



2016 Stated Meeting

of the

Presbytery of Redstone
Presbyterian Church (USA)

May 17, 2016



First Presbyterian Church
Jeannette, PA

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

Directions to
First Presbyterian Church of Jeannette
314 Bullitt Avenue
Jeannette, PA 15644
724.523.5427

From Greensburg:

Take US-30 east toward Pittsburgh. Just past PA Turnpike (Route 66 Bypass) - (Route 66 and the Home Depot), make a right on Agnew Road. Follow Agnew Road to Lewis Avenue. Make a right on Lewis Avenue, and bear left as it turns into Chambers Avenue. Follow Chambers Avenue to 4th St. Make a right on 4th Street. The church will be on your right.

From Irwin:

Take US-30 west toward Greensburg. Turn left onto Lowry Avenue. Turn left onto Division St. Turn right onto S 4th St. Follow S 4th St to Bullitt Ave. Church is on the right.

From Fayette County:

Take US-119 north to Route 30 West. Follow Route 30 West past the Home Depot, make a right on Agnew Road. Follow Agnew Road to Lewis Avenue. Make a right on Lewis Avenue, and bear left as it turns into Chambers Avenue. Follow Chambers Avenue to 4th St. Make a right on 4th Street. The church will be on your right.

For all other directions, please visit the First Presbyterian Church of Jeannette website's driving directions page at: <http://fpcjeannette.org/find-us>

Board of Pensions Pre-Presbytery Workshop

Attention Pastors, Business Administrators, Church Treasurers, Chairs of Personnel Committees!

The Rev. Douglas Portz, our Board of Pensions Regional Representative will be presenting an overview of the Benefit Plan Redesign (4:30-5:30 PM on May 17th prior to the presbytery meeting) which will go into effect January 1 2017. Time will be spent giving an overview of current employee benefits and what benefits are staying the same and what is changing.

If you are interested in how these changes will affect your church and your staff benefits, please be sure to come. Information will also be shared how these changes will affect your budget planning for 2017 and what your church will need to do before the end of the year to prepare. Please come and learn how the Board of Pensions is serving you.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PRESBYTERY MEETING

Parking for this meeting is **VERY** limited. **Please try to carpool if possible.** There will be people near the church directing you on where to park. There is a handicap ramp entrance that is accessible from the church parking lot. Everything will be on the main floor of the church. Refreshments, Registration, and the Pine Springs Camp staff will be in the lounge. A prayer room will be available in the choir room. The meeting will take place in the sanctuary. There are restrooms on all floors of the church. **Limited WI-FI is available** for use at this meeting; access information will be available at the meeting.

Notes for the May 2016 Presbytery 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.
- The Offering received during worship at this meeting will go to South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church.
- **It is Very Important** that all Background Checks be completed. Presbyters are reminded that the "Praesidium" clearances no longer fulfill a church's responsibility.

Presbytery of Redstone Gathering
 First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette
 May 17, 2016
 "Equipping Leadership"

4:30 p.m.	<u>Pre-Presbytery workshops</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes review(Stated Clerk) – Clerks • Board of Pensions Update(Rev. Doug Portz) – Pastors; Treasurers 	<i>Sunday School rooms Downstairs</i>
5:00 p.m.	<i>Registration and fellowship</i>	<i>Lounge</i>
6:00 p.m.	<u>Presbytery Gathering Convenes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of the Roll • Seating of Corresponding Members • Introduction of Elders • Arrangements 	<i>Sanctuary</i> Rev. Cliff Foster Rev. Cliff Foster Rev. Pete Goetschius Rev. Robert Fuerher
	<u>Clerk(s) Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated Clerk’s Report (p. 6-9) • Consent Agenda (p. 10) 	Rev. Skip Noftzger Rev. Cliff Foster
	<u>Reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Presbyter (p. 11-12) • Treasurer (p. 13) • Pine Springs Camp (p. 13-14) • Board of Pensions • Mission Network (p. 15) Ramp Ministry 	Rev. Skip Noftzger John Dickson Greg Davis Rev. Doug Portz Rev. Sylvia Carlson
	<u>Worship</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rev. Susan Wonderland – Synod Exec. • GA Commissioning • Offering – South Sudan partnership 	
	<u>Announcements “Loop”</u>	Rev. Laura Blank
9:00 p.m.	<u>Action Agenda</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council (p. 16) Nominating Committee-nominee Pine Run dismissal • Committee on Ministry (p. 17; Appendix C) Sue Blank-candidate for ordination Commission for summer examinations • CPM (p. 18) Rick Watson – candidate • Nominating (p. 19) • New Business (must be submitted in writing to the Associate Clerk before worship begins) 	Glenn Hart Rev. Pete Goetschius Rev. Lisa Dormire Rev. Martin Ankrum Barry Poglein Rev. Robert Fuehrer
	<u>Benediction</u> <u>Adjournment</u>	

The next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone will take place on September 20, 2016, 10:00 a.m. at the Pine Springs Camp.

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.

CORRESPONDENCE LOG

Date Received	Received From	Content	Action
May 5, 2016 - hand delivered	First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette	2016 Terms of Call for the Rev. Robert Fuehrer	To COM and FILE
May 3, 2016 - mail	Patton Presbyterian Church	2016 Terms of Call for the Rev. David McCabe	To COM and FILE
April 21, 2016 - mail	Pine Run Presbyterian Church, Apollo	Letter asking for their request for dismissal be put on the May 17, 2016 Presbytery meeting docket	To Council and FILE
April 13, 2016 - mail	Vandergrift Presbyterian Church	Letter inviting a Listening Team to their May Session meeting to discuss their concerns with the denomination	To Council and FILE
March 21, 2016 - mail	United Presbyterian Church, Latrobe	2016 Terms of Call for the Rev. Donald Graff	To COM and FILE
March 16, 2016 - email	Colver Presbyterian Church	2016 Terms of Call for the Rev. Laura Blank	To COM and FILE
March 9, 2016 - mail	Trinity Presbyterian Church, New Florence	2016 Terms of Call for the Rev. Carole Isley Corey, Interim Pastor	To COM and FILE

2. Review of the Presbytery Minutes - The 2015 Minutes of the Presbytery were reviewed by the Synod Committee on Review and approved without exception and with on minor delinquency.
3. The list of proposed presbytery meeting dates for the 2017 calendar year approved by the Council are presented below.
 - January 21, 2017 (Saturday) – Westminster Presbyterian Church, Greensburg
 - March 21, 2017 (Tuesday)
 - May 16, 2017 (Tuesday)
 - September 19, 2017 (Tuesday)
 - November 18, 2017 (Saturday)

Requests to serve as the host of any of these gatherings may be submitted to the Council through the Stated Clerk.

4. Committee on Representation Annual Report - 2016

Standing Committees	# Members	Gender	Age	TE/RE	Ethnicity
Council	17	10-M; 7-F	0-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 2-(36-50) 11-(51-65) 4-(66+)	9-TE; 8-RE	16-W 1-NA
Nominating	5	3-M; 2-F	0-(16-25) 1-(26-35) 1-(36-50) 2-(51-65) 1-(66+)	1-TE; 4-RE	4-W 1-NA
Preparation for Ministry(CPM)	8	3-M; 5-F	0-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 2-(36-50) 6-(51-65) 0-(66+)	5-TE; 3-RE	8-W
Committee on Ministry(COM)	24	13-M; 11-F	0-(16-25) 1-(26-35) 2-(36-50) 18-(51-65) 3-(66+)	13-TE; 11-RE	24-W
Representation	4	1-M; 2-F	1-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 1-(36-50) 1-(51-65) 1-(66+)	2-TE; 2-RE;	3-W 1-NA
Pine Springs Board	6	4-M; 2-F	0-(16-25) 3-(26-35) 1-(36-50) 2-(51-65) 0-(66+)	3-TE; 2-RE; 1-L	6-W
Permanent Judicial Commission	7	3-M; 4-F	0-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 2-(36-50) 1-(51-65) 4-(66+)	4-TE; 3-RE	7-W
Committee Summary	71	37-M; 34-F	1-(16-25) 5-(26-35) 11-(36-50) 41-(51-65) 13-(66+)	37-TE; 33-RE; 1-L	68-W 3-NA
Council SubCommittees					
Budget and Finance	5	5-M; 0-F	0-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 1-(36-50)	2-TE; 3-RE;	5-W

			4-(51-65) 1-(66+)		
Communication	8	3-M; 5-F	0-(16-25) 2-(26-35) 2-(36-50) 3-(51-65) 1-(66+)	5-TE; 3-RE	8-W
Mission	10	4-M; 6-F	0-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 0-(36-50) 5-(51-65) 5-(66+)	2-TE; 8-RE	10-W
Staff Support	4	2-M; 2-F	0-(16-25) 0-(26-35) 0-(36-50) 4-(51-65) 0-(66+)	3-TE; 1-RE	4-W
GRAND TOTALS (duplicated)	98	51-M; 47-F	1-(16-25) 7-(26-35) 14-(36-50) 56-(51-65) 18-(66+)	49-TE; 48-RE; 1-L	95-W 3-NA

Observations and Recommendations:

1. Within the Presbytery, the Racial-Ethnic membership of the churches of the Presbytery equals 6/10 of 1% of the total membership. Among those who are ordained as Ruling Elders, the percentage is even smaller. So, the balance for Racial-Ethnic inclusion is appropriate on the Committees overall, but does suggest there is much work to be done regarding greater diversity in membership of congregational leadership which serves as the “pool” for potential presbytery leadership and service.
2. Compared with our church membership the committee membership is significantly lower in the Under 25 and 26-45 brackets and significantly higher in the 56-65 age bracket. One probable reason is that most Committees require members to be either a ruling or teaching elder, and not many from the youngest bracket are ruling elders or clergy.
3. The Teaching Elder – Ruling Elder ratios are equal with regard total numbers, although there could be greater equalization in particular committees. Those particular committees may warrant attention from the Nominating Committee.
4. Gender ratios for the aggregate of all Committees has improved and is reasonably good and there has been improvement from last year on particular committees, nevertheless it could still be improved in the Committee on Ministry and the Council. While there has been a request in the past from some of the female Teaching Elders to cease attempting to make the membership in the Teaching Elder equal on the Committees since there are significantly fewer female Teaching Elders who are members of the Presbytery, the presbytery has grown in balance with female Teaching Elders [There are now 51 active Teaching Elders with 3 HR serving as well. 30-M; 21-F).

5. Overall, the report is very similar to last year with some progress made in both gender and elder status among some of the committees. This information is being related to the Nominating Committee with encouragement to address the inequities identified wherever possible.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Associate Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, Rev. Cliff Foster, presents the following Consent Agenda.

From Executive Committee

1. Following the review of the Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Stated Clerk and Associate Stated Clerk, it is **recommended** that the minutes of the Presbytery meeting of the March 15, 2016 be approved.

From the Council

1. Council **recommends** that the Financial Reports presented to the Council and the Presbytery be received and filed for audit. (See Attachment "A")
2. Council **recommends** that the Executive Presbyter and Treasurer reports presented to the Presbytery be received and filed.

From the Committee on Ministry

From the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

From the Nominating Committee

From the Committee on Representation

1. Committee on Representation **recommends** that the annual report on representation be received, filed and directed to the Nominating Committee.

From the Discernment Teams

1. The Discernment Team **recommends** the final report (Attachment "B") be received and filed and the request for dismissal be considered under the action agenda for this meeting.

MINISTRY AND MISSION REPORTS

Executive Presbyter

Rev. Richard "Skip" Noftzger Executive Presbyter Report	
<i>Communicate the Word, Carry on the Work, Change the World.....Together!</i>	
VISION	3/15/2016-5/17/2016
Congregation-centered (ENGAGE)	<p>Visible presence within the Presbytery engaging with congregations--- Church Visits---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited eight different congregations during their worship or special services since the last Presbytery meeting. Was privileged to preach in three of those congregations. • Checked in with two churches on possible options for providing consistent preaching and leadership who currently are dependent upon weekly pulpit supply. • Consulted with Pastoral Nominating Committees at various stages of orientation, development of a Ministry Information Form, and the various possible steps of the search process. • Engaged with and worked alongside the Team in the completion of the discernment process with the Pine Run Presbyterian Church. Responded to the initial inquiry, coordinated the appointment of the team and began the initial meetings with the session of the Vandergrift Presbyterian Church. • Coordinated the registration, administration and funds solicitation for the Triennium. Oriented and provided for transfer of leadership to the adult leaders who will be accompanying the delegation from the Presbytery.
Leadership developed (EQUIP)	<p>Developing and equipping leadership within the Presbytery---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worked individually with five pastors on ministry strategy and leadership for congregations in transition. • Met individually with each of the current inquirer and candidates under the care of the Presbytery. • Coordinated the leadership of the three presbyteries to complete the educational design, structure and practical details for the Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation program (CRE and RE training and preparation) to begin this fall. • Initiated another book study series discussion (<u>The Pastor as Public Theologian</u>) available for current pastors serving in the Presbytery.
Collaboration-Districts/Network (ENABLE)	<p>Joined and initiated contact both within and outside Redstone---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed the summary of the IPLF program and revised in a grant proposal format for submission to the Synod of the Trinity for possible

	<p>financial support of startup costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinated the planning and implementation of the Confirmation Retreat with three congregations participating in the event. • Initiated the involvement in orientation by the Redstone commissioners to the 222nd General Assembly. Participated in the same program in order to serve as a resource with our commissioners. • Participated in the southwest gathering for regional conversations sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity. Continued leadership as the EP representative to the Synod Governing Commission. 				
Partnership in Mission promoted (EMPOWER)	<p>Promoted and provided leadership in our partnerships in mission---</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in the Regional Benefits Conference in order to receive updates on the current status of the pensions program and the upcoming changes for 2017 for employee offerings. • Provided support and leadership for the regional networking event for the leadership of the District III community of congregations. • Leadership both within the Board and in individual consultation with the Executive Director for Pine Springs Camp. • Maintained contact with liaison in Pittsburgh Presbytery concerning possible visit by South Sudanese delegation during the summer, 2016. 				
Operational Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completed the third and fourth opportunity for session minutes review within the Presbytery. Worked with COM to assign individual members for follow up of the remaining uncompleted reviews(20). • Reviewed and finalized the 2015 minutes of Redstone Presbytery in preparation for their review at the minutes review meeting coordinated by the Synod. • Studied through the Lake Institute of Philanthropy for the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising. • Worked in partnership with others in revision of possible protocols for future consideration of General Assembly overtures and concurrences. 				
VALUES	Servant Leadership	Flourishing Community	Witness to the World	Generous and effective Stewardship	
<i>Soli Deo Gloria</i>					

Treasurer's Report - based upon Monthly Financial Report

The written treasurer's report will be on the table at registration as a handout.

Pine Springs Camp

We are thanking God for the next step in the future of Pine Springs Camp!

Announcing the... Faith for the Future Capital Campaign!

We want to continue the incredible blessing of providing vital encounters with Jesus Christ to the next generation. At Pine Springs we are committed to a unique, relationship-based camping and retreating experience. Within the context of nurturing relationships and a passion for Christ-centered exploration, we are serving kids' needs for healthy recreation, godly self-discovery and friendship building from preschool through adulthood. Thousands of people point to Pine Springs as the place where they committed their lives to Christ and it remains a foundational experience in their faith journey.

Through the incredibly gracious gifts of individuals, churches and a Foundation, we currently have over \$1,350,000 committed to our goal of raising \$1,800,000! What are Our Goals for the Faith for the Future Campaign?

Multi-purpose Dining Hall; Capital Improvements including Winterizing Creekside Cabins and Expanding our Nurses Station; Increasing the Carrie Foust Memorial Scholarship Fund; New Program Initiatives

Every church in both Presbyteries will be receiving information about this great opportunity to support the camp proclaiming the love of Christ to the next generation. Our goal is to have at least 80 (that's 65%) churches in Redstone and Washington Presbyteries participate in supporting the Faith for the Future Campaign.

Learn More at www.pinespringscampaign.org.

16TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

Once again we are very excited to be having the 16h Annual Golf Outing to raise money for camp scholarship assistance. This has been a tremendous blessing to the ministry throughout the years. The Latrobe Country Club will again be the site of this year's outing. **More information will follow. This is a great way to support the ministry of PSC.** Price remains the same as last year, \$220 for a single golfer and \$840 per foursome. There are various ways to support this event besides golfing. We need churches to support a tee or green by becoming an Amen Corner Sponsor and we also need Silent Auction items. Please go to www.pinesprings.org for more information.

REDD UP CAMP- SATURDAY, MAY 14

Come help Pine Springs Camp get ready for the summer and have a great time of fun and work. Projects range from clearing trails and raking leaves to more skilled jobs. So whatever your ability is...come and join us! This annual event is a great blessing to Pine Springs Camp! A cookout lunch will be provided. Each group should bring a pot-luck item and tools such as rakes, shovels, leaf blowers, and power tools (if the group is doing a skilled project). Please RSVP by May 7, 2016. For more information, please call us at (814) 629-9834. Free overnight accommodations are available if needed.

CARRY THE TORCH- A STUDY OF JOSHUA

Every child needs to come to camp! In our fast paced, technologically-addicted world it is crucial now more than ever to provide space for kids to build friendships in a healthy, unplugged, face-to-face way. Living, learning and playing in a healthy and safe environment enables children to make life-long friends and enjoy being a part of a community of faith. **We still have open spots especially during week one, our first Grandma, Mom's and Tots camp of the season. Remember we have Scholarships for those in your congregation that may need assistance to attend camp.**

At Pine Springs we are committed to a unique, relationship-based camping and retreating experience. Within the context of nurturing relationships and a passion for Christ-centered exploration, we are serving kids' needs for healthy recreation, godly self-discovery and friendship building from preschool through adulthood. Thousands of people point to Pine Springs as the place where they committed their lives to Christ and it remains a foundational experience in their faith journey.

In this Olympic year we are going to see a lot of images in the news of people carrying the Olympic torch. These people are usually former or current athletes, notable for how they embody Olympic ideals and accomplishments. The people who have the privilege of carrying the torch are seen as ambassadors of the spirit of the Olympics. As followers of Jesus we too carry a torch. We are instructed to be the light of the world, to go to the ends of the earth to make disciples and to bear witness to our faith. This summer we will explore the life of Joshua, a torch-bearer for God's chosen people, and how we carried this privilege and responsibility into the Promised Land.

Encourage a Pine Springs Staff This Summer! This is a wonderful way to stay connected and actively support the most important part of our summer ministry! Individuals, churches or families can bless the ministry of Pine Springs Camp this summer by agreeing to be an encourager to a counselor, program or other summer staff person. Sponsors will agree to: Pray for the staff person on a consistent basis; send at least one encouragement note; send a shoebox filled with suggested items; purchase 2 - \$25.00 gift cards. Call the camp office if interested. Sign-ups will also occur at the May Presbytery Meeting.

Mission Committee

Patty Summerville gave a report on the April World Mission Initiative Conference that she attended at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Mission has become a strong emphasis at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. We are still waiting to hear when our South Sudanese visitors (Rev. Deng Bol Atem, Deputy Moderator of SSPEC; Elder Daniel Kech Puoc, Finance Secretary of SSPEC; and Madam Achol Majok Kur, Women's Desk Chair) will be here in Redstone Presbytery. They will be here either in late spring or in mid-July. Please watch for announcements of their visit here in Redstone Presbytery. It had been hoped that they would be here for the New Wilmington Mission Conference in July, and so they are going to have to travel back Nairobi to see if they can extend their visas. It is not a simple thing to acquire a visa to visit the US if there is no US embassy in your country. Please pray that they will get the extension they need for their visit.

Watch for Redstone Presbytery's page in the Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study. It will feature Stop Hunger Now. Here is the link: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionyearbook/> We hope that you are a regular reader of the Mission Yearbook, even though it is now only available as an on-line resource.

Judy Koontz reported on the April mission trip to New Jersey. One group spent the week insulating a house and laying tile flooring, and the other group constructed a railing on a deck. They accomplished a lot during their time along the shore. You can talk to her about how you can plan a mission trip or co-sponsor one. There is still a lot of work to be done in New Jersey, in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, and there are still homes in need of work along the gulf coast in the wake of the 2005 Hurricane Katrina.

Meanwhile, other disasters strike in the form of tornadoes and floods. There is always a need for teams to respond to appeals via Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

The May Presbytery meeting will feature the Ramp Building Ministry that is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church in Irwin. Perhaps your church has an outreach ministry that others would like to hear about. Please contact Sylvia Carlson, sylviac65@comcast.net to schedule a time to make a presentation at a meeting of Redstone Presbytery or to share your outreach in the form of a bulletin insert.

You can become a member of the Redstone Presbytery Mission Committee - just contact Sylvia Carlson or the Presbytery Office to become a member. We are always looking for mission minded folk to join us. Or, you can add your name to the e-mail list and receive our mission updates. Mission matters!

Sylvia Carlson, Chair

ACTION AGENDA

Presbytery Council

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

Action Items

- The Council **recommends** the following person to serve as a replacement for an unexpired term on the Nominating Committee.
Nominating Committee – Rev. Marnie Abraham Russell
- Along with the report of the Pine Run Discernment Team, the Council presents the request of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church to be dismissed with property, real and personal, to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, Evangelical Presbyterian Church based upon completion of the terms included in the report.

Information Items

- The moderator recommended the Rev. Marnie Abraham Russell to the Council to fill an open slot on the Nominating Committee. **MSP** to approve and recommend her nomination to the presbytery at the May meeting.
- Final request from the Pine Run Presbyterian Church following the congregational vote to place the request for dismissal on the agenda of the May meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone. Both Rev. Noftzger and Rev. Goetschius reported on the congregational meeting and the corresponding vote (77 in favor of the request, 1 against, 2 abstentions). The final report is being finished by the Team and will be forwarded to the Pine Run session and the item has been placed on the agenda for the presbytery meeting under the Council report.
- Receipt of a letter from the Vandergrift Presbyterian Church concerning the appointment of a Team and a desire to enter into the discernment process. This letter had been forwarded on to the Presbytery moderator and COM moderator for appointment of members.
- Upon receiving a request for use of office space within the Presbytery building from Sue Washburn (email), it was **MSP** to approve such usage as a month to month agreement.
- The proposed agenda for the May 17 Presbytery meeting was distributed for consideration and deliberation. Additional items, including the Nominating Committee replacement, were added to revise the agenda. **MSP** to approve the revised agenda for the May 17 Presbytery meeting.
- Approval of the transfer of membership of Judy Hauser to the Latrobe Presbyterian Church.
- Approval of the administration of the Lord's Supper with Rev. Marnie Silbert officiating at the 2016 Confirmation Retreat.
- General Assembly overture and concurrence protocols were distributed. Discussion occurred on two main areas of whether overtures/concurrences should ever be permitted either in a called meeting or under new business. The process was revised with deletion of one paragraph and a couple other editorial changes. **MSP** to approved the revised document.

Committee on Ministry

Action Items

- The Committee on Ministry **recommends** the examination of Susan Blank (candidate-Redstone) for ordination to validated ministry at Presbyterian Senior Care. See Appendix "C" for her Statement of Faith.
- The Committee on Ministry **recommends** that the COM be authorized as a Commission for the purpose of approving calls issued by congregations for the service of teaching elders and approving the examination and transfer of teaching elder from other presbyteries during the time when the presbytery is not in session between the stated meetings of May and September.

Information Items

Stated Clerk –

1. Update on the session minutes review process with approximately twenty churches remaining to complete. Individual members of the COM volunteered for follow up with the clerks of session of those congregations.
2. Reminder about the need for Child Protection policies in each council (sessions, presbytery, etc.).

Search and Call – On behalf of the sub-committee, Len Morgan reported the following Search Updates: (selections from the Transitions Chart)

1. Uniontown, Trinity – PNC is getting much closer to identifying a possible candidate
2. Level Green – Completed study process, elected PNC, orientation of PNC, MIF preparation
3. West Hempfield – working on study and preparing to elect PNC
4. First Murrysville – completed study process, authorized to elect PNC(**MSP**)
5. Pleasant View – working on study, authorized to elect PNC(**MSP**)
6. Community – meeting with transition pastor to talk about future options
7. Third, Uniontown – completed study process, PNC elected, orientation of PNC
8. Tent, Uniontown – considering employment of CRE candidate

Examination – On behalf of the sub-committee, Martin Ankrum reported the following:

1. **MSP** to approve position of Director of Pastoral Care, Presbyterian Senior Care as validated ministry and permission to labor outside the bounds for Sue Blank contingent upon her successful examination for ordination.
2. **MSP** to approve position of Interim Editor, Presbyterians Today as validated ministry for Rev. Sue Washburn(Covenant Pastor, Reunion Presbyterian Church, Mt. Pleasant)
3. **MSP** to recommend to Presbytery that the COM be authorized as a Commission for the purpose of approving calls issued by congregations for the service of teaching elders and approving the examination and transfer of teaching elders from other presbyteries during the time when the Presbytery is not in session between the stated meetings in May and September. The COM acting as a Commission shall make a full report of its actions to Presbytery at its next stated meeting.

Care of Congregations – Jim Farrer reported the following:

1. The Committee continues to encourage prayer for the congregations and sending cards.
2. The Good Neighbor Program continues to be worked on.
3. The Committee is looking for needs and stories where they can be used as a resource such as PW and Mission trips.

Care of Church Professionals – Mike Shepard reported the following:

1. Board of Pensions Retiree luncheon had 25 attendees and heard a BOP presentation.
2. Skip and Bobbi Jo will be our representatives going to the BOP Regional Benefits meeting in Philadelphia.
3. Doug Portz will present the 2017 changes on options for additional employees prior to May Presbytery meeting.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Action Items

- The Committee on Preparation for Ministry **recommends** that inquirer Richard Watson be enrolled as a candidate for that phase of his preparation for ministry. (See Attachment "D" for Rick's bio)

Currently, Rick serves as a Commissioned Ruling Elder for pastoral service for the Leisenring congregation. He has served in that role since . More recently, Rick was sensing God's calling to him to enroll in seminary and to pursue the calling of Teaching Elder. In February, 2014, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry enrolled Rick as an inquirer and entered into a covenant relationship with him on behalf of the presbytery with Rev. Ross Bash serving as his mentor.

During this period of time, Rick initially took an online course in Greek, then subsequently, he enrolled through the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary M.Div. distance program which includes short residencies. His academic work has been excellent, along with his steady and faithful guiding of the Leisenring congregation. In February, 2016, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry reviewed Rick's progress and interviewed him concerning his application for candidacy. As the result of that review, the Committee recommends to the Presbytery of Redstone that Rick be moved to the status of candidate under the care of the presbytery.

Information Items

- **Updates on Inquirers/Candidates**

Dawn Sherwood has been examined by Washington Presbytery and approved for a call for teaching elder for Eighty Four Presbyterian Church. Her ordination and installation service will take place at the Eighty Four Presbyterian Church on May 22, 4:00 p.m.

Sue Blank has received the permanent position of Director of Pastoral Care(Chaplain) at Presbyterian Senior Care community in Oakmont. She is scheduled to meet with our COM examinations committee and then to be examined at the May 17 Redstone Presbytery meeting for ordination to a validated ministry with permission to labor there(outside the bounds). Pittsburgh Presbytery has been contacted and agrees to the plan.

Taylor Barner is preparing to graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and is working on his PIF for circulation.

Rick Watson continues enrollment through Dubuque Seminary doing very well. Rick will be recommended for candidacy at the May meeting.

David Deutsch will be completing his first year of enrollment at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

- It was **MSP** to approve Taylor Barner to be permitted to "negotiate for service" upon satisfactory revision of his PIF/Statement of Faith. Ken and Caroline were appointed to work with Taylor in providing feedback on these revisions.
- It was **MSP** to approve Taylor Barner as "certified ready to receive a call" upon completion of the revision of the PIF, the M.Div. degree and any remaining requirements.

Nominating Committee

Action Items

- **The Nominating Committee places the following persons in nomination for the Offices and Classes indicated:**

Committee on Representation – Class of 2017

Virginia Peterson, Newlonsburg Presbyterian Church

Ordination Examination readers

Becca Siddle(TE)

Lynn Mance(RE)

Caroline Vickery(TE)-alternate

Information Items

- In anticipation of upcoming openings for standing committees for 2017, the Nominating Committee solicits your recommendations for possible ruling elder candidates. Please submit any possible names and congregation to Rev. Curtis Paul.
- The Nominating Committee met to specifically consider possible candidates for the position of Vice Moderator of the presbytery. The Committee is looking to identify Ruling Elder candidates. The person serves one year as Vice Moderator, followed by one year as Moderator and then one year as Moderator of Council. If you know of any Ruling Elder who would be an effective leader within our presbytery, please submit her/his name to the Rev. Curtis Paul.

Discernment Team Reports:

Pine Run Presbyterian Church Team Report

The Discernment Team for the Pine Run Presbyterian Church met with the congregation during their meeting and vote regarding a request for dismissal. As a follow up to the meeting, a draft of the report was circulated among the team and to the session of Pine Run. Upon receiving comments and corrections, the final report containing their request is included as an appendix (Attachment "B") in this packet.

Presbytery of Redstone
Income and Expense Statement
 GENERAL FUND 01, April 2016

05/02/2016 10:30 AM

	Current Period	Year to Date	Annual Budget	Annual Budget YTD Percentage	Prior Year
INCOME					
CONTRIBUTION INCOME					
UNRESTRICTED	\$35,604.13	\$119,079.50	\$396,000.00	30.07%	\$118,389.80
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	4,516.00	20,088.65	0.00	0.00%	7,997.60
Subtotal Contribution Income	40,120.13	139,168.15	396,000.00	35.14%	126,387.40
INVESTMENT INCOME					
INTEREST INCOME	597.08	1,421.15	5,000.00	28.42%	1,329.41
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	8.44	193.19	5,000.00	3.86%	711.31
RELEASE FROM RESTRICTIONS					
TEMP RESTRICTED RELEASE	-7,140.64	-12,665.66	0.00	0.00%	-8,399.56
Subtotal Release From Restrictions	-7,140.64	-12,665.66	0.00	0.00%	-8,399.56
RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION	7,140.64	12,665.66	0.00	0.00%	8,399.56
TOTAL INCOME	40,725.65	140,782.49	423,500.00	33.24%	128,428.12
EXPENSES					
MISSION PARTNERSHIPS					
COMMITTEE EXPENSES	\$5,353.33	\$25,760.32	\$88,500.00	29.11%	\$27,694.14
COUNCIL					
COUNCIL - AC/LT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	46.00
Subtotal Council	6,581.22	7,811.50	14,280.00	54.70%	1,588.20
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY					
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION	0.00	654.40	500.00	130.88%	420.00
Subtotal Committee Expenses	6,581.22	8,882.90	15,280.00	58.13%	2,188.66
OPERATIONS					
PRESBYTERY STAFF					
EXECUTIVE STAFF					
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER	8,468.69	32,767.65	101,413.50	32.31%	33,493.68
STATED CLERK	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00%	5,998.64
Subtotal Executive Staff	8,468.69	32,767.65	102,413.50	32.00%	39,492.32
SUPPORT STAFF					
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	4,246.64	16,986.56	50,960.12	33.33%	16,593.32
ASSISTANT CLERKS	0.00	250.00	2,000.00	12.50%	0.00
Subtotal Support Staff	4,246.64	17,236.56	52,960.12	32.55%	16,593.32
EMPLOYER PAID FICA TAXES					
Subtotal Presbytery Staff	13,385.85	52,686.29	163,551.69	32.21%	59,148.52
APPORTIONMENTS					
Subtotal Apportionments	9,009.45	36,037.81	116,345.00	30.97%	38,757.85
TOTAL EXPENSES	36,764.97	131,338.76	423,690.69	31.00%	137,391.21
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$3,960.68	\$9,443.73	-\$190.69	-4,952.40%	-\$8,963.09

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
April 30, 2016

	2016 PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID	% Payup as of 4/30/2016	Unpaid Pledge Balance
Adah, Palmer	400.00	100.02	25%	299.98
Apollo, Pine Run				-
Apollo, Poke Run	3,500.00	781.25	22%	2,718.75
Avonmore	3,500.00	1,032.00	29%	2,468.00
Belle Vernon, First	7,000.00	3,500.00	50%	3,500.00
Belle Vernon, Harmony	1,440.00	240.00	17%	1,200.00
Belle Vernon, Marion	1,700.00	978.20	58%	721.80
Belle Vernon, Rehoboth	6,000.00	5,123.00	85%	877.00
Bolivar	1,500.00	1,250.00	83%	250.00
Boswell	500.00	500.00	100%	-
Brownsville, Calvin		1,112.50		(1,112.50)
Brownsville, Ft. Burd		2,956.80		(2,956.80)
Brownsville, Hopewell				-
Colver	350.00	397.00	113%	(47.00)
Cresson	2,600.00	600.00	23%	2,000.00
Dawson, Tyrone		10.00		(10.00)
Delmont	4,000.00	2,390.00	60%	1,610.00
Derry		375.00		(375.00)
Dunbar, First	2,800.00	2,800.00	100%	-
Dunbar, Laurel Hill	2,000.00	500.00	25%	1,500.00
Ebensburg	800.00		0%	800.00
Fairchance				-
Farmington		1,800.00		(1,800.00)
Fayette City, First	400.00		0%	400.00
Fayette City, Little Redstone	2,000.00	1,000.00	50%	1,000.00
Greensburg, First	30,000.00	10,000.00	33%	20,000.00
Greensburg, Maplewood	4,000.00	1,336.00	33%	2,664.00
Greensburg, Westminster	6,000.00	2,000.00	33%	4,000.00
Irwin, First	25,000.00	10,419.11	42%	14,580.89
Irwin, W. Hempfield	5,000.00	1,250.00	25%	3,750.00
Jeannette	7,296.00	2,008.00	28%	5,288.00
Johnstown, Bethany	2,050.00	537.50	26%	1,512.50
Johnstown, First	7,000.00	2,100.00	30%	4,900.00
Johnstown, Second	3,000.00	750.00	25%	2,250.00
Johnstown, Westmont	22,000.00	7,333.32	33%	14,666.68
Lake Lynn	4,008.00	1,002.00	25%	3,006.00
Latrobe, Main St.	26,500.00	8,840.00	33%	17,660.00
Latrobe, Spring St.				-

Redstone Presbytery
Commitment to Larger Church
April 30, 2016

	2016 PLEDGE	TOTAL PAID	% Payup as of 4/30/2016	Unpaid Pledge Balance	
Leisenring		350.00		(350.00)	
Ligonier, Pleasant Grove	930.00	930.00	100%	-	**
Lower Burrell, Grace	15,720.00	5,240.00	33%	10,480.00	
Lower Burrell, Puckety	12,000.00	3,500.00	29%	8,500.00	
Masontown	1,000.00	500.00	50%	500.00	
McClellandtown	4,500.00	1,125.00	25%	3,375.00	
Merrittstown, Dunlap's Ck.	300.00	300.00	100%	-	**
Mt. Pleasant, Reunion	2,150.00	1,495.00	70%	655.00	
Murrysville, First	8,400.00		0%	8,400.00	
Murrysville, Newlonsburg	22,912.00	3,956.00	17%	18,956.00	
Murrysville, Union		630.00		(630.00)	
N. Alexandria, Community	4,000.00	1,000.00	25%	3,000.00	
N. Alexandria, Congruity	7,800.00	2,965.00	38%	4,835.00	
New Florence, Bethel	2,400.00	800.00	33%	1,600.00	
New Florence, Trinity		800.00		(800.00)	
New Kensington	9,000.00	3,000.00	33%	6,000.00	**
New Salem	3,000.00	862.00	29%	2,138.00	
N. Huntingdon, New Hope	4,256.00	1,419.00	33%	2,837.00	
Patton	3,990.00	3,990.00	100%	-	
Revloc	1,500.00	500.00	33%	1,000.00	
Scottdale	750.00	129.00	17%	621.00	
Smithfield, Grace Chapel	1,200.00		0%	1,200.00	
Smock, Pleasant View	12,540.00	3,137.00	25%	9,403.00	
Trafford, Level Green	2,167.00	541.80	25%	1,625.20	
Uniontown, Tent	342.00	342.00	100%	-	**
Uniontown, Third	12,350.00	3,088.00	25%	9,262.00	
Uniontown, Trinity	9,000.00	1,909.00	21%	7,091.00	
Vanderbilt, E. Liberty	2,580.00	860.00	33%	1,720.00	
Vandergrift		1,122.00		(1,122.00)	
West Newton, Sewickley		119.00		(119.00)	
W. Newton, Sewickley UP	500.00	250.00	50%	250.00	
West Newton, United				-	
Windber	2,400.00	800.00	33%	1,600.00	
Totals	330,031.00	120,681.50		209,349.50	

** Some or all of this amount was paid in 2015

**Presbytery of Redstone and Pine Run Presbyterian Church
Request for Dismissal Documents**

Team Report

- **Discernment Process**

Based upon an initial request of the session of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church, a Presbytery team consisting of Rev. Pete Goetschius, Ruling Elder Robert Brooks, Ruling Elder Leonard Morgan, Rev. Cliff Foster-Associate Clerk and Rev. Skip Noftzger-Executive Presbyter were appointed. The team met with the Pine Run session on October 14, 2015. At that meeting, the session voted to move forward with the discernment process with an anticipated congregational meeting scheduled for April 17, 2016 and to sponsor a congregational forum that would be led by the Team. During this period of discernment, the session and congregation of the Pine Run Church and the Presbytery team engaged in times of prayer as well as discussion and conversation on the primary issues related to their consideration of a possible request for dismissal from the Presbytery of Redstone and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

A more detailed timeline is outlined below, but the key steps in the process for both discernment and requesting dismissal were followed. These included,

- Notification of the Stated Clerk concerning item being placed on the agenda of the Session meeting
- Commitment by the Session to enter into the discernment process
- A minimum six-month time of discernment whereby the congregation and the Presbytery team were encouraged to pray for God's leading and direction
- Opportunities for the Presbytery team to both hear and speak with the members of the congregation as partners in the discernment process
- Opportunities for the Presbytery team to participate through "voice" within the congregational meeting where the request was deliberated and voted
- Notification of the Stated Clerk of the vote of the congregation requesting dismissal from the Presbytery and denomination
- Notification of the members of the congregation in writing concerning the process available to each member concerning retaining membership in a congregation of the Presbyterian Church(USA)

- **Congregational vote**

At the end of the period of discernment, a congregational meeting was held on April 17, 2016 with Rev. Pete Goetschius-and Rev. Skip Noftzger representing

the Presbytery in attendance. In consideration of the motion to request of the Presbytery of Redstone dismissal to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, a written ballot was used with a member of the Presbytery team witnessing the vote count. The ballot was 77 voting in favor of making the request, 1 voting against it and 2 abstentions.

- **Issues considered**

The Presbytery team met with the session of the Pine Run Church in order to consider resolution of possible issues associated with a request for dismissal to another “Reformed body.” As a result, the Pine Run session agreed to the following:

- Every member of the Pine Run Church has been provided information and opportunity to remain within a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- The “Reformed body” to whom the Pine Run Church is requesting dismissal is the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. This denomination is a member of the World Communion of Reformed Churches. The session of Pine Run has initiated the process to move toward their acceptance pending a dismissal from the Presbytery of Redstone. Any dismissal by the Presbytery of Redstone is contingent upon being received into that specific denomination.
- The session has agreed to revise the by-laws through the required procedures in order to remove any references of the congregation to the Presbyterian Church (USA). Upon dismissal, the session has agreed to complete the necessary changes in the corporation status of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church with a denominational affiliation of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- Upon dismissal, the session has agreed to remove any signs or references to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) on the property and nearby roadways.
- The session has reviewed any encumbrances of the congregation to make sure that those are only the responsibility of the congregation. Additionally, special gifts or funds were reviewed to ensure that there were no donor restrictions designating the funds for use within the mission and ministry of either the Presbytery of Redstone or the Presbyterian

Church (USA).

- Because the request for dismissal assumes that the property “held in trust” would also be included and the Presbytery would provide a “quitclaim,” the session of the Pine Run Church offered remuneration of a gift of \$12,000 (payable in three annual installments) in the form of: \$4,000 to the Presbytery of Redstone and \$8,000 to the capital campaign of Pine Springs Camp. If a “quitclaim” deed is requested, any legal costs associated with its preparation and recording will be paid by the Pine Run congregation.
- A title search was completed and there are no other claims to the property.
- The session has agreed to bear the costs in order to make sure that minutes, rolls and other official records (G-3.0107) are retained either by the Presbytery of Redstone or the Presbyterian Historical Society.
- The session understands that any decision about the request of the congregation for dismissal is separate from the standing and status of their current pastor. Rev. Lanny Mellinger is a teaching elder member of the Presbytery of Redstone. Any request for dismissal neither permits nor obligates him remaining in the PCUSA or seeking a transfer.
- The members and other leaders within the Pine Run Church understand that upon dismissal, anyone serving in an elected, approved or appointed service in the presbytery, other councils and agencies of the PCUSA and under its jurisdiction will hereby forfeit that position or responsibility.

- **Pine Run Discernment Process Timeline**

- **September 10, 2015** Pine Run Presbyterian Church Session wrote initial letter to the Stated Clerk of Presbytery of Redstone noting the placing of the item of seeking to enter process of “gracious dismissal” on the agenda of the October 14 Session meeting.
- **September 23, 2015** Stated Clerk Skip Noftzger responded to the Clerk of Session of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church confirming their desire to enter into the discernment process in order to consider making a request to be dismissed from the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A. The Stated Clerk also identified the “Team” as appointed or by designation (Elder Robert

Brooks, Rev. Cliff Foster, Rev. Pete Goetschius, Elder Leonard Morgan, Rev. Skip Noftzger). He attached to his letter copies of the “Policy on Congregations considering making a request to leave the PCUSA” and the handout on “Implementation of Presbytery Policy.”

- **October 14, 2015** Team and the Session of Pine Run Presbyterian Church met together. The Team solicited from members of the Session their concerns and reasons for considering having the congregation express its will on making a request to be dismissed. Session members also offered responses why they believed their sentiments were shared by the larger congregation. Particular actions of the General Assembly, both most recent and past, were discussed and clarified concerning their meaning and implications. At the conclusion, the Session voted to schedule the congregational meeting after the end of the six-month period of discernment on April 17, 2016.
- **November 15, 2015** Team conducted an open forum for the congregation to discuss the process, hear about their concerns and efforts at discernment and to answer questions and issues about denominational policies and positions. Approximately 40 people attended this forum and expressed their disagreement with more recent actions of the General Assembly. The particular concerns focused primarily on including permission for individual/session decision making on same gender marriages and its expression as undermining a commitment to biblical authority. There was also some discussion concerning functional differences between the PCUSA and the EPC.
- **December 8, 2015** Team received a letter from the Pine Run Presbyterian Church session. The correspondence included an invitation to meet with them again and their proposed gift of \$4,000 to Pine Springs Camp and \$2,000 to the Presbytery as part of a possible dismissal to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- **January 26, 2016** Team and the Session met together to discuss the progress within the discernment process. The Team also reviewed with the Session possible resolution on the various issues necessary and helpful for the presbytery to consider in receiving any request for dismissal from a congregation. These issues included signage and symbols, clear title to the property, financial considerations, the cemetery, and process for being received by another Reformed body. These issues were reviewed in case

there would be an affirmative vote to make such a request. The Team made clear to the Session that they do not speak or decide on behalf of the presbytery, but that resolution on these issues would be presented to the presbytery for its own consideration as it decides dismissal requests on a case by case basis. The Session agreed to put in writing to the Team the responses to the various issues, including the financial information upon which the departure gift was based.

- **March 1, 2016** A letter was received from the session of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church with a revision in their proposed gift as part of the possible dismissal process. The new proposal included a gift of \$8,000 for the capital campaign of Pine Springs Camp and \$4,000 for the Presbytery of Redstone (payable in three annual installments). The letter also contained responses to issues raised during the meeting with the Team on January 26, 2016.
- **April 17, 2016** The congregational meeting of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church was conducted in order to consider the question whether the congregation shall request dismissal from the Presbytery of Redstone into the Presbytery of the Alleghenies of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Written ballots were distributed only to active members of the congregation using the membership directory. Presbytery representatives were given privilege of the floor to speak and advocate for staying PCUSA. The written ballots were counted by two tellers in the presence of a member of the Team. The final vote was 77 – 1 in favor of requesting dismissal to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.
- **April 20, 2016** A letter from the Presbytery of Redstone was mailed to the session for distribution to the membership of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church recounting the vote on the request for dismissal and that it would be considered at the May meeting. The letter also noted options for any members desiring to remain members of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
- **April 25, 2016** Final Team report was completed and submitted to the Session of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church for any corrections or clarifications upon what had been offered or had transpired. The final document is prepared for distribution with materials for the presbytery packet for the May meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone.

- **May 7, 2016** Final Team report was posted as part of the presbytery packet for consideration of the Presbytery of Redstone at the meeting to be held on May 17, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church of Jeannette, PA.

- **Proposed motion for dismissal**

WHEREAS the Pine Run Presbyterian Church entered into and followed the “Redstone Presbytery Policy on Congregations Considering Making a Request to Leave the PC (USA)” including; notification of the Stated Clerk, minimum period of six months for discernment where Presbytery representatives were afforded opportunities to engage members of the congregation;

WHEREAS the Pine Run session has agreed to the removal of any signs, symbols and insignia of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and its antecedent denominations;

WHEREAS the Pine Run Church has agreed to make necessary changes to the by-laws that include references to the Presbyterian Church(USA) and its antecedent denominations;

WHEREAS the Pine Run Church has agreed to bear all costs associated with retaining a copy with the Presbyterian Historical Society or Presbytery of all important historical records including minutes, rolls and other official records;

WHEREAS recognizing the real property held in trust for the denomination, the ongoing per capita commitments and the fiduciary responsibility of the Presbytery, the Pine Run Church has committed to a financial remuneration of \$12,000 with \$8,000 to Pine Springs Camp capital campaign and \$4,000 to the Presbytery (payable in three annual installments);

WHEREAS the Presbytery of Redstone will relinquish any interest and all claims it may have with respect to any property, real or personal, of the Pine Run Presbyterian Church. Pine Run Presbyterian Church will bear any costs associated with legal documentation of the quitclaim deed.

WHEREAS both the Pine Run Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Redstone indemnify and hold one another harmless from judgments arising out of the relationship between themselves and any of their related governing bodies, councils, employees, officials and members defined in the broadest sense possible.

WHEREAS the dismissal to another reformed body is dependent upon the final acceptance into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church;

WHEREAS the Pine Run congregation at a duly called meeting held on April 17, 2016 and witnessed by Presbytery representatives voted 77-1 to make a request of the

Presbytery of Redstone to be dismissed to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church;

WHEREAS the Stated Clerk included this request as a docket item for consideration at the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Redstone on May 17, 2016 at the First Presbyterian Church, Jeannette and distributed the pertinent pieces of information to the presbyters for that meeting 10 days prior to the meeting, pursuant to paragraph H of The Policy.

The Pine Run Presbyterian Church requests of the Presbytery of Redstone to be dismissed with property, real and personal, to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church based upon completion of the terms above.

1 Statement of Faith – Susan A. Blank

2 I believe in the triune God: one being in three persons, equal, inseparable
3 and eternal. God spoke the world into being. I believe that God is sovereign, just,
4 and faithful; both transcendent and immanent. Although much is beyond my own
5 understanding, I trust in God's providence. I believe that God claims me, knows
6 me and loves me. I know that my faith is a gift, something I would not have been
7 able to come to or to work out on my own.

8 God created all that is in the world to be in relationship with God. But
9 humanity rebelled, turning away from God's will, failing to trust in God. On our
10 own, we are unable to restore this relationship. Out of love for the world, God
11 reached out to redeem and to heal the world. Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully
12 human, fully divine: God with us, God for us. In Jesus Christ, God has revealed
13 God's self to us. In his ministry, Jesus crossed cultural boundaries, becoming
14 prophet, priest and king to all peoples, particularly to the poor and the
15 marginalized. The man Jesus took on the human condition in all ways. Jesus Christ
16 suffered with us and died on the cross, proving the depths of God's love for us. By
17 his resurrection, Christ defeated the powers of sin and death. Our reconciliation
18 with God, neighbor and self is complete, by grace, through Jesus Christ. I trust in
19 Christ for my salvation.

20 Christ continues, through the Holy Spirit, to be at work in the world,
21 transforming lives and revealing glimpses of the eternal reign of God. The Holy
22 Spirit gives life, quickens faith, and joins us to Christ by faith. The Spirit prompts
23 our joyful response to God's grace. As God's presence in our lives, the Holy Spirit
24 is our comfort, our sustenance and our guide.

25 The Holy Spirit inspired and illumines Scripture, the authoritative word that
26 witnesses, by the Spirit, to God's revelation in the living Word, Jesus Christ.
27 Scripture is our guide to life and to faith. The Church is the one body of Christ; the
28 community of believers called into being, and sent to participate in God's
29 reconciling mission in the world. The Church works for justice, freedom, equity,
30 peace and fullness of life for all. God is present to the Church in the Spirit, who
31 gives to the Church all that it needs for faithful witness to Christ as Lord and
32 Savior.

33 The sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper are gifts given to the
34 Church by Christ; visible signs of invisible grace. In the waters of baptism, we are
35 sealed into the community of faith as God's own children. In the Eucharist, we are
36 lifted up to Christ, being united with Christ and all believers in a foretaste of God's
37 heavenly banquet, and are given nourishment for a life of faith. We wait in hope.

Richard Watson

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Inquirer moving to Candidate status

My name is Richard Watson. I am a member of the Calvin United Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale. I live in Connellsville Pa. and formerly worked as an information technology professional for Oglevee LTD. From December 1996 through March 2013.

I am drawn to the Ministry Of Word And Sacrament because it challenges one to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through words and actions and to invite all to participate in God's marvelous work of reconciliation began by Christ on the cross, God's Missio Dei. My sense of call began in 1995 when I was ordained as an elder at my home church. Throughout these past 20 years I have had opportunities to enhance my gifts by becoming certified in Redstone's program (first as an authorized lay preacher and then a commissioned lay pastor.) Since 2000 I have been both honored and challenged by serving the Leisenring Presbyterian Church as a Commissioned Ruling Elder. Though I am visually impaired God has continually left the door open to ministry while closing those to the technology profession. God has affirmed and strengthened my people skills and allowed me to connect with those who struggle with their faith and life's situations.

This call to ordained ministry has been filled with many starts and stops. It has been a journey of relying on God, and much prayer. God has often shown me that we most often do not have all of the answers and that we are required to step out in faith. I have been under care of Redstone's CPM as an inquirer since February of 2015.

This past year has challenged me to recognize that all happens in community and to celebrate all of God's gifts among God's people. As a teaching elder, one is called not only to teach the gospel but to struggle along with the congregation and meet the people in their life's situations and by the grace of God to connect the gospel and show its application to not only the congregation's life but to the world. I welcome this call to give God the glory, because of Jesus Christ His Son, and by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Amen!



What's all the Buzz About?

The Inter-Presbytery Leadership Formation (IPLF) team has created a new model for training future CREs.

The main purpose is to train those who feel called to be an Authorized Preacher or Commissioned Ruling Elder. However, it's really multi-purpose. The **workshops** will be open to all

Ruling Elders, current APs and CREs, Clerks of Session, or anyone else in the church interested in continuing education.

This is a joint effort of the Presbyteries of Redstone, Upper Ohio Valley, and Washington.

Program Basics

Courses - The **cohort** forming now will participate in four courses. These classes have face-to-face meetings at least three times during the 15-week term. There will be online assignments also. They will be common to the whole cohort.

Workshops - These will be offered at each presbytery on a rotating basis as a ½ day event. You may attend the workshop in any presbytery to find a date that best suits your schedule. **The workshops will be open to anyone interested in taking them.**

Field Education/Practicum – Participants in the **cohort** may be placed with one supervisor for all or have several supervisors.

The cohort forming now will begin Fall 2016.

The first workshops in Redstone will be offered on September 10, 2016.

Help Spread the Buzz!



Contact your presbytery's representatives for more information.

Chuck MacPherson, Skip Noftzger, Cheryl Rhea



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HOW DO NEW PEOPLE HEAR ABOUT YOUR CHURCH?

When asked, “How did you first find out about this congregation?” visitors give surprisingly diverse answers. Because not all visitors are seeking the same thing, their path to your church door reflects their specific needs and interests. Thus, congregations need multiple strategies to publicize and promote their presence in the community.

Types of Potential New Members

There are three major types of potential members in your community and they usually have a variety of methods for seeking you out.

Transplants are new community residents who tend to search for a congregation of the same denomination they were previously a part of. They generally use the narrowest search strategy, such as denominational lists or a recommendation by their previous pastor.

Neighbors are friends and relatives of people who already attend or who live close by. These visitors are more likely to respond to a personal invitation to attend.

Seekers are potential worshipers who have not attended church before, or at least not in a long time. They usually find a church in less direct ways and may be looking for an experience that addresses an emotional need.

Building Bridges

Many congregations excel at building bonds—personal connections among members—but it takes something more to build bridges to new members. Congregations build bridges to potential new members when worshipers want to share something that they find meaningful with those outside the church. Unfortunately, without planning and intentional efforts, these bridges never get built.

Congregational leaders and members assume that new people first engage by attending a worship service. However, growing numbers of people, especially younger people, have no church affiliation or previous exposure to faith communities. More than ever, congregations need different mechanisms to engage new generations and populations.¹

Ways to Build Bridges

There are multiple bridging approaches, and the effectiveness of each strategy depends on the type of visitor a church is attempting to reach.

Personal communication. Word of mouth remains the most frequent way new people find out about a church. Decades of research support this finding: current estimates range from at least half to two-thirds of surveyed adults find a church through personal invitations. People are infinitely more likely to trust information if they hear it from a person they know.

Virtual word of mouth. If current members use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Yelp, Foursquare, Meetup, or other platforms, your church already engages in digital evangelism. When members post photos of church experiences and friends, their side-door evangelism spreads information about what your church has to offer to their friends *and the friends of their friends*. Online avenues allows people to feel like they belong before they ever step foot on church property.²

Mass communication. An effective church website gives new people the chance to do in-depth research about



a church before they visit or engage in activities there. A high-quality website connects people to the church's ministry goals, including opportunities for volunteerism, social advocacy, and meeting spiritual needs.

Other communications still make a difference. Congregations can produce attractive brochures, postcards, and mailings. Others use signs and banners on church property and in the community. Radio ads tend to be inexpensive and can reach a wide audience.

Promoting and hosting events. Fairburn United Methodist Church, with many members more than eighty years old, recognized that new actions could strengthen their congregation's role in the community. The church created an "Open Doors Day" for the community, a carnival-type event that offered free rides, games, food, and tours. When more than 300 people attended, the church felt more connected to new residents in their changing community.³

Community service activities. Meaningful service and advocacy efforts grow out of church ministries. These activities both minister to struggling or hurting people and give potential new members an avenue for social activism as well. For some, service volunteering can lead to deeper involvement in a faith community.

Increasing visibility. A national study of new members found that one in five first found out about the congregation because they noticed the building.⁴ Thus, attractive grounds and facilities also advertise and can say, "Welcome." Notifications about preschools, after school programs, and service programs increase foot traffic as well as raise the visibility and use of church facilities.

Designing Bridges That Work

Before launching plans for reaching out to new people, gather some information about what is working now. Find out what current church efforts yield the best results. Above all, make only one or two changes at a time and continue monitoring the results.

Conduct a survey. Ask your last twenty new members: "Through whom, or by what means, did you first visit our church? What got you on the property the first time?" Share the findings with the appropriate committee or governing board and plan new strategies.

Assess the church's reputation. Ask ten nonmembers in the community to tell you what they know about the church. Which of your programs or services are you effectively communicating to the public? Do these assessments match your congregation's goals and mission? If not, where is the communication faltering?

Bolster your digital message. Try googling your church and see what comes up. Does the church website come up first? What else can a potential church visitor learn from an internet search? Is the address displayed and are service times easy to find? Consider completing a review of church website basics and making the necessary changes to enhance your site.⁵

To enable current members to electronically communicate with their friends about the church, learn about their usage patterns. Expect church members to fall all along the social media spectrum—from non-users to experts. An excellent Church Internet Usage Survey is available to get this critical information.⁶ Based on accurate information, a social ministry team can build a comprehensive plan for enhancing the church's ministry through this technology.

Plan big worship days. Churches see spikes in attendance at predictable times throughout each year—Christmas, Easter, and Mother's Day—and even larger numbers can be expected if people in the neighborhood receive personal or print invitations. Other promoted service times might be a Back-to-School Sunday in the fall, a day in February when people are less busy, or a Visitor or Bring-a-Friend Sunday. Each of these promoted services attract different types of people, such as inactives, families with children, and relatives or friends of members. However, given the planning and effort involved, carrying out more than three or four of these special Sundays a year is counterproductive.

The Bottom Line

What causes an increase in first-time worship visitors? Major causes are your congregation's meaningful ministry, visibility, and positive reputation in the community. When that is the case, members derive significant spiritual meaning from their church, more members spontaneously invite, and more people respond to those invitations.

1. F. Douglas Powe and Jasmine Smother, "Create New Entry Points," *Leading Ideas*, October 2014 (www.churchleadership.com).

2. Powe and Smother.

3. www.sacredplaces.org/reimagine-your-sacred-place/training/graduate-success-stories/2015/02/23/fairburn-united-methodist-church

4. U.S. Congregational Life Survey (www.USCongregations.org).

5. See Scott Thumma, "Review of Church Website," www.theparishpaper.com/review-church-website-basics-scott-thumma.

6. See Scott Thumma, "Church Internet Usage Survey" www.theparishpaper.com/church-internet-usage-survey-scott-thumma.

MAKING CONGREGATIONS GREENER

The celebration of Earth Day began in 1970 and has now spread to 192 countries. The early organizers could not imagine that almost fifty years later environmental issues would remain challenging, emotional, and controversial. However, for faith communities, the concept of caring for all creation fits with the Gospel message of assuming responsibility for what God has given us. How much have congregations embraced the practices of refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle?

Beginning Steps

Making the decision to become a greener congregation can seem overwhelming. However, there are several small and cost-effective ways to shape church practices and policies to honor the stewardship of creation.

Start a conversation. If the congregation has never discussed ecological issues as a community, consider a study or discernment process devoted to the topic.¹ Ask: How do our theological and biblical commitments translate into spiritual practices of caring for the earth? Perhaps a church group could read and discuss the seven different biblical perspectives on creation and reflect on the connections between these traditions and the natural sciences.²

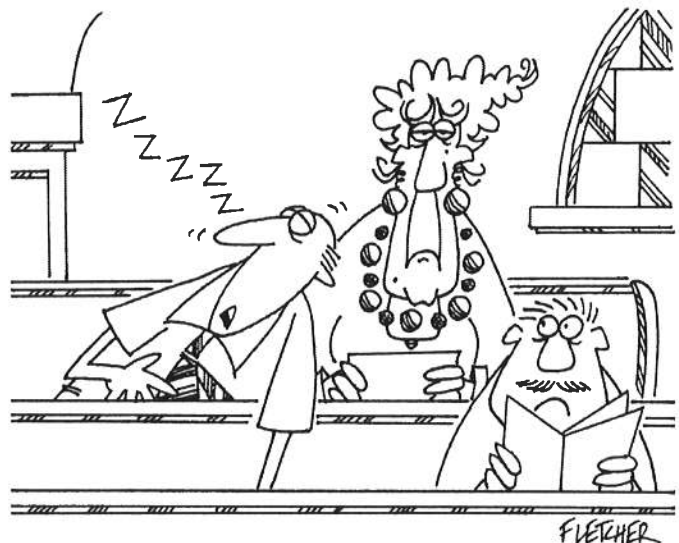
Another strategy would be to ask a group to review the congregation's vision or mission statement, website content, and other important documents. Does your congregation's vision reflect the care of creation? If it does not, how might some aspect of caring for creation that is authentic to your church be made more explicit?

Learn more about local environmental issues. Often members lack up-to-date information about local energy and food sources, water and wastewater treatment, forms of environmental damage, or potential hazards. Consider inviting guest speakers from community organizations involved in environmental health to inform church groups. Begin a study or discussion series on local environmental topics.

Identify people with passion and gifts to lead the church in stewardship practices. Almost every church has members involved in local efforts to address environmental concerns. But they may have never been asked to use their knowledge to help other church members move toward greater awareness and stewardship.

Reassess current consumption and waste patterns. An easy starting point is to use only recycled paper and other products for church materials. Most congregations could do a better job of providing more visible recycling receptacles for paper, glass, plastic, cans, and cardboard. Some churches even serve as recycling drop-off locations for their members and communities. Install bike racks to encourage worshipers to cycle to services and activities. Another overlooked area relates to the cleaning chemicals used around the building. Are these products safe for the people using them and for the environment? Are cleaning products stored safely?³

Laying Down Burdens. The author of *Less Clutter, More Life* says, "clutter represents postponed decisions."⁴



A STRONG PROPONENT OF EFFICIENT ENERGY USE IN THE CHURCH, EUGENE GOES INTO "SLEEP MODE" ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Experts estimate we never use 80 percent of what we keep. Does the same statistic apply to congregations? How much space is devoted to storing outdated props, equipment, curriculum, and seasonal material? One church cleared out two storage rooms, including old records and paperwork, to gain Sunday school rooms in return. Perhaps hanging on to objects reminds us of great periods in the church's past. However, giving away and recycling items from the past frees the congregation to move forward in ministry.

Bigger Steps

A congregation that is striving to manage church resources as caretakers of God's creation can take on even more ambitious projects.

Conduct an energy audit. A facilities committee should evaluate energy uses in its facilities every two years, including checking the heating and cooling equipment for efficiency. The committee can establish a baseline of heating, cooling, and lighting costs. About forty states have affiliates of Interfaith Power & Light (www.interfaithpowerandlight.org), a non-profit that aids congregations with energy conservation and efforts to shrink their carbon footprint. Their website provides valuable information about agencies who conduct energy usage for specific states. The U.S. Department of Energy (www.energy.gov) suggests some do-it-yourself versions of an energy audit.

Address underutilized buildings. The Garden Church in San Pedro, California, permanently solved this problem—they have no church building. The congregation meets at an outdoor central table surrounded by gardens—"a living sanctuary." Few congregations would find this a workable approach, yet other strategies could make a significant difference. For instance, too many church buildings remain empty for many hours during the week even though their facilities could be an important anchor for the wider community. Do the policies and fees that apply to outside groups encourage or discourage potential users? Seek out new partnerships and remove the barriers that prevent greater use of church facilities. One nonprofit organization, Partners for Sacred Places (www.sacredplaces.org), assists congregations in sustaining and actively using their structures. Leaders could learn about and consider some of their suggestions for maximizing buildings.

Replace equipment. Photocopiers, computers, and printers should have power saving features. If not, then consider replacing older equipment. Refrigerators and

freezers use large amounts of energy. If these units are older, the church might save money and energy by replacing them with equipment that is more efficient. A water heater should get special scrutiny if the unit keeps large amounts of water hot all the time. On-demand, tankless, or instant water heaters could be a good investment in a church where daily demand is not common. Light fixtures and bulbs should also be replaced with new technology that use less energy and cost less over the life of the bulb. Replacing poorly insulated windows and putting in more insulation also reduces energy use.⁵

Consider other sources of energy. Some churches install solar panels to generate renewable heat. Your region may offer the possibility of purchasing "green power" from wind and geothermal sources.

Become advocates. Most denominations offer opportunities for congregations to be a collective witness for environmental concerns. Other ecumenical efforts, such as Creation Justice Ministries (www.creationjustice.org), provide information on current legislation and policy initiatives to mobilize people around environmental justice issues.

When Abundance Leads to Resistance

Americans can easily take the beauty and abundance of our country for granted. When we live in a land of plenty, we are often blind to the erosion of natural resources and that leads us to resist any limits to our choices. Serving God by protecting God's creation conveys that we expect God's presence in all places.⁶

1. See the excellent Mennonite Creation Care Network curriculum (<http://www.mennocreationcare.org>).

2. William P. Brown, *The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

3. See Rebecca Barnes Davies, *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth, Revised Edition: How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2016) for more ideas.

4. Barbara Hemphill, *Less Clutter, More Life* (Pasadena, CA: True Roses, 2014), 12.

5. See Creation Justice Ministries (www.creationjustice.org) for purchasing guides and Earth Day Sunday worship materials.

6. Mark Torgerson, *Greening Spaces for Worship and Ministry: Congregations, Their Building, and Creation Care* (New York: Rowland & Littlefield, 2012).