

**MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 17, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE – DRAFT-A**  
**Hybrid Meeting at Middle Spring Presbyterian Church, Shippensburg, PA and via Zoom**

**Attachments**

1. **Roll for Attendance** at the January 17, 2024 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
- SOF Statement of Faith
- VM Vice Moderator

**GOD GATHERS US**

**The Special Meeting was called to Order with prayer at 6:30 pm** by Moderator Scott Bowerman (TE, Central PC, Chambersburg). As had been announced in promotional materials, it was made clear that the purpose of the meeting was to examine a Candidate for Ordination and an Inquirer for Candidacy. Host pastor Edward Blank (TE, Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg) welcomed presbyters; Moderator Bowerman gave instructions for electronic voting via Zoom.

**ACTION**

**MSP** to approve the Docket.

Moderator Bowerman enrolled one Corresponding Member, Rick Boyer (Presbytery of the Coastlands) as introduced by Kathryn Johnston (TE, Mechanicsburg PC). There were no First-Time Commissioners, Pastors, DCEs, or Special Guests.

Worship began with a beautiful organ prelude of *Thine Is the Glory*. Bridge Presbytery Leader (BPL) Lucy Bowerman led presbyters in the Call to Worship – “Create in us a pure heart, O God” – and the Opening

Hymn, *The Summons* – “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?”

Worship continued with PLGCL/SC Kristal Smith leading the Confession – “Forgive us. So that we succeed to bring your love to the places you have chosen for us.” – and Assurance of Pardon – “God knows our very best energy and intentions give way to distractions and obstacles and fatigue. And still God calls, God equips, God forgives.” Presbyters passed the Peace of Christ.

#### **GOD PROCLAIMS TO US**

Moderator Bowerman invited Candidate Lynn Miller forward to read and interpret Scripture. Candidate Miller’s sermon, based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-51, was titled *The Call*. Candidate Miller observed how Samuel listened to God and how Philip obediently followed Jesus’ call. She challenged presbyters by asking, “How can we follow, if we are not listening to God’s voice?” Candidate Miller summarized her message, saying, “To hear God’s call, a disciple must be listening; we too are invited to “come and see,” whether we are willing followers, like Philip, or skeptical, like Nathaniel. And God keeps calling us into relationship with the holy God of the universe.”

#### **WE OFFER OURSELVES**

##### **Commission on Ministry – Examination for Ordination – Candidate Lynn Miller**

Moderator Bowerman called on COM Chair, Tony Lorenz (TE, First Carlisle), to bring the first item of business. TE Lorenz referenced the *Book of Order* (BOO), reminding presbyters that “The call to ordered ministry in the Church is the act of the triune God. This call is 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.” (BOO, G-2.0103)

TE Lorenz provided background information: Lynn Miller has been under care of the Presbytery of Carlisle since 2020 and graduated from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary with a Master’s of Divinity in 2023. CPM certified her as ready to receive a call in August 2023. On January 14, 2024, the congregation of Christ PC in Camp Hill voted to call Candidate Miller as their Pastor. Having interviewed the Candidate, COM was bringing her forward at this time for examination for ordination to the position of Pastor of Christ PC. Materials posted for today’s meeting (and emailed in advance of the meeting to registered presbyters) included her Spiritual Autobiography and Statement of Faith.

TE Lorenz invited Ms. Miller to read her SOF, which she did. Moderator Bowerman instructed presbyters that the purpose of the examination was to evaluate readiness for ordination to MWS. Questions were to be limited to those relating to the Bible, Sacraments, Polity, Theology, and Ms. Miller’s sermon, SOF, Spiritual Autobiography, and her sense of call to Christ PC.

Moderator Bowerman invited questions of the Candidate, alternating between presbyters on site and those attending by Zoom. Presbyters asked questions, seeking clarifying information around Ms. Miller’s

- faith, strengthened in trial – “you do what you have to do one step at a time”
- missiology – “we need to build partnerships across cultures”
- motivation (aside from the Holy Spirit) to seek PC(USA) ordination – “presbyterian governance”
- inspiration through Jesus’ model – “he was able to listen, heal, and teach all kinds of people – the church needs to do more of that”
- personal ways of listening to God in her discipleship – “daily prayer” (she returns to Shema)
- journey to Christ PC – “someone she respected encouraged her to apply”

- affirmation of the call – “the congregation’s view on including children”
- vision for Christ PC – “more caring and compassion...we will go out of the box, doing things that are different so people will be drawn to come and see”

**ACTION**

**MSP** to arrest the examination.

After the vote to end the examination, Candidate Miller was excused to a waiting room. Moderator Bowerman called for a motion to approve Lynn Miller for ordination. Second, discussion. Presbyters spoke in favor of the motion, noting that when Candidate Miller did her internship at Silver Spring PC, she was sincere, authentic, and excellent in worship leadership and a strong leader among the staff.

**ACTION**

**MSP** to approve Lynn Miller for ordination to Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

The Candidate was brought back from the waiting room. Moderator Bowerman informed her of the outcome of the vote, celebrating that the way is clear for her to be ordained by the Presbytery of Carlisle at Christ PC on Sunday, February 25 at 3:30 pm.

COM Chair Lorenz invited members from Christ PC and Lower Marsh Creek PC to come forward; he prayed: “Thank you Lord for nurturing Lynn in this call...we give thanks for a new colleague among us.” Presbyters sung heartily the Hymn of Response: *In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful*.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Examination for Candidacy – Scott Stolte**

Moderator Bowerman asked Vice Moderator Presby to preside over the rest of the meeting. She called on CPM Chair Buz Myers (TE, Retired) to present Inquirer Scott Stolte (Falling Spring PC, Chambersburg) for enrollment as a Candidate. TE Myers explained that Mr. Stolte was enrolled as an Inquirer on November 17, 2022 and endorsed by the Session of PC of Falling Spring for Candidacy on November 6, 2023. CPM voted on December 21, 2023 to present him to the Presbytery for enrollment as a Candidate.

Vice Moderator Presby called on Inquirer Stolte to share his statement on his sense of call. Mr. Stolte described a “knowing” that he was called to seminary – and that he resisted the Spirit’s reminders until he could no longer resist. With obedience to the Spirit’s leading, came a deep peace. He loved all of his seminary experiences, with explorations into various vocations; now he has a clear sense of vocational call to congregational ministry. Although there were times that he wished he’d discerned this call 30 years earlier, his heart is full of gratitude.

Vice Moderator Presby opened the floor to questions, instructing presbyters that questions about the Inquirer’s sense of call and spiritual practices were in order – but not theology – at this stage. Presbyters asked questions, which were framed around the topics of

- formative books / authors – Peterson’s *The Pastor*; *The Boys in the Boat* – sacrifice, unity, leadership in times of great distress; Bonhoeffer – always amazing – his time in the US, how exposure to racial injustice in the south helped shape his stance against Naziism in Germany
- deconstruction of Biblical Studies – experience at Pittsburgh Seminary was “bumpy” – he had to re-think things he thought he knew (like atonement and Christology), but coursework affirmed his belief in forbearance

- formative passage – Revelation Chapter 20’s eschatology – no more tears, pain, darkness; we are called to join Christ in what Christ has already started – we join him in that mission
- path to Falling Spring PC – attended Falling Spring from age 2; his dad is a RE of Middle Spring PC; his grandfather was born across the street from Middle Spring.

As is the practice of this body, Mr. Stolte left the room following examination. Vice Moderator Presby called for a motion to approve the Inquirer to be enrolled as a Candidate; coming from Committee, it required no second. Discussion. CPM Chair Myers thanked presbyters for the opportunity to serve with such quality people. Others spoke in affirmation of Mr. Stolte’s call, observing that he exudes joy; displays gratitude; earned straight A’s (even in Greek and Hebrew) while maintaining strong family ties.

**ACTION**

**MSP** to arrest discussion.

**ACTION**

**MP** to approve the recommendation of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to move Inquirer Scott Stolte to the status of Candidate.

Candidate Stolte was brought back from the waiting room and informed of the outcome of the vote by Vice Moderator Presby. A brief service of commissioning followed. Candidate Stolte replied in the affirmative to questions about his

- belief that he is called by God to the ministry of Word and Sacrament
- reliance upon the grace of God to maintain a Christian character and conduct, and to be diligent and faithful in making full preparation for this ministry
- acceptance of the proper supervision of the presbytery in matters that concern his preparation
- desire to be received by this presbytery as a candidate for MSW in the PC(USA)

COM Chair Myers offered a charge and prayer: “Remember this day in the times when you do not feel appreciated and in times when you begin to question your call, wondering if you are really suited for this work. May God bless you with signs and whispers of support and bless you with faithful friends who will stand beside you and guide you!... may [he] grow in wisdom, mature in love, and continue in faithfulness, following the way of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

**Nominating Committee – Gregg Robertson (by Zoom)**

Vice Moderator Presby invited forward Nominating Committee (NC) Chair Gregg Robertson (RE, Derry PC, Hershey). RE Robertson reported that while there are still openings for the NC to fill on the PJC, COM, CPM, and NWCC, the NC brings forward several recommendations for a vote. Vice Moderator 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. She called for the vote.

**ACTION**

**MP** to approve

- Joe Calhoun (RE, Christ PC, Camp Hill) to serve on Commission on Ministry
- Marty Gruver (RE, Pine Street PC) to serve on Camp Krislund Board
- Liz Roman (RE, St. James PC) to serve on Camp Krislund Board
- Scott Pepperman (RE, Silver Spring PC) to serve on New Worshiping Community Commission

**Offering**

Vice Moderator Presby called on the host pastor to introduce the offering. Ed Blank (TE, Middle Spring PC) shared with presbyters that this evening's offering will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in their efforts to provide humanitarian efforts in Israel/Palestine; he gave instructions for ways to give. Offering in the amount of \$561.00 was collected, with thanks to God.

After the singing of the Doxology, TE Blank offered a Prayer of Dedication, "God of hope across time and space, we hear the cries of men, women, and children who are afraid, who are displaced, who are mourning, who are hungry for food and for peace. We pray these offerings will be used as an expression of compassion and love to alleviate suffering in all its forms. In Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen."

**GOD SENDS US**

Vice Moderator Presby offered Prayers of the People, concluding with, "Bring healing to all wounds, make whole all that is broken, speak truth to all illusion, and shed light in every darkness, that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. Amen." Presbyters sang heartily the Sending Hymn *Here I Am, Lord*.

**ACTION**

**MSP** to adjourn with benediction. "May the blessings of our Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen." Vice Moderator Presby invited everyone to say "yippee" at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,

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Rev. Kristal Smith

Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk

### ATTACHMENT 1 Roll for Attendance

Totals									
Pastors		35							
Elders		30							
Voters		65							
Guest		20							
Cor. Member		1							
Attendance		86							
Excused		0							
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	EP	1	
Black	Jon	HR			Bowerman	Scott	P	1	
Bowne	Dale	HR			Brungraber	Katy Yates	NP	1	
Bradburn	W. Wilson	HR			Carter	Kent	P		
Buffaloe	Marie	HR			Chase	Lisa	P	1	
Carroll	Karin	HR			Conklin	Nancy	P		
Derrickson	Barbara	HR			Cook	Robert	P	1	
Derrickson	Paul	HR			Christopher	Donna	NP		
Galan	Cheryl	HR		1	Dietz	Peter	NP		
Green	John	HR			Dunn	Arlene	NP	1	
Hamel	Bertha	HR			Englund-Krieger	Mark	P	1	
Hammann	William	HR			Folts	Tom	NP		
Hudson	William	HR			Fowler	Graham	P	1	
Houtz	Richard	HR			Gauthier	Vernon	P	1	
Humphrey	Bruce	HR		1	Gibelius	Jeff	P		
Jessen	Charles	HR			Gordon	Gene	P	1	
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			McClure	Caleb	P		
Mitchell	Donald	HR			McClure	Nancy	P		
Myers	Anne	HR			Meilands	Pam	NP		
Myers	Charles	HR		1	Melton	Stephen	P		
Pace	Art	HR			Morgan	Robin	P	1	
Park	John	HR			Morgan	Troy	NP		
Potter	Donald	HR			Neubaum	Christian	P		
Reinert	Nancy	HR			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	
Ross	Anne	HR		1	Smith	Allison	NP		
Schmidt	John	HR			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	Kim	P	1	
Trask	Edward	HR			Wahlig	Donald	P	1	
Uittenbogaard	Roger	HR			Whitaker	Stephen	P		
Uittenbogaard	Susan	HR			West	Howard	NP		
Van Schenkhoof	Carol	HR		1	Wiant	Kelly	NP		
Washburn	Mary	HR			Yaroschuk	Kathryn	NP		
Williams	Dale	HR		1					
Winzheimer	Harry	HR			Rick Boyer - Corresponding Member from Coastlands Presbytery				
Work	Galen	HR			<b>Corresponding Member</b>				1
Wright	David	HR			<b>Total HR Pastors</b>				10 0
					<b>Total Installed and NP Pastors</b>				24 0
					<b>Total MWS</b>				35 0

