

MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2024
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CARLISLE
Hybrid Meeting at Middle Spring Presbyterian Church, Shippensburg, PA and via Zoom

Attachments

1. Roll for Attendance at the March 11, 2024 Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle
 - 26 on Zoom, 37 in person
2. Kristal – OPTIONAL: consider attaching Candidate McLeod’s Statement of Faith and Bio

Call to Order

Once technical difficulties had been addressed, the Special Meeting was called to Order at 6:47 PM by Moderator Roz Presby (Faith Immanuel PC, Lebanon) with the prayers of worship. The purpose of the special meeting, as expressed in the call and appropriately-timed advance publicity, was to

1. meet and vote to call the Rev. Dr. James (Jamie) McLeod, Candidate for the Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation (PLVT)
2. dissolve the Presbytery Leader Search Team (PLST), the way being clear

GOD GATHERS US

Host pastor (interim), TE Ed Blank (Middle Spring PC, Shippensburg) welcomed presbyters warmly. He explained that the evening’s worship leadership would be provided by PLST members TE Graham Fowler (Lost Creek PC, McAlisterville), RE/CCE Debbie Hough (retired), RE Wendell Jordan (Market Square, Harrisburg), TE Inho Kang (Harrisburg Korean PC, Camp Hill), TE Emily McCachren (McConnellsburg PC) and RE Denise Lockwood (Lower Marsh Creek PC, Gettysburg).

Worship proceeded with the

- Call to Worship, led by Wendell Jordan – based on Psalm 62:5-6 “For God alone my soul waits”
- Introit, led by a dynamic pick-up choir of 10 presbyters and leaders singing *Live into Hope*
- Confession, led by Debbie Hough – “You point us to the God we would rather not face”
- Assurance, and Passing of the Peace of Christ, led by Debbie Hough – “remember your baptism”
 - Zoom froze and had to be rebooted at 6:53 PM
- Hymn 353 (*Glory to God*), *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less* – “On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand”

GOD PROCLAIMS TO US

Scripture Readings and Reflections on the theme of hope were offered by

- TE Kristal Smith (for TE Graham Fowler), reading Jeremiah 29:11 “For surely I know the plans”
 - We recall the ways God has been faithful in the past in this presbytery: raising up talented Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders on Committees, and providing investments that give us the freedom to explore new ministries; we now live into Brad Bradburn’s vision of 25 years ago for a future in service, not a bureaucracy.
- TE Emily McCachren, reading Romans 15: 2-4 “by the encouragement of the scriptures...hope”
 - Christ called in the marginalized and he does so still. We must testify to hope, even when it is hard to do. God is not done with our small congregations in the valley yet.
- TE Jamie McLeod, reading from 1 Peter 1:3 “[God] has given us a new birth into a living hope”
 - When life was marred by chaos and, at times, violence, church was a place of solace. Grandmother hummed *My Hope is Built* on the back porch. The presbytery can be a spark, offering hope, until we all gather at the heavenly table. This generation will pick up where we leave off: they ask the right questions, and carry a sense of hope.

WE OFFER OUR WORK AND OURSELVES**Offering**

Vice Moderator Janice Tiedeck (Monaghan PC, Dillsburg) called for the Offering via website or check or cash. Tonight's offering benefits the presbytery's Pastoral Emergency Fund, established to assist Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Offering in the amount of \$175 was collected. After the singing of the Doxology, Vice Moderator Tiedeck led a Prayer of Dedication – "Use our offerings, we pray, to offer hope in places of despair... In Jesus' name." TE Inho Kang then led the prayers of the presbytery, naming, specifically, gratitude for "this community of faith where we can grow together," and the Lord's Prayer.

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

Vice Moderator Tiedeck provided detailed meeting Instructions so that all may fully participate, whether in-person or on Zoom. Trouble shooting was provided via chat message on Zoom via TE Lucy Bowerman.

ACTION

MSP to approve the Docket.

[**MSP** = Motion made, Seconded, Given time for Discussion, Votes tallied in person/ via Zoom, PASSED.]

TE Jamie McCloud (Presbytery of Kentucky) was enrolled by the Clerk as a Corresponding Member. There were no First-Time Commissioners, Pastors, DCEs, or Special Guests to be welcomed.

Report of the Coordinating Council

Moderator Presby spoke on behalf of Coordinating Council, offering a brief history and rationale of how we arrived at this place as a Presbytery with the new Co-Leader model we are living into. The idea for this model germinated in 2019 and was considered by Coordinating Council in 2021. Presbytery voted in favor of this model in February 2022, and lived into it with the 2023 formation of the Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership (PLGCL, which TE Kristal Smith now fills so well). Now, the final piece, defining the position description for the Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation (PLVT). A helpful slide was shown, providing shared (overlapping) and individual responsibilities of the Co-Leaders. Moderator Presby then laid out the steps of how the remainder of the meeting would go.

RE Wendell Jordan, representing the Presbytery Leader Search Team (PLST) officially provided the PLST report. He explained the process of writing the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP), submitting paperwork to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC), and waiting for the Lord to reveal the one who would partner with the presbytery. RE Jordan referred presbyters to the candidate's Statement of Faith, Spiritual Bio, and Resume which were presented with presbytery meeting materials. He presented the candidate: "The Presbytery Leader Search Team moves the Presbytery of Carlisle call the Rev. Dr. James McLeod to the position of Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation according to the Terms of Call as presented." Coming from Committee, no second was needed.

Moderator Presby invited TE Tony Lorenz (First PC, Carlisle), Commission on Ministry Co-Chair, to speak to the motion from the perspective of the Commission's interactions with Candidate McLeod. TE Lorenze reported that, upon the completion of a COM Fit Interview on February 18, and finding the Terms of Call to be in order, COM as a whole met with the PLST and Candidate McLeod via Zoom on February 22. COM concurred with the call to this position, according to the Terms of Call agreed upon.

Moderator Presby invited Candidate McLeod to talk about his sense of call to the position. Candidate McLeod offered his Statement of Faith and answered questions in discussion. Of note, he

- wants to move as the Spirit leads, describing how “She can use me as She wills”
- intends to visit all 40 church building locations within his first year, including those on the fringe
- feels a bond with the PLST, and sees the ability to bounce ideas off them as “a perk”
- sparks at the Presbytery of Carlisle’s Mission Statement: “strive to be a beacon of God’s hope”

ACTION

MSP to end the examination.

After the vote, Candidate McLeod was excused to a waiting room. Moderator Presby asked for any further discussion from the assembly.

- In clarification of the process, the PLST disclosed that they prayerfully
 - Received and reviewed PDPs (from 27 interested applicants)
 - Sent 3 questions (to 9 applicants) to get a sense of their writing/ communication styles
 - Held informal conversations (w/8 applicants)
 - Held formal Zoom interviews (w/6 applicants)
 - Verified reference checks (of the top 3 candidates)
 - Conducted 1 in-person interview
- Favorable comments about Candidate McLeod abounded, with particular affirmation around his
 - Sense of the leading of the Holy Spirit and desire to serve Christ
 - Enthusiasm around the Co-Leader Model of partnership in Carlisle Presbytery
 - Academic background (PhD)
 - Pastoral experience (served rural and suburban congregations)
 - Administrative / connectional church experience (served on COM, Louisville Presbytery)
 - Mission experience (Malawi and Mexico)
 - Statement of Faith (“we look for the direction of God, seeking Holy People of God”)
 - Personal Discernment Profile (listing skills as teacher, conflict mediator, bridge builder, non-anxious presence, and being patience and nurturing)

After ample discussion, Moderator Presby called for a vote.

ACTION

MP to approve the recommendation made by the Presbytery Leader Search Team for the Presbytery of Carlisle to call the Rev. Dr. James McLeod to the position of Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation, according to the Terms of Call as presented.

ACTION

MSP to dissolve the Presbytery Leader Search Team with deep gratitude for their work of the past year.

After the vote, TE McLeod was brought back from the waiting room to a standing ovation of presbyters. Moderator Presby confirmed the outcome of the vote and announced that a Service of Installation will be held in May, after TE McLeod begins his position. Presbyters were led by RE Jordan in a prayer of gratitude for God’s goodness – “Your call goes forth and we respond in faith. We thank you for the call that has come through the voice of this Presbytery and Jamie’s response to that call. As we celebrate this new relationship, help us to continue to faithfully listen for your call upon us as a community...”

GOD SENDS US

Presbyters sang the *Song of Hope*: “May the God of hope go with us every day...” Moderator Presby invited presbyters back to the Social Hall for a celebration. The Benediction offered by TE McLeod was

from Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.” Adjournment by consensus at 8:20 PM.

The next hybrid stated Meeting of the Presbytery is Wednesday, May 1, 6 PM, at Dickinson PC and via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kristal Smith

Presbytery Leader for Governance and Congregational Leadership / Stated Clerk

**ATTACHMENT 1
ATTENDANCE ROLLS**

Totals										
Pastors										
Elders										
Voters										
Guest										
Cor. Member										
Attendance										
Excused										
Honorably Retired					Active MWS					
Name		Status	Present	Excused	Name		Status	Present	Excused	
Beck	William	HR		1	Billings	Peter	NP		1	
Beltzner	Doug	HR			Blank	Edward	P		1	
Best	Charles	HR		1	Bowerman	David	NP		1	
Black	Jon	HR			Bowerman	Lucy	EP		1	
Bowne	Dale	HR			Bowerman	Scott	P		1	
Bradburn	W. Wilson	HR			Brungraber	Katy Yates	NP		1	
Buffaloe	Marie	HR			Carter	Kent	P			
Carroll	Karin	HR			Chase	Lisa	P		1	
Derrickson	Barbara	HR			Conklin	Nancy	P			
Derrickson	Paul	HR			Cook	Robert	P			
Dunn	Arlene	R		1	Christopher	Donna	NP			
Galan	Cheryl	HR			Dietz	Peter	NP			
Green	John	HR			Englund-Krieger	Mark	P			
Hamel	Bertha	HR			Folts	Tom	NP			
Hammann	William	HR			Fowler	Graham	P			
Hudson	William	HR			Gauthier	Vernon	P		1	
Houtz	Richard	HR			Gibelius	Jeff	P		1	
Humphrey	Bruce	HR		1	Gordon	Gene	P			
Jessen	Charles	HR			Hart	Andrew	P			
Kline	Darlene	HR			Hostetter	Andrew	P			
Larson	John	HR			Johnston	Kathryn	P			
Martin-Minnich	Ron	HR		1	Kang	Inho	P		1	
Mater	Jeanette	HR		1	Long	Kevin	NP			
McCall	Myrtle	HR			Lorenz	Anthony	P		1	
McKenna	Jennifer	HR		1	McCachren	Emily	P		1	
Medina	Mark	HR			McClure	Caleb	P			
Mitchell	Donald	HR			McClure	Nancy	P			
Morgan	Troy	R			Meilands	Pam	NP			
Myers	Anne	HR			Melton	Stephen	P			
Myers	Charles	HR		1	Miller	Lynn	P			
Pace	Art	HR			Morgan	Robin	P			
Park	John	HR			Neubaum	Christian	P			
Potter	Donald	HR			Opitz	Don	NP			
Reinert	Nancy	HR		1	Robinson	Matthew	NP			
Rhoades	Robert	HR			Saturno	Anthony	P			
Richwine	Lois	HR		1	Schwab	Rachel	NP			
Richwine	James	HR		1	Seelman	Stuart	P			
Roach	Timothy	HR			Smith	Allison	NP			
Ross	Anne	HR			Smith	Kristal	SC			
Schmidt	John	HR			Stewart	Anne	NP			
Sheffield	Dick	HR			Stockstill	Andrew	NP			
Sigler	Heather	HR		1	Sutphin	Emily	P			
Sproat	John	HR			Tiedeck	Janice	P		1	
Strauss	Sandra	HR		1	Velthius	Stephen	NP			
Sullivan	Russell	HR			Vickery	Caroline	P			
Sweet	Thomas	HR		1	Wadlington	Kim	P			
Thomas	Thomas D.	HR			Wahlig	Donald	P			
Trask	Edward	HR			Whitaker	Stephen	P			
Uittenbogaard	Roger	HR			West	Howard	NP			
Uittenbogaard	Susan	HR			Wiant	Kelly	NP			
Van Schenk Hof	Carol	HR			Yaroschuk	Kathryn	NP			
Washburn	Mary	HR								
Williams	Dale	HR		1						
Winsheimer	Harry	HR			Jamie McLeod from Mid-Kentucky Presbytery					
Work	Galen	HR			Corresponding Member				1	
Wright	David	HR			Total HR Pastors				15	0
					Total Installed and NP Pastors				13	0
					Total MWS				29	0

ATTACHMENT 2
REV. JAMES MCLEOD STATEMENT OF FAITH AND SPIRITUAL AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Statement of Faith

In the beginning, there was order and perfection; the book of Genesis recounts an idyllic setting in which humanity and all creation enjoyed a perfect relationship with the Divine and with each other. However, we also find in Genesis that humanity chose to disrupt that perfection by seeking a place in creation only occupied by the Divine. In the efforts of Adam and Eve to usurp the knowledge and power of God, they placed themselves above the place of God. The result of their actions was a rending of the relationship between God and creation. Humanity sought to go its own way, exploring creation as its own ultimate concern and ignoring both the will and the presence of God within creation and humanity. Genesis recounts humanity bringing death upon itself. As such, there is no hope for humanity apart from the saving grace and will of God. The brokenness of humanity continues in the violence that often dominates our relationships with one another. From the most basic interaction between individuals, to larger encounters between peoples of different places and races, humanity's efforts to usurp the place of the Divine are unmistakable.

The emergence of Jesus of Nazareth becomes the most crucial moment within human history. Jesus evidences the power of God to emerge from the brokenness of first century Palestine to offer hope, radical love, acceptance, and resurrection. In the life of Jesus, we see one who brought a message that shook the foundations of a Jewish faith in which aspects had become stagnant and too connected to the controlling Roman power structure. For Jesus, the message of God was not one of military might nor identity with a specific community. In turning society upside down, Jesus told stories in which the heroes were Samaritans and faith was best shown by Roman centurions. In Jesus' death, we see the ultimate revelation of God's love as Jesus chose to bear the weight of the world on his shoulders and refused to recant his radical message in the presence of the powers that be, choosing instead to receive the punishment of death on a cross to evidence the love of God for all creation. In Jesus' resurrection, we are shown that the power of God will not be overcome by the brokenness of humanity or creation. After death, even the death of Jesus, God's love remains an active force within creation bringing about love from hate, peace from war, and life from death. It is in the shadow of the events from two millennia ago that the church remains active.

In the person of the Holy Spirit, the church affirms a powerful God who continues to emerge from the brokenness and death of creation to move individuals and groups to greater embodiments of God's love, justice, wholeness, and peace. As we affirm the movement of the Spirit within creation, we also acknowledge the written word as a recounting of that movement.

Finally, we look for the overarching direction of God as affirmed in the Holy Spirit moving within creation working to reconcile all of creation as it seeks to bring all persons, communities, and peoples together again in a single holy people desiring to worship God with those who have come before and those who will come after. We look for God to pull us all out of the systems of brokenness in which we participate, and we search for the spirit of Christ to emerge daily within our own lives just as we seek Christ to emerge throughout creation at the end of days. Amen.

Spiritual Autobiography

In many ways it seems as if the entirety of my life has been spent searching for the answers to the questions that sit at the base of the human experience. Where some might cast a single stone across the queries of life, my mind feels as if it is always on a quest for deeper understanding and knowledge of the mysteries of life, faith, and God. From the earliest age I can remember my own journey has been undergirded by the Christian Faith and Presbyterian tradition. Presbyterianism runs deep within my

family. My father still attends the Presbyterian church in which he was baptized. My McLeod family tree can be traced back to the early 16th century in Scotland and from that point to the present, everyone of my ancestors has grown their faith in the fertile soil of the Presbyterian Church (Kirk). My own call to the ministry can be first found in that same family church where I would attend with my parents and brothers and sit next to my grandparents. It was there, around the age of ten, that my grandmother, a wise woman who knew the Spirit of God intimately, said she saw the spark of ministry in my soul. Through my formative years, I would be nourished in the safe confines of the church. I was encouraged to ask questions, explore, and learn. I would sit in the pastor's study to talk with him about the previous week's sermon and what curiosities had stirred in my mind. I was active in my youth group, chancel choir, handbells, and Sunday school. In college, the call to follow Jesus came all the more fervently as I spoke with different professors and chaplains about my own desires to enter into the ministry. I took many college religion classes that sought to locate the mystery of God in literature and scientific study, advancing my own search for the Divine. The last religion course I took in college was a study of different texts from the classic writings of Mary Shelley to the metaphysical inquiries of the astrophysicist Paul Davies. Taught by a Presbyterian Elder, this experience solidified my own desires to pursue the pastoral path and discern a call to seminary.

In seminary, I became a sponge for all the knowledge I could possibly gain and integrate into my understanding. There were days when I would be there when the library opened and closed, to spend most of the day exploring all the different texts the school had on its shelves. The desert fathers, the mystics, John Calvin, Paul Tillich, James Cone, Cornel West, Elizabeth Johnson and Elie Wiesel- all these became my traveling companions.

In the summers I worked for a Presbyterian camp in the Sandhills of North Carolina. On the dock by the lake at the camp, I would sit up at night and look at the stars and think about God and God's son Jesus. I would think about him standing before the 5,000 people hungry for both bread and the Word of God. Jesus fed them. I thought about the nights he must have spent in the Garden of Gethsemane staring up at the same sky and thinking about his own journey. In those times, I believe I was able to better understand the struggles most people face in their own lives and have tried to take those insights with me into each call I have had in the past sixteen years. The place where I derive the greatest meaning and affirmation in my own journey comes in the opportunities that I have had to sit with people who find themselves surrounded by darkness and helping them to see even a faint amount of light.

I have worked in a number of churches in differing regions of the United States, each with their own character, size, and needs. I have also had the opportunity to work in some of the poorest areas of the world, from the borderlands between the United States and Mexico to the undeveloped areas of Malawi. I have seen the need for those of us who seek to better follow Jesus to work for greater justice in order that all people in the world may have dignity, the chance to take care of their families, and can live life and live it in all its abundance.

While I have had the chance to live and work in several places around the world, it is the values and faith I learned sitting next to my grandparents in a church in rural North Carolina that have always been the foundation for whatever else has transpired in my life and walk with Jesus. It is my desire to do all things with that strong base in mind. My hope is that my ministry abides with the Holy Spirit as we move about the world.