. Cheryl modeled shared responsibility, and there would always be resource through and accountability to Coordinating Council. Similarly, the ministry that TEs and REs share show that we're embodying and embracing a sense of all being one. On this point, a presbyter noted that "while it will depend on the people, with you, Kristal, the chances of success are increased."

A few presbyters spoke up about having experience with this type of Co-Leadership model.

Proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules Revisions (first reading)

TE Carter spoke about Bylaws needing to be revised with updated wording to allow for flexibility in staffing models and position descriptions, such as the new PLGCL/SC and PLVT. "Executive Presbyter" language was deleted. These amended Bylaws and Standing Rules are presented for a first reading. Council is open to and interested in hearing questions and feedback. At the next meeting of the presbytery in December, there will be discussion and debate on these revisions. Standing Rules for the Presbytery of Carlisle will show consistent language throughout, identifying particular functions of the two presbytery leaders. TE Carter observed that "we are making the road as we travel it."

Coordinating Council Identifies Qualified Presbyters to Elect to the Nominating Committee

Vice-Moderator Presby called on RE Rose Jewel-Jordan (Capital PC, Harrisburg) via Zoom to speak on behalf of CC. RE Jewel-Jordan explained that, due to resignations, CC needed to identify two people to serve on the Nominating Committee. Vice-Moderator Presby invited additional nominations from the floor (provided nominees gave permission in advance). There were none; nominations were closed.

ACTION

MSP to approve RE Cheri Way (Dickinson PC) and the Rev. Dr. Gene Gordon (Capital PC) to serve on Nominating Committee.

Vice Moderator Presby reminded presbyters of the need for Commissioners for the 226th General Assembly (GA) in Salt Lake City, UT. She invited interested presbyters to check the presbytery's website and talk with PLGCL/SC Smith or RE Gregg Robertson (RE Derry), NC Chair.

Presbytery Leader Search Team Report

Vice Moderator Presby called on RE Wendell Jordan (Capital PC, Harrisburg), joining by Zoom, to give an update on the Presbytery Leader Search. RE Jordan explained that the Search Team – put together in April – was comprised of 3 REs and 3 TEs. They submitted a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) at the end of August. Advertisements were posted in presbytery and Synod newsletters. Eleven potential matches came forward – five were under consideration. Face to face conversations are forthcoming. The Search Team welcomes suggestions and prayers.

Commission on Ministry

Vice Moderator Presby called forward TE Tony Lorenz (First PC, Carlisle) who, on behalf of COM, brought a recommendation regarding minimum Terms of Call – intended to help Sessions take care of pastors and address the practical needs of pastors with a livable wage. Last year COM recommended an increase of 4%, though many organizations measured the inflation rate well in excess of 4%. This year, COM recommends a 3% increase, based on Social Security's estimated Cost of Living Increase for 2024.

Because the motion came from COM, no second was needed. Discussion yielded questions around last year's recommended up-to-8% increase (we're still concerned about inflation but things have settled down) and increases for Board of Pensions (holding steady at 39% for the coming year, with major changes expected in 2025). After discussion concluded, Vice Moderator Presby called for the vote.

ACTION

MP to approve a 3% increase in minimum Terms of Call for 2024, bringing the presbytery minimum effective salary to \$59,666.

TE Lorenz described COM's active ministry – constantly seeking interims, liaisons, and moderators. He thanked everyone who is stepping up to help congregations in this time of transition. "We're building the plane as we fly it." Vice Moderator Presby referred presbyters to the full report from COM with the materials posted for the meeting, which included the following information items:

- Granted Honorably Retired status to the Rev. Cheryl Galan effective June 1, 2023.
- The Ordination of Peter Billings.
- Approved the Rev. Inho Kang's request for a 12-week sabbatical with financial support from the presbytery's new sabbatical fund.
- Permission for the Rev. Yeon Ik Park to serve as Temporary Pastor at Harrisburg Korean Church during the summer of 2023.
- Concurred with requests to dissolve pastoral relationships between the Rev. Louis Nyiri and Gettysburg PC; the Rev. Christian Neubaum and the Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown.
- Approved transfers of the Rev. Louis Nyiri to the Presbytery of Detroit and the Rev. William Hudson to Western Reserve Presbytery
- Approved Validated Ministry status of the Rev. Christian Neubaum as he begins Chaplain Residency at Penn State Hershey Medical Center.
- Changed the Validated Ministry of the Rev. Drew Stockstill to Navy Chaplain.

- Approved Covenants of Agreement between the Rev. Kent Carter and Paxton PC; the Rev. Anne Ross and Market Square PC; the Rev. Don Potter and Camp Hill PC; CRE Roz Presby and Faith-Immanuel PC; the Rev. Robert Cook and Greencastle PC.
- Approved the Designated Call Form for the Rev. Caroline Vickery and the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro.
- Approved the Ordination and Installation Commission for Emily Sutphin at Mechanicsburg PC on September 10, 2023 comprised of: Rev. Kathryn Johnston (TE Mechanicsburg), Rev. Scott Bowerman (TE Central, Presbytery Moderator), Tim Wonder (RE Mechanicsburg), Scott Pepperman (RE Silver Spring), Barbara Hughes (RE St. James).
- Granted permission for the celebration of Communion at the Ordination/Installation of Emily Sutphin on at Mechanicsburg PC on September 10, 2023.
- Approved Big Spring PC conferring the title of Pastor Emeritus to the Rev. William Beck.
- Appointed as Moderators Rev. Nancy Reinert to the Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown, Rev. Stuart Seelman to Christ PC, Rev. David Bowerman to Centre PC, Loysville

Administration Committee Report

Vice Moderator Presby called forward RE Norma Mater (Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown) who spoke to the need for a Bridge Presbytery Leader (BPL). Since IEP Rev. Cheryl Galan retired in May, committee chairs met regularly with PLGCL/SC Smith. The intention is for the BPL to serve as staff resource to the Administration Committee, NWCC, COM, and CC until the new Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation is called. Rev. Mater presented to the presbytery as temporary BPL the Rev. Lucy Bowerman, who already began her responsibilities. Rev. Bowerman joined Carlisle Presbytery about two years ago when she (and her husband, David), transferred from National Capital Presbytery.

Vice Moderator Presby called on Treasurer Ed Blank (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg), and PLGCL/SC Smith to walk presbyters through a first read of the 2024 Proposed Line-Item Budget, which was included in the meeting materials on the web site. TE Blank highlighted several points (below), then invited presbyters to contact him with questions or comments after the meeting.

- \$112,000+ from Mission Giving – the bulk of that will go to GA
- \$219,000+ from Per Capita is based on 8318 presbytery members giving \$33 per person
- \$85,000 from Capital gains – we don't want to touch principal – current return is 4% for the year
- \$10,130 for office expenses
- \$33,000 for Camp Krislund is mostly covered by a grant
- \$10,000 for NWC is our commitment; Intertwined is raising grant money, also
- \$81,000+ for GA – 9.80 goes to GA per member
- significant differences from 2023
 - Staff changes – going from a part-time Stated Clerk and full-time Interim Executive Presbyter to two full-time presbytery Co-Leaders. Also, the Director for Communications has increased hours at a higher hourly rate compared to our former Office Administrator.
 - New Worshipping Communities – Although Louisville and the Synod give significant financial support to NWC, as an initiative extends into years 2, 3 and beyond, presbyteries are expected to partially match grants. In addition, other NWC that will also need financial support are on the horizon, so we are setting aside funds for that purpose.
 - Presbytery Leader Search – There is an additional \$20,000 in the Coordinating Council budget for 2024 to account for the search and moving expenses for the next Leader.
- Total Mission approaches \$200K, leaving us with a balanced budget

The Administration Committee and Treasurer are paying attention to the trends. With increasing needs and decreasing funding from per capita, it's clear that per capita alone is insufficient to support the connectional church mission of the presbytery. The Committee is starting to pull together resources so as to formulate a plan for sustainability. Treasurer Blank invited those with experience with development or sustainability work to get involved with this emerging need. It was noted that, in the Proposed Budget, CPM should be identified as a Committee, not a Commission.

PLGCL/SC Smith then presented a slide show about the Narrative Budget, crediting IEP Galan's work in 2022 identifying six different aspects of ministry the funds support:

- Vital Congregations (6%) is about empowering and equipping all the saints for ministry within the church and beyond. Photos of training event held to equip REs to preside at Communion.
- Building Relationships (15%) is important not only within our faith communities but also within the larger communities where we work and eat and gather and play.
- Communication (12%) with one another and the larger church and community takes many forms. Photos included Carolyn Simpson, the presbytery's Director for Communications.
- Soul Tending (18%) happens when we set aside space and time to connect with God and one another in human-made sanctuaries or outside in God's great sanctuary of creation.
- Agile Governance (18%) reflects the shifting of our communal structure. COM has put Liaisons in place who will seek to build relationship with each church, not just churches in transition – OUTSIDE of times of crisis – so as to strengthen the connectional nature of our presbytery. PLGCL/SC Smith also has initiated meetings of a Presbytery Transition Team, which is comprised of chairs of our presbytery committees with the goal of provide stability, and collaboration.
- Engaging Our Mission (30%) captures some of the ways individual churches reach into their communities, near and far, to share the love of Jesus in very practical ways, manifesting the reality spoken by Teresa of Avila in the 16th century: Christ has no body on earth but yours.

There were no questions; a final budget will be presented and voted on at the December meeting.

Per Capita Apportionment for 2024

Treasurer Blank explained that this first pass of the 2024 budget generated significant conversation at the last Administration Committee meeting. The Administration Committee recognizes the current challenges we face as congregations and as a presbytery. Several, if not many, congregations are operating at a deficit budget or are borrowing from reserves to balance the budget. The presbytery is in a similar situation as we are proposing to withdraw \$85,000 from investment gains (not principle) to fund our operations. In light of that reality, the Administration Committee is proposing a \$2 increase to per capita to bring the total to \$33.00. The presbytery voted to raise per capita by \$2 last year; at the time, several commissioners questioned why it wasn't more in light of our economic circumstances. At the time, Administration Committee thought it wise to raise it gradually rather than all at once. (This represents the second installment of proposed per capita increases.

Because the motion came from committee, it did not need a second. There were no questions.

ACTION

MP to approve a \$2 increase in per capita apportionment beginning in 2024, bringing the total to \$33.

Report of New Worshipping Communities Commission (NWCC)

Vice Moderator Presby called forward TE Allison Smith (Market Square PC, Harrisburg) who expounded on the written report posted with meeting materials. There were no Action items. Information Items:

- Provide Support and Accountability for New Worshipping Community Leaders
 - Received regular updates from Kevin Long about his work building Intertwined Faith Community
 - Acted as a liaison for Kevin with other Presbytery committees to help him navigate the ordination process.
- Develop systems and processes in cooperation with other Presbytery committees, commissions, and staff to support the work of New Worshipping Communities.
 - Collaborated with the Administration Committee to create processes for Kevin, and eventually other NWC leaders, to access funds received from grants and offerings.
 - Collaborated with the Administration Committee to understand the Presbytery budget process and recommend that the Presbytery make a financial commitment to the work of planting NWC.
 - Met with COM chair Tony Lorenz and, along with Kristal Smith, developed a specific process for ordaining Kevin Long as an Organizing Pastor/Evangelist. We will continue to partner with COM in the months ahead.
- Educate, engage and interest established congregations about the work of NWC, planting creative seeds and creating connections.
 - Caleb McClure shared information about the 1001 NWC initiative and the work of new worshipping communities in the Presbytery Newsletter

It was noted that 1001 NWC started providing grants and coaches about a decade ago. Our presbytery is not in this work alone – Pittsburgh Presbytery has some thriving NWCs. Here, NWCC reaches out to people who otherwise would not walk into a traditional church setting for worship, but now they're met with God's love in different spaces. The NWCC mission is to share the love and grace of Christ who our traditional churches do not reach; our mission is not to save the Church or save the PC(USA).

At this point, the business of the presbytery was 15 minutes ahead of schedule on the docket.

Report of Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Vice Moderator Presby called forward TE Buz Myers (retired), who explained that each year, the presbytery is asked to provide two readers for standard ordination exams, part of the preparation process for becoming a Minister of the Word and Sacrament (MWS). Two members of CPM have agreed to do that work this year – they do not read the exams of any candidates within our own presbytery. Because this motion came from a committee, no second was needed. In discussion, it was clarified that someone serving as an Ordination Exam Reader must be an ordained TE or RE.

ACTION

MP to elect the Rev. Carol VanSchenkof (retired) and RE Jack Keene (Derry PC) as ordination exam readers for 2023.

TE Myers referred to the written CPM report that included August 19, 2023 approval for

- Lynne Miller being certified ready to receive a call
- Candidate Rebecca Lister, Inquirer Destini Hodges, and Inquirer Scott Stolte to continue following in their process to become MWS
- Joe Calhoun (Christ PC, Camp Hill), and Brad Hill (Falling Spring PC, Chambersburg), to continue following in their process to become CREs

Vice Moderator Presby put in a plug for anyone who is a RE to consider becoming a CRE. She observed that while CREs don't get to be in touch with their home congregation as much, they serve the greater Church. She also noted that Susquehanna Valley Presbytery uses this lay-ministry model to support smaller congregations, adding that the Pulpit Supply List is not designed to be a permanent solution for congregations without pastors. Congregations deserve consistent preaching and pastoral presence.

Information Items

Vice Moderator Presby directed presbyter attention to the reports from the Presbytery Leaders that were included with the meeting materials, encouraging questions and comments.

Of note from the Report of the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership

- The presbytery is working on identifying delegates to attend the 226th GA in Salt Lake City, UT
- Presbytery Meeting Minutes were read and reviewed by
 - Rev. Nancy McClure (Juniata Shared Ministry) and RE Elyse Rodgers (Pine Street) – April
 - Rev. Rachel Schwab (First UCC Carlisle) and RE Beth Fine (Camp Hill PC) – May
- Reported to the Office of the General Assembly
 - The Retirement of Cheryl Galan.
 - The Ordination of Peter Billings.
 - Permission for the Rev. Yeon Ik Park to serve as Temporary Pastor at Harrisburg Korean Church during the summer of 2023.
 - Initiate transfer of the Rev. Lou Nyiri to the Presbytery of Detroit
 - Initiate transfer of the Rev. William Hudson to Western Reserve Presbytery
 - Change the Rev. Christian Neubaum's status to Validated Ministry as Chaplain within Carlisle Presbytery
- 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.
- Update on 225th GA Amendments: All the amendments were 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
- Received the report of the Commission to ordain and install Rev. Emily Sutphin as MWS. She will serve as Associate Pastor of Mechanicsburg PC. All constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative. SPECIAL NOTE: The Stated Clerk verified the Rev. Sutphin's successful completion of MDiv requirements and her graduation from the program in May 2023.
- Received the report of the Commission to ordain Rev. Peter Billings as MWS. He will serve as pastor of St. Paul's (McConnellsburg) and Trinity (Ft. Loudon) United Church of Christ. All constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.
- Received the report of the Commission to install Rev. Mark Englund-Krieger as Pastor of Lower Marsh Creek PC. All constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.
- Received the report of the Commission to install Rev. Lisa Chase as Associate Pastor of Silver Spring PC. All constitutional questions were answered in the affirmative.

ADJOURNMENT

With the singing of *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* and a benediction, Vice Moderator Presby adjourned the meeting at 12:23 PM, inviting presbyters to "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

At the end of the meeting, there were 15 people on site, 31 via zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

ATTACHMENT 1 – ATTENDANCE

Totals									
Pastors		32							
Elders		35							
Voters		67							
Guest		20							
Cor. Member		0							
Attendance		87							
Excused		2							
Honorably Retired					Active MWS				
Name		Status	Present	Excused	Name		Status	Present	Excused
Anderson	Raymond	HR			Billings	Peter	NP		
Beck	William	HR		1	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			Chase	Lisa	P		1
Carroll	Karin	HR			Conklin	Nancy	P		
Clark	Crea	HR			Cook	Robert	P		1
Derrickson	Barbara	HR			Christopher	Donna	NP		
Derrickson	Paul	HR			Dietz	Peter	NP		1
Green	John	HR			Dunn	Arlene	NP		
Hamel	Bertha	HR			Englund-Krieger	Mark	P		
Hammann	William	HR			Folts	Tom	NP		
Hudson	William	HR			Graham	Fowler	P		1
Houtz	Richard	HR			Galan	Cheryl	EP		
Humphrey	Bruce	HR		1	Gauthier	Vernon	P		
Jackman	Thomas	HR			Gibelius	Jeff	P		1
Jessen	Charles	HR			Gordon	Gene	P		
Kline	Darlene	HR			Hart	Andrew	P		
Larson	John	HR			Hostetter	Andrew	P		
Martin-Minnich	Ron	HR			Johnston	Kathryn	P		1
Mater	Jeanette	HR			Kang	Inho	P		1
McCall	Myrtle	HR			Lorenz	Anthony	P		1
McKenna	Jennifer	HR		1	McCachren	Emily	P		
Medina	Mark	HR		1	McClure	Caleb	P		
Mitchell	Donald	HR			McClure	Nancy	P		1
Myers	Anne	HR			Meilands	Pam	NP		
Myers	Charles	HR		1	Melton	Stephen	P		1
Pace	Art	HR			Morgan	Robin	P		
Park	John	HR			Morgan	Troy	NP		
Potter	Donald	HR			Neubaum	Christian	P		
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		
Ross	Anne	HR		1	Smith	Allison	NP		1
Schmidt	John	HR		1	Smith	Kristal	SC		1
Sheffield	Dick	HR			Stewart	Anne	NP		
Sigler	Heather	HR		1	Stockstill	Andrew	NP		
Sproat	John	HR			Sutphin	Emily	P		1
Strauss	Sandra	HR			Tiedeck	Janice	P		1
Sullivan	Russell	HR			Velthius	Stephen	NP		
Sweet	Thomas	HR			Vickery	Caroline	P		1
Thomas	Thomas D.	HR			Wadlington	Derek	NP		
Trask	Edward	HR			Wadlington	Kim	P		
Uittenbogaard	Roger	HR			Wahlig	Donald	P		
Uittenbogaard	Susan	HR			Whitaker	Stephen	P		
Van Schenkhof	Carol	HR			West	Howard	NP		
Washburn	Mary	HR			Wiant	Kelly	NP		
Williams	Dale	HR			Yaroschuk	Kathryn	NP		
Winsheimer	Harry	HR							
Work	Galen	HR							
Wright	David	HR		1					
					Corresponding Member				0
					Total HR Pastors				11
					Total Installed and NP Pastors				21
					Total MWS				32

ATTACHMENT 1 – ATTENDANCE

