

## Presbytery of Redstone September 26, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was held on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at Latrobe Presbyterian Church and via Zoom. The meeting was convened at 6:03 p.m. and opened with a song and prayer by Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Moderator of Redstone Presbytery. She announced that items of new business must be presented to the Associate Stated Clerk of Redstone Presbytery by the end of worship either in person or via the chat feature on Zoom.

### 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>    |
|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|                        | Susan Blank, HR       |                  |
|                        | Sylvia Carlson, HR    |                  |
|                        | Patrick Ewing, MAL    |                  |
|                        | James Farrer, HR      |                  |
|                        | Gary Filson, HR       |                  |
|                        | Donna Havrisko, HR    |                  |
|                        | Clark Kerr, HR        |                  |
|                        | Chuck MacPherson, HR  |                  |
|                        | Lee McDermott, HR     |                  |
|                        | Norma Murphy, NRHR    |                  |
|                        | Skip Noftzger, EP     |                  |
|                        | Sue Washburn, MAL     |                  |
| Adah, Palmer Community |                       |                  |
| Apollo, Poke Run       |                       | Linda Chicka     |
| Avonmore, First        | Lynn Mance, CP        | Pat Zaranek      |
| Belle Vernon, First    | Mary Kay Glunt        | Bobbi Jo Huebner |
| Belle Vernon, Harmony  | Glenn Hart, CP        |                  |
| Belle Vernon, Marion   |                       |                  |
| Belle Vernon, Rehoboth | Donald Glunt          |                  |
| Bolivar, United        | James Sunseri, CP     |                  |
| Brownsville, Calvin    | Kristen Emrick        | Diane Chuboy     |
| Brownsville, Ft. Burd  | Kristen Emrick        |                  |
| Brownsville, Hopewell  |                       |                  |
| Colver                 | Owar Ojulu            |                  |
| Cresson                |                       |                  |
| Dawson, Tyrone         |                       |                  |
| Delmont                | Anthony Catullo, IP   |                  |
| Derry                  | Larry Armstrong, CovP |                  |
| Dunbar, First          |                       |                  |
| Dunbar, Laurel Hill    |                       |                  |

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|                              |                        |   |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---|
| Ebensburg, First             | Owar Ojulu             | Jim Stratton  |
| Fairchance                   |                        |   |
| Farmington, Mt. Washington   |                        |   |
| Fayette City, First          |                        |   |
| Fayette City, L Redstone     |                        | Audrey Cottle                                       |
| Greensburg, First            |                        | Cynthia Myrga<br>Robin Jennings                     |
| Greensburg, Maplewood        | Steve LaSor            |   |
| Greensburg, Westminster      | Jennifer Frayer-Griggs |   |
| Irwin, First                 | Doug Rehberg, IP       | Sandra Kutz<br>Ray Edelman                          |
| Irwin, West Hempfield        |                        |   |
| Jeannette                    | Dawn Sherwood          | Robert Gilson                                       |
| Johnstown, Bethany           |                        | Ray Sheets  |
| Johnstown, First             |                        |   |
| Johnstown, Second            |                        |   |
| Johnstown, Westmont          |                        | Dave Thompson<br>Jean Livingston<br>Deb Lichtenfels |
| Lake Lynn, Springhill        | Molly Hall, CovP       |   |
| Latrobe                      | Derek Campbell         | Larry Ruffner<br>Ed McKinnon                        |
| Latrobe, United              | Ron Durika             | Scott Cole  |
| Leisenring                   |                        | Chanel McBeth                                       |
| Ligonier, Pleasant Grove     |                        |   |
| Lower Burrell, Grace         | Doug Marshall, IP      |   |
| Lower Burrell, Puckety       | Brian Kilbert          | Maria Schaefer<br>Chuck West                        |
| Masontown                    |                        |   |
| McClellandtown               | Rebecca Abbott         | Wendy Brown   |
| Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek |                        |   |
| Mt. Pleasant, Reunion        | Russ Baird, CP         |   |
| Murrysville, First           | Ed Gray                | Keith Langston                                      |
| Murrysville, Newlonsburg     | Curtis Paul            | Dennis Skeers<br>Susan Keaney                       |
| Murrysville, Union           | Robert Ruefle          |   |
| New Alexandria, Community    | Leonard Morgan, CP     |   |
| New Alexandria, Congruity    | Cliff Foster           | Kathy Hamilton                                      |
| New Florence, Bethel         | James Sunseri, CP      | Janie Short   |
| New Florence, Trinity        | Sara Sadler            | Janet Henderson                                     |
| New Kensington, United       | Rebecca Siddle, CovP   |   |
| New Salem                    | Bill Wiegand, CP       |   |

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|                            |  |   |
|----------------------------|--|---|
| North Huntingdon, New Hope | Brenda Barnes  | Rich Zoltak                                       |
| Patton                     |  |   |
| Revloc                     |  |   |
| Scottdale, Calvin          | Doug Yauger, CP  |   |
| Smithfield, Grace Chapel   |  |   |
| Smock, Pleasant View       | Laura Blank  |   |
| Trafford, Level Green      | Geoff Rach   |   |
| Uniontown, Tent            |  |   |
| Uniontown, Third           |  |   |
| Uniontown, Trinity         |  |   |
| Vanderbilt, E. Liberty     |  |   |
| West Newton, Sewickley     | Karen Kifer, CP  |   |
| West Newton, Sewickley U.  | Glenn Hart, CP   |   |
| West Newton, United        | John Manon   | Amanda McMann                                     |
| Notation:                  | (*) = pastor from another denomination<br>(#) = pastor from another presbytery | (**) = pastor or CRE serving more than one church |

**By Virtue of Office:**

**Visitors:** Linda Bork, McClellandtown; Greg Davis, Pine Springs Camp; Valerie Hansen, Apollo, Poke Run; Roxie Johnson, Avonmore; Deb Koenig, Latrobe, United; Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, Pittsburgh Presbytery; Gary Lichtenfels, Johnstown, Westmont; Stephen Mills, Latrobe; Lisa Orr, Latrobe; Barry Poglein, New Florence, Bethel; Bobbie Shaffor, Presbytery Staff; Bonnie Wiegand, New Salem; Patricia Zaranek, Avonmore

**Teaching Elders Excused:** Ankrum; Bash; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Carnahan; Degitz; Giesey; Graff; Hepler; Hess; Holben; Keith; Lewis; Macaleer; Mason; Maxwell; McClure; Menchyk; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Sharp; Simpson; Stevens; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Tondora; Webster; Wirt

**Teaching Elders Absent:** Goetschius; Teshome

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused:** NONE

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent:** Glisan; McElroy; O'Hara; Prinkey; Scully; Sheehan; Smith; Todero; Weightman

**ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

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

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

## **Presbytery of Redstone**

### **September 26, 2023**

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, moved that Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, Temporary member of Pittsburgh Presbytery, be seated as a Corresponding Member of Redstone Presbytery for this meeting. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, moved that the following persons be given voice for this meeting: Elder Chuck West, Puckety; Calvin White, member of the Addictions Network, Elder Jan Mills, Latrobe Presbyterian Church; Elder Nancy McKinnon, Latrobe Presbyterian Church; Deb Koenig, Latrobe United Presbyterian Church. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

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.

### **ON THE ROAD WITH REDSTONE**

The Presbytery viewed the latest video in the “On the Road with Redstone” done by Rev. Don Glunt highlighting Latrobe, Main Street Presbyterian Church in Latrobe.

Elder Nancy McKinnon of the Latrobe Presbyterian Church gave a report to the Presbytery of a recently held event at the Latrobe Presbyterian Church called “Cheers to the Years” which highlighted some of the history of the Latrobe Presbyterian Church. People who were 80 years old and older were invited to be interviewed, these individuals are the bedrock of the congregation, and they were given the opportunity to share their stories. These stories were compiled into a booklet. This was a way to honor these members of the congregation. This project came out of a group called JOY – Just Older Youth of which she is co-chair of the group.

### **STATED CLERK’S REPORT:**

1. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.
2. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year approved by the Council are presented below. We welcome invitations to serve as meeting host for any of these meetings.
  - January 27, 2024 – First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown
  - March 26, 2024 – New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon
  - May 28, 2024 – Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock
  - September 24, 2024 –
  - November 23, 2024 – Community United Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria
3. There remain a number of churches who still need to have their session minutes and church register for 2022 reviewed to complete this prior to the November Presbytery meeting when the final report will be recorded in the Presbytery

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minutes.

- a. Contact your COM liaison who will make arrangements to review them. If you are unsure of contact information for that person, please contact the Presbytery office.
- b. Drop your minutes book and register by the Presbytery office for review by the Stated Clerk. You will be notified when they are reviewed, and you are able to retrieve them.

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

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

#### **From Executive Committee**

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

#### **From the Council**

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

#### **From the Committee on Ministry**

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

#### **From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

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

#### **From the Nominating Committee**

#### **From the Committee on Representation**

#### **From the Sewickley Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission**

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

It was **MSP** to approve the Consent Agenda.  
PRESBYTERY OF REDSTONE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

# Presbytery of Redstone

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### TREASURER'S REPORT

Elder Chuck West provided the Treasurer's Report that was included in the meeting packet. Chuck West gave a brief overview of the Treasurer's Report.

### EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Rev. Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, provided the EP Report. Skip led the Presbytery in the Soli Deo Gloria. He also highlighted that he had the privilege of going to Scotland this summer. We are called to be with and for each other. Skip introduced Rev. Dr. Asa Lee, President of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary who will be preaching at the Presbytery meeting this evening. He is passionate about formation, about how we can be used by God. The Presbytery welcome Dr. Asa Lee to our Presbytery Meeting.

### WORSHIP

We worshiped under the leadership of the following persons: Michal Long, Organist at Latrobe Presbyterian Church; Elder Elizabeth Armstrong led the Opening sentences and Opening Prayer; Rev. Brenda Barnes led the Confession and Pardon; Rev. Dawn Sherwood led a service of Commission for Elder Lynn Mance and Elder Rich Zoltak; Scripture reading and Sermon by Rev. Dr. Asa Lee; Rev. Sylvia Carlson led the Offering and the Prayer of Thanksgiving; Latrobe Presbyterian Church choir provided the anthem; Rev. Derek Campbell presided at the Lord's Table. The Offering from this meeting will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to be used for the natural disasters in Morrocco and Libya. Members of the Presbytery Prayer Team were available for anointing and prayer.

### ACTION AGENDA

#### Council

Rev. Curtis Paul, called attention to the report of the Council in the meeting packet. He presented the following report and action items of Presbytery Council:

#### Action Items

- The Council notes the first reading of the 2024 budget (consent). Second reading and consideration of the budget will occur in the November meeting.
- The Council **recommended** Rev. Geoff Rach to serve on the Nominating Committee effective in 2024. It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation.
- Hope in a Bag presentation. Rev. Lee McDermott reported that September is national recovery month. He thanked the Presbytery for all of the items that were donated for the Hope in the Bag Project, the Addictions network is overwhelmed by the amount of donations. Rev. McDermott announced that he has 50 more Narcan kits to hand out from the Westmoreland Drug and Alcohol Program, the kits will help someone having an

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opiate overdose by enabling the person to breathe again. Rev. McDermott introduced Calvin White, a member of the Addictions network to share his story of recovery. He has been in recovery since November 2015. He now works as a recovery specialist to give others hope. He said that God equips people to be there to help others. He stated it was by the grace of God shown to him in Jesus Christ that he is standing before us this evening. Jesus Christ changes lives. Next meeting is Thursday, October 5th at the Presbytery Office

- Racial Justice and Reconciliation presentation a “Moment for Justice” by Rev. Curtis Paul who told a story about Labor Day weekend where his 11-year-old son told him a joke which dripped with racism that he heard at Jr. High. He took this opportunity as a teachable moment for his son. He reminded his son that Jesus was not white. He pointed out some events from US history. He reminded his son that we are all created in the image of God and that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. The story was told to remind us that that Racial Justice and Reconciliation is at work taking a class and having good conversations when they meet. Everyone is invited to join them at their meetings.

- **PINE SPRINGS CAMP REPORT**

Greg Davis, Executive Director, thanked the Presbytery for the continued support of the camping ministry. This was the 75<sup>th</sup> year of the camp. Greg showed several slides of the past summer camp. The camp was about to have the Mintec camp, one of their campers Gayle Joy recently passed away. The PSC Traveling Day camp, there were 2 camps this year in Murrysville at First Presbyterian Church with help from the Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church; and at New Hope Presbyterian Church with the Irwin area churches helping. Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church helped with redoing the Stuart Chapel which was rededicated this summer. Partnership with the Latrobe Presbyterian Church for the annual scholarship golf outing. There were 809 overnight campers this year (a 4% increase over last year), 90 on-site day camp, 68 travel day campers and 70 Mission Ex campers for a total of 1039 campers. Greg shared a pie chart of the campers. Greg highlighted upcoming events and retreats. The Friends dinner will be held this year at the camp on October 29, 2023. Greg closed his report with a video highlighting this past summer camping season.

- **MISSION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Rev. Owar Ojulu reported that there is a report found in the meeting packet. There is an upcoming mission trip to St. Albans, WV on October 22- 27, 2023, if interested please contact Phyllis Frye. A survey was sent out last spring and Owar reminded congregations to get those surveys in to the Mission subcommittee.

We heard reports two congregations Latrobe Presbyterian Church and Latrobe United Presbyterian Church about congregational mission. We also heard from Deb Koenig from the Latrobe United Presbyterian Church who shared with the Presbytery about the church’s work with Meals on Wheels, Westmoreland County Food Bank. A woman from their church liked to quilt and a contact was made in Charlestown, WV and quilts were brought down there as

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well as slightly used clothing. A teacher from the Derry Area went with them once and developed a program called KIND – Kid's In Need in Derry to help kids with clothing and food in the Derry Area. They have also worked with Excelsa Hospice and the Adelphoi program in Latrobe. They made 12 quilts this year to be given to children as part of the Adelphoi program.

We also heard from Elder Janet Mills from Latrobe Presbyterian Church who shared with the Presbytery about the Club Fred project which began from 2 retired teachers from the Latrobe School district in 2017. It is an after-school program at Trinity Lutheran Church. The program is in honor of Fred Rogers, but FRED means Food Recreation Education Discussion. Once a month Latrobe Presbyterian Church cooks dinner for the 20 students and their families. The program is to love the students unconditionally, to accept them and to offer them safety.

### Council Information Items (as published)

#### September 5, 2023, Meeting

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

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

#### Moderator Report

No Report given.

#### Executive Presbyter Report

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

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

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

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

### **Stated Clerk Report**

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

### **Treasurer Report**

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

### **Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp**

A written report from the Executive Director was provided.

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

### **Sub Committees/Networks/Task Forces**

#### **Staff Support**

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

#### **Worship**

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

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The Council was reminded of the preachers for the upcoming 2023 Presbytery Gatherings. Rev. Noftzger will be meeting with Rev. Dr. Asa Lee (PTS) to provide a context for his preaching.

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

### Addictions Ministry Network

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

### Mission

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

### Budget, Finance, and Stewardship

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

### Racial Justice and Reconciliation

- Rev. Sue Washburn reported on the ongoing participation by those in the workshop offered by Rev. Jeff Eddings from Pittsburgh. Particularly, she described its impact upon the self-examination and reflection

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of those involved in understanding their own participation in ways that have reinforced racism. The workshop continues weekly until mid-October.

- The network requested time on the September Presbytery agenda for their regular “Moment for Justice” which will be presented by Rev. Curtis Paul with a video.

### Presbyterian Women

- A written report was included in the meeting documents.

### Communications

- No report.

### September Presbytery Agenda

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

### Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

### New Business

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

### **CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT**

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

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### June 27, 2023, Meeting

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

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

### Moderator Report

No Report given.

### Executive Presbyter Report

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

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

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

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

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

### **Stated Clerk Report**

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

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

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

### **Treasurer Report**

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

### **Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp**

No report from the Executive Director.

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

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

### Committees/Networks

#### Staff Support

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

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

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

#### Worship

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

- September – Asa Lee
- November – Dawn Sherwood

#### Addictions Ministry Network

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

#### Mission

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

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

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

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

### **Budget, Finance and Stewardship**

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

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

### **Racial Justice and Reconciliation**

Rev. Brenda Barnes reported on the anticipated participation by six members of the group in a 9-week workshop beginning in August examining the history and systems enacted based upon race and our participation in them. The workshop will be facilitated by Jeff Eddings from Pittsburgh Presbytery. The workshop will be made available to others in the presbytery with a maximum enrollment in the cohort of 10. After discussion, it was **MSP** to approve the use of presbytery peacemaking funds (based upon the 2020 Council policy and practice statement) for the registration of up to 10 members of Redstone in the workshop.

### **Presbyterian Women**

No written report.

### **Communications**

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

### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### **New Business**

There was no new business for action.

### **CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT**

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

# Presbytery of Redstone

## September 26, 2023

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Ed Gray presented the following report and action items for the Committee on Ministry:

#### Action Items

- The Committee on Ministry introduces Rev. Sara Sadler (Trinity, New Florence) and Rev. Rebecca Abbott (McClellandtown) for investiture. Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter led the Presbytery in the Investiture Service and presented each of them with Redstone Stoles.
- The Committee on Ministry **recommended** an increase of 2 % in effective salary for the required minimum terms of call for installed pastors. (See Appendix “C”). It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation. The in-person vote were all Yes votes. The online vote was 14 Yes 0 No and 1 Abstain.
- The Committee on Ministry **recommended** endorsement of a 3 % raise in effective salary for all continuing pastors. (*alternative types of compensation such as extra vacation and/or continuing education time may be explored if congregation’s budgetary constraints prohibit the full 3% effective salary increase*). It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation. The in-person vote was in the affirmative with 1 Abstain vote. The on-line vote was 16 Yes 0 No and 0 Abstain.

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

##### September 7, 2023, Meeting

##### Approval of Minutes

**MSP** approval of the minutes of August 3, 2023.

##### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

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

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

# Presbytery of Redstone

## September 26, 2023

### Report of the Moderator

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

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

**MSP** of the approval of a recommendation for a Presbytery recommendation to congregations of a 3% effective salary increase for continuing pastors. The recommendation to congregations is to include that alternative types of compensation such as extra vacation and/or continuing education time may be explored if congregation's budgetary constraints prohibit the full 3% effective salary increase.

A reminder that resources are available from the Presbytery to help with Stewardship programs at churches.

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

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

#### Search and Call

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)
  - Sara Sadler and Rebecca Abbott were both examined, received and the calls approved for the Trinity, New Florence and McClellandtown congregations, respectively.
  - September 17th; 3:30 p.m. – ordination/installation service for Sara Sadler at the Trinity, New Florence Presbyterian Church
  - September 24th; 3:00 p.m. – installation service for Rebecca Abbott at the McClellandtown Presbyterian Church
  - Grace Community Presbyterian Church has transferred their MIF (now MDP) into the new Church Leadership Connections system and is beginning to receive some initial matches. The new system operates a little differently, so there is some adjustment taking place both by PNC's and candidates.
  - Have received "draft" of the First Presbyterian Church, Irwin MDP. Will submit to session this month and to COM in October.
- Action Items
  - **MSP** of the approval of the ordination/installation commission for Sara Sadler on September 17, 2023 at 3:30 PM at Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence, PA.

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Rev. Dawn Sherwood, TE, Jeannette  
Rev. Richard Sweeney, HR  
Donna Brown, RE, Trinity  
Jim Sunseri, RE, Patton  
Hyiwot Teshome, TE, First, Johnstown

- **MSP** of the approval of the installation commission for Rebecca Abbott on September 24, 2023 at 3:00 PM at McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, McClellandtown, PA.  
Rev. Dawn Sherwood, TE, Jeannette  
Rev. Kristen Emrick, TE, Fort Burd, Calvin  
Joshua Scully, RE, Laurel Hill  
Rev. Skip Noftzger, TE, EP, McClellandtown  
Kathy Phillips, RE, Fort Burd

### COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
  - Identity who is the principal contact name/email for Mission within the congregation...What are their current mission projects---local, regional/national, international? Any short-term mission trips/partnerships?
- Ministry reflections for conversations
  - Possible Questions for Pastor
    - Do you have a group of other pastors that you get together with regularly for personal and professional support and accountability?
    - Tell me about when you were called to pastoral ministry. How has your understanding of that calling and its practices changed over the years?
    - What are the ways that we might be praying for you, your family, the ministry?
  - Possible Questions for Clerks
    - Completion of the 2022 minutes review
    - Polity workshop on 10/14
    - New Book of Order bulk order/new revisions
    - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk's handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
  - Possible Questions for PNC Chairs
    - Where are you in the process?
    - Are you using social media (Facebook, Linked In, etc.) in the promotion of your opportunity?
    - How might we be helpful to you in this search and discernment process?
  - Possible Questions for Others
    - Are there plans being made for a VBS or some type of equivalent program this summer? If so, what is the plan/theme/dates?
    - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?
    - Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
    - Do you have a chairperson for mission in your church? Do you have contact information for that person in order that we might begin sharing mission projects?
- Resources within Presbytery
  - Articles and Resources
  - Education and Nurture
    - Workshops for the fall include:

# Presbytery of Redstone

## September 26, 2023

- 9/9—Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders— Matt Camlin, Pastor, New Wilmington
- 10/9 to 10/11— Wee Kirk (Steve Tuell, Ralph Lowe, Liddy Barlow, Laura Blank, Brian Wallace, Ellie Johns-Kelley, Richard Jorgenson)
- 10/14— Being and Leading Presbyterian (Polity)— Randall Clow, Stated Clerk, Beaver-Butler
- 11/11— Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership— Michelle Snyder, Holy Cow
- 12/9— Learning to “Exegete” the Community— Scott Hagley, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Ministry strategy consultation— Skip Noftzger

### Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:  
Prayers for getting leadership together, for getting new programs off the ground, and for reinventing an approach to mission. Prayers that the Suicide Prevention presentation will raise awareness and prevent suicide by promoting healing, offering help and giving hope. Continued prayers for PNCs as they continue to work diligently. Prayers for churches facing financial challenges.  
Prayers for those with health issues and for those bravely fighting cancer. Prayers for those dealing with grief and loss.  
Praises for book drive, backpacks for kids, and sharing food into the community. Praises for Scottish Sunday, Rally Sundays, and concerts. Praises for significant church anniversaries, ordinations and installations of new pastors. Praises for weddings, baptisms, and new members. Praises for fundraisers, mission projects, and fellowship.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time: Terry Carnahan, Anthony Catullo, Carole Isley Corey, Gene Degitz, Lisa Dormire, Ron Durika, Kristen Emrick, Patrick Ewing, Jim Farrer, Gary Filson, Terry Carnahan.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:  
Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar; Ebensburg Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance; Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church, Farmington; First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City; Little Redstone Presbyterian Church, Fayette City; First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg; Maplewood Presbyterian Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg; First Presbyterian Church, Irwin.

### Adjournment

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

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### August 3, 2023, Meeting

#### Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of June 1, 2023.

#### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).

# Presbytery of Redstone

## September 26, 2023

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

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

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

### Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments – None
- Board of Pensions Update – Move to the Humana Medicare Advantage Plan (2024) replacing the self-funded Medicare Supplement Plan.
- Task force for Boundaries and Ethics policy: Ben Nti, Marsha Stallings, Helen Toms, and Becca Siddle for reviewing and updating the Presbytery's policy.
  - Presbytery – TE; CP; CCE;
  - Template for Sessions
- Called Presbytery Meeting – two candidates – August 15; 6:00 p.m. Maplewood Fellowship Hall
- **MSP** to approve the Moderator Report.

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

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

#### Search and Call

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)
  - Based upon previous authorization by COM, the Search and Call subcommittee has found the proposed pastoral call between Sara Sadler and the Trinity, New Florence congregation to be in order and approved them for recommendation to the Presbytery.
  - Grace Community Presbyterian Church has transferred their MIF (now MDP) into the new Church Leadership Connections system and is beginning to receive some initial matches. The

## Presbytery of Redstone September 26, 2023

new system operates a little differently, so there is some adjustment taking place both by PNC's and candidates.

- Action Items
  - **MSP** to approve the recommendation of the call "if the way be clear" to be recommended to the Presbytery at a called meeting on August 15 as the Search and Call subcommittee has reviewed the proposed pastoral call between Sara Sadler and the Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence congregation, found it to be in order.
  - **MSSP** to direct the Subcommittee of the Minimum Terms of Call that study leave includes two (2) Sundays.
  - **MSP** to approve the recommendation of the call "if the way be clear" to be recommended to the Presbytery at a called meeting on August 15 as the Search and Call subcommittee has reviewed the proposed pastoral call between Rebecca Abbott and the McClellandtown Presbyterian Church, found it to be in order. Reference the above MSP for study leave to include two (2) Sundays.
  - **MSP** of the recommendation of approval of the Commissioned Pastor one-year agreement between CP Lynn Mance and the Avonmore session (With an effective start date of September 10, Lynn would be recommissioned to this ministry at the September Presbytery meeting).

### COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
  - Identity who is the principal contact name/email for Mission within the congregation...What are their current mission projects---local, regional/national, international? Any short-term mission trips/partnerships?
- Ministry reflections for conversations
  - Possible Questions for Pastor
    - Do you have a group of other pastors that you get together with regularly for personal and professional support and accountability?
    - Tell me about when you were called to pastoral ministry. How has your understanding of that calling and its practices changed over the years?
    - What are the ways that we might be praying for you, your family, the ministry?
  - Possible Questions for Clerks
    - Completion of the 2022 minutes review
    - Polity workshop on 10/14
    - New Book of Order bulk order/new revisions
    - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk's handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
  - Possible Questions for Others
    - Are there plans being made for a VBS or some type of equivalent program this summer? If so, what is the plan/theme/dates?
    - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?
    - Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
    - Do you have a chairperson for mission in your church? Do you have contact information for that person in order that we might begin sharing mission projects?
- Resources within Presbytery
  - Articles and Resources
  - Education and Nurture

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- Introduction to Reformed Theology begins on August 11. Workshops for the fall include:
  - 8/11--Pastoral Care-Becca Siddle, Pastor, New Kensington
  - 9/9--Spiritual Formation for Church Leaders-- Matt Camlin, Pastor, New Wilmington
  - 10-9-11 -- Wee Kirk (Steve Tuell, Ralph Lowe, Liddy Barlow, Laura Blank, Brian Wallace, Ellie Johns-Kelley, Richard Jorgenson)
  - 10/14 -- Being and Leading Presbyterian (Polity) -- Randall Clow, Stated Clerk, Beaver-Butler
  - 11/11---Boundaries and Ethics in Church Leadership -- Michelle Snyder, Holy Cow
  - 12/9---Learning to "Exegete" the Community -- Scott Hagley, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Ministry strategy consultation -- Skip Noftzger

### Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
  - Praises for rummage sales that provide funding for programs and projects; for new and effective use of Facebook to reach out, VBS, summer camp, youth programs, car cruises, strawberry festivals, chicken dinners, and creative approaches of fundraising for new roof.
  - Praises for fall planning, spark of vitality, and cooperation with community churches.
  - Prayers for successful surgeries and procedures, those recovering at home.
  - Prayers for safe travels and pilgrimages.
  - Prayers for times of transition and financial challenges; prayer for strength for long term servants and for encouragement of new people to create new leadership. Prayers for finding and filling staff positions.
  - Prayers for those who are grieving. Prayers for church families that have lost long term members. Prayers of thanks for their ministry.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time: Brenda Barnes, Lori Bass-Riley, Ross Bash, Nicholas Beatty, Laura Blank, Susan Blank, Cliff Buell, Bruce Cadenhead, Cynthia Cadenhead, Derek Campbell, Sylvia Carlson.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time: Bolivar United Presbyterian Church; Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Hopewell Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Colver Presbyterian Church; Cresson Presbyterian Church; Tyrone Presbyterian Church, Dawson; Delmont Presbyterian Church; Derry Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar.

### Adjournment

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

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### June 1, 2023, Meeting

#### Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of May 4, 2023.

#### Report of the Stated Clerk

## Presbytery of Redstone September 26, 2023

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

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

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

### Report of the Moderator

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

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

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

#### Search and Call

- Information Items

## Presbytery of Redstone September 26, 2023

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

### COM Liaison Responsibilities and Resources

- Action items follow up
  - Promote and inquire about church participation in joint worship service and picnic at PSC Log Chapel on July 16, 10:00 a.m.
  - Northeast Wee Kirk conference registration is available online. This conference of workshops and seminars will be held October 9th - 11th.
  - Follow up Pastor/Mission chair---completion of congregation mission projects (<https://forms.gle/p6wxBLcVnMrdFHuT8> )
  - Book of Order Amendments that have passed with potential implications for the work and ministry of the Committee on Ministry with pastors/sessions and congregations.
- Ministry reflections for conversations
  - Possible Questions for Pastor
    - Are there continuing education conferences and resources that you have found valuable that we should share with other pastors?
    - Do you have a group of other pastors that you get together with regularly for personal and professional support and accountability?
  - Possible Questions for Clerks
    - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk's handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
    - Would it be helpful and would you participate (via Zoom or in person) in a training session just for clerks of session? By the end of summer there may be passed amendments in the Book of Order that they might need to be aware.
    - Have you completed the minutes review for this year (2022 minutes)
  - Possible Questions for Others
    - Are there plans being made for a VBS or some type of equivalent program this summer? If so, what is the plan/theme/dates?
    - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?
    - Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
    - Do you have a chairperson for mission in your church? Do you have contact information for that person in order that we might begin sharing mission projects?
- Resources within Presbytery
  - Articles and Resources
  - Education and Nurture

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- IPLF Upcoming workshops
  - Recruiting new Ruling Elders who might consider God calling them to greater service in the larger church, including but not limited to preaching and commissioned pastoral service.
- Ministry strategy consultation—Skip Noftzger

### Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

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

### Adjournment

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

### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

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

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

##### September 5, 2023, Meeting

1. Approval of minutes of Aug. 1, 2023, as written; MSP.

**Presbytery of Redstone  
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2. Based on the lack of communication with the committee despite numerous attempts to reach them, the following action was taken regarding Cynthia Bellina and Jeff Keilman:

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

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

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

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

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

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

5. Update on Danielle Kendig – recovering from surgery and preparing to take Theology exam later in September. Did not pass Bible Content exam and will have the opportunity to retake in February. Currently enrolled in three classes at PTS. Still looking for one more field ed experience.

6. Update from Jackie Eckenrod – Having completed an internship with Redstone Highlands hospice team, she was approached about a casual position as a hospice chaplain with a commitment of approx. 8 hours per week. Investigating how this can mesh with her preaching opportunities and her full-time employment as a teacher in a partial hospitalization program. Lisa Dormire supervises the Redstone chaplains.

7. Adjournment/Prayer by Jim Sunseri

8. Future meeting schedule/consultations

- a. October 3 -- Meet with either Danielle or James based on availability
- b. November 7--- Meet with either Danielle or James based on availability
- c. December 6---no meeting

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**August 1, 2023, Meeting**

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

## Presbytery of Redstone September 26, 2023

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

Robin Jennings agreed to act as secretary for the meeting.

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

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

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

CPM met with Karen Gray, IPLF

- She attends First Murrysville
- Working on practicums, and has three items to finish
- She is looking to retire
- Wants to build confidence in her preaching skills and work without notes
- Feels she holds the respect of the congregations she has visited and finds her listening skills beneficial in relating well and understanding needs.
- Will seek to be commissioned once she completes IPLF.
- CPM members prayed for Karen.

CPM met with Tammy Noss, IPLF

- She attends Community U. P., New Alexandria
- IPLF complete with the exception of Pastoral Care workshop
- Began accepting preaching assignments on Mother's Day and has been in Avonmore, First Murrysville and Poke Run. Continues to build her confidence.
- Feels she holds the respect of the congregations she has visited and finds her listening skills beneficial in relating well and understanding needs.
- Will seek to be commissioned once she completes IPLF.
- CPM members prayed for Tammy.

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Adjournment/Prayer by Jim Sunseri

Future meeting schedule/consultations

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

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

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

December 6---no meeting(?)

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**June 6, 2023, Meeting**

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

CPM met with Rich Zoltak

- Rich is a member of New Hope Church.
- He is an Authorized Preacher of Redstone Presbytery and has completed the IPLF program.
- He reports preaching seven times so far in 2023 as pulpit supply.
- He talked about his struggle in preparing sermons.
- He also mentioned receiving encouragement from positive feedback in his preaching from his pastor Brenda Barnes and the members of New Hope Church.
- Rich spoke of his continuing ministry at New Hope Church.
- He continues to lead a Bible study there.
- He currently is serving on Session specifically as chair of the Worship Committee. He talked about his involvement in a task force that is examining their worship.
- He has been assisting pastor Brenda Barnes at Redstone Highlands, North Huntington campus with chapel services, Bible studies, and memorial services.
- When asked by CPM about the possibility of receiving a commission he mentioned that the thought of preaching weekly is overwhelming to him.
- He did express an interest in being commissioned to serve at Redstone Highlands, North Huntington to serve Communion. CPM will explore that possibility with the COM.

CPM members prayed for Rich.

CPM met with Linda Gossar-Loesch

- Linda is a member of Newlonsburg Church.
- She is an Authorized Preacher of Redstone Presbytery and completed Commissioned Pastor training over twenty years ago.
- Linda reports preaching about twice a month at various churches throughout Redstone Presbytery.

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

CPM members prayed for Linda.

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

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

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

Adjournment/Prayer by Kristen Emerick.

Future meeting schedule/consultations

July 5---no meeting

August 1 – Meet with Tammy Noss and Karen Gray

Determine any scholarship funds offered to seminary students for academic year  
September 5 - Meet with 1-2 inquirer/candidate/IPLF student/ Authorized preacher

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

November 7--- Meet with 1-2 inquirer

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

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

- **The Nominating Committee recommended Ruling Elder Susan Keaney to serve as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery in 2024. *Based upon the Redstone manual, election of the Vice Moderator will take place at the November Presbytery meeting.***
- **The Nominating Committee recommended the following people to serve as Ruling Elder and Teaching Elder commissioners of Redstone Presbytery to the 2024 General Assembly.**

--Ruling Elder Robin Jennings (First Presbyterian, Greensburg)

--Ruling Elder Jackie Eckenrod (Westminster Presbyterian, Greensburg)

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- Teaching Elder Brian Kilbert (Puckety Presbyterian, Lower Burrell)
- Teaching Elder Andrew Wirt (West Hempfield Presbyterian, Irwin)

It was **MSP** to elect these individuals as our Ruling Elder and Teaching Elder commissioners of Redstone Presbytery to the 2024 General Assembly.

- **The Nominating Committee recommended the following persons for the standing committees and respective terms.**

### **Council**

- Rev. Dawn Sherwood (chair), Jeannette (2024)
- Rev. Ed Gray, First, Murrysville (2026)
- Janie Short, Bethel, New Florence (2026)
- Rev. Norma Murphy, HR (2026)
- Rev. Owar Ojulu, Ebensburg/Colver (2026)
- Scott Cole, Latrobe United Presbyterian, Latrobe (2026)

### **Committee on Ministry**

- Rev. Martin Ankrum, First, Greensburg (2026)
- Bob Sheehan, Cresson (2026)
- Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs, Westminster, Greensburg (2026)
- Rev. Becca Siddle, United, New Kensington (2026)
- Rev. Mary Kay Glunt, First, Belle Vernon (2026)
- Rev. Brian Kilbert, Puckety, Lower Burrell (2026)
- Rev. Derek Campbell, Latrobe Presbyterian, Latrobe (2026)
- Judy Carl, Ebensburg (2026)

### **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

- Tammy Noss, Community, New Alexandria (2026)
- Rev. Hyiwot Teshome, First, Johnstown (2026)
- Rev. Larry Armstrong, Derry (2026)

### **Pine Springs Camp Board**

- Rev. Doug Rehberg, First, Irwin (2026)
- Jan Mills Latrobe Presbyterian Church (2026)

### **Representation**

- Rev. Laura Blank, Pleasant View, Smock (2026)
- Rev. Curtis Paul, Newlonsburg, Murrysville (2024)

### **Permanent Judicial Commission**

- Rev. Lisa Dormire, Redstone Highlands (2029)
- Rev. Gary Filson, HR (2029)
- Rev. Pete Goetschius, Poke Run, Apollo (2029)

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**Synod of Trinity Commissioner**  
**--Susan Nesti**

There were no other nominations from the floor. It was **MSP** to approve this slate of nominations. The majority of votes were in the affirmative for this slate of nominations with 1 Abstain vote.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP**

The announcements loop was provided highlighting many of the upcoming events within our Presbytery over the next several months. The Announcement Loop will be available on the Presbytery website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Rev. Cliff Foster, Associate Stated Clerk 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 39 clergy, 8 Commissioned Pastors, 30 elders (representing 23 congregations), 0 Christian Educators, 0 by virtue of office, 1 corresponding member, and 12 visitors for a total of 90. There also were 44 congregations without elder representation.

**RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Rev. Derek Campbell offered the Resolution of Thanks for this Presbytery Meeting.

**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Derek Campbell closed the meeting with a benediction prayer.

**AJOURNMENT**

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette.

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Dawn Sherwood, Moderator

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Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk