

PRESBYTERY DIGEST

A summary of actions & information from the meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery

February 8, 2018

[Pittsburgh Theological Seminary](#)

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, the Rev. Heather Schoenewolf at 1:00 PM. A service of worship was held celebrating the contributions of African-American Churches with the Rev. Dr. Jim Gilchrist (Westminster Presbyterian Church) preaching a sermon entitled, *To Tell the Truth*. The Rev. Nikki Porter (Eastminster Presbyterian Church) led the ministry of music. An offering of \$1,696.00 was received for equal distribution to the [Lazarus Fund](#) and the [Hunger Fund](#). This amount will be matched by the [Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation](#).

From the Executive Committee:

Elected the following:

- Elder Chris Martin (East Liberty Presbyterian Church) as Treasurer of Pittsburgh Presbytery for calendar year 2018

Approved the following:

- the chairs for the following subcommittees: Revs. Melany Hamilton and Jodi Flack as Co-Chairs of the Ecclesiastical Committee; Elder Dan Beckstrom as Chair of the Finance Committee; and Elder Barbara Prevost as Chair of the Personnel Committee; the Chair of the Property Committee still to be determined
- the following to be members of the presbytery Minute Reading Committee for 2018: Revs. Eric Dennis, Trent Hancock, Sheldon Sorge, and Steven Werth with Elders Carla Campbell and Cathy Nelson
- authorizing all ministry teams, commissions, committees, task forces of Pittsburgh Presbytery and related organizations, camps and conference centers affiliated with the presbytery to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at meetings and events during 2018
- the celebrations of the Lord's Supper by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary within the bounds of Pittsburgh Presbytery for 2018
- filing for audit the financial statements of the presbytery for the months of October and November 2017
- the request of the Pleasant Unity United Presbyterian Church for forgiveness of past due per capita

Recommended the following for presbytery action; **approved:**

- approval of the waiver of the six-year limitation on terms for one elder at the First United Presbyterian Church, Crafton Heights, to serve an additional term in the class of 2020
- concurrence with the overture from the Presbytery of Newton to review the *Current Per Capita Based System of Funding Ministry of Councils Higher than the Session*

- to **NOT** approve the motion referred to it from the December meeting of the presbytery regarding per capita remittance; a following substitute motion as amended was approved: *that the Executive Committee hold a special meeting which is open for all presbyters to participate in order to promote a full discussion regarding Pittsburgh Presbytery's subsidies of per capita payments to Synod and General Assembly; that the presbytery staff provide clear information on per capita expenses and income and endowment designations no less than two weeks prior to such a meeting; and that the Executive Committee bring a recommendation to the September meeting of the Presbytery.*

From the Stated Clerk:

Announced the following:

- all requests for docket time at Presbytery meetings must be made to the Ecclesiastical Committee through the Stated Clerk Office. For the May 2018 meeting the deadline is noon on April 4, 2018.
- the 2018 session minutes reading dates and locations:

Saturday, April 7, from 9-11:30 AM at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 21, from 9-11:30 AM at Unity Presbyterian Church (formerly known as Wallace Memorial)

Saturday, May 5, 9-11:30 AM at Elfinwild Presbyterian Church

Saturday, May 19, 9-11:30 AM at Bethel Presbyterian Church (Bethel Park) 9-11:30 AM

Saturday, June 9, from 9-11:30 AM at Pittsburgh Presbytery Center*

***NOTE: JUNE MINUTES READING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO JUNE 9 (PREVIOUSLY POSTED FOR JUNE 2) DUE TO A SCHEDULING CONFLICT**

Overall Make-Up Session:

Saturday, September 22, from 9-11:30 AM at the Pittsburgh Presbytery Center

- the New Clerk of Session Training is scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 17, at the presbytery center with a snow date of February 24; please contact Cathy Nelson at the presbytery office to register
- the **deadline for entry of 2017 Statistical Information is Tuesday, February 13**

Reported the following:

- the transfer of the former First Presbyterian Church of Braddock building to the Mon-Valley Initiative on January 25, 2018

- the following Permanent Judicial Commission expired terms roster: Rev. Dr. Don Ewing (2016), Rev. Dr. John Welch (2016), Elder Ann Baker, Esq. (2017), and Elder William Cadwell (2017)
- the plan for addressing minister and elder parity at presbytery meetings
- the dismissal of the Committee of Counsel in the Lewis v. Pittsburgh Presbytery Synod of the Trinity PJC case
- the Ecclesiastical Administrative Commission to ordain Annamarie Groenenboom as Minister of the Word & Sacrament at the Glenshaw Presbyterian Church on January 21, 2018

Recommended the following for presbytery action; **approved**:

- the equalized ruling elder list for 2018
- the selection of Karl Louis Shaley, a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, to be a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the 223 General Assembly in St. Louis

From Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Reported the following:

- a Pre-Care Consultation was conducted with Carol Sharp, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church
- Carol Sharp, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, was enrolled as Inquirer
- Annual Consultations were conducted with Candidate Ashley Birt and Inquirer Mary Yearsley
- Britney Knight (Bible Exegesis) was given permission to take the Senior Ordination noted
- Inquirer Cynthia Postell was removed from the care process of Pittsburgh Presbytery
- appointed a commission to ordain Ashely Birt as Pastoral Fellow for Youth & Families at Rutgers Presbyterian Church, Presbytery of New York City

Introduced the following:

- Candidate Anthony Richardson-Eckes, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, who was received as a candidate at the Commission on Preparation for Ministry meeting on June 14, 2017

From the General Minister:

Reported the following:

- the state of the presbytery

Announced the following:

- with sadness the upcoming departure of Associate Minister to the Presbytery, the Rev. Ayana Teter, who has accepted a call to serve the Board of Pensions of the PC(USA); she will remain a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery

From the Commission on Ministry:

Reported the completion of the following contracts between:

- the Rev. Jane Esterline and the Northmont United Presbyterian Church effective January 31, 2018

Moved presbytery approved the following appointments; **approved:**

- the Rev. Dong Ju Shin as Moderator of the Korean United Presbyterian Church effective November 16, 2017
- the Rev. Ben Robbins as Moderator of the Northmont United Presbyterian Church effective February 12, 2018
- the Rev. Deb Warren as Moderator of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church effective March 1, 2018

Moved presbytery approve the following calls; **approved:**

- the call of the Northmont United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Benjamin Robbins as Pastor effective February 12, 2018

Moved presbytery approve the following Temporary Pastoral Contracts; **approved:**

- the request of the Central Presbyterian Church, Tarentum, to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Robert Dayton as Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2018 for one year
- the request of the Westminster Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Jason Freyer as Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2018 for 1 year
- the request of the John McMillan Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Matthew Fricker as Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2018 for a period of one year
- the request of the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Aaron Teter as Part-Time Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2018 for 1 year

Moved presbytery grant member-at-large status to the following; **approved:**

- the Rev. Jane Esterline effective February 1, 2018
- the Rev. Sungil Hong effective November 1, 2017

Moved presbytery grant letters of dissolution to the following; **approved:**

- the request of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of the Rev. Ben Black effective February 28, 2018

Moved presbytery grant letters of dismissal to the following; **approved**:

- the Rev. Ben Black to the Presbytery of Boston effective Feb. 28, 2018

Moved presbytery approve the following validated ministries; **approved**:

- the Rev. Dr. Tammy Wiens position of Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation for the National Council of Churches

Moved presbytery grant permission for the following; **approved**:

Moved presbytery approve the following Administrative Commissions to install; **approved**:

- the Rev. Gavin Walton as Pastor of the Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church on February 11, 2018
- the Rev. Ben Robbins as Pastor of the Northmont United Presbyterian Church on March 11, 2018
- the Rev. Dong Ju Shin as Pastor of the Korean United Presbyterian Church on March 18, 2018
- the Rev. Elisabeth Hartwell as Pastor of Hiland Presbyterian Church on April 8, 2018

From the Committee on Nominations:

Permanent Judicial Commission

- Elder Laura Vassamillet, Sewickley (2023/West)

Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation

- the Rev. Dr. Wayne Peck, HR (2020A/North)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate Alternate

- Elizabeth Nicodemus (North)

Resolution of Thanks: the presbytery **adopted** a resolution of thanks to the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for being a wonderful host to this meeting of the presbytery