

## PRESBYTERY DIGEST

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

December 6, 2018

Ken Mawr United Presbyterian Church

The meeting was called to order by Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock, at 1:04 PM and opened with prayer. Worship was strategically dispersed throughout the meeting and centered on the themes of the four candles of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. During worship, an offering of \$1,017.38 was received for equal distribution to the [Lazarus Fund](#) and the [Hunger Fund](#). This amount will be matched by the [Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation](#).

Ministers with new calls within the presbytery were recognized and prayer for them was offered.

Recognition and thanksgiving were offered for the lives for two recently-deceased minister members of presbytery:

- The Rev. Dr. Bruce Bryce, HR
- The Rev. Dr. Stewart Bair, HR

Prayers were offered with thanks for their faithful service and in recognition of their retirement from pastoral ministry on December 31, 2018 for:

- the Rev. Stephen Cramer, pastor of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Gibsonia
- the Rev. Beckie Hickok, pastor of Waverly United Presbyterian Church

**From the Executive Committee:**

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

- the 2019 Terms of Call for the General Minister and Associate Ministers of Pittsburgh Presbytery
- the election of the following individuals to the Nominating Committee:  
Ruling Elder Mary Cullison (Southminster), Class of 2022A  
Rev. Dr. Dirk Lesnett (Elfinwild), Class of 2022A  
Ruling Elder Arthur McAra (Wexford), Class of 2022A  
Ruling Elder Barb Prevost (Crafton Heights), Class of 2022A  
Rev. Dr. Tammy Wiens (Validated Ministry), Class of 2022A
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms for one elder of the Gladden United Presbyterian Church beginning in 2019
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms for one deacon of The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek beginning in 2019
- waiver of six-year limitation on terms for two elders of the Amity Presbyterian Church beginning in 2019
- permission for sale of manse by the Covenant-Community Presbyterian Church
- permission for the South Side Presbyterian Church to encumber its property by seeking City of Pittsburgh Historical Landmark Status for the building

- receive and file for audit the presbytery financial statements for the months of July, August, and September 2018

**Announced** the following:

- The schedule of 2019 presbytery meetings is as follows:

February 21, 1:00 PM at [Pittsburgh Theological Seminary](#)  
 May 23, 4:00 PM at [Hampton United Presbyterian Church](#)  
 September 19, 10:00 AM at [Crestfield Camp & Conference Center](#)  
 December 5, 1:00 PM at [John McMillan Presbyterian Church](#)

**Elected** the following:

- the Rev. Lance Chapman and the Rev. Carol Divens-Roth as Co-Chairs of the Executive committee for 2019
- Ruling Elder Jim Martin (Southminster Presbyterian Church) as a member of the financial subcommittee
- the Rev. Walt Pietschmann and Ruling Elder Robert Crynack as Co-Chairs of the Personnel Committee for 2019

**Approved** the following:

- the 2019 housing allowance allocations for the pastoral staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery
- the revisions to by-laws of Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation
- the revised personnel handbook for Pittsburgh Presbytery
- the designation of the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day to be *Freedom Rising Sunday*

**Recommended** the following:

- voting schedule for the proposed [constitutional amendments](#) arising out of the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly as follows:

**At the December 6, 2018 Stated Meeting:**

Amendment 18-A	Election of Ruling Elders & Deacons
Amendment 18-B.1 and 18-B.2	Renunciation of Jurisdiction
Amendment 18-C	Prohibition of official church-related Endorsement of or Opposition to Candidates for Elected Office
Amendment 18-F	Welcoming to the Table

**At the February 21, 2019 Stated Meeting:**

Amendment 18-D	Membership of Presbytery
Amendment 18-E	Pastor, Counselor, & Advisor to its Pastors & Congregations
Amendment 18-G	Disciplinary Offense (Defining Sexual Abuse as an Offense)
Amendments 18-H.1 and H.2	Time Limits

Disbanded the following:

- the Great Ends of the Church Fund subcommittee

From the Stated Clerk:

Reported the following:

- the appointment of an Administrative Commission to conclude the legal and ecclesiastical affairs of the congregation of the First United Presbyterian Church of Boston, including the disposition of the property

Announced the following:

- the deadline for docket time and waiver requests for the February 21 presbytery meeting is at noon Wednesday, January 23
- session minutes, rolls, and register review dates and locations:

Saturday, March 16, 9-11:30 AM at [Elfinwild Presbyterian Church](#)

Saturday, March 30, 9-11:30 AM at [Bethel Presbyterian Church](#) (Bethel Park)

Saturday, April 13, 9-11:30 AM at [United Presbyterian Church of Universal](#)

Saturday, April 27, 9-11:30 AM at [Unity Presbyterian Church](#) (Green Tree)

Saturday, May 18, 9-11:30 AM at [Pittsburgh Presbytery Center](#)

- new Clerk of Session training on from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM on Saturday, February 16, at the presbytery center with a snow date of February 23

Moved the following proposed constitutional amendments:

- Amendment 18-A Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons; **approved**
- Amendment 18-B.1 and B.2 Renunciation of Jurisdiction; **approved**
- Amendment 18-C Prohibition of Official Endorsement of or Opposition to Candidates for Elected Office; **defeated**
- Amendment 18-F Welcoming to the Table; **approved**

From the Peacemaking Ministry Team

The Peacemaking Ministry Team moved presbytery adopt a letter titled, *We Follow Jesus, NOT Herod*, along with its recommendations, which was prepared in response to a letter from the session of the Eastminster Presbyterian Church asking presbytery take a strong public stand in matters related to welcome of the stranger and violence toward innocent victims; **approved**

From the South Branch

- the Rev. Dr. Beverly James reported on recent activities in the South Branch

- the Rev. Joshua Fisher presented the outlines of a new model of ministry being conducted in Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church where three ministers are working together to help the church maintain its mission and ministry

#### **From Commission on Preparation for Ministry:**

**Reported** the following:

- session visits conducted with Southminster Presbyterian Church, Sewickley Presbyterian Church, and Valley View Presbyterian Church
- a Pre-Care Consultation was conducted with Karl Casey (Bower Hill Community Church)
- Karl Casey (Bower Hill Community Church) was Enrolled as an Inquirer
- Ashley S. Ashley (Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville) and Kevin Vinay (Homestead United Presbyterian Church) were Received as Candidates
- hearing sermons from Emily Cooper and Kevin Vinay
- Emily Cooper was Certified Ready to Receive a Call and permitted to circulate her PIF
- Clara Brown withdrew from the care process of Pittsburgh Presbytery

**Introduced** the following Candidates:

- Ashley S. Ashley
- Kevin Vinay

#### **From the General Minister:**

The Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge reported on the activities in the North, East, and West Branches of the presbytery during 2018, noting that a South Branch report had been given earlier in the meeting by the Rev. Dr. Beverly James.

#### **From the Commission on Ministry:**

**Announced** the following:

- the Rev. Shanea Leonard has accepted a position with the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the new Associate for *Racial, Gender & Intercultural Justice* effective October 22, 2018
- the Rev. Mike Holohan is serving as organizing pastor of The Commonwealth, a New Worshiping Community, effective October 1, 2018
- the reception of the Rev. Dr. Henry Knapp from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies, EPC, effective January 1, 2019

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

- the Rev. Dr. David Wood and the Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church effective October 14, 2018

**Moved** presbytery approve the following request for Honorable Retirement; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Stephen Cramer effective January 1, 2019

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

- the Rev. Rebecca DePoe as Moderator of the Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church effective November 1, 2018
- the Rev. Dr. David Wood as Moderator of the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church effective October 15, 2018
- the Rev. Tyler Domske as Moderator of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Gibsonia, effective January 1, 2019
- the Rev. Dr. John Dalles as Moderator of the Shadyside Presbyterian Church effective January 15, 2019

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

- Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Rebecca DePoe as Pastor effective November 1, 2018
- Hebron United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. Henry Knapp as Co-Pastor effective January 1, 2019

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

- Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Maggie Smith as Temporary Pastor for five months effective August 15, 2018
- Beechview United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. Bob Maravalli as Temporary Pastor for one year effective January 1, 2019
- Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. David Wood as Interim Pastor for one year effective October 15, 2018
- Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church to renew the services of Rev. Dr. Terry Mann as Temporary Pastor for one year effective January 1, 2019
- Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church to renew the services of Rev. Alina Kanaski as Temporary Pastor effective September 21, 2018 to December 31, 2018
- Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Alina Kanaski for one year as Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2019
- Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby as Temporary Pastor for one year effective November 1, 2018
- Neville Island Presbyterian Church to renew the services of the Rev. John Sweitzer as Temporary Pastor for one year effective November 11, 2018
- Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Robert Ruefle as Temporary Pastor for one year effective January 2, 2019
- Shadyside Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. John Dalles as Interim Pastor for one year effective January 15, 2019
- Hawthorne Avenue Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of Elder Paul Nigra as part-time Commissioned Pastor for one year effective January 1, 2019

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

- the Rev. Aaron Gordon effective September 10, 2018

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

- the Rev. Matthew Bussell to Presbytery of Arkansas effective October 20, 2018
- the Rev. Robin Lostetter to Geneva Presbytery effective May 19, 2018

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

- Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Gibsonia, to dissolve the call of Rev. Stephen Cramer effective December 31, 2018
- Waverly United Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of Rev. Rebecca Hickok effective December 31, 2018

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

- The Rev. Rebecca DePoe as pastor of the Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church on January 27, 2019

**From the Committee on Nominations:**

**Nomination for 2019 Senior Vice-Moderator; elected:**

- the Rev. Charissa Howe, Emsworth and St. Andrews United Presbyterian Churches

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

**Executive Committee**

- Elder Chris Martin, East Liberty (2021 A) – East
- Elder Bob Crynack, Glenshaw (2021B) – North
- Elder Dan Beckstrom, Bethel Park (2021B) – South
- Elder Mark Mizer, Sharon Community (2021A) – West
- Elder Larry Shoup, Hebron, Clinton (2021B) -- West
- Rev. Scott Hill, Aspinwall (2021A) – East
- Rev. Dr. Ron Peters, HR (2021B) – East
- Rev. Jeff Tindall, John McMillan (2021A) – South
- Rev. Kevin Long, Sewickley (2021A) – West
- Rev. Jodi Flack, Rennerdale (2021B) -- West

**Commission on Ministry**

- Elder Frank Hancock, Oakmont (2021B) – East
- Elder Lora Bethea, East Liberty (2021A) – East
- Elder Robert “Deac” Dressing, Pleasant Hills (2021A) – South
- Elder Lauren Wolcott, Hot Metal Bridge (2021A) – South
- Elder Bucky Savatt, Ken Mawr (2021B) – West
- Elder Louise Schoppe, Forest Avenue (2021A) – West
- Rev. Dr. Vincent Kolb, Sixth (2021B) -- East
- Rev. Paul Roberts, Eastminster (2021B) – East
- Rev. KJ Norris, Kerr (2021A) – East
- Rev. Dr. David Wood, Mt. Pleasant (2021A) – North
- Rev. Jessica McClure Archer, Sampson’s Mills (2021A) – South
- Rev. Ben Schneider, First Elizabeth (2021A) – South
- Rev. Jim Tinnemeyer, Specialized (2021A) – South
- Rev. Charissa Howe, Emsworth/St. Andrews (2021B) – West
- Rev. Don Brown, New Life (2021A) -- West

### **Commission on Preparation for Ministry**

- Elder Drew Wilson, Forest Hills (2021A) – East
- Elder Gary Molinaro, Pleasant Hills (2021A) – South
- Elder Terrence Kohlmyer, Bethany (2021A) – West
- Elder Rebecca Abbott, Unity (2021A) – West
- Elder Janice Wolff, Hampton (2021A) -- North
- Rev. Gavin Walton, Grace Memorial (2021A) – East
- Rev. Kendra Smith, PTS (2021A) – East
- Rev. Carolyn Cranston, Pleasant Hills (2021B) – South
- Rev. Jason Freyer, Westminster (2021A) -- West
- Rev. Diane Flynn, Crafton UP (2021A) – West
- Rev. Sarah Bird, Sewickley (2021A) – West
- Rev. Laura Strauss, Clinton (2021B) – West

### **Response Team**

- Rev. Todd Leach, Shadyside (2021B) – East
  - Rev. Dr. Jermaine McKinley, Bethesda Pittsburgh (2021A) – East
  - Elder Michelle Snyder, Bower Hill (2021A) – West \*
- \*waiver to request elimination of one year off rotation due to specialized occupation needed on committee

### **Permanent Judicial Commission**

- Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla, Bellevue (2024) -- West

### **Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation**

- Elder David Lavender, Ross Community (2021A) – North
- Elder Jim Martin, Southminster (202B) – South
- Rev. Chris Taylor, Fox Chapel (2021A) – North
- Rev. Dr. Jim Gilchrist, Westminster (2021B) -- West

### **Synod Commissioner**

- Elder Elsie Knappenberger, St. Andrews (2021A) – West

### **Nominations of Vice Moderators for 2019**

- Elder Alan Perry (North)
- Rev. Aaron Teter (East)
- Elder Lauren Wolcott (South)