Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

CALL TO ORDER
The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was convened with a gathering song "Every Christian Has a Calling". The meeting was called to order at 6: 02 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, via Zoom videoconferencing and in person at the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, PA. The meeting was opened with prayer by Belinda Lambie, Moderator. Moderator Belinda Lambie announced that items of new business must be presented to the clerk before the end of worship.

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.

CHURCH	**MINISTERS**	**ELDERS**
	Susan Blank, MAL	
	Sylvia Carlson, HR	
	James Farrer, HR	
	Dennis Macaleer, NRHR	
	Charles MacPherson, HR	
	Lynn Mance, CP	
	Aleda Menchyk, HR	
	John Michael, NRHR	
	Norma Murphy, NRHR	
	Skip Noftzger, EP	
	Michael Shepard, NRHR	
	Marnie Silbert, HR	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run	Pete Goetschius	Valerie Hansen
Avonmore, First	Caroline Vickery, TS	
Belle Vernon, First	Mary Kay Glunt	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony		
Belle Vernon, Marion		
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	Donald Glunt	
Bolivar, United	James Sunseri, CP	
Brownsville, Calvin	Jane Johnson, CovP	Diane Chuboy
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	Jane Johnson, CovP	Kathy Haluska
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver	Owar Ojulu	
Cresson		
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont	Anthony Catullo, IP	Jack Tickle
Derry		
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First	Owar Ojulu	Martha O'Brien
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First		Robert Kubina
Fayette City, Little Redstone	Josh Scully, CP	Audrey Cottle

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Pam Slater Rick Terrill
Greensburg, Maplewood	Steve LaSor	Bob Bereit
Greensburg, Westminster	William Youmans, IP	
Irwin, First	Ronald Wakeman	Ray Edelman
Irwin, West Hempfield		Karen Kifer
Jeannette	Dawn Sherwood	Joe Carle
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First	Alice Tondora	Charnet Koch
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont		Bernice Adams
Lake Lynn, Springhill	Molly Hall, CovP	
Latrobe		Susannah Calvo
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Ken Foust	Cathy Vitari Glenn Nordmark
Lower Burrell, Puckety	Brian Kilbert	Debbie Artman
Masontown	Eric Glisan, CP	
McClellandtown	Lee McDermott	
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Russ Baird, CP	Jeannette Lindsay
Murrysville, First	Ed Gray	Keith Langston
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul Travis Webster, AP	Jeff Goff Dennis Skeers
Murrysville, Union		
New Alexandria, Community		
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	Sarabeth Stopansky
New Florence, Bethel	James Sunseri, CP	
New Florence, Trinity	Rick Sweeney, CovP	
New Kensington, United	Wendy Keys	Marie Davis
New Salem		Meg Radolec
North Huntingdon, New Hope	Brenda Barnes	John Cherepko
Patton		
Revloc		
Scottdale, Calvin	Doug Yauger, CP	
Smithfield, Grace Chapel	Lee McDermott	
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Cheryl Rhea
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third	Ronald Johnson	
Uniontown, Trinity		
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
West Newton, Sewickley		
West Newton, Sewickley U.		

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

West Newton, United			
Notation:	(*) = pastor other denomination (**) = pastor/CP serving more than one church (#) = pastor another presbytery	AP = Associate Pastor; CovP = Covenant Pastor; CP = Commissioned Pastor; HR = Honorably Retired; IP = Interim Pastor; MAL = Member at Large; TS = Temporary Supply; NRHR = Non-Resident Hon. Retired	

By Virtue of Office: John Dickson, Treasurer; Belinda Lambie, Moderator; Chuck West, Presbytery Council;

Visitors: Greg Davis, Pine Springs Camp; Karen Gray, Murrysville, First; Robin Jennings, Greensburg, First; Bobbie Martin, Presbytery Staff;

Teaching Elders Excused: Armstrong; Bash; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Cahn; Carnahan; Chow; Corey; Degitz; Giesey; Graff; Havrisko; Hepler; Hess; Hickok; Holben; Jalso; Keith; Kerr; King; Klein; Lighthall; Lloyd; Mason; Maxwell; McCabe; McClure; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Sharp, W.; Simpson; Stevens; Stobaugh; Upton; VanWyk; Washburn

Teaching Elders Absent: Bass-Riley; Dormire; Durika; Gear; Maiman; Manon; Russell; Siddle; Whitaker; Wirt

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused: NONE

Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent: Hart; Marciano; McElroy; Morgan; O'Hara; Prinkey; Smith; Todero; Weightman; Wiegand

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET
It was **MSP** to approve the docket as presented by the Associate Stated Clerk.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS
The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, asked that the following Teaching Elder from another Presbytery be seated as (a) Corresponding Member(s) of Redstone Presbytery for this meeting: the Rev. Doug Portz, Board of Pensions and member of Pittsburgh Presbytery and Rev. John Welch, Pittsburgh Presbytery. Rev. Welch was given the opportunity to speak to the Presbytery.

This was accomplished ***by consent***.

The Moderator, Belinda Lambie, invited those who were attending a presbytery meeting for the first time to stand to be introduced. On behalf of the Presbytery, the Moderator welcomed each of the first-time presbyters.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT
The Rev. Skip Noftzger presented the Stated Clerk's Report: He highlighted the Annual statistical report and called attention to the dates for the Session Minutes to reviewed.

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. **Summary of 2020 Comparative Statistical Summary for the Presbytery**

Membership Statistics	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Active members	14,799	14,329	13,961	13,679	12,543	11,477	10,628	10,287	10,017	9636	9077
Gains by Profession of Faith - 17 under	105	82	102	105	101	85	70	53	58	36	22
Gains by Profession of Faith - 18 over	169	178	146	154	155	171	170	102	119	98	30
Gains by Certificate	65	85	79	95	61	56	43	48	57	73	38
Losses by Certificate	57	95	78	243	519	437	205	65	215	34	18
Losses by Death	281	274	252	248	252	239	238	187	194	196	250
Losses by Other	211	511	417	182	781	725	732	304	106	316	344
Infant Baptisms	140	163	122	158	128	127	110	100	87	56	24
Adult Baptisms	26	25	22	35	17	24	20	9	13	14	6

As of the 2021 deadline for statistical reporting to the General Assembly, 63 churches have filed at least portions of their annual statistical reports for 2020. The following churches failed to submit their Annual Statistical Report based upon the deadline: Laurel Hill; Fairchance; Bethany; Masontown.

3. The following dates represent additional opportunities for Clerks to have their Session minutes and Church Registers reviewed for 2021.

- March 30, 2021---Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
- April 13, 2021---First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
- May 11, 2021---Presbytery Center
- May 25, 2021---Pre-Presbytery, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg

CONSENT AGENDA

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, presented 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 January 26, 2021 be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council be received and filed for audit.

2. Council **recommended** that the reports of the Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk be received and filed.
3. Council **recommended** 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

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the Palmer Community Presbyterian Church to waive the rotation of service for Diane Davis, Ruling Elder.
2. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore to waive the rotation of service for Myra Magelich and Roxie Johnson, Deacons.
3. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the Tent Presbyterian Church to waive the rotation of service for David Tantlinger, Ruling Elder.
4. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the New Salem Presbyterian Church to waive the rotation of service for Roxanne Gmutza, Ruling Elder.

From the Administrative Commission

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

It was **MSP** to approve the Consent Agenda.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ruling Elder John A. Dickson, IV, Treasurer, presented his written report calling attention to the financial reports for the second operating month, for the period ending February 28, 2021. He noted the following: both revenue and expense expectations for this period, to keep pace with mission objectives are to be at a budgeted threshold goal of 17%. Church Commitments and other Income for the month fell short of budget expectations totaling -$6, 130. Total Income for the month exceeded monthly expectations at $6, 768 due to the Payroll Protection Program dollars for the period totaling $16,100. Year to Date the budget is behind around $17,000. The Ameriprise account of our Investments and Holdings for the month of February experienced a positive change in value totaling $10,459 year to date.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, noted his written report. He highlighted the book A Great Time to Be Alive from 1944 which is a series of sermons of Harry Emerson Fosdick of the Riverside Church in New York City. Skip mentioned that he had recently pulled out a photo from before the Covid 19 shutdown began and to see how far we have come in the last year or so. This last year has given us a new perspective as we have been challenged in our faith. There are some parallels to life in the World War II era and what we have been through this past year. It is our hope that we will not just fall back into the way things used to be as we have been challenged. Skip also called attention to the Pastors Day away on April 5th at Pine Spring and to the pre-recorded services available for use.

BOARD OF PENSIONS REPORT

Rev. Doug Portz gave a report to the Presbytery on the Board of Pensions. He highlighted some of the updates that the Board of Pensions is offering to local churches and pastors. The BOP has become more flexible in meeting the needs of the churches. There are several Wellness Resources available to

members and family members, Employee Assistance Plan, Well-Being Respite, Medical Plan and several Continuing opportunities for points to lower medical deductibles for 2022. January 1 the Board moved to Express Scripts for Prescription coverage. There is also a Transitional Coverage Change that began on January 1st, for the entire month that the pastor departs. Dues remains at 37% of effective salary for 2021. There is a new Temporary Disability Plan for 2021, run by Lincoln Financial. The Minister's Choice plan has been reduced to 10% of effective salary for those who work at least 20 hours a week. When Terms of Call change in 2021 the church's Employer Representative needs to update info in Benefits Connect.

WORSHIP

We were led in worship by John Salveson, organist of First, Greensburg, Elder Lynn Mance, Robin Jennings, soloist. Rev. John Welch delivered the sermon and Rev. Martin Ankrum presided over the Lord's Supper.

ACTION AGENDA

COUNCIL REPORT

Elder Chuck West, Chair of Presbytery Council presented the following report and action items from the Council:

Action Items

- The Council **nominated** Rev. Ron Durika to serve on the Nominating Committee of the Presbytery. There were no nominations from the floor. It was **MSP** to approve this nomination.

- The Council reported on congregations joining the Matthew 25 initiative. Chuck highlighted the 3 components of the Matthew 25 initiative and then he introduced a video that was shown to the Presbytery. The video featured several churches in our presbytery who have become Matthew 25 congregations and their involvement in the Matthew 25 initiative.

- The Council reported on the work of the Racial Justice and Reconciliation task force. Rev. Martin Ankrum reported that this is the newest network within our Presbytery to continue to conversations that began last summer. The Task Force has just begun meeting. Future plans include Bible and book studies, discussion times and connecting, worshiping and reconciliation. The next meeting is March 24, 2021 at 4PM via Zoom.

- The Council reported on the work of the Addictions Ministry network. Rev. Lee McDermott discussed the curriculum that has been developed in 2019 which has 9 sessions. Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol has helped develop some videos and notebooks, PDF files, flash drives and on Presbytery's You Tube page. Copies of material are available at the Presbytery Office.

- The Council reported on the work of the Healing and Prayer Ministry network. Rev. Jim Farrer gave a brief history of the ten-year history of the Healing and Prayer Ministry network. Meets the first Thursday
  of each month at the Presbytery Office at 4:30 PM and adjourn by 6PM. Jim called attention to Appendix "E" which is Six surprise about Biblical Spirituality.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

Information Items (as published)

February 23, 2021 Meeting
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 January 12 meeting which had been submitted by email. Hearing none, it was **MSP** to approve the minutes as submitted.

Moderator Report
Moderator West noted the need for the Council to nominate members to the Nominating Committee (Manual). He proposed the possible nomination of Rev. Ron Durika to fill the open slot. It was **MSP** to recommend Rev. Durika to the Presbytery for service on the Nominating Committee.

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. The Council reviewed the particular letter received from the Session of the Delmont and considered possible responses. After much discussion, it was agreed that the Council should reach out to the Session to encourage possible in person conversation and dialogue over their concerns and differences with our actions. Volunteers to represent the Council included: Rev. Curtis Paul, Belinda Lambie and Rev. Donna Havrisko. Rev. Noftzger agreed to write a short letter requesting the opportunity to meet together.

Reviewing the upcoming Presbytery schedule, Rev. Noftzger affirmed our intention to hold the March and May meetings to be conducted at the host site of First Presbyterian, Greensburg, but primarily offered through Zoom. It remains our hope to host the September meeting alongside Washington Presbytery in person at Pine Springs Camp.

Treasurer Report
Treasurer John Dickson had submitted a written report which was reviewed by the Council. Moderator West inquired concerning any questions about the report.

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 as well as some anticipated retreat experiences as single day events.

March Presbytery Gathering
Rev. Noftzger reviewed the proposed agenda for the upcoming Presbytery gathering by Zoom. The agenda includes the commissioning of Eric Glisan to particular pastoral service, recommendation of an administrative commission, potential testimonies from Matthew 25 congregations and additional nominations to standing committees. Since the meeting will be conducted by Zoom, he solicited from the Council about suggestions for a preacher who is outside our area. Rev. Paul recommended Rev. John Welch, formerly of Pittsburgh Seminary, who had preached recently at Newlonsburg. After discussion, it was agreed that we would request Rev. Welch to bring the proclamation of the Word. It was **MSP** to approve the proposed March Presbytery agenda as offered with that addition.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

Boswell Administrative Commission

Belinda Lambie presented an update on the progress of the Administrative Commission for the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Boswell. Having met twice, the following has been accomplished so far.

- Members informed about how to transfer membership and invited to do so.
- Members informed about resources for pastoral care during this transition
- Session Minutes book and Church Register collected and reviewed.
- Current assets collected and deposited with the Presbytery
- Inventory of equipment and furnishings within the facility completed
- Adding the facility to the Presbytery property and liability insurance coverage
- Collection and financial review by the AC of past few year's financial records.
- Plans for an upcoming celebration and closure worship service (April 11?)

Subcommittees/Networks

Staff Support

No report.

Communications

Additional members of the Council signed up for eNews articles in the upcoming months. In his absence, Rev. Noftzger noted his meeting with Rev. Glunt who has agreed to chair this group and reorganize these functions.

Mission Committee

Rev. Havrisko noted our most recent contribution of 7000 to our partnership with the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. Our contributions to support their needs have been consistent thanks to the generosity of individuals and congregations within the Presbytery. Rev. Noftzger noted the discussion at the most recent Mission meeting was focused on eradicating systemic poverty in our region. As a Matthew 25 emphasis and because other groups were working on issues of racism and congregational vitality, 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

A written report of the activities of the Budget, Finance and Stewardship meeting was submitted. A summary of the final investments and holdings report for 2020 was reviewed. Additionally, it was recommended that the Ameriprise account be changed to an Advisor discretionary account which would permit changes within the parameters of the Investment policy without requiring prior approval. It was **MSP** to make this change.

Current pledges as well has historic pledges and actual amounts were provided for all congregations in Redstone Presbytery. Rev. Noftzger summarized the stewardship process by which Sessions are solicited for a First Fruits pledge and reminded among those who did not respond. Additionally, he discussed the various ways that congregations approach either making a pledge and/or soliciting their own congregants for either monies to offset that pledge or only to pass on what is received. Reviewing the results based upon categories of those churches significantly under-represented in providing their appropriate share, a few volunteers from the Council offered to personally follow up with some specific churches.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

Addictions Ministry Network
Lynn Mance reported on the progress of the video curriculum which is undergoing final editing by Rev. McDermott. Upon completion, it will be distributed through portable formats and posted on the Presbytery YouTube channel. After the Presbytery promo, some requests for copies have already come in.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation Network
Rev. Paul and Rev. Noftzger talked about the initial meeting of the network which focused on ways to move beyond our statement to engage conversations and experiences that might make a difference in transforming perspectives and values among us. Possible options include formal training in anti-racism, dialogue groups and firsthand experiences here and with important resources on the history and issues of racial justice and reconciliation.

Executive Presbyter
Reminding the Council of our commitment to the Matthew 25 initiative, he noted that in addition to Fort Burd, Colver, Pleasant View, Newlonsburg, the Session of New Hope has also joined the initiative. We remain committed to promoting this initiative among our congregations. Council members were encouraged to speak with their own sessions about the possibility.

Rev. Noftzger highlighted two upcoming opportunities for resourcing our pastors within the Presbytery.

- On April 5 (day after Easter), there will be a one-day "Pastor Getaway Day." Held at Pine Springs Camp, pastors will have an opportunity for a breather, for fun and fellowship with each other.
- Two recorded video worship services will be made available on the Presbytery YouTube channel for use in any churches for worship and/or to provide a "break" for the pastor. Rev. Noftzger will preach at one service and Rev. Silbert at the other. Either service could be used on the second Sunday of Easter or any subsequent Sundays.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT
Rev. Pete Goetschius presented the report of the Committee and reports the following report and action items for the Committee on Ministry:

Action Items

- The Committee on Ministry **recommended** the appointment of an administrative commission to serve as the council (Session) for the Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton. This is a very small but viable congregation; they have 2 Elders who will be part of this administration commission. It was **MSP** to approve an administrative commission.
- The Committee on Ministry presented Eric Glisan to be commissioned to serve as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Masontown, PA**.** Moderator Belinda Lambie led the Presbytery in a commissioning service for Eric Glisan as a Ruling Elder in Particular Pastoral Service with First, Masontown congregation.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

Information Items (as published)

March 4, 2021 Meeting

Approval of Minutes
It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2021.

Report of the Stated Clerk
The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Email Attachment)
- Annual Reports Due
  - Terms of Call forms
  - Pastor agreement forms
- Minutes Review Dates (checklist will be sent out with instructions)
  - March 30, 2021---Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
  - April 13, 2021---First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
  - May 11, 2021---Presbytery Center
  - May 25, 2021---Pre-Presbytery
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation of Waiver of Rotation requests:
  - Request from Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah to waive the rotation of service for Diane Davis, Ruling Elder (2023).
  - Request from First Presbyterian Church of Avonmore to waive the rotation of service for Myra Magelich, Deacon (2021) and Roxie Johnson, Deacon (2021).

Report of the Moderator
- No Report.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership
- Information Items
  - No additional examinations since last meeting.
  - Anticipate meeting with Rev. Karen Webster about validated ministry in the near future.

Search and Call
- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (Email Attachment)
  - Rev. Ken Foust has announced his intended retirement on August 23, 2021.
- Action Items
  - **MSP** to approve the Commissioned Pastor agreement between Eric Glisan and First Presbyterian Church, Masontown. (Eric will be commissioned to this particular pastoral service at the March Presbytery meeting).
  - **MSP** to approve the Patton Ministry Information Form and permission to post to the CLC.
  - **MSP** to approve the Cresson Ministry Information Form and permission to post to the CLC.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

- Working on re-authorizations for authorized preachers available on the pulpit supply roster.
- Upcoming workshops
    - March 20 - "Vitality in the Small Church"; Rev. Lee McDermott
    - April 17 - "Sacraments; Creativity and Consistency"; Rev. Laura Blank
    - May 15 - "Shared Leadership-TE/RE"; Rev. Jason Hefner/RE Meg Steele.
- Old Testament cohort (began January 9)

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:

  Prayers for the formation of new small groups, new members' class and continued discernment by church leaders.
  Praises to the different meal delivery ministries and those that include a written devotional with each meal.
  Praises for sponsoring a counselor from Pine Springs camp to help alleviate the cost.
  Prayers for Rev. Ken Foust and his church as he plans for retirement.
  Prayers for those recovering from surgery, those with health issues, and those who have lost a loved one.
  Praises for forward thinking, patience, and hopefulness as congregations look toward what it will look like when the pandemic is over.
  Praises for new computer systems, bringing back bell choir, and resuming in-person worship. Praises for Covenant Pastors that are plugged in with great plans and lots of energy. Prayers, praises, and blessings to all the volunteers who donate their time to the work of the church and its missions.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:

  Douglas Stevens, James Stobaugh, James Sunseri, Richard Sweeney, Denise Todero, Alice Tondora, Robert Upton, Robert VanWyk, Caroline Vickery, Douglas Yauger.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:

  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; Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt; Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton.

Report of the Executive Presbyter

Almost a year into the pandemic and we have exercised creativity and courage. However, it continues to be about patience; patience intertwined with faith. Patience is to labor on even when you don't know the end. Baseball is about patience – the patience to persist whether a scout or the player. Patience to sit in the rain waiting for a game not knowing if it will be called.

For a year, we have been impatient for our current experience to end; to get back to "normal". During this time, we can offer encouragement to our church leaders. To be an encouragement is to be helpful, inspirational, and to provide a sense of courage to help spur someone on. We can provide the church leaders the persistence and patience to see it through by sending notes of encouragement and by being an advocate for them to take a break. A Pastor get away at Pine Springs is available after Easter as an opportunity to get away from Zoom meetings and get personal. Pre-recorded services by the EP will be available that are fitting for the second or third Sunday after Easter.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

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**February 4, 2021 Meeting**

**Report of the Stated Clerk**
The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Email Attachment)
- Annual Reports Due
  - Statistics (February 15)
  - Waiver of Rotation forms
  - Terms of Call forms
  - Pastor agreement forms
  - Necrology
  - Session members
  - Manse inspection
- Minutes Review Dates
  - March 30, 2021---Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown
  - April 13, 2021---First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
  - May 11, 2021---Presbytery Center
  - May 25, 2021---Pre-Presbytery

**Report of the Moderator**

- No Report.

**REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES**

**Examinations and Membership**

- Information Items
  - No additional examinations since last meeting.
  - Anticipate meeting with Rev. Karen Webster about validated ministry in the near future.

**Search and Call**

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (Email Attachment)
  - Conducted Patton/Cresson PNC orientation; they are presently working on their MIF(s) with plans for submitting by March COM meeting.
  - Commissioned Pastors Baird (Reunion) and Yauger (Calvin, Scottdale) have begun at their respective churches and Interim Pastor Rev. Bill Youmans (Westminster) has also started.

**AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)**

- Upcoming workshops
  - February 20 - "Stewardship Year-Round"; Rev. Daniel Hans
  - March 20 - "Vitality in the Small Church"; Rev. Lee McDermott
  - April 17 - "Sacraments; Creativity and Consistency"; Rev. Laura Blank
  - May 15 - "Shared Leadership-TE/RE"; Rev. Jason Hefner/RE Meg Steele.
- Old Testament cohort (began January 9)
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Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
  Prayers for health and healing after a car accident, for dealing with stress and finding balance, and for all who need Your continued presence.
  Prayers for encouragement and peace when saying goodbye to loved ones.
  Prayers for good fit in leadership to overcome issues and challenges.
  Prayers for working through differences with mediation, compromise, and alternatives.
  Prayers for recognizing the need for administrative support to accomplish the mission of the church, a willingness of participation, and a spiritual strength to grow.
  Praises to those who obtained resources for a soup kitchen.
  Praises for the many new ways of participation such as construction paper hands for laying on of hands, worship bags containing communion, bulletins, etc., and use of FM transmitters and TV stations.
  Praises for special service during Black History Month and for each congregation and ministry in all they offer and provide.
- **MSP** to recommend to the Presbytery, that given the lack of ruling elders, the formation of a five-person Administrative Commission to assume jurisdiction and serve as the governing body for the Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
  Robert Prinkey, Geoff Rach, Marnie Abraham Russell, Josh Scully, William Sharp, Dawn Sherwood, Rebecca Siddle, Marnie Silbert, John Simpson, Jeff Smith.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
  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; United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington; New Salem Presbyterian Church; New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon; Patton Presbyterian Church.

Report of the Executive Presbyter

As a Committee on Ministry member, it is our responsibility to remind our churches that they are doing great work and to provide their examples of ministry in google form. With both congregation and pastor, the COM serves as pastor, counselor, and advisor. The COM, represented in its liaisons, are the "boots on the ground" with these ministries. Ultimately, it is about your relationship with the church through gathering, protecting, and preserving what God may desire in these ministries at this time. By God's grace and your effort, we are all
hoping, praying, and intervening to "let the church be the church."

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Geoff Rach presented the report of the Committee. He reported for the Committee has talked to 2 potential candidates.

Action Items

- The Committee on Preparation reported on the evaluation and progress of the training program for authorized preachers and commissioned pastors (IPLF). This is a shared training programs with several of our surrounding presbyteries.

Information Items (as published)

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

<u>March 2, 2021 Meeting</u>

- **MSP – Feb. 2 minutes approved** with the following amendment (in bold) to the motion re. James Vlosich: "if the way be clear" with his membership **(in six months' time)** and enrollment and other requirements such as form 1A, he will be listed as an inquirer at that time.

- Review of the Forms 1A and 1B from James Vlosich (CPM previously met with him Feb. 2):
  - Skip reported that James will enroll at Fuller Seminary with the start of the third term.
  - **<u>MSP</u> – Dawn Sherwood will be James' liaison for CPM.**

- Get acquainted with Danielle Kendig to talk about the process.
  - Becca opened this section with prayer.
  - Skip explained the Inquiry purpose and process to her, and she expanded upon her answers in Forms 1A and 1B (the following is a brief summary):
    - She is a married mother of three, homeschooling (re. COVID), and currently in her second semester of Seminary (PTS). She is the Dir. of Christian Ed at Westmont Pres Church, and has been on and off since 2013. As a youth, she did a lot of international traveling through the Leadership Now program at Lancaster Theol. Seminary; mission work was a large part of her life before marriage. She feels called to a shift in ministry from youth work as well and is eager to explore different options. Being recently awarded a merit scholarship from PTS has helped to validate her calling and she tentatively expects to graduate in four years.
  - Tony closed this section with prayer.
  - **<u>MSP</u> – The committee approved admitting Danielle as an Inquirer if the way be clear with the session.**
  - **<u>MSP</u> – Becca will be Danielle's liaison for CPM.**

- Other Business:
  - Tuesday, Apr. 6 will be our next meeting at 6 pm.
  - By May Presbytery meeting we will need to determine Ordination Exam readers.
  - The presentation on Certified Christian Educators (by Cheryl Rhea) will be at next meeting.
  - Candidate Cynthia Bellina will be having surgery Mar. 16.

<u>February 2, 2021 Meeting</u>

Committee Reorganization:

- Introduction of committee members and welcome to new members
- Geoff Rach, elected chair **<u>by consent</u>**, replacing Caroline Vickery who rotated off
- In Becca's absence, Robin Jennings volunteered to serve as secretary "pro tem."
- Meetings remain on the first Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m., and will be held as needed, either via Zoom or in person as appropriate.

Committee Overview:

- Skip provided an explanation of the difference between CPM and COM for new members to delineate how the two function and are companionable in Redstone Presbytery, along with an overview of the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Forum (IPLF) and definitions of terms for various

roles as recognized for service within the presbytery This explanation helped to inform Skip's Commissioned Pastor update.

Commissioned Pastor Update:

- Doug Yauger who completed IPLF, after examination by the COM examinations committee and approved by the COM was commissioned at the January Presbytery meeting
- Russ Baird who previously served as a CP in Washington Presbytery, having been examined by COM examination committee and approved by the COM was commissioned at the January Presbytery meeting.
- New CPM committee member Karen Kifer is serving pulpit supply regularly with COM permission under the mentorship of Rev. Ed Gray as she completes the practicums.
- IPLF current students (Redstone): Tammy Noss, Karen Gray, Gary Shupe
- IPLF course/workshop completion (pulpit supply only): Richard Zoltak, Seth Myers

Get Acquainted with James Vlosich

- James is the Discipleship Coordinator at Trinity United, Uniontown. James joined the committee Zoom meeting to share his journey and sense of call. He attended Penn State Fayette and received a degree in Christian Counseling from Liberty University. Having grown up in Adah, he now lives in Uniontown and his in-laws have deep roots in Trinity. James spoke of an "awakening" concerning a possible call to ministry at Wee Kirk. He also mentioned the widening ministry opportunities at Trinity that contributed to the "tug on his heart" to ministry and specifically in the PCUSA tradition. He was anticipating enrollment at either Fuller (online exclusively), or Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (having been accepted at both) and welcomed the feedback from the committee about his decision process. He anticipates continuing to work 30 hours per week to support his family and seminary expense. Although James has been associated with Trinity as an employee for three years, because of COVID he only recently became a member of the congregation. Per CPM guidelines he must be a church member for at least six months before being accepted for committee care, although Trinity's session has voted to endorse his pursuit. This does not preclude him from enrolling in seminary, and then coming before the committee in an official way later this year.
- A motion was made by Tony, and seconded by Barbara, that "if the way be clear" with his membership **(at the end of six months)** and enrollment and other requirements such as form 1A, he will be listed as an inquirer at that time**. <u>Motion passed.</u>**

Updates on individual under care: Cynthia Bellina continues to struggle with health issues and is anticipating surgery March 16 for an unresolved heart condition; she is currently not enrolled in any courses or training experiences. Cynthia has been a candidate since Fall 2019

New business:

- Tony will reach out to Danielle Kendig at Westmont Presbyterian Church to determine her desire to begin dialogue with the committee at a future CPM meeting. She had previously expressed interest.
- Committee members were asked to prayerfully consider their participation as ordination exam readers for fall. Names will be taken at either March or April meeting for presentation at May Presbytery meeting. Robin expressed interest in reading again, having done so for the first time last fall.

Presbytery of Redstone
March 23, 2021

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

Action Items
On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the following names are placed before you for election to positions in their respective categories.

- Council—Susan Nesti; Ruling Elder, Harmony (2023)
- Committee on Ministry—Michael Cochenour; Ruling Elder, Grace, Lower Burrell (2022)
  Jim Farrer; Teaching Elder (2022)

There being no further nominations from the floor the above nominees, it was **MSP** that the slate of nominees be elected to serve in the capacities to which they were nominated.

Information Items (as published)
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.

"EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS A CALLING" an additional verse was shared.

MISSION NETWORK REPORT
Rev. Sylvia Carlson reported for the Mission Network. She highlighted that much of what they have been talking about has been about the Matthew 25 initiative. They would like to know what congregations are doing in reaching out and what are kinds of ministry and mission that are being done around the Presbytery. The Network meets on the Third Tuesday of the month at 7PM via Zoom.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN REPORT
Rev. Sylvia Carlson reported that there will be a Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp in May and are planning for a Fall retreat.

PINE SPRINGS CAMP REPORT
Greg Davis, Director of Pine Springs Camp presented a report from Pine Springs Camp. He highlighted the events that the camp will be hosting in the near future: the Pastor's retreat on April 5th and the Spring PW Gathering. There are several upcoming events that were highlighted in the report and many of these events are outdoors. Summer camp registration as of today is 442 campers with 6-8 per cabin. Late April and early May there will be pop-up events to promote the camp season. They are recruiting summer staff and Mike Hurley will be training the staff. The upcoming golf outing will be held on May 2, 2021 and being an 'amen corner' sponsor. Redd up day will be on May 15th. The theme this summer is "Come Home" and will be studying Luke 15, the parable of the Prodigal Son. Greg asked for prayer as the summer camping season approaches.

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 39

clergy and 6 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 29 elders (representing 26 congregations), 0 Christian Educator, 3 by virtue of office, 4 visitors, 2 Corresponding Members for a total of 83. There were 41 congregations without elder representation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP
The Presbytery watched the Announcement Loop that highlighted many of the upcoming events within our Presbytery over the next several months. The Announcement Loop will be available on the Presbytery website.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS
Rev. Wendy Keys of New Kensington, United offered the Resolution of Thanks for this meeting.

BENEDICTION
Rev. Martin Ankrum of First, Greensburg offered the benediction prayer.

AJOURNMENT
It was **MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 8:09 p.m. After the concluding prayer the remaining verses of "Every Christian Has a Calling" was played.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Tuesday, May 25, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via zoom videoconferencing and at the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg.

_____
Belinda Lambie, Moderator

_____
Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk