

**COM Report to Presbytery  
February 8, 2025**

**Action Items**

**NONE**

**Information Items**

- **Appointed the following Moderators of Session:**
  - The Rev. Dale Williams as Moderator of McConnellsburg Presbyterian Church effective December 1, 2024.
  - The Rev. Anthony Lorenz as temporary moderator of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church effective immediately (December 2, 2024).
  - The Rev. Edward Blank as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring effective January 1, 2025.
  - The Rev. Douglas Bletzner as Moderator of Central Presbyterian Church effective February 1, 2025.
- **Approved the following Minister transfers:**
  - The Rev. Emily McCachren to the Highlands Presbytery.
  - The Rev. Candace Veon-Nyiri to the Presbytery of Detroit.
  - The Rev. Peter Billings to the Highlands Presbytery.
  - Receive the Rev. Rebecca Langer as an Honorably Retired member of Carlisle Presbytery from St. Augustine Presbytery.
  - Receive the Rev. Dale Francis as an Honorably Retired member of Carlisle Presbytery from Lehigh Presbytery.
- **Approved the following Covenants of Agreement:**
  - Between the Rev. Ed Blank and Middle Spring PC.
  - Between CRE Neal McCulloch and Dickinson Presbyterian Church.
  - Between CeCe Novinger and Duncannon Presbyterian Church.
  - Between Katy Yates Brungraber and Salem Lutheran Church in Chambersburg.
  - Between the Rev. Dale Williams and McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church.
  - Between the Rev. Kelly Wiant and the New Worshipping Communities Commission for The Circle.
  - Between the Rev. Brand Eaton and Great Conewago Presbyterian Church.
  - Between the Rev. Lucy Bowerman and Big Spring Presbyterian Church.
- **Approved the following Ministry Discernment Profiles from these churches:**
  - Market Square as presented on November 14.
  - Middle Spring as presented on November 14.
- **Approved the following Terms of Dissolution and Dissolutions:**
  - Between The Rev. Scott Bowerman and Central Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg.
  - Between the Rev. Emily McCachren and McConnellsburg United Presbyterian Church and concur with the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective November 30, 2024.

- Between the Rev. Andrew Hart and the Presbyterian Church of Falling Spring, Chambersburg and concur with the request to dissolve the pastoral relationship effective December 29, 2024.
- Between the Rev. Dr. Stephen Melton (as amended December 15, 2025) and Big Spring PC.
- Concurred with the termination of the Covenant of Agreement between the Rev. Ivo Meilands and the Presbyterian Congregation of Middletown.
- Granted permission to Central Presbyterian Church to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee.
- Granted the Rev. Dr. Stephen Melton retired status effective January 12, 2025.
- Granted the Rev. Ruth Woodlen (retired United Methodist Church minister) permission to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Faith Immanuel Presbyterian Church for a period of 12 months, at which time the permission may be renewed.

- **COM Approved Validated Ministries for the following Ministers**

Matthew Robinson, University of Bonn
Anne Stewart, Princeton Theological Seminary
Drew Stockstill, U.S. Navy

- **COM approved the Continuation of At-Large status for the following Ministers:**

Tom Folts
Rachel Schwab
Kathryn Yaroschuk

- Approved up to \$1,000 Financial Assistance for Big Spring PC upon their request.
- On December 2, 2024, COM concurred with the action of the Session of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church to place Dr. Melton on a Leave of Absence effective immediately until January 12, 2025.
- On December 2, 2024, COM recommended to the Permanent Judicial Commission that Dr. Melton's Leave of Absence until January 12, 2025 be affirmed.
- On December 2, 2024, COM recommended to the session of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church that Dr. Melton shall not initiate communication (written, in-person, telephone, or electronic) with members/friends of the congregation.
- On December 2, 2024, COM recommended to the session of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church that Dr. Melton not be permitted to enter church property at any time with the exception of removing his personal effects from the premises. He shall arrange this time when two members of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church (at least one active ruling elder) are able to be present for this task. At that time he shall return all keys and submit a list of usernames and passwords for all church-related accounts.
- On December 2, 2024, COM recommended to the session of the Big Spring Presbyterian Church that Dr. Melton not be permitted to lead worship, preach, teach, celebrate the sacraments, moderate meetings, conduct weddings or funerals, or offer pastoral care to members and friends of the congregation.

- On December 2, 2024, COM recommended to the Permanent Judicial Commission that Dr. Melton not be permitted to lead worship, preach, teach, celebrate the sacraments, moderate meetings, conduct weddings or funerals, or offer pastoral care in any congregation within the Presbytery of Carlisle until this matter has been resolved.
- Appointed a Care Team to walk alongside Dr. Melton for the dual purpose of accountability and support. This team will be led by Bill McHenry and include John Green and Arlene Dunn.
- Appointed a Care Team to walk alongside the Big Spring Presbyterian Church for support. This team will be led by Anthony Lorenz and include Lucy Bowerman and Vern Gauthier.
- On January 9, 2025, COM determined the Rev. Dr. Melton is not permitted to lead worship, preach, teach, celebrate the sacraments, moderate meetings, conduct weddings or funerals, or offer pastoral care in any congregation within the Presbytery of Carlisle unless and until this matter is possibly processed through the Permanent Judicial Commission.
- On January 9, 2025, COM determined the Rev. Dr. Melton is not permitted to seek a new call or enter into a Covenant of Agreement with any congregation or Session within Carlisle Presbytery unless and until this matter is possibly processed through the Permanent Judicial Commission.
- On January 9, 2025, COM determined the Presbytery of Carlisle will not transfer the Rev. Dr. Melton to another presbytery or denomination unless and until this matter is possibly processed through the Permanent Judicial Commission.