



2021 Stated Meeting

of the

Presbytery of Redstone
Presbyterian Church (USA)

May 25, 2021



ONLINE (ZOOM)

**CONTACT PRESBYTERY OFFICE
FOR MEETING ID# AND PASSWORD**

OR

First Presbyterian Church
Greensburg, PA

*Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World
Together*

There are opportunities for a limited number of participants in person at First Presbyterian, Greensburg. If you have been vaccinated and desire to participate in person, please notify the Presbytery office.

Directions to Connect to the Presbytery ZOOM Meeting

USING A COMPUTER WITH A CAMERA, TABLET OR SMARTPHONE

If your computer doesn't have a camera, it will be easier to use dial in by smartphone or landline

<https://zoom.us/j/7248376737>

Meeting ID: 7248376737

USING A SMARTPHONE TO DO A CONFERENCE CALL (NO VIDEO)

Click one of these and it should log you in:

Using a landline

Dial 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Or, click here to find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abZiP0Z9bl>

When prompted enter the Meeting ID: 724 837 6737

Zoom Meeting Tips – Presbytery Meeting – May 25, 2021 (join-5:45 for 6:00 start)

VIDEO PARTICIPATION

BEFORE THE MEETING, find the computer, tablet or phone that you will use.

1. [Click here](#). It will automatically encourage you to install Zoom on your device. If it says the website is invalid, it's because you need the Zoom account. OR, you can just download the Zoom link from your app store.
2. If you are on a laptop you can go to Zoom.us and create an account there. Remember your login info!
3. If you are on a phone or tablet install the app. If you click on the blue link on your phone/tablet it should have a banner at the top to take you to the zoom app where you can create an account. App usually remembers the log



in, but you should, too! Here is what the app looks like:

Day of the meeting:

15 minutes BEFORE the meeting, click on the blue link again and it should take you directly to the meeting on your laptop/phone/tablet. OR, log into Zoom.us and enter the meeting ID yourself.

To join by phone for audio only all you have to do is dial and then enter the meeting ID

Dial 1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Or, click here to find your local number: <https://zoom.us/j/abZiP0Z9bl>

When prompted enter the Meeting ID: 727 837 6737

NOTE: If you will be using a cell phone---please call us (724.837.6737) ahead of time to let us know your name/church and cell phone # you will be using.

MEETING DAY:

- Have the Zoom link/information ready and available at least 20-30 minutes before the meeting
- Select a quiet, bright environment with light in front of you. Bright lights or windows behind you or you will be a shadow!
- Select the link/call the number to join the meeting at least fifteen minutes ahead (5:45 p.m.)
- Basic navigation instructions and reminders will be given at that time that include:
 - Renaming yourself/identifying church
 - Muting/unmuting participants
 - Identifying yourself to the moderator for wanting to speak
 - Voting procedures
 - Using the Chat function
 - Responding to "Polls"
 - Using Speaker view and Gallery view

-If you are unable to connect to the meeting and you need assistance, please call Sue Washburn @ 412-760-7469 for tech support.

DURING THE MEETING:

Joining the meeting:

-Name yourself/congregation either by selecting/changing your "square" (three dots..."rename") or by announcing yourself (if using a phone). From there, once the meeting begins, be muted (eliminates background noise) until your need/want to participate orally (see below) at any point.

If you are presenting:

-During the meeting, you will need to unmute yourself and speak when called upon by the moderator. If you have "slides" to show as part of your presentation, please send them to the Presbytery office at least the day before the meeting.

If you wish to speak:

- Signal your desire by using the chat or raise hand function
- The Clerk or Associate Clerk will be monitoring this and will let the Moderator know. When the Moderator recognizes you, then:
 - Remember to unmute
 - Say your name and the congregation/ministry you serve or represent
 - Then share your question, motion, point of order, etc.

Voting:

-Depending upon the action, the Moderator will initiate either a voice vote of acclamation or use of Polls or Hand raising or some other visual clue. If you have DIALED in you will be given an opportunity for either a voice/text vote.

Breakout Rooms:

-Parts of the meeting could also take place through segmenting participants into “breakout rooms” for smaller group discussions.

Online meeting etiquette:

A few tips for your own (and everyone else) benefit.

-Even though it’s tempting, try not to multitask too much. This might include talking to others in your room, checking the phone, eating meals, etc. AND if you give in to any of those temptations, please make sure that you are muted.

-Remember that everyone else can see you in Gallery view, so there is no hiding in the “back pew” or having unobtrusive side conversations. So just be aware.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MEETING

- **The offering for this meeting will go to the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.**

To make your Offering through online contributions go to www.redstonepresbytery.org and click on the green “GIVE NOW” link on the left of the page.

You will need to login - or create a profile if you don’t already have one - and then designate your offering in the space(s) provided. You may also mail your Offering to the Presbytery office at 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Please designate “Presbytery Offering” on the memo line.

- **Presbyters are reminded to get “Prayer Requests” to the Clerk as soon as possible as they will be lifted up during the prayers in the Worship Service.**

**Presbytery of Redstone Gathering
ZOOM Meeting
May 25, 2021**

	<i>Minutes reading available at First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg at 5:00 p.m.</i>	
	GATHERING VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP ROOM	
6:00 p.m.	<u>Presbytery Gathering Convenes</u> Gathering Song/Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Roll • Seating of Corresponding Members 	<i>Sanctuary</i> Rev. Cliff Foster
	<u>Stated Clerk</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence Log • Representation report • Synod minutes review Consent Agenda <u>Presbyterian Foundation</u> <u>Executive Presbyter</u>	Rev. Skip Noftzger Rev. Cliff Foster Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly Rev. Skip Noftzger
	<u>Call to Worship</u> <u>Hymn</u> <u>Prayer of Confession</u> <u>Assurance of Pardon</u>	
	<u>THE WORD</u> John 15:9-17 <i>“One More Time...”</i>	Rev. Sue Wonderland
	<u>SACRAMENT OF THE LORD’S SUPPER</u>	
	<u>PRAYER AND INTERCESSION—Breakout rooms</u>	
	<u>RESPONDING TO THE WORD—SHARING IN MINISTRY AND MISSION</u>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ---Treasurer ---Boswell Administrative Commission ---Matthew 25 Addition – New Salem • Committee on Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Honorable Retirement of Lee McDermott -Commissioning Karen Kifer (Sewickley) and Tony Marciano (Leisenring) 	Chuck West John Dickson Joshua Scully Rev. Pete Goetschius

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Preparation for Ministry -Christian education alternatives • Nominating Committee -Nomination of PCUSA Ordination examination readers • Pine Springs Camp -- Summer plans • Mission Committee Report <p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p>Rev. Geoff Rach</p> <p>Rev. Aleda Menchyk</p> <p>Greg Davis</p> <p>Rev. Donna Havrisko Rev. Owar Ojulu</p>
ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP		
	<p><u>Benediction</u></p> <p><u>Adjournment--</u></p> <p><i><u>There will be a special called meeting of the Presbytery on July 20 to examine and approve the call of a candidate as Pastor of Westmont Presbyterian Church. The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on September 22, 2021 at Pine Springs Camp.</u></i></p>	

The Parish Papers for May and June are included with the Appendices as Appendix E

Worship

Prelude

John Salveson
First Presbyterian, Greensburg

Call to Worship

Leader: In the last days it shall come to pass God's Spirit is poured out on all flesh,

People: sons and daughters shall prophesy, young men shall see visions,
and old men shall dream dreams.

Leader: On the captives, both men and women, God's Spirit will be poured out and they shall prophesy.

People: Let us call upon the name of the Lord who alone has given us salvation

Hymn

John Salveson
Robin Jennings

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Almighty God, you poured out your Spirit upon gathered disciples creating bold tongues, open ears and a new community of faith. We confess that we hold back the power of your Spirit among us. We do not listen for your word of grace, speak the good news of your love or live as a people made one in Christ.

Have mercy on us, O God. Transform our timid lives by the power of your Spirit and fill us with a flaming desire to be your faithful people, doing your will for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Reading(s)- John 15:9-17

Sermon

"One More Time..."

Rev. Sue Wonderland

Hymn

John Salveson
Robin Jennings

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Prayer Breakout Rooms

Responding---Sharing in Mission and Ministry

STATED CLERK'S REPORT:

1. 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.

Correspondence Log

Date Received	Received From	Content	Action
May 10, 2021 - email	Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon	Manse Inspection Report	To FILE
May 5, 2021 - hand delivered	Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton	Commissioned Pastor Contract with Karen Kifer and 2021 Terms of Call	To COM and FILE
May 4, 2021 - email	Rev. Molly Hall	2 nd of 3 Mandatory Clearances	To FILE
April 29, 2021 - email	Rev. Geoff Rach	Information regarding Certification Education for Christian Educators	To CPM and FILE
April 28, 2021 - hand delivered	Leisenring Presbyterian Church	Commissioned Pastor Contract with Anthony Marciano	To COM and FILE
April 26, 2021 - email	Westmont Presbyterian Church, Johnstown	Correspondence Regarding PNC nominee	To FILE
April 20, 2021 - email	Synod of the Trinity	Synod COM-CPM Recordings & Resources	To FILE
April 20, 2021 - email	PCUSA	Information on deadlines for GA Business to bring to the 225 th General Assembly in 2022	To FILE
April 16, 2021 - email	Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett President & Executive Director Presbyterian Mission Agency	Regarding New Salem Presbyterian Church becoming a Matthew 25 congregation	To FILE
April 7, 2021 - email	Synod of the Trinity	Information on Applying for a Grant	To FILE
April 5, 2021 - mail	Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville	Interim Pastor Contract with the Rev. Sue Washburn	To COM and FILE
March 23, 2021 - mail	Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence	3 of 3 Mandatory Clearances for Rev. Rick Sweeney	To FILE

2. Committee on Representation Annual Report - 2020

Standing Committees	# Members	Gender	Age	TE/RE	Ethnicity
Council	18	9-M; 9-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 5-(36-50); 9-(51-65); 4-(66+)	8-TE; 10-RE	16-W 1-AA 1-NA
Nominating	3	1-M; 2-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 2-(51-65); 1-(66+)	1-TE; 2-RE	3-W
Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	9	5-M; 4-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 2-(36-50); 5-(51-65); 2-(66+)	5-TE; 4-RE	9-W
Committee on Ministry (COM)	22	12-M; 10-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 1-(36-50); 13-(51-65); 8-(66+)	11-TE; 11-RE	21-W 1-AA
Representation	3	1-M; 2-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 2-(51-65); 2-(66+)	1-TE; 2-RE;	2-W 1-NA
Pine Springs Board	6	4-M; 2-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 3-(36-50); 1-(51-65); 1-(66+)	3-TE; 2-RE; 1-L	6-W
Permanent Judicial Commission	9	5-M; 4-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 1-(36-50); 5-(51-65); 2-(66+)	5-TE; 4-RE	9-W
Committee Summary	70	37-M; 33-F	0-(16-25); 3-(26-35); 12-(36-50); 36-(51-65); 19-(66+)	34-TE; 35-RE; 1-L	66-W 2-AA 2-NA
Council Sub-Committees					
Budget and Finance	6	5-M; 1-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 6-(51-65); 0-(66+)	1-TE; 5-RE;	6-W
Communication	6	2-M; 4-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 2-(36-50); 3-(51-65); 0-(66+)	4-TE; 2-RE	6-W
Mission	10	6-M; 4-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 8-(51-65); 2-(66+)	3-TE; 7-RE	10-W
Staff Support	5	4-M; 1-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 4-(51-65); 1-(66+)	3-TE; 2-RE	5-W
GRAND TOTALS (duplicated)					
	97	54-M; 43-F	0-(16-25); 4-(26-35); 14-(36-50); 57-(51-65); 22-(66+)	45-TE; 51-RE; 1-L	93-W 2-AA 2-NA

Observations and Recommendations:

- The Racial-Ethnic membership of the churches of the Presbytery equals slightly more than 1% of the total membership. Among those who are ordained as Ruling Elders, the percentage is even smaller. So, the current balance for Racial-Ethnic inclusion is appropriate on the Committees overall, but there is a need for greater diversity in congregational leadership which serves as the “pool” for potential presbytery leadership. Without those steps, options for increasing racial-ethnic participation in Presbytery will remain limited.
- The Teaching Elder – Ruling Elder ratios are relatively equal with regard total numbers among standing committees with actually slightly more Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders.
- Gender ratios for the aggregate of all Committees has improved and have become balanced in general across standing committees and the imbalance on Committee on Ministry from the prior

year was addressed.

- Overall, the report continues to be balanced with progress being made in racial-ethnic, gender and ruling elder status among some of the committees being sustained or improved. This information is being related to the Nominating Committee with encouragement for their work and to continue to address any inequities identified within committees wherever possible.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presents the following Consent Agenda.

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 March 23, 2021 be approved.

From the Council

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

From the Committee on Ministry

From the Committee on Representation

1. Committee on Representation **recommends** that the annual report on representation be received, filed, and directed to the Nominating Committee.

From the Boswell Administrative Commission

1. The Administrative Commission **recommends** that its report be received, filed and recorded in the minutes.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

This report provides an unaudited overview of the Redstone Presbytery's finances for fourth (4th) operating month ending April 30, 2021.

(Note: Both revenue and expense expectations for this period to keep pace with Mission objectives are to be at a budgeted threshold goal of 33%)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / INCOME

Church Commitment (CC) income for the month, exceeded the monthly benchmark goal by \$1,187. Total amount receipted was \$28,270. This is the second consecutive month CC's receipted, surpassed the monthly goal of \$27,083. YTD, Church Commitments are at budget (33%).

Total Income for the month fell just short of goal at \$3,395. Receipted in total for the month was \$32,604, versus a benchmark minimum of \$36,000. YTD Income is essentially at budget (33%).

(NOTE: Next month's budgetary pledge percentage (%) goal is 42%)

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW EXPENSES & EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES

For the current period, expenses were below the benchmark of \$35,982 and were posted at \$34,196. YTD, expenses are trending to budget. In review of expense categories and line items, there are expenses which exceed the periods 33% threshold. Such expenses exceeding the 33% benchmark, are associated with either a timing matter, or is deemed uncontrollable subject to utility demands.

For this month, expenses exceed income at -\$235. It is noted a cash transfer occurred for this period from New Covenant investments. YTD, it is recognized income is greater than expenses totaling \$4,452.

INVESTMENTS & HOLDINGS

The Ameriprise account for the month ending April 30, 2021, reports a positive change in value totaling \$18,786 and YTD the account earnings are positive at \$30,146. The total value of the Ameriprise account is \$652,490.

Other investment and holdings which include First Commonwealth, PILP, and New Covenant total \$460,922 (March 30, 2021 report).

Estimated total investments & holdings = \$ 1,113,412

INVESTMENT POLICY COMPLIANCE

All investments & holdings are in compliance with the Investment Policy, meeting all allocation percentages for Cash, Equities, and Fixed Income.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Dickson

Executive Presbyter Report

**Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger
Executive Presbyter Report**

Communicate the Word, Carry on the Work, Change the World.....Together!

VISION	3/23/2021-5/25/2021	
<p>Congregation-centered (ENGAGE)</p>	<p>Visible presence within the Presbytery engaging with congregations-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaged firsthand through in person participation in worship and offering greetings on behalf of the Presbytery in thirteen different congregations. • In nine of those congregations provided leadership through proclamation of the Word and worship leadership. • Came alongside to work with six different sessions in order to offer technical and ministry assistance in working through a variety of issues and concerns. • Served as the primary resource person with regular contact and support for four Pastor Nominating Committees. Provided initial orientation training and resources as well as guidance through the screening, selection and nominating process. • Participated in the Administrative Commission for the disposition of remaining issues related to the dissolution of the Boswell congregation. Organized and coordinated the celebration service of closure for the congregation. • Provided regular advice and resources for both pastors and sessions on possible protocols in responding to changes in health and safety concerns based upon CDC and PA Dept. of Health. 	
<p>Leadership developed (EQUIP)</p>	<p>Developing and equipping leadership within the Presbytery---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly collective pastoral "check ins" for technical, pastoral and leadership support. • Initiated contacts for possible referrals of new candidates for consideration by some of these open positions. Arranged neutral pulpits for candidates. • Coordinated with two different sessions in consideration and decision making concerning possible options for Commissioned Pastor leadership. • Consulting with Westmont PNC on aligning dates, times and options for their nominee to candidate with the congregation and be examined and received by the Presbytery. • Resourced all of the standing committees of the Presbytery along with various subcommittees, networks and task forces. • Initiated contact with a candidate under care of Kiski Presbytery to establish 	

	<p>interest, job description, and introduction of a supervisor for serving field education requirements in our Presbytery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met individually with a number of pastors to assist in transitions, ministry strategy and conflict resolution. 			
<p>Collaboration-Districts/Network (ENABLE)</p>	<p>Creating and supporting collaboration in ministry both within and outside Redstone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consulted and provided expertise with the Presbyteries of Carlisle and Beaver-Butler in the philosophy, design, format and offerings of the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation program. Offered opportunities for future collaboration. • Directed the IPLF program and coordinated technological and distance learning for the completion of the Old Testament course and the monthly workshops. • Ongoing support and work with Christian Associates through service on the Council of Judicatory Leaders and serving currently as the President of the Council. • Recruited COM and CPM members and participated in workshops on related topics sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity. • Recruited leadership and participated in the Co-active coaching training for both leaders and congregations offered by the Synod of the Trinity. 			
<p>Partnership in Mission promoted (EMPOWER)</p>	<p>Promoted and provided leadership in our partnerships in mission---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked extensively with the Pine Springs Camp Board subcommittee on the Thriving Boards initiative. Provided assistance in the development of Board documents based upon policy governance paradigm. • Continued contact and support for our partnership with the Sudan and South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, including distributing financial support. 			
<p>Operational Support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed concerns on financial contributions from church sessions with the Council. Provided relevant data for follow up with individual sessions. • Reviewed portfolio of assets with Ameriprise with the Finance committee and recommendations on investment practices with our financial advisor. • Initiated annual evaluation of Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Proposed revisions in hourly schedule of the Administrative Assistant with a recommendation approved by the Council. • Managed the cash flow of the Presbytery operations, making decisions about accounts payable and anticipating possible needs during any possible diminished contributions. 			
VALUES	Servant Leadership	Flourishing Community	Witness to the World	Generous and effective Stewardship
	<i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>			

ACTION AGENDA

Presbytery Council

[Links to complete copies of the Minutes of Council can be found online at www.redstone.org under the "Presbytery Council Meeting Dates" tab.]

Council Report Items

- **Presentation of the Finance and Treasurer's Report. (Appendix A)**
- **Report from the Boswell Administrative Commission.**
- **Matthew 25 congregational update (Appendix B)**

Information Items

April 27, 2021 Meeting

Chuck West, Moderator called the meeting to order by videoconferencing (Zoom). Skip Noftzger introduced Susan Nesti as the newest member of the Council. Moderator West called upon Len Morgan who led the group in a short devotional, discussion, and an opening prayer.

Moderator requested that the agenda as submitted be considered. That agenda was approved **by consent**.

Moderator West solicited whether there were any additions or revisions to the minutes of the February meeting which had been submitted by email. Hearing none, it was **MSP** to approve the minutes as submitted.

Moderator Report

Moderator West reviewed two items that had been submitted to the Council since the last meeting for approval by consent. Without objection, both items listed below were reported as approved **by consent**.

- Permission for First Presbyterian, Greensburg for the sale of 3rd street property.
- Permission for Latrobe Presbyterian, Latrobe for the sale of oil/gas rights property in WV.

Staff Support Subcommittee

Rev. Martin Ankrum, having provided the written report ahead of time, offered a motion recommending the approval of reinstating an additional four hours weekly and associated compensation effective May 1, 2021 for the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. After discussion, it was **MSP** to approve this recommendation as submitted.

Stated Clerk Report

Rev. Noftzger noted that the most recent correspondence log provided was up to the present and inquired whether there were any questions.

Reviewing the upcoming Presbytery schedule, Rev. Noftzger affirmed our intention to hold the May meeting to be conducted at the host site of First Presbyterian, Greensburg, but primarily offered through Zoom. The Council reviewed and affirmed the desire to conduct the September meeting alongside Washington Presbytery in person at Pine Springs Camp subject to changing conditions that will be reviewed at the June and August Council meetings.

Treasurer Report

Treasurer John Dickson had submitted a written report which was reviewed by the Council. Mr. Dickson offered insight on the increased giving in March which was desirable but may more accurately reflect "front

loading” of annual giving by a few congregations as well as the traditional first quarter giving. He encouraged those who were to be contacting pastors and sessions about their First Fruits giving to continue to do so.

Pine Springs Camp

Executive Director Greg Davis had submitted a written report. He also reviewed orally the current status of the upcoming summer camping ministry including the particular needs resulting of continuing to move forward with offering a camping ministry during this pandemic season. He also noted some anticipated retreat experiences as single day events, including the “Redd Up” day.

May Presbytery Gathering

Rev. Noftzger reviewed the proposed agenda for the upcoming Presbytery gathering by Zoom. The agenda includes the commissioning of Karen Kifer and Tony Marciano to particular pastoral service, the honorable retirement of Rev. Lee McDermott, with Rev. Sue Wonderland preaching, and opportunity for small group prayer breakout sessions. Since the meeting will be conducted by Zoom, we will use a similar format. It was **MSP** to approve the proposed May Presbytery agenda as submitted.

Boswell Administrative Commission

Belinda Lambie presented an update on the progress of the Administrative Commission for the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Boswell. She highlighted the closing service of celebration that was conducted. She described the festive atmosphere, the participation of former pastors, and the great music. She noted the primary current task is to conduct a title search on the property.

Delmont Session Follow Up

Rev. Noftzger introduced the topic of summarizing the concerns and conclusions of the Delmont Session in response to actions of the General Assembly and the Presbytery regarding statements on racism. He represented the viewpoints that Council members heard from these Session members and summarized the statement that was subsequently shared by the Session in the Delmont congregation on the following Sunday. Other participants, Rev. Curtis Paul, Rev. Donna Havrisko and Moderator Belinda Lambie offered their understanding of what they heard from the Session and their observations of the conversation. Rev. Noftzger reaffirmed that the purpose for requesting the meeting was not to convince one another of the validity of either position but to keep communication open and reinforce our connection together as churches in this Presbytery.

Subcommittees/Networks

Communications

There was no report. Rev. Don Glunt has been out sick with Covid.

Mission Committee

Rev. Havrisko noted the written mission report, highlighting the letter from Rev. Philip Akway Obang. She emphasized the Mission Committee continues to want to hear from congregations on their mission endeavors. Rev. Noftzger noted Rev. Owar Ojulu will be traveling to Ethiopia and South Sudan for the month of June. As a Council, we should consider what type of gift we might send with him to our partners with South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. She also reported on congregational vitality and that the Mission group is looking for opportunities to address issues of poverty not only for individual congregations, but in shared commitments.

Budget, Finance and Stewardship

There was no report other than to reaffirm the current status of investment assets which had reported earlier in the written report of the Treasurer.

Addictions Ministry Network

Lynn Mance reported that there had been an additional session on assembling the written curriculum available to churches. She highlighted that the curriculum was available in the Presbytery Center through a variety of media, including hard copy on DVD or on a jump drive. She also reported on the progress of the video curriculum which is undergoing final editing by Rev. McDermott.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation Network

The network had not met since the last meeting.

Healing and Prayer Ministry Network

There was no report.

Executive Presbyter

Reminding the Council of our commitment to the Matthew 25 initiative, he noted that the New Salem Church has also endorsed the project as reflecting their mission commitment. Rev. Noftzger talked about the greater purpose of God's kingdom and our labor by God's grace within it; not to sustain churches as organizations, but to be faithful in participation of God's renewal in "making all things new." He then showed the video "Behold," produced by the "Work of the People" website.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business for action, but a few questions were asked.

Committee on Ministry

Committee on Ministry Report Items

- The COM **recommends** that Rev. Lee McDermott be designated “Honorably Retired” within Redstone Presbytery effective July 1, 2021.
- Commissioning of Karen Kifer (Sewickley Presbyterian Church) and Anthony Marciano (Leisenring Presbyterian Church).

Information Items

May 6, 2021 Meeting

Approval of Minutes

It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2021.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Email Attachment)
- Minutes Review Dates (checklist will be sent out with instructions)
 - May 11, 2021---Presbytery Center
 - May 25, 2021---Pre-Presbytery
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery at the May 25 meeting to designate Rev. McDermott Honorably Retired on July 1.
- **MSP** to request having a special Presbytery meeting July 20, 2021 Tuesday at 6pm at First Greensburg and for a COM meeting same time and date for purpose of examining and receiving a candidate and for the approval of a call at Westmont Presbyterian Church.

Report of the Moderator

- Approval by consent since the last meeting for permission for the Westminster Presbyterian Church to form the Pastor Nominating Committee.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
 - No additional examinations since last meeting.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** to approve the eligibility of Karen Kifer to serve as a Commissioned Pastor, who has completed the IPLF program and been examined by the committee.

Search and Call

- Information Items
 - Transition Chart (Email Attachment)
- Action Items
 - **MSP** to approve the Commissioned Pastor agreement between Karen Kifer and Administrative Commission serving as council for Sewickley Presbyterian Church. (Karen will be commissioned to this particular pastoral service at the May Presbytery meeting).
 - **MSP** to approve the Commissioned Pastor agreement between Anthony Marciano and

Leisenring Presbyterian Church. (Anthony will be additionally commissioned to this service at the May Presbytery meeting).

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

- Since our last meeting, the subcommittee has re-authorized several of the preachers listed on the pulpit supply roster.
- Upcoming workshops
 - May 15 - "Shared Leadership-TE/RE"; Rev. Jason Hefner/RE Meg Steele.
- Recruiting new students for the IPLF program. These are ruling elders who are interested in growing in their faith, considering the possibility of greater service to the church through preaching or other forms of pastoral ministry

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Liaison Reminders
 - Minutes Review
 - Board of Pensions "talking points"
 - Continuing education for pastors
- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
 - Prayers for churches returning to in-person worship and steps moving forward with safety and understanding in mind. Praises as the numbers of those returning to church are increasing.
 - Prayers for PNCs as they start the journey towards discerning their next pastor. Praises for those with candidates as they complete the final steps.
 - Prayers for fund raising efforts for major repairs, for searching for Directors of Christian Education, and for finding musicians to accompany worship services. Praises for those connecting with members out-of-state through CDs of worship services, looking forward to a wedding, and initiating small local mission projects. Praises for Second Sunday Suppers, strawberry festivals, spaghetti dinners, and chicken pies.
 - Healing prayers for those with COVID, for sustaining health, and health problems. Prayers of comfort to those who have lost loved ones.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
 - William Youmans, Martin Ankrum, Larry Armstrong, Russ Baird, Brenda Barnes, Ross Bash, Lori Bass-Riley, Laura Blank, Susan Blank, Cliff Buell.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
 - 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; Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Bolivar United Presbyterian Church.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business to bring to this meeting.

New Business

There was no new business to bring to this meeting.

Committee on Preparation Report Items

- **Presentation of Christian Education alternatives. (Appendix C)**

Information Items

April 1, 2021 Meeting

- I. **MSP – March 4 minutes approved.**
- II. Introduced Cheryl Rhea, Certified Christian Educator. Cheryl discussed the nature and role of Certified Christian Educators not only within the life of local congregations, but within the Presbytery. She presented material on the revisions in opportunities for both CCE and Associate roles. She requested permission to have information about these new opportunities for continuing education and formation for those involved in Christian Education either professionally or as a volunteer. It was **MSP to authorize distribution of the materials through the use of a bulletin insert.**
- III. Skip Noftzger provided updates on James Vlosich and Danielle Kendig. James has enrolled in Fuller Seminary and is currently taking two or three courses. Danielle continues in her seminary coursework at Pittsburgh Seminary. He noted that he had not heard further from Cynthia Bellina. It was agreed that we would try to arrange a conversation/check in with Cynthia at the scheduled May meeting.
- IV. Ordination Examination readers---Explaining that each Presbytery nominates ordination exam readers. Redstone Presbytery readers participate in the fall and will need to be nominated at the May Presbytery meeting. **MSP to recommend Rev. Rick Sweeney and RE Robin Jennings and RE Karen Kifer (alternate) to the Nominating Committee for nomination at the Presbytery meeting.**

Nominating Committee

Nominating Committee Report Items

- The Nominating Committee nominates the following people to serve on behalf of the Presbytery of Redstone as ordination examination readers for 2021-2.
 - Robin Jennings (RE)
 - Rev. Rick Sweeney (TE)
 - Karen Kifer (RE) -alternate

Information Items

- As we prepare for the upcoming season (June-September) of identifying new leadership, 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 Aleda Menchyk, Nominating Committee Chair.
- In the upcoming months, we will be considering candidates to serve as Vice Moderator in 2022. If you desire to nominate someone (including yourself), please contact either Rev. Aleda Menchyk or Rev. Skip Noftzger.

Boswell Administrative Commission

On April 11, 2021, under the leadership of the Boswell Administrative Commission, a service of celebration and closure was conducted at the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Boswell, PA. With great music and reflections, it commemorated the many years of ministry in that location. Former ministers who participated in the service included: Rev. James Stobaugh, Rev. Bruce Maxwell and Rev. Peter Grosso.

The Administrative Commission met on May 17 to discuss possible options for use of the building and its ongoing maintenance and care. A title search will be conducted to make sure that is clear in order to examine all possible options including, any new ministry, rental, donation or sale to another ministry or interested party.

Pine Springs Camp Report

I John 3:1-Behold what manner of love the father has lavished on us that we called the children of God.

Upcoming Events

May 1 Fusion- Elementary Grades 4-5-6 1-Day
 May 15 Redd Up Camp Workday
 May 24 20th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing at
 the Latrobe Country Club
 June 1 First Day of Staff Training
 June 13 First Day of Summer Camp 2021!



should be

Retreat

PSC Retreat Ministry-We are having "BETTER IS ONE DAY" RETREATS



We all are missing camp so and although it has been difficult to plan overnight retreats, we are having day retreats beginning in April. Our first retreat Remix for Middle and High School youth was an outdoor day of fun as 35 people attended. Women in the Woods has 40 people registered. Our fusion Retreat in scheduled for Saturday, May 1st and has plenty of space available.

Summer Camp Update

- ~~Camper Registration-CURRENT 546 campers-11 Campers on a Wait list 2/28/19
- ~~PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE ARE LIMITING THE NUMBER OF CAMPERS IN A CABIN SO SPACES MAY FILL UP MUCH QUICKER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS.
- ~~Check out the Brochure Flipbook at https://www.flipsnack.com/pinespringscamp/2021-summer-camp-brochure.html?fbclid=IwAR1-pI7OvagJslz7uFkBWl_WKvVmdr1AxMm2ng2_x3t8IGI8k8G3yL9s3ss
- ~~Be looking for PSC CAMP RECRUITING POP-UP EVENTS-Coming to a parking lot or park near you!
- ~~When churches are ready, we will be ready too! Let us know when if you want us to come and safely talk about the ministry of Pine Springs Camp to your congregation, families, and youth! Church Summer Camp Packets were mailed in early February - Please contact the camp if you did not receive one. If you would like more brochures please email Mike Hurley, Summer Camp Director at mike@pinesprings.org

21ST ANNUAL GOLF OUTING MONDAY, MAY 24



Churches Can Help Campers Attend Pine Springs by Becoming an Amen Corner Sponsor A Way to Help Our Scholarship Golf Outing- Become an **Amen Corner Sponsor**. This is exclusively for churches. To become an Amen Corner Sponsor a church agrees to take an Amen Corner Sign and endeavor to raise at least \$100 by putting a sign out in a visible place in the church for several weeks and encourage congregants

to donate by giving small (or large) currency or spare change by dropping it in a box near the sign. Some churches have people who give “autograph” the sign. Other churches have people who have gone to camp sign and some churches have campers who plan on coming this summer to camp sign the form. Whatever is done, the money received goes directly to scholarships and aid for this summer. Please call Greg or Christine at the camp office for more information. Signs can be hand-delivered or can be picked up in the Presbytery Office. Please call the camp at 814-629-9834 or email Greg at greg@pinesprings.org if you have any questions.



Redd Up Camp Workday is Saturday, May 15! - We need your help! Come help us get camp ready for hosting hundreds of campers this summer. Each year this day blesses the PSC ministry and this year it will be a special blessing since it will be almost 2 years since summer campers were here! We provide the main course for lunch and we ask that each group bring a Pot-luck item, snacks, dessert or salad and we will provide the main course. We will have jobs for the skilled and unskilled from raking leaves, to cleaning buildings to helping build things! If you have questions, please call the office or email Greg Davis, Executive Director at greg@pinesprings.org or register online so we know how many people to plan for! The Blessing of This Place...We are seeing more requests for scholarships this year....here is a request that we received from a mother.

“My daughter was given the opportunity to go to your camp by a church who is paying part of her camp fees. At this time, we just don’t have the financial means to help her go. I lost my job due to COVID this year. We (did pay the deposit) but are in a very tight and fixed income and we just can’t afford to pay any remaining balance and would love for her to have this opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SUMMER MINISTRY AS WE SEEK TO PROVIDE A SAFE, FUN AND A WEEK OF SPIRITUAL ENCOURAGMENT AND CHALLENGE AFTER A YEAR ABSENCE!

Mission Committee Report

1. The Redstone Mission Network met on Thursday, April 15, via Zoom. We read Matthew 25:31-40 and reflected on that passage in light of the Presbytery's decision to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery, and to encourage congregations to become Matthew 25 congregations, which is basically what the Christian life is all about. We will meet again on May 20, but that will be after the deadline for this packet.
2. We struggle to discover the ways in which Redstone congregations are engaged in mission locally and globally. We continue to invite Redstone Presbyterians to become involved in this network to share what is working for them and what is a stumbling block. We are aware that some congregations are working with other area congregations through local ministeriums. We hope you will tell us what you are doing re: mission.
3. We read an e-mail letter from the Rev. Philip Akway Obang, General Secretary, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

"Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We are doing well in Juba, except one of our pastors passed away last week. Late Rev. William Liah was the pastor in charge of SSPEC POC3 congregation Juba. The last funeral prayers will be on Tuesday 13, April 2021 our prayers for his kids and wife.

The SSPEC executive committee already drafted a budget for Third General Assembly which will be on 26 - 31. Oct. 2021 but the budget is very huge exceeding to 105,000 US Dollars because all pastors and church delegates outside and inside South Sudan should attend to discuss the church future after eight years without a general meeting, so everyone is wanted to attend this important general meeting also new leadership will be elected.

The tickets of those who are outside South Sudan and accommodations made the budget very big and now small committee was formed to mobilize funds so this need your prayers and support.

The SSPEC reconciliation team held two workshop last month and were encouraging for the congregations and they are planning for other one this month.

The country still has lockdown because Coronavirus cases increasing every day but praise God that Ministry of health with partners brought covid-19 vaccine and vaccination started with Health workers but because of many rumors about Astrazeneca vaccine many people are afraid to take.

I have taken my first dose on Saturday, now we are making awareness to encourage people that vaccine is safe and effective.

The peace agreement implementation is going very slowly and last weeks have been some ambushes in Juba - Nimuli road and Juba - Yei road - many traders citizens had been killed on those roads and communal conflicts are still going on in some states which is causing deaths among tribes. Also, Kenya decided to close down some refugee camps where most of South Sudanese refugees are living like Kakuma refugee camp which will be another problem because where will those poor refugees go and the situation in South Sudan is not stable.

Pass my greetings to brothers and sisters in Christ there.

Thanks.

Rev. Philip Akway Obang

General Secretary, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (sspec)"

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Carlson, HR