



2023 Stated Meeting

of the

Presbytery of Redstone
Presbyterian Church (USA)

September 26, 2023
6:00 p.m.



ONLINE (ZOOM)

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

OR

Latrobe Presbyterian Church
Latrobe, PA

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

**Directions to
Latrobe Presbyterian Church
428 Main Street, Latrobe, PA 15650
724.537.3631**

From Route 22:

Take Route 981 South from Route 22 and follow into Latrobe until you come to the light at the corner of Depot and Alexandria Streets. Turn left and go one block to Main Street and turn left again. The church is on your left on Main Street, ½ block past Alexandria Street.

From Route 30:

Take Route 981 North from Route 30 and follow it until it becomes Lloyd Avenue. Stay on Lloyd Avenue. At the “Y” by the Post Office and Domino’s Pizza, Lloyd Avenue becomes Main Street and is a one-way street. After bearing right at the “Y”, go to and through the third traffic light (intersection of Main Street and Alexandria Street). The church is on your left on Main Street, ½ block past Alexandria Street.

****Parking is available behind the church in the church lot, across Main Street in Snyder Funeral Home lot and beside the school Administration building next to the church. People will be there to direct you to parking. *Please do not park on Main Street, as you will be ticketed.***

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MEETING

- The offering for this meeting will go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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

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

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

Latrobe Presbyterian Church, Latrobe
Zoom meeting
September 26, 2023

4:30 p.m.		
5:30-6:00 p.m.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Registration and fellowship</i> 	<i>In Person/Online</i>
	<i>GATHERING</i>	
6:00 p.m.	<p><u>Presbytery Gathering Convenes</u> GATHERING SONG OPENING PRAYER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Roll • Seating of Corresponding Members 	<p><i>Sanctuary/Zoom</i> Rev. Dawn Sherwood</p> <p>Rev. Cliff Foster</p>
	<p><u>“On the Road with Redstone”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latrobe Greetings/Arrangements <p><u>Reports</u> <u>Stated Clerk</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Agenda <p><u>Treasurer</u> <u>Executive Presbyter</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soli Deo Gloria 	<p>Rev. Don Glunt</p> <p>Rev. Cliff Foster John Dickson Rev. Skip Noftzger</p>
	<u>SHARING IN WORSHIP – page 5</u>	
	<p><u>Gathering</u> -Prelude -Opening Sentences/Invocation -Hymn – “Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples” -Prayer of Confession/Pardon -Hymn – “Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”</p>	
	<p><u>Ministry of the Word</u> -Scripture reading—Colossians 4:15-17 -“Finishing Unfinished Business”</p>	<p>Rev. Asa Lee; President, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary</p>
	<p><u>Response</u> -Hymn – “Heaven Shall Not Wait” -Commissioning of Ruling Elders for Particular Pastoral Service - Lynn Mance; Rich Zoltak -Offering - Doxology - “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”</p>	
	<p><u>Sacrament - Lord’s Supper</u> -Hymn – “One Bread, One Body”</p>	
	<p><u>Sending</u> -Hymn – “Be Thou My Vision”</p>	
	<u>SHARING IN MINISTRY AND MISSION</u>	
	<p><u>Council – page 28</u> <u>Enabling Ministry Networks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Budget (first reading) • Nominating Committee member 	<p>COUNCIL CHAIR</p> <p>Rev. Curtis Paul Rev. Lee McDermott</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hope in A Bag • Racial Justice and Reconciliation <p><u>Empowering Mission Partnerships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine Springs Camp - page 23 • Mission Subcommittee - page 25 ----Congregation mission <p><u>Committee on Ministry – page 35</u></p> <p><u>Equipping Leadership</u></p> <p><u>Engaging Congregations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of Sara Sadler and Rebecca Abbott- • 2024 Minimum Terms of Call • 2024 Recommended effective salary increases <p><u>Nominating Committee – page 48</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Vice Moderator • 2024 GA Commissioners • Standing Committees 	<p style="text-align: center;">Greg Davis Rev. Owar Ojulu</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Rev. Ed Gray</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Glenn Hart</p>
	<u>Announcements Loop</u>	
	<p><u>Resolution of Thanks</u></p> <p><u>Benediction</u></p> <p><u>Adjournment</u></p> <p><u><i>The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on November 18, 2023, 9:00 a.m. by Zoom or at the First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette, PA.</i></u></p>	Rev. Derek Campbell

By God's grace,
Communicate the Word,
Carry on the Work,
Change the World!

**The Great Ends of the Church:
#4 The Preservation of the Truth**

GATHERING

Book of Order F-3.0104 Truth and Goodness

That truth is in order to goodness; and the great touchstone of truth, its tendency to promote holiness, according to our Savior's rule, "By their fruits ye shall know them." And that no opinion can either be more pernicious or more absurd than that which brings truth and falsehood upon a level, and represents it as of no consequence what a man's opinions are. On the contrary, we are persuaded that there is an inseparable connection between faith and practice, truth and duty. Otherwise it would be of no consequence either to discover truth or to embrace it.

Prelude Rubrics, IV "The Peace May be Exchanged" Dan Locklair

Michael Long

Opening Sentences

Elder Elizabeth Armstrong

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

What does the Holy One require of us?

Mic. 6:8

**To do justice, to love kindness, and
to walk humbly with our God.**

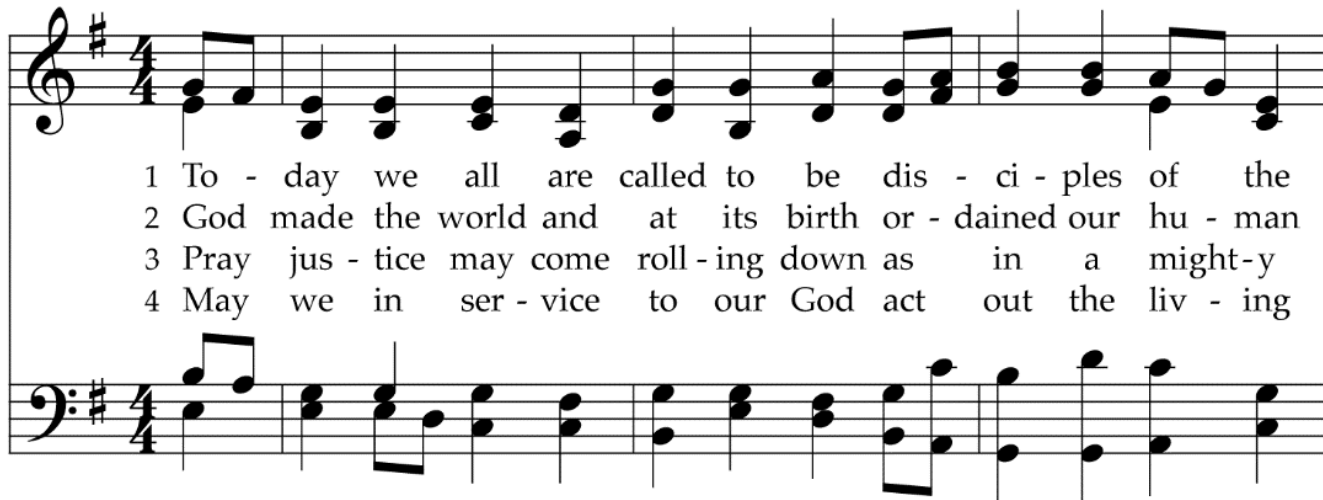
Opening Prayer

O God Almighty,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:
Grant us, we pray,
to be grounded and settled in your truth
by the coming down of the Holy Spirit into our hearts.
That which we know not, reveal;
that which is wanting in us, fill up;
that which we know, confirm;
and keep us blameless in your service;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**
—Clement of Rome (1st century)

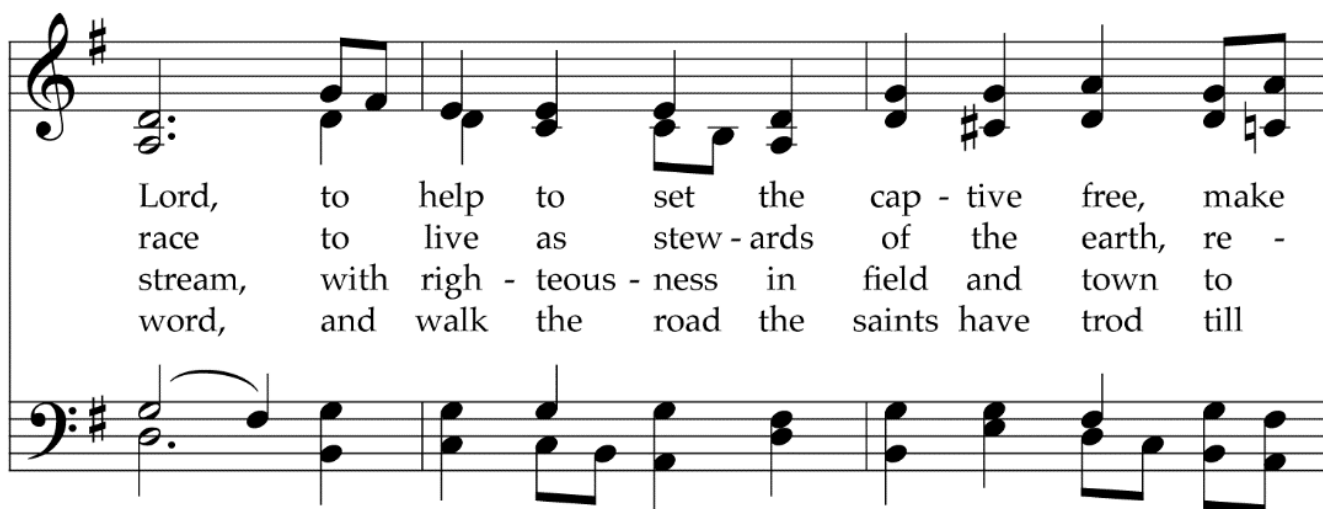
***Hymn: #757 "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples"**

757

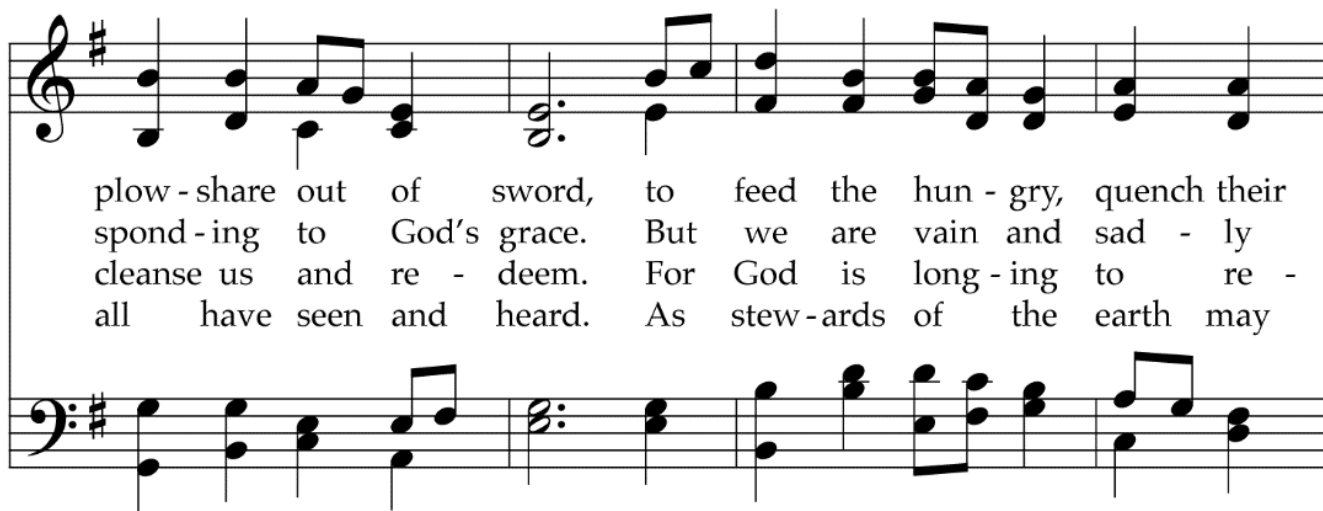
Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples



1 To - day we all are called to be dis - ci - ples of the
 2 God made the world and at its birth or - dained our hu - man
 3 Pray jus - tice may come roll - ing down as in a might - y
 4 May we in ser - vice to our God act out the liv - ing



Lord, to help to set the cap - tive free, make
 race to live as stew - ards of the earth, re -
 stream, with righ - teous - ness in field and town to
 word, and walk the road the saints have trod till



plow - share out of sword, to feed the hun - gry, quench their
 spond - ing to God's grace. But we are vain and sad - ly
 cleanse us and re - deem. For God is long - ing to re -
 all have seen and heard. As stew - ards of the earth may

thirst, make love and peace our fast, to serve the
 proud; we sow not peace but strife. Our dis - cord
 store an earth where con - flicts cease, a world that
 we give thanks in one ac - cord to God who

poor and home - less first, our ease and com - fort last.
 spreads a dead - ly cloud that threat - ens all of life.
 was cre - at - ed for a har - mo - ny of peace.
 calls us all to be dis - ci - ples of the Lord.

Confession and Pardon

Rev. Brenda Barnes

If we say we have no sin,
 we deceive ourselves,
 and the truth is not in us.
 But when we confess our sins,
 God who is faithful and just
 will forgive us our sins
 and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

**Merciful God,
 Your justice protects those who are weak,
 yet we seek the shelter of privilege and power.
 Your righteousness redeems those who are poor,
 yet we seek the status of wealth and possessions.
 Your peace upholds those who are oppressed,
 yet we seek the security of weapons and retribution.**

**Forgive us our sins, and lead us to true repentance,
that we may trust you in all things;
through Jesus Christ we pray.**

Hear the good news!

John 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:17

As people born of water and the Spirit
we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.
God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.
Come to the water and remember your baptism.
Be thankful,
and live as one who has been raised to new life!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

And may the peace of God be with you all.

And also with you.


Please share signs of peace with one another. You may come forward and touch the waters of baptism to remember the gift of God's grace in your life.

***Gloria Patri: #582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"**

582


Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
 B^b F B^b F B^b F Gm F




1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
 2 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
 F B^b E^b B^b Gm7 C7




and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
 C7 F A Dm



and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
 World with - out end, 7 with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm)(A7) (D)
 Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F



As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

THE WORD

Scripture Reading: Colossians 4:15-17

Sermon "Finish Unfinished Business"

Rev. Dr. Asa Lee

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

*Hymn: 773 "Heaven Shall Not Wait"

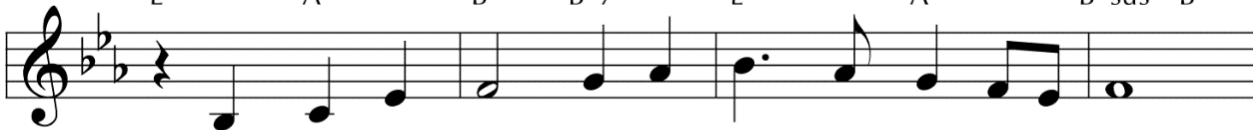
Heaven Shall Not Wait 773

Capo 1: (D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
 Eb Ab Bb Bb7 Eb Cm7 Fm Bb



1 Heaven shall not wait for the poor to lose their pa-tience,
 2 Heaven shall not wait for the rich to share their for-tunes,
 3 Heaven shall not wait for the dawn of great i - de - as,
 4 Heaven shall not wait for tri - um - phant Hal - le - lu - jahs,

(D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (G) (Asus) (A)
 Eb Ab Bb Bb7 Eb Ab Bbsus Bb



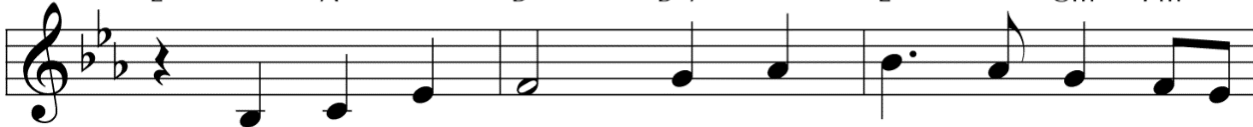
the scorned to smile, the de-spised to find a friend:
 the proud to fall, the e - lite to tend the least:
 thoughts of com - pas - sion di - vorced from cries of pain:
 when earth has passed and we reach an - oth - er shore:

(Bm7) (Em) (F#m) (Bm7) (D) (Em7) (A)
 Cm7 Fm Gm Cm7 Eb Fm7 Bb



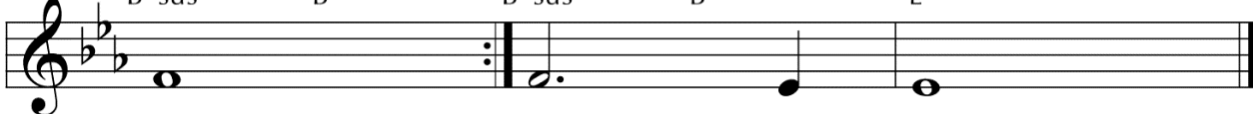
Je - sus is Lord; he has cham - pioned the un - want - ed;
 Je - sus is Lord; he has shown the mas - ter's priv - ilege:
 Je - sus is Lord; he has mar - ried word and ac - tion;
 Je - sus is Lord in our pres - ent im - per - fec - tion;

(D) (G) (A) (A7) (D) (Bm) (Em)
 Eb Ab Bb Bb7 Eb Cm Fm



in him in - jus - tice con - fronts its time - ly
 to kneel and wash ser - vants' feet be - fore they
 his cross and com - pa - ny make his pur - pose
 his power and love are for now and then for

1-3 4
 (Asus) (A) (Asus) (A) (D)
 Bbsus Bb Bbsus Bb Eb



end. ev - er - more.
 feast.
 plain.

Service of Commissioning Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Elder Lynn Mance, Elder Rich Zoltak
 Offering Our Gifts & Prayer of Thanksgiving Rev. Sylvia Carlson
 Musical Offering: "Be the Light of Christ" Wes Cameron Choir Ensemble
 *Doxology: #609 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

SERVICE MUSIC

609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

D A D

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures

Bm A D G D Bm E A D

high and low. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise

D

God, in Je - sus ful - ly known: Cre - a - tor, Word, and Spir - it

G A D Em A Bm

one. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

Em D G A Em G A D

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

THE TABLE

Lord's Supper
Invitation to the Table

Rev. Derek Campbell

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray...

...who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth are full of your glory

Hosanna in the highest

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord

Hosanna in the highest.

...great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lords Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

**Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Please come forward to receive the communion elements, return to your pew, and we will partake as one, once all have been served. If you wish to remain seated, a server will bring communion to you in your pew. Gluten free communion is specially marked.

***Hymn during Communion: 530 “One Bread, One Body”**

530 One Bread, One Body

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of

all, one cup of bless - ing which we bless.

And we, though man-y, through-out the

earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and

free, wom - an or man, no more.
 works, one in the Lord of all.
 grown, gath - ered to one, for all.

to Refrain

Prayer after Communion

SENDING

*Hymn: 450 "Be Thou My Vision"

THE WORD

450 Be Thou My Vision

Capo 1: (D) (G) (D/F#) (A7) (D)
 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7 Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

(A) (D) (G) (A)
 Bb Eb Ab Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

(G) (D) (F#m7) (G) (A)
 Ab Eb Gm7 Ab Bb

thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

(Bm) (D/F#) (G) (D)
 Cm Eb/G Ab Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The business portion of the meeting resumes.

Rev. Derek Campbell will offer the benediction at the close of the meeting.

Notes and copyright information for hymns:

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

757 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

This text placing stewardship in the context of faithful witness was written by a retired Presbyterian minister to be part of the 1986 stewardship campaign titled "Called to Be Disciples." The tune name recalls the Sussex village where the arranger first heard the melody.

TEXT: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985

MUSIC: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Text © 1989 H. Kenn Carmichael

KINGSFOLD

CMD

SERVICE MUSIC

582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

TEXT: Trad. liturgical text; adapt. Paul M. Vasile, 2008

MUSIC: Paul M. Vasile, 2008

Text Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

Heaven Shall Not Wait 773

This stirring, prophetic hymn is organized around two recurring four-syllable phrases, the first of which introduces an idealized scenario of what Dietrich Bonhoeffer would call "cheap grace," while the second announces the "costly grace" of God's redeeming work in Jesus Christ.

TEXT: John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1987

MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1987

Text and Music © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

HEAVEN SHALL NOT WAIT

12.11.12.11

609

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1989
MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1623; harm. Hal H. Hopson, 1998
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Music Harm. © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
LM with alleluias
(alternate harmonization, 10)

LORD'S SUPPER

530

One Bread, One Body

This Lord's Supper text is based on various Scriptures (1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Galatians 3:28, and 1 Corinthians 12:1–31) as well as imagery from the *Didache*, a significant Christian document from the early 2nd century, about scattered grain united in the eucharistic bread.

TEXT and MUSIC: John B. Foley, SJ, 1978
Text and Music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ (Published by OCP)

ONE BREAD, ONE BODY
Irregular

THE WORD

450

Be Thou My Vision

These stanzas are selected from a 20th-century English poetic version of an Irish monastic prayer dating to the 10th century or before. They are set to an Irish folk melody that has proved popular and easily sung despite its lack of repetition and its wide range.

TEXT: Irish poem; trans. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; vers. Eleanor Hull, 1912, alt.
MUSIC: Irish ballad; harm. David Evans, 1927
Music Harm. © 1927 Oxford University Press

SLANE
10.10.10.10

STATED CLERK'S REPORT:

1. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.

Correspondence Log

Date Received	Received From	Content	Action
September 12, 2023 - email	Carlisle Presbytery	Request to post employment opportunity for a Presbytery Leader for Vision and Transformation	To FILE
September 11, 2023 - email	CRE Jeff Smith	Invitation to Uniontown, Tent 250 Year Celebration	To FILE
September 10, 2023 - email	Website Maintenance	Correspondence regarding renewal of website hosting	To BOOKKEEPER and FILE
September 7, 2023 - mail	Deb Lichtenfels	Session request for assistance	To COM and FILE
August 25, 2023 - email	Rebecca Abbott	New Pastor Form, Three Mandatory Background Clearances	To FILE
August 17, 2023 - email	Sara Sadler	New Pastor Form	To FILE
August 14, 2023 - email	Sara Sadler	FBI Background Clearance	To FILE
July 24, 2023 - email	Sara Sadler	Child Abuse Background Clearance	To FILE
July 24, 2023 - mail	Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown	Request for Waiver of Rotation for Ruling Elder	To COM and FILE
July 19, 2023 - email	Sara Sadler	PA State Police Background Check	To FILE
June 26, 2023 - mail	Rev. Kristen Emrick	2023 Terms of Call with Brownsville, Ft. Burd and Calvin	To COM and FILE
June 15, 2023 - email	Rev. Rebecca Siddle	Mandatory Background Clearances	To FILE
June 13, 2023 - email	Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson	Copy of Articles of Incorporation	To FILE
June 13, 2023 - mail	Revloc Presbyterian Church	Three-year contract renewal and 2023 Terms of Call for CP David O'Hara	To COM and FILE
June 12, 2023 - hand delivered	First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette	2023 Terms of Call for Rev. Dawn Sherwood	To COM and FILE
June 12, 2023 - email	Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford	2023 Terms of Call for Rev. Geoff Rach	To COM and FILE
June 7, 2023 - email	First Presbyterian Church, Irwin	2023 Interim Pastor Contract with Rev. Doug Rehberg	To COM and FILE
May 25, 2023 - email	Rev. Hyiwot Teshome	Request for Johnstown, First to host January 27, 2024 Presbytery Meeting	To COUNCIL and FILE
May 23, 2023 - email	Rev. Brenda Barnes	Request for New Hope to host March, May, or September 2024 Presbytery Meeting	To COUNCIL and FILE
May 22, 2023 - mail	Rev. Alice Tondora	Criminal Background and State Police Clearances	To FILE

2. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year approved by the Council are presented below. We welcome invitations to serve as meeting host for any of these meetings.
 - January 27, 2024 – First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
 - March 26, 2024 – New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon
 - May 28, 2024 – Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock
 - September 24, 2024 –
 - November 23, 2024 – Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria
3. There remain a number of churches who still need to have their session minutes and church register for 2022 reviewed to complete this prior to the November Presbytery meeting when the final report will be recorded in the Presbytery minutes.
 - a. Contact your COM liaison who will make arrangements to review them. If you are unsure of contact information for that person, please contact the Presbytery office.
 - b. Drop your minutes book and register by the Presbytery office for review by the Stated Clerk. You will be notified when they are reviewed, and you are able to retrieve them.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Stated Clerk for Constitutional and Judicial Matters of the Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presents the following Consent Agenda.

From Executive Committee

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meetings of the May 23, 2023 and August 15, 2023 be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial and Treasurer's Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit. (Appendix "A").
2. Council recommends the adoption of the proposed 2024 Budget (See Appendix "B") for consideration by the Presbytery for a "first reading." (*This is presented for a First Reading. The Presbytery will take action at the November meeting.*)
3. Council **recommends** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.

From the Committee on Ministry

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the Dunlap's Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown to waive the rotation of service for Carol Blair, Ruling Elder.

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

1. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry **recommends** the suspension of Cynthia Bellina as a candidate and from the preparation process.

From the Nominating Committee

From the Committee on Representation

From the Sewickley Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission

1. The Sewickley Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission has not met since the May meeting of Presbytery. No report to present.

Treasurer's Report

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

This report provides an unaudited overview of the Redstone Presbytery finances for the month ending August 31, 2023.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / INCOME

For the month of August, the Presbytery collected \$29,972 in Church Commitments, which exceeds the desired benchmark of \$27,083. YTD, Church Commitments receipted total \$201,779, which represents a benchmark shortfall of -\$14,888 for the period. The desired amount collected YTD is \$216,667.

In review of the Church Commitment report, the percentage of pledges paid are desired at 67% for this period. It is noted some churches are below the benchmark, some have achieved the benchmark, others have exceeded the benchmark, and others have not provided a pledge, but have made an offering.

Total Income for the month is recorded at \$34,605, just falling short of a goal totaling \$36,500. YTD, the goal gap is much greater at -\$49,905 (\$292,000 - \$242,095). Some of the fund gap is a result of the timing of temporarily restricted dollars being released.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW / EXPENSES

Like income, expenses for this period are hopefully at 67% of the budget. Some expenses will exceed the percentage benchmark subject to timing matters, or are uncontrollable because of inflationary matters. It is noted for this period, expenses for the month just peak above the desired benchmark at \$33.70, which is insignificant. YTD, expenses exceed the goal at \$6,829.42, again insignificant. The expenses of the Presbytery are being managed effectively.

EXCESS INCOME OVER EXPENSES

For this period, expenses exceed income at -\$1,932, YTD at -\$88,847, and by budget -\$38.

INVESTMENTS & HOLDINGS

The August Ameriprise statement reports a negative change in value at -\$11,216, and YTD a positive change in value at \$48,292. The ending value total for the Ameriprise account is \$664,220. Other investments & holdings (First Commonwealth, PILP, New Covenant, & Petty Cash) total \$408,817.

Total Investments = \$1,073,037.

MINISTRY AND MISSION REPORTS

Executive Presbyter

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger
Executive Presbyter Report

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

VISION	5/24/23 through 9/26/23	
Congregation-centered (ENGAGE)	<p>Visible presence within the Presbytery engaging with congregations- Church Visits---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since the last report, I have visited seventeen different worship or special services of nineteen congregations within Redstone Presbytery. Additionally, I was afforded the opportunity to preach or bring a charge on nine occasions in those services.• Stepped in to provide both pastoral and organizational leadership in congregations when pastors become unavailable unexpectedly.• Continued resourcing of churches currently using pulpit supply about possible pulpit supply, pastoral and moderator options. Arranged for the COM moderator appointments of moderators for all congregations in need of longer-term service.• Consulting with pastors and personnel committees on issues of concern within the ministries of their congregations. Assist and resource presbyters in being available for conflict mediation.	
Leadership developed (EQUIP)	<p>Developing and equipping leadership within the Presbytery---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked with sessions in finding and contracting with pastors for "temporary" pastoral positions. Connected and consulted in the hiring and approval of 2 new commissioned pastor relationships.• Conducted training and resources with different Pastoral Nominating Committees in both utilizing CLC search system and conducting appropriate pastoral searches. Participated through active consultation as they walked through the filtering and discernment process. Conducted EP reference checks prior to in-person interviews, arranged neutral pulpit opportunities and assisted the committees in seeking consensus on evaluating candidates. Consulted on negotiating and final elements of extending calls.• Resourced both CPM and candidates in the consideration and development of opportunities for field education experiences.• Individual in person consultations with thirteen pastors throughout this period along with numerous phone and zoom	

	<p>sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively provided possible candidates to the Nominating Committee for consideration for leadership within the Presbytery. Coordinated with the committee in completing their nominations for standing committees, presbytery leadership and GA commissioners during the summer months. 	
<p>Collaboration-Districts/Network (ENABLE)</p>	<p>Joined and initiated contact both within and outside Redstone---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively participate in Christian Associate and the development of their strategic plan. Joined with Pittsburgh leaders in an ecumenical gathering for worship, prayer, and imagination going forward. Provide administrative assistance and resourcing for all of the various networks, task forces and subcommittees of the Presbytery in their work and implementation. Served as the Director of the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation program with participants from Redstone, Washington, UOV, Pittsburgh, Beaver-Butler and Shenango. Coordinated the steering committee and planning team for the annual Wee Kirk conference. Served as the primary administrator for implementation of the conference retreat. Wrote and received grant funding for the event from the Synod along with contributions from individual congregations. Organized and coordinated with a Council team on the joint worship service celebrating seventy-five years of camping ministry at Pine Springs Camp. 	
<p>Partnership in Mission promoted (EMPOWER)</p>	<p>Promoted and provided leadership in our partnerships in mission –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Serve as the co-convenor of the Sudan and South Sudan Mission Partnership Network. Participated in the leadership and the meeting of the Sudan/South Sudan presentation and partnership as part of the New Wilmington Mission Conference. Assisted the Mission Committee in identifying, providing and implementing financial support for the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church in response to particular needs. Served as ex-officio board member for Pine Springs Camp including participating in training and worship for summer staff. Work with the Pine Springs Board of Directors, the Finance Committee and the Executive Director. Participated regularly in both the Board as an ex officio member 	

	and within the Strategy committee of Redstone Highlands.				
Operational Support	<p>Initiated practices and policies for both greater efficiency and effectiveness---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supervised the close financial management of the budget of the Presbytery. Managed the effective cash flow of operations (no premature withdrawals from investments) and limited expenditures in order to minimize the use of reserves. • Prepared multiple future staffing options for the Staff Support committee and various budget alternatives for the Finance and Budget committee to consider for recommendation to the Council. • Correspond with sessions with gift letters offering gratitude for First Fruits contributions. • Consulted with auditors on completion of the 2022 financial review. • Ongoing resource and consultation with pastors, treasurers, and sessions concerning employment contracts, annual enrollment and retirement decisions within the medical plan of the Board of Pensions. 				
VALUES	Servant Leadership	Flourishing Community	Witness to the World	Generous and effective Stewardship	
	<i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>				

Pine Springs Camp

CLEBEBRATE GOD'S PROVISION FOR 75 YEARS OF CHRIST CENTERED SUMMER CAMPING



Two highlights this summer were the on camp 75th year celebrations. The 75th Anniversary Celebration was held Saturday, June 3 and approximately 250 converged on camp. It was great to see so many people come to camp to reminisce and thank God for this special place. We were able to rededicate both the A-frame interior renovation and the re-facing of the Stuart Chapel.

On Sunday, July 16 around 100 came to camp to celebrate Worship together. Sponsored by Redstone Presbytery this was a wonderful morning of thanking God corporately for his provision for camp since 1948.

SUMMER CAMP 2023-REVIEW!

Our 75th year of running summer camp is now complete and we are very grateful! Although this summer proved to be a challenge in getting staff, each week we had just enough to be able to run according to our camper to staff ratios Here are some highlights of the summer program.

- We had 809 Summer Campers-up from 780 in 2022.
- We ran two weeks of Mission EX-our Service Camp for Middle School Youth Groups. Calvary Church from Lancaster came at the end of June and brought 24 youth and 10 adults. Peters Creek Baptist cam in July and brought 28 youth and 8 adults. They both worked at New Day Ministries in Johnstown and did some incredible work at the ministry and in the Kernville neighborhood.
- Each age group increased in the number of campers from last summer except for high school campers which had 9 less campers.

BREAKDOWN BY AGE GROUP	2023		
	2022	Pro	2023
Grandmas, Moms and Tots	111	130	132
Discovery	91	102	102
Exploration	197	198	208
Journey	195	212	207
Expedition	98	126	91
			740
Family Camp			60
MINTEC			9
			809

PSC TRAVELING DAY CAMPS-WE EXPANDED AND GREW!

There was excitement in the air as we were able to run a new Traveling Day Camp on the Campus of New Hope Presbyterian Church. The church's property was perfect for an outdoor, adventure-based camp. New Hope, West Hempfield and Irwin FP churches were partners in our first ever PSC Day Camp-Norwin! 21 campers enjoyed a wonderful week of fun, adventure and learning about Jesus the Good Shepherd who laid down his life!

Our second PSC Day Camp-Murrysville, held on the campus of First Presbyterian Murrysville hit the limit of campers at 50! This year, with the help of many volunteers from Murrysville Church made the week a great success. We are looking forward to hopefully continuing these sites in 2024 and seeking God about how to offer more traveling day camps!

PSC RETREAT PROGRAMMING

OUR FALL RETREATS

We are once again offering a full slate of Retreats this fall. Please take advantage of these retreats as Pine Springs Camp can help congregations have a retreat experience and we do all the planning.

September 16-17- Fusion Retreat for current 4th, 5th and 6th graders (On-line registration available now). Already have over 20 registered campers.

October 6-7-WITW Retreat graders (On-line registration available now).

October 20-22-Big One Retreat-Middle and High School Retreat

2023 FRIENDS DINNER WILL BE AT CAMP!

Don't miss this opportunity to Celebrate and Support the ministry of Pine Springs Camp as we cap off our 75th birthday year!

This is the major fundraiser for our general operating fund and it is always a time of fun, fellowship and hearing stories of faith and how God uses the ministry of Pine Springs Camp for his glory!

Churches and individuals can be table sponsors, give to the Silent Auction. Be looking for more information on this special way to support the ministry and to have another opportunity to thank God for Pine Springs Camp!



4TH ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY EVENT

Our 4th Annual sporting clay event will be held Tuesday, October 3rd at the beautiful Highlands 7-Springs venue. The event has been a great addition to our Fundraising Event Annual Program, and this generated over \$7,000 just last year to help our general operating budget. A registration flyer and on-line registration is available by going to www.pinesprings.org/events

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR PINE SPRINGS CAMP!

Mission Network

September 14, 2023, Meeting

Business:

1. September Presbytery meeting offering will be designated to PDA at large for the natural disasters in Morocco and Libya.
2. Discussion regarding the possibility of launching a campaign in 2024 to bring awareness of the financial plight of NTC and JEBS (Juba Evangelical Bible School). JEBS trains Pastors and Evangelists to minister to the South Sudanese people. Suggestion of 50/50 Humanitarian / Education, perhaps sponsor students at these schools. We need to identify all the needs so our churches understand the purpose of the campaign. A motion was made and approved unanimously to initiate a 2024 campaign to support NTC.
3. September Presbytery Meeting: Derek will report activity for Latrobe Presbyterian and Debby will report on activity at Latrobe United Presbyterian.
4. Mission database update: Debby to populate spreadsheet with information obtained from reviews of newsletters and websites for churches who did not respond to the survey in the eNews.
5. Mission Trip to St. Albans, West Virginia is planned for October 22-27/23.
6. Another Mission Fair was discussed for 2024, perhaps at Pine Springs.
7. Skip stated that Doug Rehberg, Interim at Irwin, had started a "Blessings Board" that has been successful in the Pittsburgh area will attend our next meeting.
8. Next Meeting October 12, 2023, at 11am.

August 10, 2023, Meeting

Business:

1. Action Item: Need to assign September Presbytery meeting offering designation.
2. Mission database update: several churches have not responded to the survey. Debby reported that 100% of the churches surveyed are active in responding to food insecurity. There are a few churches engaged in International mission and a few churches engaged in national mission activities. Skip will determine which churches have not responded.
3. International Peace Maker speakers - Skip reported that 2 individuals who were to speak did not get Visas prior to a deadline.
4. From Skip and Sylvia: Mission Network meeting at Westminster College July 19-21, prior to the New Wilmington Mission Conference, Sylvia stated there were 2 US Gov't representatives, State Dept., and UN Official. They presented the gov't perspective regarding activities in Sudan/ South Sudan. Mission co-workers Shelvis Smith-Mathers and Kristy Rice. She is with the South Sudan Evangelical

Presbyterian Church as a trauma facilitator. Bob Rice is with the Nile Theological College (NTC) and researching the ramifications of Christianity in various cultures. Building on Andrew Walls, how do they wrestle Christianity with culture? Sharon Kandel participated as Regional Liason in the Horn of Africa. Alphonse Yokwe is a faculty member at NTC. Sudan refugees are forming Presbyterian congregations with Pastors. SSPEC has an initiative for training undergraduates. Juba is training people to be lay Evangelists. No faculty at NTC have been paid, the staff are taking other jobs to make ends meet at home. Financial support is needed. Bill Address and Frank Dimmock was recently in South Sudan and learned that South Sudan has the highest infant mortality rate in the world. There are 3 nursing schools run by churches there.

5. Action Item: Discuss possible mechanisms to bring awareness of the financial situation with NTC to the Presbytery congregations.
6. Debby Koenig reported a new house has been finished to accommodate visitors or mission workers in Kermit WV. Christian Help of Mingo County has announced this in their newsletter. The house has 18 beds and can sleep 25. There is a kitchen and 2 common rooms. Action Item: Debby to provide info to Skip regarding the mission.
7. Sylvia reported there is a mission trip to St. Albans October 22-27.
8. Skip stated that Doug Rehberg, Interim at Irwin, had started a "Blessings Board" that has been successful in the Pittsburgh area and will invite him to our meeting.
9. Next Meeting September 13, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Deby Koenig

Presbyterian Women

The Fall Gathering will be held at Congruity Presbyterian Church in New Alexandria, PA, on Saturday, November 4, 2023.

The mission project for the Gathering will be new Men's Underwear, (Sox, T-shirts, and Underwear) for the Union Mission in Latrobe, PA. The mission acts "as both an intermediary in time of crises and as a solution for those who find themselves without shelter and strives to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief, and nonrecurring in our community." We are asking a representative to speak at the gathering.

Rev. Donna Havrisko will lead the Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir. The study is an invitation to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

PW women who attended PW Synod Gathering will speak on their experiences at the Gathering.

Those who wish to attend, the cost is \$12 per person and registrations will be mailed soon.

An honorarium for Susan Nesti, Past Moderator of the Synod of the Trinity PW, was given to Pine Springs Camp for their travelling day camp program that takes their day camp program to churches in areas where kids might not be able to afford to attend regular camp.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Hart, Moderator

ACTION AGENDA

Presbytery Council

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

Presentation and Action Items

- The Council notes the first reading of the 2024 budget (consent). Second reading and consideration of the budget will occur in the November meeting.
- The Council recommends Rev. Geoff Rach to serve on the Nominating Committee effective in 2024.
- Hope in a Bag presentation.
- Racial Justice and Reconciliation presentation
- Pine Springs Camp report
- Mission network report – congregational missions

Information Items

September 5, 2023, Meeting

With Rev. Curtis Paul away, Moderator Pro Tem Dawn Sherwood called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum of members was established by those in person and participation by Zoom videoconferencing. Rev. Skip Noftzger shared the devotions by rehearsing the significance of the Psalms in our lives and read the Psalm for the daily lectionary. Upon its conclusion the meeting was opened with prayer.

- Moderator requested that the agenda as submitted be considered. The agenda as submitted was approved by consent.
- The minutes of the June 27, 2023, meeting were approved by MSP.

Moderator Report

No Report given.

Executive Presbyter Report

Rev. Noftzger shared some of the highlights from his recent trip to Scotland.

Rev. Noftzger provided updates on various ministry activities including the successful conclusions of the searches at McClellandtown and Trinity, New Florence congregation. Sara Sadler and Rebecca Abbott were examined, received, and calls were approved at the called Presbytery meeting on August 15, 2023. An ordination and installation service will take place for Sara at the Trinity, New Florence location on September 17; 3:30 p.m. An installation service will be held at the McClellandtown church on September 24, 3:00 p.m. to install Rebecca Abbott as their next pastor.

Rev. Noftzger and others shared their experiences at the July 16 joint worship service and picnic rededicating the Calvin Hays Log Chapel. There was some discussion for consideration of having an annual summer

worship/picnic at Pine Springs Camp.

Rev. Noftzger provided a recommendation from the Nominating Committee for the Council to nominate Rev. Geoff Rach to serve on the Nominating Committee in 2024. It was **MSP** to nominate Rev. Rach at the next Presbytery meeting.

Stated Clerk Report

- The Correspondence Log for was reviewed as submitted.
- Rev. Noftzger confirmed the dates for all Council meetings in 2023. They are the following:
 - **October 24**
 - **November 28**
- Rev. Noftzger shared a summary of the current revisions in the Book of Order resulting from amendments. With each amendment that may require presbytery action or communication, there was a proposed assignment on how that may occur in the next year in the Presbytery of Redstone.
- From the scheduled 2024 Presbytery gatherings, the following hosts have already been determined.
 - January 27, 2024 – First Presbyterian, Johnstown
 - March 19, 2024---New Hope Presbyterian, North Huntingdon
 - May 28, 2024 – Pleasant View Presbyterian, Smock
 - September 24, 2024
 - November 23, 2024
- After some discussion, there was an expressed desire to inquire of Pine Springs Camp concerning possible willingness to host the September 2024 meeting, along with a possible invitation to Washington Presbytery to join us. The November 2024 meeting would be hosted by the congregation of the Moderator's choosing.

Treasurer Report

John Dickson had submitted a written report based upon the end of July. August income and expenses report was still being completed. There remain some significant expenditures with a little lower than anticipated income at this time of the year.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

A written report from the Executive Director was provided.

It was agreed to receive the reports **by consent** of the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Treasurer, and Executive Director of PSC.

Sub Committees/Networks/Task Forces

Staff Support

- A written report was provided based upon the last meeting.
- Recommendations for staffing options are being considered for possible future stability, vision, and needs.
- Recommendation of salary increases (4%) for the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper and Executive Presbyter was provided to the Finance, Budget, and Property committee

Worship

- Although Rev. Laura Blank was not present, Rev. Noftzger shared that he had met Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, President of Pittsburgh Seminary, in anticipation of his preaching at the September Presbytery meeting. The Council was reminded of the preachers for the upcoming 2023 Presbytery Gatherings. Rev.

Noftzger will be meeting with Rev. Dr. Asa Lee (PTS) to provide a context for his preaching.

- Current Moderator Rev. Dawn Sherwood was confirmed as the preacher for the November Presbytery meeting.

Addictions Ministry Network

- A written report was provided.
- Congregations continue to be encouraged to bring the collected resources for the Hope in a Bag project to the September Presbytery gathering.
- The network requested 15 minutes on the September Presbytery agenda. It was **MSP** to grant that request and include it on the agenda.
- The next meeting of the network is schedule for September 7.

Mission

- A written report of the August Mission subcommittee was provided.
- Rev. Ojulu spoke about the conditions on the ground in Ethiopia that caused his cancellation of his trip to the country and his home village. He shared the ongoing work of development of the Gambella-Cambria partnership.
- Rev. Noftzger reminded everyone that we are still collecting mission project information. It was discussed that it might be appropriate to conduct another presbytery mission fair at the September 2024 gathering.
- Although there has been hopes that a second choice from South Sudan might be able to join us as International Peacemaker (PCUSA), the candidate also was not able to obtain a visa in time for this travel opportunity.
- It was reported that the Mission subcommittee is considering a special financial campaign within the Presbytery congregations for an education initiative in South Sudan. Decisions about that option will be forthcoming at the next Council meeting.
- The subcommittee requested a few minutes on the September Presbytery agenda to continue their presentations from congregations on a “Moment for Sharing Mission.”
- The next meeting of the Mission subcommittee is scheduled for September 14.

Budget, Finance, and Stewardship

- A written report from the August meeting of the Budget and Finance subcommittee was provided.
- Tim D’Aurora discussed the proposed bid received for the replacement of the furnace and air conditioning system(s) in the Presbytery center. The bid proposal was included in the meeting documents folder for review. It was **MSP** to contract with Johnson’s Heating and Air Conditioning for the cost of 17,670 to be paid from a transfer from reserves.
- The recommended 2024 budget of the subcommittee was presented. A review of the process of consideration of multiple options as well as explanations of administrative and executive staffing categories was provided. It was **MSP** to recommend the proposed 2024 budget to the Presbytery for a first reading in September and a second reading with deliberation and vote in November.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation

- Rev. Sue Washburn reported on the ongoing participation by those in the workshop offered by Rev. Jeff Eddings from Pittsburgh. Particularly, she described its impact upon the self-examination and reflection of those involved in understanding their own participation in ways that have reinforced racism. The workshop continues weekly until mid-October.
- The network requested time on the September Presbytery agenda for their regular “Moment for Justice” which will be presented by Rev. Curtis Paul with a video.

Presbyterian Women

- A written report was included in the meeting documents.

Communications

- No report.

September Presbytery Agenda

- With the inclusion of the added requests during this Council meeting, the agenda for the September Presbytery meeting was presented. It was MSP to approve the agenda as submitted.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

- Based upon the past history of support for the Wee Kirk conference, Rev. Sue Washburn proposed a financial contribution on behalf of the Presbytery for this event. It was MSP to support the Wee Kirk 2023 conference with a gift of \$1,200 from the equipping leadership area of the 2023 budget.

CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT

It was MSP to adjourn with prayer. Prayer requests were solicited and lifted up by several members of the Council and closed by Moderator Pro Tem Dawn Sherwood at 8:15 p.m.

June 27, 2023, Meeting

With Rev. Curtis Paul away, Moderator Pro Tem Dawn Sherwood called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. A quorum of members was established by those in person and participation by Zoom videoconferencing. New member Rev. Sue Washburn, who was recently added to the committee was introduced. Rev. Owar Ojulu shared the devotions using a story based upon his own background and heritage and the meeting was opened with prayer.

- Moderator requested that the agenda as submitted be considered. The agenda as submitted was approved by MSP.
- The minutes of the April 25, 2023, meeting were approved by MSP.

Moderator Report

No Report given.

Executive Presbyter Report

Rev. Noftzger submitted requests for both vacation (July 30-August 6) and study leave (August 17-29).

Rev. Noftzger provided updates on various ministry activities including the upcoming Sudan and South Sudan Mission Partnership Network Gathering on July 19-21 in New Wilmington. Rev. Noftzger and Rev. Carlson from Redstone serve currently as the conveners of the partnership network.

Rev. Noftzger reviewed progress on a couple of the pastoral searches which are currently underway. Noting the current status, he observed that it may be necessary to call a presbytery meeting for the examination of possible candidates and approval of the calls. It was MSP to schedule a presbytery meeting on either August 14, 15, or 16," if the way be clear."

The Council was reminded of the July 16 joint worship service and picnic rededicating the Calvin Hays Log Chapel. Estimated numbers of participants should be reported to the presbytery office.

Ruling Elders who have gifts and desire to serve the larger church should be recommended to the Nominating Committee or encouraged for possible enrollment in the IPLF program for enrichment or training for possible commissioned pastor service.

Stated Clerk Report

- The Correspondence Log for was reviewed as submitted.
- Rev. Noftzger confirmed the dates for all Council meetings in 2023. They are the following:
 - **August 29**
 - **October 24**
 - **November 28**

Upon noting that he may not be present on August 29 as the result of his return from overseas travel, it was **MSP** to move the meeting from August 29 to September 5.

- Rev. Noftzger reported that the voting on the various BOO amendments. Each of these amendments has passed a majority of presbyteries. A new Book of Order will be published later in the summer. The presbytery will solicit any order requests to include in a bulk purchase.
- From the scheduled 2024 Presbytery gatherings, the Council has received three requests to host.
 - January 27, 2024
 - March 19, 2024
 - May 28, 2024
 - September 24, 2024
 - November 23, 2024
- Upon review of the request, it was **MSP** to approve First, Johnstown for January, New Hope for March and Pleasant View for the May meetings.

Treasurer Report

John Dickson reviewed the written report that had been submitted in the packet. He noted the “dismal” income report with a monthly income several thousand under the cash flow projections. Expenses have remained consistent and controlled with no major unanticipated expenditures. Consequently, there remains a need for further promotion and commitment to church pledges and giving.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

No report from the Executive Director.

Rev. Dawn Sherwood reported on the current projected numbers for special worship service and picnic planned for churches of Redstone Presbytery on July 16.

It was agreed to receive the reports **by consent** of the Executive Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Treasurer, and Executive Director of PSC.

Committees/Networks

Staff Support

A written report was provided based upon the last meeting. Rev. Ankrum thanked the Council members who participated and noted the completion of annual evaluations of both the Executive Presbyter and the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper. Reviews for the Executive Presbyter were both based upon submitted

responses and oral review of the committee.

The committee has received and accepted the retirement letter from Bobbie Shaffor effective March 31, 2024.

Currently, the committee is reviewing possible administrative functions and considering various options. Consistent among all of those options is the need for bookkeeping. Consequently, at the committee's recommendation, the Council MSP to offer to retain Bobbie as a part-time bookkeeper working remotely at an annualized salary of 5400.

Worship

Although Rev. Laura Blank was not present, the Council was reminded of the preachers for the upcoming 2023 Presbytery Gatherings. Rev. Noftzger will be meeting with Rev. Dr. Asa Lee (PTS) to provide a context for his preaching.

- September – Asa Lee
- November – Dawn Sherwood

Addictions Ministry Network

A written report, flyers and bulletin inserts for the "Hope in A Bag" project. Congregations are encouraged to be "collectionable" and to bring these resources to the September Presbytery gathering. Additionally, Rev. Barnes commented on the fine work of the "primer" (draft) provided from the Addictions Ministry Network.

Mission

Rev. Ojulu spoke of the Sudan/South Sudan Mission Partnership Network meeting will take place this summer on July 19-21 in New Wilmington, PA. He noted that additional funds for refugee relief services will be provided this week to the South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church for their work with these Sudanese people fleeing violent conflict.

He also spoke about the Gambell-Cambria partnership being developed with several of our Presbyterian congregations in Cambria County. Currently, they are focusing on the provision of water filters. Rev. Ojulu will be visiting and following through on this partnership in the month of August.

The Mission network continues to solicit from congregations, updates on their mission projects (local, domestic and international) in order to compile a database for networking around shared interests. Additionally, two congregations offer a moment for mission at each Presbytery gathering.

Rev. Noftzger also reported that while Peter Yien was unable to obtain a visa, our application for a South Sudanese visitor through the International Peacemaker Program in cooperation with Pittsburgh and Shenango remains active for any other possible South Sudanese "peacemakers."

Budget, Finance and Stewardship

The Budget, Finance, and Stewardship committee has not met since the last meeting. The committee is scheduled to meet on August 14 for the preparation of the 2024 annual budget. As approved at the last meeting, 35000 was transferred from the checking account into the Ameriprise investments account.

Meanwhile, Rev. Noftzger reported on the progress of some ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the Presbytery center.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Rev. Brenda Barnes reported on the anticipated participation by six members of the group in a 9-week workshop beginning in August examining the history and systems enacted based upon race and our

participation in them. The workshop will be facilitated by Jeff Eddings from Pittsburgh Presbytery. The workshop will be made available to others in the presbytery with a maximum enrollment in the cohort of 10. After discussion, it was **MSP** to approve the use of presbytery peacemaking funds (based upon the 2020 Council policy and practice statement) for the registration of up to 10 members of Redstone in the workshop.

Presbyterian Women

No written report.

Communications

By consent, the Council agreed to have the Latrobe, Main Street “On the Road with Redstone” video to be shown at the September Presbytery gathering hosted at that congregation.

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

There was no new business for action.

CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT

It was **MSP** to adjourn with prayer. Prayer requests were solicited and lifted up by several members of the Council and closed by Moderator Pro Tem Dawn Sherwood at 8:30 p.m.

Committee on Ministry

Presentation and Action Items

- **The Committee on Ministry introduces Rev. Sara Sadler (Trinity, New Florence) and Rev. Rebecca Abbott (McClellandtown) for investiture.**
- **The Committee on Ministry recommends an increase of 2 % in effective salary for the required minimum terms of call for installed pastors. (See Appendix “C”)**
- **The Committee on Ministry recommends endorsement of a 3 % raise in effective salary for all continuing pastors. (alternative types of compensation such as extra vacation and/or continuing education time may be explored if congregation’s budgetary constraints prohibit the full 3% effective salary increase)**

Information Items

September 7, 2023, Meeting

Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of August 3, 2023.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- **MSP** to approve a request from Rev. Doug Marshall to labor outside the bounds to perform a wedding in Virginia.
- Team to look into the BOO Family Leave implications relative to existing Redstone Family and Medical Leave Policy: Lee McDermott, Susan Keaney, and Skip Noftzger.
- Minutes Review Dates
 - Churches who have not yet completed minutes/register review:

<u>Church</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Church</u>
Belle Vernon, First	Belle Vernon, Harmony	Bolivar, United
Brownsville, Calvin	Brownsville, Hopewell	Dawson, Tyrone
Delmont	Dunbar, First	Fairchance, First
Fayette City, Little Redstone	Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace	Latrobe
Leisenring	Ligonier, Pleasant Grove	Masontown, First
Merrittstown, Dunlap’s Creek	New Florence, Trinity	Uniontown, Trinity
West Newton, Sewickley	West Newton, Sewickley United	West Newton, United

Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments – None
- **MSP** to appoint a team of COM members to assist and form a process in resolution/mediation at Westmont.

MSP of the approval of a 2% increase in effective salary for the 2024 minimum terms of call for installed pastors.

MSP of the approval of a recommendation for a Presbytery recommendation to congregations of a 3% effective

salary increase for continuing pastors. The recommendation to congregations is to include that alternative types of compensation such as extra vacation and/or continuing education time may be explored if congregation's budgetary constraints prohibit the full 3% effective salary increase.
A reminder that resources are available from the Presbytery to help with Stewardship programs at churches.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
 - Met with authorized preacher Richard Zoltak for consideration to serve as a commissioned pastor in the New Hope congregation in the chaplaincy ministry at the Redstone Highlands, North Huntingdon campus.
 - Will be meeting with another non-Presbyterian seminary student for consideration to be added to the pulpit supply roster (preaching only) Action Items
 - **MSP** to recommend approval to commission Richard Zoltak as a commissioner pastor at the New Hope Presbyterian Church in the chaplaincy ministry with the Redstone Highlands, North Huntingdon campus.

Search and Call

- Information Items
 - Transition Chart (handout)
 - Sara Sadler and Rebecca Abbott were both examined, received and the calls approved for the Trinity, New Florence and McClellandtown congregations, respectively.
 - September 17th; 3:30 p.m. – ordination/installation service for Sara Sadler at the Trinity, New Florence Presbyterian Church
 - September 24th; 3:00 p.m. – installation service for Rebecca Abbott at the McClellandtown Presbyterian Church
 - Grace Community Presbyterian Church has transferred their MIF (now MDP) into the new Church Leadership Connections system and is beginning to receive some initial matches. The new system operates a little differently, so there is some adjustment taking place both by PNC's and candidates.
 - Have received "draft" of the First Presbyterian Church, Irwin MDP. Will submit to session this month and to COM in October.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** of the approval of the ordination/installation commission for Sara Sadler on September 17, 2023 at 3:30 PM at Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, PA.
 - Rev. Dawn Sherwood, TE, Jeannette
 - Rev. Richard Sweeney, HR
 - Donna Brown, RE, Trinity
 - Jim Sunseri, RE, Patton
 - Hyiwot Teshome, TE, First, Johnstown
 - **MSP** of the approval of the installation commission for Rebecca Abbott on September 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM at McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, McClellandtown, PA.
 - Rev. Dawn Sherwood, TE, Jeannette
 - Rev. Kristen Emrick, TE, Fort Burd, Calvin
 - Joshua Scully, RE, Laurel Hill
 - Rev. Skip Noftzger, TE, EP, McClellandtown
 - Kathy Phillips, RE, Fort Burd

COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
 - Identity who is the principal contact name/ email for Mission within the congregation...What are their current mission projects---local, regional/national, international? Any short-term mission trips/partnerships?
- Ministry reflections for conversations
 - Possible Questions for Pastor
 - Do you have a group of other pastors that you get together with regularly for personal and professional support and accountability?
 - Tell me about when you were called to pastoral ministry. How has your understanding of that calling and its practices changed over the years?
 - What are the ways that we might be praying for you, your family, the ministry?
 - Possible Questions for Clerks
 - Completion of the 2022 minutes review
 - Polity workshop on 10/14
 - New Book of Order bulk order/new revisions
 - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk's handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
 - Possible Questions for PNC Chairs
 - Where are you in the process?
 - Are you using social media (Facebook, Linked In, etc.) in the promotion of your opportunity?
 - How might we be helpful to you in this search and discernment process?
 - Possible Questions for Others
 - Are there plans being made for a VBS or some type of equivalent program this summer? If so, what is the plan/theme/dates?
 - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?
 - Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
 - Do you have a chairperson for mission in your church? Do you have contact information for that person in order that we might begin sharing mission projects?
- Resources within Presbytery
 - Articles and Resources
 - Education and Nurture
 - Workshops for the fall include:
 - 9/9—Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders—Matt Camlin, Pastor, New Wilmington
 - 10/9 to 10/11—Wee Kirk (Steve Tuell, Ralph Lowe, Liddy Barlow, Laura Blank, Brian Wallace, Ellie Johns-Kelley, Richard Jorgenson)
 - 10/14—Being and Leading Presbyterian (Polity)—Randall Clow, Stated Clerk, Beaver-Butler
 - 11/11—Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership—Michelle Snyder, Holy Cow
 - 12/9—Learning to “Exegete” the Community—Scott Hagley, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
 - Ministry strategy consultation—Skip Noftzger

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
Prayers for getting leadership together, for getting new programs off the ground, and for reinventing an approach to mission. Prayers that the Suicide Prevention presentation will raise awareness and prevent suicide by promoting healing, offering help and giving hope.

Continued prayers for PNCs as they continue to work diligently. Prayers for churches facing financial challenges.

Prayers for those with health issues and for those bravely fighting cancer. Prayers for those dealing with grief and loss.

Praises for book drive, backpacks for kids, and sharing food into the community. Praises for Scottish Sunday, Rally Sundays, and concerts. Praises for significant church anniversaries, ordinations and installations of new pastors. Praises for weddings, baptisms, and new members. Praises for fundraisers, mission projects, and fellowship.

- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
Terry Carnahan, Anthony Catullo, Carole Isley Corey, Gene Degitz, Lisa Dormire, Ron Durika, Kristen Emrick, Patrick Ewing, Jim Farrer, Gary Filson, Terry Carnahan.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar; Ebensburg Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance; Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Farmington; First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City; Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City; First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg; Maplewood Presbyterian Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg; First Presbyterian Church, Irwin.

Adjournment

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. with prayers offered by CP Glenn Hart.

August 3, 2023, Meeting

Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of June 1, 2023.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- **MSP** to approve a request from Rev. Richard Klein (HR) and the Beaver-Butler Presbytery to transfer/dismiss him to their membership rolls.
- Minutes Review Dates
 - Churches who have not yet completed minutes/register review:

Belle Vernon, First	Dunbar, First	Latrobe	New Florence, Trinity
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Fairchance, First	Latrobe, United	Uniontown, Trinity
Bolivar, United	Fayette City, First	Leisenring	West Newton, Sewickley
Brownsville, Calvin	Fayette City, Little Redstone	Ligonier, Pleasant Grove	West Newton, Sewickley United
Brownsville, Hopewell	Jeannette, First	Masontown, First	West Newton, United
Delmont	Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace	Merrittstown, Dunlap’s Creek	

- **MSP** to approve the recommendation of the request from Dunlap’s Creek Presbyterian Church for a waiver of rotation for Carol Blair, Ruling Elder.

Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments – None
- Board of Pensions Update – Move to the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan (2024) replacing the self-funded Medicare Supplement Plan.

- Task force for Boundaries and Ethics policy: Ben Nti, Marsha Stallings, Helen Toms, and Becca Siddle for reviewing and updating the Presbytery's policy.
 - Presbytery – TE; CP; CCE;
 - Template for Sessions
- Called Presbytery Meeting – two candidates – August 15; 6:00 p.m. Maplewood Fellowship Hall
- **MSP** to approve the Moderator Report.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
 - Met with candidate Rebecca Abbott who will be presented to the congregation on August 13th.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** to recommend approval to present Rebecca Abbott “if the way be clear” at a called presbytery meeting on August 15th for examination.
 - **MSP** to approve a request of the Pittsburgh Presbytery to ordain Rebecca Abbott on our behalf and transfer her “if the way be clear.”

Search and Call

- Information Items
 - Transition Chart (handout)
 - Based upon previous authorization by COM, the Search and Call subcommittee has found the proposed pastoral call between Sara Sadler and the Trinity, New Florence congregation to be in order and approved them for recommendation to the Presbytery.
 - Grace Community Presbyterian Church has transferred their MIF (now MDP) into the new Church Leadership Connections system and is beginning to receive some initial matches. The new system operates a little differently, so there is some adjustment taking place both by PNC’s and candidates.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** to approve the recommendation of the call “if the way be clear” to be recommended to the Presbytery at a called meeting on August 15 as the Search and Call subcommittee has reviewed the proposed pastoral call between Sara Sadler and the Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence congregation, found it to be in order.
 - **MSSP** to direct the Subcommittee of the Minimum Terms of Call that study leave includes two (2) Sundays.
 - **MSP** to approve the recommendation of the call “if the way be clear” to be recommended to the Presbytery at a called meeting on August 15 as the Search and Call subcommittee has reviewed the proposed pastoral call between Rebecca Abbott and the McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, found it to be in order. Reference the above MSP for study leave to include two (2) Sundays.
 - **MSP** of the recommendation of approval of the Commissioned Pastor one-year agreement between CP Lynn Mance and the Avonmore session (With an effective start date of September 10, Lynn would be recommissioned to this ministry at the September Presbytery meeting).

COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
 - Identity who is the principal contact name/email for Mission within the congregation...What are their current mission projects---local, regional/national, international? Any short-term mission trips/partnerships?
- Ministry reflections for conversations

- Possible Questions for Pastor
 - Do you have a group of other pastors that you get together with regularly for personal and professional support and accountability?
 - Tell me about when you were called to pastoral ministry. How has your understanding of that calling and its practices changed over the years?
 - What are the ways that we might be praying for you, your family, the ministry?
- Possible Questions for Clerks
 - Completion of the 2022 minutes review
 - Polity workshop on 10/14
 - New Book of Order bulk order/new revisions
 - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk's handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
- Possible Questions for Others
 - Are there plans being made for a VBS or some type of equivalent program this summer? If so, what is the plan/theme/dates?
 - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?
 - Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
 - Do you have a chairperson for mission in your church? Do you have contact information for that person in order that we might begin sharing mission projects?
- Resources within Presbytery
 - Articles and Resources
 - Education and Nurture
 - Introduction to Reformed Theology begins on August 11. Workshops for the fall include:
 - 8/11--Pastoral Care-Becca Siddle, Pastor, New Kensington
 - 9/9--Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders--Matt Camlin, Pastor, New Wilmington
 - 10-9-11 -- Wee Kirk (Steve Tuell, Ralph Lowe, Liddy Barlow, Laura Blank, Brian Wallace, Ellie Johns-Kelley, Richard Jorgenson)
 - 10/14 -- Being and Leading Presbyterian (Polity) -- Randall Clow, Stated Clerk, Beaver-Butler
 - 11/11---Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership -- Michelle Snyder, Holy Cow
 - 12/9---Learning to "Exegete" the Community -- Scott Hagley, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
 - Ministry strategy consultation -- Skip Noftzger

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
 - Praises for rummage sales that provide funding for programs and projects; for new and effective use of Facebook to reach out, VBS, summer camp, youth programs, car cruises, strawberry festivals, chicken dinners, and creative approaches of fundraising for new roof.
 - Praises for fall planning, spark of vitality, and cooperation with community churches.
 - Prayers for successful surgeries and procedures, those recovering at home.
 - Prayers for safe travels and pilgrimages.
 - Prayers for times of transition and financial challenges; prayer for strength for long term servants and for encouragement of new people to create new leadership. Prayers for finding and filling staff positions.
 - Prayers for those who are grieving. Prayers for church families that have lost long term members. Prayers of thanks for their ministry.

- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
Brenda Barnes, Lori Bass-Riley, Ross Bash, Nicholas Beatty, Laura Blank, Susan Blank, Cliff Buell, Bruce Cadenhead, Cynthia Cadenhead, Derek Campbell, Sylvia Carlson.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
Bolivar United Presbyterian Church; Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Colver Presbyterian Church; Cresson Presbyterian Church; Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson; Delmont Presbyterian Church; Derry Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar.

Adjournment

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Derek Campbell.

June 1, 2023, Meeting

Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of May 4, 2023.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Minutes Review Dates
 - Churches who have not yet completed minutes/register review:

Avonmore, First	Dunbar, First	Latrobe	New Kensington, United
Belle Vernon, First	Fairchance, First	Latrobe, United	Trafford, Level Green
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Farmington, Mt. Washington	Leisenring	Uniontown, Trinity
Bolivar, United	Fayette City, First	Ligonier, Pleasant Grove	West Newton, Sewickley
Brownsville, Calvin	Fayette City, Little Redstone	Masontown, First	West Newton, Sewickley United
Brownsville, Hopewell	Jeannette, First	Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek	West Newton, United
Dawson, Tyrone	Johnstown, Second	Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	
Delmont	Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace	New Florence, Trinity	

Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments – None
- Rev. Hyiwot Teshome discussed an opportunity to learn about Congregational Depression Awareness Program (CDAP) developed by Dr. W. Daniel Hale and his colleagues at John Hopkins Bayview on September 17, 2023, immediately after worship at First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. The presentation on CDAP will be provided by Dr. W. Daniel Hale, clinical psychologist, national leader in health ministries, and author of "Depression - Out of the Darkness and Into the Light." Rev. Hyiwot Teshome will be providing more information on this September event to be included in the Redstone Presbytery eNews.
- Board of Pensions Update – A Season of Rebuilding (referenced at Presbytery Meeting). Rev. Ed Gray discussed the Board of Pension's efforts of assessing and restructuring the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with a Medical Plan that is more flexible and cost controlled. The Board of Pension is looking for feedback. Their discernment timeline began in May 2023 with Virtual Town Hall meetings; evaluating polity benefit issue is planned for October 2023; and a decision on the rebuild to occur in May 2024 with a new plan to be implemented in 2025. Additional information can be found on the Board of Pension website.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
 - Working with a non-Presbyterian lay pastor for longer term pulpit supply roster (preaching/critical pastoral care only) for the Tyrone, Dawson congregation. Will meet with him in the near future to talk about faith statement and boundaries.
 - Met with a potential candidate for the Trinity, New Florence PNC. Interviewed and examined her for possible consideration IF there is an offer and acceptance going forward.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** to recommend approval to present Sara Sadler “if the way be clear” at an upcoming presbytery meeting (potentially a special meeting in August) for examination.

Search and Call

- Information Items
 - Transition Chart (handout)
 - Tyrone Presbyterian Church is open to calling a part-time commissioned pastor. In the process of seeking to identify any possible options. A person has been suggested by the Tyrone session who is not Presbyterian. See the above comments for the Examination committee who will proceed or not based upon their interviews.
 - CLC system has begun to roll out a new system. The old system will remain available until August; however, no PIFs / MIFs will be entered into the old system. PNCs may or may not need to migrate to new system depending on where they are in the process.
- Action Items
 - **MSP** to, if the way be clear,” request authorization from the Committee on Ministry for the Search and Call subcommittee to receive and approve a pastoral call submitted by the Trinity, New Florence congregation for recommendation to the Presbytery (this might require a special presbytery meeting prior to the next stated meeting on September 26.)

COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
 - Promote and inquire about church participation in joint worship service and picnic at PSC Log Chapel on July 16, 10:00 a.m.
 - Northeast Wee Kirk conference registration is available online. This conference of workshops and seminars will be held October 9th - 11th.
 - Follow up Pastor/Mission chair---completion of congregation mission projects (<https://forms.gle/p6wxbLcVnMrdFHuT8>)
 - Book of Order Amendments that have passed with potential implications for the work and ministry of the Committee on Ministry with pastors/sessions and congregations.
- Ministry reflections for conversations
 - Possible Questions for Pastor
 - Are there continuing education conferences and resources that you have found valuable that we should share with other pastors?
 - Do you have a group of other pastors that you get together with regularly for personal and professional support and accountability?
 - Possible Questions for Clerks
 - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk’s handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
 - Would it be helpful and would you participate (via Zoom or in person) in a training session just for clerks of session? By the end of summer there may be passed

amendments in the Book of Order that they might need to be aware.

- Have you completed the minutes review for this year (2022 minutes)
- Possible Questions for Others
 - Are there plans being made for a VBS or some type of equivalent program this summer? If so, what is the plan/theme/dates?
 - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?
 - Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
 - Do you have a chairperson for mission in your church? Do you have contact information for that person in order that we might begin sharing mission projects?
- Resources within Presbytery
 - Articles and Resources
 - Education and Nurture
 - IPLF Upcoming workshops
 - Recruiting new Ruling Elders who might consider God calling them to greater service in the larger church, including but not limited to preaching and commissioned pastoral service.
 - Ministry strategy consultation—Skip Noftzger

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
Prayers for Sessions, Pastors, and all church leaders. Prayers for PNC as the CLC migrates to a new system. Prayers for healing for those with health issues and for the well being and continued respect of older members. Prayers for those that are beginning new careers. Prayers for churches with financial challenges, for churches evaluating if their ministry is coming to a completion in their community, and for reversals of the long term trend of dwindling membership. Prayers for determining fresh ways to engage the congregation in stewardship. Praises for prayers answered for new music directors and others sharing their talents in church staff positions and continued prayers for those still looking for new staff members. Praises for the recognition of Pastor Emeritus. Praises for collections for Westmoreland Food Bank, Bountiful Blessings, and other programs. Praises for Strawberry festivals, picnics, and outdoor fellowship times during the summer. Praises for outdoor worship services and summer worship hours. Praises for churches that are experiencing rebounding worship, improvement in finances, and renewed enthusiasm in attending church. Praises for confirmation classes, planned VBS programs, and summer day carnival.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
Robert Van Wyk, Sue Washburn, Travis Webster, William Weightman, Bill Wiegand, Andrew Wirt, Doug Yauger, Martin Ankrum, Larry Armstrong, Russ Baird.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton; Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton; United Presbyterian Church, West Newton; Palmer Community Presbyterian Church, Adah; Poke Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo; First Presbyterian Church, Avonmore; First Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Marion Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon; Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon.

Adjournment

It was MSP to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Skip Noftzger.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Action Items

- **No action items.**

Information Items

September 5, 2023, Meeting

1. Approval of minutes of Aug. 1, 2023, as written; **MSP.**
2. Based on the lack of communication with the committee despite numerous attempts to reach them, the following action was taken regarding Cynthia Bellina and Jeff Keilman:

Motion to recommend that Cynthia Bellina be removed as a candidate under care of Redstone Presbytery with request that recommendation be included under the consent agenda for September Presbytery meeting. **MSP.**

Motion to remove Jeff Keilman from the list of authorized lay preachers. **MSP.**

3. To advance the Field Education requirements from Fuller Seminary and Redstone Presbytery for James Vlosich, the following action was taken:

Motion to approve student pastor apprenticeship for James with Fairchance Presbyterian Church with Pastor Molly Hall of Springhill Furnace providing oversight, to start in January 2024 if the way be clear. **MSP.**

4. To advance Rich Zoltak who has completed the IPLF program and been assisting New Hope Pastor Brenda Barnes at Redstone Highlands-North Huntingdon to a formal ministry relationship, the following action was taken:

Motion to approve Rich Zoltak for commissioning to Redstone Highlands-North Huntingdon ministry. **MSP**

5. Update on Danielle Kendig – recovering from surgery and preparing to take Theology exam later in September. Did not pass Bible Content exam and will have the opportunity to retake in February. Currently enrolled in three classes at PTS. Still looking for one more field ed experience.
6. Update from Jackie Eckenrod – Having completed an internship with Redstone Highlands hospice team, she was approached about a casual position as a hospice chaplain with a commitment of approx. 8 hours per week. Investigating how this can mesh with her preaching opportunities and her full-time employment as a teacher in a partial hospitalization program. Lisa Dormire supervises the Redstone chaplains.
7. Adjournment/Prayer by Jim Sunseri
8. Future meeting schedule/consultations
 - a. October 3 -- Meet with either Danielle or James based on availability
 - b. November 7--- Meet with either Danielle or James based on availability
 - c. December 6---no meeting

August 1, 2023, Meeting

Approval of minutes of June 6, 2023, as written; **MSP**.

Geoff noted Karen experiencing health issues and unable to drive at this time. Uncertain of the impact on her committee service or church commitment.

Robin Jennings agreed to act as secretary for the meeting.

Review of letters sent by Geoff on behalf of the committee to Cynthia Bellina and Jeff Keilman. Deadline for their response has passed. Further action regarding Cynthia's status to be referred to Presbytery as action item to suspend her status as a candidate. Jeff's name is to be removed from supply roster. Action to be taken at our September meeting.

Updates on Danielle Kendig - Geoff saw her at Pine Springs Camp, where she developed a medical emergency during camp week. Anticipating surgery Aug. 10. She has concluded her employment at Westmont. She has three seminary courses to complete, two on campus and one online. She has two ordination exams to complete. Bible Content, scheduled for Sept., and Theology the next time it is offered. Still working to secure a second field ed experience.

Update on James Vlosich - Fairchance is interested in James as a student pastor which can serve as one of two field education experiences required by Presbytery. This would also meet Fuller Seminary requirements for field ed. James is talking with the folks at Trinity, Uniontown about stepping away from ministry responsibilities there during that time. Pastor Molly Hall from SpringHill Furnace has offered to oversee his experience. Geoff and Skip to meet to discuss particulars.

CPM met with Karen Gray, IPLF

She attends First Murrysville

Working on practicums, and has three items to finish

She is looking to retire

Wants to build confidence in her preaching skills and work without notes

Feels she holds the respect of the congregations she has visited and finds her listening skills beneficial in relating well and understanding needs.

Will seek to be commissioned once she completes IPLF.

CPM members prayed for Karen.

CPM met with Tammy Noss, IPLF

She attends Community U. P., New Alexandria

IPLF complete with the exception of Pastoral Care workshop

Began accepting preaching assignments on Mother's Day and has been in Avonmore, First Murrysville and Poke Run. Continues to build her confidence.

Feels she holds the respect of the congregations she has visited and finds her listening skills beneficial in relating well and understanding needs.

Will seek to be commissioned once she completes IPLF.

CPM members prayed for Tammy.

Adjournment/Prayer by Jim Sunseri

Future meeting schedule/consultations

September 5 - Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/Authorized preacher

October 3--- Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/Authorized preacher
November 7--- Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/Authorized preacher
December 6---no meeting(?)

June 6, 2023, Meeting

Approval of minutes of May 2, 2023, as written; **MSP**.

CPM met with Rich Zoltak

Rich is a member of New Hope Church.

He is an Authorized Preacher of Redstone Presbytery and has completed the IPLF program.

He reports preaching seven times so far in 2023 as pulpit supply.

He talked about his struggle in preparing sermons.

He also mentioned receiving encouragement from positive feedback in his preaching from his pastor Brenda Barnes and the members of New Hope Church.

Rich spoke of his continuing ministry at New Hope Church.

He continues to lead a Bible study there.

He currently is serving on Session specifically as chair of the Worship Committee. He talked about his involvement in a task force that is examining their worship.

He has been assisting pastor Brenda Barnes at Redstone Highlands, North Huntington campus with chapel services, Bible studies, and memorial services.

When asked by CPM about the possibility of receiving a commission he mentioned that the thought of preaching weekly is overwhelming to him.

He did express an interest in being commissioned to serve at Redstone Highlands, North Huntington to serve Communion. CPM will explore that possibility with the COM.

CPM members prayed for Rich.

CPM met with Linda Gossar-Loesch

Linda is a member of Newlonsburg Church.

She is an Authorized Preacher of Redstone Presbytery and completed Commissioned Pastor training over twenty years ago.

Linda reports preaching about twice a month at various churches throughout Redstone Presbytery.

She spoke of her continuing ministry at Newlonsburg Church specifically mentioning MinTEC and their Stephen Ministry.

CPM members prayed for Linda.

CPM approved at our May 2023 meeting that a letter be sent to Cynthia Bellina regarding her future as a candidate under care of Redstone Presbytery. That letter will be sent to her soon stating that we want to hear back from her by August 1, 2023.

CPM discussed sending a letter to Jeff Keilman regarding his future as an Authorized Preacher in Redstone Presbytery. CPM members have been unable to reach Jeff to have him meet with the CPM. He did not meet with Skip Noftzger and Geoff Rach before the May 2023 Presbytery Meeting at Ebensburg Church. **MSP**.

CPM has been unable to contact Authorized Preacher Laurie Davison. She has been unable to serve as pulpit supply due to ongoing health issues. A motion was made to remove Laurie Davison from the Redstone Presbytery Authorized Preacher roster. **MSP**.

Adjournment/Prayer by Kristen Emerick.

Future meeting schedule/consultations

July 5---no meeting

August 1 – Meet with Tammy Noss and Karen Gray

Determine any scholarship funds offered to seminary students for academic year

September 5 - Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/ Authorized preacher

October 3--- Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/ Authorized preacher

November 7--- Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/ Authorized preacher

December 6---no meeting(?)

Nominating Committee

Actions Items

- The Nominating Committee *recommends* Ruling Elder Susan Keaney to serve as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery in 2024. *Based upon the Redstone manual, election of the Vice Moderator will take place at the November Presbytery meeting.*
- The Nominating Committee *recommends* the following people to serve as Ruling Elder and Teaching Elder commissioners of Redstone Presbytery to the 2024 General Assembly.
 - Ruling Elder Robin Jennings (First Presbyterian, Greensburg)
 - Ruling Elder Jackie Eckenrod (Westminster Presbyterian, Greensburg)
 - Teaching Elder Brian Kilbert (Puckety Presbyterian, Lower Burrell)
 - Teaching Elder Andrew Wirt (West Hempfield Presbyterian, Irwin)
- The Nominating Committee *recommends* the following persons for the standing committees and respective terms.
 - Council**
 - Rev. Dawn Sherwood (chair), Jeannette (2024)
 - Rev. Ed Gray, First, Murrysville (2026)
 - Janie Short, Bethel, New Florence (2026)
 - Rev. Norma Murphy, HR (2026)
 - Rev. Owar Ojulu, Ebensburg/Colver (2026)
 - Scott Cole, Latrobe United Presbyterian, Latrobe (2026)
 - Committee on Ministry**
 - Rev. Martin Ankrum, First, Greensburg (2026)
 - Bob Sheehan, Cresson (2026)
 - Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs, Westminster, Greensburg (2026)
 - Rev. Becca Siddle, United, New Kensington (2026)
 - Rev. Mary Kay Glunt, First, Belle Vernon (2026)
 - Rev. Brian Kilbert, Puckety, Lower Burrell (2026)
 - Rev. Derek Campbell, Latrobe Presbyterian, Latrobe (2026)
 - Judy Carl, Ebensburg (2026)
 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
 - Tammy Noss, Community, New Alexandria (2026)
 - Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, First, Johnstown (2026)
 - Pine Springs Camp Board**
 - Rev. Doug Rehberg, First, Irwin (2026)
 - Representation**
 - Rev. Laura Blank, Pleasant View, Smock (2026)
 - Rev. Curtis Paul, Newlonsburg, Murrysville (2024)

Permanent Judicial Commission

--Rev. Lisa Dormire, Redstone Highlands (2029)

--Rev. Gary Filson, HR (2029)

--Rev. Pete Goetschius, Poke Run, Apollo (2029)

Synod of Trinity Commissioner

--Susan Nesti

Information Items

- There remain a couple openings for positions on standing committees. These include:
 - 1 Female Ruling Elder-Committee on Ministry
 - 2 Female Teaching Elder-Pine Springs

Please submit names of possible Ruling Elders for consideration to the Nominating Committee through either Glenn Hart, or Skip Noftzger.

Additionally, there are always opportunities on various subcommittees, task forces and networks.