

Presbytery of Redstone September 22, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg and via Zoom. The meeting was convened at 6:01 p.m. and opened with prayer with some prayer requests by Elder Chuck West, Moderator of Redstone Presbytery. He announced that items of new business must be presented to the Associate Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery by the end of worship via the chat feature on Zoom.

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>
	Ross Bash, MAL	
	Susan Blank, MAL	
	Sylvia Carlson, HR	
	Chuck MacPherson, HR	
	Aleda Menchyk, HR	
	John Michael, HR	
	Norma Murphy, HR	
	Skip Noftzger, EP	
	Michael Shepard, HR	
	Marnie Silbert, HR	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run	Pete Goetschius	
Avonmore, First		
Belle Vernon, First	Mary Kay Glunt	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Glenn Hart, CP	Susan Nesti
Belle Vernon, Marion		Debbie Matthias
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	Donald Glunt	John Zenobi
Bolivar, United		
Boswell, Covenant		
Brownsville, Calvin		Diane Chuboy
Brownsville, Ft. Burd		Muriel Nuttall
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver	Owar Ojulu	Belinda Lambie
Cresson		
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont		Cliff Jobe
Derry		
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		Sherry Scully
Ebensburg, First	Owar Ojulu	Amy Brulia
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		

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Fayette City, First		
Fayette City, L Redstone	Joshua Scully, CP	Lelah Sheppard
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Jill Gaetano Jim Kellam Scott Suki
Greensburg, Maplewood	Steve LaSor	Robert Bereit
Greensburg, Westminster	Donna Havrisko	Duffy Greba
Irwin, First	Ron Wakeman	
Irwin, West Hempfield		
Jeannette		Rolf Hansen
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First	Alice Tondora	Charnet Koch
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont	Rene Whitaker	Bernice Adams Deb Lichtenfels
Lake Lynn, Springhill	Molly Hall, CovP	
Latrobe		
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring	Richard Watson, CP	
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Ken Foust	Glenn Nordmark Cathy Vitari
Lower Burrell, Puckety	Brian Kilbert	Debbie Artman Matt Wehrle
Masontown		
McClellandtown	Lee McDermott	
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion		
Murrysville, First	Edward Gray	
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul	
Murrysville, Union	Susan Washburn, IP	
New Alexandria, Community	Leonard Morgan, CP	Tammy Noss
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	
New Florence, Bethel		Barry Poglein
New Florence, Trinity		
New Kensington, United	Wendy Keys	Julia Yockey
New Salem	Bill Wiegand, CP	Lou Nagy
North Huntingdon, New Hope	Brenda Barnes	
Patton		Cindy Hammel
Revloc		
Scottdale, Calvin		
Smithfield, Grace Chapel	Lee McDermott	
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	Pam Higginbotham
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Jack Battenhouse Cheryl Rhea

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Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third		Denise Engle
Uniontown, Trinity	James Gear	
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
West Newton, Sewickley		
West Newton, Sewickley U.	Glenn Hart	
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; Lynn Mance, Presbytery Council; Nancy Peters, Presbytery Council; Chuck West, Moderator

Visitors: Mike Hurley, Pine Springs Camp; Bobbie Martin, Presbytery Staff; Jeff Smith, Belle Vernon, Rehoboth; Bill Weightman, Belle Vernon, First; Herman White, Dunbar, Laurel Hill

Teaching Elders Excused: Armstrong; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Cahn; Carnahan; Catullo; Chow; Corey; Degitz; Farrer; Giesey; Graff; Hepler; Hess; Holben; Jalso; Johnson, J.; Johnson, R.; Keith; Kerr; King; Klein; Lewis; Lighthall; Lloyd; Macaleer; Maiman; Mason; Maxwell; McClure; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Sharp; Simpson; Stevens; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Upton; Van Wyk; Wirt

Teaching Elders Absent: Bass-Riley; Dormire; Durika; Gray; Manon; McCabe; Russell; Vickery

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused: NONE

Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent: Marciano; McElroy; O'Hara; Prinkey; Sunseri; Todero

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, moved that the following persons be seated as Corresponding Members for this meeting: Rev. Sue Wonderland, Synod Executive, Presbytery of Philadelphia; Rev. Craig Kephart, Washington Presbytery Executive; and Rev. Dawn Sherwood, member of Washington Presbytery. It was **MSP** to approve this motion to seat these Corresponding Members.

STATED CLERK REPORT

In addition to the written report found on pages 4-8 of the meeting packet, Rev. Skip Noftzger asked for host churches for the Stated Meetings of 2021. He also reminded about the process for reviewing the Session Minutes and Church Registers during this unique year. The Session

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Minutes and Church Registers can be read by contacting COM representative or by dropping books off at the Presbytery Office to be reviewed.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Associate Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presented the Consent Agenda. The Consent Agenda 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 19, 2020 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 2021 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

WORSHIP

The Presbytery worshiped under the leadership of Laura Blank who shared a video "Open Unto Me"; the organist/choir director of Greensburg, First, and the choir of Greensburg, First; Josh Scully who read Scripture; and Skip Noftzger who shared the meditation. The Offering from the worship service will go to the work and ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Moderator Chuck West led the Commissioning of Pastors (Ruling Elders in Particular Service) service for Len Morgan, Community United; Jeff Smith, Tent; and Bill Weightman, Laurel Hill. Rev. Jim Gear provided a Memorial Minute for John Sharp who entered the Church Triumphant on June 2, 2020. The packet included a write-up about John which highlighted John's life and ministry.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, provided a written report which was distributed within the packet.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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Treasurer, John Dickson, presented the Financial Reports for August 2020 and the written report was included in the meeting packet. He called special attention to church commitments having a shortfall of \$13,696, the total monthly income for August fell below expectations. Total income is 58% of budget but overall expenses are at 61%. There was a positive Excess Income when Council reassigned special restricted accounts to unrestricted accounts due to a bookkeeping adjustment.

MISSION NETWORK

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Chairperson of the Mission Committee, provided a written report that was included in the packet. As Sylvia Carlson reported, a Power Point presentation was shown on Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in Iowa, the wildfires out west, and Hurricane Sally and other Tropical Storms in the Gulf Coast. PDA is a presence in each of these areas. She also reminded the Presbytery that the offering from this meeting is going to PDA whose theme is "Out of Chaos, Hope".

ACTION AGENDA

Council

Rev. Laura Blank, presented the following report and action items of Presbytery Council:

Action Items

- The Council notes the first reading of the 2021 budget (consent) and offers the narrative section for explanation and description. Second reading and consideration of the budget will occur in the November meeting.
- The Council **recommended** the approval of the revisions to the Manual that were submitted for a First Reading in May and now for the Second Reading and vote. It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation. The vote was unanimous.
- The Council presented the 2020 General Assembly Commissioners for a report on the 224th General Assembly. Bobbie Jo Huebner reported on the technology of a Zoom meeting instead of the meeting in Baltimore. The plans were put together for a virtual meeting using Zoom to take care of the PC (USA). She acknowledged that the training provided made the virtual meeting happen. Josh Scully reported that the meeting began with the acknowledgement of the land owning of the indigenous people and he highlighted the financial situation of many Native American congregations. This GA elected a Native American as a Co-Moderator and she is also a Synod Executive. Sue Blank thanked the Presbytery for being a Commissioner at her dining room table. She reported on the General Assembly's response to the COVID 19 pandemic. God has called the church to put flesh on the body of Christ for the healing of the world. The mission of Christ is what the Church is about, the challenge is how we will continue to grow and show the Great Ends of the Church. Sunday October 25, 2020 has been set aside for a Day of Prayer for the Church's response to the impact of the pandemic especially for those who are being impacted economically. Laura Blank reminded the Presbytery of the work of our YADD Samantha from Pleasant View Church. The theme of GA was "From Lament to Hope". Voted 85% affirmative to respond to racism; the whole statement can be found on Presbybiz as well as Presbyterian News Service and Presbyterian Outlook. There is a call for all Councils to adopt anti-racism policies. It is our call to bind up the brokenhearted.

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- The Council **recommended** the commitment and enrollment as a “Matthew 25” Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation. The vote was 50 Yes and 4 No.
- The Council has endorsed the “For Such a Time as This ...” statement and presents it to our congregations for consideration in both confession and action in addressing issues of racial injustice. There are resources available on the Presbytery’s website. The Presbytery watched the video “For Such a Time as This...”

Information

August 25, and June 30 Meetings

- Since the last Council meeting, the authorization of participation in the Jubilee Campaign of Christian Associates (\$1000) was approved **by consent**. Chairperson Laura Blank asked if there was any desire to reconsider. Hearing none, the previous action was ratified at this meeting **by consent**.
- The minutes of the June 30, 2020 Council meeting were reviewed. It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of that meeting as distributed.

Stated Clerk Reports

- The Stated Clerk reviewed the correspondence log and the upcoming schedule of Presbytery and Council meetings for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021. Among the items received was a request from the Council of Washington Presbytery to join together in meeting in September 2021. Appreciating the request, nonetheless, it was noted the differences in the scheduled September 2021 dates between the two presbyteries. Consequently, it was **MSP** to authorize the Moderator and the Executive Presbyter to initiate discussions with their counterparts in Washington to agree to a date that would be acceptable to both presbyteries and to Pine Springs Camp (host).
- The Stated Clerk reviewed the procedure for approval of Session minutes and Church Register as the result of cancellation of the various opportunities this past spring. Clerks of Session will be afforded the opportunity to meet with the COM liaison in order to have the documents reviewed or may drop them off at the Presbytery office (call first) to be read and to be notified when they might be picked up. There remain nearly two-thirds of the sessions that need to fulfill this expectation.
- The Stated Clerk reviewed the nature of our cancellation of the March Presbytery meeting and the first-ever distributed meeting held in May. He noted the upcoming Presbytery meeting dates and locations and recognized that it would not be possible to hold the September meeting at Redstone Highlands, Greensburg. Rev. Noftzger solicited suggestions from the Council concerning possible locations. Rev. Ankrum volunteered the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg because of the size of the sanctuary, but noted the meeting would not be able to held in the evening. Greg Davis offered the camp facility for an outdoor meeting in the sports pavilion. After some discussion, consensus was reached to plan for Pine Springs Camp sports pavilion or outside the Refuge with a backup plan for First Presbyterian, Greensburg. It was also mentioned that Zoom would be offered as an alternative for those unable/unwilling to attend and/or as the primary meeting place if the pandemic conditions worsened.

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- Previously approved meeting dates for both the Presbytery and Council during the calendar year of 2021 were presented as a reminder. The Stated Clerk noted that we will need to be soliciting possible hosts for those 2021 Presbytery dates.
- The Stated Clerk reviewed the procedure for approval of Session minutes and Church Register as the result of cancellation of the various opportunities this past spring. Clerks of Session will be afforded the opportunity to meet with the COM liaison in order to have the documents reviewed or may drop them off at the Presbytery office (call first) to be read and to be notified when they might be picked up.

Executive Presbyter Reports

- Rev. Noftzger reminded everyone about previous discussions of the Matthew 25 initiative of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This initiative was to be the focus of the March Presbytery meeting which was cancelled. Some viewpoints were offered on various methods for getting interested parties together to learn more. There was some discussion about the wisdom of either moving forward as a presbytery in order to encourage congregational commitments or to wait for a greater number of sessions to participate to form a critical mass. Upon conclusion of discussion, it was **MSP** for the Council to endorse and recommend to the presbytery to become a Matthew 25 presbytery.
- Rev. Noftzger reminded everyone about our previous discussions of the Matthew 25 initiative of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This initiative was to be the focus of the March Presbytery meeting which was cancelled. He noted that so far, one congregation (Fort Burd) has “signed on” to pursue the priorities of the Matthew 25 initiative while others are considering it. He encouraged Council members to be promoting this option and how as a Presbytery, we might also join in this collective endeavor.
- Rev. Noftzger spoke briefly about our current context where awareness of issues of racism have risen to the surface. Even when not overtly acknowledged continue to be part of our experiences even in the church. During this period of time, Rev. Noftzger has addressed in writing both pastors and congregations about our responsibility concerning these issues. Yet, he acknowledged that when he does so, his words and influence as the Executive Presbyter represents himself, so he requested that the Council be willing to craft a collective statement both on behalf of the Presbytery and to our congregations addressing the responsibility of the church regarding racism. Such a statement might declare clearly not only our lament, but our challenge and ultimately, our hope. He requested a smaller task force to work him on such a statement. Volunteers included Rev. Martin Ankrum, Rev. Donna Havrisko, and Rev. Laura Blank. Drafts of the statement will be distributed to all Council members for consensus approval prior to public dissemination.
- Noting that the third possible priority of the Matthew 25 initiative commits to dismantling racism, Rev. Noftzger reminded the Council that a task force was commissioned at the last meeting to prepare a statement on behalf of the Council to address current issues of racism as a presbytery and as congregations. Offering thanks to Rev. Laura Blank, Rev. Martin Ankrum, Rev. Donna Havrisko, and Rev. Ron Johnson, he called upon Rev. Blank for presentation of the statement.
- Rev. Blank reminded the members that this would be a statement endorsed and made by the Council to and for our sessions, congregations, and members. Various members

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of the task force offered their additional comments about the process, structure, and wording of the statement. Some council members commended the task force for producing a statement that was important and reflected the Biblical and theological values necessary in our context. Rev. Blank made the motion to endorse the statement as a Council. It was MSP to endorse the statement as distributed with one grammatical change.

Treasurer Reports

- A written treasurer's report from John Dickson based upon the July financial report (seven months) had been distributed. He commended the presbytery for significant increases in June and July in church contributions but reminded everyone that we remain behind on YTD income compared to what was planned and budgeted. Meanwhile, he also noted the careful monitoring of expenditures.
- A written treasurer's report from John Dickson based upon the May financial report (five months) had been distributed. Mr. West commented on the slowdown of income receipts in the recent months. Rev. Noftzger noted that he would speak in more detail about the cash flow during the Budget and Finance report.

Pine Springs Reports

- A written report from Greg Davis, Executive Director, had been distributed to the members of the Council. Greg expressed his gratitude for the response to the "Keep the Fire Burning" campaign with now over 100,000 dollars raised so far. These generous gifts have made it possible to sustain staffing and other necessary costs through a season even when there was no summer camp. He also noted the success of the Family Camp (ground) weekends and though there will not be any PSC overnight retreats, there will be a number of these same Family Camp weekends offered in the fall.
- A written report from Greg Davis, Executive Director had been distributed to the members of the Council. Greg expressed his gratitude for the response to the "Keep the Fire Burning" campaign with over 80,000 dollars raised so far through the "week of giving." He reviewed the decision-making process for cancelling the camp and their efforts to retain retreat groups for the fall, along with alternative programming in the summer. Members of the Council commended him and affirmed the decision to cancel the summer camp as both appropriate and wise.
- The proposed agenda for the September Presbytery gathering was presented and reviewed. After some discussion, it was MSP to approve the agenda and to authorize conducting the meeting by ZOOM, except for platform participants (if they choose).
- It was MSP to receive the reports of the officers and staff members.
- **Staff Support Sub Committee** - Rev. Martin Ankrum reported on the completion of the staff evaluations and shared both in writing and orally on some of the feedback for the Executive Presbyter. He also mentioned some of the conversations with Rev. Noftzger and possible priorities for the future. Rev. Noftzger commented on the evaluation of Bobbie Martin and commended her to the Council for her continued good work even in the midst of the adjustments related to health and safety concerns.
- Rev. Martin Ankrum reported that the staff evaluations, while delayed for a few months during the pandemic, are now in process. Jack Battenhouse and Marnie Silbert are coordinating the EP/SC evaluation, while the Executive Presbyter oversees the evaluations of other staff members.

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- He also noted that celebration of Administrative Professionals Day has been postponed until the time when staff members feel comfortable being able to go out to a restaurant.
- **Communications Task Force** - Rev. Noftzger noted that we would continue to solicit announcements for an upcoming announcements loop at the September meeting even though conducted by Zoom. He also solicited writers for some upcoming schedule of eNews articles. Volunteers included the following: **September 16---Donna Havrisko; September 30---Lori Bass Riley; October 21---Martin Ankrum; November 11---Chuck West**
- Rev. Noftzger noted the upcoming schedule of eNews articles by the four General Assembly commissioners from the Presbytery of Redstone. At this time, he offered the “floor” to Rev. Laura Blank and Bobbi Jo Huebner for reactions and comments on their “virtual” General Assembly experience. Both shared of their experiences but acknowledged that much of the energy and effect of a General Assembly is not able to be adequately communicated through computer screens. Rev. Blank noted that because of the learning in this GA, it may mean some possible revisions in the schedule and structure for future Assemblies.
- **Missions Network** - Rev. Donna Havrisko reported for the Mission Network and referred to the written report. She rehearsed the importance and learnings from the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network meetings. Rev. Noftzger noted that last week, with the authorization of the Mission Network, an additional \$5,000 had been sent to the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church for general and flood relief. Rev. Havrisko called the Council to consider signing on to a public letter to be sent to the Department of Homeland Security requesting an 18-month extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation of South Sudan which is set to expire this month. It was **MSP** to endorse this letter and sign on to its submission.
- Rev. Donna Havrisko reported for the Mission Network and referred to the written report. Much of the last meeting was focused on issues and concerns of racism where there was an honest discussion. She also reported on the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Network meeting that took place the past two days. While the presentations were great, of course, there is still something missing by not being able to gather in person.
- **Budget and Stewardship** - The Council had received, through email, both a spreadsheet and charts with graphs of the ongoing cash flow in the Presbytery not only for 2020, but previous years (2016-2020) for comparison. Additionally, the proposed 2021 budget had also been distributed ahead of time.
- Chuck West acknowledged the depth of reports and analysis (historic revenue and expense management ratios) considered by the Finance and Budget committee in preparation of recommending this budget as well as other actions. He observed that the committee has received and is reviewing a copy of the Presbytery lease with the Maplewood church. In this period of greater remote work environments, the committee is becoming aware of what are our options moving forward in either retaining, leasing, or selling the building as a current fixed asset. Considerations are only very preliminary, and no conclusions or recommendations have been even proposed. The auditors have been in the office doing the field work and reviewing data. It is anticipated that we will receive the product of their work in a full financial review by our October meeting.
- Upon reviewing the nature of our “unrestricted assets” that are currently considered “designated” by previous Councils and their overlap with General Fund Temporary

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Restricted accounts, it was **MSP** to “undesignate” these accounts and list them only as unrestricted. Rev. Noftzger clarified that monies received either from donors with restrictions or provided for a particular purpose have and will continue to be honored.

- Acknowledging the financial burden that has been placed upon Pine Springs Camp during this pandemic season, the current loan obligations had been temporarily deferred. On behalf of the Finance and Budget Committee, it was **MSP** to defer payments on that loan obligation through the rest of 2020.
- In consideration of the proposed budget, Mr. West reviewed the process in which the committee had reviewed four possible budget scenarios. Working from a more conservative projection on church contributions, the first three addressed reduced revenues through reductions in either personnel, shared mission, or shared ministry priorities. The fourth budget, which was recommended by the committee, augmented such declines by increased use of reserve funds. Rev. Noftzger provided an analysis of the use of these funds in relationship both to the budget and to portfolio at that time. The projected use of these funds within the proposed budget was 5.6%. This is slightly higher than the median over the past twenty years, but well below the “peak” periods. Mr. West also noted that if church contributions exceed the more conservative estimates, then it will reduce or eliminate the use of these funds. On behalf of the committee, he moved recommendation of the 2021 proposed budget. It was **MSP** to recommend the budget to the presbytery (1st reading-9/20; 2nd reading/vote-11/20) as submitted.
- The Council had received through email both a spreadsheet and charts with graphs of the cash flow in the Presbytery not only for 2020, but previous years (2016-2020) for comparison. As evidenced in the data, cash flow can be uneven in most years, but the shortfall in the months of March, April, and May of 2020 is significant and of some concern. Rev. Noftzger identified that he had personally reached out to churches who had not offered any contributions in 2020 and addressed the concern with them. Many of them responded in June. Consequently, the amount in June is above the necessary monthly average, but not sufficient to make up for the deficits of the previous three months. The larger amount in June may also be attributable to a number of congregations paying ahead for the entire rest of the year.
- **Addictions Ministry** - Lynn Mance reported that the network had not met since the outset of the pandemic.
- Three videos had been completed and were in the editing process. The reporting deadline for the grant received for the program has been extended until the end of the year.
- **Healing and Prayer Ministry** - Donna Havrisko reported that the program on “A Retreat Morning on Thomas Merton’s Life and Influence” have not established a make-up date yet.
- Donna Havrisko reported that the program on “A Retreat Morning on Thomas Merton’s Life and Influence” had been postponed without a makeup date established yet.
- **Presbyterian Women** - A written report was provided.
- It was **MSP** to receive the reports of the subcommittee, task forces and networks.

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COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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

Action Items

- The Committee on Ministry Minimum **recommended** the approval of the required 2021 minimum terms of call for installed pastors and certified Christian Educators as proposed. (these are the same as 2020). It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation. The vote was 60 Yes 0 No.
- The Committee on Ministry **recommended** the examination of Rev. Dawn Sherwood to be received into Redstone Presbytery and approval of the call to serve as pastor of the Jeannette Presbyterian Church, effective September 27. Rolf Hansen reported from Jeannette, First of the process which led them to Rev. Dawn Sherwood. Nancy Peters reported the results of the congregational meeting from Jeannette, First on September 20, 2020. The Presbytery then examined Rev. Dawn Sherwood. It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation of receiving Rev. Sherwood and approving the call to First, Jeannette. The vote was 60 Yes and 1 No. Rev. Pete Goetschius closed this time with prayer for Rev. Dawn Sherwood and Jeannette, First.

Information

June 4, August 6, and September 3 meeting dates

Report of the Stated Clerk

- Minutes Review
 - COM Liaison follow-up - individual
 - Presbytery Drop Off - call for appointment
- **MSP** to recommend approval of the waiver request from Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church for Ruling Elder, Joan Moore
- **MSP** to approve dismissal of Rev. Colin Yuckman and Meredith Yuckman to the New Hope Presbytery
- **MSP** to approve dismissal of Rev. Suzanne Currie to the Beaver-Butler Presbytery

Report of the Moderator

- Moderator Appointments
 - Scottdale - Josh Scully
 - Delmont - Cliff Foster
 - Avonmore - Caroline Vickery
 - Community UP - Leonard Morgan

Examinations and Membership

Action Items

- **MSP** of the recommendation of examination of the candidate for First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette (at the next Presbytery meeting) by the Presbytery, if the way be clear.
- **MSP** of the recommendation of no change in the minimum terms of call for installed Pastors and Certified Christian Educators in 2021.

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- **MSP** of the approval of William Weightman eligible for consideration as possible Commissioned Pastor.
- **MSP** of the approval of the validated ministry of Rev. Skip Noftzger as Executive Presbytery within Redstone Presbytery.
- **MSP** the approval of the validated ministry of Rev. Lisa Dormire at Redstone Highlands within Redstone Presbytery.

Information Items

- Orientation of Rev. Brian Kilbert, Puckety Presbyterian Church.
- Examination of candidates for Newlonsburg and Jeannette.

Search and Call

Action Items

- **MSP** of the approval of agreement between Bill Weightman and the Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church to serve as the Commissioned Pastor (effective October 1) and the recommendation of commissioning at the next Presbytery meeting.
- **MSP** of approval of the call of the First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette to Rev. Dawn Sherwood “if the way be clear” (congregational meeting – September 13) and upon examination by the Presbytery.
- **MSP** of the approval of agreement between Jeff Smith and the Tent Presbyterian Church to serve as the Commissioned Pastor (effective September 6). Jeff has served as a Commissioned Pastor previously at Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church.
- **MSP** of approval of formation of Pastor Nominating Committees for both Latrobe Presbyterian Church and Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville.
- **MSP** of the approval of the commission for the installation of Rev. Brian Kilbert at Puckety Presbyterian Church tentatively scheduled for June 28, 2020 with a backup date of July 26, 2020
 - Connie Cauvel – RE
 - Debbie Artman – RE
 - Rev. Laura Blank
 - Rev. Skip Noftzger
 - Rev. Ken Foust
 - Chuck West – Moderator

Information Items

- Masontown is in conversation with Eric Glisan about possible service as a Commissioned Pastor. Ongoing Conversations (phone/email) with the PNC chairs of Newlonsburg, Westmont, and Jeannette
- Rev. Larry Armstrong has restored his retirement date from First, Avonmore to the end of June

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

- Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation program
 - Start-up of the Introduction of the New Testament (8/22)

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- Recruiting ruling elders who have shown interest and may be called to either preaching or as a commissioned pastor
- Workshop Schedule (for IPLF, current CP's, and current TE's)
 - August 22 – Preaching, Rev. Ken Foust
 - September 12 – Polity, John Rodgers, SC, Washington Presbytery
 - October 10 – Transforming Congregational Mission, Rev. Hunter Farrell, PTS
 - November 14 – Boundaries/Ethics, Michelle Snyder, Crows Feet Consulting
 - December 12 – Pastoral Care, Rev. Marnie Silbert
- Completion of the Reformed Worship and Sacraments

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- **MSP** to recommend to Council the Emma Johnston application from Little Redstone for \$2000 for their facility which, in turn, supports their mission.
- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests received
- Prayers were lifted for Teaching Elders, Commissioned Pastors, and Churches

Unfinished Business

- Emergency Grant and Loan Program (ongoing after continue food insecurity and other program that is in jeopardy)
 - Ongoing Mission Support with Vulnerable Populations - \$1,000
 - Opportunity Ministry Support/new ministry initiatives - \$1,000
 - Emergency Cash Flow Loan (no interest/2021) - \$3,000

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

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

Information

- Inquirers-none at this time
- Candidates – Rick Watson, Calvin, Scottdale; Cynthia Bellina, Third, Uniontown
- Rev. Vickery explained changes to CLC (Church Leadership Connection), primarily that opportunities will now be searchable by smaller units instead of simply at the state level.
- Committee met with Candidate Cynthia Bellina for update:
 - Cynthia shared about a medical issue that has had chronic implications throughout the spring and summer. She also discussed how her physician recommends correcting the issue.
 - She did not complete her previous academic term, due to medical leave; she received a “Withdrawal” not an “Incomplete” on her transcript.
 - She did register for the Bible Content Exam and plans to take in Feb. 2021.
 - Due to illness, has had to put Supervised Practical Ministry on hold.
 - Courses taking when she withdrew: Heb I, Church Hist. II, Caregiving I, and Spiritual Formation (one credit)
 - Does not feel academic load was a stressor that may have contributed to illness onset.

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- Since having to withdraw, has experienced time for more introspection and questioning state of the mission field in the near future. She confirmed she DOES still feel strong call to ministry.
- **MSP** to receive the completed Form 3 from Cynthia Bellina and file.
- Individual members reiterated their availability for her for conversation and assistance.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Rev. Aleda Menchyk presented the following report and action items of the Nominating Committee:

Action Items

- The Nominating Committee nominates Rev. Curtis Paul to serve as Vice Moderator, 2021 for the *Presbytery* of Redstone. There were no nominations from the floor. *This office will be elected at the November stated meeting, Manual 2.1201).*
- The Nominating Committee nominates the following persons for the Offices/Classes indicated:

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL:

- Chuck West, Puckety, Lower Burrell (chair) (2021)
- Rev. Martin Ankrum, First, Greensburg (2023)
- Nancy Peters, First, Jeannette (2023)
- Bobbi Jo Huebner, First, Belle Vernon (2023)
- Rev. Owar Ojulu, Ebensburg/Colver (2023)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

- Glenn Hart, Harmony/Sewickley United (2023)
- Rev. Ed Gray, First, Murrysville (2023)
- Rev. Brian Kilbert, Puckety, Lower Burrell (2023)
- Rev. Wendy Keys, United, New Kensington (2023)
- Rev. Mary Kay Glunt, First, Belle Vernon (2023)
- Rev. James Gear, Trinity United, Uniontown (2023)
- Susan Keaney, Newlonsburg (2023)
- Scott Cole, Latrobe United (2023)

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY:

- Rev. Geoff Rach, Level Green, Trafford (2023)
- Karen Kifer, West Hempfield, Irwin (2023)
- Rev. Dave McCabe, Patton/Cresson (2022)

PINE SPRINGS CAMP:

- Rev. Mary Kay Glunt, First, Belle Vernon (2023)
- Rev. Andrew Wirt, West Hempfield, Irwin (2023)

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

- Rev. Laura Blank, Pleasant View, Smock (2023)

It was **MSP** to approve this slate of nominations. The vote was 59 Yes and 0 No.

NEW BUSINESS

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

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ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster gave the attendance report. He reported that there were 36 clergy and 5 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 33 elders (representing 27 congregations), 0 Christian Educators, 4 by virtue of office, 6 corresponding members and 5 visitors for a total of 83. There also were 41 congregations without elder representation.

ANNOUNCEMENT LOOP

The Presbytery watched the Announcement Loop that had been prepared highlighting several upcoming events taking place.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Rev. Martin Ankrum provided the Resolution of Thanks for this Presbytery Meeting giving thanks to God for all that we have done and the actions we have taken during this meeting. Giving thanks to God for becoming part of the Matthew 25 program as a Presbytery. Thanks to God for the leadership of the Presbytery during this unprecedented time.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Rev. Skip Noftzger led the Presbytery in the Soli Deo Gloria.

AJOURNMENT

It was MSP to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. following the Benediction video.

BENEDICTION

The Presbytery Meeting was closed with a Benediction video by Laura Blank.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Saturday, November 21, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell.

Chuck West, Moderator

Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk