

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
**January 27, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The ecclesiastical and corporate meetings of the Presbytery of Redstone were convened at 1:07 p.m. on Saturday, January 27, 2024, via Zoom videoconferencing and in person at First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown, PA. The meeting was opened with the song “This Is The Day” and prayer by Moderator Rev. Dawn Sherwood, and she announced that items of new business must be presented to the clerk before the end of the Communion Service during worship.

**FORMATION OF THE ROLL**

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, attested to the fact that a quorum was present in order to conduct the business of the meeting.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
	Sue Blank, HR	
	Bruce Cadenhead, HR	
	Cynthia Cadenhead, HR	
	Sylvia Carlson, HR	
	Carole Isley Corey, HR	
	James Farrer, HR	
	Gary Filson, HR	
	Donna Havrisko, HR	
	Chuck MacPherson, HR	
	Richard Noftzger, EP	
	Robert Sheehan, CP	
	Sue Washburn, MAL	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run		
Avonmore, First	Lynn Mance, CP	
Belle Vernon, First	Mary Kay Glunt	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony		
Belle Vernon, Marion		
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	Donald Glunt	
Bolivar, United	James Sunseri, CP	
Brownsville, Calvin	Kristen Emrick	
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	Kristen Emrick	Kathy Phillips
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver	Owar Ojulu	
Cresson	Alice Tondora	
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont		
Derry		

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Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First	Owar Ojulu	Judith Carl
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First		
Fayette City, L Redstone	Joshua Scully, CP	
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Robin Jennings
Greensburg, Maplewood	Steve LaSor	Joe McNamara
Greensburg, Westminster	Jenn Frayer-Griggs	William Chishko
Irwin, First	Doug Rehberg, IP	
Irwin, West Hempfield	Andrew Wirt	
Jeannette	Dawn Sherwood	Paula Frey
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First	Hyiwot Teshome	Charnet Koch
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont		Bernice Adams Elisa Ellenberger Tammy Germana
Lake Lynn, Springhill	Molly Hall, CovP	
Latrobe		
Latrobe, United		Scott Cole
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace		Catherine Brady Michael Cochenour
Lower Burrell, Puckety	Brian Kilbert	Maria Schafer
Masontown		
McClellandtown	Becka Abbott	Michael McCahill
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Russ Baird, CP	
Murrysville, First	Ed Gray	Rick Pry
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul Travis Webster, AP	
Murrysville, Union		
New Alexandria, Community	Leonard Morgan, CP	
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	Kathy Hamilton
New Florence, Bethel	James Sunseri, CP	
New Florence, Trinity	Sara Sadler	
New Kensington, United		
New Salem	Bill Wiegand, CP	
North Huntingdon, New Hope		Donna Van Allen
Patton	Alice Tondora	
Revloc		
Scottdale, Calvin	Doug Yauger, CP	

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Smithfield, Grace Chapel		
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Jack Battenhouse
Uniontown, Tent	Jeff Smith, CP	
Uniontown, Third		
Uniontown, Trinity		
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
West Newton, Sewickley	Karen Kifer, CP	Connie Keefer
West Newton, Sewickley U.		
West Newton, United		
<b>Notation:</b>	(*) = pastor other denomination (**) = pastor/CP serving more than one church (#) = pastor another presbytery	AP = Associate Pastor; CovP = Covenant Pastor CP = Commissioned Pastor; HR = Honorably Retired IP = Interim Pastor; MAL = Member at Large

**By Virtue of Office:** Susan Keaney, Vice Moderator; Janie Short, Presbytery Council

**Corresponding Members:**

**Visitors:** John Foster, Johnstown, First; Doris Gerlach, Johnstown, First; Roy Gindlesperger, Johnstown, First; Mike Hurley, Pine Springs Camp; Debbie Koenig, Latrobe, United; Mark Lulemon, New Florence, Bethel; Gary Mapes, Johnstown, First; Barry Poglein, New Florence, Bethel; Bobbie Shaffor, Presbytery Staff

**Teaching Elders Excused:** Armstrong; Buell; Cadenhead, B., Cadenhead, C.; Carnahan; Catullo; Corey; Degitz; Gear; Giesey; Graff; Hepler; Hess; Hickok; Holben; Keith; Lewis; Macaleer; MacPherson; Mason; Maxwell; McCabe; McClure; Michael; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Sharp, W.; Stevens; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Upton; VanWyk

**Teaching Elders Absent:**

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused:**

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent:**

**ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

It was **MSP** to approve the docket as presented by the Associate Stated Clerk. The docket was approved **by consent**.

**SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS**

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, reported that there were no corresponding members to be seated.

Rev. Cliff Foster moved that Joyce Gerlach of First, Johnstown and Deb Koenig, Latrobe UP

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Church be given Privilege of the Floor. It was MSP to approve this motion.

First time commissioners were introduced and welcomed.

**INSTALLATION OF MODERATOR/ VICE MODERATOR**

Rev. Dawn Sherwood invited newly elected Moderator Elder Leonard Morgan and Vice-Moderator Elder Susan Keaney forward and led the Presbytery in a service of installation as Moderator and Vice Moderator for 2024. Rev. Sherwood presented the Moderator's stole, gavel, and Book of Occasional Worship Services to Elder Susan Keaney since Elder Len Morgan was present on Zoom. The installation service was closed with prayer.

Rev. Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter presented Dawn Sherwood with a gift thanking her for her service to the Presbytery of the Moderator in 2023.

Rev. Don Glunt showed the Presbytery the latest video in the series "On the Road with Redstone". This video featured Puckety Presbyterian Church in Lower Burrell, PA.

**OPERATIONS**

Rev. Cliff Foster, Associate Stated Clerk, made the motion to interrupt the Presbytery meeting for the purpose of convening the meeting of the corporation of the Presbytery of Redstone. It was MSP to interrupt the meeting for the Corporation meeting.

Rev. Curtis Paul, President of the Corporation, moderated the meeting of the corporation. Rev. Curtis Paul, President of the Corporation, called the Meeting of the Corporation to order and opened the meeting with prayer. He presented the followed slate of persons to be elected as the Officers of the Corporation for 2024:

(Corporation Meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone, January 27, 2024)

Based upon the provisions of the Manual, the following slate of persons were nominated to serve as the Officers of the Corporation for 2024:

President - Rev. Dawn Sherwood  
Secretary - Rev. Skip Noftzger  
Treasurer - Mr. John R. Dickson, IV  
Assistant Treasurer - Mr. Gerald Cumer

It was MSP to close the nominations. It was MSP to approve the slate of Officers of the Corporation for 2024.

Rev. Curtis Paul made the following motion: In addition to the officers of the corporation, it is moved that the following person be added to those authorized to sign checks for the Corporation.  
Bookkeeper – Ms. Roberta Shaffor

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It was **MSP** to approve this motion of adding Roberta Shaffor, Bookkeeper to sign checks for the Corporation. The motion was approved.

It was **MSP** to close the Meeting of the Corporation. Rev. Curtis Paul closed the Meeting of the Corporation with prayer. This motion was approved.

The Meeting of the Presbytery resumed with the agenda.

**STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

Rev. Skip Noftzger, Stated Clerk presented the following report:

**Report of the Stated Clerk:**

1. Correspondence Log:
  - a. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.
  
2. The task forces, networks, and ad hoc committees in existence as of December 31, 2023, were as follows:
  - a. Committees of Council
    1. Budget, Finance and Stewardship
    2. Communications
    3. Mission
    4. Staff Support
  
  - b. Committees of the Committee on Ministry
    1. Examinations and Membership
    2. Search and Call
    3. Congregations and Leadership--Northwest – Districts I/II
    4. Congregations and Leadership-- East – District IV
    5. Congregations and Leadership-- South – District III
  
  - c. Networks
    1. Healing Prayer Ministry Network
    2. Racial Justice and Reconciliation
    3. Addictions Ministry Network
    4. Matthew 25 Network
    5. Geographic Districts – I; II; III; IV
    6. IPLF Steering Network
    7. Lectionary reading group
    8. Women Clergy
    9. Presbyterian Women

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3. Pursuant to Book of Order D-5.0206b, the Stated Clerk shall report annually the roster of those members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. They are as follows:

Permanent Judicial Commission Roster (Current)

2029 – Rev. Lisa Dormire, Rev. Gary Filson, Rev. Pete Goetschius  
2027 – Rev. Susan Blank, Rev. Jay Lewis, Len Morgan  
2025 – Elsie Deem, Patti Baird, Linda Dickson

Permanent Judicial Commission (Terms expired within the last 6 years)

2023 – Rev. Clark Kerr, Rev. Marnie Russell, Rev. Curtis Paul  
2021 – Glenn Hart, Rev. John Manon, Rev. Caroline Vickery  
2019 – Jennifer Rega, Nancy Vernon  
2017 – Rev. Marnie Silbert, Rev. Aleda Menchyk, Elder Leonard Morgan

4. Based upon the provisions of the Manual, the Stated Clerk **moves** that the following Presbytery Officers be recognized as members of the Presbytery, with voice and vote, for their term of service:

Ruling Elder Jack Battenhouse- Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Jill Cavalet- Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Scott Cole – Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Audrey Cottle- Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Tim D’Aurora – Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Susan Keaney - Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Leonard Morgan – Presbytery Council  
Ruling Elder Janie Short – Presbytery Council

It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

5. Based upon the provisions of the Manual, the Stated Clerk **moves** that the following Commissioned Pastors (Ruling Elders Commissioned to Particular Pastoral Service) and any others commissioned during a Presbytery meeting in 2023, be recognized as members with voice and vote as long as they are serving in that capacity:

Ruling Elder Russ Baird, Mt. Pleasant, Reunion  
Ruling Elder Eric Glisan, Masontown, First  
Ruling Elder Glenn Hart, Belle Vernon, Harmony; West Newton, Sewickley United  
Ruling Elder Karen Kifer, West Newton, Sewickley  
Ruling Elder Lynn Mance, First, Avonmore  
Ruling Elder David McElroy, Vanderbilt, East Liberty  
Ruling Elder Len Morgan, New Alexandria, Community United  
Ruling Elder David O’Hara, Revloc  
Ruling Elder Robert Prinkey, Belle Vernon, Marion

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Ruling Elder Joshua Scully, Fayette City, Little Redstone  
Ruling Elder Robert Sheehan, District IV  
Ruling Elder Jeff Smith, Uniontown, Tent  
Ruling Elder James Sunseri, New Florence, Bethel; Bolivar, United  
Ruling Elder Denise Todero, Johnstown, Bethany  
Ruling Elder William Weightman, Dunbar, Laurel Hill  
Ruling Elder William Wiegand, New Salem  
Ruling Elder Doug Yauger, Scottdale, Calvin

It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

6. Based upon the provisions of the Manual, the Stated Clerk **recommended** that the Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, and a representative from Pine Springs Camp, Presbyterian Women, and Redstone Highlands be given the privilege of the floor and recognized with voice only as long as they are serving in that capacity.

It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

7. The stated meetings for 2024 have been scheduled as follows:  
Saturday, January 27, 2024 - First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 - New Hope Presbyterian Church  
Tuesday, May 28, 2024 - Pleasant View Presbyterian Church  
Tuesday, September 24, 2024 - Pine Springs Camp  
Saturday, November 23, 2024 - Community United Presbyterian Church
8. The Stated Clerk provided the 2023 Necrology Report of Ruling and Teaching Elders. (Appendix D)
9. Equalization  
On December 31, 2022, 81 ministers of Word and Sacrament were on the rolls of the Presbytery, 16 of whom were living outside the bounds of the Presbytery. There were 67 churches entitled to be represented by 80 ruling elder commissioners. There are also 17 ruling elders commissioned to particular service and 6 ruling elder presbyters by virtue of office. On December 31, 2023, 81 ministers of Word and Sacrament were on the rolls of the Presbytery, 14 of whom were living outside the bounds of the Presbytery. There were 67 churches entitled to be represented by 80 ruling elder commissioners. There are also 17 ruling elders commissioned to particular service and 7 ruling elder presbyters by virtue of office.

Based upon the “goal of numerical parity of teaching elders and ruling elders,” the “principles of participation” and the need to communicate the plan for the determining commissioners, the Presbytery has adopted a plan [Book of Order; G-3.0301; Manual; 1.1003] designating the number of commissioners based upon church membership (table below) and designating

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other ruling elders by virtue of office to be given the privilege of voice and vote at all Presbytery meetings [Manual; 1.1009]. Although with this plan, there is an imbalance regarding the number of eligible ruling elder commissioners (actually more than ministers), the actual participation patterns still reflect a nearly equal number of ministers and ruling elders participating. Since 2021, with the complete migration to Zoom and Hybrid meetings, the patterns have remained fairly consistent. The number of ministers of Word and Sacraments members and ruling elder members in attendance were very comparable with slightly with an average difference of less than one over the course of all four meetings. Of course, in any given meeting, the balance may have sided with one group or the other. Consequently, in order to continue to maintain the goal of balance, the current number of possible ruling elder commissioners based upon the existing plan does not need to be altered. Therefore, I do not recommend any equalization adjustment at this time.

### Equalization Plan for 2024 - Church List/# of commissioners

Adah, Palmer Community – 1	Greensburg, First – 3	Murrysville, Union – 1
Apollo, Poke Run – 1	Greensburg, Maplewood – 1	New Alexandria, Community – 1
Avonmore, First – 1	Greensburg, Westminster – 1	New Alexandria, Congruity – 1
Belle Vernon, First – 1	Irwin, First – 4	New Florence, Bethel – 1
Belle Vernon, Harmony – 1	Irwin, West Hempfield – 1	New Florence, Trinity – 1
Belle Vernon, Marion – 1	Jeannette, First – 1	New Kensington, United – 1
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth – 1	Johnstown, Bethany – 1	New Salem – 1
Bolivar, United – 1	Johnstown, First – 1	North Huntingdon, New Hope – 1
Brownsville, Calvin – 1	Johnstown, Second – 1	Patton – 1
Brownsville, Ft. Burd – 1	Johnstown, Westmont – 3	Revloc – 1
Brownsville, Hopewell – 1	Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace – 1	Scottdale, Calvin – 1
Colver – 1	Latrobe – 2	Smithfield, Grace Chapel – 1
Cresson – 1	Latrobe, United – 1	Smock, Pleasant View – 1
Dawson, Tyrone – 1	Leisenring – 1	Trafford, Level Green – 2
Delmont – 1	Ligonier, Pleasant Grove – 1	Uniontown, Tent – 1
Derry – 1	Lower Burrell, Grace Community – 2	Uniontown, Third – 2
Dunbar, First – 1	Lower Burrell, Puckety – 2	Uniontown, Trinity United – 1
Dunbar, Laurel Hill – 1	Masontown, First – 1	Vanderbilt, East Liberty – 1
Ebensburg – 1	McClellandtown – 1	West Newton, Sewickley – 1
Fairchance – 1	Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek – 1	West Newton, Sewickley United – 1
Farmington, Mt. Washington – 1	Mt. Pleasant, Reunion – 1	West Newton, United – 1
Fayette City, First – 1	Murrysville, First – 1	
Fayette City, Little Redstone – 1	Murrysville, Newlonsburg – 2	

8. The Stated Clerk provided the current Rolls of the Presbytery and Continuing Members. (Appendix A).

9. The dates for the 2023 Session Minutes Reviews are:

- February 10, 2024 – Westmont, Johnstown; Pre-Enrichment Day
- March 19, 2024 – New Hope, North Huntingdon; Pre-Presbytery Meeting
- April 17, 2024 – Redstone Presbytery Center
- May 23, 2023 – Pleasant View, Smock; Pre-Presbytery

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**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 meeting of the November 18, 2023, be approved.

**From the Council**

1. Council **recommended** that the Financial and Treasurer's Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit. (Appendix C).
2. Council **recommended** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.
3. Council **recommended** approval and authorization of the continuation of all subcommittees, networks and task forces functioning at the end of 2023 year as noted in the Stated Clerk's report.
4. Council **recommended** approval of the Harassment policy and procedures. The Harassment policy and procedures item was pulled from the Consent Agenda and will be taken up for discussion and action following the Report of Pine Springs Camp.

**From the Committee on Ministry**

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the Bolivar United Presbyterian Church for Waiver of Rotation for Elders Andrew Bimeal, Pat Betts, and Karen Garland.
2. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the New Hope Presbyterian Church for Waiver of Rotation for Elder Helen Connors.
3. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church for Waiver of Rotation for Elder James Stratton.

**From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

**From the Nominating Committee**

**From the Committee on Representation**

With the removal of the Harassment policy and procedures item, it was **MSP** to approve the Consent Agenda .

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

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Ruling Elder Bobbi Jo Huebner, presented the Financial Reports calling attention to the written report found in the packet for the meeting. The report is for the end of the year 2023 and she highlighted many of the items found in the written report. Bobbi Jo reported that new furnaces were purchased this year and that monies were transferred into the investment account.

### **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT**

Rev. Skip Noftzger presented the Annual Executive Report that was found in the packet. It was **MSP** to receive the report.

### **WORSHIP**

The Presbytery joined in worship with the theme of “Celebrating God’s Grace in Worship”. The remainder of the Presbytery Meeting was within the context of the worship service. Participants in worship included: Matt Sprinkle, organist; the choir of First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown; Rev. Sue Washburn, Call to Worship; Elder Lynn Mance, Prayer of Confession and Passing of the Peace; Rev. Bruce Cadenhead, Scripture Reading of 1 Peter 2: 1-12; Rev. Skip Noftzger preached the sermon, “A Community of Grace”.

### **Equipping Leadership:**

As part of our worship service, Vice Moderator Susan Keaney led the Commissioning of Ruling Elders to Particular Pastoral Services.

Rev. Skip Noftzger recognized those celebrating Ordination Anniversaries (Appendix D of packet).

### **Engaging Congregations:**

Vice Moderator Susan Keaney presented the Necrology Report where the names of those Elders who have entered the Church Triumphant in the past year were read aloud and members of those congregations present were asked to stand. (Appendix E of the packet). This was concluded with the singing of the Hymn “For All The Saints.”

Rev. Donna Havrisko on behalf of the Committee of Ministry presented the Pastoral Call between the Rev. Owar Ojulu and the Grace Community Presbyterian Church of Lower Burrell. Speaking on behalf of the PNC was Cathy Brady, Chair of the PNC who gave a recap of the two-year process that the Grace Community PNC went through that led them to offering a call to Rev. Owar Ojulu. Speaking on behalf of the Session was Michael Cochenour, Clerk of Session, who attested to the congregational meeting held on January 7, 2024, which resulted in the offering a call to Rev. Owar Ojulu; It was **MSP** to approve this motion. Rev. Donna Havrisko concluded this report with prayer.

Rev. Ed Gray present a testimony about the Sewickley Presbyterian Church. The process began about 5 years ago when the Sewickley Presbyterian Church was concerned about its

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sustainability as a congregation. The question of how to provide pastoral leadership and Karen Kifer was in the Commission Pastor program and began working with the Sewickley congregation as part of her field education under First Presbyterian Church of Murrysville. An Administrative Commission was formed to revitalize the Sewickley Presbyterian Church, the Commission was comprised of 5 members. The congregation is 250 years old and will continue its ministry into the future. Karen Kifer was commissioned as the Commissioned Pastor of the Sewickley Presbyterian Church a few years ago. The Christmas Eve service this year had an attendance of 75 people. The testimony was concluded with prayer by Rev. Ed Gray and Commissioned Pastor, Karen Kifer.

### **Lord's Supper:**

The Rev. Hyiwot Teshome presided at the Lord's Table as the Presbytery shared the Sacrament of Communion.

### **COUNCIL REPORT**

#### **Council Information Items (as published)**

##### **January 16, 2024, Meeting**

Rev. Dawn Sherwood called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. for the retreat meeting and a quorum of members was established.

Rev. Laura Blank initiated a series of ice breakers where each member of Council was given the opportunity to introduce themselves in the context of reflecting upon a baptism that was meaningful to them as well as their own ordination as a ruling or teaching elder.

Rev. Sherwood offered a devotional reading, a song and a prayer to open the gathering.

Rev. Noftzger introduced Council members to the nature of understanding the role of serving in leadership within the Presbytery as a member of Council. Emphasizing the need to assume the "hat" of presbyter, he reminded members of the mission and priorities (Engaging Congregations; Equipping Leadership; Enabling Ministry Networks; Empowering Mission Partnerships) of Redstone Presbytery. Noting the differentiation of primary responsibility in each of those priorities, members were led through a series of exercises for group participation and consideration of possible strategies for pursuit in 2024.

These exercises included; understanding and articulating the purpose of the Presbytery and the role of the Council; recounting stories of faithfulness within our connectional ministry; and "watchwords" that characterize the ministry of Redstone at its "best." Additionally, members discussed prompts that afforded them the opportunity to identify "elephants in the room," "sacred cows," "dinosaurs that should be extinct," "peacock proud ministries," and "nest eggs that may be desirable to hatch." From there, member groups focused on the primary priorities of "Enabling Ministry Networks," "Empowering Mission Partnerships," and operations of the Presbytery in brainstorming particular ideas for the upcoming year.

Upon conclusion, Rev. Sherwood resumed moderation of the gathering in order to consider business items of the agenda.

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- The minutes of the November 28, 2023, meeting were approved by MSP.

### Stated Clerk Report

- The Correspondence Log will be provided by email.
- Rev. Noftzger reviewed the current list of subcommittees, task forces and networks that include:
  - Mission
  - Staff support
  - Finance and Property
  - Communications
  - Presbytery worship and planning
  - Addictions Ministry
  - Healing and Prayer Ministry
  - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
  - IPLF Steering

It was MSP to approve the authorization and ministry of these groups for the 2024 year.

### Treasurer Report

John Dickson distributed a written report to the members of Council. The report focused on the month of December and the 2023 fiscal year. Overall, church contributions did not achieve what was anticipated. With a number of one-time major expenditures, release of some restricted funds, transfer of funds to investments and not transferring funds from reserves resulted in a deficit annual budget. Yet, the balance sheet shows an increase in value of total assets in 2023 compared to 2022.

### Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

No Report. It was noted that Executive Director is on Sabbatical but has requested time on the January Presbytery agenda for Camp Director Mike Hurley.

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

### Sub Committees/Networks/Task Forces

### Staff Support

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- The subcommittee recommended the hiring of Karen Gray to the position of Administrative Operations Manager effective February 5, 2024 at a rate of 20/hr. with an average of 20 hours/wk. It was also noted that it is anticipated that the person in this position would be nominated to also serve as the Recording Clerk for the next term. Rev. Gray was excused from the room for the discussion.

It was MSP with one abstention to approve the recommendation and hire Ms. Gray for the position.

### Mission

- With Rev. Ojulu excused because of his trip to Ethiopia, Rev. Noftzger mentioned the written reports in the meeting folder.
  - Rev. Noftzger noted the conclusion of the mission project data collected from congregations and the summary of that data by participation with mission categories. This could be fertile ground for mission partnerships.
  - There will be minutes for mission from the Johnstown area for the upcoming Presbytery gathering.
  - It was noted that 2024 signifies the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the partnership with the Sudan and South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church. Throughout the years, stories of this partnership will be lifted up and celebrated.

### Finance and Property

- No report. There was no meeting since the November Council meeting.

### Racial Justice and Reconciliation

- Participants in the “confronting whiteness” have completed and will be training to be facilitators.
- Request for another “moment for justice” and distribution of a handout at the January Presbytery gathering.

### Communications

- Rev. Washburn has agreed to coordinate the reorganization of this group.
- Participants with a variety of skills and gifts in communications are solicited from members of the congregations.
- Council members were invited to participate through a contribution of article(s) in the regular Enews distributed by the Presbytery.

### IPLF

- Spring 2024 courses and workshops were reviewed as well as current Redstone Presbytery students in the program.

### Worship

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- Rev. Laura Blank reviewed the current plans for worship at the 2024 Presbytery gathering.
  - 2024 Plan for Worship at Presbytery Gatherings
    - January 27 – "Celebration of Community" (installation of Moderator/Vice Moderator; Commissioning of Pastors) – Rev. Skip Noftzger-Executive Presbyter
    - March 19---"Community of Faith" – Rev. Liddy Barlow; Christian Associates
    - May 28---"Community of Hope" ---Rev. Forrest Claassen, Synod of the Trinity
    - September 24 – "Community of Witness"
    - November 23 – "Community of Love" – Len Morgan, Presbytery Moderator

### Addictions Ministry Network

- No report.

### January 2024 Presbytery Agenda

The proposed agenda for the January 27 Presbytery gathering was presented. After review and discussion, it was **MSP** to approve as presented.

### Intercession

Prayer concerns were shared by members of the Council. A period of intercession was entered with various members leading in prayers for those requested needs.

### Adjournment

Having lifted up in prayer particular shared needs and the work throughout the meeting, it was MSP to adjourn the retreat meeting at 2:40 p.m.

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### November 28, 2023, Meeting

Rev. Curtis Paul called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum of members was established by those in person and participation by Zoom videoconferencing. Visitors included those who would be joining the Council in 2024. Each member of the current Council introduced themselves.

Rev. Paul noted that members had received the agenda for the meeting and inquired whether there were any additions or revisions. Hearing none, the agenda was approved by consent.

Curtis presented the devotions focused on both hope and joy. Prayer requests were solicited from members present. He opened the meeting with prayer, including those intercessions on behalf of those mentioned.

- The minutes of the October 24, 2023, meeting were approved by **MSP**.

### Moderator Report

In the absence of Rev. Sherwood, there was no Moderator report.

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### Executive Presbyter Report

Rev. Noftzger reminded the current and upcoming Council members that the January gathering would be an extended one with opportunity for annual planning. Scheduled for 9:00-3:00 on January 16<sup>th</sup>, the Council will gather in the Maplewood fellowship hall with a catered lunch during the day. Bigger questions about who we are called to be as a presbytery, along with planning for 2024 will be upon the agenda.

Rev. Noftzger provided updates on various pastors and congregations around the presbytery, including those who would be moving on as well as those whose search for pastoral leadership is close to completion. He also noted congregations either in conflict or those struggling with identity in the denomination. In all cases, Council members were requested to uphold them in prayer.

Rev. Noftzger submitted a request for a number of vacation days during the middle to the end of December. It was **MSP** to approve both the vacation days request and authorization to carry over the remaining unused vacation days (6) into 2024 for possible use.

### Stated Clerk Report

- The Correspondence Log for was reviewed as submitted.
- Rev. Noftzger confirmed the dates for all 2024 Presbytery gatherings and locations.
  - January 27, 2024 – First Presbyterian, Johnstown
  - March 19, 2024---New Hope Presbyterian, North Huntingdon
  - May 28, 2024 – Pleasant View Presbyterian, Smock
  - September 24, 2024---Pine Springs Camp (daytime)
  - November 23, 2024---Community United Presbyterian, New Alexandria
- The subcommittee developing a Harassment policy and procedures for the Presbytery presented the document for review and approval. After correcting one typo, it was **MSP** to approve the policy and recommend to the Presbytery.

### Treasurer Report

John Dickson had submitted a written report based upon the end of October. Church contributions remain behind. Rev. Noftzger pointed out that because of Bobbie's anticipated time away, the November Income and Expense statement had been generated and was included in the meeting documents.

### Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

No Report.

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

### Sub Committees/Networks/Task Forces

#### Staff Support

- The upcoming meeting for December 7<sup>th</sup> for ongoing discussion about staff configurations was noted.
- It was reported that we have begun receiving applications for the Administrative Operations Manager position.
- The approved 2024 Holiday schedule that parallels this year was provided.

# Presbytery of Redstone

## January 27, 2024

- Rev. Noftzger thanked the subcommittee for the Christmas luncheon which had taken place that same day.

### Worship

- Rev. Laura Blank reviewed the current plans for worship at the 2024 Presbytery gathering.
  - 2024 Plan for Worship at Presbytery Gatherings
    - January 27 – “Celebration of Community” (installation of Moderator/Vice Moderator; Commissioning of Pastors)
    - March 19---“Community of Faith”
    - May 28---“Community of Hope”
    - September 24 – “Community of Witness”
    - November 23 – “Community of Love”
  - In addition to the Executive Presbyter and the Moderator, she proposed the following people be asked to preach at a presbytery gathering in 2024.
    - Rev. Liddy Barlow – Christian Associates Executive Minister
    - Rev. Ayana Teter – PTS Staff
    - Rev. Forrest Claassen – Synod Executive

It was **MSP** to approve extending an invitation to each of those guest preachers.

### Additions Ministry Network

- The new resource publication for “Into the Light” was highlighted and is available for download on either the Redstone Presbytery website or the Synod of the Trinity website.

### Mission

- Rev. Ojulu discussed some of the upcoming plans for the Mission network that include:
  - Further exploration about the ministry of the Blessing Board and presentation about this ministry at a Presbytery meeting in 2024.
  - The plans for a fund raising campaign in 2024 for the Nile Theological College which serves primary seminary of our partnership (Sudan/South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church). Further plans will be promoted at upcoming meetings of Council and the Presbytery.

### Budget, Finance and Stewardship

- Len Morgan reported on the meeting of the committee and their extensive review of the completed 2023 Financial review conducted by the firm, Horner, Wible and Terek. Upon highlighting some of the findings and changes, it was **MSP** to receive the financial review and to file.
- On behalf of the committee, Mr. Morgan also recommended that the same firm be retained for either a financial review or an audit of the 2023 financial records. This recommendation was **MSP** by the Council.

### Racial Justice and Reconciliation

- Rev. Brenda Barnes updated the Council on the anticipation of several members of the network to be trained and certified to conduct the same workshop. Authorization of endorsing within the presbytery those who complete the training was approved in October. Cost of the coverage was discussed and it was **MSP** to authorize covering the cost of these Redstone participants in the additional training.

# Presbytery of Redstone

## January 27, 2024

Funds are to be utilized from the Peacemaking funds account.

### Presbyterian Women

- No report was included.

### Communications

- No report. Reorganization will be taking place in 2024.

### Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

### New Business

There was no new business

### CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT

- It was MSP to adjourn with prayer at 7:41 p.m. Rev. Laura Blank led the Council in prayer concerning the actions that had been taken and the anticipated Advent season.

### Empowering Mission Partnerships:

#### MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT

Elder Debbie Koenig introduced us Elder Joyce Gerlach of First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown who reported that their mission committee consists of 5 people and they are very active. They collected a variety of items that were donated to a local project to help women. They also had a collection of items for Christmas gifts for infants through age 5.

Elder Debbie Koenig called attention to an on-line survey that appeared in the Presbytery's Enews. The Mission Committee would like congregations to fill out these surveys. To date about 1/3 of the congregations have completed the surveys and they would love to hear from the other congregations.

Rev. Donna Havrisko presented the Mission Committee report noting that throughout this year we will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our partnership with our sisters and brothers in the Sudan/South Sudan. Donna provided a history of our 20-year partnership, and over the years the partnership has thrived and has provided items to meet their needs. One of the most important aspects of the partnership is presence. The Offering today will go to the Sudan/South Sudan partnership. The Presbytery sang the Doxology and Rev. Donna Havrisko led the Prayer for the Offering.

#### PINE SPRINGS REPORT

Mike Hurley presented the Pine Springs Camp noting that the registration for the 2024 season opened on January 1, 2024. He reminded the Presbytery that he has packets for each church and asked that they be picked up. They will be doing some recruiting at churches in the near future.

# Presbytery of Redstone

## January 27, 2024

He called attention to several retreats that are coming up. They are in the midst of recruiting summer staff and asked for prayer for providing the staff for this summer camping season and for the summer of 2024.

### PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Chair of the Presbytery Council moved that the Harassment policy and procedures be approved. This item had been pulled from the Consent Agenda. It was **moved and seconded** to approve the Harassment policy and procedures. The floor was open for discussion. A question was raised as to what constitutes verbal bullying words. It was **MSP** to amend the section in the policy by inserting "*using words to intentionally harm others*" in the "Bullying" section under Verbal bullying. This amendment was **approved**.

It was **MSP** to approve the amendment Harassment policy and procedures with the amended language.

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

#### Information Items

##### January 4, 2024, Meeting

##### Election of Chairperson and Secretary

**MSP** to elect Rev. Donna Havrisko as moderator and Helen Toms as secretary.

##### Review of COM Purpose and Responsibilities

Rev. Skip Noftzger reviewed the responsibilities and duties of the Committee on Ministry that were provided electronically to the committee members. The role of a liaison is to serve as pastor, counselor, and advisor and a witness to the grace of God happening at churches within the Redstone Presbytery. The liaison interfaces with their respective churches and relates to the Presbytery what their churches are excited about or their needs and concerns so that the Presbytery can offer support and resources as needed. Available tools for COM members include Zoom links for attending meetings; Google Docs for sharing happenings of their churches, and Dropbox containing relevant information and resources.

##### Approval of Minutes

**MSP** approval of the minutes of November 2, 2023.

##### Consent Items

- **MSP** to approve Consent items authorized and approved between meetings
  - Request for Waiver of Rotation for Elders Andrew Bimeal, Pat Betts, and Karen Garland from the Bolivar United Presbyterian Church.
  - Request for Waiver of Rotation for Elder Helen Connors from the New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon.
  - Dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. James Gear and the Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown.

## Presbytery of Redstone January 27, 2024

- The transfer of Rev. Gear to the Beaver-Butler Presbytery, if the way be clear.

### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Annual Reports Due
  - Statistics
  - Waiver of Rotation forms
  - Terms of Call forms
  - Pastor agreement forms
  - Necrology
  - Session members
  - Manse inspection
- Minutes Review Dates
  - January 27; 12:00 noon; First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
  - March 19; 4:00 p.m.; New Hope Presbyterian Church
  - April 17; 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery Center
  - May 28; 5:00 p.m.; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the request from Ebensburg Presbyterian Church for a waiver of rotation for Jim Stratton, Ruling Elder.
- **MSP** to approve the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Colver Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Owar Ojulu.
- **MSP** to approve the renewal of all current covenant pastors, Interim Pastors, Commissioned pastors, and temporary pastors for pastors serving in “temporary pastoral relationships” pending submission of agreement and adequate compensation (minimum terms of call prorated). (handout).
- **MSP** to approve Rev. Sue Washburn to “labor outside the bounds” in service to Crossroads Presbyterian Church (Kiski) and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Pittsburgh).
- **MSP** to approve of the dismissal and transfer of Rev. Doug Marshall to Pittsburgh Presbytery “if the way be clear.”

### Report of the Moderator

- Devotions - Sign-up
- Moderator appointments
  - Fairchance— Rev. Molly Hall
- Update from the Westmont team of COM members. The committee met with a variety of people, pastor and session over a period of time. The Session communicated a joint resolution with congregation of engaging Pastor Graham Standish of Samaritan Counseling, a consultant in leadership development, with Session and staff. First in person meeting is planned for January 27<sup>th</sup> with all parties involved. Different phase meetings are planned throughout 2024.

# Presbytery of Redstone

## January 27, 2024

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
  - Examinations completed with candidate for Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville.
- Action Items
  - None

#### Search and Call

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)
- Action Items
  - **MP** to recommend approval of the pastoral call and its terms “if the way be clear” (congregation meeting on 1/7/24) between the Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell and Rev. Owar Ojulu.
  - **MP** to approve part-time Interim Pastor agreement between John Simpson and Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, PA.
  - **MP** to approve Rev. Sue Washburn for Validated Ministry as Interim Director of Field Education, PTS and permission to “labor outside the bounds.”

#### COM Liaison Responsibilities and Suggested Timeline

- Organization – Chair/Convener/Reporter
- Re-assign church liaisons
- IPLF Upcoming workshops:
  - Reformed Worship and Sacraments (begins January 6)
  - Redstone Presbytery – 4; Washington Presbytery – Beaver Butler Presbytery – ; Pittsburgh Presbytery – 1; Upper Ohio Valley – ; Shenango – 1

#### Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:  
Praises for soup dinners, Christmas Child distributions; and larger gatherings at services. Praises for those calling a new pastor; more men in attendance; and for young people coming back to church. Praises for monthly lunch outs with 25 people sharing food and fellowship; for movie night; and good attendance last couple Sundays in December. Praises for the progress made on the new building and the pledges received to pay for the building. Prayers for those grieving the loss of loved ones; prayers for those caring for a son going through health issues; for those battling cancer; for those dealing with pneumonia and surgeries. Prayers for those attending Blue Christmas service. Prayers for those that are deployed and for their families back home. Prayers for those that have graduated from the Police Academy. Prayers for upcoming annual meetings; for finding a new organist; and for PNCs working to find a candidate. Prayers for safety for all.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:  
Clark Kerr, Karen Kifer, Brian Kilbert, Steve LaSor, Jay Lewis, Dennis Macaleer, Chuck MacPherson, Becky Maiman, Lynn Mance, John Manon.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:

# Presbytery of Redstone

## January 27, 2024

Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria; Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria; Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence; Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence; United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington; New Salem Presbyterian Church; New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon; Patton Presbyterian Church; Revloc Presbyterian Church; Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale.

### New Business

- Pastor one-day retreat – Pine Springs – task force. Usually occurs after Easter which falls on March 31<sup>st</sup> this year. Volunteers to coordinate the pastor retreat include: Mary Kay Glunt; Molly Hall; Glenn Hart.

### Adjournment

It was MSP to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Bob Sheehan.

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## COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

There were no Action Items to be brought before Presbytery at this meeting, but the following information items were included in the packet:

### Information Items (as published)

#### January 2, 2024, Meeting

1. Organizational concerns
  - a. Election of chair – It was MSP to elect Robin Jennings to serve as the chair.
  - b. Election off Secretary – It was MSP to elect Tammy Noss to serve as secretary.
1. Updates on Candidates/IPLF participants:

Update on Danielle Kendig - Danielle is taking classes right now, with hopes to graduate in the Spring. Robin Jennings is working with Danielle as her mentor. We will meet with Danielle 1st Tuesday in February.

Update on James Vlosich - He has taken his assessment classes, Leaderwise and BCE-S. He will do his field assessment Jan.- May 2024. The committee with meet with James in the first Tuesday of March. Hyiwot agreed to serve as the CPM liaison for James.

Jeffrey Martini (West Newton) and Dave McCleary (Latrobe United) will be starting the IPLF program in January 2024. The committee will meet with them in person at the February meeting.
2. Skjp went over Responsibilities and differences between CPM and COM
3. The Liaisons for the current IPLF Candidates:
  - a. Jeffrey Martini, Bill Poninsky: Liaison John Manon
  - b. Dave McCreary, Karen Gray: Liaison Tammy Noss

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- c. Anthony Marciano: Liaison Larry Armstrong
- d. Tammy Noss: Liaison James Sunseri
- e. Jackie Eckenrod: Liaison Robin Jennings
- f. Linda Gossar Loesch Liaison Kristen Emrick

4. Next meeting February 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm

Adjournment. Prayer offered by Rev. Larry Armstrong

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Nominating Committee Information Items**

- There remain a couple openings for positions on standing committees. These include:
- There remain a couple openings for positions on standing committees. These include:
  - 1 Male Ruling Elder-Committee on Ministry

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

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

**NEW BUSINESS**

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

**ATTENDANCE REPORT**

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster gave the attendance report. He reported that there were 34 clergy and 11 Commissioned Pastors, 21 Elders (representing 18 congregations), 0 Christian Educators, 2 by virtue of office, 0 Corresponding Members, and 9 visitors for a total of 77. There were 49 congregations without elder representation.

**RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Rev. Cliff Foster offered the Resolution of Thanks for the Presbytery Meeting by providing a recap of all that took place in our meeting.

**“SOLI DEO GLORIA”**

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was **MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 4: 00 pm.

**BENEDICTION**

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
**January 27, 2024**

Rev Hyiwot Teshome led the Presbytery in a benediction prayer.

*The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom video conferencing and the New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon.*

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Susan Keaney, Vice Moderator

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Rev. Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk