

The meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery was called to order by Moderator, the Rev. Charissa Howe at 10:02 AM on September 24, 2020, and opened with prayer. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via Zoom. Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge led a devotional instead of a worship service based on the Scripture text of Philippians 2:1-13. An offering of \$2115.00 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:**

- Approval of the request of the Forest Hills Presbyterian Church to waive the requirement of parity between males and females to permit service by an all-female Session. **Approved.**
- Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms of one Elder of the Concord Presbyterian Church. **Approved.**
- Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms of one Deacon of the Baldwin United Presbyterian Church. **Approved.**
- Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms of two Elders of the Springdale United Presbyterian Church. **Approved.**
- Approval of the Mt. Nebo United Presbyterian Church's request to sell a parcel of undeveloped land. **Approved.**
- Approval of the Bellevue United Presbyterian Church's request to lease portions of its property for one year to Redeemer Anglican Church for worship on Sunday evenings. **Approved.**
- Approval of the proposed 2021 Presbytery Budget. **Approved.**
- Receive and file for audit the Presbytery Financial Statements for the months of May, June and July 2020. **Approved.**

For Information:

- Pittsburgh Presbytery received a clean audit for 2019.
- The Executive Committee re-elected Rev. Eric Dennis as a representative of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center.
- Granted the request of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center to defer repayment of its loan obligation to the Presbytery from March 2020 to January 2021 due to cancellations of programs related to Covid-19.
- Presented the Interim Report of the Pandemic Response Administrative Commission.*
- Presbytery Meeting Schedule for 2021:

February 25, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.	Online
May 20, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.	Online
Sept. 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.	Crestfield Camp & Conference Center
Dec. 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.	Location TBD

From the Stated Clerk:

For Information:

- The Deadline for Docket Time and Waiver Requests for the December Presbytery meeting is no later than noon on Wednesday Nov. 4, 2020.
- A reminder about Copyright and On-line Worship.*
- Reminder regarding Expiration of Child Protection Clearances.*
- 2019 Session Minutes Reading review waived due to Covid-19.
- 2020 Session Minutes Reading will be scheduled as soon as it is safe and appropriate, likely the fall of 2021.
- The sale of the former Forest Grove Community Presbyterian Church.*
- The 2019 Minutes of Pittsburgh Presbytery were examined by the Synod of the Trinity and approved with one exception.*
- 2019 Statistics of congregations, minister members, and congregants.*
- New Clerk's Training via Zoom on Saturday February 6, 2021 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.
- New Edition of Robert's Rules of Order New Revised available.*
- No Proposed Book of Order Amendments from 224th General Assembly.

Recommended for Action:

- Dismissal of Investigating Committee in the matter of DM2019-02.*
- Dissolution of Upper Room Presbyterian Church as of Sept. 24, 2020.*
- Dismissal of Forest Grove Administrative Commission*

From Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Reported the following:

- **Permission given to take the Senior Ordination Exams specified:**
Ashley, Brendan: Theological Competence, Worship & Sacraments, and Bible Exegesis.
Doege, Caryn: Church Polity and Worship & Sacraments
Grubbs, Amanda: Worship & Sacraments
Quinn, William: Bible Exegesis, Worship & Sacraments, Church Polity, and Theological Competence.
Emrick, Kristen: Bible Exegesis.
- **Pre-Care Consultation with:**
Newell, Amy (Hoboken Presbyterian Church)
Pross, Peter (Mosaic Community Church)
Morely, Sonya-Marie (East Liberty Presbyterian Church)
Wellstead, Victoria (Shadyside Presbyterian Church)
Connolly, Andrew (Korean United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh)
- **Enrolled as an Inquirer:**
Newell, Amy (Hoboken Presbyterian Church)
Pross, Peter (Mosaic Community Church)
Morely, Sonya-Marie (East Liberty Presbyterian Church)

Connolly, Andrew (Korean United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh)
Wellstead, Victoria (Shadyside Presbyterian Church)

- **Certified Ready to Receive a Call and Circulate PIF:**
Ashley, Ashley, and Riker, Cassandra
- **Annual Consultation held with** Dauer, Jason (I), Riker, Cassandra (C), Ashley, Ashley (C), Bird, Darrah (I), Doege, Caryn (I), Emrick, Kristen (I), Quinn, William (I), and Morley, Sonya-Marie (I).
- **Sermons Heard from:**
Ball, Michael; Riker, Cassandra; and Sharp, Carol.
- **Session Visits:** Mosaic Community Church, East Liberty Presbyterian Church, and Parkwood United Presbyterian Church.
- **Withdrew from Care Process:** Richardson-Eckes, Anthony, and Seif, Paul.
- **Removal from Process:** Simonson, Jo-Ann
- **Received as Candidates:** Doege, Caryn, Emrick, Kristen, Angeli, Erin, and Quinn, William.

For Action:

- Oral Parts of Trial: Kevin Vinay: **Approved.**
- Appointment of Commission for Kevin Vinay's Ordination: **Approved.**

From the General Minister:

- Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge introduced a farewell video sent from retired Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Cindy Miller, and thanked her for her service.
- Thanked the Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby for his contract work at the Presbytery Office.
- Directed Presbyters' attention to the printed reports of the Commissioners to the G.A. in the packet.
- Gave a brief review of congregational activity due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, including congregations who have recently adopted the Matthew 25 Initiative.
- Invited Presbyters to log on to the Unity Service to be held via Zoom on Sunday October 4, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. sponsored by the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus.

From the Board of Pensions:

- Rev. Dr. Doug Portz, regional BOP representative:
 - reported no increase in dues for 2021.
 - Briefly reviewed the new pension, medical, and disability coverages available, and benefits for Non-Installed Ministers.
 - Reminded Presbyters of the Enrollment windows: Employer Agreement July 20 through October 9, and Member Enrollment October 26 through November 13, 2020.

From the Commission on Ministry:

Reported the completion of following contracts between:

- The Rev. Bonnie Taylor and United Presbyterian Church in Ingram effective November 1, 2019.
- The Rev. Debbie Smith and Liberty Presbyterian Church effective May 24, 2020.
- The Rev. Laura Bentley and Sanctuary Missional Fellowship effective May 31, 2020.
- The Rev. Jane Duffield and Waverly United Presbyterian Church effective July 31, 2020.
- The Rev. John Porter and Third Presbyterian Church effective July 31, 2020.
- The Rev. Al Stuart and Universal United Presbyterian Church effective July 31, 2020.
- The Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby and Jefferson United Presbyterian Church effective August 31, 2020.
- The Rev. Sarah Robbins and Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, effective September 30, 2020.
- The Rev. Bill Little and Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church effective September 13, 2020.

Moved presbytery approve the following calls: **Approved.**

- Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Stephen Hodges as Pastor effective April 1, 2020.
- Waverly Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Caitlin Werth as Pastor effective August 1, 2020.
- Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church for the services of Kevin Vinay as Associate Pastor effective September 1, 2020.
- The Open Door Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. John Creasy as Co-Pastor effective June 1, 2020.

Moved presbytery approve the following appointments for Moderators: **Approved.**

- The Rev. Stephen Hodges as Moderator of the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church effective April 1, 2020.
- Elder Nancy Stanny as Moderator of the Valley Presbyterian Church effective April 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Caitlin Werth as Moderator of the Waverly Presbyterian Church effective August 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Nicole Atkinson as Moderator of the First Presbyterian Church Gibsonia effective September 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Kristin Widrich as Moderator of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Jessica McClure Archer as Moderator of the McKeesport Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Sharon Stewart as Moderator of the Liberty Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020.

- The Rev. Cheryl Khylllep as Moderator of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood effective September 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Jane Esterline as Moderator of Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, effective October 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Dr. William Youmans as Moderator of the Oakdale United Presbyterian Church effective September 15, 2020.
- The Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby as Moderator of the Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church effective October 1, 2020.
- The Rev. Dr. Page Creach as Moderator of the Noblestown United Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2021.

Moved presbytery approve the following Temporary Pastoral Contracts: **Approved.**

- Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church for renewal of the services of Rev. Alina Kanaski as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020.
- East Liberty Presbyterian Church for renewal of the services of Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan as Temporary Associate Pastor for 8 months effective January 1, 2020.
- Waverly Presbyterian Church for renewal of the contract for the services of Rev. Jane Duffield as Interim Pastor for six months effective February 15, 2020.
- Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church for renewal of the contract for the services of Rev. Tim Sweigart as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020.
- Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. William Little as Temporary Pastor June 1 to September 13, 2020.
- Noblestown United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. Page Creach as Covenant Pastor for one-year effective January 2021.
- Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Sharon Stewart as Covenant Pastor for one-year effective September 1, 2020.
- Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the services of Rev. Dr. Kristin Widrich as Covenant Pastor for one-year effective September 1, 2020.
- Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby as Interim Pastor for one-year effective October 1, 2020.

Moved presbytery grant a Letter of Dismissal to the following: **approved:**

- The Rev. Michelle Wahila to the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley effective May 14, 2020.
- The Rev. Conrad Sharps to the Presbytery of St. Augustine effective May 14, 2020.
- The Rev. Dorothea Ghering-Burick to Shenango Presbytery effective September 17, 2019.
- The Rev. Bonnie Taylor to Beaver-Butler Presbytery effective March 24, 2020.
- The Rev. Darcy Hawk to Lehigh Presbytery effective June 3, 2020.

Moved presbytery enroll the following as Members At-Large of Pittsburgh Presbytery: **Approved.**

- Rev. Bonnie Taylor effective November 1, 2019.
- Rev. Laura Bentley effective May 31 2020.
- Rev. Debbie Smith effective May 24, 2020.
- Rev. Al Stuart effective August 1, 2020.
- Rev. Sarah Robbins effective October 1, 2020.

Moved presbytery approve the following Administrative Commissions to Install:

- The Rev. Caitlin Werth as Pastor of the Waverly Presbyterian Church on September 27, 2020. **Approved.**

Moved presbytery approve the commissioning of Elder Ralph Lowe to: **Approved**

- Moderate Sessions and Congregational meetings as necessary.

Moved Presbytery approve renewal of Commissioned Lay Pastor Services: **Approved**

- The request of the Forest Avenue Presbyterian Church for Elder Louise Schoppe as Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective October 1, 2020.
- The request of Valley Presbyterian Church for Elder Nancy Stanny as Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2021.

Moved presbytery approve Laboring outside our Bounds: **Approved**

- The request of the Rev. Dr. M. Craig Barnes to labor in the Presbytery of New Brunswick effective February 26, 2020.

Moved presbytery approve Letters of Dissolution: **Approved**

- The request of the Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of Rev. William Little effective May 31, 2020.
- The request of the Open Door Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of Rev. BJ Woodworth effective June 12, 2020.
- The request of the First Presbyterian Church Gibsonia to dissolve the call of Rev. Darcy Hawk effective August 31, 2020.
- The request of the McKeesport Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of Rev. James Leuenberger effective August 31, 2020.

Moved presbytery approve Honorable Retirement: **Approved**

- The request of Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan effective September 1, 2020.
- The request of Rev. Kay Day effective September 17, 2020.
- The request of Rev. Carol Divens Roth effective April 1, 2020.
- The request of Rev. James Leuenberger effective August 31, 2020.
- The request of the Rev. William Little effective June 1, 2020.
- The request of Rev. Michael Rucker effective July 1, 2020.

Announced Pastors who have entered into the Church Triumphant

- Rev. Dr. John MacLeod February 26, 2020

The Committee on Nominations:

Standing Committee/Commissions: Elected

Executive Committee:

Elder Nancy Bunce, Sewickley (2022A) - West

Commission on Ministry

Elder Pat Kelly, Northmont (2022A) – North:
Elder Anita Perry, Riverview (2022A) – North

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

The Rev. Rebecca Reeder, Sewickley (2022A) – West

Nomination for Senior Vice-Moderator for 2021

The Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Mt. Nebo United and Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Churches, nominated to be elected at the December Presbytery meeting.

Standing Committee/Commissions: Nominations (election at the December Meeting of the Presbytery)

Executive Committee:

The Rev. Jane Esterline, Plum Creek (2023B) – East
The Rev. Erin Davenport, Validated Ministry (2023A) – East
The Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock, Glenshaw (2023A) – North
The Rev. Emily Cooper, Covenant-Community (2023A) – West
Elder Darlene Rushing, Hot Metal (2023B) – South
Elder Bob Brown, Southminster (2023 A) –South

Commission on Ministry:

The Rev. Dr. Don Dawson, HR (2023B) – North
The Rev. Tara Thompson, Southminster (2023B) – South
Elder Hill Jordan, Valley View (2023B) – East
Elder Judy Shipley, First Pittsburgh (2023A) – South

Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, East Liberty (2023B) – East
The Rev. Aaron Teter, At Large (2023A) – East

The Rebecca DePoe, Mt. Nebo (2023B) – West
Elder Tom Cox, Hot Metal Bridge (2023A) – South

Foundation:

The Rev. Dr. Wayne Peck, HR (2023B) – North
Elder Frances Irvin, East Liberty (2023B) – East
Elder Stephanie Simmons, Grace Memorial (2023B) – East
Elder Margaret Zabo, Bower Hill (2023B) – West

Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC):

The Rev. Dr. John Welch, At-Large (2026)