

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
**May 23, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was called to order at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, via Zoom videoconferencing and in person at the Ebensburg Presbyterian Church. The meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Moderator. Moderator Sherwood announced that items of new business must be presented to the Associate Stated Clerk in writing (or through chat on Zoom) before the end of worship. The Moderator provided some instructions for the Zoom participants of the meeting and she reminded those in attendance to come to the microphones to speak.

**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>
	Sylvia Carlson, HR	
	Patrick Ewing, MAL	
	James Farrer, HR	
	Donna Havrisko, HR	
	Chuck MacPherson, HR	
	Lynn Mance, CP	
	Gail Mason, NRHR	
	Lee McDermott, HR	
	Norma Murphy, NRHR	
	Skip Noftzger, EP	
	Robert Sheehan, CP	
	Sue Washburn, MAL	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run		Valerie Hansen
Avonmore, First		
Belle Vernon, First	Mary Kay Glunt	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Glenn Hart, CP	Susan Nesti
Belle Vernon, Marion		
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth		Edward Moore
Bolivar, United	James Sunseri, CP	
Brownsville, Calvin	Kristen Emrick	Diane Chuboy
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	Kristen Emrick	Kathy Phillips
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver	Owar Ojulu	Bonnie Hill
Cresson		Amie Lumadue
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont		
Derry	Larry Armstrong, CovP	Larry Kean
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First	Owar Ojulu	Kevin McKenrick
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		

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Fayette City, First		
Fayette City, Little Redstone		
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Robin Jennings
Greensburg, Maplewood	Steve LaSor	
Greensburg, Westminster	Jenn Frayer-Griggs	Duffy Greba
Irwin, First	Doug Rehberg, IP	Martha Pattullo
Irwin, West Hempfield		
Jeannette	Dawn Sherwood	Rolf Hansen
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First	Hyiwot Teshome	Sheila Farrer
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont		Tammy Germana, Deb Lichtenfels, Dave Thompson
Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace	Molly Hall, CovP	
Latrobe	Derek Campbell	Susannah Calvo
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Doug Marshall, IP	
Lower Burrell, Puckety	Brian Kilbert	Marilyn Crumley
Masontown		
McClellandtown		
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Russ Baird, CP	
Murrysville, First	Ed Gray	
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul Travis Webster, Assoc. Pastor	Susan Keaney
Murrysville, Union		
New Alexandria, Community	Leonard Morgan, CP	
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	Sarabeth Stopansky
New Florence, Bethel	James Sunseri, CP	Janie Short
New Florence, Trinity		
New Kensington, United	Becca Siddle	
New Salem		
North Huntingdon, New Hope	Brenda Barnes	Helen Connors
Patton		Cindy Hammel
Revloc	David O'Hara, CP	
Scottdale, Calvin	Doug Yauger, CP	
Smithfield, Grace Chapel		
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third		
Uniontown, Trinity		James Vlosich
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
West Newton, Sewickley	Karen Kifer, CP	

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

**By Virtue of Office:** Audrey Cottle, Presbytery Council; John Dickson, Presbytery Treasurer

**Visitors:** Bernice Adams, Johnstown, Westmont; Rebecca Bracken, Ebensburg; Greg Davis, Pine Springs Camp; Doreen Gaudi, Jeannette, First; Martha O'Brien, Ebensburg; Barry Poglein, New Florence, Bethel; Bobbie Shaffor, Presbytery Staff; Jim Stratton, Ebensburg; Caitlin Vlosich, Uniontown, Trinity United; Catharine Weiss, Murrysville, Newlonsburg

**Teaching Elders Excused:** Armstrong; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Carnahan; Catullo; Corey; Degitz; Gear; Giesey; Glunt, D.; Graff; Havrisko; Hepler; Hess; Hickok; Holben; Keith; Kerr; Klein; Lloyd; Maxwell; McCabe; McClure; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Russell; Sharp, W.; Simpson; Stevens; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Tondora; VanWyk; Wirt

**Teaching Elders Absent:** Durika; Gear; Goetschius; Manon; Ruefle

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused:** NONE

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent:** Glisan; McElroy; Prinkey; Scully; Smith; Todero; Weightman; Wiegand

**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/ INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS**

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, moved that James Vlosich an Inquirer under care be given Privilege of the Floor. It was **MSP** to approve this motion **by consent**.

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

**STATED CLERK'S REPORT**

The Rev. Skip Noftzger presented the Stated Clerk's Report. He highlighted that we are looking for invitations to host the meetings of the Presbytery in 2024, the dates are included in the meeting packet.

**Report of the Stated Clerk:**

1. Correspondence Log:

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- 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 2022 minutes for Redstone Presbytery were reviewed on April 26, 2023, and were approved with no exceptions and no delinquencies.
3. Committee on Representation Annual Report – 12/31/2022

Standing Committees	# Members	Gender	Age	TE/RE	Ethnicity
Council	18	9-M; 9-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 5-(36-50); 7-(51-65); 6-(66+)	9-TE; 9-RE	16-W 1-AA 1-NA
Nominating	3	2-M; 1-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 1-(51-65); 2-(66+)	2-TE; 1-RE	3-W
Preparation for Ministry (CPM)	9	4-M; 5-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 4-(36-50); 3-(51-65); 2-(66+)	4-TE; 5-RE	9-W
Committee on Ministry (COM)	22	11-M; 11-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 3-(36-50); 12-(51-65); 6-(66+)	11-TE; 11-RE	21-W 1-AA
Representation	3	1-M; 2-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 1-(36-50); 1-(51-65); 1-(66+)	2-TE; 1-RE;	3-W
Pine Springs Board	6	3-M; 3-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 2-(36-50); 3-(51-65); 1-(66+)	2-TE; 3-RE; 1-L	5-W
Permanent Judicial Commission	9	4-M; 5-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 1-(36-50); 2-(51-65); 6-(66+)	5-TE; 4-RE	9-W
<b>Committee Summary</b>	70	34-M; 36-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 16-(36-50); 29-(51-65); 24-(66+)	35-TE; 34-RE; 1-L	66-W 3-AA 1-NA
<b>Council Sub-Committees/Networks</b>					
Budget and Finance	5	4-M; 1-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 1-(51-65); 4-(66+)	5-RE;	5-W
Mission	9	5-M; 4-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 1-(36-50); 4-(51-65); 4-(66+)	6-TE; 3-RE	7-W 2-AA
Staff Support	4	3-M; 1-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 0-(36-50); 2-(51-65); 2-(66+)	1-TE; 3-RE	4-W
Racial Justice and Reconciliation	7	3-M; 4-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 2-(36-50); 4-(51-65); 1-(66+)	5-TE; 2-RE	7-W
Addictions Ministry	8	3-M; 5-F	0-(16-25); 0-(26-35); 2-(36-50); 2-(51-65); 04-(66+)	3-TE; 5-RE	8-W
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	103	52-M; 51-F	0-(16-25); 1-(26-35); 21-(36-	50-TE; 52-	97-W

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(duplicated)			50); 42-(51-65); 39-(66+)	RE; 1-L	5-AA 1-NA
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**Observations and Recommendations:**

- The Racial-Ethnic membership of the churches of the Presbytery equals approximately 1% of the total membership. Among those who are ordained as Ruling Elders, the percentage is even smaller. So, while there is a need for greater diversity in congregational leadership which serves as the “pool” for potential presbytery leadership, progress has been made with presbytery committees and structures. Our commitment remains to increase the representation of all members of the body of Christ; but without those steps, options for increasing racial-ethnic participation in Presbytery will remain limited.
  - The Teaching Elder – Ruling Elder ratios are equal within the standing committees of the presbytery where it is required. Some imbalance exists within networks and subcommittees which is largely driven by the engagement in these groups is based upon personal initiative and interest.
  - Gender ratios are balanced among individual committees and only remain slightly unbalanced in the aggregate resulting from the odd number of participants in some of the committees. This addresses and corrects an imbalance that was present in the previous year as a result of mid-term resignations.
  - Overall, the report continues to be balanced with progress being made in racial-ethnic, gender and ruling elder status among some of the committees being sustained or improved. There remains a need to attract and nominate ruling and teaching elders in our younger age categories. This information is being related to the Nominating Committee with encouragement for their work and to continue to address any inequities identified within committees wherever possible.
4. Council has approved and is publishing the following meeting dates of the Presbytery of Redstone for 2024.
- a. January 27, 2024
  - b. March 19, 2024
  - c. May 28, 2024
  - d. September 24, 2024
  - e. November 23, 2024
  - f. If your church is interested in serving as a host for any one of those meetings, please contact Rev. Skip Noftzger to make the request of the Council.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Skip Noftzger, reported that the 2022 Minutes of the Presbytery were read and were approved with No Exceptions and No Delinquencies.

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The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Skip Noftzger 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 March 28, 2023, be approved.

**From the Council**

1. Council **recommended** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit.
2. Council **recommended** that the reports of the Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk be received and filed.
3. Council **recommended** that any Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, Pine Springs Camp and Synod commissioner reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.
4. Council **recommended** approval of each of the following amendments to the Book of Order approved at the 2022 General Assembly.  
*(Annotation and recommendations by standing committees of the Presbytery are included for information only. Full text of each amendment as well as background and rationale are provided in Appendix B)*

**22-A** (F-1.0302c) THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH (POL-16 1a)  
*Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*

**22-B** (F-1.0404) OPENNESS (POL-16 1b)  
*Expands inclusive language with reference to gender identity*

**22-P** (G-3.0106) ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (HSB-05 9)  
*Adds language regarding boundary training, including sexual abuse to the requirement for sexual misconduct policies required of councils*

**22-T** (W-3.0205) CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (TWE-05 1)  
*Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship*

**From the Committee on Representation**

1. Committee on Representation **recommended** that the annual report on representation be received, filed, and directed to the Nominating Committee.

**From the Sewickley Administrative Commission**

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

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

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

Elder John Dickson gave the Treasurer's Report which is the report through the month of April. A benchmark of 33% is where we are at this point in the year. The expenses are slightly above the 33% benchmark as they are at 34.18%. He referenced the written report in the meeting packet and highlighted that church commitments are above budget, and the Budget and Finance Committee appreciates the contributions of the congregations.

### EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, noted his written report. He led the Presbytery in the Soli Deo Gloria. He introduced the Great End of the Church as the theme for the Worship Service this evening: "The Maintenance of Divine Worship". Everything that we do is to be done to the glory of God.

### WORSHIP

We worshiped under the leadership of the following persons: Elder Melissa Douglas provided the music; Elder Jim Stratton led the Opening Sentences; Rev. Owar Ojulu led the Confession and Pardon; Elder Judy Carl led the Prayer for Illumination and read the Scripture Readings of Psalm 116: 12-19 and Acts 2: 42-47; Rev. Hyiwot Teshome preached the sermon entitled "Tight Connection"; Rev. Donna Havrisko led the Offering and the Prayer of Thanksgiving; Rev. Dawn Sherwood presided at the Lord's Table. The Offering from this meeting will go to Pine Springs Camp. Members of the Presbytery Prayer Team were available for anointing and prayer.

### ACTION AGENDA

#### COUNCIL REPORT

Rev. Curtis Paul, Chair of Presbytery Council, presented the following report and action items from the Council:

#### Action Items

- **Book of Order Amendments**

- **--22-O (Appendix B)**

- *Council recommended not to concur. It was **MSP** to approve this overture.*

- *The vote was 14 Yes, 36 No. The Presbytery voted not to concur with this overture.*

- **--22-U (Appendix B)**

- *Council recommended not to concur. It was **MSP** to approve this overture.*

- *The vote was 2 Yes, 50 No. The Presbytery voted not to concur with this overture.*

- **Addictions Ministry Network**

- *--Hope in a Bag - Rev. Lee McDermott reported that September is National Recovery Month where stories are told of those who are recovering from addiction. He promoted the "Hope in a Bag" project which will be received at the September Presbytery Meeting and the Addictions Ministry Network will distribute those items. There was a flyer provided in the meeting*

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packet with a list of items needed. The Network is also promoting the use of Narcan for use during an opioid overdose. Narcan restores breathing to the person who has overdoses. The Network has Narcan Kits available. The Network will provide training for congregations. Lee demonstrated how to use the Narcan nasal unit.

- **Racial Justice and Reconciliation Network**

--Moment for Justice - Rev. Brenda Barnes reported that before the meeting she handed out blue post-it notes to introduce us to the Blue Square Movement to stand up to Jewish Hate. The blue squares are to remind us of the rise of Jewish hatred in 2023 and to ask the question why.

- **Mission Network**

Rev. Owar Ojulu reported that the trip to Kentucky has been postponed until next year. The Sudan Mission Network Meeting will take place during the New Wilmington Mission Conference July 19-21, 2023.

Congregational mission reports were given by Dave O'Hara from Revloc church who talked about their mission outreach to nursing homes. He has been having movie days at the nursing home and providing popcorn and handing out large-print Bibles. Martha O'Brien from the Ebensburg Church reported that they have just become a Matthew 25 church. They have developed a particular project in support of a non-denominational church in Ethiopia. The mayor of Ebensburg is interested in developing a sister city in Ethiopia. They are exploring projects of water purification, a woman's craft to be sold here, school uniforms for orphans. Rev. Owar Ojulu will look into these projects when he is there in August.

- **Pine Springs Camp**

Greg Davis reported on updates. The Golf Outing was held May 22, 2023. He thinks that \$20,000 will be raised from the Golf Outing for the Scholarship Fund. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration is on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are over 120 people registered for this event. There will be a dedication of the Stuart Chapel and Greg Davis reported that Steve Stuart and his family will be present at the service at 1PM. The dining hall renovation will be dedicated at 11AM. The summer traveling day camp at New Hope will take place at the end of June - there are 20 campers registered so far; the traveling day camp at Murrysville in July - there are over 40 campers. The summer reservations are over 800 and there is a wait list and Greg asked for prayers for additional counselors so additional cabins can be opened. They hope to have 3-4 more male counselors and 2-3 more female counselors. Greg asked for prayers for the upcoming camp season. On July 16, 2023, at 10AM there will be a joint worship service at the Log Chapel and a picnic will follow. There will be a bulletin insert coming out soon. Please RSVP to the Presbytery Office with the number of those attending. The camp will be dedicating the Calvin Jays Log Chapel in the near future. Anyone who has any time to spare is invited to come to camp to help clean up the camp.

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### Presbytery Council Information Items (as published)

April 25, 2023

#### Moderator Report

#### Executive Presbyter Report

Rev. Noftzger provided updates on various ministry activities around the presbytery including the Pastor Getaway Retreat, status of various churches in transition as well as prayer requests within the presbytery.

#### 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:
  - June 27
  - August 29
  - October 24
  - November 28
- Rev. Noftzger introduced the overtures from the 2022 General Assembly that are to be considered at the May meeting. He also reviewed the current status of all overtures as voted upon to date by the various presbyteries. Upon reviewing the overtures for the upcoming meeting, it was **MSP** to place 22-P and 22-T on the consent agenda, in addition to the 22-A and 22-B. This leaves 22-O and 22-U on the action agenda with both receiving a recommendation by the Council not to concur.
- A list of possible proposed 2024 Gathering Dates for the Presbytery was put before the Council. They included the following:
  - January 27, 2024 (Saturday afternoon)
  - March 19, 2024 (Tuesday evening) (Easter – March 31)
  - May 28, 2024 (Tuesday evening)
  - September 24, 2024 (Tuesday evening)
  - November 23, 2024 (Saturday morning) (Thanksgiving - November 28)

Upon review of the dates, it was **MSP** to approve them as proposed and to publish them for the Presbytery of Redstone.

#### Treasurer Report

John Dickson reviewed the written report that had been submitted in the packet. Although there has been a good individual month regarding income, there remains a lag behind projected budgeted income. Expenditures are controlled and below budget with some exceptions related to timing in the year.

#### Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

Executive Director Greg Davis provided and oral report emphasizing the following:

- Summer camp enrollments
- Scholarship Golf Outing – May 22

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75 year celebration---June 3

Annual Friends Dinner---October 29

Rev. Dawn Sherwood reported on the special worship service and picnic planned for churches of Redstone Presbytery on July 16. Information on saving the date will be out soon.

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. Currently, feedback is being solicited for the annual evaluation and feedback for the Executive Presbyter. Reviews for both the Executive Presbyter and the Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper will take place on June 22.

#### Communications

No report.

#### Mission

Rev. Ojulu spoke of the planning of the 2023 PDA mission trip to Kentucky. Under the leadership of Rev. Campbell, the trip is scheduled for June 5-10, 2023.

The Mission network is soliciting 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.

The Sudan/South Sudan Mission Partnership Network meeting will take place this summer on July 19-21 in New Wilmington, PA. Skip and Sylvia are the co-conveners. Rev. Noftzger also reported that we had applied along with Pittsburgh and Shenango to host Peter Yien through the International Peacemaker Program (PCUSA).

#### Addictions Ministry Network

A written Report was provided from the Addictions Ministry Network. Within the report, the network had made a request to approve the solicitation for the "Hope in a Bag" project. It was **MSP** to approve the request for solicitation within the presbytery and to provide time on the agenda for the May meeting.

#### Worship

Rev. Laura Blank shared with the Council the preachers for the upcoming 2023 Presbytery Gatherings to include the following people. Each meeting continues to focus on one of the "Great Ends of the Church."

- May – Hyiwot Teshome
- September – Asa Lee
- November – Dawn Sherwood

#### Budget, Finance and Stewardship

A written report based upon the prior meeting of the subcommittee was supplied.

Summaries of the investments report were reviewed along with some upcoming maintenance projects for the

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Presbytery center.

Because of the management of the cash flow operations within the presbytery accounts, Bobbi Jo Huebner reported that the subcommittee was recommending the movement of \$35000 from 1<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth checking account to our Ameriprise investments accounts. It was MSP to approve this transfer of funds.

### Racial Justice and Reconciliation

Rev. Brenda Barnes reported on their previous work as well as their plans for continuing to elevate concerns of racial justice and reconciliation. On behalf of the network, she made a request of the Council to initiate a “Moment for Justice” at each Presbytery meeting with the first one in May being a “Stand Up to Jewish Hate” using a video and blue squares. It was MSP to approve the request for both the May meeting presentation as well as future time in the Presbytery agenda. They also presented a request to include an article in the Presbytery packet. It was MSP to approve this request.

### Presbyterian Women

A written report was presented in the meeting documents.

### May Presbytery Agenda

A proposed Presbytery agenda was submitted. Upon discussion and minor revisions, the agenda for the May meeting was MSP and will be published.

### Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

### New Business

There was no new business for action.

### CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT

It was MSP to adjourn and the meeting was closed in prayer at 8:30 p.m.

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Edward Gray presented the report of the Committee and reports the following report and action items for the Committee on Ministry:

#### Action Items

- **Board of Pensions – Church Consultant - Rev. Emily Chudy** was introduced to the Presbytery via a video message. She introduced herself, she is a member of the Presbytery of Donegal, and her office is in Philadelphia.

Rev. Ed Gray talked about attending the recently held Board of Pension Conference in Atlanta with our EP Skip Noftzger. The conference was a season of rebuilding and looking at the plan which was developed in the 1980’s. Only 30% of our ministers are part of the Board of Pensions. The Called and Installed Ministers are part of the plan but many of the CRE’s and Covenant Pastors are not part of the plan. The next event in the rebuilding will be in October and the Board of Directors of Board of Pensions will have the new plan in January 2025.

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- **Retirement of Rev. Ross Bash** - Rev. Jim Farrer spoke about the ministry of Rev. Ross Bash over the years, he is a minister and a practicing attorney. He pointed out the work that was done by Ross Bash and Wayne Gnatuk from Washington Presbytery to ensure that the camp did not go under financially and to work in partnership for the good of the camp. It was **MSP** to move Rev. Ross Bash to the status of Honorably Retired. The motion was passed unanimously. Moderator Dawn Sherwood offered a prayer for Ross Bash.
- **Covenant Pastor Introductions** - Rev. Larry Armstrong who will be serving the Derry Presbytery Church and Rev. Becca Siddle who will be serving the United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington were introduced to the Presbytery and Rev. Ed Gray led the Presbytery in prayer for these two ministries.

### Committee on Ministry Information Items (as published)

#### May 4, 2023, Meeting

#### Approval of Minutes

**MSP** approval of the minutes of April 13, 2023.

#### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Minutes Review Dates
  - May 9; 6:00 p.m.; Trinity United Presbyterian Church
  - May 23; 5:00 p.m.; Ebensburg Presbyterian Church (pre-Presbytery meeting)
  - There are a number of Churches who have not yet completed minutes/register review: list in meeting documents.
- Rev. Skip Noftzger presented information on responsibilities of a Clerk of Session. He offered an annual calendar for their activities to which liaisons should be aware to be helpful.
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation of the request from Rev. Michael Shepard and the Presbytery of Western Carolina to be dismissed to that presbytery.

#### Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments
  - Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown - Rev. Ed Gray

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
  - Interviewing other non-Presbyterian ministers for possible additions to the pulpit supply roster (preaching only).

#### Search and Call

- Information Items

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- Transition Chart (handout)
- Rev. Larry Armstrong and the Derry Presbyterian Church have come to an agreement about his possible service as Covenant Pastor.
- Tyrone Presbyterian Church is open to calling a part-time commissioned pastor. In the process of seeking to identify any possible options.
- Action Items
  - **MP** to approve the Covenant Pastor agreement between Rev. Becca Siddle and The United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington session (agreement in meeting documents).

### COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
  - Follow up Clerks – plan on participating in one of upcoming minutes review.
  - 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
- Resources within Presbytery
  - Articles and Resources
- Education and Nurture
  - IPLF Upcoming workshops
    - After the Commission; Reflections on IPLF and pastoral service – 5/13
  - 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 communicant classes, great energy, and increase in attendance. Praises for Mother Day special events and planned Memorial Day celebration at church. Praises for anniversary celebrations. Praises for major projects underway and for spring cleanup projects. Praises for successful blood drives, choral concerts, and meals on wheel. Praises for full preschool registrations, VBS plans, active youth group and young adult bible study.
  - Prayers for PNC as they deal with change and processes. Prayers for church property issues. Prayers for the health and well being of congregants, for peace during transitions to nursing home, and for encouragement during challenges and struggles. Prayers for safe travel and praises for well deserved vacation.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
  - Rebecca Siddle, John Simpson, Jeff Smith, Doug Stevens, James Stobaugh, James Sunseri, Richard Sweeney, Hyiwot Teshome, Denise Todero, Alice Tondora.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
  - Patton Presbyterian Church; Revloc Presbyterian Church; Calvin United Presbyterian Church, Scottdale; Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock; Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford; Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt.

### Unfinished Business

- Pastor Retreat – Although chilly on the outside, it was a warm gathering on the inside. The retreat

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offered a different format with devotions; study on creating a culture of change, and time of fellowship.

### New Business

- Northeast Wee Kirk conference registration is now available online. This conference of workshops and seminars will be held October 9th - 11th.

### Adjournment

It was MSP to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Russ Baird.

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### April 14, 2023, Meeting

### Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of March 2, 2023.

### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Minutes Review Dates
  - April 18; 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery Center
  - May 9; 6:00 p.m.; Trinity United Presbyterian Church
  - May 23; 5:00 p.m.; Ebsenburg Presbyterian Church (pre-Presbytery meeting)
- MSP to approve the recommendation of the request from Rev. Ross Bash to be moved to Honorably Retired status within the Presbytery of Redstone.
- Responsibilities of the COM were presented by Rev. Skip Noftzger specifically discussing the different types of Pastors (Installed and Temporary) of the Presbytery.

### Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments
- Pastor Getaway Day - Post-Easter one-day event at PSC
  - Planning Pastor Getaway Day: Tuesday April 18<sup>th</sup> at PSC from 10am - 2pm. The itinerary includes Prayers at 10-10:30; followed by Creating Healthy Culture in Churches then Lunch. Closing will occur after lunch for those who need leave; while others can stay for continued Fellowship.
- Members are needed for Search and Call Committee.

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
  - At the March meeting of the Presbytery, Patrick Ewing was restored to the ministry of Word and Sacrament as a Member at Large of Redstone Presbytery. Because the request was to be a Member at Large and as a result of his service on staff of Third Presbyterian, a covenant was established and agreed to by COM, Patrick and Third Presbyterian session at a meeting on March 23. The covenant is in the meeting documents.

#### Search and Call

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)

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- Candidate for Grace Community Presbyterian; Lower Burrell declined the offer to be nominated. So, the PNC feels like they are “starting over.”
- Tyrone Presbyterian Church is open to calling a part-time commissioned pastor. In the process of seeking to identify any possible options.
- Action Items
  - **MSP** to approve the Covenant Pastor agreement between Rev. Larry Armstrong and the Derry Presbyterian Church Session (agreement in meeting documents).

### COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
  - Follow up Clerks— plan on participating in one of upcoming minutes review.
  - Follow up Pastor/Mission chair--completion of congregation mission projects (<https://forms.gle/p6wxbLcVnMrdFHuT8> )
- Ministry reflections for conversations
- Resources within Presbytery
  - Articles and Resources
- Education and Nurture
  - IPLF Upcoming workshops
    - Disability; Healing and the Scriptures – 4/15
    - After the Commission; Reflections on IPLF and pastoral service – 5/13
  - 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 Sunrise Easter services, Easter cantata, egg hunts, for special Maundy Thursday services with people coming forward to be anointed, well attended Lenten noon time services with meals, and the hard work of Pastors and worship members making these services special. Praises for successful rummage sales, vendor sales, and spaghetti dinners as these fundraising efforts support various mission projects and church efforts. Praises for planned blood drives, Wilson candy fundraisers, Spring tea, and community choir concert. Praises for Pastors that can find special gifts in members they didn't know they had.
  - Praises for participation in Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, intentional support of Redstone Mission programs, food banks, and Mission trips. Praises for those that hung in there and now have choirs singing; increased attendance, and see life returning.
  - Prayers for VBS plans, communicant classes, Pine Spring Day camp, and all youth programs.
  - Prayers for PNCs when it does not work out as expected and for PNCs to continue to trust the process. Prayers for guidance and support while searching for an organist. Prayers for the hard decisions of members going into assisted living and nursing home placement. Prayers for those struggling with the challenges of life and prayers for healing. Prayers for the Prayer box to receive the prayer requests of those in need of prayers. Prayers and praises for medical professionals that will be providing CPR training.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
  - John Pressler, Robert Prinkey, Geoff Rach, Doug Rehberg, Marnie Russell, Regina Schrecengost, Josh Scully, William Sharp, Michael Shepard, Dawn Sherwood.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
  - First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Union Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria; Congruity Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria; Bethel Presbyterian Church, New Florence;

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Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence; United Presbyterian Church, New Kensington; New Salem Presbyterian Church; New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon.

### Adjournment

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Ed Gray.

### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Rev. Geoff Rach presented the report from the Committee. He called attention to their report in the meeting packet and drew the Presbytery's attention to the IPLF program which is a training program for authorized preachers and commissioned pastors with several surrounding Presbyteries.

### Action Items

- **Recommendation to move James Vlosich from Inquirer to Candidate status.** Rev. Geoff Rach introduced James Vlosich to the Presbytery. James is a member of the Trinity United Presbyterian Church of Uniontown. He was asked questions about his sense of call to ministry and how it has changed during his time as an Inquirer. After a verbal vote, it was **MSP** to move James Vlosich from Inquirer to Candidate under the care of Redstone Presbytery. Rev. Dawn Sherwood led the Presbytery in a liturgy celebrating the move of James to Candidacy status under the care of the Presbytery of Redstone.

### Committee on Preparation for Ministry Information Items (as published)

#### May 2, 2023, Meeting

1. Approval of minutes of March 7, 2023, as written; **MSP**.
2. Possible suggestions for the Nominating Committee to serve as Ordination Exam readers.
  - a. Approval to submit Robin Jennings, Karen Kifer (alternate) as Ruling Elders, and Kristen Emrick and Skip Noftzger (alternate) as Teaching Elders to the Nominating Committee to serve as Ordination Exam readers; **MSP**.
3. Master Chart--Roster, Liaisons, and Checklist Review.
  - a. Cynthia Bellina - Geoff Rach attempted to contact her to determine if she will be able to continue with her schooling. The CPM discussed sending a letter to Cynthia Bellina asking her to contact us if she is interested in remaining a Candidate.
    - i. Motion to send a letter to Cynthia Bellina requesting her response by a specific date if she wishes to remain a Candidate under Redstone Presbytery's care. A copy will be sent to the Third Presbyterian Church of Uniontown; **MSP**.
  - b. Danielle Kendig - became a Candidate in September 2022.
    - i. She is enrolled in Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. On January 26, 2023, Danielle Kendig took the Polity Ordination exam and passed. She took the Exegesis, Theology, and Worship exams in April 2023; the results are unknown at this time.
  - c. Linda Gossar Loesch, and Rich Zoltak will need to meet with the CPM.
  - d. Karen Gray - CPM will meet with her at the end of the summer.
  - e. Jackie Eckenrod is catching up with her class assignments.
    - i. She preached at Westminster Presbyterian and is on the fill-in list for Dunlap's Creek.
  - f. Bill Poninsky is working with John Manon on his Practicum.

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- i. Bill Poninsky helped with the Maundy Thursday service and helped moderate at West Newton United Presbyterian Church.
- g. Jeff Keilman
- i. Skip Noftzger, Jim Sunseri and Geoff Rach will meet with him before the May Presbytery meeting in Ebensburg.
4. Consultations
- a. James Vlosich – an Inquirer.
- i. He is enrolled in Fuller Theological Seminary in his second year of studies,
1. He has completed 56 out of 120 credit hours and is expected to graduate in Spring 2025. Geoff Rach will be meeting with James and his advisor to discuss field education on May 17, 2023.
- ii. He has passed the Bible Content examination.
- iii. His candidacy assessment with Leaderwise was performed on February 9, 2023.
- iv. CPM discussion with James Vlosich about becoming a Candidate.
1. James Vlosich will be going to the May 23, 2023, Presbytery meeting.
2. Recommend to Redstone Presbytery that James Vlosich be moved to Candidacy; **MSP**.
- v. Committee members prayed for James Vlosich

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Glenn Hart presented the following report and action items of the Nominating Committee:

**Action Items**

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

- **The Nominating Committee nominates the following people to serve as ordination examination readers on behalf of the presbytery.**

**Rev. Kristen Emrick**

**Robin Jennings**

**Rev. Skip Noftzger – alternate**

**Karen Kifer – alternate**

- **The Nominating Committee nominates the following people for the respective standing committees and terms.**

**Council**

**Rev. Sue Washburn**

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

**Nominating Committee Information Items (as published)**

As we prepare for the upcoming season (June-September) of identifying new leadership, the Nominating Committee is in need of your suggestions and recommendations for ruling elder candidates to serve within the various committees and structures of the Presbytery. Please email any nominations to Skip Noftzger.

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**Discernment Team/Administrative Commission Reports**

**Meeting Minutes for April 18, 2023**

**Commission Members:**

*Present:* Amanda Albright, Ed Gray, Connie Keefer, Karen Kifer, and Richard Pry

*Excused:*

*Others Present:* Twana Maturkanic and Sharon Williams

**Proceedings:**

*Meeting opened with prayer by Karen Kifer*

*Bible Reading: Galatians 6:9-10*

*Approve the Administrative Commission meeting minutes from January 17, 2023*

**MOTION** to approve the Administrative Commission meeting minutes from January 17, 2022, and the Annual Congregation Meeting Minutes from January 29, 2023;

**MSP.**

*Review of the Agenda of the meeting*

*Welcome to our guests – Twana Maturkanic and Sharon Williams*

**MOTION** to give voice to Twana Maturkanic and Sharon Williams in the meeting;

**MSP.**

**Reports:**

*Report of the Chair – Rev. Ed Gray*

*Report of the Treasurer - Amanda Albright*

**MOTION** to receive the January, February, and March Treasurer's reports; **MSP.**

*Report of the Pastor – Karen Kifer*

Ed Gray to complete the CRE Mentor Annual Report for 2022.

The baptism of Charlotte Michelle Gephart, daughter of Chad and Jennifer Gephart (186 Momyer Rd, Smithton, PA 15479) occurred on January 29, 2023 at the regular worship service.

The Children's Bible Study continues on Monday at 5 pm.

The Adult Bible Study continues on Wednesday at 3 pm.

Movie Matinee has resumed after a winter break. We will be watching *God's Not Dead 3: A Light in Darkness*, on April 25, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

The church has obtained a sponsor for the development of a website.

A website functions as the church's digital front door. It allows people searching for a church online to see us.

A website is NOT a big incentive to draw new people; however, NOT having a website is a handicap in attracting visitors.

Reflex Brands, a website designer, can build the church a website similar to Poke Run Presbyterian Church ([www.pokerunchurch.com](http://www.pokerunchurch.com)).

The website would be static except for the calendar page which can be updated by the church, as needed.

Any changes to the website (except the calendar page) after development is complete (including the online testing period) would be billed on a per-hour basis. The current cost is \$175 per hour. An example of a future change would be the

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addition of an online giving page (the current cost of adding an extra page is \$400)

If the church agrees, the cost to the church will be \$30 per month for the website hosting fee and \$20 per year website domain fee.

The proposed name of the website would be [www.sewickleypresbyterianchurch.com](http://www.sewickleypresbyterianchurch.com) (or .org, if unavailable)

**MOTION** to approve the development of a website for the church; **MSP**.

**MOTION** to approve amending the 2023 budget to include \$400 annually to update the website; **MSP**

*Administrative Report* – Karen Kifer

Mr. Ed Higgins, a neighbor of the church passed away recently.

The required reports were completed for Redstone Presbytery (Necrology Report, Terms of Call Form, Manse Inspection) and the Annual Statistical Report for the General Assembly by their respective due dates.

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held on January 29, 2023

Brit Grimes, the tenant in the manse, has moved. We worked with Patty Molnar from Berkshire Hathaway to include addendums to the lease detailing the expectation that the new tenant cut the grass around the church building in return for using the church's lawn tractor and lawn mower to cut the manse property.

RJ Morales, the new tenant as of April 3, 2023, was vetted and selected by Berkshire Hathaway.

County Hauling, 111 Conner Lane, Belle Vernon, PA 15012, 724-929-7694, is the new garbage company for the church (changed a few times in the past 9 months). They permit one bulk item per month to be placed out at the curb the first week of the month.

*Building Report* – Karen Kifer

General cleanup outside was completed before Easter.

The garage has been cleaned.

The previous tenant, Brit Grimes, removed all of his things and left his portion clean. There were many things left on the far side. It is uncertain where the items came from.

Some items, such as wood signs, manger, and shepherd's crooks, were clearly used by the church for sales and events many years ago.

The items have been sorted; junk has been thrown away and the garage swept clean of rodent nests and droppings.

A number of large bulk items will be placed out for the garbage as the collection schedule permits.

The lawn tractor and lawn mower were inspected and found in good working condition.

*Mission* – Karen Kifer

The church collected \$650 for Mendon Elementary School and purchased 13-\$50 Aldi's gift cards. The school principal and guidance counselor selected the families that would benefit the most. The school placed a very kind thank you on its website.

*Upcoming Events:*

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April 25, 2:00 pm – Movie Matinee  
May 3, 3:00 pm – Bible Study and Potluck

*Meeting adjourned with prayer by Ed Gray*

*The next Administrative Commission Meeting is August 8, 2023, at 1:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Karen L. Kifer*

Sewickley Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission, Recording Secretary

**NEW BUSINESS**

Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster reported that 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 32 clergy and 9 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 26 elders (representing 24 congregations), 2 by virtue of office, and 10 visitors for a total of 79. There were 43 congregations without elder representation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP**

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

**RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Rev. Owar Ojulu offered the Resolution of Thanks for this meeting.

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Owar Ojulu offered the benediction prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

It was **MSP** to adjourn with Benediction. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

*The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Tuesday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m. via zoom videoconferencing and at the Latrobe Presbyterian Church.*

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Dawn Sherwood, Moderator

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Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk