

# PRESBYTERY DIGEST

A summary report of actions & information from the meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery  
February 13, 2020  
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Moderator Rev. Steven Werth called the meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery to order and opened with prayer at 1:00 PM. During worship, the gifts and ministries of Black Presbyterians were lifted up in celebration of Black History Month. The Rev. Nikki Porter led the presbytery in the ministry of music and the Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy shared the message. An offering of \$2,000.08 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:**

*(detailed information of items with an \* may be found in the minutes of the presbytery meeting)*

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

- approval of the following individuals for election to the Nominating Committee\*  
Elder Judith Jerry, Class of 2022A  
Rev. Dr. Johnnie Monroe, Class of 2022B  
Elder Ann Strong, Class of 2022A
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms of one elder of the Aspinwall Presbyterian Church
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms of two elders of the Forest Avenue United Presbyterian Church
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms of two elders of the Liberty Presbyterian Church
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms of one elder for the Swissvale Presbyterian Church
- receive and file for audit the presbytery financial statements for the months of October and November 2019

**Reported** the following:

- elected Rev. Carol Divens-Roth and Rev. Jeff Tindall as co-chairs for 2020
- elected Elder Chris Martin (East Liberty PC) as Treasurer of the presbytery for a one-year term until the first meeting of the Executive Committee in 2021
- elected the following committee chairs for 2020:

Elder Christine Blackwood and Rev. Jodi Flack as co-chairs of the Ecclesiastical Committee  
Elder Chris Martin as chair of the Finance Committee  
Elder Dan Beckstrom as chair of the Property Committee

- approved change in employment status for Director of Justice Ministries\*
- presbytery Minute Reading Committee for 2020 consists of the following:

Ministers: Eric Dennis, Charissa Howe, and Sheldon Sorge  
Elders: Carla Campbell, Cathy Nelson, and Mark Roth

- forgiveness of per capita arrearage for Bethel United Presbyterian Church\*
- elected Rev. Eric Dennis as a member of the Ecclesiastical Committee
- presented the per capita report as of December 31, 2019\*
- authorized all ministry teams, commissions, committees, task forces of the 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 2020
- approved the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary within the bounds of Pittsburgh Presbytery for the calendar year 2020

### From the Stated Clerk:

#### Reported the following:

- the deadline for docket time and waiver requests for the May Presbytery meeting is no later than **noon on Wednesday, April 8**; remaining deadlines for docket times and waiver requests for 2020:

**Wednesday, August 26** (presbytery meeting on September 24)

**Wednesday, November 4** (presbytery meeting on December 10)

- appointment of Investigating Committee\*
- reminder regarding expiration of Child Protection Clearances.\*
- 2019 session minutes reading dates and locations

Congregational minutes, rolls, and registers will be read from **9-11:30 AM** on the following dates at the places listed:

Saturday, March 14, at [First United Presbyterian Church](#), Tarentum (North Branch)

Saturday, March 28, at [Southminster Presbyterian Church](#) (South Branch)

Saturday, April 18, [Oakmont Presbyterian Church](#) (East Branch)

Saturday, May 2, [Unity Presbyterian Church](#) (West Branch)

Saturday, May 16 at [Pittsburgh Presbytery Center](#)

Overall Make-Up Session:

Saturday, September 12, from 9-11:30 AM at [Pittsburgh Presbytery Center](#)

**NOTE:** Clerks of Session will remember congregations are not required to attend the minutes reading scheduled in their branch and may take minutes, rolls, and registers to be read at any scheduled time and place.

- invitations for hosting presbytery meetings for calendar year 2021\*
- appointment of Associate and Assistant Stated Clerks\*
- Permanent Judicial Commission expired terms roster\*
- presbytery plan for addressing teaching and ruling elder parity\*

#### Recommended the following:

- concurrence with Overture 4 to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; **failed\***

- concurrence with Overture 12 to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; **approved\***
- concurrence with Overture 29 to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; **approved\***
- approval of the Equalized Ruling Elders for 2020; **approved**

**Recommended** approval & dismissal of the following administrative commissions; **approved & dismissed:\***

- to Install the Rev. Nicole Atkinson
- to Install the Rev. Derek Campbell.

**From Commission on Preparation for Ministry:**

**Reported** the following:

- Ashley Ashley (Theological Competence) and Brendan Ashley (Bible Exegesis and Church Polity) were given permission to take the Senior Ordination Examinations specified
- Pre-Care Consultation was conducted with Jacob Wilson (Shadyside Presbyterian Church)
- Jacob Wilson was Enrolled as Inquirer
- Carol Sharp was Certified Ready to Receive a Call and given permission to circulate PIF
- Initial Consultation was conducted with Rebecca Young
- Annual Consultations were conducted with Frank Hancock, Carol Sharp, and Steven Singleton
- Sermons were heard from Ashley Ashley and Carol Sharp
- William Branning withdrew from the care process in good standing as Certified Ready Inactive and was approved for pulpit supply under the category of seminary graduate

**From the General Minister:**

- Associate Minister Rev. Brian Wallace reported on behalf of General Minister, the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge; Dr. Sorge was excused from the meeting due to the grave illness of his mother
- shared a brief time of remembrance for Rev. Dr. Beverly James, former Associate Pastor of Pittsburgh Presbytery, and led the presbytery in prayer
- extended an invitation to the Director of Justice Ministries, Elder Ralph Lowe, to report on the state of the Matthew 25 initiative

**From the Commission on Ministry:**

**Reported** the completion of the following contracts between:

- the Rev. Nancy Titus and the Valley Presbyterian Church effective February 15, 2020
- the Rev. Anthony Rivera and the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church effective January 6, 2020

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

- Forest Hills Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Nancy Titus as Pastor effective February 16, 2020

**Moved** presbytery approve the following appointments for moderators; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Wayne Meyer as Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram effective January 1, 2020
- the Rev. Nancy Titus as Moderator of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church effective February 16, 2020
- the Rev. Dennis Molnar as Moderator of the Hebron Presbyterian Church effective February 1, 2020
- the Rev. David Carlisle as Moderator of the Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2020
- the Rev. Dr. Cindy McClung as Moderator of the Valley Presbyterian Church effective February 16, 2020

**Moved** presbytery approve the following letter of reception: **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Charles E. Glidden, Honorably Retired from the Blackhawk Presbytery effective February 13, 2020

**Moved** presbytery approve the following temporary membership enrollment; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Wayne Meyer, a member of the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church effective January 1, 2020

**Moved** presbytery approve the following temporary pastoral contracts; **approved** by consent:

- United Presbyterian Church in Ingram for the services of Rev. Wayne Meyer as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville for the services of Rev. Sarah Robbins as Interim Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- Third Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Karie Charlton as Temporary Associate Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- Third Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Mary Louise Russell Perth as Temporary Associate Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- Third Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. John Porter as Interim Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Benjamin Schneider as Temporary Pastor for two months effective November 1, 2019
- First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Benjamin Schneider as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- Valley Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Nancy Titus as Temporary Pastor for six months effective January 1, 2020
- Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Pastor Tim Sweigart as Temporary Pastor for four months effective September 1, 2019
- Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Tami Hooker as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020

- East Union United Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Mary Josephine Ramsey as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- John McMillan Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Matt Fricker as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020
- Shadyside Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of Rev. Dr. John Dalles as Interim Pastor for one-year effective February 15, 2020

**Moved** presbytery grant a letter of dismissal to the following; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Ben Libert to Washington Presbytery effective January 18, 2020
- the Rev. Dr. Dan Corll to Lake Erie Presbytery effective February 13, 2020

**Moved** presbytery enroll the following as members-at-large; **approved** by consent:

- Rev. Robert Ruefle effective January 1, 2020
- Rev. Anthony Rivera effective January 7, 2020

**Moved** presbytery approve the following administrative commissions to install; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Nancy Titus as Pastor of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church on March 29, 2020
- Elder Donald Barnes (Open Door) and Elder Lam Nguyen (Pittsburgh Vietnamese Presbyterian church) as Co-Commissioned Pastors for the Pittsburgh Vietnamese Presbyterian Church, each with full privileges for one year effective January 19, 2020
- Elder Suzanne Good as Commissioned Pastor for Bethel United Presbyterian Church for one year effective February 15, 2020

**Announced** pastors who have entered into the Church Triumphant:

- Rev. August Thalman (December 30, 2019)
- Rev. Dr. Beverly James (January 23, 2020)

**From the Committee on Nominations:**

**Presented** the following nominee for service as committee/commission member; **elected**:

**Commission on Ministry**

- Rev. Dr. Karl McDonald, Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church (2022A, West)

**Installation of New Moderators:**

Moderator:	Rev. Charissa Howe
Senior Vice-Moderator:	Elder Mark Roth
Vice-Moderators:	Rev. Rebecca DePoe (North)
	Elder Elsie Knappenberger (West)
	Rev. Laura Strauss (South)