

## Presbytery of Redstone March 20, 2018

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP was shown prior to the beginning of the meeting due to weather related time constraints.

### CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was convened at 6:03 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at the First Presbyterian Church in Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, by the Moderator, Ruling Elder Josh Scully and opened with prayer.

### FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, attested to the fact that a quorum was present in order to conduct the business of the meeting.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
	Sylvia Carlson, HR	
	Skip Noftzger, EP	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run		
Avonmore, First		
Belle Vernon, First	Suzanne Currie	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Glenn Hart, CRE **	Susan Nesti
Belle Vernon, Marion	Robert Prinkey, CRE **	
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	Alan Olson, IP	Bill Nicholls
Bolivar, United		
Boswell, Covenant		
Brownsville, Calvin	Aleda Menchyk	
Brownsville, Ft. Burd		Kathy Haluska
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver		
Cresson		
Dawson, Tyrone	Robert Prinkey, CRE **	
Delmont	Caroline Vickery	Dave Washburn
Derry		
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First		
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First		Robert A. Kubina
Fayette City, L Redstone		James Anderson
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	
Greensburg, Maplewood	Steve LaSor	Robert Bereit
Greensburg, Westminster		
Irwin, First	Ronald Wakeman; Ronald Durika, AP	Raymond Edelman; Lillian L. Beeson; Fred Westcoat
Irwin, West Hempfield	Peggy Shannon, IP	

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Jeannette		
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First		
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont		
Lake Lynn, Springhill		
Latrobe		
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace		
Lower Burrell, Puckety		
Masontown		
McClellandtown	Lee McDermott	
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Sue Washburn	
Murrysville, First	Edward Gray	Carolyn Krudwig
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul	Carl Vernon; John Daller
Murrysville, Union		
New Alexandria, Community		
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	Sarabeth Stopansky
New Florence, Bethel		
New Florence, Trinity		
New Kensington, United		
New Salem	William Wiegand, CRE	Betsy Kipila
North Huntingdon, New Hope		
Patton		
Revloc		
Scottdale, Calvin		
Smithfield, Grace Chapel		
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	Amy Phillips
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Cheryl Rhea
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third		
Uniontown, Trinity		
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
Vandergrift		
West Newton, Sewickley	Eric Glisan, CRE	
West Newton, Sewickley U.	Glenn Hart, CRE **	
West Newton, United		
Windber, First		
Notation:	(*) = pastor from another denomination (#) = pastor from another	(**) = pastor or CRE serving more than one church

# Presbytery of Redstone

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presbytery	
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**By Virtue of Office:** Lynn Mance, Presbytery Council; Josh Scully, Moderator

**Corresponding Members:** NONE

**Christian Educators:** NONE

**Visitors:** Mark Brown, Fayette City, First; Betsy Kipila, New Salem; Jay Lewis, Pittsburgh Presbytery; Michelle Nayler, Fayette City, Little Redstone; Sally Nicholls, Belle Vernon, Rehoboth; John Zenobi, Belle Vernon, Rehoboth

**Teaching Elders Excused:** Atkinson; Bass-Riley; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Cahn; Carnahan; Close; Degitz; Eliason; Farrer; Foust; Havrisko; Hepler; Hess; Holben; Jalso; Kerr; Keys; King; Klein; Lighthall; Lloyd; Macaleer; MacPherson; Marshall; Mason; Maxwell; McClure; Michael; Miller; Morrow; Murray; Pressler; Sharp; Shepard; Simpson; Speakman; Stevens; Sweeney; Tondora

**Teaching Elders Absent:** Armstrong; Brungraber; Campbell; Catullo; Galley; Gear; Goetschius; Graff; Hickok; Keys; Manon; McCabe; Molinaro; Russell; Silbert

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused:** NONE

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent:** O'Hara; McElroy; Morgan; Stewart; Sunseri; Todero; Watson

### ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

It was **MSP** to approve the docket as amended by the Associate Stated Clerk.

### SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS

The Rev. Jay Lewis was seated as a corresponding member.

### ARRANGEMENTS

The Rev. Sue Currie welcomed the presbyters and gave directions to the nearest restrooms.

### STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The Stated Clerk called attention to the following report.

1. Correspondence Log:
  - a. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.
  
2. Summary of 2017 Comparative Statistical Summary for the Presbytery

<u>Membership Statistics</u>	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Active members	14,971	14,799	14,329	13,961	13,679	12,543	11,477	10,628	10,287
Gains by Profession of Faith - 17 under	136	105	82	102	105	101	85	70	53
Gains by Profession of Faith - 18 over	220	169	178	146	154	155	171	170	102

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Gains by Certificate	126	65	85	79	95	61	56	43	48
Gains by Other	59	38	67	52	37	99	23	43	12
Losses by Certificate	81	57	95	78	243	519	437	205	65
Losses by Death	289	281	274	252	248	252	239	238	187
Losses by Other	477	211	511	417	182	781	725	732	304
Infant Baptisms	212	140	163	122	158	128	127	110	100
Adult Baptisms	29	26	25	22	35	17	24	20	9

As of the 2018 deadline for statistical reporting to the General Assembly, 66 churches have filed at least portions of their annual statistical reports for 2017. The following churches failed to submit their Annual Statistical Report based upon the deadline: Covenant, Hopewell, Lake Lynn, and Pleasant Grove.

3. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2019 calendar year were presented and approved by the Council. Note the change on a couple Tuesdays to reduce conflicts with a number of session meetings.

- January 26, 2019 (Saturday)
- March 26, 2019 (Tuesday)
- May 21, 2019 (Tuesday)
- September 24, 2019 (Tuesday)
- November 23, 2019 (Saturday)

Requests to serve as the host of any of these gatherings may be submitted to the Council through the Stated Clerk.

4. The following dates represent additional opportunities for Clerks to have their Session minutes and Church Registers reviewed for 2017.

- March 20---5:00 p.m.---First, Belle Vernon (pre-Presbytery)
- May 15---5:00 p.m.--- Latrobe Presbyterian (Main St.) (pre-Presbytery)
- May 21---6:00 p.m.---Trinity, Uniontown

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presents the following Consent Agenda and it was approved *by consent*.

### **From Executive Committee**

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of the January 20, 2018 be approved.

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### From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council be received and filed for audit.
2. Council **recommends** that the reports of the Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk be received and filed.
3. Council **recommends** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp and Synod commissioner reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.

### From the Committee on Ministry

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that the Rev. Jay Lewis (Honorably Retired, Pittsburgh Presbytery and former member of Redstone) be received as an Honorably Retired member of Redstone Presbytery.
2. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Paula Junk and Margaret Gilchrist (elders) on behalf of the Laurel Hill church.
3. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Mark Nagy (elder) on behalf of the New Salem church.
4. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Beth Wirick (elder) on behalf of the Mt. Washington church.
5. Committee on Ministry **recommends** the approval of the waiver request for limitation of terms for Robin Vilella (deacon) and Bonnie Matthews (elder) on behalf of the First Presbyterian, Dunbar church.

### From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. The Committee on Preparation **recommends** the suspension of David Deutsch (at his request) as a candidate and from the preparation process.

### From the Nominating Committee - No Report

### From the Committee on Representation - No Report

### From the Discernment Teams

1. The team **recommends** the report of the Vandergrift discernment team as included in the packet (PAGE 12) be received and filed.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Curtis Paul presented the following report and action items from the Nominating Committee:

- The Nominating Committee nominates the following people to serve open positions on the specified committees.

#### **Pine Springs Camp**

Ruling Elder Don Frey, Jeannette (2018)

#### **Committee on Ministry**

Ruling Elder John Ivey, Third, Uniontown (2020)

Ruling Elder Carol Faytol, Bethel, New Florence (2020)

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- It was MSP to elect all nominees for the respective positions as submitted.

### **Information Items (as published)**

- The Nominating Committee is in need of your suggestions and recommendations for ruling elder candidates to serve within the various committees and structures of the Presbytery. Please email any nominations to Rev. Curtis Paul, Nominating Committee Chair.
- Currently, we have available openings on either the Committee on Ministry or the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving in this way, please contact either Rev. Skip Noftzger or Rev. Curtis Paul.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

In John Dickson's absence, Skip noted that we are in the black at this point in the calendar year.

### **WORSHIP**

The Presbytery gathered in worship under the leadership of Teaching Elders Suzanne Currie and Alan Olson; Commissioned Ruling Elder Glenn Hart; Ruling Elders Kay Nelson and Josh Scully; Donna Santoro, organist; and the chancel choir. Worship included the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

### **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT**

Rev. Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, referenced in written report that was in the packet. He noted that there is also a written report from Pine Springs. There is a word day on May 12 at Pine Springs.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP**

A printed copy of the announcements loop was distributed. They included:

- **ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT**  
March 24<sup>th</sup> Registration 2 PM, Egg Hunt 2:30 PM, North Huntingdon, New Hope (724-863-7702)  
Toddlers-Kindergarten
- Plus crafts, snacks and kick off for Star Wars Vacation Bible Camp (July 30<sup>th</sup>-August 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- **TGIF KID'S EVENT**  
March 30<sup>th</sup>, 8:30AM-1 PM Apollo, Poke Run (724-327-5563, pokerunchurch.com)  
Kids age 3 through 12<sup>th</sup> grade  
A day of laughter and learning as we remember Christ's final words to his disciples
- **ANNUAL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE**  
April 7<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-2 PM, Dollar Bag Sale begins at 1 PM  
New Alexandria, Congruity (724-668-7740, congruitychurch.org)
- **CONFIRMATION RETREAT**  
April 13-14 Pine Springs Camp See Skip for more information
- **SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 4-6:30 PM New Alexandria, Congruity (724-668-7740, congruitychurch.org)  
All you can eat, spaghetti and meatballs, salad, drink, dessert. Plus basket raffle!
- **RAISE THE ROOF SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
May 5<sup>th</sup>, 4-7 PM \$7 per person, 12 and under \$3, Basket & Prize Raffle  
Benefiting the Bethany Presbyterian Church Roof Fund  
Johnstown, Bethany (814-539-9194, bethanyjohnstown.com)

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- **SOUP FOR THE SOUL LUNCHEON**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of Every Month, doors open at 11:30, Soup's on at noon  
Apollo, Poke Run (724-327-5536, pokerunchurch.com)
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING GATHERING**  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM-2:30 PM Johnstown, First
- **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING RETREAT**  
May 29<sup>th</sup>, 9AM-2:30 PM Pine Springs Camp  
Speaker: Rev. Colleen Molinaro, "Your Prayer Personality"
- **"PRETTY IN PINK" MISSION TEA**  
July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1 PM New Alexandria, Community
- **2018 CHURCHWIDE GATHERING OF PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**  
August 2-5 Louisville, Kentucky
- **FOR MORE INFO ON ALL PW EVENTS:**  
go [redstonepresbytery.org](http://redstonepresbytery.org) and search under "Shared Ministries" for Presbyterian Women
- **FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT:**  
[redstonepresbytery.org](http://redstonepresbytery.org)  
[redstonetogether.blogspot.com](http://redstonetogether.blogspot.com)  
[pcusa.org/news](http://pcusa.org/news)  
[facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com), search "Presbytery of Redstone"
- **NEXT REDSTONE PRESBYTERY MEETING**  
Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018 6-9 PM Latrobe Presbyterian

### MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Chair, reported that there is still room for persons to participate in the April 21-28 Hurricane relief mission trip to Fayetteville, NC. The annual Sudan/ South Sudan Mission Network meeting will be held this year July 23 and 24 during the New Wilmington Mission Conference at Westminster College, New Wilmington.

MSP to elect Sylvia Carlson as overture concurrence advocate for the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

### ACTION AGENDA

### COUNCIL REPORT

- Rev. Sue Washburn invited Rev. Lee McDermott to pray for the persons who will be the recipients of the materials contributed toward Hope in a Bag.

### Information Items (as published)

- The Stated Clerk presented the correspondence log since the last Council meeting for review by the Council.
- The Stated Clerk reported the following on two properties that are in the process of being sold.  
Still awaiting word on the completion of a survey and whether that will be adequate versus filing a quiet title action on the West Leisenring property.  
As authorized, the Windber property was sold and settled on February 7, 2018 with the new

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owner taking possession of the property. An Administrative Commission was appointed by Joshua Scully (moderator) consisting of Belinda Lambie, Jim Farrer, Bernice Adams, Doug Stevens and himself. They are working individually on various aspects of the disposition of related to the closing of the congregation.

- The Stated Clerk provided the 2017 statistics from the OGA website as updated by the clerks. There remain a few churches that may be updated by the Presbytery if we are able to receive the information.
- The Stated Clerk proposed possible meeting dates for the Presbytery for 2019 and for the Presbytery Council for 2019. The rationale for possible changes included necessary preparation for the January meeting and the packet and using the fourth Tuesday on months the Council was not meeting. After discussion, **MSP** to approve, announce and publish the following 2019 dates:
  - January 26, 2019
  - March 26, 2019
  - May 21, 2019
  - September 24, 2019
  - November 23, 2019
- In combination with those approved dates, possible Council meetings for 2019 were established as the following:
  - January 8, 2019
  - February 26, 2019
  - April 23, 2019
  - June 25, 2019
  - July 23, 2019
  - August 27, 2019
  - October 22, 2019
  - November 26, 2019

### **Executive Presbyter**

- Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter requested approval of vacation time for March 25-29, 2018. **MSP** to approve the vacation request.
- Continuing the emphasis on discernment of new Christian communities, the Executive Presbyter highlighted a section from the Seven Levers book on new church development as an example of “failures and successes” from a centralized planning approach. He also distributed a brochure from the 1001 Worshiping Communities Initiative. He spoke of the need to continue to consider where God may be leading us in terms of new opportunities for ministry and Christian communities. He has invited Michael Goerhling (1001 NE representative) to do a workshop with any interested persons preceding the May Presbytery meeting. He also requested that Michael be given permission to present on the 1001 initiative at the May Presbytery gathering. **MSP** to approve an invitation for him to speak at the May meeting.

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- The Executive Presbyter highlighted two upcoming programs for the benefit of the leadership of the Presbytery.
  - Confirmation Retreat – April 13-14
  - IPLF Workshops-Ethics/Boundaries; Old Testament Uses in Funerals

### Treasurer

A written Treasurer's report for the first month of the new fiscal year. As noted, January has been a "slow" month in terms of contributions and was again in 2018. The Treasurer reviewed the report and offered insight on "benchmarks" for monthly income and monthly expenditures. The Executive Presbyter clarified that the January expenditures were reduced because with the reporting of statistics, we had not yet begun to pay the per capita. He assured the Council that he would be monitoring expenses in order that we continue to live within the income that we have available.

### Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

A written report from the Executive Director was received. Greg recounted the impact of the camp experience upon a particular student from First Presbyterian, Johnstown who has been attending camp for many years and was at the recent retreat. Summer camper numbers continue to be "on pace" compared to last year and the financial campaign continues to look for the final 75-100k. He spoke the increased desire not only for camp-sponsored retreats, but the availability for church retreats.

MSP to receive and file the reports from the Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Director, and Executive Presbyter.

### SUBCOMMITTEES/NETWORKS/TASK FORCES

#### Missions

- Announcement of upcoming mission trip on April 21-28, Fayetteville, NC

#### Budget and Finance

- Request to meet afterward for scheduling a meeting with the financial advisor for possible investment of additional funds in the checking account.

#### Addictions Ministry

- Reminder about the "HOPE in a BAG" collections for the upcoming March gathering. Discussion about the logistics of the March collection and arrangements with First Presbyterian, Belle Vernon and Doreen.

### MARCH PRESBYTERY MEETING

- The Next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon. The proposed agenda and schedule was presented for review by the Council. It was MSP to adopt the agenda with the focus on engaging congregations and the addition of prayer for consecration of the Hope in a Bag donations and a presentation on Next Church.

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### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Martin Ankrum introduced the Rev. Jay Lewis and invited him to address the presbyters.

- An Investiture Service was conducted for the Rev. Jay Lewis, the newest colleague in the ministry of the Presbytery of Redstone.

### Information Items (as published)

- It was MSP to approve the minutes for the February 1 meeting as submitted.

### Report of the Stated Clerk

- The Correspondence Log as it related to the Committee on Ministry was reviewed.
- The final Statistics report for member congregations as submitted by their respective clerks of session was provided and reviewed.
- Upcoming minutes review dates were announced. It was noted that twenty-two churches have completed the minutes review to date.
- The request for the renewal of the agreement between Commissioned Pastor Len Morgan and the Calvin, Scottdale session for 40% time was MSP.
- Annual reports for members at large and those in validated ministries was noted for those who have completed and those for whom the committee is waiting.
- It was MSP to recommend to the Presbytery at the May 2018 meeting to move Rev. Jim Stobaugh to "Honorably Retired."
- Annual Reports from Clerks of Session are due and being received.
- Announcement of Minutes Review dates/completion
  - January 27 – Westmont (11 or 12 were completed)
  - February 19 – Presbytery office (6:00)
  - March 20 – First, Belle Vernon (5:00)
  - May 15 – Latrobe (5:00)
- At the January meeting, the following elders were commissioned for particular pastoral service: Eric Glisan, Len Morgan, Dave Stewart, Jim Sunseri, and Bill Wiegand.
- MSP a request for dismissal of Rev. Brenda Barnes to Kiskiminetas Presbytery.
- MSP to recommend to Presbytery waiver of term limitations for the following people and churches:
  - Dunbar – Robin Vilella (Deacon); Bonnie Matthews (Elder)
  - Mt. Washington – Beth Wrick (Elder)
  - New Salem – Mark Nagy (Elder)
  - Laurel Hill – Margaret Gilchrist (Elder); Paula Junk (Elder)
- Member at Large/Validated ministry forms will be approved at an upcoming meeting, as part of our "Consent Agenda" when we have received them all. Received so far are:
  - Cynthia Cadenhead (MAL)
  - Ross Bash (MAL)
  - Bruce Cadenhead (MAL)
  - Skip Noftzger (VAL)

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### Moderator Report

- The Moderator noted the addition of two new members (pending the March nominating report) of Carol Faytol (Bethel, New Florence) and John Ivey (Third, Uniontown). Carol was present and was introduced.
- Appointment of Rev. James Farrer to serve as moderator for the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell.

### Search and Call

- The chart outlining the current status of all churches in pastoral transition was distributed and reviewed.
- Rev. Chuck MacPherson reviewed the various pastoral options that the Committee is currently using or might use within the broader categories of “temporary” and “installed” (BOO). These included a number of different approaches that are permitted within the Book of Order, but may reflect “new” ways of being flexible by Redstone Presbytery.
- Transition chart was included in our packet
- Rev. MacPherson and Rev. Noftzger conducted Ebsburg and Colver PNC orientation on January 27, 2018.

### Examinations

- The committee reported that they had received a statement of faith and met with a candidate who was doing a neutral pulpit for the Third Presbyterian PNC.
- Received statement of faith and met with Rev. Jay Lewis about transferring, returning his membership to Redstone (HR), and asking to be added to pulpit supply.
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation of Rev. Jay Lewis to be received into Redstone Presbytery and to have the motion included in the consent agenda of the March Presbytery gathering.

### AP/CRE

- The upcoming IPLF workshops on Ethics/Boundaries and Preaching the OT in Funerals were announced.
- A chart was distributed and reviewed concerning some new options for commissioning that the subcommittee is proposing for consideration going forward as part of our continuing effort to be more creative in providing pastoral services to our congregations.

### Congregations and Congregational Leader Relationships

- The Executive Presbyter offered a presentation on the ways of understanding the significance of a presbytery. Along with those understandings, he noted the responsibilities of this committee to be primary in fulfilling the roles of pastor, counselor, and advisor. Particularly, he presented options and strategies that each COM member might fulfill his/her role as liaison under the new COM structure.
- Northwest (I/II) region update and prayer requests.
- Southwest (III) region update and prayer requests.
- East (IV) region update and prayer requests.
- Prayers were offered and cards signed for the list of pastors.
- Prayers were offered and cards signed for the list of congregations.

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### Executive Presbyter Report

- The Executive Presbyter spoke of our ongoing need to be considering new ministry opportunities where God might be leading. He announced that Rev. Michael Goerhling of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities will be with us both leading a pre-presbytery workshop and as part of the gathering in May 2018.
- Enrichment Day at Westmont Presbyterian Church was well-attended and the sessions were excellent.

### **Old Business**

- MSP to accept Laurie Davison resignation from the COM with regret.

### **New Business**

- Skip made a comprehensive spreadsheet of all the churches in each District which we will update each month with our Liaison reports.

### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION REPORT

No oral report was given but the following information items were included in the packet.

#### Information Items (as published)

- The agenda for the meeting was approved by consent.
- As part of organizing for the year, nominations were held for the positions of chairperson and secretary. It was MSP to elect Rev. Caroline Vickery as chairperson and Rev. Becca Siddle as secretary for 2018.
- It was MSP to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting.
- The updated roster for all inquirers and candidates was provided by the Executive Presbyter to the committee. Having reviewed and not noting any necessary changes, the roster was received by the committee.
- The checklist of requirements of all inquirers and candidates was provided by the Executive Presbyter. At this point, he also supplied the communications from David Deutsch requesting removal from the candidate's process. After discussion concerning possible future contact with David, it was MSP to suspend David from candidate status effective immediately and to be reviewed in 2019.
- A specific update was provided on candidate Rick Watson concerning his completion of coursework. It was also noted that Rick had taken and passed the Polity examination. Currently, he is completing CPE through the Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute and doing it at Highlands Hospital. Discussion ensued on possible options for the additional SPM (field ed) requirements for Rick based upon the desire of the committee to have Rick participate in a larger congregation setting than his current commissioned role. Committee members are to pursue some of those options and report back.

### DISCERNMENT TEAM REPORT

Since the last Presbytery meeting, the Discernment team met with the session of the Vandergrift Presbyterian Church to review the issues related to their possible request for dismissal. Based upon an agreed timetable, it is anticipated that the congregational meeting to consider the request to be dismissed to A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians will take place on April 15. Protocols for the moderation of the meeting and administration of voting were reviewed. Relevant issues were

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discussed with the session offering proposed responses to address each of those issues. The Team met at a later date to review the meeting and understanding of all of the issues and decided that the proposed resolutions were sufficient to move forward for consideration by the congregation and the presbytery. It is anticipated that the final report and request will be submitted to the May 15, 2018 Presbytery meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business for the Presbytery at this time.

**ATTENDANCE REPORT**

In attendance were 18 Teaching Elders, 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 18 Ruling Elders representing 15 churches, 2 By Virtue of office, and 6 visitors, for a total in attendance of 48. There were 54 churches without elder representation.

The Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by Joshua Scully at 7:24 p.m. with the benediction prayer pronounced by Rev. Sue Currie.

*The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. at the Latrobe Presbyterian Church.*

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Josh Scully, Moderator

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Sylvia Carlson, Recording Clerk