

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was held in conjunction with the Presbytery of Washington at Pine Springs Camp on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. The announcements loop was shown just prior to the convening of the meeting. The meeting was convened at 10:08 a.m. and opened with prayer by Rev. Laura Blank, Moderator of Redstone Presbytery. She announced that items of new business must be presented to the Associate Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery by the start of lunch.

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>
	Susan Blank, MAL	
	Sylvia Carlson, HR	
	Carole Isley Corey, HR	
	James Farrer, HR	
	Aleda Menchyk, HR	
	Skip Noftzger, EP	
	Gail Mason, NRHR	
	Norma Murphy, NRHR	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run	Pete Goetschius	Linda Chicka
Avonmore, First		
Belle Vernon, First		
Belle Vernon, Harmony		
Belle Vernon, Marion		
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth		Ed Moore
Bolivar, United	James Sunseri, CP	
Boswell, Covenant		
Brownsville, Calvin		
Brownsville, Ft. Burd		
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver		Bonnie Hill
Cresson	Dave McCabe	Blair Robiar
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont	Caroline Vickery	Lauretta Eisler
Derry		
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First		Jim Stratton
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First		
Fayette City, L Redstone	Josh Scully, CP	Audrey Cottle

Presbytery of Redstone
September 24, 2019

Greensburg, First		Sue Trafford
Greensburg, Maplewood	Steve LaSor	Bob Bereit
Greensburg, Westminster		
Irwin, First	Ron Wakeman	Ray Edelman Martha Pattullo
Irwin, West Hempfield	Andrew Wirt	
Jeannette	William King, IP	
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First	Alice Tondora	
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont	Rene Whitaker, IP	Joyce Norris
Lake Lynn, Springhill	Molly Hall, CovP	
Latrobe	Ron Durika, IP	
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Ken Foust	Glenn Nordmark
Lower Burrell, Puckety		
Masontown		
McClellandtown		
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Sue Washburn, CovP	Jeannette Lindsey
Murrysville, First	Ed Gray	Bobbie Stander
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul Marnie Silbert, AP	Susan Keaney Robin Pokrzywinski
Murrysville, Union	Derek Campbell	
New Alexandria, Community		Marsha Stallings
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	Sarabeth Stopansky
New Florence, Bethel	James Sunseri, CP	
New Florence, Trinity		Janet Henderson
New Kensington, United	Wendy Keys	David Keys
New Salem	William Wiegand, CP	Cheryl Setlock
North Huntingdon, New Hope	John Simpson, IP	
Patton	Dave McCabe	Mark Lechene
Revloc	David O'Hara	
Scottdale, Calvin	Leonard Morgan, CP	
Smithfield, Grace Chapel		
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Cheryl Rhea
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third		Denise Engle Cynthia Bellina
Uniontown, Trinity	James Gear	Francis Squires
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
Vandergrift		

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

West Newton, Sewickley		
West Newton, Sewickley U.		
West Newton, United		
Notation:	(*) = pastor from another denomination (#) = pastor from another presbytery	(**) = pastor or CRE serving more than one church

By Virtue of Office: John Dickson, Treasurer; Bobbi Jo Huebner, Presbytery Council; Lynn Mance, Presbytery Council

Visitors: Judy Carl, Ebensburg; Cheryl Croushore, Murrysville, First; Greg Davis, Pine Springs Camp; Sylvia Henriquez, Murrysville, Newlonsburg; Michael Hurley, Pine Springs Camp; Danielle Kendig, Johnstown, Westmont; Kathy Lukitsch, Murrysville, Newlonsburg; Apay Ojulu, Minnesota Valleys Presbytery; Barry Poglein, New Florence, Bethel; Judy Radcliff, Murrysville, Newlonsburg; Ann Troxell, Murrysville, First

Teaching Elders Excused: Ankrum; Armstrong; Atkinson; Cahn; Carnahan; Catullo; Chow; Currie; Degitz; Giesey; Glunt; Graff; Hepler; Hess; Hickok; Holben; Jalso; Johnson, J., Johnson, R.; Keith; Klein; Lighthall; Lloyd; Macaleer; MacPherson; McClure; Michael; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Russell; Sharp, J.; Sharp, W.; Shepard; Simpson; Stevens; Upton; VanWyk; Yuckman, C.; Yuckman, M.

Teaching Elders Absent: Bash; Bass-Riley; Havrisko; Maiman; Manon; McDermott; Siddle

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused: NONE

Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent: Glisan; Hart; Marciano; McElroy; Prinkey; Todero; Watson

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The docket as printed in the Packet was adopted *by consent*.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, asked that the Rev. Cindy Kohlman (Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly/ Boston Presbytery), Rev. Owar Ojulu (Minnesota Valleys Presbytery), the Rev. Urla Eversley (Charlotte Presbytery/ Board of Pensions), the Rev. Sue Wonderland (Synod Executive) and the Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley (Presbyterian Foundation/ Lake Erie Presbytery) be seated as Corresponding Members of Redstone Presbytery for this meeting. This was acknowledged and approved *by consent*.

It was **MSP** that the following persons be given privilege of the floor: Cynthia Bellina from Third, Uniontown, and Mike Givler from Synod of the Trinity.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Associate Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presented the Consent

Presbytery of Redstone

September 24, 2019

Agenda. The following items were 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 May 21, 2019 Presbytery meeting be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit.
2. Council **recommends** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, and Pine Springs Camp reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.
3. Council **recommends** the adoption of the proposed 2020 Budget for consideration by the Presbytery for a "first reading." (*This presented for a First Reading. The Presbytery will take action at the November meeting.*)

From the Committee on Ministry

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

From the Nominating Committee

From the Committee on Representation

INTRODUCTION OF ELDERS

The Moderator of Washington Presbytery, Rev. Brian Kilbert, invited those who were attending a presbytery meeting for the first time to stand to be introduced. On behalf of both Presbyteries the Moderator welcomed each of the first-time presbyters.

ARRANGEMENTS

Greg Davis, Director of Pine Springs Camp, provided arrangements for the meeting and he also expressed thanks for the support of Pine Springs Camp by both presbyteries. Greg also introduced some of the yearlong staff of the camp. An expression of thanks for their ministry was given. Greg then presented a report of the 2019 summer. This year's theme was "Wipeout". The numbers this year were a little short of last summer's camp; 1,100 campers were served this summer. Greg also highlighted some upcoming events: Fusion, Sept 28-29 (4th-6th graders); Women in the Woods, Oct 4-5; The Big One at the end of October which is a Jr. & Sr. High Retreat; Pine Springs Friends Dinner on November 24th at the Fred Rodgers Center at St. Vincent College, Latrobe. Greg expressed his thanks to the presbyteries and is looking forward to the summer of 2020.

BOARD OF PENSIONS

Rev. Urla Eversley, Church Consultant of the Board of Pensions, gave a Power Point presentation of the 2019 Benefits. Rev. Eversley is new to this position. She shared the changes

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

that took place and some new programs within the Board of Pensions. BOP serves the benefit needs of the employees of the church. The BOP covers over 61,000 people. She highlighted a new publication called "Living by The Gospel." Rev. Eversley highlighted the menu options of the benefits program and the "Pathways to Renewal" program, a debt assistance program which offers reduced dues for 3 years. Annual enrollment dates are Oct 28 - Nov 15.

PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly, regional representative of the Presbyterian Foundation, brought greetings from the General Assembly and from Lake Erie Presbytery. She is known now for Stewardship Training and highlighted some resources: The Stewardship Navigator, an on-line program and library, to help create the narrative of generous giving; a pamphlet of congregational resources of financial health; and an online giving program - a 'gift plus app' which allows the giver to help defer some of the administrative costs related to each gift.

WORSHIP

A joint service of worship with both Redstone and Washington Presbyteries was led by Rev. Cindy Kohlman, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly, Rev. Craig Kephart, Rev. Skip Noftzger, and Rev. Sue Wonderland. The Word was preached by Rev. Cindy Kohlman. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper was included in the service of worship. Music was led by Julie Galadly and members of the Thomas Presbyterian Church of Washington Presbytery.

Q & A with the Co-Moderator

Rev. Cindy Kohlman spent some time responding to questions about challenges facing the church today and the challenge of being a "sent community" sent to love and know our neighbors and to be changed by them.

Q: How can we be better in raising up new leaders – local challenges all the way up to the national level?

A: The work of the national Church engaging the front line of local congregations. We have amazing resources and people within the 7 agencies of the General Assembly. Matthew 25 is one vision being prompted across the denominations. Another is Vision 2020 to articulate who we are as Presbyterians – few and far between in New England and dense in PA - we are the **Prayerful Courageous United Serving Alive!** Then Cindy distributed 5 wrist bands promoting the Vision 2020.

Joint Task Force Presentation

A presentation of the Joint Task force was presented by Rev. Laura Blank and Rev. Dawn Sherwood on collaboration of Redstone and Washington Presbyteries. Members of the Joint Task Force were introduced. The team came together in January 2019 on how the two Presbyteries might share resources for future ministry and mission. Camp Pine Springs is an example of collaboration along with the IPPC (Inter Presbytery Program Committee) and most recently the IPLF (Inter Presbytery Leadership Formation). Ideas have been shared over the months. Members of the Joint Task Force will sit at various tables during lunch to share ideas on collaboration.

Presbytery of Redstone

September 24, 2019

LUNCH

The combined meeting of the Presbyteries of Washington and Redstone recessed for lunch and were seated by a mixture of people from each presbytery at the various tables. Greg Davis, Camp Pine Springs, gave instructions for lunch. Greg offered the prayer of grace.

Following lunch and a chance to look at the various displays in the Mission Fair, each of the Presbyteries met separately.

The meeting of Redstone Presbytery was opened with prayer by the Moderator, Rev. Laura Blank, at 1:08pm.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, provided a written report which was distributed within the packet. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for his sabbatical/study leave during the summer months and described it as being a time of rest. Skip shared an excerpt of Bruggemann's book Sabbath as Resistance, a reflection on Exodus 20 on "Loving Back the Emancipator." Skip also presented Rev. Cindy Kohlman with a Redstone stole and a copy of each of the Presbytery posters. Skip then lead the Presbytery in reciting "Soli Deo Gloria."

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer, John Dickson, presented the Financial Reports for August 2019. He called special attention to the church contribution shortage so far this year and encouraged congregations to be more diligent in sending in their pledges. He reflected on the fact that we do not age out of supporting the Presbytery (in reference to Rev. Cindy Kohlman's sermon). The church commitments should be 67% at the end of August and many were below that figure and he challenged the Presbytery to be at 75% by the end of September. Expenses are trending at 61% below budget.

MISSION NETWORK

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Chairperson of the Mission Committee, provided a written report that was included in the packet. She also reported that the Boys and Girls Clubs of Westmoreland County are having troubling finding men to serve as mentors for boys and it is similar in other counties as well. A mission trip is taking place October 27-November 2 to West Virginia Camps and Advocacy in Mingo County.

ACTION AGENDA

Council

Elder Josh Scully, presented the following report and action items of Presbytery Council:

Action Items

- The Council places for a first reading the 2020 budget. This was approved *by consent*. Second reading and consideration of the budget will occur at the November meeting.

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

- The Council presented the Addictions ministry network for a review of their current projects and an update on the next steps of the network. Elder Linda Chicka gave an update on the activities of the Addictions network and invited everyone to look at their display as part of the Mission Fair. She highlighted the healing services that were conducted throughout the year and a sample of the curriculum they developed. She drew attention to the various distribution places for free Narcan beginning on September 25th from 9AM-3PM. The next meeting of the Addictions Ministry Network is on October 22, 2019. The members of the Network stood to make people familiar with them.

Information

August 27, 2019 Meeting

Agenda

- Chuck West requested that the agenda be altered to place the report of the joint task force at the beginning out of our courtesy for our guest from Washington Presbytery.
- It was **MSP** to grant Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Minister member of Washington Presbytery privilege of the floor with voice for that portion of the meeting.

Joint Task Force

- The Council had before it a narrative and series of proposals for collaborative initiatives with Washington Presbytery. The proposals ranged from sharing across ministry networks to structural collaboration in shared ministry and mission as well resources such as staffing and facilities. These proposals presented by the Joint Task Force were being considered as a second reading. Rev. Dawn Sherwood was offered opportunity to speak to them as well as a member of the task force from Washington Presbytery. After much discussion, it seemed "right" to the Council with the leading of the Holy Spirit to move forward.

It was **MSP** to approve the proposals as presented a plan for possible moving forward. Recognizing that Washington Presbytery had not approved the proposals, it was acknowledged that we should communicate through letter our action and recognize that it might take time or possible revisions before any final outcome might be approved by both presbyteries. Rev. Ankrum agreed to write the draft of the letter which would be reviewed by Council Chair Josh Scully and then sent by him on our behalf.

Minutes

- It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2019 meeting of Council.

Quietly, Courageous book discussion

- A robust discussion took place among all Council members focusing on the second part of the book. It was agreed that we would continue the discussion at the next Council meeting focusing on the next section of the book.

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

Report of the Stated Clerk

- The Stated Clerk presented the correspondence log since the last Council meeting for review by the Council.
- The Stated Clerk reviewed the scheduled 2019 Council and Presbytery dates.
 - 9/24/2019---Presbytery (10:00 a.m.; Pine Springs Camp; Washington Presbytery will join us)
 - 10/22/2019---Council
 - 11/23/2019---Presbytery (9:00 a.m.; Pleasant View)
 - 11/27/2019 – Council
- The Stated Clerk noted the dates for the 2020 Presbytery meeting schedule. With the November meeting already assigned, he noted a request from the Maplewood Presbyterian Church to host the January 25, 2020 gathering. It was **MSP** to approve the request for Maplewood to host that January meeting beginning at 1:00 p.m.
- John Dickson, Treasurer (Redstone Highlands CEO) placed before the Council a request to host the September 22, 2020 gathering at the Greensburg campus of Redstone Highlands. It was **MSP** to approve this request.

Executive Presbyter

The Executive Presbyter reported on the following items:

- Rev. Noftzger thanked the Council and spoke about the nature of his recent sabbatical which included study, renewal and travel. Grateful for the opportunity, he acknowledged the ways it offered him occasion to reflect and pursue interests for the longer-term needs and vision of the Presbytery, as well as the larger Church.
- The Executive Presbyter noted the new term for the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation cohort who are currently enrolled in a Reformed Theology course with Rev. Martin Ankrum. Additionally, he pointed out the opportunities for continuing education for both teaching elders and commissioned pastors through the various workshops this fall.
- The Executive Presbyter reviewed the rough draft of the itinerary for the visit of the Co-Moderator on September 21-23. While commitments have been made for her preaching on Sunday morning and for the Presbytery gathering, he solicited other ideas for her time on Sunday and Monday. After some discussion, it was agreed that she would be invited to participate to meet with the Addictions Ministry network, the women's clergy group and visit the ESL ministry of Third Presbyterian.

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

- The Executive Presbyter provided updates on pastoral leadership around the Presbytery, including those in need of pastoral care and prayers such as Rev. Don Graff.

Treasurer

- A written Treasurer's report for the first seven months of the new fiscal year. The Treasurer observed that our income stream from churches during July was on target. Yet, year to date income resources remain significantly behind the year to date benchmarks. He observed that it will be critical to make up that ground through the remainder of the year.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

- The Executive Director provided an oral report on the conclusion of the camping season and distributed a chart detailing camper enrollment of this year compared to previous years. Despite some of the challenges of this summer, it was an extremely successful summer camping season. He noted the date for the fall Friends dinner that will take place at the Fred Rogers Center on the St. Vincent College campus.
- **By consent**, the Council agreed to receive and file the reports from the Stated Clerk, Treasurer, Executive Director, and Executive Presbyter.

Subcommittees/Networks/Task Forces

Staff Support

Reported that staff evaluations for the Executive Presbyter and the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper had been concluded and that the 2020 holiday schedule has been approved.

Reported that the Staff Support committee had approved a recommendation for a 3% salary increase for both staff members. That recommendation had been passed on to the Finance and Budget committee for its consideration for 2020.

Communications

No report from the Communications team. There is a need to reorganize and recruit new participants and leadership.

Missions

Rev. Havrisko offered a report on the summer visit of the representatives of Nile Theological College (Khartoum, Sudan and Juba, South Sudan). Both visitors participated in events at congregations around the Presbytery as well as a meeting of the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Partnership Network gathering. This gathering took place

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

with several participants from Redstone, during the New Wilmington Missions Conference.

A reminder was offered about the upcoming mission fair which will take place at the September Presbytery gathering. Congregations are encouraged to bring some type of display to share with others about the types of mission in which they are engaged.

The Rise Against Hunger event will be hosted by the Avonmore congregation on October 5. Please sign up to volunteer or donate to support this activity.

Budget and Finance

The committee noted its review of the draft report of the auditors on the full financial review of the Presbytery of Redstone for the fiscal year 2018. A final version will be completed and submitted to the Council at its next meeting.

A proposed budget for 2020 Presbytery shared ministry, shared mission and operations was offered. The budget assumed slight revisions downward in projected income, but included the recommended salary increases. Reductions were made in some variable items as well budget lines that only become relevant in particular years. It was MSP to recommend to the Presbytery for approval. It will be submitted in September for a first reading.

First Fruits pledges contributions year-to-date were distributed. The need to collect on these funds is imperative. Without adequate financial support, additional cutbacks will need to be considered.

Addictions Ministry

The Addictions ministry network will be providing a PowerPoint summary of all the areas that they have been involved in recent years. Currently, they are exploring the next steps whether that is continuing to build upon the recent initiatives (curriculum) or begin new projects. They are also reviewing options for submission of another grant to the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Commission.

Triennium

Rev. Laura Blank spoke about the tremendous opportunity students had at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Although a small cohort from our presbytery, their experience was important and meaningful for those who participated.

- Reports of the various subcommittees, networks and teams were received *by consent*.

May Presbytery Meeting

- The Next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2019 at Pine Springs Camp and is a joint gathering with Washington Presbytery. The proposed agenda and schedule were presented for review by the Council.
- It was MSP to adopt the agenda with some minor adjustments in order.

Presbytery of Redstone

September 24, 2019

New Business

Rev. Laura Blank led the Council in exercise requested by the Synod for evaluating the current ministries and perceptions of the strengths of our Presbytery. The observations offered will be presented in a poster format by our Synod Commissioners at the October Synod Assembly.

Community

Moderator Josh Scully solicited prayer requests from the members of Council on behalf of themselves, the Presbytery and our communities. The council joined in a time of corporate prayer.

MSP to adjourn the meeting with prayer at 8:50 p.m.

June 25, 2019 Meeting

Minutes

It was MSP to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting of Council.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk presented the correspondence log since the last Council meeting for review by the Council.

Treasurer

A written Treasurer's report was reviewed for the first five months of the new fiscal year.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

No report provided. Busy with camp in full swing. Stopped for prayer for Campers and Staff.

Subcommittees/Networks/Task Forces

Staff Support - No report

Communications - No report

Missions

Received information on how our partnership began with the Sudan.

Budget and Finance

Will be meeting in August to prepare the Budget for 2020

Addictions Ministry - No Report

Reports of the various subcommittees, networks and teams were received by consent.

Unfinished Business

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

The Joint Task Force presented a proposal on the works of the committee and solicited comments from Council.

New Business

Council voted to allocate up to \$300.00 to replace the sign for the Presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Pete Goetschius presented the following report and action items for the Committee on Ministry:

Action Items

- **MSP** to call the Rev. Owar Ojulu as pastor of the Ebensburg and Colver Presbyterian Churches based upon the submitted terms of call. Speaking for the Ebensburg congregation, Elder James Stratton gave a brief account of the process that led them to Rev. Ojulu and spoke of the Spirit's leading them to each other. Ebensburg voted on September 22 – 32 Yes and 0 No to call Owar. Colver voted on September 22 – 19 Yes and 1 No to call Owar as pastor. Elder Bonnie Hill of the Colver congregation spoke of the process that led them to this point. Rev. Owar Ojulu was examined by the Presbytery. The examination was deemed sufficient. Rev. Skip Noftzger and Rev. Laura Blank, Moderator, led the Presbytery in the Investiture service. Rev. Ojulu was presented with a Redstone stole. Rev. Pete Goetschius offered a prayer for Rev. Ojulu, his wife, and representatives from the Ebensburg and Colver churches.
- **MSP** to approve the required 2020 minimum terms of call for installed pastors as proposed.
- **MSP** to approve a 2% raise in the effective salary for experienced and continuing pastoral leadership as a recommendation to congregations.
- The Committee on Ministry presented the Paid Family and Medical Leave policy for consideration as a first reading. A second reading and any action will occur at the November 2019 meeting.

Information

September 5, 2019 Meeting

Approval of Minutes

It was **MSP** to approve the minutes for August 1, 2019 meeting as submitted.

Stated Clerk's Report

Rev. Skip Noftzger gave an update to the committee on the following matters:

Correspondence Log (handout)

Minutes Review - Minutes MUST be reviewed by November 13,

Minutes not completed:

Colver; Irwin, First; Irwin, West Hempfield; Latrobe, United; West Newton, Sewickley; West Newton, United; Brownsville, Calvin; Brownsville, Ft. Burd; Brownsville, Hopewell; Dawson, Tyrone; Fairchance, First; Fayette City, Little Redstone; Leisenring; Masontown, First; Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek; Smithfield, Grace Chapel; Uniontown, Third; Vanderbilt, East Liberty

Presbytery of Redstone

September 24, 2019

MSP to approve waiver request from Dunlap's Creek for Marlene Novak to continue on Session

Moderator Report

Moderator appointments

Appointment will be needed for Puckety (see recommendation below)

MSP to take "Paid Family Paid Medical Leave" to Presbytery for a first reading in September - Second reading in October and vote in October

Reports of Subcommittees

Examinations and Membership - Presented by Skip (Cliff Foster & Pete Goetschius)

Information items

Recommend Rev. Owar Ojulu for Ebensburg/Colver to be installed as Pastor with Ebensburg and Colver

Search and Call - Chuck MacPherson & Jim Stratton

Information items

Transition Chart (handout).

Action Items

MSP to **recommend** examination of Rev. Owar Ojulu to be installed as pastor at Ebensburg and Colver.

MSP to **recommend** a 2% Increase in 2020 for minimum terms of call (*handout is attached*)

MSP by consent to **recommend** that the Presbytery recommend to congregations a 2% increase for continuing and experienced pastoral leadership.

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

Important Updates and Prayer Requests

Puckety is having difficulty searching for new Minister

Prayers for Reunion in Mt. Pleasant as they search for a new Music Director

Prayers for Rev. Cindy Kohlmann

Prayers for Reitha at Grace

Pray that our small churches continue to grow and thrive

Prays for Monty Gamble after his heart surgery

Prayers for Lee Washlaski who is having kidney surgery

Prayers for Marnie Abraham Russell

Prayers for Janet as she undergoes a bronchoscopy tomorrow

Prayers for any congregation that may be concerned with or may have to face the thought of closing a beloved church.

Below are the names of the Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders for whom we prayed for at this meeting and send cards.

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

Lynn Mance, John Manon, Tony Marciano, Gail Mason, Bruce Maxwell
David McCabe, John McClure, Lee McDermott, David McElroy, Aleda Menchyk

Below are the names of the Churches for whom we prayed for at this meeting, and sent cards:

Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt; Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton; Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton; United Presbyterian Church, West Newton; Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah; Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo; First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore; First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon

Please use these lists to remember these churches in your prayers throughout this month

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

Reformed Theology course with Rev. Martin Ankrum begins August 17th.
Recruiting now for enrollment in Inner Presbytery Leadership Forum (IPLF) for the five (5) workshops offered for the fall semester. First workshop is August 17th. (handout)

Executive Presbyter Report

Skip and Jim and families had a wonderful time in Scotland
Become a Matthew 25 Church (Where all things are possible - helping those who need us the most)

Unfinished Business

Family and Medical Leave Policy task force (2018 General Assembly overture)
Second Reading---amend/revise/vote---September 5
Final version---propose to Presbytery---September 24
Authoritative interpretation on policy on moderating (GA 2018)
Non-Presbyterian ministers moderating in our churches. Would like to reserve that on a per case basis the COM would take this into consideration. If we decide to this, we need to have a policy.

- a. AP/CP subcommittee (COM/CPM)
 - i. Boundaries and Ethics Workshop – 9/14/2019; Redstone Presbytery Center
- b. Authoritative interpretation on policy on moderating (GA 2018)

Wee Kirk Conference - October 7, 8, 9 all about Small Churches - please consider attending

New Business - none

August 8, 2019 Meeting

Quorum Statement: Jim Farrer advised the acting Moderator that a quorum was not present. Because a quorum was not present, action items will be distributed for consent approval.

Presbytery of Redstone

September 24, 2019

Approval of Minutes

It was MSP to approve the minutes for June 6, 2019 meeting as submitted.

Stated Clerk's Report

Rev. Skip Noftzger gave an update to the committee on the following matters:

Correspondence Log

Received ministry report from Member at Large Rev. Colin Yuckman. Colin is completing his doctoral work as a student at Duke Divinity School.

Minutes Review Updates

Nineteen (19) churches still need to have their minutes reviewed by their respective Liaisons.

Moderator Report – Moderator appointments

Jay Lewis has been placed short term as moderator at Puckety as Doug Marshall is moving on.

Family Paid Medical Leave - 2nd Reading

The second reading has been deferred to the September 5th COM meeting. Final version will be proposed to the Presbytery for consideration on September 24th.

Reports of Subcommittees

Examinations and Membership: Presented by Skip (Cliff Foster & Pete Goetschius)

Information items

Examined a candidate for Ebensburg/Colver who was in for a neutral pulpit from out of the region (additional information was presented by Jim Stratton as they continue in the process).

Search and Call – Chuck MacPherson & Jim Stratton

Information items

Transition Chart

Action Items

MSP to approve resignation of Interim Pastor contract for Rev. Doug Marshall and Puckety Presbyterian Church effective August 12, 2019.

MSP to approve of resignation of stated supply pastor contract for Rev. Grafton Eliason and Community United Presbyterian Church effective September 2, 2019.

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

Important Updates and Prayer Requests

Lower Burrell, Puckety – Prayers Rev. Doug Marshall as he leaves Puckety and for Puckety as they progress in the process.

Newlonsburg – VBS combined with First Presbyterian was well attended.

Prayers as they look for a Director of Children and Family Ministries. Prayers as they begin the work of looking for a new Associate Pastor as Marnie has announced her intention to retire.

Murrysville, Union – Prayers for Rev. Campbell's son.

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek – Continue to hold steady.
First Presbyterian, Belle Vernon will be holding their annual peach festival.
New Florence, Trinity – Prayers for successful response as they reach out with an ad placed in a magazine.
Johnstown, Bethany – Prayers for Brad.
Brad Dayton Protestant Campus Minister at University of Pittsburgh Johnstown (UPJ).
The counselors at Pine Springs enjoyed receiving their care packages.
Wee Kirk 2019 Northeast Small Church Conference at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA.
Prayers for any congregation that may be concerned with or may have to face the thought of closing a beloved church.

Below are the names of the Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders for whom we will pray at this meeting. Prayer led by Jeff Smith.

Wendy Keys, William King, Dick Klein, Steve LaSor, Jay Lewis, Kent Lighthall, Carlisle Lloyd, Dennis Macaleer, Chuck MacPherson, and Rebecca Maiman

Below are the names of the Churches for whom we prayed for at this meeting. Prayer led by Chuck MacPherson.

United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington; New Salem Presbyterian Church; New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon; Patton Presbyterian Church; Revloc Presbyterian Church; Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale; Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock; Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford; Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown

Please use these lists to remember them in your prayers throughout this month

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

Reformed Theology course with Rev. Martin Ankrum begins August 17th.
Recruiting now for enrollment in Inter Presbytery Leadership Forum (IPLF) for the five (5) workshops offered for the fall semester. First workshop is August 17th. (handout)

Executive Presbyter Report

Rev. Skip Noftzger will be traveling to Scotland with Jim Farrer in August. Prayers for safe travel.

Unfinished Business

Family and Medical Leave Policy task force (2018 General Assembly overture)
Second Reading---amend/revise/vote---September 5
Final version---propose to Presbytery---September 24
Authoritative interpretation on policy on moderating (GA 2018)
Non-Presbyterian ministers moderating in our churches. Would like to reserve that on a per case basis the COM would take this into consideration. If we decide to this, we need to have a policy.

Presbytery of Redstone

September 24, 2019

New Business - none

June 6, 2019 Meeting

Approval of Minutes

It was **MSP** to approve the minutes for May 2, 2019 meeting as submitted.

Stated Clerk's Report

Rev. Skip Noftzger gave an update to the committee on the following matters:

Correspondence Log

Upcoming Minutes Review dates

Not Completed - correlated with Liaisons

Review procedure

Session Minutes Schedule

Clerk's Handbook

Moderator Report - Moderator appointments - none

Reports of Subcommittees

Examinations and Membership: Cliff Foster & Pete Goetschius

Information items

Mentor for Rev. Molly Hall at Springhill Furnace, Donna Havrisko

Search and Call - Chuck MacPherson & Jim Stratton

Information items

Transition Chart (handout);

Action Items

MSP To approve interim pastor contract hire Ron Durika starting July 15 for the Latrobe Presbyterian Church effective August 1, 2019. (Ron has been associate Pastor @ Irwin)

Care of Congregations and Congregational leaders

Prayers for Rev. Sue Washburn as she begins her Radiation Treatments

Prayers: for Churches to grow their Congregations and many facing Financial problems, several Churches in Fayette do not have ministers and only using Pulpit Supply.

Prayers for our Churches preparing for Bible School - Several churches often combine for Bible School and in the New Alexandria Area their churches include not only Presbyterian, but also Methodist and the Catholic Church in the Area.

Below are the names of the Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders for whom we will pray at this meeting.

Glenn Hart, Donna Havrisko, James Hepler, Donna Hess

George "Joey" Hickok, Douglas Holben, Alexander Jalso

Jane Johnson, Ron Johnson, Peter Keith, Clark Kerr

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

Below are the names of the Churches for whom we prayed for at this meeting.
McClellandtown Presbyterian Church; Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown; Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant; First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria; Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria; Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence; Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence

Please use these lists to remember them in your prayers throughout this month

AP/CP subcommittee (COM/CPM)

Recruiting now for enrollment in IPLF (Inner Presbytery Leadership Forum) for the fall semester. (booklets)

Executive Presbyter report

Skip is starting his Sabbatical June 7 - August then leaves for Scotland with Jim Farrer in August.

Unfinished Business

Family and Medical Leave Policy task force (2018 General Assembly overture)

First Reading - Questions / concerns --- June 6

Second Reading---amend/revise/vote---August 8

Final version---propose to Presbytery---September 24

Authoritative interpretation on policy on moderating (GA 2018)

Non-Presbyterian ministers moderating in our churches. Would like to reserve that on a per case basis the COM would take this into consideration. If we decide to this, we need to have a policy.

New Business - none

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Caroline Vickery presented the following report and action item for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

Action Items

- **MSP** to move Cynthia Bellina from Inquirer to Candidate status. Cynthia Bellina is a Ruling Elder of the Third Uniontown congregation. The presbytery asked questions about Cynthia's sense of call. Rev. Laura Blank, Moderator, led a litany of moving Cynthia from the Inquirer to Candidate phase of the process.

Information

September 3, 2019 Meeting

1. **MSP** - June minutes approved with amendment to 2a to read "failed exegesis twice" and with the addition of Ray Edelman as "present."

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

2. Meeting with Cynthia Bellina
 - a. She has been doing some preaching, though limited due to completion of Intensive at Dubuque in Aug. Said her call felt stronger than ever after completion of this class, and no longer feeling bogged down by job and previous responsibilities to extended family. Results of personality inventory have still not been sent either to Skip or Cynthia.
 - b. SPM (Supervised Practical Ministry) options - Dubuque requires participation in three:
 1. A church large enough to have a full-time pastor to allocate certain duties and supervise student
 2. CPE
 3. Small church in order to serve as "solo" student pastor, being exposed to all traditional pastoral duties (supervised by neighboring pastor, Skip, etc.)
 4. Church plant/1,001 Worshipping Community
 5. (Committee recommends she complete her first SPM unit in congregational ministry.)
 - c. **MSP** - Motion to move Cynthia Bellina from Inquirer status to Candidate.

June 4, 2019 Meeting

1. Rev. Rach opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Meeting with Rick Watson:
 - a. While Rick passed all other ordination exams easily, he has failed Greek exegesis twice. Committee discussed possible reasons and what can be done to assist him in the future.
 - b. Rev. Noftzger will contact PTS to see if Rick may have access to the Seminary library when he attempts to re-take exam in Sept.
 - c. Rick agreed to send CPM members copies of his exegesis exams for them to read and offer constructive comments.
 - d. The committee will also begin to pursue the option of "alternate means" if candidate does not pass exam in the fall.
 - e. Committee read and offered feedback on candidate's Statement of Faith, as well as his PIF.
 - f. It was recommended that committee wait until closer to September to approve PIF circulation.
3. Rev. Rach offered a prayer both for Rick and to close the meeting.

(There were no official motions made or passed during this meeting.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Barry Poglein presented the following report and action items of the Nominating Committee:

Action Items

- The Nominating Committee nominates RE Belinda Lambie, Colver Presbyterian Church to serve as Vice Moderator, 2020. (this office will be elected at the November stated

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

meeting, Manual 2.1201). There were no nominations from the floor.

- The Nominating Committee presented the following nominations to the Offices/Classes indicated.

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL:

- Rev. Laura Blank, Pleasant View, Smock (chair) (2020)
- Audrey Cottle, Little Redstone, Fayette City (2022)
- Len Morgan, Calvin United, Scottdale (2022)
- Rev. Don Glunt, Rehoboth, Belle Vernon (2022)
- Rev. Lori Bass Riley, MAL (2022)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

- Jim Stratton, First, Ebensburg (2022)
- Marsha Stallings, Community, New Alexandria (2022)
- Rev. Aleda Menchyk, HR (2022)
- Rev. Molly Hall, Springhill Furnace, Lake Lynn (2022)
- Josh Scully, Little Redstone, Fayette City (2022)
- Ryan Sedlak, Second, Johnstown (2022)
- Rev. Sue Washburn, Reunion, Mt. Pleasant (2022)
- Rev. William King, First, Jeannette (2022)
- Rev. James Gear, Trinity, Uniontown (2020)
- Rev. Wendy Keys, United, New Kensington (2020)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY:

- Robin Jennings, First, Greensburg (2022)

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION:

- Linda Dickson, First, Greensburg (2025)
- Elsie Deem, Grace Community (2025)
- Glenn Hart, Harmony, Belle Vernon (2021)

PINE SPRINGS CAMP:

- Robin Toops, First, Irwin (2022)
- Laurie Martin, Poke Run, Apollo (2022)

- The Nominating Committee presented the following to be elected as General Assembly Commissioners, Young Adult Advisory Delegates, and Alternates.

2020 GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

- Rev. Derek Campbell, Union, Murrysville
- Rev. Laura Blank, Pleasant View, Smock
- Bobbi Jo Huebner, First, Belle Vernon
- Jeff Smith, Rehoboth, Belle Vernon
- Rev. Sue Blank, Presbyterian Sr. Care (alternate)
- Rev. Marnie Silbert, Newlonsburg, Murrysville (alternate)

Presbytery of Redstone September 24, 2019

- Samantha Phillips, Pleasant View, Smock, YAAD
- Briana Lohr, Westmont, Johnston, (YAAD alternate)

It was **MSP** to nominate all of the nominees to their respective committees.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Skip Noftzger noted the clerk's correspondence log and he also reported the following:

Report of the Stated Clerk:

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. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2020 calendar year approved by the Council are presented below. The following congregations and agencies have agreed to host. We are still receiving invitations for March and May.
 - o January 25, 2020, Saturday - 1:00 p.m.; Maplewood Presbyterian Church
 - o March 24, 2020, Tuesday
 - o May 19, 2020, Tuesday
 - o September 22, 2020, Tuesday - 6:00 p.m.; Redstone Highlands, Greensburg
 - o November 21, 2020, Saturday - 1:00 p.m.; Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell

NEW BUSINESS

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

ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster gave the attendance report. He reported that there were 31 clergy and 5 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 27 elders (representing 24 congregations), 0 Christian Educators, 5 by virtue of office, 6 corresponding members and 10 visitors for a total of 82. There also were 44 congregations without elder representation.

The Associated Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster reported that the Investigating Committee formed in conjunction with the Presbytery of Tropical Florida has filed charges on Friday, September 20, 2019.

The combined meeting of Washington and Redstone Presbyteries was reconvened. The presbyteries joined together in singing "We Are One in The Spirit".

AJOURNMENT

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting with prayer at 2:16 p.m.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Brian Kilbert offered the benediction prayer.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Saturday, November 23, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock.

Presbytery of Redstone
September 24, 2019

Laura Blank, Moderator

Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk