

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

### CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was held on Saturday, November 18, 2023 at the First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette and via Zoom. The meeting was convened at 9: 08 a.m. and opened with a gathering 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 via the chat feature on Zoom or in person.

### 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    |                  |
|                            | Lee McDermott, HR     |                  |
|                            | Norma Murphy, NRHR    |                  |
|                            | Skip Noftzger, EP     |                  |
|                            | Marnie Russell, HR    |                  |
|                            | John Simpson, HR      |                  |
|                            | Sue Washburn, MAL     |                  |
| Adah, Palmer Community     |                       |                  |
| Apollo, Poke Run           |                       | Valerie Hansen   |
| Avonmore, First            | Lynn Mance, CP        |                  |
| Belle Vernon, First        |                       | Lori Lamberski   |
| Belle Vernon, Harmony      |                       |                  |
| Belle Vernon, Marion       |                       |                  |
| Belle Vernon, Rehoboth     | Donald Glunt          |                  |
| Bolivar, United            |                       |                  |
| Brownsville, Calvin        | Kristen Emrick        |                  |
| Brownsville, Ft. Burd      | Kristen Emrick        | Kathryn Phillips |
| Brownsville, Hopewell      |                       |                  |
| Colver                     | Owar Ojulu            |                  |
| Cresson                    | Alice Tondora         |                  |
| Dawson, Tyrone             |                       |                  |
| Delmont                    |                       |                  |
| Derry                      | Larry Armstrong, CovP |                  |
| Dunbar, First              |                       |                  |
| Dunbar, Laurel Hill        |                       |                  |
| Ebensburg, First           | Owar Ojulu            |                  |
| Fairchance                 |                       |                  |
| Farmington, Mt. Washington |                       |                  |

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
**November 18, 2023**

|                               |                                   |                                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Fayette City, First           |                                   |                                 |
| Fayette City, Little Redstone |                                   |                                 |
| Greensburg, First             | Martin Ankrum                     | Robin Jennings<br>Cynthia Myrga |
| Greensburg, Maplewood         |                                   |                                 |
| Greensburg, Westminster       | Jennifer Frayer-Griggs            | William Chishko                 |
| Irwin, First                  | Doug Rehberg, IP                  | Ray Edelman                     |
| Irwin, West Hempfield         | Andrew Wirt                       |                                 |
| Jeannette                     | Dawn Sherwood                     | Tony Greendonor                 |
| Johnstown, Bethany            |                                   |                                 |
| Johnstown, First              |                                   |                                 |
| Johnstown, Second             |                                   |                                 |
| Johnstown, Westmont           |                                   | Bernice Adams<br>Dave Thomson   |
| Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace | Molly Hall, CovP                  |                                 |
| Latrobe                       | Derek Campbell                    |                                 |
| Latrobe, United               | Ronald Durika                     | Scott Cole                      |
| Leisenring                    |                                   |                                 |
| Ligonier, Pleasant Grove      |                                   |                                 |
| Lower Burrell, Grace          |                                   |                                 |
| Lower Burrell, Puckety        | Brian Kilbert                     | Debra Artman                    |
| Masontown                     |                                   |                                 |
| McClellandtown                | Rebecca Abbott                    |                                 |
| Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek  |                                   |                                 |
| Mt. Pleasant, Reunion         | Russell Baird, CP                 |                                 |
| Murrysville, First            |                                   |                                 |
| Murrysville, Newlonsburg      | Curtis Paul<br>Travis Webster, AP | Ann Rittiger<br>Susan Keany     |
| Murrysville, Union            | Robert Ruefle                     |                                 |
| New Alexandria, Community     | Leonard Morgan, CP                |                                 |
| New Alexandria, Congruity     | Cliff Foster                      |                                 |
| New Florence, Bethel          |                                   | Barry Poglein                   |
| New Florence, Trinity         | Sara Sadler                       |                                 |
| New Kensington, United        |                                   |                                 |
| New Salem                     |                                   |                                 |
| N. Huntingdon, New Hope       | Brenda Barnes                     | Helen Connors                   |
| Patton                        | Alice Tondora                     | Roberta Farabaugh               |
| Revloc                        |                                   |                                 |
| Scottdale, Calvin             |                                   |                                 |
| Smithfield, Grace Chapel      |                                   |                                 |
| Smock, Pleasant View          | Laura Blank                       |                                 |
| Trafford, Level Green         | Geoff Rach                        |                                 |
| Uniontown, Tent               |                                   |                                 |
| Uniontown, Third              |                                   |                                 |
| Uniontown, Trinity            |                                   |                                 |

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
**November 18, 2023**

|                           |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Vanderbilt, E. Liberty    |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                        |
| West Newton, Sewickley    | Karen Kifer, CP                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                        |
| West Newton, Sewickley U. |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                        |
| West Newton, United       |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                        |
| Notation:                 | (*) = pastor another denomination<br>(#) = pastor another presbytery<br>AP=Associate Pastor<br>EP=Executive Presbyter<br>CP=commissioned pastor | IP=interim pastor<br>CovP=covenant pastor<br>MAL=Member-at-Large<br>HR=Honorably Retired<br>NRHR=Non-resident Honorably Retired<br>TS=Temporary Supply |

**By Virtue of Office:** John Dickson, Treasurer; Nancy Peters, Presbytery Council, Bobbi Jo Huebner, Presbytery Council

**Visitors:** Lucy Bittner, First, Jeannette; Greg Davis, Pine Springs Camp; First; Bobbie Shaffor, Presbytery Staff

**Teaching Elders Excused:** Armstrong; Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Carnahan; Catullo; Corey; Degitz; Giesey; Graff; Hepler; Hess; Holben; Keith; Kerr; Lewis; Macaleer; Marshall; Mason; Maxwell; McClure; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Russell; Stevens; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Upton; Van Wyk

**Teaching Elders Absent:**

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused:** Sunseri

**Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent:**

**ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET**

The Moderator called for the adoption of the Docket with the change of moving the “On the Road with Redstone” to before the Report of the Stated Clerk. The docket was approved **by consent**.

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

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

Rev. Cliff Foster asked that permission of the floor be granted to the following persons: Dennis Skeers, Newlonsburg, Murrysville; Lucy Bittner, First Jeannette. It was **MSP** to approve this action.

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

Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Moderator and Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, welcomed the Presbytery

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

to First Presbyterian, Jeannette and provided the Presbytery with the arrangements for the meeting.

### “ON THE ROAD WITH REDSTONE”

The Presbytery watched the latest “On the Road with Redstone” video about the First Presbyterian Church of , PA. The video was put together by Rev. Don Glunt.

### STATED CLERK’S REPORT

#### **Report of the Stated Clerk:**

1. Correspondence Log:
  - a. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.
2. The 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.
  - o January 27 – Johnstown, First (Hybrid-In person/Zoom)
  - o March 19 – North Huntingdon, New Hope (Hybrid-In person/Zoom)
  - o May 28 – Smock, Pleasant View (Hybrid-In person/Zoom)
  - o September 24 – Pine Springs Camp (Hybrid-In person/Zoom)
  - o November 18 – New Alexandria, Community United (Hybrid-In person/Zoom)
3. Review of the 2022 Session minutes and Church Registers has been completed and submitted to the COM (Appendix A). The minutes and the church registers of the following congregations were not reviewed: Bolivar, Brownsville, Calvin; Brownsville, Hopewell; Delmont; Dunbar, First; Fairchance; Leisenring; Ligonier, Pleasant Grove; Masontown, First; Merrittstown, Dunlap’s Creek; and West Newton, Sewickley United.

### CONSENT AGENDA:

The Associate Stated Clerk 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 was **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of the September 26, 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. (Appendix ‘B’)

## **Presbytery of Redstone**

**November 18, 2023**

2. Council **recommended** that the Executive Presbyter, Treasurer, Mission, and Pine Springs Camp reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.
3. Council **recommended** that the written reports of all committees, networks and task forces be received and filed.
4. Council **recommended** the 2024 terms of call for the Executive Presbyter to include:
  - i. Effective Salary-89,835.48 (73,835.48-salary,16,000- housing allowance)
  - ii. Board of Pensions – Pastor Participation plan (39%)
  - iii. Study leave – 1,500 (able to be carried over if unused)
  - iv. Professional services – 1,500
  - v. Professional travel – 4,750

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

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

### **From the Nominating Committee**

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

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

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

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

### **TREASURER AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

John Dickson, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report and Financial Reports. John highlighted that the report covers the period ending in October. Presently we are at 77% of the budget, we should be at 83% of the budget.

### **SYNOD OF THE TRINITY REPORT**

Rev. Cliff Foster and Elder Bernice Adams, Synod Commissioner, reported that the Synod Assembly met at the Omni Bedford Springs Resort, Bedford, Pa met October 29-31, 2023, in person and via Zoom.

Elder Bernice Adams began her report by giving a brief overview of the Synod of the Trinity. She reported on the Guest Presenter, Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, co-moderator of the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia gave the sermon at the opening worship on Monday morning and delivered the keynote address later in the day. Bernice reported that Brian Choi of Huntingdon Presbytery will serve a second term as co-moderator and he will be joined by Meg Steele of Washington Presbytery. Bernice also highlighted items from the Governing Commission report. Bernice also reported on the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Trinity

## Presbytery of Redstone

November 18, 2023

report given by Joyce Johnson, moderator of the Synod's PW. Bernice reported that Forrest Classen spoke of those native to the Synod of the Trinity region. Bernice reported that Ron Horner, church musician at the Bedford Presbyterian Church provided the keyboard accompaniment on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

Rev. Cliff Foster reported that Synod Executive Forrest Claassen gave his State of the Synod report on Tuesday morning noting a new direction for the Synod's granting process. There is a new "Futureproofing." Grants for presbyteries with the goal of having presbyteries address the future needs of ministry in their regions. Each presbytery will have \$30,000 set aside for its use through the end of 2026. He reported that the programs on Sunday and Monday evenings were designed as opportunities to learn more about the presbyteries in our Synod and the games were an educational tool to better understand each area. Cliff reported that the offering of the opening worship service benefited an outreach of the Bower Hill Community Church in Pittsburgh Presbytery that is reducing and eliminating medical debt in the Synod region. Cliff also made note that the Synod's per capita for 2025 will remain \$2.40, the sixth consecutive year without an increase. Cliff ended his report by thanking Bernice Adams for her service to the Synod as Co-Moderator, Bernice will not serve as a resource person for the Synod's Governing Commission.

### REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Skip Noftzger indicated the full report that was included in the packet. He highlighted that in the season of Thanksgiving, how do we have periods of gratitude as we see the grace of God at work in others and all around us. Skip made mention of a book he had recently read where the author talked about "slow looking" of seeing the acts of God's grace all around us. Skip ended his report by leading the Presbytery in the "Sola Deo Gloria".

### WORSHIP

Worship was led by the following persons: Tony Greendonner provided the music; Rev. Lee McDermott led the Opening Litany; Elder Lynn Mance, CP led the Confession and Pardon; Rev. Dawn Sherwood read the Scripture readings of Ezekiel 34: 11-16 and Matthew 25: 31-46 and she preached the sermon; Elder Len Morgan, CP led the Affirmation of Faith; Rev. Donna Havrisko indicated that the offering which will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and she led the Prayer of Dedication; Rev. Susan Blank presided at the Lord's Table and she led the prayer of Thanksgiving and the Prayer after Communion.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Lynn Mance, CP presented the following report and action items of the Nominating Committee:

#### Action Items

- **The Nominating Committee recommended nomination of Ruling Elder Susan Keaney (Newlonsburg) to serve as Vice-Moderator for 2024.**

## Presbytery of Redstone

November 18, 2023

- The Nominating Committee recommended Ruling Elder Bobbi Jo Huebner (Belle Vernon, First) to the Committee on Ministry, Class of 2025.

There were no nominations from the floor. It was MSP to close the nominations and to approve the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee for the listed Offices/Classes as indicated.

### Information Items (as published)

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

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

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

### ACTION AGENDA

#### COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Rev. Geoff Rach presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

#### Action Items

- **Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation Program Report.** Rev. Geoff Rach gave a report of the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation program, if any elder is interested in this program speak to either Geoff or Rev. Skip Noftzger.

### Information Items (as published)

#### November 7, 2023, Meeting

1. Approval of minutes of Oct. 3, 2023, with correction that Kristen Emrick was excused; MSP as amended.
2. **Updates on Candidates/IPLF participants:**  
Update on Danielle Kendig – Geoff and Robin will meet with Danielle Nov. 30 to review status/remaining criteria. Danielle preaching at Johnstown First in coming weeks.

Update on Bill Poninsky from John Manon – Progress stalled as Bill has been devoting more time to caring for his ailing mother.

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

Geoff hoping to promote the IPLF program at November Presbytery.

3. Consultation with candidate **James Vlosich**, his second visit with CPM in 2023.

**Regarding field education** – James has submitted his packet to Fuller and is waiting for Fuller to approve the specifics of his outline. Apprenticeship will begin Jan. 10 as a 10-week winter quarter assignment along with other seminary classes yet to be selected. James has met with Molly Hall as supervising pastor to complete Fuller documentation, and with Fairchance and Trinity regarding his roles. Fairchance is looking for older adult outreach as focus, which will supplement his youth staff assignments at Trinity. Given that apprenticeship is 10 hours per week, James will remain employed at Trinity, but may step away on Sundays as needed to fulfill apprenticeship. There is a possibility that James can continue with Fairchance for a second 10 weeks in the spring quarter.

**Regarding class selections** – With projected graduation in Spring 2025, James will continue to take classes during apprenticeship. Will review with Fuller academic advisor Nov. 27 what is available in the winter/spring quarters to keep pace. When he is choosing classes, James said he is looking for counseling classes because he believes he will need those in his pastorate, and he enjoys them. CPM advised that generally ongoing counseling in the church setting should be referred to professionals and would not be his responsibility, nor his area of expertise. It appears James is selecting classes out of interest, not necessarily for their relevance to ministry.

**Regarding opportunities to preach and provide pastoral care**, James shared experiences of officiating at a funeral, filling the pulpit, and other assignments. The committee advised that James needs to deepen pastoral care experiences. James shared that he is conducting a Bible study with SeniorLife and sees this as a springboard. A Fuller course on Fundamentals of Chaplaincy was suggested by CPM as something he should register for.

**Regarding self-care**, James is positive about his employment, the upcoming apprenticeship, and his solid relationship with his spouse. To manage stress, James lifts weights, exercises, and plays guitar. James equated self-care with his ability to care for others.

**Regarding sense of call** – James describes college and career adult ministry/small groups as his passion. As he has progressed through seminary, he stated he is looking and listening more in his worklife at Trinity and trying to encourage others to take leadership roles, rather than just assume the roles. He would like experience with Baptisms.

**Regarding ordination exams** – James has passed Bible Content exam. Worship and Sacrament might be a good next step given his current experience.

The committee prayed for James.

A lengthy discussion ensued after James left the meeting regarding the committee's concerns regarding

**Presbytery of Redstone**  
**November 18, 2023**

mentorship for James and opportunities for him to shadow/partner other pastors to allow him to deepen his understanding of the pastor's role in real-life situations. Some reservations were expressed regarding his "rose-colored" glasses approach to the "tasks" he is performing. Perhaps the second field education experience can be more focused on "in the moment" pastoral care. Desire to review his Fuller outline and progress early in the apprenticeship was noted to evaluate how the experience is meeting desired goals. All agreed that more diverse experiences and time will be beneficial as James grows into his call.

4. Adjournment/Prayer by Geoff
5. Future meeting schedule/consultations
  - a. December 6---no meeting - Geoff is concluding his term on CPM.

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**October 3, 2023, Meeting**

6. Approval of minutes of Sept. 5, 2023, as written; **MSP**.
7. As part of a review of Master Chart - Roster, Liaisons and Checklist, discussion ensued with **Jackie Eckenrod** regarding practicums and supervision. She is preaching in a regular rotation at Dunlap's Creek, and in her home congregation at Westminster when her pastor, Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs, is away. Skip asked Jackie to pursue with Jen if she is agreeable to supervising the pastoral care and sacraments practicums. Church leadership would be better pursued away from her home church. John Manon offered to assist Jackie through the West Newton congregation.

Regarding **Tammy Noss**, she will meet with Skip regarding future opportunities to preach either in Redstone or Kiski presbyteries given that she lives in Blairsville and in light of the call of Lynn Mance to serve Avonmore where Tammy had preached.

Regarding **James Vlosich**, his proposal packet is due to Fuller Seminary by October 21 to set parameters for experience at Fairchance for January 2024 start. Committee will meet with James Nov. 7.

8. Geoff provided an agenda note that Boundaries and Ethics Training is needed every 3 years and applicable to Inquirers, Candidates, IPFL students, Commissioned Pastors, Teaching Elders. There was no discussion.
9. Consultation with **Danielle Kendig** via phone included a review of her coursework, exam status, and field education. This is the second time she met with CPM in 2023. She reported feeling recovered from recent surgery and good about family life.

**Regarding classes**, she is enrolled in two courses - Theology II (in person at the seminary) and Paul and His Context (online). She is on track to finish courses in Spring 2024. She dropped an elective course this term and will pick up an elective in her final semester.

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

**Regarding exams**, she just completed the Theology exam and is awaiting word on the status. Given that she is just now taking the second Theology course, she may not pass this time, but she wanted the experience. She will retake the Bible Content exam in winter of 2024 when next offered, and she is actively preparing for the exam through the use of a binder of sample questions passed among seminary students, and more intentional scripture reading, particularly of the Old Testament prophets with whom she is less familiar. The committee suggested several resources for her consideration.

**Regarding field ed experience**, Danielle has yet to secure a second placement although various ideas were suggested to her previously. She successfully completed the first field ed at Johnstown Second with Art Moffat. She feels confident in church leadership and inner workings given her longtime employment at Westmont. She is eager for more autonomy to celebrate Sacraments and has been compiling a resource folder of ideas from other places where she has preached or attended. Preaching opportunities have included Somerset UCC, Trinity Presbyterian in New Florence, Pine Springs, and upcoming at Johnstown First.

To accelerate securing a second field ed placement, Robin offered to compile a list of locations and contacts based on ideas from the committee and request that she report back to the committee in November regarding the status. The ideas were based on proximity to her home as well as opportunities to enlarge her comfort zone. The committee is hoping all of her requirements can be met in close proximity to the conclusion of her courses. *(The list was emailed Wednesday, Oct. 4 and copied to Geoff and Skip, and Danielle acknowledged receipt.)*

The committee prayed for Danielle.

10. Adjournment/Prayer by Jackie

11. Future meeting schedule/consultations

a. November 7--- Meet with James

December 6---no meeting

### PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

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

Rev. Curtis Paul presented the report of the Presbytery Council.

### Presentation and Action Items

- **The Council recommended the approval of the 2024 budget presented both in the September and November meetings. (See Appendix "C"). It was MSP to approve the 2024 budget.**

## Presbytery of Redstone

November 18, 2023

- **Addiction Ministry Network presentation.** Rev. Lee McDermott gave the report of the Addiction Ministry Network. A video was presented on the Hope in the Bag project and packing the bags that will be given out, the program was very thankful for all of the items donated. The Network thanked the Presbytery for the abundance of donations for this program. A new publication, "Into the Light" is being released today. It is free and is available on-line at the Presbytery or Synod websites. There are also Narcan kits available if needed.
- **Racial Justice and Reconciliation presentation** by Elder Dennis Skeers who leads an Adult Sunday School class at Newlonsburg who presented a video which he had shared with his Sunday School class and to the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Task Force. He shared the video with the Presbytery. The video was about a pen pal program between a woman named Ginny and an inmate named Lamar who was in jail for 28 years for the crime of murder which he did not commit.

**PINE SPRINGS CAMP REPORT** - Executive Director, Greg Davis, presented the report highlighting that the camp brochure will be coming out soon and that the church packets will be coming out soon. He thanked the Presbytery for their continued support of the camp, especially during the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the camp. The annual Friends Banquet was held a few weeks ago at the camp. At the banquet the impact of Chuck West who was a camper in 1952 and Kevin a current camper who had similar stories which represent the backbone of the camp – to follow Jesus in their life, having vital encounters with Christ. Greg asked for continued prayers for the camp for the future. The Board of the Camp approved an 8-week sabbatical for Greg in January and February.

**MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT** - Rev. Owar Ojulu presented the Mission Committee report. He called attention to the report in the packet for the meeting. He reminded the Presbytery that the Mission Network is still receiving surveys that they put out earlier in the year. The recent mission trip to West Virginia went well. There will be another trip in the spring. Owar reported that he has had his thesis published as a book. The book is entitled: A Practical Discipleship Model That Fosters Spiritual Maturity and is available on Amazon.

We heard reports of congregational missions from Elder Lucy Bittner of First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette and Rev. Geoff Rach, Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford. Rev. Geoff Rach reported on the mission projects at Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford highlighting that they have partnered with the local school district, Penn-Trafford. They are packing 25 boxes for those in need. They have started a Bible Club at the school there are 18-22 students as part of this program which takes place in the school library.

Elder Lucy Bittner reported of the mission program at First, Jeannette and highlighted they are doing several projects. One of which is providing items that are needed by students in the school. The local churches helped with a "stuff a trunk" program for things that the students needed. A single-mother family with four children and the church has helped this family by having a basket raffle, they have

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

collected cleaning supplies, and the proceeds will be given to the family. The church also provides meals to those in need. They are having 2 services on Christmas Eve.

### Information Items (as published)

#### October 24, 2023, Meeting

Rev. Curtis Paul called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. A quorum of members was established by those in person and participation by Zoom videoconferencing.

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

Bobbi Jo Huebner presented the devotions and opened the meeting with prayer.

- The minutes of the September 5, 2023, meeting were corrected on attendance and the revised version was approved by **MSP**.

#### Moderator Report

Rev. Sherwood shared with the Council the two ordination or installation services in September. Rev. Sara Sadler was ordained and installed at Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence. Rev. Becka Abbott was installed at McClellandtown Presbyterian Church.

#### Executive Presbyter Report

Rev. Noftzger discussed some of the needs for new policies resulting from the Book of Order amendments within the last year. He noted the need for an “anti-racism” policy by reminding the Council of previous statements on issues of racism. With the need to present a “policy” for the Presbytery as well as providing a possible template for the councils (sessions) of our congregations, he solicited volunteers to serve on a task force to develop both. Rev. Laura Blank, Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Rev. Cliff Foster and Rev. Curtis Paul volunteered to serve.

Rev. Noftzger inquired of the Council whether there would be interest in having a one-day planning retreat for the Council in 2024. Noting that the Council serves as the leadership on behalf of the Presbytery for shared ministry and mission, the retreat would focus on high-level planning for the next couple years.

By **consent**, the Council agreed to hold a one-day retreat (9:30-3:00) on the day of the scheduled meeting in January (January 16, 2024).

#### 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:
  - **November 28**
- The scheduled 2024 Presbytery gatherings were confirmed with the following hosts.
  - January 27, 2024 – First Presbyterian, Johnstown
  - March 19, 2024 – New Hope Presbyterian, North Huntingdon
  - May 28, 2024 – Pleasant View Presbyterian, Smock

# Presbytery of Redstone

November 18, 2023

- September 24, 2024---Pine Springs Camp (daytime)
- November 23, 2024---Community United Presbyterian, New Alexandria

## Treasurer Report

John Dickson had submitted a written report based upon the end of September. He recognized the significant ways that income from church contributions has fallen behind. Several questions were raised and answered concerning various individual parts of the report.

## Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

A written report from the Executive Director was provided. Greg reported on the successful fall retreats with one of them consisting entirely of summer campers returning for the retreat.

Chuck West, President of the Pine Springs Camp, Inc. board was introduced. Mr. West rehearsed the relationship between the Presbytery and Pine Springs Camp, Inc. regarding the use of property and approvals for improvements and changes. For exclusive use of the property, the ministry is responsible for maintenance, insurance and taxes. With that background, he reviewed a motion from the Pine Springs Camp Board regarding authorizing the sale of timber on the remote part of the property for forest maintenance. The motion also designated the use of any funds for the timber sale to be used in maintenance for the A Frame and the covered bridge. Upon conclusion of the report, it was **MSP** to concur with the PSC Board motion and to authorize the sale of the timber with the designated use of funds for repairs and maintenance on the A Frame and covered bridge.

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

## Sub Committees/Networks/Task Forces

### Staff Support

- A written report was provided based upon the last meeting.
- Bobbi Jo Huebner reviewed the proposed job description and timetable for the position of Administrative Operations Manager position (replacement of retiring Administrative Assistant). She noted the search and hiring committee will consist of the EP, herself, and Jack Battenhouse.
- It was **MSP** to approve the position description and timetable for hiring the candidate.

### Worship

- Rev. Laura Blank reviewed the suggestions about a possible overarching theme(s) for the worship experiences at Presbytery gatherings. She shared that the focus would be on the "calling of the church." January would serve as the celebration of our calling while the other four meetings would focus on the calling as a community of faith, hope, love and witness, respectively.

### Addictions Ministry Network

- A written report was provided.
- The new publication of "Into the Light" has been completed and will be made available.
- The network requested 5 minutes on the September Presbytery agenda. It was **MSP** to grant that request and include on the agenda.

### Mission

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

- There was no report after the October meeting had been cancelled.

### Budget, Finance and Stewardship

- No written report.
- Council was reminded that the 2024 budget would be presented at the upcoming Presbytery meeting for a second reading, deliberation, and approval.

### *Racial Justice and Reconciliation*

- Rev. Sue Washburn and Rev. Curtis Paul reported on their participation and completion of the workshop offered by Rev. Jeff Eddings from Pittsburgh. Described as personally challenging, they informed the Council that a few of them are intending to be trained as certified facilitators for the workshop going forward. Upon certification, trained facilitators will be presented to the Council for authorization as approved facilitators available for workshops in the Presbytery.
- The network requested time on the November Presbytery agenda for their regular “Moment for Justice.”.

### *Presbyterian Women*

- *No report was included.*

### Communications

- No report.

### September Presbytery Agenda

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

### *Unfinished Business*

*There was no unfinished business.*

### *New Business*

### **CLOSING PRAYERS/ADJOURNMENT**

It was MSP to adjourn with prayer at 7:46 p.m. Len Morgan led the Council in prayers of thanksgiving and providential care.

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Rev. Derek Campbell presented the Committee on Ministry report.

### Presentation and Action Items

- **The Committee on Ministry recommended approval of the revisions in the Ethics Policy to include Boundaries and Ethics Training.** It was MSP to approve this recommendation.

## Presbytery of Redstone

November 18, 2023

- **The Committee on Ministry recommended the dissolution of the Sewickley Administrative Commission.** It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation. Moderator Dawn Sherwood led the Presbytery in prayer for the Sewickley Presbyterian Church and for Karen Kifer, CP of the Sewickley Presbyterian Church.
- **The Committee on Ministry suggested that a service of honorably retirement be held for Rev. Marnie Abraham Russell** who was able to attend the meeting today. Rev. Ron Durika provided a testimony of Marnie's ministry. Moderator Dawn Sherwood led the presbytery in a liturgy on Marnie's retirement.

### Information Items (as published)

#### November 2, 2023, Meeting

##### Approval of Minutes

**MSP** approval of the minutes of October 5, 2023.

##### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- **MSP** to approve the interim pastor contract starting October 1, 2023 between Grace Community Presbyterian Church and Rev. Dr. Doug Marshal.
- **MSP** to approve the interim pastor contact starting November 1, 2023 between Delmont Presbyterian Church and Rev. Anthony Catullo.
- Minutes Review
- Ethics and Boundaries task force
  - Ethics and Boundaries task force presented the revised policy to the COM.
  - **MSP** to recommend to the Presbytery the revised Presbytery of Redstone Policy for Ethical Conduct and Boundaries by Persons in Positions of Religious Leadership incorporating the respective Book of Amendments 2022 requirements.
- Sewickley Presbyterian Administrative Commission
  - **MSP** to recommend to the Presbytery, if the way be clear, to dissolve the Administrative Commission working with Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton, as their work is complete.

##### Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments - None
- Update from the Westmont team of COM members on an upcoming planned meeting with Westmont Session as part of the process to assist in resolution/mediation at Westmont. The reconciliation team has been speaking with members, the Session, and pastor. Additional meetings and interviews are scheduled.

# Presbytery of Redstone

## November 18, 2023

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
  - No examinations scheduled.
  - Boundaries training will be taking place on November 11 in person at Maplewood Presbyterian Church or by Zoom.
- Action Items
  - None

#### Search and Call

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)
  - First Presbyterian Church, Irwin PNC has begun to receive both computer referrals and self-referrals.
  - Grace Presbyterian Church has had an in-person interview with a candidate and a “neutral” pulpit is being arranged.
  - Ebensburg and Colver agreement for shared pastoral services will be ending on December 31, 2023. EP met with Ebensburg session to talk about short term options with Rev. Ojulu and long-term pastoral options.
- Action Items
  - None.

#### 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?
  - Boundaries and Ethics workshop required
- 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
    - Do you have/need a copy of the Clerk’s handbook (Redstone Presbytery)?
    - Are you aware of the more recent BOO amendments which expect all councils (including sessions) to have particular policies?
  - 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
    - Where are you seeing God at work in your congregation?

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

- Are there areas of ministry that you would benefit from collaboration with other congregations?
- What plans are being made for the Advent season in your congregation? How might Advent and Christmas also serve as an outreach opportunity in your community?
- Resources within Presbytery
  - Articles and Resources
  - Education and Nurture
    - Workshops for the fall include:
      - 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 guidance from the Holy Spirit with working to overcome issues with church building. Prayers for strength in managing churches finances and the impact on pastors and congregations. Prayers for new people drawn into membership and for younger people to become more active. Prayers for stewardship campaign and for people to find their spiritual home.

Prayers for peace between nations at war. Prayers for safe travel. Prayers for young people on college campuses. Prayers for health, for recovery from surgery, and for those dealing with cancer. Prayers for those in the hospital with little ones at home.

Praises for anniversary celebrations from 60th, 100th, and 250th. Praises for dinners, successful fund raisers, and starting men's breakfast. Praises for concerts, indoor carol sing, and the 40th Annual Festival of the Nativity at First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown. Praises for successful return from mission trip in West Virginia.
- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:

Ed Gray, Molly Hall, Glenn Hart, Donna Havrisko, Jim Hepler, Donna Hess, Joey Hickok, Doug Holben, Steve Hospodar.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:

Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, Ligonier; Grace Community Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell; Puckety Presbyterian Church, Lower Burrell; First Presbyterian Church, Masontown; McClellandtown Presbyterian Church; Dunlap’s Creek Presbyterian Church, Merrittstown; Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant; First Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville.

### Adjournment

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Derek Campbell.

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### October 5, 2023, Meeting

### Approval of Minutes

**MSP** approval of the minutes of September 7, 2023.

# Presbytery of Redstone

## November 18, 2023

### Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Minutes Review

### Report of the Moderator

- Moderator appointments – None
- Update from the Westmont team of COM members on an upcoming planned meeting with Westmont Session as part of the process to assist in resolution/mediation at Westmont.
- Update on discussions of the potential separation of the shared pastor between Calvert and Ebensburg as budgets become a challenge.

### REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

#### Examinations and Membership

- Information Items
  - No examinations scheduled.
  - Will initiate orientation meeting with the two new pastors.
- Action Items
  - None

#### Search and Call

- Information Items
  - Transition Chart (handout)
  - Have received First Presbyterian Church, Irwin MDP, the Search and Call subcommittee reviewed their submission.
- Action Items
  - **MP** of the approval of the MDP of the First Presbyterian Church, Irwin.

#### 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?
  - Boundaries and Ethics workshop required
- 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)?

## Presbytery of Redstone November 18, 2023

- 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
  - 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:
      - 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 building progress, for continued growth in attendance, and for new pastors getting acclimated. Praises and blessings of pastoral relationships that are a good fit.
  - Praises for new ministries in adult education; vision planning; and music ministries with rotation of musicians providing different styles.
  - Prayers for PNC when the progress is slow and limited candidates accepting interview invitations. Prayers for churches with small member sessions as they look for solutions to ensure they are progressing the work of the church even when members cannot meet due to health issues. Prayers for the Wee Kirk Conference: for those attending and those presenting.
  - Prayers for the difficult decisions of cutting salaries to meet budget.
  - Praises for kids choir growing; for youth groups meeting and young adults being represented.
  - Praises for fall rummage sale, apple pie sales, for volunteers making pumpkin rolls, and for craft fairs.
  - Prayers for those with health challenges, for those going through cancer, and for those undergoing surgery. Prayers for those who grieve.
- 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

## **Presbytery of Redstone**

**November 18, 2023**

Church, Greensburg; Maplewood Presbyterian Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg; First Presbyterian Church, Irwin.

### **Adjournment**

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

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 of those in attendance between in-person and via Zoom. He reported that there were 35 Teaching Elders, 4 Commissioned Pastors, 17 Ruling Elders representing 14 churches, 0 Christian Educators, 3 Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office, and 3 visitors for a total of 62. There also were 43 congregations without elder representation.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP**

The Announcement Loop was shown to the Presbytery and provided information on several upcoming events in the life of our Presbytery and congregations. The Announcement Loop can be found on the Presbytery Website and also on the Presbytery's Facebook page.

### **RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Rev. Dawn Sherwood presented the Resolution of Thanks for this meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone.

### **AJOURNMENT**

It was **MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 11: 41 a.m.

### **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Dawn Sherwood, Moderator offered the benediction prayer.

*The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown in person or by Zoom.*

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Dawn Sherwood, Moderator

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Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk