

Presbytery of Redstone November 20, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was held on Saturday, November 20, 2021 at the Colver Presbyterian Church and via Zoom. The meeting was convened at 10:05 a.m. and opened with prayer by Elder Belinda Lambie, Moderator of Redstone Presbytery. She 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 or in person.

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	
	Lee McDermott, HR	
	Aleda Menchyk, HR	
	Skip Noftzger, EP	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run		
Avonmore, First		
Belle Vernon, First		Nancy Komlos
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Glenn Hart, CP	
Belle Vernon, Marion		Celeste Wukovich
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth		
Bolivar, United		
Brownsville, Calvin		
Brownsville, Ft. Burd		Kathy Haluska
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver	Owar Ojulu	Bonnie Hill
Cresson		
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont		
Derry		
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First	Owar Ojulu	Jim Stratton
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First		
Fayette City, Little Redstone	Joshua Scully, CP	Audrey Cottle
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Robin Jennings; Donna Wetzel
Greensburg, Maplewood		
Greensburg, Westminster	Bill Youmans, IP	
Irwin, First	Ron Wakeman	Ray Edelman
Irwin, West Hempfield	Andrew Wirt	
Jeannette	Dawn Sherwood	Mark Mennano

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Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First	Alice Tondora	Sheila Farrer
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont	Ben Nti	Bernice Adams; Deb Lichtenfels; Gary Lichtenfels
Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace	Molly Hall	
Latrobe		
Latrobe, United	John Simpson, IP	
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Doug Marshall, IP	
Lower Burrell, Puckety		Kelly Kapelewski; Debbie Artman
Masontown		
McClellandtown		Wendy Brown
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Russ Baird, CP	
Murrysville, First		
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul Travis Webster, Associate Pastor	
Murrysville, Union		
New Alexandria, Community	Leonard Morgan, CP	
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	
New Florence, Bethel		
New Florence, Trinity		
New Kensington, United		
New Salem		
N. Huntingdon, New Hope	Brenda Barnes	
Patton		
Revloc	David O'Hara, CP	
Scottdale, Calvin	Doug Yauger, CP	
Smithfield, Grace Chapel	Regina Schrecengost, Student Pastor	
Smock, Pleasant View		
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Cheryl Rhea
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third		
Uniontown, Trinity		
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
West Newton, Sewickley		
West Newton, Sewickley U.	Glenn Hart, CP	
West Newton, United		
Notation:	(*) = pastor from another denomination (#) = pastor from another presbytery	CP=commissioned pastor IP=interim pastor CovP=covenant pastor MAL=Member-at-Large

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	(**) = pastor or CP serving more than one church EP=Executive Presbyter	HR=Honorably Retired NRHR=Non-resident Honorably Retired TS=Temporary Supply
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By Virtue of Office: John Dickson, Treasurer; Bobbi Jo Huebner, Presbytery Council; Belinda Lambie, Moderator; Lynn Mance, Presbytery Council; Susan Wonderland, Synod of the Trinity

Visitors: Greg Davis, Pine Springs Camp; Bobbie Martin, Presbytery Staff; Eva Tomb, Ebensburg

Teaching Elders Excused: Armstrong; Blank, L.; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Cahn; Carnahan; Catullo; Chow; Corey; Degitz; Gear; Giesey; Glunt, D.; Glunt, M.; Graff; Gray; Hepler; Hess; Holben; Jalso; Keith; Kerr; Keys; Kilbert; King; Klein; LaSor; Lewis; Lighthall; Lloyd; Macaleer; Mason; Maxwell; McClure; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Stevens; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Upton; Van Wyk

Teaching Elders Absent: Durika; Goetschius; Manon; Russell; Washburn

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused: Kifer

Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent: Glisan; Marciano; Prinkey; Smith; Sunseri; Todero; Weightman; Wiegand

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Moderator called for the adoption of the Docket as printed in the Packet. The following changes were made to the docket: the report of the Synod of the Trinity Commissioners was moved to immediately following the Treasurer's Report. The docket was approved with these changes *by consent*.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, asked that the following person be seated as a corresponding member: Susan Wonderland, Synod Transitional Executive and a member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia; and to give Privilege of the Floor to Regina Schrecengost, a student under Care of Kiski Presbytery. It was **MSP** to approve these actions.

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

Elder Bonnie Hill, Clerk of Session of Colver Presbyterian Church, welcomed the Presbytery to Colver and provided the Presbytery with the arrangements for the meeting.

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

Report of the Stated Clerk:

1. Correspondence Log:
 - a. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.
2. The Stated Clerk presented the 2022 Presbytery gathering dates and locations as approved by Council.

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- a. January 29, 2022, Saturday – 1:00 p.m.; First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg
 - b. March 22, 2022, Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.; Location TBD
 - c. May 24, 2022, Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.; Location TBD
 - d. September 27, 2022, Tuesday – 6:00 p.m.; Location TBD
 - e. November 19, 2022, Saturday – 9:00 a.m.; Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church
3. Review of the 2020 Session minutes and Church Registers has been completed and submitted to the COM. The minutes and the church registers of the following congregations were not reviewed: Brownsville, Calvin; Brownsville, Hopewell; Dawson, Tyrone; Fayette City, Little Redstone; Jeannette, First; Leisenring; Merrittstown, Dunlap’s Creek; Scottdale, Calvin; Uniontown, Third; and West Newton, United.
4. Annual statistical reporting is now open and available for Clerks of Session. Packets are available at the Presbytery website and a handout on the online reporting was in the packet.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, 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 September 28, 2021, be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommended** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council be received and filed for audit.
2. As part of the 2022 annual budget, the Council **recommended** the approval of the 2022 Terms of Call (see below) for the Executive Presbyter.
Salary – 55,390; Housing---15,000; Deferred Compensation (403B) ---11,877
Pensions (medical, retirement, death/disability) ---19,500; Vacation---5 weeks
Study Leave---2 weeks/1,500; Professional expenses- 1,825; Travel-4,750 (all included in the 2022 budget)
3. Council **recommended** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp and Synod commissioner reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.

From the Committee on Ministry

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request of the Dunlap’s Creek Presbyterian Church of Merrittstown for Ruling Elder Marlene Novak (2024).

From the Covenant Boswell Administrative Commission

1. The Covenant Boswell Administrative Commission **recommended** that its written report submitted in the packet be received and filed.

From the Sewickley Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

1. The Sewickley Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission **recommended** the report of their meeting as submitted in the packet be received and filed.

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It was MSP to approve the Consent Agenda.

TREASURER AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

John Dickson, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports. John highlighted the written report found in the packet for the meeting. He indicated that the written report is from the end of October. The revenue for October exceeded the goal but there was a \$20,593 short of goal expectation. It was MSP to receive the Treasurer's Report.

SYNOD OF THE TRINITY REPORT

Bernice Adams, Synod Commissioner, reported that the Synod Assembly met via Zoom in October. Bernice said that Redstone is represented by herself and Cliff Foster as Commissioners and Susan Nesti as an At-Large member. Bernice gave a brief overview of the Synod of the Trinity stating that it has been in existence for over 300 years. Bernice reported the Synod Assembly began its meeting on Sunday evening with a presentation by Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, the Director of the PC (USA) Advocacy Office of Public Witness and Ministry at the United Nations on Covenantal Righteousness and Justice Conversation. On Monday, outgoing Synod Executive, Susan Wonderland, preached on hospitality. The offering of the worship service was given to PDA. The worship service included communion; each commissioner was sent a carved cup and shortbread. Music for the meeting was provided by Matt Camlin of Shenango Presbytery and Bill Carter of Lackawanna Presbytery. The decision of the Synod's Permanent Judicial Commission in the Refreshing Springs Mission Church vs. Beaver-Butler Presbytery was read by Synod Stated Clerk Wayne Yost.

Cliff Foster reported that the Synod per capita will remain at \$2.40 for 2023. This is the 4th consecutive year without an increase. The 6th Synod Ends was changed to read: "Promotion of Justice and Righteousness." The Synod celebrated the service of our outgoing Synod Transitional Executive, Susan Wonderland, with a video compilation and various gifts from each of the presbyteries. The Synod elected Rev. Forrest Claassen as the next Synod Executive. The Synod meeting was closed with Worship recognizing Charles Best, outgoing Co-Moderator, for his service, and for the other commissioners who have faithfully filled their terms.

Synod Transitional Executive, Susan Wonderland, spoke to the Presbytery and expressed her thanks and gratitude for all those in our Presbytery who are involved in the ongoing work of the Synod. Sue related her experience of her first visit to Redstone Presbytery and the other times when she visited our Presbytery over the last 13 years or so.

History of Colver Presbyterian Church

Moderator Belinda Lambie shared with the Presbytery a Brief History of the Colver Presbyterian Church indicating how the coal company helped to build a Protestant congregation and the Colver Presbyterian Church began. She talked about a mystery rose that appeared each year on the church stairs and it was recently discovered the rose was from the brother of a pastor who had died on a previous Christmas Eve shoveling snow. There has been an ecumenical service each year to celebrate the community's oneness. There have been 23 ministers in the history of Colver.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Skip Noftzger indicated the full report that was included in the packet. He also reported the work goes one and continues to change the world, pandemic or not. In this time of Thanksgiving, we are mindful of those things that we are thankful for. In this season of a pandemic, we have experienced loss, especially a loss of personal presence and touch, which is often the way gratitude is expressed. We need to be aware of those

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expressions of gratitude that shape who we are. Gratitude is the echo of the voice of grace. We are challenged to pass on our gratitude to others.

WORSHIP

Worship was led by the following persons: Bonnie Hill, who offered the welcome and led the opening prayer; Elder Belinda Lambie led the Call to Worship; Rev. Alice Tondora led the Prayer of Confession and the Assurance of Pardon; Rev. Owar Ojulu led the Prayer for Illumination, the Scripture Reading of 1 Kings 19: 1-18, preached the Sermon entitled "What Are You going Here?", and offered the Prayer of Dedication for the Offering; Rev. Ben Nti led the celebration of the Sacrament of Communion; and Elder David O'Hara led the Blessing and Charge. The Offering received electronically for those on Zoom or in the offering plate for those present at Colver, will go to the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.

PINE SPRINGS CAMP REPORT

Executive Director Greg Davis indicated the full report that was included in the packet. He thanked the Presbytery for the support of the Camp and for those who have gone before in the history of the Camp. A Power Point presentation was shared about "A History to Treasure, A Future to Celebrate" which included some of the upcoming events in the spring and summer of 2022. Winterfest, an outdoor Open House on Saturday, January 22, 2022, 11AM- 4PM; and the 22nd Annual Golf Scholarship Open on Monday, May 23, 2022. The first day of Camp is Sunday, June 12, 2022, for the Summer Camp Season of 2022. The Camp brochures will be available the first of the year and there will be a return of several camps that were previously cut due to the pandemic. Help is needed in recruiting summer staff. Contact Mike Hurley at the camp if interested in helping with this. Greg also expressed his gratitude that back in 1948 the Presbytery of (Blairsville) Redstone was missional, doing church outside of walls. Greg asked for continued prayers for the Camp.

MISSION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

Rev. Sylvia Carlson indicated the full report that was included in the packet along with the report of the Presbyterian Women. Sylvia invited Elder David O'Hara to talk about the Mission Trip in October to West Virginia and Virginia. David showed slides of the trip and the work that was done. There is usually a Fall and Spring trip and may possibly be a summer trip if anyone is interested in participating in an upcoming trip. The Mission Team holds a Pancake Dinner on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday which provides funds for upcoming mission trips.

ACTION AGENDA

COUNCIL

On behalf of the Council, the following report was presented by Bobbi Jo Huebner. She pointed out that the 2022 Budget was presented as a first reading at the September meeting.

Action Items

- It was **MSP** to approve the 2022 Budget for the Presbytery of Redstone. This was the second reading of the Budget. The Council is asking churches to increase their giving to the Presbytery.
- The Council **recommended** the approval of the 2022 Terms of Call (see below) for the Executive Presbyter.

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Salary – 55,390; Housing---15,000; Deferred Compensation (403B) ---11,877
Pensions (medical, retirement, death/disability) ---19,500; Vacation---5 weeks
Study Leave---2 weeks/1,500; Professional expenses- 1,825; Travel-4,750 (all included in the 2022 budget)

It was **MSP** to approve the 2022 Terms of Call for the Executive Presbyter.

- The Council **recommended** the dismissal of the Boswell Administrative Commission with gratitude for their work. Elder Josh Scully reported that the Commission’s report is found on page 28 of the packet. It was **MSP** to dismiss, with gratitude, the Boswell Administrative Commission.
- Bobbi Jo gave a brief report of the Matthew 25 Initiative.

Information Items (as published)

October 26, 2021 Meeting

Chuck West, Moderator, called the meeting to order by videoconferencing (Zoom). The Council was led in a short devotional and an opening prayer. Moderator West 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 August meeting which had been submitted by email. It was **MSP** to approve the minutes as corrected.

Moderator Report

There were no items approved by consent since the last meeting.

Stated Clerk Report

Rev. Noftzger noted that the most recent correspondence log was provided through our new system of providing access to the Dropbox meeting folder. He inquired whether this has worked better in both access and timely documents to the Council.

Reviewing the upcoming Presbytery schedule and Council schedule, Rev. Noftzger led a discussion on options for the January 2022 Council meeting. It was discussed and agreed that meeting would be a more “extended” meeting beginning with dinner together at the Maplewood Presbyterian Church.

In a review of the list of dates for the 2022 Presbytery meetings, hosts have been identified for January and November. March, May and September hosts are being solicited.

1. 2022 Presbytery meeting dates
 - i. January 29, 2022
 - ii. March 22, 2022
 - iii. May 24, 2022
 - iv. September 27, 2022
 - v. November 19, 2022
2. The 2022 dates for Council meetings:
January 11
February 22

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April 26
June 28
August 23
October 25
December 6

Treasurer Report

Treasurer John Dickson had submitted a written report which was reviewed by the Council. Mr. Dickson offered insight on the levels of giving in June and July which remain behind our desirable targets for annual cash flow in contributions.

Pine Springs Camp

Greg Davis provided a summary report of the summer camping season and the revisions in fall retreat. He noted that plans have been put in place to have the "Friends" dinner again this year. It will be held at the Rogers Center at St. Vincent College.

Boswell Administrative Commission

Belinda Lambie reported that the administrative commission, with the approval of the sale of the property, had consulted with an attorney in preparation of the sales agreement to include the expectation previously identified. That sales agreement was signed on September 21. The purchaser worked with their attorney in completing a title search. The Presbytery provided additional documentation on succession. The closing is scheduled for tomorrow (October 27). She noted this concludes the work of the Commission. Moderator West thanked the group for their efforts. It was **MSP** to recommend dissolution of the commission to the Presbytery and to dismiss them with our gratitude.

Subcommittees/Networks

Communications

Additional Enews article authors were solicited. Rev. Curtis Paul and Belinda Lambie volunteered to write articles.

Mission Committee

A written report was received. Executive Presbyter Skip Noftzger solicited feedback and reviewed the success of the mission fair as part of the September Presbytery meeting. It was agreed to continue to offer this networking opportunity annually. The Presbytery offering designated for Ethiopian relief was reviewed.

Finance and Stewardship

Chuck West reminded Council members that the 2022 budget would be presented for second reading and vote at the November Presbytery meeting. Rev. Noftzger suggested that, if possible, it might be a good idea to put together a video presentation of the budget request. Volunteers were solicited.

The Council reviewed the 2022 terms of call for the Executive Presbyter. Rev. Noftzger suggested that, though this was typically added as a "consent" agenda item in the Presbytery meeting (is also included in the budget proposal), because the terms reflected a significant raise, it would be better for it to be an action item agenda. In that way, any Presbytery consideration could include deliberation and debate. It was **MSP** to recommend the 2022 terms of call and to submit to the Presbytery within the Council action agenda.

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Members of Council were solicited for feedback on their particular follow up with sessions on their possible 2022 First Fruits contributions.

Chuck West acknowledged that the Finance and Stewardship subcommittee would begin reviewing multiple options with advantages and disadvantages for long-term use of the Presbytery center building. Upon review and analysis of available options, any recommendations would be presented to the Council.

Addictions Ministry Network

Lynn Mance reported that there was nothing new to report.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation Network

Brenda Barnes noted that they have finally agreed upon a regular meeting date/time.

Healing and Prayer Ministry Network

There was no report.

Staff Support

It was noted Rev. Marnie Silbert, longtime member of the Presbytery and the Staff Support subcommittee has not only moved to Massachusetts but has requested transfer to the Northern New England Presbytery. With her departure, members were solicited for possible participation in the Staff Support subcommittee. Bobbi Jo Huebner volunteered and was affirmed as a new member of this subcommittee.

Presbyterian Women

Susan Nesti noted current PW activity in the Presbytery and the upcoming Synod PW meeting that will take place at Antiochian Village in September.

Executive Presbyter

Rev. Noftzger provided updates on various transitions and pastoral searches that are ongoing within Redstone Presbytery. Having noted Rev. Silbert's departure, he also acknowledged that there are others who will be soon leaving their current position.

Having returned from an Executive Presbyter gathering with consultant and author Susan Beaumont, Rev. Noftzger shared some insights on "how to lead when you don't know where you are going." The type of leadership required in our current era (not just during a pandemic) demands of us that we are willing to move forward in times of ambiguity and unpredictability. While there is much that is/will be unknown, we do know that God will be with us.

Rev. Noftzger presented the working agenda for the November Presbytery gathering. After consideration, it was **MSP** to approve the agenda as submitted with the possibility of any necessary re-ordering of items.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Geoff Rach reported that the Committee on Preparation for Ministry has assumed the responsibilities of the Authorized Preachers/Commissioned Pastors subcommittee. Oversight of those in the process of being certified as Christian Educators is also under the Committee on Preparation.

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Information Items

October 5, 2021 Meeting

- I. Opening prayer by Chairperson Rev. Geoff Rach.
- II. **MSP - Sept. 7, 2021 minutes were approved as presented**
- III. Meet with Inquirer James Vlosich:
 - James has been working at Trinity Church in Uniontown for over three years, primarily as “Discipleship Coordinator” but also shadowing the pastor in multiple other ways
 - He became an Inquirer in Feb. 2021
 - He is in his 3rd quarter of studies at Fuller Seminary, with all classes being offered online
 - His focus has been on mission recently, both with classes and activities outside of Seminary; he has been volunteering at West End Community Center (includes food bank and childcare)
 - James is currently serving on Session at the church where he is employed; he and his wife also have their membership at Trinity
 - James inquired about the role CPM will play in assisting him in the near future; committee members explained Field Ed (and its requirements) and CPE placement, as well as the ordination track in general
 - Dawn closed this section with prayer for James and his discernment process

MSP - CPM approved the use of the Leaderwise Assessment tool for Inquirers (Pittsburgh Pastoral Institute is not currently offering assessments, so this will serve as the alternative)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Skip Noftzger presented the following report on behalf of the Committee on Ministry.

Action Items

- The Committee on Ministry introduced Regina Schrecengost who has been approved to serve an annual contract as a student pastor for the Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield. Regina told the Presbytery about herself. She lives in Waynesburg and works at the prison there in the mental health department.
- The Committee on Ministry (re)introduced Rev. Doug Marshall who has returned to Redstone Presbytery and has begun service as Interim Pastor at Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell where he has been for about a month. Doug said hello to the Presbytery and mentioned that he has been in the area for about 18 years.

Moderator Belinda Lambie prayed for both Regina and Doug.

Information Items (as published)

November 4, 2021 Meeting

Approval of Minutes

It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of October 7, 2021 as corrected.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

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- Correspondence Log (Email Attachment)
- Final report on Minutes/Register review.
- **MSP** recommendation of the request from the Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church for waiver of term limits for Marlene Novak as Ruling Elder.

Report of the Moderator

- Rev. Lee McDermott to moderate Fairchance, First Presbyterian Church.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
 - Examination of Regina Schrecengost.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** approval of validated ministry of Rev. Brenda Barnes to serve as chaplain at Redstone Highlands North Huntingdon campus.

Search and Call

- Information Items
- Transition Chart (Email Attachment)
- Having completed a survey and workshop, the PNC from McClellandtown is working on the MIF preparation.
- Transitional Pastor search committee for First, Presbyterian, Irwin is interviewing possible interim candidate(s).
- Action Items
- **MSP** approval of the revision in contract between Robert Prinkey and Marion Presbyterian Church in service as Commissioned Pastor
- **MSP** authorization of the Search and Call Committee to approve a Ministry Information Form from the McClellandtown Presbyterian Church anticipated to be submitted in December.
- **MSP** authorization of the Search and Call Committee to approve a possible Interim Pastor agreement for the First Presbyterian Church, Irwin.

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

- Intro to Reformed Theology.
- Fall Workshops
 - 11/13---Diseases of Despair; Michele Snyder; Crows Feet Consulting
 - 12/11---More than a Rule Book; Faith Foundations of Presbyterian Polity; Skip Noftzger, EP and Stated Clerk, Redstone Presbytery
- Transition of AP/CP subcommittee responsibilities to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Ministry. Meeting on Wednesday, November 3

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Sewickley Administrative Commission Report
- LIAISON REMINDERS
- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:

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Praises to churches holding and planning special services such as St Andrew Day celebrating Scottish traditions, Pastor Appreciation, All Saints Day, and Christ the King Sunday on November 21.

Prayers for members in poor health, those who have had surgery, aging congregations, members and family combatting illness, the newly diagnosed, those with advanced cancer, and babies born early.

Prayers for those grieving lost loved ones, for special seminars to help those grieving through the holidays, and for Blue Christmas services.

Prayers to discern how to involve more community in life of church and for engaging more volunteers.

Praises for “warm hugs” prepared lunches for homebound members, harvest home with food collection, crop walks, and congregations serving Thanksgiving dinners plated or take out.

Praises for a coffee house before service, work completed on roof, for continuing to grow Sunday services, Festival of the Nativity December 3-5, 2021, Christmas Shoeboxes, and feeling strong about the upcoming holidays. Prayers for congregations as they look forward and prepare for Christmas Eve and safely managing larger groups for holidays.

Prayers for those with pulpit supply to call a Pastor and feel like church again with a sense of mission and direction, for those feeling frustrated in seeking a candidate, and praises for Pastors who have been at their churches for a year.

- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time: Becky Maiman, John Manon, Anthony Marciano, Gail Mason, Bruce Maxwell, Dave McCabe, John McClure, Lee McDermott, David McElroy, Aleda Menchyk.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time: 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; Revloc Presbyterian Church; Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale; Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield.

New Business

It was **MSP** to cancel the December 2, 2021 Committee on Ministry meeting.

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October 7, 2021 Meeting

Approval of Minutes

It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of September 2, 2021.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Email Attachment)
- **MSP** to accept the resignation of Rev. Jim Gear from the Committee on Ministry.
- **MSP** to dismiss Rev. Caroline Vickery to the Presbytery of Carlisle.
- **MSP** to dismiss Rev. Marnie Silbert to the Presbytery of Northern New England.
- **MSP** to approve Rev. Paul Milz for ministry within the bounds of the Presbytery of Redstone on a limited basis. Rev. Milz is Honorably Retired from Hudson River Presbytery.

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Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointment for Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Farmington - Josh Scully.
- Looking for a moderator appointment for First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
 - Examination of Regina Schrecengost.
- Action Items
 - None.

Search and Call

Information Items

- Transition Chart (Email Attachment)
- Having completed a survey and workshop, the PNC from McClellandtown is working on the MIF preparation.
- Transitional Pastor search committee for First, Presbyterian, Irwin is interviewing possible interim candidate(s).
- Commissioning service of Regina Schrecengost (Student Pastor) at Grace Chapel, Smithfield, PA on October 24th with Rev. Skip Noftzger and Rev. Molly Hall.

Action Items

- **MSP** approval of Student Pastor agreement between Regina Schrecengost (Candidate, Kiski Presbytery) and Grace Chapel, Smithfield, PA.

AP/CP Subcommittee (COM/CPM)

- Intro to Reformed Theology.
- Fall Workshops
 - 10/9---American "Holy" Days –How to Think Theologically about Secular Culture; James Calvin Davis; Professor Religion and Liberal Arts, Middlebury College; author of American Liturgy: Finding Theological Meaning in the Holy Days of U.S. Culture
 - 11/13---Diseases of Despair; Michele Snyder; Crows Feet Consulting
 - 12/11---More than a Rule Book; Faith Foundations of Presbyterian Polity; Skip Noftzger, EP and Stated Clerk, Redstone Presbytery

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Sewickley Administrative Commission Report
- LIAISON REMINDERS
 - Covid Guidelines
 - BOP Employer agreements
 - Continuing education for pastors
 - Fall activities
- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
 - Prayers and praises for those starting new callings and for baptisms.
 - Praises for fall activities including Trunk or Treat, youth costume party, and bonfires.
 - Prayers for those serving on judiciary committees.

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- Praises for Bible studies, Deacon programs, adult Sunday School, youth programs, special Scottish service, and plans for a first responder service.
- Praises for Soup for the Soul, those collecting clothes for school students, little library, hygiene kits, Angel trees, and food pantries.
- Prayers for Pastors during Pastor Appreciation Month and all year, for volunteers, and for Deacons and Elders that have accepted the call from Nominating Committees.
- Prayers and praises to Sewickley United for planning its 250th anniversary in 2022.
- Prayers and praises to Trinity for celebrating 125 years in its current facility with dinner and organ concert.
- Prayers for those with cancer, those moving away, and those affected by COVID.
- Prayers for those grieving the loss of a loved one.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
Karen Kifer, Brian Kilbert, Bill King, Dick Klein, Steve LaSor, Jay Lewis, Kent Lighthall, Carlisle Lloyd, Dennis Macaleer, Chuck MacPherson, Josh Scully.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell; Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell; First Presbyterian Church, Masontown; McClellandtown Presbyterian Church; Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown; Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant; First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria.

Executive Presbyter Report

From Ezra 3:10-13, we learned that in the process of rebuilding the temple *many of the older priests and Levites and family heads, who had seen the former temple, wept aloud when they saw the foundation of this temple being laid, while many others shouted for joy. No one could distinguish the sound of the shouts of joy from the sound of weeping, because the people made so much noise. And the sound was heard far away.* As a Committee on Ministry member, when we are in contact with the congregations, it is an opportunity to hear their stories. Sometimes it is stories of how the present is not like the past or it may be stories of hope and of the future. Therefore, their shouts of joy may comingle with shouts of disappointment. As liaisons we do more than check in, we are sent out to listen to the stories of how the people of our congregations are doing and what God is doing in their lives.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

Action Items

- The Nominating Committee **nominated** Rev. Dawn Sherwood (Jeannette) to be the Vice Moderator of the Presbytery of Redstone in 2022. It was **MSP** to approve Rev. Dawn Sherwood to be the Vice Moderator for 2022.
- The Nominating Committee **nominated** the following persons for the Offices/Classes indicated:

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

- Rev. Bill Youmans; Westminster (2023)
- Rev. Lee McDermott; HR (2024)

PINE SPRINGS CAMP BOARD

- Mallie Stephens; Westmont (2024)

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PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION

- Rev. Susan Blank, Validated Ministry (Term Expires 2027)

There were no nominations from the floor. It was **MSP** to close the nominations and to approve the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee for the listed Offices/Classes as indicated.

Information Items (as published)

- The Nominating Committee is requesting suggestions and recommendations for possible positions both on standing committees and subcommittees of the Presbytery. If you or others (ruling elders) you know desire to participate in some form of Presbytery leadership, please offer your name or others as suggestions for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

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 of those in attendance between in-person and via Zoom. He reported that there were 22 Teaching Elders, 6 Commissioned Pastors, 1 Student Pastor; 18 Ruling Elders representing 14 churches, 0 Christian Educators, 4 Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office, 1 Corresponding Member and 3 visitors for a total of 55. There also were 53 congregations without elder representation.

ANNOUNCEMENT LOOP

The Announcement Loop was shown to the Presbytery and provided information on several upcoming events in the life of our Presbytery and congregations. The Announcement Loop can be found on the Presbytery Website and also on the Presbytery's Facebook page.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Rev. Skip Noftzger led the Presbytery in the Soli Deo Gloria and presented the Resolution of Thanks for this meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone.

AJOURNMENT

It was **MSP to adjourn** with prayer at 12:26 p.m.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Owar Ojulu offered the benediction prayer.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg.

Belinda Lambie, Moderator

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Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk