

Presbytery of Redstone May 19, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

The ecclesiastical and corporate meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone was convened at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015, at the United Presbyterian Church, West Newton, Pennsylvania, and opened with prayer by Rev. Peter Goetschius, Vice Moderator. He announced that items of new business must be presented to the clerk before the end of worship.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Gary Close, attested to the fact that a quorum was present in order to conduct the business of the meeting.

<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>MINISTERS</u>	<u>ELDERS</u>
	Bruce Cadenhead	
	Sylvia Carlson	
	Gary Close	
	Chris Enoch	
	Jim Farrer	
	Skip Noftzger	
Adah, Palmer Community		
Apollo, Pine Run	Lanny Mellinger	
Apollo, Poke Run	Peter Goetschius	Connie Cauvel
Avonmore, First		
Belle Vernon, First	Suzanne Currie	Bobbi Jo Huebner
Belle Vernon, Harmony	Glenn Hart, CRE	
Belle Vernon, Marion	Robert Prinkey, CRE (**)	Terry Diehl
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	Dick Klein	
Bolivar, United	James Sunseri, CRE (**)	
Boswell, Covenant		
Brownsville, Calvin	Aleda Menchyk, SS	
Brownsville, Ft. Burd	Colleen Molinaro, IP	
AppeBrownsville, Hopewell		
Colver	Laura Blank, SS (**)	
Connellsville	Suzanne Zampella	Paulette Dye
Cresson		Amie Lumadue
Dawson, Tyrone	Robert Prinkey, CRE (**)	Robert Sigwalt
Delmont	Cliff Buell, IP	Sharon Hawkins
Derry	Marnie Abraham Russell, SS	
Dunbar, First		
Dunbar, Laurel Hill	Jeff Smith, CRE	Joshua Scully
Ebensburg, First	Laura Blank, SS (**)	
Fairchance		
Farmington, Mt. Washington		
Fayette City, First	Mike Shepard, SS (**)	Robert Kubina
Fayette City, L Redstone	Mike Shepard, SS (**)	James Anderson
Greensburg, First	Martin Ankrum	Jeff Ruff
Greensburg, Maplewood		Sue Kramer
Greensburg, Westminster	Donna Havrisko	Bill Chishko
Irwin, First	Ronald Wakeman Ron Durika	Charles Landenbaush Mark E. Claycomb Tom Shipley Lillian Beeson

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Irwin, West Hempfield		
Jeannette	Robert Fuehrer	Rolf Hansen
Johnstown, Bethany		
Johnstown, First		Sheila Farrer
Johnstown, Second		
Johnstown, Westmont		
Lake Lynn, Springhill		
Latrobe	Clark Kerr	Susannah Calvo
Latrobe, United		
Leisenring		
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove		
Lower Burrell, Grace	Ken Foust	
Lower Burrell, Puckety		
Manor	Tom Holmes, CRE (**)	Mary Ann McIlvaine
Masontown		
McClellandtown		
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Creek		
Mt. Pleasant, Middle	Linda Snyder	David Lemmon
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	Sue Washburn, SS	
Murrysville, First		
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	Marnie Silbert	George App
Murrysville, Union	Derek Campbell	
New Alexandria, Community	Kathleen Shirey	Elinor Eversole
New Alexandria, Congruity	Cliff Foster	Kathy Hamilton
New Florence, Bethel	James Sunseri, CRE (**)	Barry Poglein
New Florence, Trinity		
New Kensington, United		
New Salem	Ross Bash, IP	
North Huntingdon, New Hope	Janet Reid	Rich Zoltak
Patton		
Revloc	David O'Hara, CRE	
Scottdale, Calvin		
Seward, Armagh-Seward		
Slickville	Thomas Holmes, CRE (**)	Devi Gross
Smithfield, Grace Chapel		
Smock, Pleasant View	Keith Conover	Carole Rittenhouse
Trafford, Level Green	John Simpson, IP	
Uniontown, Tent		
Uniontown, Third	David Stewart, CRE	
Uniontown, Trinity		
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty		
Vandergrift		
West Newton, Sewickley	Eric Glisan, CRE	James Glisan
West Newton, Sewickley U.	Glenn Hart, CRE (**)	James Sager Jr.
West Newton, United	John Manon	Charles F. Yelich
Windber, First	Cynthia Cadenhead	Barbara Locke
Notation:	(*) = pastor from another denomination (#) = pastor from another presbytery	(**) = pastor or CRE serving more than one church

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Christian Educators Present: Cheryl Rhea (Trafford, Level Green)

By Virtue of Office: Don Gobbel (Latrobe, Main St.), Phyllis Neral (Irwin, First), Susan Nesti (Fayette City, Little Redstone), Sarabeth Stopansky (New Alexandria, Congruity)

Visitors: Taylor Barner (Murrysville, Newlonsburg), Linda Blick (West Newton UP), Lee Ann Conover (Smock, Pleasant View), Greg Davis (Pine Springs Camp), Lauretta Eisler (Delmont), Karen Heckler (Connellsville), Patty Herring (Smock, Pleasant View), Jason M. Holmes (Slickville), Rebecca Jobe (Delmont), Judy Koontz (New Alexandria, Community), Jill Ledger (Delmont), Bobbie Martin (Presbytery Staff), Margaret Mauser (Irwin, First), Debby Mullaney (Connellsville), Karen Randolph (Smock, Pleasant View), Chuck Schmidt (Connellsville), Caroline Vickery (Delmont), David Washburn (Delmont), Alan W. Zerbini (Slickville),

Teaching Elders Excused: Armstrong; Cahn; Carnahan; Corey; Degitz; Dormire; Hepler; Hess; Holben; Holslag; Jalso; Lighthall; Lloyd; Macaleer; Maxwell; McCabe; McClure; Miller; Morrow; Murray; Orr; Paul; Roof; Sharp, J.; Sharp, W.; Sherrill; Siddle; Stevens; Tondora; Upton; VanWyk;

Teaching Elders Absent: Bass-Riley; Brodeur; Crocco; Dericks; Galley; Graff; Hickok; Keith; LaSor; MacPherson; Maiman; Mason; McDermott; Shannon; Yuckman, C.; Yuckman, M.

Commissioned Ruling Elders Excused: *None*

Commissioned Ruling Elders Absent: McElroy; Morgan; Toderro; Watson

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Vice Moderator called for the adoption of the Docket as printed in the Packet by consent.

SEATING OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTION OF OTHER VISITORS

The Stated Clerk, Rev. Gary Close, asked that the following Teaching Elder from another Presbytery be seated as Corresponding Member of Redstone Presbytery for this meeting: Rev. Caroline Vickery, a member of the Presbytery of Central Nebraska. This was accomplished by **consent**. The Vice Moderator, Rev. Pete Goetschius, invited those who were attending a presbytery meeting for the first time to stand to be introduced. On behalf of the Presbytery the Vice Moderator welcomed each of the first time presbyters.

Connecting with one Another

Rev. Marnie Silbert invited the presbyters and visitors to engage in a “getting to know you” activity with the use of a baggie of M&Ms and color coded questions.

ARRANGEMENTS

The Reverend John Manon, Pastor of the host congregation, welcomed the presbyters and visitors to West Newton United Presbyterian Church. He told us that he was the happiest pastor in Redstone to be serving at West Newton.

STATED CLERK’S REPORT

Report of the Stated Clerk:

1. Correspondence Log:

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- a. During the period since the last regularly stated Presbytery meeting, all correspondence that was received was responded to and/or appropriately routed for review and response to the appropriate entity of Presbytery.
2. Presbytery Pastoral Team Updates:
 - a. Slickville – April 23 – the paperwork requested by the Listening Team was received; May 19 – Request for dismissal will be presented to the Presbytery.
 - b. Connellsville – April 19 – Congregation voted to request dismissal; May 19 – Request for dismissal will be presented to the Presbytery.
 - c. Middle – May 11 – The Presbytery Pastoral Team will be meeting with their Session; the congregational vote is scheduled for June 7
 - d. Manor – The Presbytery Pastoral Team will meet with congregation in congregational forum on May 17.
3. Invitations are now being received for the 2016 meetings of Presbytery. Dates have been set. They are as follows:
 - a. 1/16/2016 (Saturday) - 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – *Invitation needed*
 - b. 3/15/2016 (Tuesday) - 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. – *Invitation needed*
 - c. 5/17/2016 (Tuesday) - 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. – *Invitation needed*
 - d. 9/20/2016 (Tuesday) - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – Pine Springs Camp (to be confirmed)
 - e. 11/19/2016 (Saturday) - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Apollo, Poke Run (to be confirmed)
4. The Stated Clerk also announced that the Presbytery Minutes for 2014 were reviewed on May 6, 2015 by the Synod Records Review Committee, and they were approved with no exceptions or delinquencies being noted.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Gary Close, presented the Consent Agenda. The following items were approved by consent:

From Executive Committee

1. Following review by the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Assistant Clerk, Permanent Clerk, and the Chair of Council it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of March 21, 2015 be approved.

From Presbytery Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council be received and filed for audit.
2. Council **recommends** approval of the request of the Maplewood Church to undertake a project to make their property more handicapped accessible. All monies for the project are currently “in hand.”

WORSHIP

Then the Presbytery joined in worship under the leadership of Teaching Elders John Manon and Keith Conover, Ruling Elder Linda Blick, and Ms Mara Sawdy, with the support of James Sykes, Minister of Music and Organist of the host church.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

In the absence of Ruling Elder John A. Dickson, IV, Treasurer, the Rev. Skip Nofztger, Executive Presbyter, presented the Financial Reports calling attention to the reports for March and April 2015. He noted the following matter: revenue has increased, but we are still running behind projected income. However, we are maintaining a balance by controlling expenditures.

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

Rev. Richard “Skip” Noftzger, Executive Presbyter, called attention to his written report. He noted the most recent Pew research report that brought to mind some Yogi Berra quotes, like *the future ain't what it used to be* and *when you come to a fork in the road, take it*. The Pew report on religious preference showed a decline in all categories except the category of NONE. Skip also noted that we need to be full of grace and truth whether we welcome people or say goodbye to people. And he urged presbyters to “take the fork in the road.”

PINE SPRINGS CAMP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Greg Davis, the Executive Director of Pine Springs Camp, called attention to his written report and highlighted the following: they have close to 600 campers registered for this summer; there are still openings in some camps with waiting lists in others. He highlighted their “Partners in the Kingdom” program, where congregations are invited to support a summer staffer. He noted that the West Newton Presbyterian Church has sent between 20-30 campers every year for the last number of years. Last year Pine Springs had a “light the fire” campaign, and a new pavilion has been constructed that will be open for use this summer. The pavilion will be dedicated on June 6. People were given 3x5 cards with the name of a camp staffer or counselor to be prayed for during the Presbytery meeting as well as during the summer camping season. The Golf Outing was a big success bringing in over \$40,000.

Greg concluded his report leading the presbyters in a time of *Caring Prayer for the Summer Staff*.

MISSION COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

Rev. Sylvia Carlson, Chairperson of the Mission Committee, called attention to her printed report which appears on page 10 of the packet. Sylvia noted that she and Skip met with Hunter Farrell, Director of World Mission for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, at the home of Ralph Hawkins, Executive Presbyter of Shenango Presbytery. Seven Presbyteries were represented at this gathering. Hunter told us that mission giving has been decreasing and therefore mission co-workers will be recalled from the field. Jacob and Aliamma George are two of the four mission co-workers whose work is coming to an end in 2015, due to mission funding cuts. She urged the commissioners to consider, prayerfully, their giving to the larger church as a part of their overall stewardship of the funds entrusted to them.

Hunter also informed the group that Mission giving has not increased for many years, and that if the situation doesn't get better in the next few years as many as 40 additional mission co-workers will be recalled from the field-- that will be a cut of over 25% of the total mission co-workers being supported by the PC(USA).

ANNOUNCEMENTS LOOP

Rev. Laura Blank presented the Announcements Loop which featured: the Big Tent Celebration at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN from July 30-August 1; the Strawberry Festival at Cresson Presbyterian Church will take place on May 31 from 4-6:30; the Strawberry Festival at Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant will take place on June 6 from 4-7; the “indoor yard sale” at Community Presbyterian Church, New Alexandria, June 13 from 8-3; the Raise the Roof spaghetti dinner at the Bethany Presbyterian Church, Johnstown June 13 from 4-7; the Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Minneapolis, MN June 18-21; the “Common Ground” Nature Camp, July 6-10 at Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church, Murrysville; the Miller Summer Youth Institute at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary July 2-11; the Mission Tea at Congruity Presbyterian Church on July 18, at 1 p.m., to raise money for Stop Hunger Now; the Revloc Presbyterian Church family reunion pot luck picnic on July 19 at 11 a.m.; the New Salem Presbyterian Church peach festival August 22 from 4-7; the Redstone Presbytery Fun Day at Pine Springs will be August 1 from 11-4, with a picnic lunch at noon; vacation Bible school information; a Presbyterian Disaster Assistance video; the Redstone website, redstone.org; and the next Presbytery meeting will be September 15 at 1 at Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar.

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ACTION AGENDA

Council

The following were noted as items of information from the Council:

Information

1. March 2015
 - a. Laura Blank has assumed responsibility for the Announcements Loop for the meetings of Presbytery.
 - b. Nicole Brodeur has assumed responsibility for maintaining the Presbytery Facebook page.
 - c. It was **MSP** to approve a Twitter account for the Presbytery.
 - d. It was **MSP** to request the Communications Committee to bring a Presbytery “Social Media” Policy for adoption to a future meeting of Council.
 - e. It was **MSP** to approve a request to celebrate communion at the Confirmation Retreat.
 - f. An up-to-date version of the Presbytery Manual was distributed which reflected the new definition of the positions of Stated Clerk, Associate Stated Clerk for Constitutional & Judicial Matters, and Recording Clerk. Persons to fill those positions will be nominated and elected at the May meeting of the Presbytery.
 - g. We have received a request from the Harliss Center [an Interfaith Community at West Virginia University] to distribute literature about their ministry at a meeting of Presbytery. It was **MSP** to make their literature available at the May meeting of Presbytery

Action Items

There were no action items from the Council at this time. The two items on which action will be taken that are being brought by the Council are the requests from the Connellsville Presbyterian Church and the Slickville Presbyterian Church to be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Both of these items are Special Orders of the Day scheduled for 8:00 p.m.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Martin Ankrum presented the following report for the Committee:

Information

1. April 2015
 - a. The Delmont candidate was examined. She will be examined on the floor of Presbytery at the May meeting.
 - b. It was reported that the Presbytery is in the process of distributing funds to the 8 churches which were eligible, and applied, for the Synod Grant program to assist churches in covering the additional cost of “family coverage” for the increased cost of Medical Coverage under the Board of Pensions.
 - c. Ron Durika has been appointed to serve as the liaison to COM for the New Florence, Trinity Church.
 - d. The appointment of the following Moderators was announced: New Florence, Trinity – Ron Durika; Johnstown, Second – Carole Isley Corey.
 - e. It was reported that Teresa Howard has resigned from the Committee effective immediately.
2. May 2015
 - a. It was announced that 54 Church Sessions have presented their Records to be reviewed in conjunction with the District Four Enrichment Day and the three Redstone Community Events. An additional review opportunity has been scheduled for May 19 at 4:45 p.m. immediately preceding the meeting of Presbytery.
 - b. Bobbi Jo Huebner presented a report on the Board of Pensions Regional Benefits

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Conference.

- c. The Committee **approved** the Short Term Temporary Supply Contract between The New Kensington United Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Rebecca Sidle effective May 15, 2015, if the way be clear.

Action Items

1. It was **MSP to approve** the call of the Delmont Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Caroline Vickery to serve as Pastor. Ruling Elder Sharon Hawkins confirmed that the Session, at the request of the PNT, called a Congregational Meeting for April 26, 2015. Then, Ms. Jill Ledger spoke on behalf of the Pastor Nominating Team regarding their search process. The Call forms, formally certified by the Moderator of the Congregational Meeting, indicating the vote of the congregation [88 affirmative and 3 negative] and signed by all members of the PNT were presented to the Clerk.
2. It was **MSP to grant** the appellation “honorably retired” to the Rev. Keith Conover as he retires from the Pleasant View Presbyterian Church, Smock, PA, on August 31, 2015. Time was set aside to say farewell to Keith and his wife, Lee Ann. They will be moving to Winchester, VA later this year.
3. It was **MSP to recognize** the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Uniontown, Third Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Chris Enoch that he might accept the call of the Marion Center Presbyterian Church to serve as their pastor. Time was set aside to say farewell to Chris.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Ruling Elder Rolf Hansen presented the following report for the Committee:

Information

1. April 2015
 - a. The Committee has enrolled Richard Watson as an Inquirer.
 - b. The Committee has deemed Sue Blank and Dawn Sherwood, Candidates under the care of the Presbytery, ready to receive a call. Sue Blank’s PIF is posted in the system.

Action

1. After his presentation of his sense of call and his response to subsequent questions it was **MSP to approve** the transfer Mr. Taylor Barner from Inquirer status to Candidate status.

Nominations Committee

Rev. Kathy Shirey, speaking on behalf of the Nominating Committee, presented the following nominations:

The Board of Pine Springs Camp - Class of 2016

Rev. Laura Blank	District 4	Colver & Ebensburg, First
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The Standard Examination Readers for 2015

On the recommendation of the Committee on Preparation the Nominating Committee **recommends** the election of the following persons to serve as Readers for the Standard Examinations in the Class of 2015:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------|
| a. Teaching Elder Ken Foust | District I | Lower Burrell, Grace |
| b. Teaching Elder Rebecca Maiman | District I | Member-at-Large |
| c. Ruling Elder Rolf Hansen | District I | Jeannette, First |
| d. Ruling Elder Lynn Mance | District I | Delmont |

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- a. The Slickville Church requests of the Presbytery of Redstone to be dismissed with property to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, Evangelical Presbyterian Church based upon completion of the terms above.
- b. It was **MSP** to approve their request.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Assistant Clerk, the Reverend Marnie Abraham Russell, gave the attendance report after praying for all that transpired today lifting up the great snacks and the hospitality of our host church as well as the members of the churches which were dismissed to the EPC at today's meeting, celebrating the fact that we still follow the same Jesus Christ as Lord. She then reported that there were 37 clergy and 8 Commissioned Ruling Elders, 33 elders (representing 30 congregations), 1 Christian Educator, 4 by virtue of office, and 18 visitors for a total of 101. There also were 32 clergy excused, 16 clergy absent, 4 Commissioned Ruling Elders absent and 46 congregations without elder representation.

AJOURNMENT

1. It was **MSP to adjourn** with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

BENEDICTION

Moderator CRE Glenn Hart offered the benediction prayer.

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at the Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, PA.

Glenn Hart, Moderator

Gary Close, Stated Clerk