

PRESBYTERY DIGEST

A summary of actions & information from the meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery
September 19, 2019
Crestfield Camp & Conference Center

Moderator Rev. Steven Werth called the meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery to order and opened with prayer at 10:00 AM.

The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge's Scripture texts were Psalm 79:1-9 and 1 Timothy 2:1-7 from which he shared a message entitled, [Praying Our Enemies](#). A service of remembrance was held for Ministers and Elders of Pittsburgh Presbytery who joined the Church Triumphant in the last year and the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was celebrated. During worship, an offering of \$1,931.00 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: *(detailed information of items with an * may be found in the minutes of the presbytery meeting)*

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

- approval of the 2020 Presbytery Budget*
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms of eight elders of the Bethesda United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms for one elder of the Homestead United Presbyterian Church
- receive and file for audit the presbytery financial statements for the months of March, April, May, June, and July 2019
- the request of the United Presbyterian Church of Universal to sell their manse*
- the request of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church to sell two parcels of undeveloped property*
- the request of the Gladden United Presbyterian Church to sell their manse*
- the request of the United Presbyterian Church of Universal to acquire such property to allow continued use of their driveway and entire parking lot*
- the request of the Sharon Community Presbyterian Church to encumber their property to pay for parking lot repaving, installation of air conditioning in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, and to upgrade the electrical service*

Reported the following:

- the **2020** meeting schedule of Pittsburgh Presbytery is:

February 13 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, 1:00 PM

May 14 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 4:00 PM

September 24 at Crestfield Camp & Conference Center, 10:00 AM

December 10 at Parkwood United Presbyterian Church, 1:00 PM

- the forgiveness of the following per capita arrearages:

St. Andrew's United Presbyterian Church, \$3,988.14

Emsworth United Presbyterian Church, \$4,005.05

The Presbyterian Church of Coraopolis, \$15,217.21

- approved a plan for the liquidation of the former Great Ends of the Church Fund

From the Stated Clerk:

Reported the following:

- deadline for docket time and waiver requests for the December 5 presbytery meeting is no later than noon on Wednesday October 30
- deadline for docket time for the February 13, 2020 presbytery meeting is no later than noon Wednesday, January 15, 2020
- overtures from the Presbyterian Men Ministry Team have been received and will be voted on at the December 5 presbytery meeting*
- deadlines for overtures to the 224th General Assembly are as follows:

February 2, 2020 120-day deadline for all overtures requesting an amendment to or interpretation of the *Book of Order*

April 21, 2020 60-day deadline for all overtures with financial implications

May 6, 2020 45-day deadline for all other overtures, concurrences, and comments

- a remedial action was filed against Pittsburgh Presbytery with the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Synod of the Trinity; the Moderator has appointed the following individuals to serve as a committee of counsel to represent the presbytery in this matter: Elder Louise Schoppe, the Rev. Rebecca DePoe, and the Rev. James Tinnemeyer

Recommended the following for approval and dismissal; **approved:**

- the administrative admission to ordain and install the Rev. Emily Cooper
- the investigating committee DM2019-01
- the investigating committee DM2018-01 and 02

From Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Reported the following:

- Pre-Care Consultations were conducted with Suzanne Good (Southminster Presbyterian Church), Steven Singleton, (Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church), and Hunter Steinitz, (Riverview United Presbyterian Church)
- Suzanne Good, Steven Singleton, and Hunter Steinitz were the Enrolled as Inquirers
- Initial Consultation was conducted with Rebecca Young
- Annual Consultations were conducted with Ashley S. Ashley, William Quinn, and Mary Yearsley

- Cassandra Riker and Carol Sharp were given permission to take the Senior Ordination Examinations
- Ashley S. Ashley (Worship & Sacraments) and Rebecca Young (Bible Exegesis) were given permission to take the specified Senior Ordination Examinations
- Elected to be readers for the ordination examinations: Teaching Elders Diane Flynn, Jason Freyer, and Tyler Domske; Ruling Elders Bob Lindeman and Janice Wolff; Teaching Elder Brian Wallace will serve as an alternate
- Derail Holcomb and Karl Shaley withdrew from the care process

Recommended the following; **approved**:

- Marlaena Cochran, Stephanie Martin, Martha Neba-Mbandi, and Rebecca Reeder for ordination

From the Generosity Committee:

- their mission is to provide encouragement and generosity resources to congregations for their use

From the General Minister:

- invited presbyters to briefly report on the summer mission activities of their congregation
- reminded presbyters of the need to have updated manuals, policies, and procedures for the day-to-day operation of their congregation
- lifted the issue of gun safety in light of the Tree of Life Anniversary, announcing several PCUSA resources to help with gun violence and church safety
- announced an interfaith commemoration at the Soldiers & Sailors Hall on October 27 at 5:00 PM
- announced an interfaith conversation on remembering the victims of gun violence at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh on November 10 & 11 at Rodef Shalom

From the Freedom Ministry Team:

- announced plans for observing *Freedom Rising Sunday* and asked congregations to take a special offering on the Sunday before Martin Luther King Day in January 2020 and in years to come

From the Next Generation Ministry Team:

- their mission is to be champions for next generation ministries in the presbytery through programs and partnerships that matter

From the International Partnership Ministry Team:

- presented a video highlighting the youth pilgrimage to Malawi and the Sudan/South Sudan connection made this summer
- trip member Ms. Delaney Williamson, a member of Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church, spoke about her experience on the trip
- a plaque was presented to the Presbyterian Women of Pittsburgh Presbytery from the partnership churches in South Sudan

From the Commission on Ministry:

- presented the terms of call report for 2018
- reported the minimum terms of call for 2020

Reported the completion of following contract between:

- the Rev. Lorrie Ghering-Burick and the Hebron Presbyterian Church (Clinton) effective July 30, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla and the Bellevue United Presbyterian Church effective September 30, 2019

Reported the granting of Pastor Emeritus status to:

- the Rev. Daniel Corll by the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church on June 2, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry by the Southminster Presbyterian Church on July 14, 2019
- the Rev. Frank DeLuce by the Unity United Presbyterian Church on January 31, 2019

Moved presbytery approve the following calls from Temporary to Installed Pastor requiring a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the presbytery; **approved:**

- the Emsworth United Presbyterian Church and the St. Andrew's United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Charissa Howe as Pastor effective September 29, 2019
- the Mt. Nebo United Presbyterian Church for the half-time services of the Rev. Rebecca DePoe as Pastor effective October 1, 2019

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

- Southminster Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. James Tinnemeyer as Pastor effective August 5, 2019
- Sewickley Presbyterian Church for the services of Rebecca Reeder as Associate Pastor effective July 1, 2019
- Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Laura Strauss as Designated Pastor for a period of two years effective September 17, 2019
- Amity Presbyterian Church for the services of Elder Gary Molinaro as Commissioned Pastor for one year effective October 21, 2019
- Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Elder Bob Henry as Commissioned Pastor for ten months effective March 1, 2019
- Forest Avenue United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Elder Louise Schoppe as Commissioned Pastor for one year effective October 1, 2019

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

- the Rev. Carolyn Cranston as Moderator of the First Presbyterian Church of Castle Shannon effective August 1, 2019
- the Rev. James Tinnemeyer as Moderator of the Southminster Presbyterian Church effective August 5, 2019

- the Rev. Dr. Doug Marshall as Moderator of the Friendship Community Presbyterian Church effective August 19, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla as Moderator of the Hillcrest United Presbyterian Church effective October 1, 2019
- the Rev. Melany Hamilton as Moderator of the Hebron Presbyterian Church (Clinton) effective July 31, 2019
- the Rev. Laura Strauss as Moderator of the Sunset Hills United Presbyterian Church effective September 16, 2019
- the Rev. Cindy McClung as Moderator of the Clinton United Presbyterian Church effective September 16, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock as Moderator of the Pleasant Unity United Presbyterian Church effective June 1, 2019
- the Rev. Andy Greenhow as Moderator of the Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community effective September 1, 2019
- the Rev. Cheryl Khyllap as Moderator of the Homestead United Presbyterian Church effective October 1, 2019
- the Rev. Deborah Warren as Moderator of the Bellevue United Presbyterian Church effective October 1, 2019
- the appointment of Martha Neba-Mbandi as Moderator of the Verona United Presbyterian Church effective October 7, 2019
- the appointment of Elder Gary Molinaro as Moderator of the Amity Presbyterian Church effective October 21, 2019

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

- the Rev. Dr. John Dalles from Central Florida Presbytery effective February 14, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Angel DeLaCruz from Prospect Hill Presbytery effective September 19, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Douglas Marshall from Redstone Presbytery effective August 19, 2019

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

- Friendship Community Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. Doug Marshall as Interim Pastor for one year effective August 19, 2019
- Hillcrest United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla as Temporary Pastor for one year effective October 1, 2019
- Northmont United Presbyterian Church for the services of Stephanie Martin as Temporary Associate Pastor for one-year effective September 22, 2019
- Verona United Presbyterian Church for the services of Martha Mbandi as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective October 7, 2019
- East Union Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of the Rev. Jo Ramsey as Temporary Associate Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2019
- Central Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of the Rev. Robert D. Dayton as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2019
- Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Carolyn Cranston as Temporary Associate Pastor for one-year effective December 11, 2018

- Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Kristen Widrich as Temporary Associate Pastor for one-year effective December 11, 2018
- Shadyside Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Kendra Smith as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective August 5, 2019
- The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Jane Esterline as Interim Pastor for one-year effective June 1, 2019
- Hoboken Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Robert Lee Nichols as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective June 15, 2019
- Bellevue United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Dr. John Lolla as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective July 1, 2019
- Pine Creek Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Diana Harbison as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective July 1, 2019
- The Presbyterian Church of Mt. Washington
- for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Tami Hooker as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2019
- Valley Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of Rev. Nancy Titus as Temporary Pastor for six months effective July 1, 2019

Moved presbytery validate the following ministry positions; **approved by consent:**

- the Rev. Dr. Angela Hancock's position of Associate Professor of Homiletics & Worship at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- Marlaena Cochran's position of Community Chaplain for Family Hospice, West Team
- the Rev. Dr. Angel DeLaCruz's position as Pastor at Warren United Methodist Church

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

- the Rev. John Magnuson to Charlotte Presbytery effective August 17, 2019
- the Rev. Aaron Gordon to South Louisiana Presbytery effective October 12, 2018
- the Rev. Gary Willingham-McLain to New Castle Presbytery effective May 21, 2019
- the Rev. Sarah Bird to Middle Tennessee Presbytery effective December 11, 2018

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

- Shadyside Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of Rev. John Magnuson effective July 31, 2019
- First Presbyterian Church of Castle Shannon to dissolve the call of Rev. Scott Shetter effective July 31, 2019
- Clinton United Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of Rev. Laura Strauss effective September 15, 2019
- Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community to dissolve the call of Rev. Jeff Eddings effective August 31, 2019

Moved presbytery grant member-at-large status; **approved by consent:**

- the Rev. Tom Moore effective August 1, 2019
- the Rev. Lorrie Ghering-Burick effective July 31, 2019
- the Rev. Scott Shetter effective August 1, 2019

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

- the Rev. Charissa Howe as Pastor of the Emsworth and St. Andrew's United Presbyterian Churches on September 29, 2019

Announced the honorable retirement of the following individuals by consent:

- the Rev. Dr. Daniel B. Merry effective August 31, 2019
- the Rev. Howard Eybers effective September 19, 2019
- the Rev. Harry Heidrich effective September 19, 2019
- the Rev. L. Rae Hodge effective September 19, 2019
- the Rev. Harry Ladley effective September 19, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla effective October 1, 2019

From the Committee on Nominations:

- elections to be held at the December meeting
- nominated Ruling Elder Mark Roth, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church, for the position of Senior Vice-Moderator in 2020

Presented the following nominees for service as committee/commission members; **elected**:

Executive Committee

- Elder Jim Gockley, Shadyside (2022A) – East
- Elder Cliff Huff, Glenshaw Valley (2022B) – North
- Elder Kears Pollock, Parkwood (2022A) – North
- Elder John Van Cleve, Westminster (2022A) – West
- The Rev. Elisabeth Hartwell, Hiland (2022A) – North
- The Rev. Tom Hall, First Pittsburgh (2022A) – South
- The Rev. Cathie Smith, Bethel Park (2022A) – South

Commission on Ministry

- Elder Ann Turnock, Beulah (2022B) – East
- Elder Susan Herrle, Wexford (2022B) – North
- Elder Earle Wooding, Pleasant Hills (2022B) – South
- Elder Jodi Dukes, First, Rennerdale (2022A) – West
- Elder Nancy Stanny, Oakdale (2022A) – West
- The Rev. Dr. Bob Maravalli, Beechview (2021B) – North
- The Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby, HR (2022B) – North
- The Rev. Dr. Colleen Molinaro, Carnegie (2022A) – West

- The Rev. Nancy Titus, Valley (2022A) – West

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

- Elder Nat Hunter, Shadyside (2022A) – East
- Elder Kaye Wentling, Hillcrest (2022B) – East
- Elder Peggy Bonfiglio, 1st Tarentum (2022B) – North
- Elder Amanda Wade, Clinton, (2022A) – West
- The Rev. Phil Beck, 1st Tarentum (2022B) – North
- The Rev. Dr. Ted Martin, Hampton (2022A) – North
- The Rev. DJ Shin, Korean UP (2022A) – North
- The Rev. Dr. Bob Walkup, Baldwin (2022B) – South

Response Team

- Elder Jane Fox, Sixth (2022B) – East
- The Rev. Dr. Carolyn Jones, HR (2022B) – North
- The Rev. Caitlin Werth, Specialized (2022A) – North

Pittsburgh Presbytery Foundation

- Elder Christine Farrell, Fox Chapel (2022A)
- Elder Fred Shields, Oakmont (2021B)
- The Rev. Eric Dennis, Linway (2022A)
- The Rev. Lee Scott, Specialized Ministry (2022B)

Synod Commissioner

- The Rev. Dr. Beverly James, Pittsburgh Presbytery (2022B)

General Assembly Commissioners (by rotation and Executive Committee)

- Elder Mark Roth (East Liberty) (nominated by virtue of Moderatorial office)*
- Elder Dawn Harvin (Grace Memorial)*
- Elder John Ferguson (Crafton United)
- Elder Eddie Willson (East Liberty)
- The Rev. Charissa Howe (Emsworth/St. Andrews) (nominated by office)*
- The Rev. Dr. Tammy Wiens (Validated Ministry)*
- The Rev. David Wood (Mt. Pleasant)
- The Rev. Scott Hill (Aspinwall)

* indicates a nominee appointed by the Executive Committee

Alternates

- Elder Bob Crynack (Glenshaw)
- Elder Judith Jerry (Bidwell)

- The Rev. Nancy Titus (Valley)
- The Rev. Jodi Flack (Rennerdale)
- The Rev. Jane Esterline (Plum Creek)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate

- Samuel Smallwood (East Union)

Young Adult Advisory Delegate Alternate

- Isaac Degenholtz (East Liberty)