

Presbytery of Redstone
March 19, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was called to order at 6:07 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, via Zoom videoconferencing and in person at the New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, PA. The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder Leonard Morgan, Moderator. Moderator Leonard Morgan announced that items of new business must be presented to the associate Stated Clerk in writing (or through chat on Zoom) before the end of worship.

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.

CHURCH	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
	Sue Blank - HR	
	Sylvia Carlson - HR	
	Carole Isley Corey - HR	
	James Farrer - HR	
	Gary Filson - HR	
	Donna Havrisko - HR	
	Chuck MacPherson - HR	
	Lee McDermott - HR	
	Doug Stevens - HR	
	Norma Murphy - HR	
	Lisa Dormire - MAL	
	Patrick Ewing - MAL	
	Richard Noftzger - MAL	
	Sue Washburn - MAL	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Poke Run		
Avonmore, First	Lynn Mance - CP	
Belle Vernon, First	Mary Kay Glunt	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Glenn Hart - CP	
Belle Vernon, Marion		Arlene Krajnik
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	Don Glunt	
Bolivar, United		
Brownsville, Calvin	Kristen Emrick	
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	Kristen Emrick	Lynne Rankin
Brownsville, Hopewell		
Colver		
Cresson	Alice Tondora	
Dawson, Tyrone		
Delmont	Anthony Catullo - IP	
Derry	Larry Armstrong - CovP	Lawrence K Kean II

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Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill		
Ebensburg, First		Kevin McKenrick
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First		
Fayette City, Little Redstone	Joshua Scully - CP	
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Robin Jennings Melissa Dalansky
Greensburg, Maplewood		Carol Limegrover
Greensburg, Westminster	Jennifer Frayer-Griggs	Kevin Truscott
Irwin, First		Sandra Kutz Raymond Edelman
Irwin, West Hempfield	Andrew Wirt	Deb Immel
Jeannette	Dawn Sherwood	Mark Menanno
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First		Gary Mapes
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont	Ben Nti	Bernice Adams Deb Lichtenfels
Lake Lynn, Springhill	Molly Hall	
Latrobe	Derek Campbell	
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Owar Ojulu	
Lower Burrell, Puckety	Brian Kilbert	Jennifer McKay
Masontown		
McClellandtown	Rebecka Abbott	Stacy Clark
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Russ Baird - CP	
Murrysville, First	Edward Gray	Rick Pry
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Curtis Paul Travis Webster	
Murrysville, Union	Robert Ruefle	
New Alexandria, Community	Leonard Morgan - CP	
New Alexandria, Congruity	Clifton Foster	Matt Cunningham
New Florence, Bethel		Janie Short
New Florence, Trinity	Sara Sadler	
New Kensington, United	Rebecca Siddle - CovP	Tim Beckes
New Salem	Bill Wiegand - CP	
North Huntingdon, New Hope	Brenda Barnes	Shawn Dandoy
Patton	Alice Tondora	Roberta Farabaugh
Revloc		
Scottdale, Calvin		

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Smithfield, Grace Chapel		
Smock, Pleasant View	Laura Blank	
Trafford, Level Green	Geoff Rach	Jack Battenhouse
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third		
Uniontown, Trinity	John Simpson - IP	
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
West Newton, Sewickley	Karen Kifer - CP	
West Newton, Sewickley U.	Glenn Hart - CP	
West Newton, United		
Notation:	(*) = pastor other denomination (**) = pastor/CP serving more than one church (#) = pastor another presbytery	AP = Associate Pastor; CovP = Covenant Pastor; CP = Commissioned Pastor; HR = Honorably Retired; IP = Interim Pastor; MAL = Member at Large; TS = Temporary Supply; NRHR = Non-Resident Hon. Retired

By Virtue of Office: John Dickson, Treasurer

Visitors: Robert Heath , Jeannette, First; Greg Davis, Pine Springs; Karen Gray, Presbytery Staff; Audrey Cottle, Presbytery Council; Patty Hart; North Huntingdon, New Hope

Teaching Elders Excused: Buell; Cadenhead, B.; Cadenhead, C.; Carnahan; Degitz; Giesey; Glunt, D.; Graff; Hepler; Hess; Hickok; Holben; Keith; Kerr; Lloyd; Mason; Maxwell; McCabe; McClure; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Pressler; Sharp, W.; Stobaugh; Sweeney; Teshome; Upton; VanWyk

Teaching Elders Absent: Durika; Goetschius; LaSor; Manon; Rehberg

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused:

Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent: Gilsan; McElroy; O'Hara; Prinkey; Sheehan; Smith; Toderro; Weightman; Yauger

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

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

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster, moved that the Rev. Liddy Barlow, Executive Minister of Christian Associates of Southwest PA, be seated as a Corresponding Member.

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

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The Rev. Skip Noftzger presented the Stated Clerk's Report. He highlighted the written report that was included in the meeting packet. The annual statistical report is included in the report as well as the Corresponding Log.

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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. Summary of 2023 Comparative Statistical Summary for the Presbytery

<u>Membership Statistics</u>	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Active members	14,799	14,329	13,961	13,679	12,543	11,477	10,628	10,287	10,017	9636	9077	8863	8249
Gains by Profession of Faith - 17 under	105	82	102	105	101	85	70	53	58	36	22	31	45
Gains by Profession of Faith - 18 over	169	178	146	154	155	171	170	102	119	98	30	56	89
Gains by Certificate	65	85	79	95	61	56	43	48	57	73	38	63	52
Losses by Certificate	57	95	78	243	519	437	205	65	215	34	18	24	41
Losses by Death	281	274	252	248	252	239	238	187	194	196	250	191	241
Losses by Other	211	511	417	182	781	725	732	304	106	316	344	144	521
Infant Baptisms	140	163	122	158	128	127	110	100	87	56	24	61	43
Adult Baptisms	26	25	22	35	17	24	20	9	13	14	6	10	1

As of the 2023 deadline for statistical reporting to the General Assembly, 57 churches have filed at least portions of their annual statistical reports for 2022. The following churches failed to submit their Annual Statistical Report based upon the deadline: Brownsville, Hopewell; Dunbar; Fairchance; Farmington; Johnstown, Second; Leisenring; Ligonier, Pleasant Grove;

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Masontown, First; Dunlap's Creek; Uniontown, Tent; West Newton, Sewickley United; and West Newton, United.

3. The following dates represent additional opportunities for Clerks to have their Session minutes and Church Registers reviewed for 2024.

- April 17, 2024 – Presbytery Center
- May 28, 2024 – Pre-Presbytery, Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

From Executive Committee

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of January 27, 2024, be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommended** that the Financial and Treasurer's Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit. (Appendix B).
2. 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 Derry Presbyterian Church, to waive the rotation of service for Richard Dyche, Deacon.
2. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville to waive the rotation of service for Muriel Nuttall, Ruling Elder.
3. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from Calvin United Presbyterian Church for a waiver of rotation for Iris Holleran and Brynn Martini, Ruling Elders.
4. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from the United Presbyterian Church of New Kensington for a waiver of rotation for Tim Beckes, Donna McLaughlin and Randy Schultz; Ruling Elders.
5. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Presbytery grant the request from New Salem Presbyterian Church for a waiver of rotation for Roxanne Gmutza, Ruling Elder.
6. The Committee on Ministry **recommended** that Rev. Marnie Abraham Russell be designated "Honorably Retired."

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

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From the Nominating Committee

From the Committee on Representation

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Elder John R. Dickson, IV noted the report that was found in the packet. The report focused on the end of February 2024. John stated that he looks at some of the trends that he has seen in the report. There was a shortfall of almost \$10,000. John noted that 31 churches have made a pledge and 35 churches have made payments. There has been a positive change in value in the investments and holdings of \$27, 654.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, noted his written report. He also invited that first time commissioners be introduced to the Presbytery. He highlighted the retirement of Bobbie Shaffor, our Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper who has been with the Presbytery for 22 years, she had worked for the Presbytery for several years. Bobbie is retiring as our Administrative Assistant at the end of March. Bobbie will continue to serve as our Bookkeeper. Skip said that it has been a pleasure to work with someone who seeks to serve.

Elder Bobbie Jo Huebner spoke to the Presbytery about some of the things that Bobbie Shaffor is looking forward to as she retires. Her pride and joy are her grandchildren. Bobbie Jo thanked Bobbie Shaffor for all of her work over the years.

On behalf of the Presbytery, Skip and Bobbie Jo present Bobbie Shaffor with some gifts, cards, and a Love Gift to show our appreciation to her for years of service. Rev. Skip Noftzger ended with a prayer of thanks for Bobbie Shaffor's service.

Skip Noftzger then introduced Karen Gray to the Presbytery as the new Administration Operations Manager.

"SOLI DEO GLORIA"

Rev. Skip Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, led the Presbytery in the "Soli Deo Gloria"

WORSHIP

The Presbytery joined in worship with the theme of "A Community of Faith". Participants in worship included: Patty Hart, organist of New Hope Presbyterian Church; Elder Shawn Dandoy led the Call to Worship ; Elder Glenn Hart led the Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, the Assurance of Pardon and the Passing of the Peace; Rev. Skip Noftzger introduced Rev. Liddy Barlow to the Presbytery. Liddy is celebrating her 10-year anniversary as the Executive Minister of the Christian Association of Southwest PA.; Elder Shawn Dandoy read the Scripture Readings of Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16, 32-40; 12: 1-3 and John 12: 20-25; Rev. Liddy Barlow preached the sermon "Swimming the Race That's Set Before Us"; Rev. Owar

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Ojulu led the Offering which will be given to the Sudan and South Sudan for relief efforts there and offered the Prayer of Dedication; Rev. Skip Noftzger and Rev. Liddy Barlow presided at the Lord's Table as the Presbytery shared the Sacrament of Communion, the Elders from New Hope Presbyterian Church served communion.

ACTION AGENDA

COUNCIL REPORT

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

Action Items

- *"On the Road with Redstone"*. Rev. Don Glunt presented the video about New Hope Presbyterian Church, North Huntingdon, PA.
- *Communications survey*. Rev. Sue Washburn introduced the Communications survey using a QR code that was displayed on the screen. The Presbytery was given the opportunity to fill out the survey.
- *Presbyterian Women*. Elder Patty Hart highlighted the Presbyterian Women's Report found in the meeting packet. There are 12 active Presbyterian Women groups within the Presbytery. They have supported the Union Mission in Latrobe this past year. May 7, 2024, will be the Presbyterian Women Spring Retreat at Pine Springs Camp, the mission project for this Retreat is to provide Pine Spring Camp with graham crackers, marshmallows and chocolate bars for the upcoming camping season. The National Churchwide Gather will be August 8-11 in St. Louis. The international Mission project is Casa Maternal which provides a safe place for a mothers to give birth. More information can be found on their website.
- *Pine Springs Camp* report was given by Greg Davis. Greg is one week back from an 8-week sabbatical where he kept a gratitude journal. He is grateful for the partnerships that have existed with Pine Springs Camp. They visited Christian camps in Texas and Sonoma. The joy of being able to get kids outside and away from screens. Every 5 years the camp is accredited and last summer the camp was inspected, and the camp has just received word that it has received the highest level. Greg gave an updated report on the upcoming camping seasons. The early-bird registration deadline is approaching on March 26, 2024. The greatest need for staff is male counselors. The Care Package for Staff is available again this year. Women in the Woods is April 5 and 6, 2024. April 9, 2024, is the Pastor's Retreat. There are going to be 3 traveling day camps this year: Murrysville, North Huntingdon and Latrobe. The Golf Outing this year is May 13, 2024, at Arnold Palmer Golf Course in Latrobe, PA. He is asking for church to support an Amen Corner which goes to help with scholarships. This coming Sunday, March 24, 2024, in Canonsburg is PSC-Skates at the Southpoint Ice Rink for 2 hours of skating. The event is free.

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- *Mission network report.* Rev. Owar Ojulu called attention to the report in the packet. There will be a Mission Fair at the September Presbytery meeting. They are interested in finding out which churches are involved in quilt ministries. Elder Shawn Dandoy spoke of the mission projects at New Hope Presbyterian Church. He talked about some of the mission projects within this congregation. The video On the Road With Redstone highlighted many of the mission projects of the church: Meals on Wheels, the Giving Tree which supports a local organization. There is a local, national and international emphasis with their projects. They donated to the East Palestine victims, Wreaths across America, Light of Life rescue mission and among other groups.

Rev. Sylvia Carlson called attention to the 3 handouts that were available on the registration table about the Sudan/South Sudan mission project. We are celebrating our 20th anniversary of partnership with the Sudan Presbyterian and Evangelical Church and the South Sudan Evangelical Church. Relationships have been forged over the years. Due to the unrest in South Sudan, there is much malnutrition and starvation going on. Our offering from today's meeting will be going there to offer some relief.

Council Information Items (as published)

February 27, 2024, Meeting

Call to Order

Rev. Dawn Sherwood called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. for the scheduled meeting and a quorum of members was established.

Approval of Agenda

Rev. Dawn Sherwood solicited any necessary changes to the agenda. Having not received any, the agenda for the meeting was approved by consent.

Devotions and Prayer

Rev. Laura Blank opened the meeting with a devotional reading "A Good Gardener" by Kate Bowler from her book, Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for A Life of Imperfection. The meeting was opened in prayer

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the January 16, 2024 were reviewed as submitted. With the correction of a date typo and one excused absence, the minutes were MSP as corrected.

Reports

Moderator Report

Moderator Len Morgan had no report.

Executive Presbyter Report

Executive Presbyter Noftzger reminded Council members of the summary documents from the Retreat that they had all receive previously. These reflections will remain part of the background reference as the Council wrestles with the reading and strategic thinking throughout the year.

Council members engaged with one another on initial observations of the book, Navigating the Future: Traditioned Innovation for Wilder Seas, authored by Gregory Jones and Andrew Hogue. Focusing on the perspective "traditioned innovation," a discussion occurred on its applicability in our churches and as a

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presbytery.

Rev. Noftzger provided some updates of pastoral concern within the Presbytery as well as reminders about important upcoming events.

1. Retirement of Bobbie Shaffor as Administrative Assistant on March 31
2. Pastor Getaway Retreat n April 9 at Pine Springs Camp
3. Installation of Rev. Owar Ojulu at Grace Community Presbyterian Church on April 14

Rev. Noftzger encouraged members of the task force for the “Anti-Racism policy” to review the revised draft and plan on meeting before the April Council meeting to bring a recommended version for consideration.

Rev. Noftzger shared five requested dates (20, 21, 25, 26, 27) for vacation in March. It was **MSP** to approve these dates.

Stated Clerk Report

- The Correspondence Log was included within the meeting documents folder.
- The schedule for the upcoming Council meeting dates (available in person at the Presbytery Center or by Zoom) included the following dates:
 - April 23
 - June 25
 - August 27
 - October 22
 - November 26
- Rev. Noftzger highlighted the upcoming opportunities for peer-review of the 2023 Session Minutes and Church Register. They include:
 - March 19—4:00 p.m. Pre-Presbytery, New Hope
 - April 17—5:30 p.m. Presbytery Center
 - May 28---5:00 p.m. Presbytery, Pleasant View
- Members were reminded of the current overtures for the 2024 GA are available on PC-Biz. If there is any desire for Redstone to concur with any of those not requiring Constitutional revision, that must be completed this spring.

Treasurer Report

John Dickson had provided a Treasurer’s report based upon the January, 2024 Income/Expense Report and Balance sheet. All documents were including in the meeting documents foler.

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Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

It was noted that Executive Director is on Sabbatical. A written report was received that identified current summer resident and day camp numbers compared to last year, as well as summer staff recruitment progress and strategies.

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

SubCommittees/Networks/Task Forces

Staff Support

- The subcommittee reminded Council members about the retirement of Bobbie Shaffor as Administrative Assistant and the recognition of her service at the upcoming Presbytery meeting.
- It was reported that Karen Gray, Administrative Operation Manager had begun work on February 5, 2024 for a period of orientation and training.
- Staff reviews will be conducted in the spring with surveys for responses on the Executive Presbyter to be solicited from Council members and a variety of other presbyters.

Worship

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

Rev. Blank acknowledged that the preferred preacher for September 24 was unavailable. She solicited recommendations from the Council.

Mission Network

- The Redstone Presbytery mission trip is scheduled for April 28-May 4 in Charleston, WV. Participants were commissioned at the conclusion of the Pancake dinner fundraiser held on Shrove Tuesday at Congruity Presbyterian Church.
- Throughout the year, both in Presbytery gatherings and through other communications, congregations will be invited to join with us in celebrating the 20th anniversary of our mission partnership with the Sudan and South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Churches.
- The annual gathering of all presbyteries and participants with a partnership with one of the

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Presbyterian churches will take place on May 20-22 at Camp Crestfield. Others interested in this partnership are invited to participate.

Finance and Property

- Having reviewed the request from the Puckety Presbyterian Church for renovations to the parking lot and building, the Committee recommended its approval. It was **MSP** to approve this recommendation and authorize Puckety to proceed with the process.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation

- No report. Will be meeting next week.

Communications

- Rev. Washburn reported on the meeting for reorganization with some new participants.
- In her requested time on the Presbytery agenda, she requested permission to conduct a short survey using a link to a Google form for both in-room and remote participants. It was **MSP** to authorize the network to conduct the survey as part of the gathering.

Addictions Ministry Network

- No report. Meeting next week.

Presbyterian Women

- A written report from Patty Hart was included in the meeting documents. Additionally, information about the Synod PW mission project Casa Materna was also provided.
- Discussion occurred about the possibility of inviting a PW representative to make a short presentation at the March Presbytery meeting. Rev. Brenda Barnes agreed to ask Patty Hart if they were interested and willing.

March 2024 Presbytery Agenda

The proposed agenda for the January 19 Presbytery gathering was presented. After review and discussion and the possible addition of PW, it was **MSP** to approve the submitted version with that possible addition.

Intercession

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

Adjournment

Having lifted up in prayer particular shared needs, it was **MSP** to adjourn the retreat meeting at 8:05 p.m. It was **MSP** to adjourn. A time of prayer based upon the people and prayer requests mentioned earlier was led by Rev. Curtis Paul. The meeting was closed at 7:40 p.m.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

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

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Action Items

- Request from First Presbyterian, Fayette City

The COM **recommended** approval of the request of the First Presbyterian, Fayette City to be dissolved and that an Administrative Commission, appointed by the moderator, be authorized to consider, decide, and conclude all matters related to the dissolution of the First Presbyterian congregation of Fayette City. At a congregational meeting on March 10, 2024, the First Presbyterian Church of Fayette City voted to dissolve the congregation. The vote was 4-0 in favor of dissolving the congregation. They have tried for a long time to keep the congregation viable. The church has had just over 100 years of ministry in the building.

It was **MSP** to concur with this motion. Rev. Donna Havrisko led the Presbytery in a prayer for the First Presbyterian Church of Fayette City

- The COM **recommended** approval of the revisions in the Family and Medical Paid Leave policy. The policy is included in Appendix C of the meeting packet.

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

- Pastor Getaway Retreat – April 9; Pine Springs Camp. Rev. Mary Kay Glunt drew attention to the upcoming Pastor Getaway Retreat at Pine Spring Camp on April 9, 2024. There is no charge for this report. Those who are planning on attending are asked to register for this event.

Information Items (as published)

March 7, 2024, Meeting

Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of February 1, 2024.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Minutes Review Dates
 - March 19; 4:00 p.m.; New Hope Presbyterian Church
 - April 17; 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery Center
 - May 28; 5:00 p.m.; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the following requests:
 - from Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church of Dunbar for a waiver of rotation for Margaret Gilchrist,

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Ruling Elder.

- from Harmony Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon for a waiver of rotation for Ronald Horne and Henry Kopczak, Ruling Elders.
- from Calvin United Presbyterian Church of Brownsville for a waiver of rotation for Rhonda Martini, Ruling Elder.
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the revised Paid Family Medical Leave as amended.
- **MSP** to recommend to the Presbytery the request of the First Presbyterian Church, Fayette City, if the way be clear, to dissolve the congregation (Congregational meeting on March 10, 2024).
- Discussion of the 2023 Church and Pastor stats (Meeting Documents) providing some insight in the ecology of the churches in the Presbytery.

Report of the Moderator

None at this time.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items - None at this time.
- Action Items - None at this time.

Search and Call

- Information Items
 - Transition Chart (handout)
 - Three congregations in transition.
 - Continued prayers for all three congregations in their transitional process.

COM Liaison Responsibilities and Suggested Timeline

- IPLF Upcoming workshops:
 - Reformed Worship and Sacraments (begins January 6)
 - Workshops
 - April 6; Scripture and Study Methods – Rev. Sharon Stewart
 - May 4; Preaching Laboratory – Rev. Skip Noftzger

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
Praises for growing Sunday school classes and for volunteers and help with funeral luncheons. Praises for craft vendor shows, designing prayer gardens, Bible club, and intergenerational discipleship. Praises for Easter egg hunts, Mission drives, food banks, life screening, and vibrancy in church and the community.
Healing prayers for heart catheterization and surgery, those facing kidney cancer and returning to the hospital, those having a difficult time adjusting to a new facility, undergoing neck surgery, those

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suffering from a stroke, and newborns in the hospital.

Prayers for churches losing members, financial challenges, and working hard to find a new normal with hopes of seeing the benefits. Prayers for finding music directors. Prayers for when a congregation is looking at closing that they reject the feeling of sadness or burden, but rather celebrate their accomplishment and their long history in the community.

- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time: John Morrow, Norma Murphy, Rodney Murray, Skip Noftzger, Ben Nti, David O'Hara, Owar Ojulu, Kirk Orr, Curtis Paul, John Pressler.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time: 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 Venon; United Presbyterian Church, Bolivar; Calvin Presbyterian Church, Brownsville; Ft. Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville.

New Business

- Pastor one-day retreat – Pine Springs – update. Commitment from East Liberty Presbyterian Church of their labyrinth for use at the retreat. Elders and liaisons are to encourage your pastors to come on Tuesday April 9th starting at 9:30 am and ending at 2:30.
- An informational share: This Sunday, March 10th, is Woman Composer Sunday. Established in 2021 by Society of Women Organist to raise awareness of the contributions from women composers during Women's History Month.

Adjournment

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Brian Kilbert.

February 1, 2024, Meeting

Approval of Minutes

MSP approval of the minutes of January 4, 2024 with corrections.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The Stated Clerk updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log (Meeting Documents).
- Annual Reports Due
 - Statistics – February 14, 2024
 - Waiver of Rotation forms
 - Terms of Call forms
 - Pastor agreement forms
 - Necrology
 - Session members
 - Manse inspection
- Minutes Review Dates
 - February 10, Enrichment Day in Johnstown
 - March 19; 4:00 p.m.; New Hope Presbyterian Church

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- April 17; 6:00 p.m.; Presbytery Center
- May 28; 5:00 p.m.; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church
- **MSP** to approve the recommendation to the Presbytery the request from Fort Burd Presbyterian Church, Brownsville for a waiver of rotation for Elders Mary Grace Bohna and Melissa Deal.

Report of the Moderator

- **MSP** to appoint Bob Sheehan as moderator at Colver.
- **MSP** to accept the resignation of Ben Nti from COM.

REPORTS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

Examinations and Membership

- Information Items – None at this time
- Action Items – None at this time

Search and Call

- Information Items
 - Transition Chart (handout)

COM Liaison Responsibilities and Suggested Timeline

- Organization – Chair/Convener/Reporter
- Re-assign church liaisons
- IPLF Upcoming workshops:
 - Reformed Worship and Sacraments (begins January 6)
 - Workshops
 - February 3; Church Elders and Church Money – Rev. Tom Moore
 - March 2; Death, Grief and Pastoral Care – Rev. Peggy Shannon
 - April 6; Scripture and Study Methods – Rev. Sharon Stewart
 - May 4; Preaching Laboratory – Rev. Skip Noftzger
 - Enrichment Day; February 10, 2024 at Westmont Presbyterian Church

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Prayers were lifted in answer to requests that had been received for:
Praises for new mission opportunities. Praises for a pastor called to a church, for planning Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. Praises for pancake dinners and Easter Egg Hunts providing the opportunity reach out to families in the communities. Praises for monthly lunches providing fellowship among 30 lunch-goers. Praises for young musician with new energy, for new folks involved in the church, and for providing a message that was recognized as being relevant.

Prayers to finding the answer to the question: Why I don't go to church. Prayers for new growth and new life after sacrifices and changes. Prayers for wisdom and leadership at the committee level.

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Prayers to bring back health and wholeness. Prayers for resolution on several concerns with finances, manse, and the state of property.

Prayers for those on medical leave, for continued healing, for wrist surgery, for those young and old going through cancer. Prayers for those that are grieving especially for the loss of a child.

- The following Teaching Elders and Commissioned Pastors were prayed for during this time:
Gail Mason, Bruce Maxwell, Dave McCabe, John McClure, Lee McDermott, David McElroy, Aleda Menchyk, John Michael, Art Moffat, Len Morgan.
- The following churches were prayed for during this time:
Grace Chapel Presbyterian Church, Smithfield; Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock; Level Green Presbyterian Church, Trafford; Tent Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Uniontown; East Liberty Presbyterian Church, Vanderbilt; Sewickley Presbyterian Church, West Newton; Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton; United Presbyterian Church, West Newton.

New Business

- Pastor one-day retreat – Pine Springs – update. The one-day retreat will be held on Tuesday April 9th starting at 9:30 am and ending at 2:30. Lunch will be provided with coffee and snacks available earlier in the day. Songs, crafts, time for fellowship activities such as ping pong and bocci ball. Rev. Hyiwot Teshome will provide a 20-minute presentation on suicide and depression. Strength of the day depends on getting the word out and the weather.
- Family and Medical Leave Policy revision – update. Reviewing the BOO amendment and rational and working to converge the amendment with the existing Redstone policy. Copies of the current policy and the work in progress are in the drop box and feedback is requested. A Women and Gender Justice document is also in the dropbox which provides ideas for covering worship leadership for 12 weeks of family leave. Working to include similar resources to the updated policy in the section on Additional Considerations. Plan to have final draft for review to the March COM meeting.

Adjournment

- It was MSP to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. with prayers offered by Rev. Jim Farrer.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Elder Robin Jennings, chair of CPM presented the report of the Committee. She gave an update on the status of the candidates under care of our Presbytery, Danielle Kendig and James Vlosich. There are also 5 individuals who are part of the IPLF: Tammy Noss, Karen Gray, Bill Poninsky, Jackie Eckenrod and Jeff Martini. A new cohort will begin in August 2024.

Action Items

The Committee on Preparation reported on the evaluation and progress of the training program for authorized preachers and commissioned pastors (IPLF). This is a shared training program with several of our surrounding presbyteries. There are 2 candidates and 1 Inquirer under the care of the Presbytery and Robin gave an update on the candidates and their ordination exams.

Committee on Preparation Information Items (as published)

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March 5, 2024, Meeting

- Approval of minutes of February 6, 2024, with corrections. Robin will be Danielle Kendig's mentor and Rev. Hyiwot will be James Vlosich's mentor. **MSP as amended.**
- Selection of names to submit to Nominating Committee for Ordination Exam Readers. Committee advancing ruling elder Robin Jennings and teaching elder John Manon.
- **Updates on Candidates/IPLF participants**
 - **Candidate Danielle Kendig** has passed all seminary exams as of February 2024. She is beginning her second field education experience at Conemaugh on March 11. Skip has revised the evaluation document for use with her supervisor. She is finishing her last two classes at PTS. She still needs to complete Boundary training for the Presbytery. Skip has met with Danielle regarding opportunities for a short-term student pastorate in Ebensburg and he and Danielle will be meeting with the Ebensburg Session so that they can become acquainted and determine if a good fit. If the way be clear for the experience, there may be opportunities for a continuing relationship at the conclusion of seminary.
- **Consultation with Candidate James Vlosich**

James is enthusiastic about his field ed experiences at Fairchance, and the variety of opportunities afforded to him. He is leading bible studies and small groups, as well as making visits to shut ins. He is continuing to juggle his workload at Trinity with field ed and course work. He acknowledged feeling both invigorated and stressed by the experience, and grateful for the support from family to handle everything. He sees the differences between the two congregations regarding organization, formality and structure, which has been eye-opening, as has the age difference. James has been used to dealing with younger people at Trinity and feeling a greater sense of control. His visitations at Fairchance are exposing him to an older demographic and he is learning to relate. He is meeting weekly with Molly Hall and appreciates the links both formal and informal between the congregations of Springhill and Fairchance and the added experiences he is having because of it. His current classes are Ethics and Theology and Global Traditions. James will be taking courses in Presbyterian Polity and Leadership and Pastoral Ministry. Hyiwot is also sharing a webinar link with James to further his education in pastoral ministry. He is on track for spring 2025 graduation. Will likely begin taking ordination exams in the fall of 2024. The committee prayed for James.
- **Consultation with IPLF authorized preacher Bill Poninsky**

Bill enjoys preaching and is scheduled most Sundays (Third, Leisenring, McClellandtown, Laurel Hill, Dunlap Creek, Rehoboth). He and his wife are both still working and sharing responsibilities for care of their elderly mothers. Bill still has several portions of the practicums to be completed in order to eligible for commissioning. He and John Manon are to establish a weekly schedule to work through several outstanding items, and Skip will also assist. Bill desires to be of greater service but recognizes the healthcare needs in the family are a barrier. The committee prayed for Bill.
- **Consultation with IPLF participant Jackie Eckenrod**

Jackie is completing her last IPLF course and is working through the practicums with her pastor Jennifer Frayer-Griggs at Westminster. She has been facilitating a GriefShare group and enjoys that immensely. As worship committee chair, she has had many opportunities to act on this practicum. Her challenge is church administration, particularly budget and finance as she notes she is not a numbers person. Jackie feels she is being called to pursue full-time hospice chaplaincy and is getting much practical

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experience as a casual chaplain to Redstone at Home hospice. Jackie will be commissioned, along with Robin, as ruling elder commissioners to the General Assembly in Salt Lake City. Jackie is eager to deepen her knowledge of the church in all its aspects and looking forward to GA. The committee prayed for Jackie.

Adjournment/ Mizpah Benediction

February 6, 2024, Meeting

- Approval of minutes of January 2, 2024, with corrections. Robin will be Danielle Kendig’s mentor and Rev. Hyiwot will be James Vlosich’s mentor. **MSP as amended.**
- Review of spring IPLF courses: **Previous:** Discipleship and Mentoring and Stewardship. **Upcoming:** March 2, Death, Grief and Pastoral Care; April 6, Scripture Study Methods, May 4, Preaching Lab, class in Reformed Worship and Sacraments

Updates on Candidates/IPLF participants

- Update on IPLF participant Jeff Martini - Feels sense of call and commitment; has supportive and encouraging family. He is progressing well. He has preached a few times at West Newton. He stated he is enjoying the program and has learned a lot about God. Committee prayed with Jeff.
- **Regarding field education**
 - Consultation with candidate **Danielle Kendig**
 - Danielle passed her Bible Content Exam, waiting to hear back about Theology exam (results due Feb. 12). She will be graduating in Spring 2024. Danielle is preparing for field education at Conemaugh Hospital with Carol Ann Ziecina CSJ as her supervisor/mentor.
 - The expectation is that Danielle will serve an average of 8-10 hours a week for 10 weeks and have regular weekly meetings with Carol Ann and some supervisory observation during the experience.
 - Skip will help Danielle update appropriate forms to capture program expectations, and observations/reports of progress for mid-point and conclusion of field education for Carol Ann’s use. If opportunities exist, Danielle is encouraged to extend her experiences to other Conemaugh facilities beyond the main hospital. The committee prayed with Danielle.
- **New Business**
 - March 5, committee will plan to meet with Jackie Eckenrod (IPLF) and candidate James Vlosich, Skip will check James’s availability. Robin will confirm with Jackie.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Action Items

The Nominating Committee nominates the following persons to serve as the Presbytery representatives for service as readers for the process of the PCUSA ordination examinations.

- Robin Jennings, RE, First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg
- Rev. John Manon, TE, West Newton United Presbyterian Church

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It was **MSP** to approve these nominations as readers of the ordination exams

The Nominating Committee nominates the following persons to serve the respective committees as noted:

- Council
 - Glenn Hart, RE, Harmony Presbyterian Church, Belle Vernon/Sewickley United Presbyterian Church, West Newton (Class of 2024)
- Committee on Ministry
 - Lynn Mance, RE, Avonmore Presbyterian Church (Class of 2024)
 - Rev. Chuck MacPherson, Honorably Retired (Class of 2025).

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

Nominating Committee Information Items (as published)

There are always opportunities on various subcommittees, task forces and networks. Please submit names of possible Ruling Elders for consideration to the Nominating Committee through either Glenn Hart or Skip Noftzger.

NEW BUSINESS

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

ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Associate Stated Clerk, Rev. Cliff Foster gave the attendance report. He reported that there were 40 clergy and 7 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 25 elders (representing 22 congregations), 0 Christian Educator, 1 by virtue of office, 5 visitors, 1 Corresponding Members for a total of 79. There were 45 congregations without elder representation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP

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

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Rev. Martin Ankrum offered the Resolution of Thanks for this meeting.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Skip Noftzger offered the benediction prayer.

ADJOURNMENT

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It was **MSP** to adjourn with prayer at 8:40 pm.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. via zoom videoconferencing and at the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock.

Leonard Morgan, Moderator

Cliff Foster, Recording Clerk