



2025 Stated Meeting

of the

Presbytery of Redstone
Presbyterian Church (USA)

September 23, 2025
6:00 p.m.



WEST HEMPFIELD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IRWIN, PA
OR
ONLINE (ZOOM)

**CONTACT PRESBYTERY OFFICE
FOR MEETING ID# AND PASSWORD**

*Communicate the Word...Carry on the Work...Change the World
Together*

**Directions to the West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
8 West Hempfield Drive
Irwin, Pa 15642
Phone: 724-863-1260**

From areas to the south: Take the PA Turnpike to the US 30 exit, Exit 67. Merge onto US 30, toward Greensburg. Go .3 miles to a traffic light, and turn right onto Arona Road. Go ½ mile and turn right onto Wendel Road. Go ½ mile and turn left onto West Hempfield Drive. Go .1 mile to the church, on the right.

From areas to the north and east: Take US 30 through Jeannette. Near the Kenny Ross Chevrolet Dealership and Norwin Messenger Service, turn left onto Wendel Road. Go 1.2 miles, proceeding through the intersection with Arona Road, and turn left onto West Hempfield Drive. Go .1 mile to the church, on the right.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE MEETING

Presbyters are reminded to get "Prayer Requests" to the Clerk as soon as possible as they will be lifted up during the prayers in the Worship Service.

Presbytery Offering

The offering for this meeting will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

To make your Offering through online contributions go to www.redstonepresbytery.org and click on the green "GIVE NOW" link on the left of the page.

You will need to login - or create a profile if you don't already have one - and then designate your offering in the space(s) provided. You may also mail your Offering to the Presbytery office at 1004 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601. Please designate "Presbytery Offering" on the memo line.



West Hempfield Presbyterian Church
Zoom meeting
September 23, 2025

5:30- 6:00 p.m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Registration and Fellowship</i> • <i>Announcement Loop</i> 	<i>In Person/Online</i>
	<u>THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE... GATHERING IN WORSHIP AND WORK</u>	<i>In Person or Zoom</i>
6:00 p.m.	<p>Presbytery Gathering Convenes CALL TO ORDER/A WORD OF WELCOME</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Roll (any new business should be submitted to the Interim Stated Clerk in writing before the end of worship) • Seating of Corresponding Members • Introduction of 1st time commissioners 	<i>Sanctuary/Zoom</i> Rev. Owar Ojulu Rev. Cliff Foster
	<u>At Worship: The Kingdom of God is Like.... (Appendix A)</u>	
	<p><u>Gathering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prelude -Call to Worship -Prayer of the Day -Hymn – “Here in This Place” -Prayer of Confession/ Assurance of Pardon -Passing the Peace -Hymn – Whose Goodness Shines on Me” -Prayer of Illumination - Scripture Reading: Luke 13: 18-19 - Proclamation in Music <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hymn: “ To What Can the Kingdom of God Be Compared” -Scripture Reading: Luke 15 -Proclamation in Art <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hymn: “A Woman and a Coin -Scripture Reading: Luke 8: 1-8 -Proclamation in Word: One Phrase Parables <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hymn “Wait for the Lord” -Offering -Sacrament – Lord’s Supper -Prayer after Communion - Hymn “Seek Ye First” 	(To God Be the Glory) By Carolyn Winfrey Gелlette
	<p><u>Closing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Hymn - “We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom” 	
	<u>AT WORK IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD CONTINUES.....</u>	
	<p><u>Reports</u> <u>Interim Stated Clerk</u>- Pages 5-8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consent Agenda • Proposed Presbytery Meetings for 2026 	Rev. Cliff Foster

	<p><u>Mission Network</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission – First Reading of Proposed Overtures – Pages 9-14 • Pine Springs Camp – Pages 16-19 <p><u>Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025</u></p> <p><u>Budget and Finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer’s Report – Page 20 • 2026 Budget (First Reading) – Pages 21-22 <p><u>Nominating Committee-</u> Page 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standing Committees <p><u>Council</u> – Pages 24-30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puckety Presbyterian Church Lease Agreement • Mission Study Sub-Committee <p><u>Committee on Ministry-</u> Pages 31-36</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministers Assistance Fund Guidelines • Dismissal of Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs to Presbytery of Pittsburgh • 2026 Recommended effective salary increases (Appendix B) <p><u>Interim Executive Presbyter</u> – Pages 37-40</p> <p><u>Committee on Preparation</u> – Written Report on Page 41</p> <p><u>Presbyterian Women</u> – Written Report on Page 42</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here’s What’s New, PW! (Appendix C) <p>Pilgrimage to Scotland – Pages 43-45 Article Compiled by Rev. Jim Farrer</p>	<p>Rev. Sylvia Carlson Greg Davis</p> <p>Rev. Molly Hall</p> <p>John Dickson</p> <p>Glenn Hart</p> <p>Len Morgan</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Martin Ankrum</p> <p>Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver</p>
	<p><u>Resolution of Thanks</u> <u>Benediction</u> <u>Adjournment</u></p> <p><i><u>The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on November 22, 2025, 9:00 a.m. by Zoom or at the Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville, PA.</u></i></p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver Rev. Andrew Wirt</p>

***By God's grace,
Communicate the Word,
Carry on the Work,
Change the World!***

INTERIM STATED CLERK’S REPORT:

1. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.

Stated Clerk Correspondence Log

Date Received	Received From	Content	Action
September 8, 2025 - email	Belle Veron, First	Settlement Statement for sale of Manse	Council & File
September 8, 2025 - mail	Richard Sturtz	Letter to Council regarding Pine Springs Camp to examine for artifacts	Council & File
August 28, 2025 - email	Ginger Harris - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment & Loan Program, Inc.	Commitment Letter & Requirements, Resolution to Guarantee & Certificate of incumbency documents for New Hope PC	Council & File
August 27, 2025 - mail	First PC of Avonmore	Ruling Elder Commissioned to Particular Service Agreement for Lynn Mance	COM & File
August 27, 2025 - email	North Huntingdon, New Hope	Investment & Loan Program/Loan Application	Council & File
August 13, 2025 - email	Johnstown, First	Waiver Request	COM & File
August 4, 2025 - mail	Johnstown, Westmont	Terms & Conditions of Dissolution of Ben Nti	COM & File
July 21, 2025 - mail	Belle Vernon, First	Letter for permission to sell the manse	Council & File
June 25, 2025 - mail	Rev. Sara Sadler	Pastoral Call to United Presbyterian Church of Rice Lake	File
June 23, 2025 - inperson	New Kensington, United	6.1.25-5.31.26 Covenant Pastor Agreement for Rebecca Siddle	COM & File
June 2, 2025 - inperson	New Florence, Trinity PC	2025 Terms of Call for Sara Sadler, Manse Report, Session Members	COM & File

2. There remain a number of churches who still need to have their session minutes and church register for 2024 reviewed to complete this prior to the November Presbytery meeting when the final report will be recorded in the Presbytery minutes.

- a. Contact your COM liaison who will make arrangements to review

them. If you are unsure of contact information for that person, please contact the Presbytery office.

- b. Drop your minutes book and register by the Presbytery office for review by the Interim Stated Clerk. You will be notified when they are reviewed, and you are able to retrieve them.

3. CONSENT AGENDA:

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

From Executive Committee

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meetings of the May 27, 2025 be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial and Treasurer's Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit. (Financials located after proposed Presbytery Meeting dates)
2. Council **presents** the adoption of the proposed 2026 Budget for consideration by the Presbytery for a "first reading." (*This is presented for a First Reading. The Presbytery will take action at the November meeting.*).

From the Committee on Ministry

1. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the First Presbyterian Church, Fairchance to waive the rotation of service for Kathleen Hockenberry, Ruling Elder; Randy Grim, Ruling Elder; Marcia Grimm, Ruling Elder and Barbara Reiprich, Ruling Elder.
2. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar to waive the rotation of service for Sherryl Scully, Ruling Elder and Cheryl Duncan, Ruling Elder.
3. The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that Presbytery grant the request from the First Presbyterian Church, Johnstown to waive the rotation of service for Roy Gindlesperger, Ruling Elder; Charnet Koch, Ruling Elder.

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

From the Nominating Committee

4. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2026 calendar year are presented below. We welcome invitations to serve as meeting host for any of these meetings.
 - January 24, 2026
 - March 24, 2026
 - May 26, 2026
 - September 22, 2026
 - November 21, 2026

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Percentage
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTION INCOME	\$14,076.99	\$215,297.82	\$353,000.00	60.99%
INTEREST INCOME	0.00	96.55	4,000.00	2.41%
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0.00	5,075.49	5,000.00	101.51%
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS				
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE	-1,437.00	-22,674.25	0.00	0.00%
Subtotal Release From Restrictions	-1,437.00	-22,674.25	0.00	0.00%
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	1,437.00	22,674.25	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL INCOME	14,076.99	220,469.86	362,000.00	60.90%
EXPENSES				
SHARED MINISTRY & MISSION COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$5,487.00	\$52,560.35	\$97,000.00	54.19%
COUNCIL	65.72	5,166.75	3,750.00	137.78%
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%
Subtotal Committee Expenses	65.72	5,166.75	5,250.00	98.41%
OPERATIONS PRESBYTERY STAFF	3,872.82	39,929.64	43,221.00	92.38%
EXECUTIVE STAFF	9,231.95	62,633.72	138,000.00	45.39%
ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	2,164.00	18,419.60	29,213.00	63.05%
EMPLOYER PAID FICA TAXES	714.56	5,169.04	9,100.00	56.80%
Subtotal Presbytery Staff	12,110.51	86,222.36	176,313.00	48.90%
APPORTIONMENTS RESTRICTED EXPENSE	8,773.75	70,190.00	105,285.00	66.67%
	0.00	829.86	0.00	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	30,309.80	254,898.96	427,069.00	59.69%
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS				
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$0.00	\$63,733.98	\$66,000.00	96.57%
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	63,733.98	66,000.00	96.57%
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	-\$16,232.81	\$29,304.88	\$931.00	3,147.68%

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
August 31, 2025

	PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID	% AS OF 8/31/2025	Unpaid Pledge Balance
Adah, Palmer	500.00	500.00		
Apollo, Poke Run	3,897.90	2,863.95	73%	1,033.95
Avonmore	1,000.00	1,161.50	116%	(161.50)
Belle Vernon, First	4,500.00	1,125.00	25%	3,375.00

	Pledge	Total Paid	% AS OF 8/31/2025	Unpaid Pledge Balance
Belle Vernon, Harmony	1,200.00	500.00	42%	700.00
Belle Vernon, Marion	2,475.00	2,475.00	100%	
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	3,000.00	1,750.00	58%	1,250.00
Bolivar		1,000.00		(1,000.00)
Brownsville, Calvin				
Brownsville, Ft. Burd				
Brownsville, Hopewell				
Colver		132.00		(132.00)
Cresson	2,000.00	1,500.00		500.00
Delmont				
Derry	1,000.00	500.00	50%	500.00
Dunbar, First		1,275.00		(1,275.00)
Dunbar, Laurel Hill	1,062.00			1,062.00
Ebensburg	1,000.00	946.08		53.92
Fairchance				
Farmington				
Fayette City, Little Redstone	2,000.00	2,000.00		
Greensburg, First	31,000.00	20,666.64	67%	10,333.36
Greensburg, Maplewood	6,000.00	4,000.00	67%	2,000.00
Greensburg, Westminster	6,000.00	4,000.00	67%	2,000.00
Irwin, First	25,000.00	14,583.31		10,416.69
Irwin, W. Hempfield	3,000.00	1,500.00	50%	1,500.00
Jeannette	2,400.00	1,200.00	50%	1,200.00
Johnstown, Bethany	1,620.00	1,215.00	75%	405.00
Johnstown, First	6,000.00	4,200.00	70%	1,800.00
Johnstown, Second	2,000.00			2,000.00
Johnstown, Westmont	16,000.00	12,000.00	75%	4,000.00
Lake Lynn				
Latrobe, Main St.	26,500.00	15,470.00		11,030.00
Latrobe, Spring St.	3,000.00	3,000.00		
Leisenring	500.00	500.00	100%	
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove				
Lower Burrell, Grace	7,000.00	4,666.64		2,333.36
Lower Burrell, Puckety	10,000.00	5,950.00	60%	4,050.00
Masontown	200.00	200.00		
McClellandtown	5,200.00	3,900.00		1,300.00
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Ck.	150.00			150.00
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion		1,145.00		(1,145.00)
Murrysville, First	12,000.00	6,000.00		6,000.00
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	23,040.00	14,658.00		8,382.00
Murrysville, Union	4,000.00	3,160.00	79%	840.00
N. Alexandria, Community	4,000.00	2,000.00	50%	2,000.00
N. Alexandria, Congruity	6,200.00	4,588.02	74%	1,611.98
New Florence, Bethel	3,000.00	2,000.00	67%	1,000.00
New Florence, Trinity	3,825.00	2,550.00	67%	1,275.00
New Kensington	4,757.00	2,786.85	59%	1,970.15
New Salem	2,000.00	1,321.00	66%	679.00
N. Huntingdon, New Hope	5,700.00	3,800.00	67%	1,900.00
Patton	3,465.00	3,465.00	100%	
Revloc	1,800.00	1,200.00	67%	600.00
Scottdale	500.00		0%	500.00
Smithfield, Grace Chapel	900.00		0%	900.00
Smock, Pleasant View	10,000.00	5,100.00	51%	4,900.00
Trafford, Level Green	5,925.00	4,049.56	68%	1,875.44
Uniontown, Tent				
Uniontown, Third		814.00		(814.00)
Uniontown, Trinity	2,700.00	1,341.50	50%	1,358.50
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty	1,000.00	680.00	68%	320.00
West Newton, Sewickley	540.00		0%	540.00
W. Newton, Sewickley UP				
West Newton, United				
Totals	270,556.90	175,439.05		95,117.85

Mission Network

Presentation

- **First Reading of 3 Proposed Overtures: Calling for a new Missiological Statement for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); On Prohibiting Non-Disclosure Covenants in Employee Relations; A Call for Investigation of the Restructure of PC(U.S.A.) World Mission.**
- **Pine Springs**
- **Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025**

Calling for a New Missiological Statement for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

The Presbytery of _____ overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the PC(USA):

1) To direct staff, accompanied by an advisory group to be named by the Moderator or Co-Moderators, to develop a new missiological statement on which the global engagement of the PC(USA) will be founded, answering at minimum these questions, and other questions as they emerge:

- a. What is the missiology of the PC(USA), and how does this guide the church to serve God and neighbor and inform the global engagement of the church?
- b. How does this missiology relate to past statements and mission work, and how does it serve the contexts of the mission of God undertaken by the PC(USA) nationally and internationally?
- c. Who engages in the global mission of the PC(USA), and how are each group or individual engaging?
- d. What new and renewed models are in place or emerging to serve God's mission through the PC(USA) and its members and member entities, agencies, networks, mid-councils, and congregations?
- e. What is the PC(USA) sending body framework or frameworks for mission, and what protections and safeguards for those sent and those with whom they serve are in place or need to be developed?
- f. What funding models are in place or need to be developed?

Staff and the advisory group are directed to ensure meaningful consultation with representatives of the following groups in their work:

1. Missiological scholars who are members of the PC(USA)
2. Former staff members of PC(USA) World Mission who have served internationally with and under the supervision of global partners
3. PC(USA) Mission Networks
4. PC(USA) mid councils engaged in global mission
5. Congregations engaging in global mission
6. PC(USA) global partners

1. To report to the 228th General Assembly Rationale

The termination of Presbyterian World Mission (PWM) by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in 2025 exposes a profound lack of understanding by the denomination's leadership concerning a Reformed missiological framework. Since its inception, the Reformed theological tradition has distinguished itself as an ecumenical and transnational church, developing and funding partnerships at home and abroad as part of its evangelical* mission. In the sixteenth century, Calvin's Geneva became a haven for Protestant refugees fleeing persecution throughout Catholic Europe. Himself a displaced political refugee, John Calvin's ministry in Geneva became a beacon for refugees throughout Europe, who came to Geneva to learn under Calvin to then replicate his successes back home. The Genevan church not only supported the repatriation of Protestant refugees in Europe, but it also funded the first Protestant mission in the New World with the establishment of a French Huguenot colony in Brazil in 1555.

However, not only is the closure of PWM a betrayal of the global scope of Presbyterian ministries, but it comes at the expense of our most foundational ecclesiological commitments. Protestant reformers in the sixteenth century were careful not to replace one clerical hierarchy with another, as evidenced by the representational church order described in the fourth book of John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559). Given every Christian is subject to Christ's lordship, from the lowliest laborer to the highest ruling monarch, the communion of saints (*communio sanctorum*) is ultimately an egalitarian fellowship (*koinōnia*), a shared life together in which all believers are responsible for and accountable to one another. This, above all else, is the basis on which ecclesiastical and civil polity is founded. Therefore, the kind of unilateral decision-making that led to the closure of PWM without adequate dialogue and consultation reflects a careless disregard for our most foundational Reformed theological commitments.

One of the reasons given by the Interim Unification Agency (IUA) to justify the closure of PWM was the inherent coloniality of missions. When we refer to the coloniality of missions, we are referring to a way of doing missions such that usually Western missionaries impose Western ideas of "gospel", "civilization," and "progress" onto local cultures. Historically, missions often marched in lockstep with colonial projects and for that reason the document, "Presbyterians Do Mission in Partnership," presented a model of partnership in which Presbyterian mission co-workers established partnerships with local communities, allowing themselves to be guided by their wisdom and guidance. Instead of perpetuating a colonial attitude marked by a one-sided relationship in which the missionary party holds the power and resources and could, therefore, dictate to the local mission partners what they should do, Presbyterian mission workers have followed this more egalitarian and contextual missiological model assiduously and, in the process, become valuable colleagues for local churches around the world.

If colonialism is marked by a one-sided relationship in which one party holds the power to dictate or compel the other party or parties, then the actions of the Interim Council fit that bill. If PC(USA) global partners were indeed partners, then they would've been consulted before engaging in the radical reconfiguring of PC(USA) World Mission. Based on the reactions of many global partners, it appears that this consultation did not happen, and the unilateral action came as a surprise to them. This not only violates the missiology of "Presbyterians Do Mission in Partnership" but also treats our global partners like expendable mission co-workers who could be terminated unilaterally and without consultation in order to preserve the financial viability of the PC(USA).

Second, if the PC(USA) is not adhering to its official missiological statements, what missiology then drives this move to eliminate PC(USA) World Mission? In statements on the matter, the leadership has moved to transition PC(USA) World Mission into a ministry called Global Ecumenical Partners. The rationale given by IUA staff for this abrupt restructuring was a desire to increase interconnectedness in the global church while addressing the financial instability of the PC(USA). With regards to the former, interconnectedness does not reduce the need for mission. Conservative denominations are doubling down on their missionary work, filling the void where the PC(USA) has withdrawn, advancing theological, ecclesiological, and missiological ideas that differ from our own. Furthermore, the work of PC(USA) World Mission was already ecumenical on a local level. Many mission co-workers participated in ecumenical partnerships locally to engage justice issues. However, what the IUA is referring to is not these local ecumenical efforts but supranational organizations such as the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). There is no evidence that the PC(USA) will increase its financial support to the WCRC while it presses the WCRC to take over the work of PC(USA) World Mission, which makes the decisions by IUA leadership look like an effort to outsource world missions to the WCRC. In other words, leadership has failed to demonstrate how the move toward increasing the interconnectedness of the world church translates to the drastic action of eliminating PC(USA) World Mission.

Sadly, this leaves financial sustainability as the only plausible rationale for the elimination of PC(USA) World Mission. Financial sustainability motivated by the fear of a declining denomination cannot serve as a theological “state of exception” that allows the PC(USA) to violate its own theological/missiological statements. We worship the God who sends the church into the world, not the Mammon who seeks its own self-preservation. In the end, there was no justifiable missiological justification for the termination of PC(USA) World Mission and the unjust firings of its mission co-workers. Granted, the closure of PC(USA) World Mission comes at a time when global ministries are struggling to make up for funding deficits after the Trump administration cut funding for programs the US Agency for International Development (USAID). But the PC(USA)’s fiscal worries cannot be allowed to constitute a state of exception that allows the denomination to act against its own doctrinal and polity statements. Such a “missiology” is neither a theology of missions nor is it decolonial in any sense of the term. This theological lacuna, which has already unjustly upended the work of 79 mission co-workers and thrown a curveball at so many partnerships around the world, needs to be addressed in a properly Reformed manner. This overture aims to produce a missiological statement that can guide the PC(USA)’s mission policy now and in the future.

* The term “evangelical” is here used in the original sixteenth century meaning to refer to the Gospel-centered reformations that came to differentiated Protestantism from the Roman Catholic Church. In our day and age, the capitalized form of this term (“Evangelical”) is used to refer to various conservative religious movements in the United States informed by the publication of *The Fundamentals* (1910-1915), a series of tracts that provide "a new statement of the fundamentals of Christianity" in response to the Social Gospel and Protestant Liberalism.

On Prohibiting Non-Disclosure Covenants in Employee Relations

The Presbytery of _____ overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the PC(USA):

- 1) To direct staff to rewrite employee policies concerning the use of non-disclosure covenants with all employees, and to re-establish the authority of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in hiring and employee relations, making clear that when state law contradicts the Constitution, the Constitution holds primary authority in employee relations with staff of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at all levels;**
- 2) To report on revisions in employee policies to the 228th General Assembly (2028).**

Rationale

The 226th General Assembly approved an overture that was subsequently passed by the presbyteries, which operates to prohibit the use of non-disclosure agreements in pastoral calls (POL-08, On Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships). The rationale for that overture reminded commissioners of the vows people take at ordination to serve one another, God, and God’s church with love, citing W-4.0404. The overture noted that non-disclosure agreements move people in congregations and other bodies of the church to the opposite of this, and to “engender speculation rather than truth-seeking”, inviting “speculation that is typically a disservice to all parties”.

Mission co-workers employed by PC(USA) World Mission found themselves in a like position to those who have served under non-disclosure agreements in and with the councils of the denomination. When the decision was made to terminate all mission co-worker positions in March 2025, those serving in these positions served under a non-disclosure covenant, which staff of the Interim Unified Agency (IUA) have labored since the plan to terminate mission co-workers was made public to define as *not* a non-disclosure agreement. However, mission co-workers who chose to share their sense of what was happening received threats and warnings from

supervisory IUA staff, who reminded them of the covenant under which they served, and raised the possibility of losing severance if mission co-workers continued sharing about their experiences.

Additionally, the law of the state of Kentucky was brought to bear in the mission co-worker firing process. Mission co-workers served under appointment for a set term of years. So, they understood – as did the global partners with whom they served – that their employment was secure for at least the terms of their appointments. However, Kentucky has “at-will” employment, and this was referenced to mission co-workers who brought up the issue of their appointment terms. Mission co-workers were advised by IUA staff that they would not receive an answer to questions about why their positions were being terminated, and the right to fire employees at will and without cause was also referenced.

It has become clear that non-disclosure covenants and non-disclosure agreements are an example of a distinction without a difference. It has also become increasingly clear that the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has the capacity to lead the denomination toward more faithful relationships between all in the church and the world, and between employer and employee, and should be thus used to do this faithful work. It is crucial, then, that those who serve the IUA and our global partners be accorded the respect and love outlined in the Constitution of the PC(USA). This overture seeks to employ and build upon the wisdom of the 226th General Assembly in prohibiting non-disclosure agreements to prohibit non-disclosure covenants as well, and to expand this prohibition in hiring, termination, and employee relations with all IUA staff (and the staff of any future agency leading the denomination), wherever they may serve in the world.

A Call for Investigation of the Restructure of PC(USA) World Mission

The Presbytery of _____ overtures the 227th General Assembly (2026) of the PC(USA):

- 1. To direct the Moderator or Co-Moderators to form a commission tasked with the following:**
 - a. To investigate decision making processes employed and actions taken that resulted in the elimination of the PC(USA) World Mission and the termination of all appointed Mission Co-Worker positions of those who were serving in March 2025, and the formation of a new model of global engagement;**
 - b. To determine the extent to which the decision making processes employed and actions taken by the Unification Commission and the Interim Unified Agency conformed to or violated policy mandates of the General Assembly including (but not limited to) *Presbyterians do Mission in Partnership, Gathering for God’s Future, CR-08 On Maintaining the International Presence of Global Mission Personnel to Embody Our Christian Witness, and Reformed theological understandings of church found in the Constitution of the PC(USA);***
 - c. To review comments, advice, and guidance that the former Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Interim United Agency, and the Unification Commission solicited or received from global partners concerning the revision of the PC(USA)’s model of global engagement during the period 2018-2025 (including but not limited to the series of global partner consultations held in 2018-2019, the consultations held in connection with the development of “Reflecting, Reimagining, and Making Space for Rebuilding” prepared by CounterStories Consulting in September 2021, consultations with the Global Partner Roundtable, and responses to the survey the Interim Unified Agency sent to global**

partners in December 2024) and to assess the extent to which partner input was or was not accommodated;

- d. To report to the 228th General Assembly the findings of the commission, and to recommend appropriate actions of acknowledgement, confession, repentance, and reparation.

Rationale

Citing its commitment to redress the “historical harms of missionaries” and “help the church better engage,” the Interim Unified Agency (IUA) of the PC(USA) announced the dissolution of PC(USA) World Mission in February 2025 and terminated the ministries of all Mission Co-Workers the following month. Without posting new positions and specific skills sought, the IUA hired some Mission Go-Workers as global and domestic ecumenical liaisons, positions that have yet to be defined, to take part in a new model of global engagement that violates the missiological principles of prior GA actions, causing division between those Mission Co-Workers who were offered a position in the new model and the majority of Mission Co-Workers, who were not.

For almost 200 years, Presbyterian World Mission provided the denomination, local congregations, and mid councils opportunities to connect with the global church, participate in God’s mission around the world, learn from the faith and experiences of our siblings abroad, and receive leaders, such as the Rev. Syngman Rhee and the Rev. Jihyun Oh, and thus live out the church’s calling to be connectional and apostolic. Stories about what God is doing among our siblings abroad, mission interpretation from mission co-workers, and the work of PC(USA) Mission Networks formed and informed the denomination’s understanding of God, God’s people, and God’s world. The dissolution of PC(USA) World Mission has deprived the denomination of opportunities to connect with, to learn from, and to be led by the global church.

In its enthusiasm to cut costs, IUA’s firing of the mission co-workers follows neither the mandate of the 226th General Assembly nor facilitates the denomination’s global engagement. Instead, subcontracting our mission work to ecumenical agencies headquartered in Europe has weakened the bond between the General Assembly, local congregations and mid councils with our global partners.

By not communicating with local congregations, mid councils, and the Mission Networks engaged in many global regions, the IUA left much of the PC(USA) ignorant of decisions being made and how Presbyterians could respond. Congregations and mid councils who have faithfully donated funding for specific ministries, trusting PC(USA) World Mission as a reliable partner in mission, now find themselves betrayed by the denomination.

Ironically, in its eagerness to “decolonize” the denomination’s “theology, missiology, and practical engagement,” the IUA employed colonial, top-down strategies. 20 years of discernment in which global partners and Presbyterians engaged about mission theology and modalities was not consulted and the voices of our global partners were not heard. Surveys sent to global partners in December 2024, inquiring about the relevance of the current model of mission and the ministry of mission co-workers laboring with them, were responded to. But these were not received by the IUA before decisions were announced by the IUA about the withdrawal of all mission co-workers and a turn from incarnational ministries of appointed mission personnel living in community and solidarity with our partners. This created significant ministry disruption for many global partners and was received as completely insensitive to the relationship between the PC(USA) and our partner churches. Written communications sent to global partners announcing the termination of mission co-worker positions did not name those whose positions were eliminated, identify the ministries in which they were invited to take part, or thank the partners for hosting our mission co-workers. The decision to terminate mission co-workers was unilateral, and the communication about it proved to be paternalistic. By not consulting our global siblings and communicating very late, the IUA did not present itself as an equal ally, but

as a dominant partner in a position of power, speaking to subordinates whose opinions were not needed for decisions to be made.

The process of eliminating this critical aspect of the church's calling culminated in the termination of the position of Mission Co-Worker in March 2025. Mission co-workers not only lost their jobs but were restricted from openly grieving their loss to continue the ministry to which they felt called by God. By employing them, PC(USA) World Mission had affirmed their calling and gifts for this ministry. Congregations and mid councils also affirmed their calling and gifts, as did our global partners by inviting and hosting them. In response to their call, mission co-workers identified themselves with and advocated for the least of our siblings abroad. They joined our global partners and represented the denomination's commitment to justice, reconciliation, and holistic transformation.

This overture calls for the processes by which these decisions were made to be investigated, to determine how the decisions conform with or violate PC(USA) GA actions, to review the years of global consultations and study results, and to report to the 228th General Assembly with appropriate recommendations.

Information Items

August 14, 2025

Opening scripture: Matthew 28:18-20

Discussion of the 3 proposed overtures to the 227th General Assembly of the PCUSA.

We will forward these overtures to council.

We adjourned with prayer.

July 10, 2024

Devotions Deuteronomy 10:12-19

Prayer Requests: flooding in Texas and other places; Joyce Norris with late stage pancreatic cancer with liver metastases, as well as her husband, John, who is also not well; traveling mercies for Sally and Jim as they head to the NC beach; as well as others who are traveling this summer; and for Westmont Presbyterian Church.

Offering for September Presbytery Meeting - to be finalized at September committee meeting

Meeting in July at the New Wilmington Mission Conference - 7/21-22/25 There will be events with former mission co-workers on Monday from 1-4 and an event honoring mission co-workers in the amphitheater from 7-9, and then again on Tuesday from 1-4.

Mission Projects -

Brother's Brother is sending aid to the Texas flood victims - Debby sent an e-mail to the organization to determine if there are any activities that can be done to help. Kits are assembled for transport to the area. They are assembled at a warehouse in Pittsburgh. Are they looking for assistance in assembling the kits?

Having knowledge of a number of mission opportunities locally and elsewhere, can we develop a resource of information and knowledge any interested groups from our churches can access to participate in a mission project? A section on the Presbytery website? List some opportunities in the eNews?

A member of Debbie's church is aware that Samaritan's Purse is working with a church in the Triadelphia, WV area.

It was suggested that Patti Hart be asked if she would speak about her recent experience working with the Redstone Mission Team.

June 12, 2025

Devotions: Lamentations 3:22-24

Prayer Requests

For the people of this country who are protesting what is going on. For the people of Sudan and South Sudan; for Haiti; for the Haitians in Charleroi; the Rev. Sharon Woome; Ukraine and Russian people; Israel and Gaza; for countries in turmoil; for our government; for all of the people who are in need of safety and peace and hope; for our congress for compassion and guts to do the right thing; for the victims of the plane crash in India; for the people of India and Pakistan. For Cathy Gana and other people who are here legally but who are frightened.

Offering for September Presbytery Meeting -

South Sudan and PDA are possibilities; we will make a decision later this summer as we learn more.

We received a letter from the Outreach Foundation noting that they are continuing in mission.

July 21 and 22: at the New Wilmington Mission Conference - July 21 and 22 to honor the service of mission co-workers who have been furloughed and hear from them. The service to honor their service will be Monday evening July 21 in the amphitheater. There will be gatherings with them Monday and Tuesday afternoons. You may register for part or all of the New Wilmington Mission Conference at Westminster College. [2025 Conference - New Wilmington Mission Conference](#)

Dawn Sherwood has a Bible study with folks in Pakistan every Wednesday and is very concerned about the situation there. People are going hungry. She is trying to find ways to assist them.

Mission Projects -

There is now a PDA site that has been established for work in western North Carolina. Sylvia isn't sure quite where it is but she will find out.

Potential places to go. It was suggested to work with Central Westmoreland Habitat for Humanity for young people. It was also mentioned to take youth to the Church World service and Lutheran World Relief site in New Windsor, MD. We also talked about Church world Service Pack Kits. The website is CWS.org

We are seeking projects that would provide experiences for kids to learn and grow in thinking of others.

We noted the newspaper article regarding the Carpenter's Apprentice program at First Presbyterian, Irwin along with several other area churches that do needed repairs on homes.



Pine Springs Camp

BUILT FOR LIFE! SUMMER 2025



It was another wonderful summer of ministry to campers. The sounds of camp echoed across the hills in a special way this summer. Our 2025 Summer Staff were incredible servants of the Lord and we were excited to have our first international staff serve this summer.

We are grateful to God that many campers expressed how they encountered Christ in a vital way through this summer. Through all our summer camp programs, we were able to serve almost 1300 campers this summer.

TOTAL CAMP NUMBERS

	2023	2024	2025
Overnight	809	850	845
Day Camp OS	90	135	129
Day Camp TDC	68	135	145
Mission EX	65	88	164
	1032	1208	1283

DAY CAMP CONTINUES TO GROW

With the addition of our Traveling Day Program we have been able to increase the number of campers and families that are a part of our summer camping program. The On-site Day Camp Program offered one more week this summer. We are now operating 7 full weeks of Day Camp! (4 On-site and 3 Off-site). Dan Duffield and his staff have provided a fun and spiritually enriching program to all campers.

A special thank you is extended to the following Redstone Presbytery Churches who have been faithful partners in our Traveling Day Camp Program.

- *Murrysville Presbyterian Church*
- *First Presbyterian Church of Irwin*
- *New Hope Presbyterian Church*
- *Latrobe Presbyterian Church*

DAY CAMP NUMBERS	2025
ON-SITE	
WEEK 1	34
WEEK 2	31
WEEK 3	17
WEEK 4	47
TOTAL	129
TDC	
M-VILLE	55
IRWIN	52
LATROBE	38
TOTAL	145
TOTAL DAY CAMP	274

FALL RETREATS AND PROGRAMS

FALL FUSION- *Here we GROW!*

(GRADES 4-6) September 13th-14th, 2025

What is FALL FUSION ?

Fall Fusion is PSC's fall retreat for campers who are in 4th - 6th grade! Our desire is to continue to provide an amazing environment where campers can grow in their faith and have a "vital encounter with Jesus Christ." WHEN: Saturday, September 13th to Sunday, September 14th

-CHECK-IN: 11:00am - NOON at the Refuge

-CHECK-OUT: 4:00 pm at the

Refuge WHERE: PINE

SPRINGS CAMP

PSC is awesome in the fall. Campers will be staying in the Creekside cabins. Also, some of the summer camp counselors will be coming back to serve as retreat counselors.

WHO:

FALL FUSION is open to anyone currently in 4th to 6th grade.

*space limited to 22 boys and 22

girls COSTS:

→ CAMPERS: \$90

→GROUPS: \$80 for 10 or more from the same church

**Price includes food, lodging and camp activities. (t-shirts will be available for an additional \$15)

→ CHECKS should be made payable to: PINE

SPRINGS CAMP DEPOSIT:

a \$25 non-refundable deposit must accompany the registration form to reserve your spot for this retreat. A confirmation packet will be sent to you after we receive your deposit.

REGISTER: <https://www.pinesprings.org/fall-fusion>

WOMEN IN THE WOODS-October 3rd-4th, 2025

Women in the Woods is a retreat designed to be physically and spiritually refreshing for women of all ages. The teaching will be incredible, and the retreat will be packed with great singing, fun, laughter and fellowship. The retreat will run from Friday to Saturday evening, culminating with a special dinner celebration. Consider a Women in the Woods retreat for you, your church, or just bring a friend and join us!

RETREAT DETAILS:

COST: \$100 (This fee includes all teaching sessions, 3 meals, accommodations and all activities.)

COMMUTER: \$80

GROUPS: \$90 *for 5 or more women

ARRIVAL TIME: Registration will be at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, October 3rd

DEPARTURE: Saturday Evening,

October 4th @ 7:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION:

<https://www.pinesprings.org/women-in-the-woods>

Kelly Miskis

SPEAKER- WORSHIP DIRECTOR- WELLNESS PRACTITIONER
Matthew 11:28

Mind

Solascriptura means that Scripture alone is authoritative for the faith and practice of the Christian. The Bible is complete, authoritative, and true. "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).



Body

Experiencing the Peace of Christ within our being is something we can all learn how to do. The work of the Holy Spirit dwells within us and Jesus reminds us in John 14:27 that His peace is for us. That He gives it to us. Kelly will help you learn how to navigate back to this Peace in all seasons.



Heart

"Tune my heart to sing your praise." Worship lays the foundation of letting Christ rule in our hearts. Because our hearts are so prone to wander, we must keep the first things first. As we open our hearts, we allow His love to fill the empty spaces, bringing healing and hope.



MEALS: Meals that are included for the retreat are Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner.

*If you have any food allergies, please let us know

THE BIG ONE-(Grades 6-12)

What is the BIG one?

The BIG one is an amazing way to experience a retreat at Pine Springs Camp! Packaged like a student conference, the BIG one invites students in grades 6-12 for a retreat full of evangelism, fellowship, discipleship, worship and a whole lot of fun – Pine Springs Camp style. The weekend is packed with activities, games, entertainment, worship, teaching, friends and fun. This experience is great for individual campers and youth groups! Want to catch a glimpse of what is Big One is like? Make sure you plan to attend The BIG one in 2025!

Retreat Theme: Rooted

Featured Speaker: Micah Marshal

Featured Band: The Pine Springs Camp All-Star Band

Retreat Dates: Friday, October 17th to Sunday, October 19th

Additional Retreat Info:

Check-in: 7:00 p.m. at the

Refuge Check-out: 1:00

p.m. from the Refuge

Cost: Campers - \$115 per camper; \$105 for 10 or more from the same youth group Youth Leaders - \$55
***Price includes Lodging, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday Brunch

Deposit: A \$25 non-refundable deposit must accompany the registration form to reserve your spot for this retreat.

Register at <https://www.pinesprings.org/the-big-one>

Group Registration: If your youth group is interested, please contact the Pine Springs Camp Office (814.629.9834) or email Mike Hurley (mike@pinesprings.org) to receive a group discount information.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR SUMMER 2025 STAFF



A sincere thank you is extended to the following churches who contributed funds to help us provide catered meals on Sundays.

- Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian Church
- The Church of the Covenant
- First Presbyterian Church of Washington
- Mary Shaw Mission Society of Upper Buffalo Presbyterian Church
- Ebensburg Presbyterian Church

There were several individuals who contributed as well. Thank you for feeding our stomachs and souls!

OUR ANNUAL SPORTING CLAY FUNDRAISING EVENT IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT THE HIGHLANDS AT 7-SPRINGS

This is a great opportunity for those "Sporting Clay Sportsmen" to help support Pine Springs Camp.

All funds help support the general operating budget of camp. It has turned into a great day of fun and great food for many and has been a great blessing to our ministry.

For more information about registration or sponsorship opportunities go to <https://www.pinesprings.org/sportingclays> or email greg@pinesprings.org



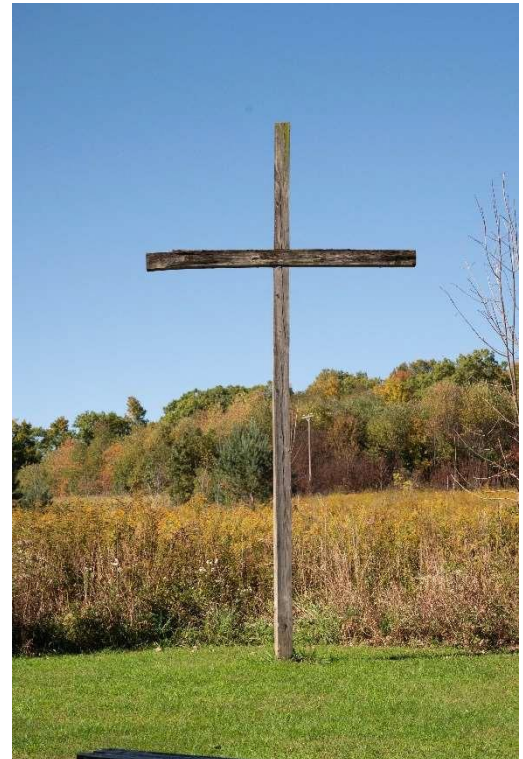
SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 4:30-7:30 PM FOR THE ANNUAL FRIENDS DINNER CORE EVENT ENTER, IRWIN, PA

More information is forthcoming but mark your calendars for this evening of celebrating the Pine Springs Camp Ministry. Please consider having your church be a Table Sponsor and/or providing a basket or item for our Silent Auction.

Please contact Greg for general information at greg@pinesprings.org. If you have questions about the Silent Auction contact Ellie @ellie@pinesprings.org

*Rejoice in that day and leap for joy,
because great is your reward in
heaven!*

Luke 6:23



Budget and Finance

Presentation and Action Items

- Treasures Report
- The Council notes the first reading of the 2026 budget. Second reading and consideration of the budget will occur in the November meeting.

Income & Expense Report

This report provides an unaudited overview of the August 2025 finances for the Redstone Presbyter. The month of August represents the eighth (8th) operating month of the budget year. At this time, it is hopeful 67% of pledged Church Commitments are received to address mission objectives of the Presbytery.

Financial Overview / Income

Revenue received for Church Commitments totaled \$11,990, versus a monthly goal of \$25,667. A shortfall of the monthly income goal is recognized at -\$13,667. Total income, which includes funds from Temporarily Restricted accounts, Interest Income, and Miscellaneous funds, totaled \$1,437.

Church Commitment Activity

- 49 Pledges have been offered
- 16 Churches have not offered a pledge
- 47 Churches have provided a payment in August
- 19 Churches have met or exceeded the 67% benchmark for this period
-

Financial Overview/Expenses

Total Expenses for the month totaled \$30,310. Expenses for the month exceeded income totaling - \$16,090. YTD, income is better than expenses totaling \$29,305. Expense Percentage (%) total for the year is 60%, which is below the target of 67%. In review of monthly line item expenses, there are expenses which exceed the 67% benchmark. Such expenses are either timing related or unavoidable. It is noted relocation expenses for Rev. Lon Weaver, IEP are recognized.

Investments & Holdings

Ameriprise investments for the month of August experienced a positive change in value totaling \$12,434, and YTD \$56,242. Ending value totals \$737,991.00.

Other investments and holdings consisting of First Commonwealth (\$70,254), PILP (\$10,000) Petty Cash \$250.00) and New Covenant (\$369,027) totals \$449,531
Total Investments & Holdings = \$1,187,522

2026 Budget Proposal

INCOME/RECEIPTS

	2025 Budget	2026 Budget
Shared Ministry/Mission		
Church contributions	353,000.00	345,000.00
Shared Directed		
Interest/Investments	4,000.00	4,000.00
Reserves(total)	66,000.00	62,000.00 ***
(directed funds)		
Miscellaneous	5,000.00	5,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	428,000.00	416,000.00

EXPENSES

Shared Ministry

Council

Council expense	750.00	750.00
Communications	300.00	2,000.00
Presbytery meetings	2,500.00	2,500.00
Website	200.00	3,000.00
PCUSA meetings	2,000.00	3,000.00
Equipping Leadership	4,000.00	4,000.00
Engaging Congregations	4,000.00	4,000.00
Enabling Ministry Networks	4,000.00	4,000.00

Committee On Ministry

Committee Expense	500.00	500.00
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Committee on Preparation

Committee Expense	1,000.00	750.00
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Committee-Nominating

Committee on Representation

Executive Presbyter

Interim EP Salary /Board of Pensions	125,000.00	110,000.00
Interim EP Study Leave	1,500.00	1,500.00
Interim EP Professional Services	1,500.00	1,500.00
Interim EP Travel	5,000.00	5,000.00
Interim Stated Clerk	5,000.00	5,200.00

Christian Education/Resources

Christian Education		
Triennium	0.00	1,500.00
Resource Center	500.00	500.00

Denominational/Ecumenical Ministry

Christian Associates	1,500.00	1,500.00
Synod of Trinity(per capita)	19,085.00	17,993.00
General Assembly(per capita)	86,200.00	84,416.00

TOTAL SHARED MINISTRY	264,535.00	253,609.00
Shared Mission		
Sudan Partnership	16,000.00	16,000.00
Shared		
Directed		
Pine Springs Camp	35,000.00	35,000.00
Shared		
Directed		
Synod Mission	3,000.00	3,000.00
Shared		
Directed		
Presbyterian Mission Agency	27,000.00	27,000.00
Shared		
Directed		
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	2,000.00	2,000.00
Shared		
Directed		
TOTAL SHARED MISSION	81,000.00	83,000.00
Operations		
Supplies	10,000.00	10,000.00
Postage	1,000.00	800.00
Telephone	3,300.00	4,000.00
Utilities & Maintenance	9,600.00	9,600.00
Property Insurance	4,100.00	5,000.00
Worker's Compensation	821.00	1,000.00
Legal and Auditing	7,200.00	7,200.00
Leases	2,200.00	2,200.00
Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
Administrative Services		
Recording Clerk	500.00	520.00
Bookkeeper	6,000.00	6,240.00
Administrative Operations Manager	22,713.00	23,622.00
FICA paid-Presbytery	9,100.00	8,600.00
TOTAL OPERATIONS	76,534.00	78,782.00
	422,069.00	<u>415,391.00</u>
		609.00

*** This amount is needed each year in order to balance the budget

Nominating Committee

Actions Items

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

Council

- Elder Susan Keaney (chair), Newlonsburg (2026)
- Elder Jack Battenhouse, Level Green (2028)

Committee on Ministry

- Elder Gary Lichtenfels, Westmont (2028)
- Rev. Chuck MacPherson, Honorably Retired (2028)
- Rev. Travis Webster, Newlonsburg (2028)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- Rev. James Farrer, Honorably Retired (2026)
- Rev. Donna Havrisko, Honorably Retired (2026)
- (replacing Rev. Hyiwot Teshome & Larry Armstrong)
- Rev. Kristen Emrick, Calvin, Ft. Burd (2028)
- _ Rev. Danielle Kendig, Ebensburg (2028)

Information Items

- There remain openings for positions on standing committees

Please submit names of possible Ruling Elders for consideration to the Nominating Committee through either Glenn Hart, Rev. Geoff Rach, Rev. Ed Gray, Lynn Mance or Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver

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

Presbytery Council

Presentation and Action Items

- **The Budget and Finance Committee request permission to allow Puckety Presbyterian Church to enter into a 5-year lease agreement with Olympus Energy to attract the natural gas from beneath the church property, a total of 6 acres.**
- **Mission Study Sub-Committee**

Information Items

August 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Elder Len Morgan, Chair of Council called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum of members was established.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Len Morgan, Chair of Council, solicited any changes to the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was approved with an additional item to come from Budget and Finance. It was **MSP** to approve the agenda.

DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER

Len Morgan led the devotions on Joshua 5 reflecting on how we too are preparing to cross the Jordan River as we look towards the future.

PRESENTATION OF THREE OVERTURES FOR THE 227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY RELATED TO WORLD MISSION

It was **MSP** to give Sylvia Carlson permission to speak to the Council. Sylvia Carlson presented three overtures for the 227th General Assembly related to World Mission. The Overtures were: Calling for a New Missional Statement for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); On Prohibiting Non-Disclosure Covenants in Employee Relations; A Call for Investigation of the Restructure of PC(USA) World Mission. These overtures were provided to the Council Members prior to the meeting and Sylvia was present to speak to these overtures, to answer questions and to recommend that these three overtures be presented to the Presbytery as a first reading at the September meeting.

Sue Washburn moved that we bring these overtures to the September Presbytery as a first reading and then to be voted on at the November meeting of the Presbytery, which was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve presenting this motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 24, 2025, meeting were presented. It was **MSP** to approve these minutes.

REPORTS

Moderator Len Morgan reported that the Mission Study Subcommittee is being formed. It will consist of 7 members, 3 of which are members of Council. The Council members willing to serve are: Susan Keaney, Laura Blank and Ed Gray. The Mission Study Subcommittee will be formed by the first week of September 2025. The Mission Study Subcommittee will report back to the Council by March 2026. Some suggestions were provided to Len Morgan.

Interim Executive Presbyter There was written report from the Interim Executive Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver. The report highlighted the various activities that were performed between June 25, 2025 and August 26, 2025. Lon highlighted some of the activities that he had been involved with over this period. Pine Spring Camp Board about the upcoming Capital Campaign and what we can do with connections that the Camp has made with young people. Met with Emily Chudy about 2026 Board of Pension updates. At Westminster, Greensburg Session meeting when Jenn Frayer-Griggs announced her call to the Open Door congregation in Pittsburgh. Working on emergency assistance to CRE's in the presbytery. His continued work with Tom Bandy on the book Pilgrim Band and a follow-up will take place in the future. Lon ended his report with some works from a poem Derek Walcott's poem "Love for Love".

Interim Stated Clerk

Rev. Cliff Foster, Interim Stated Clerk reported the following:

- The Correspondence Log
- Ratification of email vote on the motion that read: "That the Council the Presbytery of Redstone gives permission to the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon to proceed with the sale of their manse." The email vote was 16 yes votes and there were 2 no responses. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.
- Session Minute Review To date there are 9 churches which still need to have their minutes read. COM liaisons are working on completing the Session Minute Review.

Treasurer Report

John Dickson distributed a written report to the members of Council. John began his report by giving the Council his new email address. Expenses should be around 58% for the month of July. Total expenses for July totaled \$56,321, which exceeds the monthly goal of \$35, 589. The primary source of the overrun is the cost to relocate our Interim Executive Presbyter. Some of the additional funds in the checking account will be moved into an interest-bearing account.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp There was a written report from Pine Springs Camp. Greg Davis shared a note from a mother whose 3 children received scholarships to attend camp. Overall, the numbers were up of campers. There are several retreats coming up in the fall months. The summer staff this year was incredible. The leadership development was a blessing. The camp joined an organization called Camp USA and ended up with 2 international staff members. There are a couple of fund-raising events coming up in the near future.

SUBCOMMITTEES/NETWORKS/TASK FORCES

Staff Support There was a written report from the Staff Support Committee. Evaluations for the staff took place in August. Looking at an outside media communication company to help with upcoming Presbytery meetings. It is hoped that Brian Wallace of Pittsburgh Presbytery will help with the September meeting, and he may have suggestions for future Presbytery meetings. The new housekeeper Janice Simms will begin her work next week.

Mission There was a written report from the Mission Committee.

Budget and Finance

Budget and Finance Committee request permission to allow Puckety Presbyterian Church to enter into a 5-year lease agreement with Olympus Energy/EQT to extract the natural gas from beneath the church property, a total of 6 acres, if the way be cleared. It was suggested to have an attorney look at lease to ensure that it is

within the Presbytery policy. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

Budget and Finance Committee requests that Council approve the PILP Loan for New Hope Presbyterian Church in the amount of \$74,430 to replace the main roof, repair garage roof and replace 8 windows. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

Communications There was a written report from Communications. There is a need to change the authorization process to facilitate Zoom meetings at Presbytery. Zoom meetings began in Covid-19. The committee is asking Council to consider 2 Zoom meetings a year (January being one of them) and 3 in-person meetings only with Zoom available to simply watch and be guests at the meeting. There are other presbyteries who are doing meetings in a variety of ways as a resource. There are presbyteries that have 3 business meetings and 2 Fellowship and learning meetings. It is something that Council needs to discuss.

Work needs done on the Website. A sign-up sheet for people to write Redstone Stories for the remaining months of 2025 was circulated at the meeting and people signed up for those articles.

Matthew 25 Team There was a written report from the Matthew 25 Team.

Presbytery Worship and Planning The Presbytery Worship and Planning Committee reported that the September meeting proclamation of the Word will be through song. At November in addition to Susan Keaney sharing her observations and reflections, the Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly of the Presbyterian Foundation has been invited to preach during our worship service at that meeting. It was **MSP** to approve the motion to have Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly preach at the November meeting. Following the meeting there will be worship on Budgeting presented by Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly.

Addictions Ministry No report.

Healing Prayer Network There was a written report from the Healing Prayer Network. They meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 4:30PM. The meeting is open to anyone.

IPLF Steering No Report.

PRESBYTERY MEETING AGENDA

The proposed agenda for the September 23, 2025 Presbytery gathering was presented. Request for time for a report about the Youth Triennium (an introduction from Molly Hall and a PowerPoint Presentation, about three minutes) After review and discussion, it was **MSP** to approve this request.

OLD BUSINESS There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS There was no New Business.

ADJOURNMENT

It was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8: 20 p.m.

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.

June 24, 2025, Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Elder Len Morgan, Chair of Council, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. A quorum of members was established. The meeting was opened with prayer.

AGENDA APPROVAL

Len Morgan, Chair of Council, solicited any changes to the agenda. The agenda for the meeting was approved with a couple of additions. It was **MSP** to approve the agenda.

DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Norma Murphy led the devotions and closed with prayer. Norma read Genesis 9: 13 and reflected on some of her special times at the beach. She shared the idea of a “thin place” ... those places where we experience the presence of Jesus Christ. Norma Murphy ended the devotions with everyone reading together “Big Thunder Prayer” from the Algonquin People.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the April 22, 2025, meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone Council were presented. It was **MSP** to approve these minutes.

REPORTS

Moderator No Report

Interim Executive Presbyter There was written report from the Interim Executive Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver. The report highlighted the various activities that were performed between April 23 and June 24, 2025.

Lon reported that an article of his has recently been published called, “Intersectionality and Estrangement: The Situation of Women in Afghanistan and the Thought of Paul Tillich,” in the Bulletin of the North American Paul Tillich Society, LI, #1 (Spring 2025), pp. 6-22. In September 2025, he will become the editor of the Bulletin of the North American Paul Tillich Society.

Lon highlighted the preaching that he has been doing in the Presbytery. He thought that the technical items related to the May Presbytery Meeting went well and that Hunter Steinitz’s presentation was wonderful. Lon has been working with a coach that Synod supports. Lon thanked Molly Hall and Ed Gray for stepping in to cover for him at the Pastor’s Retreat on April 29, 2025, when his flight was postponed.

Lon’s report included some thoughts as the war risks are raising its head for the United States. He shared some words from Paul Tillich.

Lon requested the following vacation dates: June 25, 26, 30 and July 1, also July 6-13. Ed Gray made the motion which was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this vacation dates.

Interim Stated Clerk

Rev. Cliff Foster, Interim Stated Clerk reported the following:

- The Correspondence Log
- Session Minute Reviews. Rev. Cliff Foster reported that 52 Session Minutes have been reviewed. Members of the COM will be reviewing the remaining 13 Session Minutes.
- Rev. Cliff Foster made the motion to approve the celebration of the Lord’s Supper in 2025 at Presbytery Meetings, PW Gatherings, Wee Kirk Conference and Pine Springs Camp. The motion was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

- Rev. Cliff Foster opened a discussion on the Stated Clerk position. Should the position be separate or part of the EP position?

The question was asked: Is there any thoughts or planning to do a Mission Study? The staffing structure would be part of this study and discussion. Lon indicated that he would not be part of this Mission Study because he had indicated to the IEP Search Committee that he would be interested in continuing in this position.

A Subcommittee of the Council will be established by the Moderator of the Council in consultation with the Interim Executive Presbyter, the Interim Stated Clerk and the Moderator of the Presbytery to begin the process of a Mission Study. Gary Filson made the motion which was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

It was reported that the Presbytery had received a letter from the Synod of the Trinity for the 2026 per capita projects for budget projections. The per capita is \$2.40 per member.

Treasurer Report

There was a written report from John Dickson for the members of Council.

Keith Langston reported for John Dickson and commented on the information that was contained in the Treasurers Report.

Gary Filson made the motion to receive the Treasurers Report which was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

Brenda Barnes suggested that the Finance, Stewardship and Property committee develop a list of the churches that have not made a financial commitment to the Presbytery for 2025 and bring a suggestion to the next Council meeting in August. Gary Filson raised the question as to what the Presbytery is doing in the areas of Stewardship and Evangelism for our churches. Perhaps we could have Ellie Johns-Kelley come to our September Presbytery meeting to do a workshop and perhaps preach at the Presbytery Meeting. It was suggested that COM liaison might be able to give some insight into this issue.

Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp

There was no written report. Greg and Ellie Davis had to travel to Chicago to attend the funeral of Ellie's brother.

Cliff Foster made that motion that Redstone Presbytery gives Pine Spring Camp Inc. permission for renovation project(s) up to a cost of \$8.4 million. The motion was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

SUBCOMMITTEES/NETWORKS/TASK FORCES

Staff Support There was a written report from the Staff Support Committee.

Jack Battenhouse will be the Staff Support representative to the Presbytery Council.

The Committee reported that Lon Weaver will find a template to use for the tech coordinator position.

The Committee reported that Lon Weaver along with committee members will be doing evaluations for Karen Gray, Bobbie Shaffor and Cliff Foster by September.

Mission There was a written report from the Mission Committee.

The Committee reported that July 21 and 22: at the New Wilmington Mission Conference–July 21 and 22 to honor the service of mission co-workers who have been furloughed and hear from them. The service to honor their service will be Monday evening July 21 in the amphitheater.

The Committee will decide later in the summer where the offering from the September Presbytery meeting will go, South Sudan and PDA are possibilities.

The Committee has a list of potential places for Mission trips which include Western North Carolina, CWS in New Windsor, MD, Central Westmoreland County Habitat for Humanity and other places.

Finance, Stewardship and Property There was a written report from the committee. They are using some of the Triennium funds for 4 youth from Laurel Hill church to attend Triennium.

The Committee is working on putting together the 2026 Presbytery Budget

Communications There was a written report from the Communications Committee.

Audrey Cottle made the motion to approve the Social Media Policy for 2025. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

Audrey Cottle made the motion that Laura Blank be reimbursed \$250 for her work in setting up the Zoom and media for the May Presbytery meeting at Puckety Presbyterian Church. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

The Committee reported that they are looking for a new webmaster for the Presbytery's Website.

Audrey Cottle will be the new chairperson of the Communications Committee.

Racial Justice and Reconciliation There was a written report from the Racial Justice and Reconciliation Committee. The Committee is asking Council to combine their work with the Matthew 25 Network. It was **MSP** to approve this action of combining with the Matthew 25 Network. Social Justice is perhaps the hardest thing to do within the congregation and the question was how far to go before one gets fired.

The Committee is working on a project to write form letters that we can circulate to members of the Presbytery who will want to write to their congressional representatives, both national and state, to cover an array of issues and situations.

The Committee highlighted the responses from the Presbytery Break-out Session at the May 26, 2025, Presbytery Meeting.

Meeting Design Committee

Laura Blank moved that we reimburse Hunter Steinitz \$150 for her being part of the May Presbytery meeting, pulpit fee and mileage. It was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

Laura Blank moved that we invite Ellie Johns-Kelley to preach at the September Meeting of Presbytery, if she is available and the way be cleared. If not, we will invite her to the January or March 2026 Presbytery meetings as her schedule permits. It was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

Addictions Ministry No Report.

Healing Prayer Network There was a written report from the Healing Prayer Network.

At their June 12, 2025, meeting, the Healing Prayer Network Report, we lifted up over a dozen prayers of

thanksgiving, and about twice that number prayers of intercession. These included personal prayers as well as those for the presbytery, our nation, and the world.

IPLF Steering No Report.

SEPTEMBER MEETING AGENDA

We will look at the September Presbytery Meeting agenda at our August meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report from the Hopewell Administrative Commission. The Administrative Commission was formed by Moderator Susan Keaney and is responsible for the dissolution of the property of the Hopewell congregation, the contents of the church as well as the church cemetery and other matters related to this property. The committee is comprised of Josh Scully, RE (Chair); Becka Abbot, TE; Mary Kay Glunt, TE; Scott Cole, RE; Cliff Foster, TE. There are 2 interested parties in the property and both have been instructed that the upkeep of the Hopewell Cemetery is part of the deal. The AC is reporting to the Council of Redstone Presbytery that they have established the price to be \$10,000 and would settle for \$6,000. One of the interested parties has offered \$5,000 as a beginning to the negotiation process. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

There will be a final Worship service on Sunday, July 20, 2025, at 3PM at the Hopewell Presbyterian Church.

2. Cliff Foster suggested that there is a need for a subcommittee of Council to evaluate the repairs/upkeep of the Presbytery office since there are some issues that need to be addressed. The Budget, Finance and Property Committee will look into finding a contract with a service to take care of repairs at the Presbytery Office in consultation with the staff who will access the needs.
3. Request from the COM on behalf of the New Salem congregation to petition the Redstone Council “to release \$500 from the current Ministers Assistance Fund which has a balance of \$1,100 to CP Bill Wiegand in support of their pastor and to offset costs of his medical leave. The funds are to be given directly to CP Bill Wiegand. Len Morgan moved this motion. The motion was properly seconded. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

The Council will send a referral to the COM suggesting that there needs to be more conversation about churches with a CP’s at their next meeting to discuss medical costs and Board of Pensions and the Ministers Assistance Fund. It was **MSP** to approve this motion.

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 the particular shared needs. It was **MSP** to adjourn with prayer. the meeting at 8: 24 p.m.

Committee on Ministry

Presentation and Action Items

- **Ministers Assistance Fund Guidelines**
- **COM recommends that the Presbytery dismiss the Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs to the Presbytery of Pittsburgh in order to accept the call to be the Pastor/Head of Staff of the Open Door Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania.**
- **The Committee on Ministry recommends an increase of 3 % in effective salary for all continuing pastors (Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Commissioned Pastors).**

Information Items

September 4, 2025, Meeting

Approval of this Evening's Agenda

MSP to accept and approve this meeting's agenda.

Approval of Minutes

A correction was noted in the August 7, 2025 minutes that Ebensburg Presbyterian's 150th Anniversary was incorrectly reported as September 14 when it is actually September 7. After this correction was made, it was MSP to approve the August 7, 2025 minutes.

Consent Items Approved Between Meetings

None

Report of the Stated Clerk

The report updated the committee on the following items:

- Recent Correspondence Log was provided.
- Updated 2024 Minutes Review report was provided. Nearly all the churches are completed.
- Waiver of Rotation Requests. Johnstown, First: Ruling Elders: Roy Gindlesberger and Charnete Koch both currently of the Session Class of 2025.
- It was MSP to accept the Report of the Stated Clerk.

Report of the Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver

A written in-depth report from August 8 through September 4, 2025 was presented and reviewed. MSP to receive and accept the Report of the Interim EP.

Report of the Moderator

- It was MSP to recommend to the Presbytery to dismiss the Rev. Jennifer Frayer-Griggs to the Presbytery of Pittsburgh in order to accept the call to be the Pastor/Head of Staff of the Open Door Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, PA if the way be clear. Our Moderator offered prayer after this action was taken.
- It was MSP to recommend to the Presbytery of the 2026 Minimum Terms of Call (3%).

- It was **MSP** to appoint CP Jackie Eckenrod (District II & III wide) as Moderator for Dunbar, First and Leisenring.

Reports of Subcommittees

Examinations and Membership

- No meeting or anything to report.

Search and Call

- No changes or updates on any congregations in the Search and Call Process.

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

- Liaisons shared prayer requests from their contacted congregations.
- Possible questions for our congregational contacts: What are your plans for World Communion Sunday? Are you planning on observing All Saints' Day? Are any pastors or leaders attending the upcoming Wee Kirk Conference?

IPLF Program, Workshops, Ongoing Task Forces

- Introduction to Reformed Theology is in process.

Other Business

Rev. Derek Campbell reported from the Minister's Assistance Fund Task Force. It was **MSP** to accept these stated Guidelines for the Ministers' Assistance Fund.

Guidelines for the Ministers' Assistance Fund

We understand there can be times in life that hit us hard financially and unexpectedly. A serious health or family issue, a costly repair or other emergency can add financial strain to our situation. If you are a Presbyterian pastor (active or retired) or a surviving spouse of a Presbyterian pastor who served at any point, and who meets the criteria below, then we may be able to grant you a gift of funds provided by the Presbytery of Redstone. We know this can be a sensitive matter, so your request will be kept in the strictest confidence. Depending on the specific need and availability of funds, this gift may vary in amount. Assistance may be provided by the Board of Pensions, as well, customizing the need and circumstances. It is encouraged to that eligible applicants investigate this option. The evaluation for assistance will be determined by COM and will then recommend to the Council for distribution, keeping the name and specific situation of the applicant confidential.

Eligibility Requirements

An individual may be eligible to receive assistance from this fund if he or she is a working or retired pastor and meets these criteria:

- Is an ordained or commissioned Presbyterian pastor who has served in the Presbytery of Redstone
- Was called or commissioned as a pastor at any point present or prior to retirement
- Is a surviving spouse of a retired pastor who meets the above criteria

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM with prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Martin Ankrum.

The following Pastors were prayed for during this time: Gene Degitz, Lisa Dormire, Ron Durika, Kristen Emrick, Patrick Ewing, Jim Farrer, Gary Filson, Cliff Foster, Ken Foust and Jennifer Frayer Griggs.

The following churches were prayed for during this time: Johnstown, Bethany; Johnstown, First; Johnstown, Second; Johnstown, Westmont; Lake Lynn, Springhill Furnace; Latrobe; Latrobe United; Leisenring; Ligonier, Pleasant Grove and Lower Burrell, Grace Community

August 7, 2025

Approval of this Evening's Agenda

MSP to accept and approve this meeting's agenda.

Approval of Minutes

MSP to approve the June 5, 2025 minutes.

Consent Items Approved Between Meetings

An email vote was taken on July 21, 2025 by our Moderator. It was MSP to dismiss the Rev. Dr. Ben Nti to the Presbytery of Lackawanna to accept the call to be the Pastor/Head of Staff of the Covenant Presbyterian Church of Scranton, PA, if the way be clear.

Report of the Stated Clerk

The report updated the committee on the following items:

- Recent Correspondence Log was provided.
- Updated 2024 Minutes Review report was provided. Nearly all the churches are completed.
- There were no waiver of rotation requests presented.
- It was MSP to accept the Report of the Stated Clerk.

Report of the Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver

A written in-depth report from June 6 through August 7, 2025 was presented and reviewed.

MSP to receive and accept the Report of the Interim EP.

Report of the Moderator

- It was MSP to authorize Belle Vernon, First to elect a PNC and begin the search process for pastoral leadership. COM Moderator Rev. Dr. Martin Ankrum volunteered to be their COM liaison.
- It was MSP to commission RE Russ Baird to preside at the communion service at New Florence, Trinity on World Communion Sunday October 5, 2025.
- It was MSP to commission and empower a task force to develop criteria for the Minister's Assistance Fund and submit same to the Committee on Ministry. The task force members are: Rev. Derek Campbell, Chair; Rev. Jen Frayer-Griggs and RE Bob Sheehan.
- It was MSP to add the following to the Redstone Presbytery Pulpit Supply list: Rev. John L. Sweitzer- with preference to serve Districts 2-3, Rev. Doug Marshall and Rev. Michelle Worzbyt.

Reports of Subcommittees

Examinations and Membership

- Nothing to report.

Search and Call

- Liaison Rev. Travis Webster to Irwin, First reported that the PNC process is going well. They have invited a candidate to come. The PNC is optimistic with this possible call.
- Liaison Rev. Molly Hall to Uniontown, Trinity reported the PNC process is moving along.
- Belle Vernon, First will be calling a PNC.
- Liaison Rev. Chuck MacPherson, at West Newton, United stated still in process.
- Westmont, Johnstown, just newly elected Rev. Dr. Martin Ankrum as their liaison.

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

There were no breakout rooms this meeting due to the limitations of zoom capabilities.

- Ebensburg Presbyterian will be celebrating their 150th Anniversary on September 14 at 3:00.
- Possible questions for our congregational contacts: Will you be celebrating Reformation Sunday on Oct. 26. If so, what are your plans?
- Rev. Jim Farrer promoted his webpage, biblicalleadership.com for continued learning. He suggested inviting someone to worship. He suggested adding "Remember your church in your will" to your Sunday bulletins.

IPLF Program, Workshops, Ongoing Task Forces

- Introduction to Reformed Theology begins this upcoming Saturday August 9.

Other Business

- Farmington, Mt. Washington typically has 12 members in attendance a month.
- RE Joshua Scully reported the Hopewell Presbyterian Church property has been sold and the church records are now in the Redstone Presbytery office. The church stocks have been turned over to Redstone Presbytery. Rev. Jim Farrer offered prayer for the Hopewell Church.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM with prayer offered by Rev. Dr. Martin Ankrum.

The following Pastors were prayed for during this time: Laura Blank, Susan Blank, Cliff Buell, Bruce Cadenhead, Cynthia Cadenhead, Derek Campbell, Sylvia Carlon, Terry Carnahan, Tony Catullo and Carole Isley Corey.

The following churches were prayed for during this time: Ebensburg; Fairchance, First; Farmington, Mt. Washington; Fayette City, Little Redstone; Greensburg, First; Greensburg, Westminster; Irwin, First; Irwin, West Hempfield and Jeannette, First.

June 5, 2025

Approval of this Evening's Agenda

MSP to accept and approve this meeting's agenda.

Approval of Minutes

MSP to approve the May 1, 2025 minutes.

Consent Items Approved Between Meetings

None

Report of the Stated Clerk

The report updated the committee on the following items:

- Correspondence Log
- 22 churches out of our 64 have yet to complete their minutes review. A list of churches needing minutes review was presented. COM liaisons are in contact with their perspective churches and some have made alternate arrangements. All reviews hope to be completed by the end of summer.
- There were no waiver of rotation requests presented.
- It was **MSP** to accept the Report of the Stated Clerk.

Report of the Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Lon Weaver

A written in-depth report was presented and reviewed.

- Discussion on the upcoming Corporate Annual Reports for churches was presented. More information to the churches will be forthcoming from the Presbytery Office in the near future.
- Interim EP stated that he has been asked what is an appropriate timeframe for a pastor to announce dissolution of a relationship. He recommends a 6 week notice.

MSP to receive and accept the Report of the Interim EP.

Report of the Moderator

- The Moderator announced the resignation of Rev. Becca Siddle from COM. She stated a mix-up with the Nominating Committee had previously occurred. **MSP** to accept her resignation.
- A letter from New Salem PC Clerk of Session Roxanne Gmutza was included in the packet. Rev. Molly Hall further shared the concerns of the NSPC congregation regarding the serious illness of their Commissioned Pastor Bill Wiegand. It was **MSP** to petition the RP Council to release \$500 from the current Ministers Assistance Fund of \$1,100 to CP Bill in support of their pastor and to offset costs of his medical leave.
- **MSP** that "The COM of the Presbytery of Redstone approves the continuation of all of the approved CP/CRE positions that have been authorized within the Presbytery of Redstone for the year 2025." The Moderator then reminded COM that this needs to be done in December 2025 for the 2026 calendar year.

Reports of Subcommittees

Examinations and Membership

- A follow up was presented regarding the presbytery status of the Rev. Dr. Scott Dennis. He will remain within the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Search and Call

No meetings were held.

- New Florence, Trinity PC has dissolved a call. A call will be dissolved at Johnstown, First PC by the end of June. Moderators will be appointed to both churches.
- PNC work within First, Irwin; Trinity, Uniontown; and First, Belle Vernon is in progress.
- West Newton UP Moderator Rev. Chuck MacPherson updated that the sessions of West Newton UP and Belle Vernon, First met and shows no interest in merging.
- RE Joshua Scully reported progress in the closure of Hopewell PC. Mail and accounts have been

forward to the Presbytery. They have had interest in the church property. The final worship service and celebration will be held on July 20, 2025. at 3 PM. All past Pastors and members of the Presbytery will be invited to attend. He is hopeful all final church business will be completed by the end of July.

Care of Congregations and Congregational Leaders

There were no breakout rooms this meeting due to the limitations of zoom capabilities.

- The Moderator commented on the excellent liaison reports presented in the meeting packet.
- August suggested liaison question for our churches: "What are your plans for "Kick -off or Rally Sunday?"
- RE Bob Sheehan requested that an updated Seminary Pulpit Supply list be made available to churches.
- Our Moderator offered prayer for our pastors and churches.

The following Pastors were prayed for during this time: Bill Wiegand, Andrew Wirt, Doug Yauger, Becka Abbott, Martin Ankrum, Larry Armstrong, Russ Baird, Brenda Barnes, Ross Bash and Nick Beatty.

The following churches were prayed for during this time: Belle Vernon, Rehoboth; Bolivar, United; Brownsville, Calvin; Brownsville, Ft. Burd; Colver; Cresson; Delmont; Derry; Dunbar, First and Dunbar, Laurel Hill.

IPLF Program, Workshops, Ongoing Task Forces

- IPLF Dean Rev. Skip Noftzger asked for encouragement of our RE to participate in the IPLF Program.
- The next IPLF meeting is scheduled at Emmanuel PC (Washington Presbytery) on 6-14-2025.
- Introduction to Reformed Theology begins in the fall.

Other Business

- It was determined that COM would not meet for a monthly meeting in July.

Adjournment

There being no further business, it was **MSP** to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM with prayer offered by Rev. Martin Ankrum.

Redstone Presbytery - Interim Executive Presbyter Report
Submitted by Lon Weaver
September 23, 2025 (Time Period: May 26 - September 11)

Opening Comments

- “In a way, I try to control what I do, but at the same time I like to dance with whatever rhythm life proposes to me.” Gustavo Santaolalla
- My Home Church
- “Creators and Collaborators” vs. “Loners and Competitors”
- Districts and Common Interests
- Synod’s “Fit for the Future” Grants

Preacher

- Colver (5/11)
- North Huntington, New Hope (6/8)
- Johnstown, Westmont (6/15)
- Mt. Pleasant, Reunion (6/22)
- Trafford, Level Green (7/27)
- Johnstown, 1st (8/3)
- Trinity P.C., New Florence (8/17)
- New Salem (9/7)
- Avonmore (9/21)

Musician

- Ford City, Appleby Manor - Pianist (5/4)
- New Alexandria United P.C. - Pianist (5/18)
- Greensburg 1st P.C. - Organist (8/10 & 8/24)
- Trinity P.C., New Florence - Pianist (8/17)

Presbytery Gatherings & Meetings

- Patrick Ewing Commission - Provided the Charge to the Minister (5/4)
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) (5/6)
- Presbytery Meetings Design Committee (5/7)
- My Concern re: presbytery: determining “the when and what” - that is, the timing and content - of tasks/presentations - (a) to me, the May meeting was fantastic and inspiring in various substantive ways, with a good sense of timing; (b) to me, at the March meeting, I tried - in the message for worship - to facilitate too much discussion for a weeknight event, and exhausted folks in their abilities to take in the rest of it.
- PNC Orientation (w/ Molly Hall - Uniontown, Trinity - 5/13)
- PNC Follow-Up (Irwin, 1st P.C. - 5/15)
- Pre-Presbytery Mtg. with Stated Clerk, Moderator, and [Zoom] Vice Moderator (5/21)
- Presbytery at Lower Burrell’s Puckety P.C. (5/27)

Presbytery Gatherings & Meetings (cont.)

- Pastor Departure Mtg with New Florence, Trinity (6/4)
- Racial Justice and Reconciliation Group (6/11)
- Mission Committee (6/12)
- Healing Prayer Group (6/12)
- Conversation with Johnstown, Westmont Session (6/15)
- Moderated Newlonsburg Session (6/17)
- Budget and Finance Committee (6/18)
- Presbytery Council (6/24)

- Reviewed the Call Process with two Sessions: Johnstown, 1st (7/16) and Belle Vernon (7/24)
- Three meetings with present and past COM Chairs regarding churches in transition (7/29 & 7/31)
- Joined Bookkeeper Bobbie Shafor for a meeting with a 1st Commonwealth Bank to change the Redstone Presbytery check signatures (8/13).
- Attended Budget and Finance Committee meetings (8/13 & 8/20).
- Attended Matthew 25 Team via Zoom (8/13).
- Moderated Johnstown Westmont Session (8/13).
- Joined Stated Clerk Cliff Foster and COM Chair Martin Ankrum in meeting with Board of Pensions representative Emily Chudy on 2026 updates of the BoP (8/14).
- Attended Mission Network (8/14).
- Attended Healing Prayer group (8/14).
- Attended Special Session meeting of Greensburg Westminster P. C. where Pastor Frayer-Griggs announced her call to the Open Door congregation in Pittsburgh and requested the Session to call a congregational meeting to dissolve her pastoral relationship to the Westminster congregation (8/18).
- Attended Nominating Committee (8/19).
- Joined Len Morgan in the annual evaluation of Stated Clerk Rev. Cliff Foster (8/19).
- Joined Jack Battenhouse in the annual evaluation of Administrative Operations Manager Karen Gray (8/20).
- Deliberated with Susan Keane, Cliff Foster, Len Morgan re: nominees for the Mission Study Committee (8/26)
- Attended the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (9/2)
- Anniversaries (9/7): attended Ebensburg's 175th and sent a letter of congratulations from the Presbytery on the occasion of Murrysville 195st
- Met with Vice-Moderator Owar Ojulu and Interim Stated Clerk Cliff Foster for presbytery meeting planning.

Engagement with Denominational Entities

- Breakfast w/ Pittsburgh Presbytery's General Minister Jessica McClure Archer (5/12)
- Online issue threads posted by various Executive Presbyters (several/month)
- 90-days of Companionship (now semimonthly- Steve Cureton, retired EP) concluded
- Synod-Sponsored Coaching began (*normally* monthly – to begin 5/21 & 5/28) – with Youngsook Charlene Kang (a former UMC District Superintendent) – she's amazing.
- Lunch with Pension Board Representative – Emily Chudy (5/29)

Engagement with Denominational Entities (cont.)

- Online Middle Level Administration issue threads (two during this period): one was in response to my question regarding the ways presbyteries were covering the hole in our ability to respond to emergency assistance to CRE's in presbyteries (mid-July)
- Synod-Sponsored Coaching continued – following vacations, etc. – with Youngsook Charlene Kang, a former UMC District Superintendent (8/7 & 9/9).
- Participated in the Synod of the Trinity Executive Presbyter Forum in Bedford (9/3-4)
- Attended Mid Council Leader Orientation in Louisville (9/16-18)

Participation in Ecumenical & Interfaith Meetings

- Christian Associates – “Retreat” at the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City (5/14)
- Collaborated with Christian Associates Exec. Director Rev. Liddy Barlow regarding faith-based investments with the goal of recommending specific limits on investments by the organization (8/21).
- Met with David Ackerman of the U.C.C. and members of presbytery to discuss a collaborative ministry (9/22)

Conversations and Pastoral Care

- Corporate Annual Report – June 30, 2025 Deadline (J. Dickson 5/6 and 6/3)
- Conversations with Church communities facing some Pastor/Member friction/hostility (Church A – 5/6; Church B – 5/21; Church C – 5/21; Church D – 5/19 & 6/3)
- Summer “Read,” *Pilgrim Band: Our Shared Quest for Meaning and Purpose* by Thomas Bandy – a core concept is “mutual mentoring”: (a) 5/13 & 5/28 – meetings with Laura B and Molly H; (b) 5/19 – Zoom meeting with Thomas Bandy; & (c) the kick-off is via Zoom with Bandy moderating a discussion on Wed., June 18th at 6:30 PM.
- Skip Noftzger (multiple times)
- Pastors (1 Honorably Retired and a handful of clergy with health issues in their orbit)
- Presbytery Officers (2)
- Four -plus conversations with lay leaders of churches in transition (late May through late July)
- Zoom meeting with Thomas Bandy regarding his opening presentation for presbytery’s reading of his latest book, *Pilgrim Band* (6/6)
- Meeting with Synod Executive Forrest Claassen regarding leadership and current projects (6/13)
- Pastoral visits with church leaders (commissioned and ordained): seven – one with Bill Wiegand the day before his bone marrow transplant (6/23) and a second with Ben Nti as he concluded his upcoming departure from Johnstown, Westmont (7/14).
- Conversation with a lay leader who has received a position elsewhere and is, thus, departing the presbytery (8/1)
- Conversations with members of a church community facing continuing friction/ hostility (3 members)
- Pastoral visits with church leaders (commissioned and ordained): six (8/18, 8/19, 8/21, 8/26 [2], 9/2).

Various Tasks/Interactions/Events

- Two Dissolutions:
 - Johnstown, 1st Church – Hyimot Teshone’s departure on 6/30:
 - New Florence, Trinity – Sara Sadler’s departure on 5/31:
- Church-owned housing
- Mentoring of new pastors in the presbytery, *especially*, newly ordained/commissioned pastors
- The timing of departure of installed or commissioned pastors
- Corporate Annual Reports for churches (see the material below).

CORPORATE ANNUAL REPORT FILING DEADLINE The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now requires that each corporation including not for profit corporations, file an annual report via its corporations’ portal: Business Services | An Official Pennsylvania Government Website.

The corporation must have an account to complete the registration. If possible, use a church email address instead of an individual’s personal email address to create an account. The deadline for filing is June 30th each year and failure to file in a timely manner may result in the loss of a congregation’s corporate status including the right to use its name. If you are experiencing difficulty, the most detailed instructions for this process with a list of FAQs may be found here: Annual Reports | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There also is brief guide here: annual-reports-one-pager and at the bottom of the page there is a website and a phone number for further questions.

- Publishing has been a part of my vocation since 1997. The latest fruit of that is an article of mine that was recently published: “Intersectionality and Estrangement: The Situation of Women in Afghanistan and the Thought of Paul Tillich,” in the *Bulletin of the North American Paul Tillich Society*, LI, #1 (Spring 2025), pp. 6-22. I will become the editor of the *Bulletin* in September.
- Moving belongings from Duluth, MN to Greensburg, PA (431 Center Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601 (7/21-7/23)
- One Dissolution: Johnstown, Westmont – Bernard Nti (8/31)

- Editing and constructing staff evaluations
- Seeking out the policy for emergency assistance to ordained pastors as the basis for a policy for emergency assistance to commissioned pastoral leaders.
- Boundary and Ethics Training:
 - I attended the Boundary and Ethics Training on 8/9 at Laboratory Presbyterian Church in Washington Presbytery.
 - We seem to have to remind some folks in the presbytery the importance of this path. The reasons are these:
 - The problems in church and society related to faithful boundaries; and
 - The importance of offering the message, “This is a place that is safe for all!”
- Wrote and submitted questions to author Thomas Bandy for his responses based on his book, *Pilgrim Band: Our Shared Quest for Meaning and Purpose*. Once he completes his video response to these questions, presbytery will post the video on its *Youtube* account, making it available to all who can link to the presbytery’s website.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Action Items

- No action items.

Information Items

September 2, 2025, Meeting

1. Opening Prayer by Robin Jennings
2. Approval of minutes of May 2025 **MSP**
3. IPLF Update: Ray Sheets from Bethany, Johnstown has joined the program from Redstone.
4. Update on Candidates
 - a. Committee met with **James Vlosich**. He Finished all seminary courses and required field ed assignments and is awaiting final grade/transcript. James still has 3 ordination exams to complete. He is scheduled for Theology and Worship and Sacrament exams at the end of September. He still has Exegeses to take in 2026.

James presented his Statement of Faith for committee review. James explained the format was the result of class assignment as it appeared as an annotated outline. Committee members offered suggestions on ways to recast the statement in a format that includes more ‘I statements’ or explains concepts that are important to him. When he will come before Presbytery to present his statement, it will be in a line-by-line numbered format and he will be questioned about what he has written. Committee urged James to spend time in discernment as he would when preparing a sermon as part of developing his personal statement. James will have further conversations with Geoff and Lon to help him refine his thoughts and presentation. They will also talk with him about the path to ordination and when he would be eligible to be certified ready to receive a call. Given that his home church (Trinity) is in a search process for new leadership, committee expressed concern that both the congregation and James may have expectations that might not be realized. Geoff prayed for James to end his time with the committee.
5. Ordination Exam Readers: Robin and Kristen will be reading exams. Their names will be affirmed with PC (USA) staff before end of week.
6. **Committee will not meet in October November and December. Based on conversation with James in September, committee will not meet with him again until exams are completed in new year.**
7. Adjournment/Prayer by Interim EP Lon Weaver.

Presbyterian Women

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

As the seasons change and time keeps flying forward, the mission of Presbyterian Women continues to make a difference in this world. As PW groups continue to decline, even though we have stayed steady this past year with the PW groups in Redstone Presbytery, there is so much work to do from your local PW group which supports FAVOR, to international projects such as Casa Materna, which is a birthing center that provides critically needed medical services and education to impoverished mothers and babies in the rural mountain region of San Juan La Laguna, Guatemala.

Presbyterian Women contribute their dollars carefully from helping homeless women at The Well – A Project of the Welcome Church in Philadelphia, to providing microloans and student tutoring, to sharing of the PW bible study. There is so much that Presbyterian Women can do. Read the stories on the PW website and realize with little we can do so much more.

But what can I do? This question has so many answers. First, you can participate in the PW ministry at your local church or start a new PW group. The tools are available. Ask me and I will send you in the right direction. We are always looking for women to step up in leadership on the Coordinating Team of Redstone Presbytery and at the Synod level. The blessings abound and you have now acquired sisters in faith to walk beside you.

There are so many upcoming events to participate in. You do not have to be part of a PW group. ALL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN are invited.

- Fall Gathering at Bethel Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 1 from 9am-1pm. Come spend a morning with us as we worship, learn about the upcoming new bible study and hear Kim Botteicher speak about FAVOR of Western PA, Faces and Voices of Recovery. Lunch is also provided.
- Spring Gathering at Pine Springs Camp in Jennerstown coming in the Spring of 2026.
- PW Synod of the Trinity Summering Gathering July 16-18, 2026 at the Antiochian Village Conference Center near Ligonier, PA
- Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in 2027. Dates and place soon to be determined. Join in worship – enjoying uplifting music and gifted preachers – with sisters in faith from around the country and the world. Find inspiration in the plenary (large group) sessions, which highlight everything from Bible study to mission projects. Learn about your areas of passion and key issues in the world today through educational opportunities (forums and workshops) led by inspiring speakers. Witness the installation of the newly elected leaders. Visit the many exhibits. Shop in the marketplace and bookstore. Take in some of the interesting and fun sites of the city.

There is so much Presbyterian Women do and can do in this world. Consider being part of Presbyterian Women. We strive to make a difference and the blessings abound. It is a group of women who can make a difference locally to internationally. Your gifts and talents are needed. Come join us and you will be amazed about the work we can do together. Please add Presbyterian Women to your daily prayers. Prayers are needed in these times of conflict and change. With prayer, we are joined together to make a difference in this world.

**Report on Redstone Presbytery-endorsed
Pilgrimage to Scotland - June 1 - 13, 2025
Compiled by Jim Farrer**



The impetus for this pilgrimage began in 2003 when past or present Presbytery staffers Carole Isley Corey, Mary Lou Ferris Nash, Jim Farrer and Pastor Ken White of Newlonsburg Church participated in a tour led by Biblical storyteller Dennis Dewey to three modern Celtic Christian communities in Scotland and northern England. We Redstoners led our first pilgrimage in 2006.

This year's educational, historical and spiritual pilgrimage included members from Latrobe, Westmont, Ebensburg and Ohio Presbyterian churches. Our experience was enhanced by members of Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, Baptist and United Church of Christ congregations. We thank all for undergirding us with prayer.

Ministers included Jim Farrer, Mark Unrue from Ohio, and former Redstone pastor Mike Shepard now in North Carolina

We have **modeled our pilgrimage** on Smithsonian tours which feature one professor with knowledge about a particular country and its culture. However, our leaders included Sandy Leyh of

L'atitudes Travel, a SCOTSMaster with 20 years experience leading tours in Scotland; George Leyh, PhD in history specializing in Scottish martyrs and Covenanters; and Jim Farrer, whose article "Resurrecting the Celtic Christian Models for the 21st Century" was published in *The Great Commission Research Journal*. According to author Dr. George Hunter, when he lectured at Newlonsburg church, this Celtic Christian movement "lasted from the 5th to the 9th centuries and was the greatest sustained Christian mission in Christianity's history ... and ushered in a thousand years of (more or less) Christian culture in Europe." See his book *The Apostolic Congregation*.

Lonely Planet Guide places the Highlands and Isles of Scotland among the **top five places** in the world to visit. On our first day we crossed from the Edinburgh airport to the western shore of Scotland. We stopped at Culross, a picturesque town featured in the recent *Outlander* TV series. A second stop was Inveraray with quaint stores and a famous whisky shop.

Then we spent two nights overlooking one of the loveliest lochs in Scotland. Just below the hotel we were able to get pictures of ourselves with woolly Highland cows and stroll through the adjacent arboretum. From here we explored the **Kilmartin Glen** with its standing stones as well as a Celtic circle built before the pyramids in Egypt.

With favorable weather, we climbed the **Dunadd** Hill Fort where the kings of Scotland were crowned. Each pilgrim could place a foot in the footprint in the rock where this occurred. Europe's first recorded investiture of a king by a church leader was by St. Columba in 574 AD on Iona if historian Adomnan is correct. Certainly very soon after the Iona event Dunadd was the special place for ongoing inaugurations.

The largest number of battle artifacts in Scotland was unearthed here, but it is also perhaps the original site of the Stone of Scone. It was home of the artist colony which began producing the **Book of Kells** using pigments from as far away as Afghanistan according to University of Glasgow archaeologists. This is Scotland's richest prehistoric landscape with 800+ ancient stones, cairns and

forts within a six-mile radius, but very few other tours take the time to go through this off-the-main-route spot. Jim was personally encouraged to lead pilgrims here when he studied with Dr. Ian Bradley of St. Andrews University, author of seven books on Celtic issues. Bradley's parents grew up south of Kilmartin and Dunadd.

Next we began our three-day personal experience of a pilgrimage. We waited in Oban anticipating the arrival of a large ferry. After the 45-minute scenic journey, we soon visited Duart Castle and had an audience with the chief of the MacLean clan and then took a long bus ride across the dramatic Isle of Mull where the road was only as wide as the bus and where a flock of sheep had the right-of-way. The song *Child in a Manger* sung to the tune we know as *Morning Has Broken* was written on this island. We then crossed the sound of the Atlantic on a small ferry to the tiny island of Iona. Mendelssohn called these islands some of the "loneliest places on the earth." Here the veil between heaven and earth is "thin."

When **Oxford was but a swamp**, the Holy Isle of Iona was famous. Scotland was evangelized from here. Iona is said to be the burial island of 48 Scottish kings, including Macbeth in addition to eight Norwegian, French and Irish rulers. Without a doubt, Iona has the best preserved funeral procession road in Europe leading from the beach to Columba's cell.

Our trip hinges on the availability of the St. Columba Hotel, the only place that can house our 18 travelers. We worshiped at 9 AM and 9 PM with pilgrims from around the world in the restored 12th century abbey. Jim has been able to study with three wardens of the Iona Community: Professor Horace T. Allen (born in Uniontown!), Dr. J. Phillip Newell and Dr. Nancy Cocks, Jim's former classmate at Knox Seminary in Toronto. The Iona Presbyterian Church building used to have a permanent communion table as wide as their building so that many members could sit at the same time. In recent decades the positions of the table and pews have been reconfigured.

We held our own time of worship in St. Matthew's ancient chapel and sat for Communion at a long table there as the original Presbyterians in Scotland would have done. Early Presbyterians in Western Pennsylvania would also have followed this practice, using planks and saw horses in the aisle. We stood under the three tall Celtic crosses, walked to some of the top-rated, secluded beaches in the world, and visited the bookstore and gift shop of the present Iona Community.

Since Iona may have been a Druid outpost, we outlined old Celtic beliefs, the current fascination with New Age Celtic practices and how the Church today can learn from Iona's heritage. Unlike the trainees of Columba and George MacLeod, founder of the modern Iona Community, we have no reports of any of our pilgrims running into the surf naked at dawn!

An optional 45-minute boatride offered a number of our pilgrims an extension from Iona to the island of Staffa and its cave where Mendelssohn was inspired to write his Hebrides Overture and where at times colorful puffins can be seen. Here also are eight-sided rock formations which extend under the water and can be found again on the coast of Ireland at the Giant's Causeway.

When we returned to the mainland, we drove north along Loch Ness and close to scenery made famous in the films of Harry Potter, The Highlander and in James Bond's Skyfall.

We spent the next three nights on the Viking islands of Orkney visiting the prehistoric village of Skara Brae dating from 3000 BC, the sixteen-foot tall Standing Stones of Stenness and the Ring of

Brodgar, one of the largest circles in Great Britain with 36 stones. The town of Kirkwall had fine shops since huge tour ships dock here for the day. We had the opportunity to worship on Sunday at the medieval St. Magnus Cathedral which is now a Presbyterian church. Several pilgrims also had a tour of the Highland Park Distillery.

On June 10 we took an early ferry to the mainland on our way south to Edinburgh stopping at several towns including a visit to Dornoch Cathedral, again now a Presbyterian church, where Madonna was married. Our hotel was on the Grassmarket across from a variety of restaurants just below the Royal Mile. Some tried a hamburger with haggis. There was free time for shopping, museums, castles and a cold drink where Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde lived.

Not many tours view the site of Magdalen Chapel, the real location of the first General Assembly in 1560 and the workshop of the Reformation's transformation of culture. In addition we saw where the National Covenant was signed and where the Covenanter martyrs were hanged. Many visited the majestic castle, John Knox's house, the High Kirk of St. Giles with its ornate "Order of the Thistle" chapel and took the Hop On Hop Off bus around the city. Four took a day-train to St. Andrews. They strolled the Old Course, golf's "Fairway to Heaven," and viewed or walked the beach made famous by the movie Chariots of Fire.

Our group sampled modern "Celtic-style" Christian worship at appropriate places. Yes, there was free time for journaling, hiking, sticky toffee pudding sampling, laughing, and on Iona experiencing both a "wee gale" and Caribbean blue waters.

If you are interested in how the modern Celtic Christian model can be adapted for your church or if you wish to participate in another Redstone-endorsed pilgrimage to areas of Presbyterian heritage, please contact the Presbytery office.

