

09/05/2023 10:42 AM

Presbytery of Redstone
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, August 2023

APPENDIX 'A'

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Percentage	Prior Year
INCOME					
CONTRIBUTION INCOME					
UNRESTRICTED			\$325,000.00		
Church Comm/Lgr Church	29,675.89	196,229.77	0.00	0.00%	203,933.55
Church Extra Giving	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	175.00
Pd to Prior Yr Commitment	0.00	557.00	0.00	0.00%	3,159.50
Individ Comm/Lgr Church	153.00	2,304.30	0.00	0.00%	2,561.40
Presbyterian Fdn Cont	143.06	687.31	0.00	0.00%	665.00
Subtotal Unrestricted	29,971.95	201,778.38	325,000.00	62.09%	210,494.45
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED					
			50,000.00		
SCLD	0.00	2,050.85	0.00	0.00%	1,910.39
Pine Springs Camp	0.00	534.00	0.00	0.00%	791.00
Resource Center	0.00	438.57	0.00	0.00%	348.96
PDA - Directed	50.00	3,185.00	0.00	0.00%	42,645.48
Sudan Projects	1,095.00	5,872.47	0.00	0.00%	4,057.98
Ministry Student Aid	0.00	777.00	0.00	0.00%	659.00
PMA - Directed	888.33	6,906.64	0.00	0.00%	7,700.00
Synod Mission	300.00	2,100.00	0.00	0.00%	2,100.00
I.P.L.F.	2,250.00	6,750.00	0.00	0.00%	13,350.00
Subtotal Temporarily Restricted	4,583.33	28,614.53	50,000.00	57.23%	73,562.81
Subtotal Contribution Income	34,555.28	230,392.91	375,000.00	61.44%	284,057.26
INVESTMENT INCOME					
Investment Income	0.00	0.00	51,000.00	0.00%	0.00
INTEREST INCOME					
Investment Interest	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	0.00%	0.00
PILP Interest	0.00	64.07	0.00	0.00%	64.07
Subtotal Interest Income	0.00	64.07	5,000.00	1.28%	64.07
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME					
			7,000.00		
Oil & Gas Lease	0.00	102.88	0.00	0.00%	54.94
Preaching/Consulting	0.00	8,900.96	0.00	0.00%	16,801.92
Miscellaneous Income	50.00	2,634.56	0.00	0.00%	12,616.27
Subtotal Miscellaneous Income	50.00	11,638.40	7,000.00	166.26%	29,473.13
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS					
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE					
RFR Encumbered EP Cont Ed	0.00	-4,731.37	0.00	0.00%	0.00
RFR SCLD	-303.27	-1,757.37	0.00	0.00%	-1,242.88
RFR Engaging Congregation	0.00	-800.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
RFR Pine Springs Camp	0.00	-534.00	0.00	0.00%	-591.00
RFR PDA - Directed	-50.00	-3,185.00	0.00	0.00%	-42,645.48
RFR Sudan Projects	0.00	-17,100.00	0.00	0.00%	-7,500.00
RFR PMA - Directed	-888.33	-6,906.64	0.00	0.00%	-7,700.00
RFR Synod Mission	-300.00	-2,100.00	0.00	0.00%	-2,100.00
RFR I.P.L.F.	-1,411.21	-6,347.08	0.00	0.00%	-6,523.56
RFR I.P.L.F. 2	0.00	-550.00	0.00	0.00%	-207.00
Subtotal Temp Restricted Release	-2,952.81	-44,011.46	0.00	0.00%	-68,509.92
Subtotal Release From Restrictions	-2,952.81	-44,011.46	0.00	0.00%	-68,509.92

Presbytery of Redstone

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Percentage	Prior Year
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION					
Released from restriction	2,952.81	44,011.46	0.00	0.00%	68,509.92
TOTAL INCOME	34,605.28	242,095.38	438,000.00	55.27%	313,594.46
EXPENSES					
MISSION PARTNERSHIPS					
SUDAN					
Sudan - Restricted	0.00	17,100.00	0.00	0.00%	7,500.00
Subtotal Sudan	0.00	17,100.00	16,000.00	106.88%	7,500.00
PINE SPRINGS CAMP					
PSC - Shared	2,750.00	22,000.00	0.00	0.00%	22,000.00
PSC - Restricted	0.00	534.00	0.00	0.00%	591.00
Subtotal Pine Springs Camp	2,750.00	22,534.00	38,000.00	59.30%	22,591.00
SYNOD MISSION					
Synod - Restricted	300.00	2,100.00	0.00	0.00%	2,100.00
Subtotal Synod Mission	300.00	2,100.00	3,000.00	70.00%	2,100.00
PRES MISSION AGENCY					
PMA - Shared	1,400.00	11,200.00	0.00	0.00%	11,200.00
PMA - Restricted	888.33	6,906.64	0.00	0.00%	7,700.00
Subtotal Pres Mission Agency	2,288.33	18,106.64	28,000.00	64.67%	18,900.00
PRES DISASTER ASSISTANCE					
PDA - Restricted	50.00	3,185.00	0.00	0.00%	42,645.48
Subtotal Pres Disaster Assistance	50.00	3,185.00	3,000.00	106.17%	42,645.48
Subtotal Mission Partnerships	5,388.33	63,025.64	88,000.00	71.62%	93,736.48
COMMITTEE EXPENSES					
COUNCIL					
Council Expenses	331.29	434.26	1,000.00	43.43%	195.71
Presbytery Mtg Expense	0.00	309.60	750.00	41.28%	259.48
Presbytery Stoles	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	300.00
EQUIPPING LEADERSHIP					
Equip Leadership - Shared	1,676.60	2,102.57	0.00	0.00%	1,500.00
Subtotal Equipping Leadership	1,676.60	2,102.57	4,000.00	52.56%	1,500.00
ENGAGING CONGREGATIONS					
ENABLING MINISTRY NETWORK	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00%	0.00
En Min Network - Shared	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	52.99
Subtotal Enabling Ministry Network	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	0.00%	52.99
Mission Expenses	0.00	320.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Worship Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	76.00
Christian Associates	0.00	750.00	1,500.00	50.00%	750.00
Website	0.00	60.51	200.00	30.26%	0.00
COMMUNICATION EXPENSES					
CE - Shared	-120.84	592.28	0.00	0.00%	5,921.79

Presbytery of Redstone

Income and Expense Statement
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	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Prior Year Percentage	
Subtotal Communication Expenses	-120.84	592.28	300.00	197.43%	5,921.79
Subtotal Council	1,887.05	4,569.22	15,750.00	29.01%	9,055.97
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY					
COM - Committee Expense	0.00	1,055.60	500.00	211.12%	0.00
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION					
CPM - Committee Expense	0.00	1,498.00	3,000.00	49.93%	1,342.00
SCHOLARSHIPS					
Scholarships - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	-3,000.00
Ministry Student Aid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	3,000.00
Subtotal Committee On Preparation	0.00	1,498.00	3,000.00	49.93%	1,342.00
Subtotal Committee Expenses	1,887.05	7,122.82	19,250.00	37.00%	10,397.97
OPERATIONS					
LEGAL AND AUDITING					
Audit	0.00	0.00	6,500.00	0.00%	4,800.00
PCUSA Meetings	0.00	704.33	3,000.00	23.48%	1,509.88
Property/Comp. Insurance	0.00	3,686.25	3,600.00	102.40%	2,766.00
Worker's Compensation	0.00	7.00	821.00	0.85%	760.00
Telephone	772.17	2,413.16	3,600.00	67.03%	2,142.48
Postage	0.00	297.54	1,000.00	29.75%	531.25
Office Supplies	2,101.36	3,063.75	5,500.00	55.70%	3,578.91
RESOURCE CENTER					
RC - Shared	0.00	80.00	0.00	0.00%	80.00
RC - Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	20.00
Subtotal Resource Center	0.00	80.00	500.00	16.00%	100.00
LEASES					
Copier Lease	177.77	1,422.16	2,200.00	0.00%	1,430.07
Subtotal Leases	177.77	1,422.16	2,200.00	64.64%	1,430.07
Miscellaneous Expenses	0.00	109.00	0.00	0.00%	59.95
SERVICE FEES					
Bank Fees	33.06	251.11	0.00	0.00%	106.02
Misc. Service Fees	0.00	55.00	0.00	0.00%	55.00
Subtotal Service Fees	33.06	306.11	0.00	0.00%	161.02
UTILITIES					
Gas	19.63	1,920.35	2,100.00	91.45%	1,439.34
Electric	0.00	780.03	1,200.00	65.00%	880.71
Water	0.00	202.71	300.00	67.57%	194.14
Sewage	0.00	156.12	300.00	52.04%	153.12
Trash Collection	44.89	349.09	700.00	49.87%	219.90
Subtotal Utilities	64.52	3,408.30	4,600.00	74.09%	2,887.21
MAINTENANCE					
Custodial Services	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00%	0.00
Yard Maintenance	280.00	600.00	1,000.00	60.00%	520.00
Parking Lot Maintenance	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	0.00
Building Maintenance	105.00	2,039.11	1,000.00	203.91%	1,874.18

Presbytery of Redstone

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Prior Year Percentage	
Subtotal Maintenance	385.00	2,639.11	4,500.00	58.65%	2,394.18
Subtotal Operations	3,533.88	18,136.71	35,821.00	50.63%	23,120.95
PRESBYTERY STAFF					
EXECUTIVE STAFF					
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER					
EP Salary	7,198.36	57,586.88	86,380.27	66.67%	46,926.72
EP - Board of Pensions	2,815.04	22,520.32	33,688.31	66.85%	12,748.80
EP - Continuing Education	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	100.00%	253.63
EP - Travel	0.00	0.00	4,750.00	0.00%	0.00
EP Travel - Shared	0.00	2,012.83	0.00	0.00%	1,579.91
EP Travel - Restricted	303.27	1,757.37	0.00	0.00%	1,242.88
Subtotal Ep - Travel	303.27	3,770.20	4,750.00	79.37%	2,822.79
EP - Prof. Expense Shared	176.30	1,099.60	1,800.00	61.09%	875.93
EP - Deferred Comp / 403B	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	7,916.14
Subtotal Executive Presbyter	10,492.97	86,477.00	128,118.58	67.50%	71,544.01
Subtotal Executive Staff	10,492.97	86,477.00	128,118.58	67.50%	71,544.01
SUPPORT STAFF					
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT					
AA - Salary	2,962.90	23,703.20	35,554.79	66.67%	22,574.40
AA - Board of Pensions	1,035.57	8,284.56	11,686.00	70.89%	7,653.68
Subtotal Administrative Assistant	3,998.47	31,987.76	47,240.79	67.71%	30,228.08
ASSISTANT CLERKS					
Recording Clerk Salary	0.00	750.00	1,500.00	50.00%	650.00
Associate Clerk Salary	0.00	750.00	1,500.00	50.00%	650.00
Subtotal Assistant Clerks	0.00	1,500.00	3,000.00	50.00%	1,300.00
Subtotal Support Staff	3,998.47	33,487.76	50,240.79	66.65%	31,528.08
EMPLOYER PAID FICA TAXES					
Employer Paid FICA Taxes	777.34	6,218.72	8,000.00	77.73%	5,374.33
Subtotal Presbytery Staff	15,268.78	126,183.48	186,359.37	67.71%	108,446.42
APPORTIONMENTS					
GA Per Capita	7,275.05	58,200.40	87,330.00	66.64%	53,232.40
Synod Per Capita	1,772.60	14,180.80	21,278.00	66.65%	14,142.00
Subtotal Apportionments	9,047.65	72,381.20	108,608.00	66.64%	67,374.40
RESTRICTED EXPENSE					
Projector Fund	0.00	377.11	0.00	0.00%	0.00
I.P.L.F.	1,411.21	6,347.08	0.00	0.00%	6,534.56
I.P.L.F. 2	0.00	550.00	0.00	0.00%	207.00
Encumbered EP Cont. Ed.	0.00	4,731.37	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Subtotal Restricted Expense	1,411.21	12,005.56	0.00	0.00%	6,741.56
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,536.90	298,855.41	438,038.37	68.23%	309,817.78

Presbytery of Redstone
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, August 2023

Current Period Year to Date Annual Budget Annual Budget YTD Prior Year
 Percentage

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Percentage	Prior Year
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS					
TRANSFER TO OTHER FUNDS					
Cash Transfers Out					
CTO - Ameriprise	\$0.00	-\$35,000.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS					
Cash Transfers In					
CTI - New Covenant	0.00	1,777.74	0.00	0.00%	0.00
	0.00	1,134.83	0.00	0.00%	2,189.47
Subtotal Cash Transfers In	0.00	2,912.57	0.00	0.00%	2,189.47
Subtotal Transfer From Other Funds	0.00	2,912.57	0.00	0.00%	2,189.47
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	-32,087.43	0.00	0.00%	2,189.47
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	-\$1,931.62	-\$88,847.46	-\$38.37	0.00%	\$5,966.15

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
August 31, 2023

	2023 PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID	% Payup as of 8/31/2023	Unpaid Pledge Balance
Adah, Palmer	500.00	291.69	58%	208.31
Apollo, Poke Run	3,660.00	1,830.00	50%	1,830.00
Avonmore	1,000.00	1,526.00	153%	(526.00)
Belle Vernon, First	4,500.00	3,375.00	75%	1,125.00
Belle Vernon, Harmony	1,500.00	1,125.00	75%	375.00
Belle Vernon, Marion	2,300.00	2,300.00	100%	-
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	3,000.00	2,000.00	67%	1,000.00
Bolivar	1,500.00	1,000.00	67%	500.00
Brownsville, Calvin				-
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	2,610.00	1,305.00	50%	1,305.00
Brownsville, Hopewell				-
Colver		133.00		(133.00)
Cresson		1,050.00		(1,050.00)
Dawson, Tyrone	250.00	250.00	100%	-
Delmont				-
Derry	750.00	750.00	100%	-
Dunbar, First		1,275.00		(1,275.00)
Dunbar, Laurel Hill				-
Ebensburg	1,000.00	1,000.00	100%	-
Fairchance		1,500.00		(1,500.00)
Farmington	1,800.00	1,800.00	100%	-
Fayette City, First				-
Fayette City, Little Redstone	2,500.00	2,500.00	100%	-
Greensburg, First	31,000.00	20,666.64	67%	10,333.36
Greensburg, Maplewood		4,000.00		(4,000.00)
Greensburg, Westminster		5,600.00		(5,600.00)
Irwin, First		16,666.64		(16,666.64)
Irwin, W. Hempfield	6,000.00	3,000.00	50%	3,000.00
Jeannette	2,400.00	1,200.00	50%	1,200.00
Johnstown, Bethany		1,215.00		(1,215.00)
Johnstown, First	8,000.00	4,200.00	53%	3,800.00
Johnstown, Second		3,600.00		(3,600.00)
Johnstown, Westmont		12,000.00		(12,000.00)
Lake Lynn				-
Latrobe, Main St.	26,500.00	17,680.00	67%	8,820.00
Latrobe, Spring St.		3,000.00		(3,000.00)

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
August 31, 2023

	2023 PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID	% Payup as of 8/31/2023	Unpaid Pledge Balance
Leisenring		400.00		(400.00)
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove				-
Lower Burrell, Grace	7,000.00	4,666.64	67%	2,333.36
Lower Burrell, Puckety	10,000.00	6,800.00	68%	3,200.00
Masontown	500.00		0%	500.00
McClellandtown	5,200.00	3,900.00	75%	1,300.00
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Ck.		300.00		(300.00)
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion		656.00		(656.00)
Murrysville, First		6,000.00		(6,000.00)
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	24,447.00	16,297.36	67%	8,149.64
Murrysville, Union	4,000.00	1,000.00	25%	3,000.00
N. Alexandria, Community		2,500.00		(2,500.00)
N. Alexandria, Congruity	6,000.00	4,260.00	71%	1,740.00
New Florence, Bethel	3,000.00	2,000.00	67%	1,000.00
New Florence, Trinity		2,550.00		(2,550.00)
New Kensington	5,200.00	3,908.30	75%	1,291.70
New Salem				-
N. Huntingdon, New Hope	5,400.00	3,600.00	67%	1,800.00
Patton	4,481.00	4,481.00	100%	-
Revloc	1,500.00	1,075.00	72%	425.00
Scottdale	500.00		0%	500.00
Smithfield, Grace Chapel				-
Smock, Pleasant View	10,000.00	5,000.00	50%	5,000.00
Trafford, Level Green	6,200.00	4,251.50	69%	1,948.50
Uniontown, Tent				-
Uniontown, Third		1,124.50		(1,124.50)
Uniontown, Trinity	7,000.00	2,440.50	35%	4,559.50
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty	1,000.00	680.00	68%	320.00
West Newton, Sewickley		500.00		(500.00)
W. Newton, Sewickley UP				-
West Newton, United				-
Totals	202,198.00	196,229.77		5,968.23

Redstone Presbytery

Proposed 2024 Budget

EXPENSES

Shared Ministry

Council

Council expense	750.00
Communications	300.00
Presbytery meetings	750.00
Website	200.00
PCUSA meetings	3,000.00
Equipping Leadership	6,000.00
Engaging Congregations	6,000.00
Enabling Ministry Networks	6,000.00
New Ministries	

Committee On Ministry

Committee Expense	500.00
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Committee on Preparation

Committee Expense	3,000.00
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Committee - Nominating	0.00
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Committee on Representation	0.00
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Redstone Presbytery

Proposed 2024 Budget

Shared Mission

Sudan Partnership	16,000.00
Shared	0.00
Directed	16,000.00
Pine Springs Camp	35,000.00
Shared	33,000.00
Directed	2,000.00
Synod Mission	3,000.00
Shared	2,000.00
Directed	1,000.00
Presbyterian Mission Agency	27,000.00
Shared	17,000.00
Directed	10,000.00
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	2,000.00
Shared	0.00
Directed	2,000.00
TOTAL SHARED MISSION	83,000.00

Redstone Presbytery**Proposed 2024 Budget****Operations**

Supplies	10,000.00
Postage	1,000.00
Telephone	3,600.00
Utilities & Maintenance	9,100.00
Property Insurance	3,600.00
Worker's Compensation	821.00
Legal and Auditing	7,000.00
Leases	2,200.00
Miscellaneous	0.00

Administrative Support

Recording Clerk	1,500.00
Bookkeeper	5,400.00
Administrative Services	43,262.98

Total Administrative Support 50,162.98

FICA paid-Presbytery 8,000.00

TOTAL OPERATIONS 95,483.98

TOTAL EXPENSES 442,567.30

2024 TERMS OF CALL

APPENDIX 'C'

Church: _____

Pastor or Associate Pastor: _____ Full or Part Time: _____

(*For Installed Teaching Elder, Effective Salary, Board of Pensions dues, SECA offset, Study Leave, Vacation and Mileage reimbursement are requirements; For Pastors serving under contract (TE or CP), all are required except Board of Pensions, but it is recommended that provision for insurance and retirement be addressed). (Minimums for Certified Christian Educators should be at least 80% of these minimums).

Presbytery of Redstone recommends a 2% increase from 2023 effective salary for all continuing Pastors (Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastors). The Presbytery minimum is a minimum requirement for all incoming pastors. All continuing pastors should meet or exceed that expectation.

2024 Terms of Call	2023 Presbytery Minimum	2024 Presbytery Minimum COM Recommended 2% Increase	Our Church
EFFECTIVE SALARY	\$50,469.08	\$51,478.46	
1. BREAKDOWN - Base Salary; Manse (including utilities) or Housing Allowance - minimum of 30% of salary/deferred/allowances			
2. Deferred Compensation [Tax Deferred Annuity]			
3. Un-vouchered allowances, gifts from employer, bonuses, etc.			
4. Other allowances, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> forms of compensation such as medical deductible/medical expense reimbursement allowances (NOT paid through a group benefit plan) insurance premiums for additional insurance coverage provided for individual employees. 			
5. ONE TIME Moving Expenses (if church paid or reimbursed) this total may need to be included in the total salary reported to the IRS. (Please review with your accountant)			
6. SECA <u>above</u> the normal 7.65% offset			
TOTAL EFFECTIVE SALARY (total of 1,2,3,4, and 6)	\$50,469.08	\$51,478.46	
7. Board of Pensions Dues (percentage calculated exclusive of moving expense): Pension (8.5%), Disability (1.5%) and Medical Coverage (29%) - Total (39%)	\$19,682.94	\$20,076.60	
8. Social Security Contribution (7.65% of Effective Salary)	\$3,860.88	\$3,938.10	
9. Additional Group Plan Coverage Premiums			
10. Mileage Reimbursement (At current I.R.S. rate)			
11. Study Leave/Reimbursement (cumulative to 6 weeks plus \$3,000)	2 weeks +\$1,000.00	2 weeks +\$1,000.00	
12. Vacation (accrued quarterly, but not cumulative across years without permission)	4 weeks - 4 Sundays	4 weeks - 4 Sundays	
13. Other Professional Expenses:			
Book/Media Reimbursement			
Pastor's Professional Expense			
Vouchered Reimbursements			
TOTAL COST TO CONGREGATION	\$75,012.90	\$76,493.16	

The Pastor and the congregation agree to the above terms and to abide by any policies of the Presbytery of Redstone regarding compensation, any form of leave (vacation, study, medical, etc.) and expenses.

Clerk _____ Pastor _____



Report on Redstone Presbytery-endorsed Pilgrimage to Scotland - August 17-29, 2023

The impetus for this pilgrimage began in 2003 when Carole Isley Corey, Mary Lou Ferris Nash, Ken White and Jim Farrer participated in a tour led by the Rev. Dennis Dewey to three modern Celtic Christian communities in Scotland and northern England. We Redstoners led our first pilgrimage in 2006.

This year's **educational, historical and spiritual pilgrimage** included **members** from Latrobe and Johnstown First and Westmont Presbyterian churches. Our experience was enhanced by members of Brethren and Lutheran congregations. We thank all for undergirding us with prayer.

Ministers included Clark Kerr retired from Latrobe and Executive Presbyter Skip Nofztger. We were happy that Skip could go together with his wife Martha, an MD.

We have **modeled our pilgrimage** on Smithsonian tours which feature one professor with knowledge about a particular country and its culture. However, our leaders included Sandy Leyh of L'atitudes Travel, a SCOTSMaster with more than 20 years experience leading tours in Scotland; George Leyh, PhD in history specializing in Scottish martyrs and Covenanters; and Jim Farrer, whose article "Resurrecting the Celtic Christian Models for the 21st Century" was published in *The Great Commission Research Journal*. According to author Dr. George Hunter in *The Apostolic Congregation*, this movement "lasted from the 5th to the 9th centuries and was the greatest sustained Christian mission in Christianity's history ... and ushered in a thousand years of (more or less) Christian culture in Europe."

Edinburgh

Most of us flew from Pittsburgh to Newark and then to Edinburgh. We built in much free time over our three nights here partly because of the **Fringe Festival**, "the greatest extravaganza of music, drama and dance on the planet" with 3,548 different shows (many on the streets) with 55,000 performers. Just below the castle we attended the **Royal Military Tattoo** with bagpipes, bands and dancers from many nations. Several travelers worshiped at the High Kirk of St. Giles and others at Greyfriars Kirk where the National Covenant was signed in 1638 or the local Baptist church. One of our couples, John and Yvonne Thickey, worshiped on the site where St. Cuthbert led missionary preaching in the 7th century. John's great, great grandparents were married in this church. We stayed near where 100 Presbyterian Covenanters were hung in the 1670s (in all of Scotland 18,000 total). Jim Farrer oriented us, and we viewed the nearby **Magdalen Chapel**, site of the first General Assembly meeting in 1560. This meeting place became the "workshop for ideas" as the Presbyterians here influenced the world through law, democracy, human rights, education, social reforms, science and medicine.

A critique of St. Giles's worship showed that even "leading light" congregations can be neglectful of "why we do what we do" and where parts of worship might be placed and why.

Kilmartin

The Kilmartin Valley is Scotland's richest prehistoric landscape with 300 ancient standing stones, cairns and forts within a six-mile radius. Some were built at least a thousand years before the Pyramids and 1,500 years before Stonehenge, but few tours visit Kilmartin. We built in two days to attempt to climb **Dunadd**, but rain hindered us. On this hill fort the largest amount of battle armaments in Scotland have been unearthed. This was also an artist colony using pigments from as far as Afghanistan! University of Glasgow archaeologists believe that the **Book of Kells** had its beginnings at Dunadd and Iona. According to most experts, this was the first site of the "Stone of Destiny or Stone of Scone" and where the kings of Scotland were crowned and anointed by Christian abbots.

Oban and the pilgrimage to Iona

Getting to **Iona** is a pilgrimage in itself: wait for the large ferry, ride 45 minutes, endure the 90-minute bus ride on a single-track road across the island of Mull where sheep have the right of way, and then take the foot-ferry across the sound to the Holy Isle of Iona.

When **Oxford was but a swamp**, Iona was famous. Scotland was evangelized from here. Iona is said to be the burial island of 48 Scottish kings, including Duncan and perhaps Macbeth in addition to eight Norwegian, French and Irish rulers.

According to the historian Adamnan, Columba's anointing of King Aedan in 574 was the first clearly recorded anointing of a king by a Christian leader in Europe.

We worshiped at 9 AM and 9 PM with pilgrims from around the world in the restored 12th century abbey. Jim has been able to study with three wardens of the Iona Community: Professor Horace T. Allen (born in Uniontown!), Dr. J. Phillip Newell and Dr. Nancy Cocks, Jim's former classmate at Knox Seminary in Toronto. The Iona Presbyterian Church building used to have a **permanent communion table** as long as their building so that many members could sit at the same time. In recent decades the positions of the table and pews have been reconfigured.

We stood under the three tall Celtic crosses, stood on the best preserved burial road in Europe, and walked to some of the top-rated, secluded beaches in the world. Unlike the trainees of Columba and George MacLeod, we have no reports of any of our pilgrims **running into the surf naked at dawn!**

Following an intense search for the Loch Ness Monster (the Leviathan, God's plaything in Psalm 104:26), we drove farther north. *Lonely Planet Guide 2019* places the Highlands and Isles of Scotland among the top five places in the world to visit. This is a perfect setting for a **Bible-inspired Sabbath**. We then endured a three-hour ferry ride which brought us across the rough north Atlantic to the Outer Hebridian Isles of Lewis and Harris where the famous tweed is made. Here we learned more about the strict Sabbath-keeping "Wee Free" Presbyterians. We stood under the huge Callanish standing stones and later worshiped at a "normal" Church of Scotland where a USA-born Presby minister preaches.

Differing viewpoints

Often Celtic Christianity is explained as the opposite of what is viewed as the features of Dark Ages Roman Catholicism. For example, if the Roman style was seen as inflexible, the Celtic style was thought to be tolerant. However, St. Andrews University's professor Ian Bradley explained to the 2006 Redstone pilgrimage in a personal lecture and discussion that most of this is a grave distortion of history. It is wishful thinking and projects a romanticized reconstruction of the past. **JRR Tolkien observed:** "The term 'Celtic' is a magic bag into which anything may be put, and out of which almost anything may come.... Anything is possible in the fabulous Celtic twilight which is not so much a twilight of the gods as of reason." True Irish/St. Columba-style Christianity was not light on sin and judgment, nor ultra-feminine or non-hierarchical. It did not honor sacredness of the earth more than the sacredness of the Holy Trinity. It did not feature secret knowledge nor a gnostic Jesus. Following St. Patrick they expressed urgency and knew how to pray in Christ's authority against evil spirits.

Like the ancient Celtic Christians among a pagan barbarian horde, we face a great opportunity. The USA is now the third largest mission field among unchurched people. Many are immunized against the church because of so much sub-standard Christianity. Most are "**ignostics**" who simply do not know much about Biblical facts and faith. True Celtic-style Christianity can play an influential role in shaping the church's future.

Our group sampled modern Celtic-style Christian worship at appropriate places. Yes, there was free time for journaling, shopping, hiking, haggis-sampling, laughing, and on Iona experiencing Caribbean blue waters and a "wee gale."

If you are interested in how the modern Celtic Christian model can **be adapted for your church** or if you wish to participate in another Redstone-endorsed pilgrimage to areas of Presbyterian heritage, please contact the Presbytery office.

Submitted by The Rev. Jim Farrer, Jennerstown (HR and co-founder with Ken White of the Order of the Wild Goose)