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February 2022

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

This year we are breaking with Pittsburgh Presbytery's tradition of devoting our February meeting to celebrating the history and ministry of Black churches. Instead, we will have our main celebration of Black church history and ministry at our May meeting, in proximity to Juneteenth, the newest federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of African-American slaves.

To mark the significance of Juneteenth, our presbytery's Executive Committee has directed that it be observed as a paid holiday for Pittsburgh Presbytery staff. In so doing, it seeks to encourage congregations to do the same with their staff.

Many state legislatures have acted in recent months to make it harder for some people to vote, by reducing the number of polling places, stiffening voter ID requirements, limiting evening and weekend voting, cutting back mail-in voting, etc. While those who advocate for such strictures say they make elections more secure, they also make it harder for people of limited means to vote, which disproportionately affects the Black community.

What does it say about us when we try to diminish rather than expand opportunities for some of our citizens to participate in our governance? Whose interests are we really serving?

As important as it may be to take state and federal legislatures and courts to task for enacting or condoning such measures, we also need to look in the mirror. The church also has a long history of silencing voices that threaten to disrupt established hierarchies.

Our church has vigorous representation criteria at every level of governance, to assure that people are not excluded from the church's decision-making by virtue of race, sex, age, disability, or economic status. We do this because of the Gospel, not to be politically fashionable. We seek to embody the ancient Christian conviction that in Christ there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, but all are one in Christ. (Galatians 3:28)

Yet even if all demographic groups are at the table, that does not assure that deeply embedded systemic dynamics, designed to preserve the interests of those in power, have been dismantled. To the contrary, when minorities ascend to leadership, opposition to minorities often intensifies. As a case in point, social headwinds pushing against the American Black community accelerated rather than diminished in wake of the Obama presidency.

In the church, not only are all members equally welcome; all are equally needed. I show my conviction that I need you by being deeply attentive and receptive to you. May our presbytery be a place where such attentiveness and receptivity are publicly displayed, for the sake of our Lord Jesus.

Yours in Christ's bonds,

Sheldon W. Sorge
General Minister



SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER: *Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement*

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

***Give them a hearing...
listen before we answer***

(John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13)

1. **Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;**
 - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
 - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
2. **Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.**
3. **State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.**

Speak the truth in love

(Ephesians 4:15)

4. **Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.**
5. **Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;**
 - we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during or following the discussion.
6. **Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.**

***Maintain the unity of the
spirit in the bond of peace***

(Ephesians 4:3)

7. **Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.**
8. **Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;**
 - we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
9. **Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:**
 - urge people of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously
 - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
 - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;
 - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.
10. **Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.**



As Presbyterians, we are called to work for the “peace, unity and purity of the Church” (*Book of Order*) as we seek to be faithful to God’s work in the world. However, disagreements and conflicts are inevitable in the life of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as we try to be faithful. They exist within committees, congregations, presbyteries, synods, at General Assemblies and in the national life of the denomination.

Conflicts are inevitable in all of life and certainly in the church. The history of the church is filled with conflicts and disagreements. Several of Paul’s letters address the conflicts that were common in the early church. There have been and are going to be disagreements as Christians attempt to discern God’s work in the world and as we interpret Scripture.

Conflicts can be harmful and even destructive. They can cause individuals a great deal of pain and the community of faith immeasurable damage. Congregations have been divided; denominations have experienced schisms.

At the same time, conflicts can be an opportunity for new insights, learning, and individual and corporate growth. Disagreements can illuminate a topic in helpful ways and can present solutions to problems that previously had not been seen. The successful resolution of conflict can also bind people together in a powerful way.

The Bible contains many stories of conflict and disagreement and much advice about how they can be addressed. As those stories indicate, God is already present wherever there is brokenness, granting wholeness and peace. God promises to be with us in times of disagreement and calls us to reconciliation, trust, love and forgiveness.

We realize that our perspectives are limited, so to help us affirm each other, enhance our community, stay open to the viewpoints of others and be sensitive to cultural diversity, we commit ourselves to the Guidelines in a spirit of prayer, trust and love, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Adopted by the 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for use by sessions and congregations.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE GUIDELINES

for use by sessions and congregations

1. What are the Guidelines and how did they come about?

“Seeking to Be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement” is a response to requests from many Presbyterian congregations that have experienced pain and brokenness resulting from disagreements that were not dealt with in a healthy and productive way. Some of these disagreements were about issues important in our national life (e.g., abortion and human sexuality), while some of them were about matters dealing with the life of the congregation (e.g., should we start a building campaign?).

Every congregation has conflicts. They will either be occasions for divisiveness and harm, or they will provide opportunities for growing and learning. The Guidelines may help congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) use conflict in a creative and productive way.

The 204th General Assembly (1992) adopted the Guidelines for its own life and provided this tool to congregations and the other bodies of the Presbyterian Church to help them deal with the inevitable conflicts and disagreements that occur.



2. What is the biblical basis for the Guidelines?

The Bible contains many stories of conflict and offers a great deal of guidance for dealing with disagreements. It is also rich in its description of God's peacegiving and reconciling work.

- God, through Jesus Christ is reconciling the world and gives us the ministry of reconciliation. (II Corinthians 5:17–20)
- We are one body. (I Corinthians 10:7)
- We are called to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)
- Make peace with your sibling when you have a conflict. (Matthew 5:23–24)
- Bless those who persecute you; live in harmony with one another. (Romans 12:14–16)
- Be kind to one another and forgive one another. (Ephesians 4:13–16)
- Listen carefully before you speak. (Proverbs 18:13)
- Speak the truth in love. (Ephesians 4:13–16)
- Work for consensus. (Acts 15:1–31)

3. Why should your session and congregation agree to use the Guidelines?

Conflicts and disagreements occur in congregations. Where there are people who care deeply, there is bound to be conflict.

The Guidelines offer clear, simple suggestions for dealing with differences, so they become occasions for growing in grace and understanding, not times of divisiveness and separation. Though use of the Guidelines cannot prevent conflict from happening, they might help develop an open, helpful climate where differences are dealt with productively.

4. What are some suggested steps for considering the use of the Guidelines in your congregation?

- Leadership: Ask a committee of session or several elders to lead the session in a study of the Guidelines.
- Bible Study: Suggest that an adult church school class or Bible study group study the biblical insights on conflict and what to do about it. It would also be useful if the session would have their own similar study.
- Skill-Building Sessions: If the session has not recently used a portion of their meetings for learning skills for dealing with conflict, consider using and adapting this resource. Also consider using this resource in your adult education program.
- Study the Guidelines: Ask the session to study the Guidelines by examining each one of them. The session might ask these questions about each Guideline:
 - How might the use of this Guideline help create a healthy atmosphere for dealing with conflict?
 - How might the use of this Guideline help deal with an existing conflict?
 - Would you like to change this Guideline or remove it from the list?
- Vote on the Guidelines: The session might vote to use the Guidelines in its own life and to encourage and help members of the congregation make use of them. The session might also wish to overture the presbytery to agree to use the Guidelines for its life together. Ask a committee of the session to help the session and the congregation make use of the Guidelines.
- Report to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program: Please inform the Peacemaking Program when your session agrees to use the Guidelines, about your experience with them, and other efforts to deal with conflict and disagreement.



5. How can our session actually use the Guidelines?

Once your session has agreed to use the Guidelines, there are several ways to use them:

- Encourage all members of the session to take responsibility for using the Guidelines during the meeting.
- Urge session members to use the Guidelines and remind others to use them during informal conversations in the congregation.
- Read a simple prayer together prior to the start of the session meeting that asks God's help in dealing with conflict effectively.

One possible prayer:

Gracious and Loving God, you have called us together to do the work of your church. Be present with us during this meeting, guide us that we may make decisions that will reflect your loving presence in this world. Create within us open minds and hearts, that we will not fear conflict or run from it, but embrace it, knowing that it is an opportunity for growing in faith and a fuller understanding of your will for us. Help us to listen to each other, share our thoughts in loving, honest ways and do all we can to maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

- Pray before voting on a matter that has created significant disagreement, reminding all present that some will be happy about the decision and some will be disappointed.
- Use the Guidelines in ways that encourage open candid discussion. Discourage using the Guidelines in ways that would stifle the airing of disagreements and impede session members from sharing their opinions.
- Display the Guidelines in the rooms where the session and other committees meet.
- Review and evaluate the session's use of the Guidelines each year. Help each new class of the session understand the Guidelines and their use.

6. How can the Guidelines be used in our congregation?

- Reproduce the first page of this form and include it in a Sunday bulletin or in your congregation's newsletter in an effort to give copies to as many members as possible.
- Display the Guidelines on several of your church's bulletin boards.
- Present the Guidelines to the committees of session, the choir and groups within the church of all ages.
- Invite members of these groups and other leaders in your congregation to a training session on the Guidelines. Include training on the Guidelines in new member classes and elder and deacon training.
- Ask the worship leadership team to find ways that the Guidelines might be emphasized in worship.
- At a congregational meeting, ask the congregation to decide if they will use the Guidelines.
- If a congregation votes to use the Guidelines, consider having an evaluation annually at a congregational meeting on how effectively the congregation has used them. This evaluation might produce suggestions for using them better.

Order or download this resource at pcusatore.com



Presbyterian Mission
**Presbyterian
Peacemaking Program**



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) | 100 Witherspoon St. | Louisville, KY 40202 | 800-728-7228, ext. 5805
pcusa.org/peacemaking

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh

To Be Conducted via Zoom Videoconferencing

February 24, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Ruling Elder Mark Roth (Outgoing Moderator), Rev. Rebecca DePoe (Incoming Moderator)

Pittsburgh Presbytery is a covenant community

† *formed by the triune God;*

† *called to share together in the ongoing life & ministry of Jesus Christ;*

† *proclaiming & demonstrating the Gospel publicly in word & deed in the power of the Holy Spirit.*

PRESBYTERY MEETING DOCKET

Gathering for the Work of the Presbytery

Opening Prayer and Welcome from the Moderator

Seating of Corresponding Members

Adoption of the Docket and Consent Agenda and Announcement of the Intention to Introduce New Business

Devotions – Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe, Director of Justice Ministries

Celebration of the Rich Heritage and History of Pittsburgh Presbytery's African American Churches (10 mins.)

Greetings and Announcements

Greetings from Rev. Forrest Claassen, Executive Presbyter of the Synod of the Trinity

Announcements from the Board of Pensions – Rev. Dr. Doug Portz (12 mins.)

Information on Summer Mission Opportunities/NextGen Ministry Team (10 mins.)

Attending to our Corporate and Ecclesiastical Business

Election of Branch Vice Moderators and Installation of Moderators

Executive Committee Report

Stated Clerk's Report

Matters for the 225th General Assembly

Report of Stated Clerk Nominating Committee

Hearing from Our Staff, Commissions, and Committees

General Minister's Report

Commission on Ministry Report

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee on Nominations Report

Going Forth by God's Grace to Serve

New and Old Business

Report from the Roll Clerk and Closing Prayer

CONSENT AGENDA

February 24, 2022

All consent items are listed below and are the same as the Consent Motion items which appear in the following reports, and which are indicated by an asterisk. At the time the motion to approve the Consent Agenda is made, any commissioner may request the removal of any item from the Consent Agenda for debate by the body. If an item is removed from the Consent Agenda, it will be considered at the regularly docketed time for the report of the group to which it belongs.

Items for Consent Action

Report of the Minute Reading Committee

- Report of the Regular Meeting Minute Reading Committee

Matters from the Executive Committee:

- Item 2 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Baldwin United Presbyterian Church
- Item 3 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Crafton United Presbyterian Church
- Item 4 – Finance Reports – October and November 2021
- Item 5 – Permission for Sale of Church Property – Riverview

Matters from the Stated Clerk

- Item 4 – Ruling Elder Parity
- Item 5 – Ecclesiastical Administrative Commission to Ordain or Install

Matters from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

- Item 2 - Appointments of Commissions for Ordination

Matters from the Commission on Ministry

- Item 2 – Moderators
- Item 3 - Temporary/Covenant/Interim Pastors
- Item 4 – Letters of Reception
- Item 5 – Letters of Dissolution
- Item 6 – Letters of Dismissal
- Item 7 – Members At-Large
- Item 8 – Calls
- Item 9 – Commissioned Pastor

REPORT OF THE REGULAR MEETING MINUTES READING COMMITTEE
(Included/approved, in the consent agenda)

The regular meeting Minutes Reading Committee met on Thursday, December 9, 2021, at Parkwood United Presbyterian Church immediately following the regularly stated Presbytery meeting, in which only a core group met in person to host a virtual gathering for the wider presbytery, and read the minutes of said meeting. A quorum was present.

	P	A	E		P	A	E
Ruling Elders				Teaching Elders			
Carla Campbell	X			Eric Dennis	X		
Cathy Nelson	X			Rebecca DePoe	X		
Mark Roth	X			Sheldon Sorge	X		

The Committee recommends approval of the Minutes of the regularly stated Presbytery Meeting Thursday, December 9, 2021, at the Parkwood United Presbyterian Church and virtual meeting. **For the Committee:** *The Rev. Eric Ewing Dennis, Chair.*

The next meeting of the Minutes Reading Committee will be held on Thursday, February 24, 2022, immediately following the next Stated meeting of Presbytery expected via Zoom conferencing. Any commissioner present in person at such meeting is invited to attend.

**Executive Committee Report
February 24, 2022**

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Executive Committee met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. Due to the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the EC met virtually via Zoom video conference. Co-chair Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock opened the meeting with prayer.

Items for Information

1. Election of Treasurer

The Executive Committee elected Ruling Elder Chris Martin (East Liberty) Treasurer of the Presbytery for a one-year term to last until the first Executive Committee meeting of 2023.

2. Election of Committee Chairs

The Executive Committee approved the following chairs for two of its subcommittees:

Ruling Elder Chris Martin as chair of the Finance Committee
Ruling Elder Bob Brown as chair of the Property Committee

3. Minutes Reading Committee

The Presbytery Minutes Reading Committee for calendar year 2022 will consist of Ministers Rebecca DePoe, Trent Hancock, and Sheldon Sorge, and Ruling Elders Carla Campbell, Cathy Nelson, and Louise Schoppe.

4. Forgiveness of *Per Capita* Arrearage

The Executive Committee approved the request of Liberty Presbyterian Church for forgiveness of past-due *per capita* of \$1,970.94.

5. Lord's Supper during Calendar Year 2022

The Executive Committee authorized all ministry teams, commissions, committees, task forces of Presbytery and related organizations, camps and conference centers affiliated with Presbytery, to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at meetings and events during 2022.

7. Reformed Communion within Bounds at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary 2022

The Executive Committee again approved the following celebrations of the Lord's Supper by the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary within bounds of the Pittsburgh Presbytery:

Pittsburgh Presbytery confirms the permission granted by General Assembly to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and grants PTS permission to invite ordained clergy from other denominations to preside over the table, provided that the celebration does not contradict the Reformed understanding of the sacrament.

8. Updates to Presbytery Personnel Manual

The Executive Committee approved updates to the Presbytery's Personnel Manual to conform to current practices and legal requirements and to reflect changes in available benefits. Juneteenth was added as a designated paid holiday for presbytery staff. Copies of the complete manual are available upon request.

9. Endorsement of Matters for the 225th General Assembly

The Executive Committee endorsed two matters for the 225th General Assembly that will come to the presbytery for consideration as part of the Stated Clerk's report. They are:

The New Worshipping Communities Commission's request that Pittsburgh Presbytery concur with additional rationale to Overture 055: "On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders" from the Presbytery of San Fernando.

An overture regarding the removal of guns from domestic violence perpetrators authored by former moderators Rev. Charissa Howe and Ruling Elder Mark Roth.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Executive Committee recommends that the following items be approved by consent: **# 2, 3, 4, and 5.**

***2. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Baldwin United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms of one deacon of Baldwin United Presbyterian Church to serve additional terms beginning in 2022.

***3. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Crafton United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms of one elder of Crafton United Presbyterian Church to serve an additional term beginning in 2022.

***4. Finance Reports – October and November 2021**

The Executive Committee recommends Presbytery receive and file for audit the Presbytery Financial Statements for the months of October and November 2021.

***5. Permission for Sale of Church Property – Riverview**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to presbytery for its approval the request of Riverview United Presbyterian Church for permission to sell their church building for \$250,000 and their thrift store building for \$70,000.

Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
October 2021

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	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
Revenues							
<u>Presbytery Mission Income</u>							
Presbytery Mission Support	135,000	10,521	11,250	729	46,243	112,500	66,257
Pittsburgh Presby. Foundation	200,000	50,000	50,000	0	200,000	200,000	0
Endowment Withdrawals/Income	306,900	31,402	25,575	(5,827)	302,148	255,750	(46,398)
Short-term Invest. Income	75,000	0	6,250	6,250	48,750	62,500	13,750
Other Income	70,437	29,556	5,870	(23,686)	132,579	58,698	(73,881)
Total Presbytery Mission Income	787,337	121,479	98,945	(22,534)	729,720	689,448	(40,272)
<u>Being the Presbytery Income</u>							
Per Capita Income	722,882	20,777	40,000	19,223	602,453	565,000	(37,453)
Endowment Withdrawals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Being the Presbytery Income	722,882	20,777	40,000	19,223	602,453	565,000	(37,453)
Total Budgeted Revenues	1,510,219	142,256	138,945	(3,311)	1,332,173	1,254,448	(77,725)
Expenses							
<u>Mission To Our Congregations</u>							
Disciplemaking/Spirit.Growth	9,425	852	785	(67)	1,038	7,854	6,816
Cong.Enhancement/ACT	65,000	4,214	2,500	(1,714)	40,562	60,000	19,438
Pastor Ministry Accounts	12,000	21	1,000	979	1,090	10,000	8,910
Resourcenter Expense	1,700	0	142	142	589	1,417	828
Stewardship & Mission Interp.	1,250	0	104	104	0	1,042	1,042
Total Mission To Our Congregations	89,375	5,087	4,531	(556)	43,279	80,313	37,034
<u>Mission Beyond Congregations</u>							
Ecumenical Partnerships	18,100	1,417	1,508	91	15,667	15,083	(584)
GA & Synod Per Capita Support	270,593	0	67,648	67,648	202,945	270,593	67,648
International Partnership	3,000	0	250	250	0	2,500	2,500
Mission Ministry Team	2,600	0	217	217	0	2,167	2,167
New Worshiping Communities	100,000	6,491	4,158	(2,333)	73,093	91,683	18,590
Crestfield Support	110,000	0	0	0	110,000	110,000	0
Justice Ministries	11,750	19	979	960	1,855	9,792	7,937
Total Mission Beyond Congregations	516,043	7,927	74,760	66,833	403,560	501,818	98,258

Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
October 2021

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	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
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<u>Ecclesiastical Costs</u>							
Administrative Expense	85,008	2,174	7,084	4,910	74,538	70,840	(3,698)
Executive Committee Expenses	5,550	0	462	462	0	4,625	4,625
Ministry - COM & CPM	10,125	0	844	844	6,621	8,438	1,817
Property Expense	71,800	9,237	5,650	(3,587)	65,822	59,000	(6,822)
Stated Clerk Office	950	0	79	79	159	792	633
Total Ecclesiastical Costs	173,433	11,411	14,119	2,708	147,140	143,695	(3,445)
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Total Personnel	731,368	59,637	60,947	1,310	586,973	609,473	22,500
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Total Budgeted Expenses	1,510,219	84,062	154,357	70,295	1,180,952	1,335,299	154,347
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Presbytery Operating Budget Net Total	0	58,194	(15,412)	(73,606)	151,221	(80,851)	(232,072)
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Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
November 2021

Page 1

	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
Revenues							
<u>Presbytery Mission Income</u>							
Presbytery Mission Support	135,000	19,775	11,250	(8,525)	66,018	123,750	57,732
Pittsburgh Presby. Foundation	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	200,000	0
Endowment Withdrawals/Income	306,900	20,322	25,575	5,253	322,470	281,325	(41,145)
Short-term Invest. Income	75,000	0	6,250	6,250	48,750	68,750	20,000
Other Income	70,437	3,202	5,870	2,668	135,781	64,567	(71,214)
Total Presbytery Mission Income	787,337	43,299	48,945	5,646	773,019	738,392	(34,627)
<u>Being the Presbytery Income</u>							
Per Capita Income	722,882	31,065	20,000	(11,065)	633,518	585,000	(48,518)
Endowment Withdrawals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Being the Presbytery Income	722,882	31,065	20,000	(11,065)	633,518	585,000	(48,518)
Total Budgeted Revenues	1,510,219	74,364	68,945	(5,419)	1,406,537	1,323,392	(83,145)
Expenses							
<u>Mission To Our Congregations</u>							
Disciplemaking/Spirit.Growth	9,425	2,247	785	(1,462)	3,285	8,639	5,354
Cong.Enhancement/ACT	65,000	4,214	2,500	(1,714)	44,776	62,500	17,724
Pastor Ministry Accounts	12,000	2,261	1,000	(1,261)	3,351	11,000	7,649
Resourcenter Expense	1,700	0	142	142	589	1,558	969
Stewardship & Mission Interp.	1,250	0	104	104	0	1,146	1,146
Total Mission To Our Congregations	89,375	8,722	4,531	(4,191)	52,001	84,843	32,842
<u>Mission Beyond Congregations</u>							
Ecumenical Partnerships	18,100	1,417	1,508	91	17,083	16,592	(491)
GA & Synod Per Capita Support	270,593	67,648	0	(67,648)	270,594	270,593	(1)
International Partnership	3,000	1,000	250	(750)	1,000	2,750	1,750
Mission Ministry Team	2,600	0	217	217	0	2,383	2,383
New Worshiping Communities	100,000	1,742	4,158	2,416	74,836	95,842	21,006
Crestfield Support	110,000	0	0	0	110,000	110,000	0
Justice Ministries	11,750	19	979	960	1,874	10,771	8,897
Total Mission Beyond Congregations	516,043	71,826	7,112	(64,714)	475,387	508,931	33,544

Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
November 2021

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	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
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<u>Ecclesiastical Costs</u>							
Administrative Expense	85,008	6,973	7,084	111	81,510	77,924	(3,586)
Executive Committee Expenses	5,550	92	462	370	92	5,087	4,995
Ministry - COM & CPM	10,125	110	844	734	6,731	9,281	2,550
Property Expense	71,800	4,080	6,150	2,070	69,902	65,150	(4,752)
Stated Clerk Office	950	0	79	79	159	871	712
Total Ecclesiastical Costs	173,433	11,255	14,619	3,364	158,394	158,313	(81)
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Total Personnel	731,368	57,845	60,947	3,102	644,818	670,421	25,603
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Total Budgeted Expenses	1,510,219	149,648	87,209	(62,439)	1,330,600	1,422,508	91,908
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Presbytery Operating Budget Net Total	0	(75,284)	(18,264)	57,020	75,937	(99,116)	(175,053)
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**PER CAPITA REPORT
FOR PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021**

NO. CHURCH NAME		2021 PER CAPITA DUE	TOTAL RECEIVED FOR 2021	CURRENT YEAR DISCOUNT APPLIED	TOTAL OWED FOR 2021
S	41 Amity	1,078.49	1,024.56	53.93	0.00
N	3 Aspinwall	2,887.57	2,743.19	144.38	0.00
S	7 Baldwin U P	2,226.56	2,226.56		0.00
S	119 Beechview U P	800.17	760.17	40.00	0.00
W	8 Bellevue U P	2,017.82	2,017.82		0.00
W	10 Ben Avon, The Community	8,384.39	7,965.17	419.22	0.00
W	18 Bethany	24,561.74	23,333.65	1,228.09	0.00
E	89 Bethel U P, Monroeville	1,809.08	500.00		1,309.08
S	12 Bethel, Bethel Park	8,488.76	8,064.32	424.44	0.00
S	46 Bethesda U P, Elizabeth	1,983.03	1,983.03		0.00
E	121 Bethesda U P, Pittsburgh	1,113.28	418.32		694.96
E	26 Beulah U P	11,341.54	11,001.28	340.26	0.00
N	122 Bidwell St. U P	8,106.07			8,106.07
W	94 Bower Hill Community	9,254.14	8,791.43	462.71	0.00
S	17 Brentwood	5,635.98	5,354.18	281.80	0.00
S	19 Buena Vista U	1,008.91	958.46	50.45	0.00
N	183 Bull Creek U P	5,044.55	4,792.32	252.23	0.00
N	50 Calvert Memorial U P	556.64	528.81	27.83	0.00
W	20 Carnegie	4,174.80	4,049.56	125.24	0.00
S	23 Castle Shannon, First	1,843.87	1,843.87		0.00
N	184 Central, Tarentum	2,435.30	1,217.66		1,217.64
W	209 Chartiers Valley U P	765.38	750.06	15.32	0.00
N	24 Cheswick	1,669.92	1,586.43	83.49	0.00
W	85 Christ Community	1,495.97			1,495.97
W	30 Clinton U P	5,914.30	5,618.58	295.72	0.00
E	126 Comm of Reconciliation	800.17	760.16	40.01	0.00
N	114 Community House	1,739.50			1,739.50
S	127 Concord	939.33			939.33
W	33 Coraopolis, The P C	6,227.41	2,169.86		4,057.55
W	174 Covenant Community	2,991.94	2,842.34	149.60	0.00
W	36 Crafton Hts., First U P	4,313.96	4,184.54	129.42	0.00
W	35 Crafton U P	2,991.94	2,902.19	89.75	0.00
N	57 Cross Roads, Gibsonia	2,783.20	2,644.04	139.16	0.00
E	90 Cross Roads, Monroeville	10,506.58			10,506.58
N	58 Deer Creek U P	1,530.76	1,454.22	76.54	0.00
S	42 Duquesne, First	2,852.78	2,795.76	57.02	0.00
E	128 East Liberty	26,683.93	25,349.74	1,334.19	0.00
N	25 East Union	9,184.56	8,725.33	459.23	0.00
E	129 Eastminster	6,053.46	5,750.78	302.68	0.00
E	45 Edgewood, First	3,061.52	2,908.44	153.08	0.00
*	N 62 Elfinwild	24,109.47	22,540.44	1,186.34	382.69
S	47 Elizabeth, First	1,878.66	1,774.29	104.37	0.00
W	49 Emsworth U P	1,565.55	1,487.27	78.28	0.00
W	171 Forest Avenue U P	1,635.13	1,553.37	81.76	0.00
E	53 Forest Hills	3,931.27	3,734.71	196.56	0.00
N	54 Fox Chapel	32,980.92	32,733.56	247.36	0.00
E	134 Friendship Comm	3,652.95	3,652.95		0.00
N	59 Gibsonia, First	4,313.96	4,313.96		0.00

**PER CAPITA REPORT
FOR PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021**

		2021 PER CAPITA DUE	TOTAL RECEIVED FOR 2021	CURRENT YEAR DISCOUNT APPLIED	TOTAL OWED FOR 2021
	NO. CHURCH NAME				
	W 76 Gladden U P	974.12	974.12		0.00
	N 63 Glenshaw	9,949.94	9,651.44	298.50	0.00
	N 64 Glenshaw Valley	2,470.09	2,400.51	69.58	0.00
	E 135 Grace Memorial	2,400.51	2,280.49	120.02	0.00
	S 151 Grand View U P	347.90	347.90		0.00
	S 137 Hamilton	8,523.55	8,267.84	255.71	0.00
**	N 60 Hampton U P	26,162.08	630.00		25,532.08
*	W 38 Hawthorne Avenue	1,495.97	596.11		899.86
	W 70 Hebron, Clinton	2,748.41	2,610.99	137.42	0.00
*	E 107 Hebron, Penn Hills	21,569.80			21,569.80
	N 56 Heritage U P	4,209.59	4,209.59		0.00
	N 109 Hiland	7,097.16	6,742.30	354.86	0.00
	E 91 Hillcrest U P	3,409.42	689.79		2,719.63
	N 14 Hoboken	1,600.34	315.00		1,285.34
	S 69 Homestead UP	4,209.59	4,083.31	126.28	0.00
	S 139 Hot Metal Bridge	2,087.40	1,983.03	104.37	0.00
	N 72 Indianola U P	208.74			208.74
	S 28 Jefferson U P	4,453.12	4,230.46	222.66	0.00
	S 13 John McMillan	12,941.88	12,941.88		0.00
	W 86 Ken Mawr U P	17,221.05	16,360.00	861.05	0.00
	E 192 Kerr	1,287.23			1,287.23
	N 141 Korean U P	3,687.74	3,687.74		0.00
	S 84 Liberty	2,991.94	1,021.00		1,970.94
	S 143 Lincoln Place	834.96	793.21	41.75	0.00
	E 44 Linway	5,670.77	5,670.77		0.00
	N 100 Logans Ferry U P	2,957.15	2,868.44	88.71	0.00
	S 79 McKeesport	4,174.80	4,174.80		0.00
	W 103 Montours	2,713.62	2,577.94	135.68	0.00
	N 116 Mosaic Community	1,983.03	1,983.03		0.00
	E 108 Mt. Hope U P	4,244.38	3,536.98		707.40
**	W 178 Mt. Nebo U P	1,774.29	1,774.29		0.00
	W 67 Mt. Pisgah	2,609.25	2,478.79	130.46	0.00
	N 200 Mt. Pleasant U P	4,244.38	4,032.16	212.22	0.00
	S 82 Mt. Vernon Community	7,827.75			7,827.75
***	S 150 Mt. Washington, The PC	869.75			869.75
	W 99 Neville Island	1,809.08			1,809.08
	W 9 New Life Community	1,600.34	1,520.32	80.02	0.00
	W 101 Noblestown U P	1,113.28	1,106.90	6.38	0.00
	N 199 North Hills U P	800.17			800.17
	N 110 Northmont U P	12,767.93	4,314.20		8,453.73
	W 104 Oakdale U P	1,530.76			1,530.76
	E 105 Oakmont	14,472.64	13,749.01	723.63	0.00
	S 195 Olivet U P	1,322.02	1,255.92	66.10	0.00
	N 2 Parkwood U P	10,715.32	10,380.76	334.56	0.00
	N 111 Pine Creek	521.85	496.00	25.85	0.00
	S 131 Pittsburgh, First	6,749.26	6,411.80	337.46	0.00
	S 169 Pleasant Hills Community	31,902.43	4,874.87		27,027.56
	N 187 Pleasant Unity U P	1,182.86	1,123.74	59.12	0.00

**PER CAPITA REPORT
FOR PRESBYTERY, SYNOD AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021**

NO. CHURCH NAME		2021 PER CAPITA DUE	TOTAL RECEIVED FOR 2021	CURRENT YEAR DISCOUNT APPLIED	TOTAL OWED FOR 2021
E	170 Plum Creek, The P C	4,000.85	2,509.71		1,491.14
W	22 Rennerdale, First U P	3,618.16	3,509.62	108.54	0.00
W	65 Riverdale U P	4,487.91	4,353.28	134.63	0.00
N	115 Riverview U P	3,652.95	3,543.37	109.58	0.00
N	173 Ross Community	1,287.23	179.58		1,107.65
S	83 Sampson's Mills	5,635.98	5,466.90	169.08	0.00
E	207 Second U P, Wilkinsburg	2,957.15			2,957.15
W	176 Sewickley	27,623.26	26,242.10	1,381.16	0.00
E	158 Shadyside	32,424.28	30,803.07	1,621.21	0.00
W	34 Sharon Community	6,679.68	6,345.70	333.98	0.00
E	161 Sixth	7,340.69	7,340.69		0.00
S	162 South Side	1,530.76			1,530.76
S	96 Southminster	32,563.44	31,586.54	976.90	0.00
N	181 Springdale U P	1,878.66	383.95		1,494.71
W	177 St. Andrew's U P	1,078.49	1,024.56	53.93	0.00
S	97 Sunset Hills U P	6,958.00	5,218.50		1,739.50
E	182 Swissvale U P	2,470.09	2,346.58	123.51	0.00
N	185 Tarentum, First U P	9,114.98	8,932.66	182.32	0.00
E	164 The Open Door	2,852.78	2,710.14	142.64	0.00
***	E 165 The Upper Room	0.00			0.00
E	163 Third	4,592.28	4,362.67	229.61	0.00
W	74 U P Church of Ingram	1,704.71	1,620.00	84.71	0.00
W	87 Union, Robinson Twp	14,089.95	13,385.45	704.50	0.00
W	66 Unity	10,819.69	10,495.20	324.49	0.00
**	E 189 Unity U P	15,794.66	973.53		14,821.13
E	190 Universal U P	2,261.35	2,148.28	113.07	0.00
W	71 Valley	2,991.94	2,842.34	149.60	0.00
E	166 Valley View	2,644.04	481.00		2,163.04
E	194 Verona U P	1,356.81			1,356.81
S	149 Vietnamese P C	1,078.49			1,078.49
E	168 Waverly U P	3,966.06	3,767.76	198.30	0.00
W	191 Westminster	58,481.99	58,014.23	467.76	0.00
N	201 Wexford Community U P	6,227.41	6,040.59	186.82	0.00
S	202 Whitehall U P	3,061.52	2,908.44	153.08	0.00
TOTALS		826,993.09	640,491.25	21,812.27	164,689.57

* Indicates churches that are withholding all or part of their per capita payments.

** Indicates churches that are paying only the amount they collect.

*** Indicates churches that have closed but still owe per capita.



Application For
Permission of Presbytery on
Transactions of Real Property

To the Finance and Property Committees of the Pittsburgh Presbytery:

This is to certify that at a duly called ☐ REGULAR ☒ SPECIAL meeting of the Corporation of the

River View United Presbyterian Church of Pennsylvania,
(name of congregation)

held 1/23/2022, at which a quorum was present, the Session and/or Board of Trustees of the
(date)

said Church was authorized to ☒ SELL ☐ LEASE ☐ ACQUIRE ☐ ENCUMBER real property for the Church corporation as follows:

Street Address or Road 3505 Perryville Avenue

City, Borough, Township Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Buildings erected thereon Church building

Please furnish the complete legal description of the property and/or attach copy of the land survey or county assessment record to the application.

Recorded in Recorder of Deeds Office, Allegheny County:

Deed Book # _____ Page # _____ Parcel ID # _____

If to be acquired, subject to an encumbrance, give details including lien holder, amount, interest rate, and number of payments and due date:

If to be ☐ BOUGHT ☒ SOLD, for what price? \$ 250,000

On what terms? See Agreement

Appraisal Amount \$ See Agreement

If to be MORTGAGED, how many years? _____ Total amount? \$ _____

If to be LEASED, for how many years? _____ at what amount? \$ _____

Reasons for the action _____
(it is required that you also complete and submit a Request to Encumber or Mortgage application)

If to be SOLD or LEASED will the proceeds be conserved? ☒ YES ☐ NO

If "Yes" in what manner? investments

If "No" what use is planned? _____

The Board of Trustees of Riverview United Presbyterian Church Corporation
(name of congregation)

certify that the corporation, at a ☐ REGULAR ☐ SPECIAL ☒ CALLED meeting, which was held on
1/23/2022, ☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED the recommendation of the Session
(date)

or Trustees to ☒ SELL ☐ LEASE ☐ ACQUIRE ☐ ENCUMBER the real property herein described.

This is to further certify that the Board of Trustees knows of no reservation or restriction in connection with the foregoing proposed transaction, except as noted herein:

In accordance with the Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Board of Trustees of the Riverview United Presbyterian Church requests the written permission of
(name of congregation)
Pittsburgh Presbytery for the foregoing proposed transaction.

(Signed) Martha Schaefer
President of the Board of Trustees
(Attest) James E. Miller
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Riverview United Presbyterian Church of
(name of congregation)
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, in transmitting the foregoing request of the Board of
(township, municipality or city)

Trustees, certifies that the Congregation at a ☐ REGULAR ☐ SPECIAL ☒ CALLED meeting held on
1/23/2022, ☒ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED the foregoing proposed transaction.
(date)

(Signed) James E. Miller
(Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Clerk of Session)

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

February 24, 2022

Items for Information

1. Deadline for Docket Time and Waiver Requests for May Presbytery Meeting

The Ecclesiastical Committee has announced that all requests for docket time at the May 19, 2022 presbytery meeting must be made to the Ecclesiastical Committee via the Stated Clerk's office no later than **noon on Wednesday, April 13, 2022**. If action by the Presbytery will be requested, the full text of the motion and any accompanying documents (reports, rationale, etc.) must be submitted by this time as well. Requests for waivers of the six-year limitation on terms for elders and deacons are due on this date also.

The remaining deadlines for docket time and waiver requests for 2022 are as follows:

Presbytery Meeting	Deadline
September 22, 2022	August 24, 2022
December 8, 2022	November 2, 2022

2. 2021 Minutes Readings

The Ecclesiastical Committee will schedule the reading of congregational minutes for 2021 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so. The committee again expects to offer the option for digital minutes exchange for interested clerks of session and will send information about this along with the schedule for in person minutes readings.

3. Appointment of Administrative Commission for West Branch Closed Churches

The Stated Clerk's office has been informed by the sessions of three congregations in the west branch of Pittsburgh Presbytery that after consulting with their members they intend to close early in 2022. Those congregations are: Emsworth United Presbyterian Church, Neville Island Presbyterian Church, and St. Andrew's United Presbyterian Church. Pursuant to the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Moderator has appointed an administrative commission to conclude the legal, corporate, and ecclesiastical affairs of these congregations, including dissolution of the congregations and disposition of the properties. The members of the commission are

Rev. Ronee Christy
Ruling Elder Susan Dobbins (Sewickley)
Rev. Dr. Bruce Ford (H.R.)
Rev. Dr. Jim Gilchrist
Ruling Elder Bucky Savatt

4. Appointment of Associate and Assistant Stated Clerks

The Stated Clerk has appointed Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock as Associate Stated Clerk and Rev. Stephanie Martin and Dorothy Winter as Assistant Stated Clerks.

5. Correction of 2020 Minutes Reading Report

The 2020 Minutes Reading Report included in the Stated Clerk's report to the December 9, 2021 Stated Meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery included an omission. The following congregations had their minutes approved with exceptions:

Hebron United Presbyterian Church
Wexford Community Presbyterian Church

6. Invitations for Hosting the Presbytery during Calendar Year 2023

The Ecclesiastical Committee would welcome your invitation for the Pittsburgh Presbytery to meet at your church/facility for its February, May, September, or December 2023 stated meeting if pandemic restrictions permit such gatherings. Invitations to host a dinner meeting in May are of particular interest. Please notify the Ecclesiastical Committee of your congregation's interest via the Stated Clerk's office. If your congregation is unable to host a meeting but is interested in partnering with a host congregation to provide volunteers and other support, please let the Ecclesiastical Committee know via the Stated Clerk's office as well.

7. Permanent Judicial Commission Expired Terms Roster

In accordance with D-5.0206b of the Rules of Discipline, the Stated Clerk is required to maintain a current roster of the members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the last six years and to report those names annually to the presbytery. The following are members of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the presbytery whose terms have expired within the last six years and who, therefore, would be available to fill a quorum in the event that current members of the Permanent Judicial Commission are unable to attend hearings in a particular case:

Name	Term Expired
Rev. Dr. Don Ewing	2016
Rev. Dr. John Welch	2016
Elder Ann Baker, Esq.	2017
Elder William Cadwell	2017
Rev. Ann Morris	2018
Rev. Vance Torbert, III	2021

8. Ruling Elder Parity – 2022

Presbytery Plan for Addressing Teaching and Ruling Elder Parity. Under provisions of article G-3.0301 of the Book of Order, the Presbytery annually redresses an imbalance of ministers and elders in accordance with a plan set out in the Presbytery Manual. The imbalance is addressed by (1) subtracting ministers who do not live within a reasonable meeting-commuting range or whose frail health prevents their attendance, (2) calculating the number of ruling elder commissioners which participating congregations by size are permitted to send to presbytery meetings (as set forth in the Manual of the Presbytery), (3) enrolling ruling elders actively serving on commissions and committees of the presbytery, (4) enrolling presbytery ruling elder officers, staff, commissioned ruling elders and past moderators, and (5) inviting congregations on the basis of an annual rotation to send an additional ruling elder to presbytery meetings. The structure of this presbytery teaching and ruling elder parity plan has been in place for a number of years.

The membership of Pittsburgh Presbytery as reported to the Stated Clerk as of December 31, 2020 was:

Minister Members:	299
Less those unlikely to be able to attend	<u>36</u>
	263

Ruling Elders

Ruling Elders by Congregation Membership Size	140
Plus Ruling Elder Officers/Committee Service	67
Plus Serving Commissioned Pastors	6
Plus Additional Ruling Elders by Rotation	<u>50</u>
	263

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Stated Clerk recommends items # 4 and 5 be approved by consent.

2. Request that Pittsburgh Presbytery Concur with Additional Rationale to Overture 55 to the 225th General Assembly

The New Worshiping Communities Commission of Pittsburgh Presbytery requests that presbytery concur with additional rationale with the Presbytery of San Fernando's overture to the 225th General Assembly: Ovt 055: "On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders". The text of the original overture and the proposed additional rationale follows this report. The Executive Committee of Pittsburgh Presbytery has endorsed this request for concurrence.

3. Overture to the 225th General Assembly on Domestic Abuse

Presbyters Rev. Charissa Howe and Ruling Elder Mark Roth have proposed an overture to the 225th General Assembly on domestic abuse and have timely submitted it to the Stated Clerk's office. A copy of the proposed overture follows this report. The Executive Committee of Pittsburgh Presbytery has endorsed this proposed overture.

***4. Ruling Elder Parity**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the following elder officers, former moderators, committee/commission members, and staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery be commissioned as elder presbyters for the calendar year 2022 to redress an imbalance of minister and elder presbyters (See, Book of Order, G-3.0301):

EQUALIZED RULING ELDERS 2022

Elected Officers of Presbytery:

Senior Vice Moderator	Louise Schoppe	Ken Mawr
Vice Moderator (East)	Sally Huber Lewis	Oakmont
Treasurer	Christopher Martin	East Liberty
Stated Clerk	Carla Campbell	Southminster

Former Moderators:

Ronald Curry	Grace Memorial
Frank Hancock	Oakmont PC
Mark Krauland	East Liberty
Kears Pollock	Parkwood UP
Mark Roth	East Liberty
Lenore Williams	East Liberty

Presbytery Executive Committee:	Robert Brown Nancy Bunce Rob Carr Jim Gockley Clifford Huff Paul Nigra Dana Nicodemus Darlene Rushing John Van Cleve	Southminster Sewickley Jefferson Shadyside Glenshaw Valley Hawthorne Hiland Hot Metal Bridge Westminster
Presbytery Staff:	Roy Burford Cathy Nelson Jenny Petrantonio	Bethel (Bethel Park) Ingram UP Bellevue
Synod Commissioner:	Elsie Knappenberger	St. Andrews
Commission on Ministry:	Paul Conley Charma Dudley Jodi Dukes Jennifer Floyd Mark Jones Pat Kelly Anita Perry Renee Johnson Judy Shipley Jack Smith Nancy Stanny Ann Turnock Earle Wooding	Westminster East Liberty Rennerdale Southminster McKeesport Northmont Riverview Eastminster First, Pittsburgh Bidwell Valley Beulah Pleasant Hills
Commission on Preparation for Ministry:	Tim Bailey Blanch Bennett Peggy Bonfiglio Jan Bucey Bob Lindeman Amanda Wade Jim Weikel Kaye Wentling Drew Wilson	Carnegie Valley View Tarentum, First UP Hot Metal Elfinwild Clinton Ken Mawr Hillcrest Forest Hills
Nominating Committee:	Judith Jerry Barb Prevost Ann Strong	Bidwell Crafton Heights Sewickley
Permanent Judicial Commission:	Jeanne Bingman Eugene Harris Jack Simmons Laura Vassamillet	Sewickley East Liberty Grace Sewickley

Response Team:	Jane Fox Michelle Snyder	Sixth Bower Hill
Ecclesiastical Committee:	Chris Blackwood Nancy Gulliford Laura Markowitz	Southminster First, Tarentum Concord
Administrative Commission for Transformation:	Bob Nadin	Ben Avon
New Worshipping Communities Commission:	Scott Hagley Stephanie Simmons Gene Walker Vera White	Open Door Grace Mosaic Hiland
Administrative Commissions:		
Community House:	Tom Johnson Ted Mills Peggy Outen	Sewickley Northmont Community House
West Branch Closed Churches:	Susan Dobbins Bucky Savatt	Sewickley Ken Mawr
Commissioned Ruling Elders:		
Ross Community	Dale Craig	Ross Community
Bull Creek	Robert Henry	Tarentum, First UP
Amity	Gary Molinaro	Pleasant Hills
Bethel United	Suzanne Good	Southminster
Vietnamese	Don Barnes	Open Door
	Lam Nguyen	Vietnamese

***5. Ecclesiastical Administrative Commission to Ordain or Install**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the Minutes of the following Ecclesiastical Administrative Commissions be approved, and the commissions be dismissed with thanks:

Administrative Commission to Install Rev. Rebecca DePoe

DePoe The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery on Sept. 16, 2021, to install Rev. Rebecca DePoe as associate pastor of Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, comprising Ruling Elder Mark Roth, Moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery; Ruling Elder Cristie Good, Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church; Rev. Charissa Howe, Director of Chaplaincy Services at the Foundation of Hope; Ruling Elder Bob Lindeman, Elfinwild Presbyterian Church; and Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Pastor to Pittsburgh Presbytery, met by appointment on Dec. 5, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church.

There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by Rev. Howe. All things being prepared in advance, decently and in order, the Commission approved

the Service of installation and voted to proceed to the installation of Rev. Rebecca DePoe, according to the direction of Presbytery and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commission moved to the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. and installed Rev. DePoe.

Elder Roth asked the constitutional questions which the candidate answered in the affirmative. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Dr. Roger Owens. Elder Roth offered the prayer of installation. Rev. Wallace offered the charge to the congregation. Rev. Howe offered the charge to the pastor.

The minutes of the Commission were read and approved. Upon motion duly made, the Commission moved to adjourn at the conclusion of the Service of Installation with the pronouncement of the Benediction by Rev. DePoe.

The New Worshiping Communities Commission of Pittsburgh Presbytery moves that the presbytery concur with additional rationale with the Presbytery of San Fernando's overture to the 225th General Assembly: Ovt 055: "On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders"

Original Overture and Rationale:

Recommendation

The Presbytery of San Fernando overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to establish a task force to explore the theology and practice of ordination to ordered ministry for ruling elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and recommend any needed changes to the 226th General Assembly (2024). This task force will reflect the breadth of the PC(USA) and include representatives from those who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color), immigrant congregations, New Worshiping Communities, and middle governing body leadership. The task force will work with denominational staff, including the 1001 New Worshiping Communities leadership.

Rationale

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [PC(USA)] has experienced ongoing numerical decline and demographic aging. At the same time, there are leaders of dynamic immigrant fellowships and New Worshiping Communities (NWCs), including diverse NWCs that are prevented by our structure from taking an active role in the life and governance of the PC(USA).

At the end of 2020, there were 26,000 people nationwide participating in 529 NWCs. In our chartered churches, 1 member for every 10 comes from a background without church- or faith-based experiences, while 1 or 2 participants out of every 3 in the NWCs come from this same background. In 2020, 15 percent of NWCs conducted adult baptisms compared to 5 percent in established congregations.

However, our emerging leaders and participants are prevented by our present structure from taking an active role in the life and governance of the PC(USA).

Currently a leader serving a NWC may not be designated as a commissioned ruling elder (CRE) by the Committee on Ministry (or equivalent) unless they are first ordained as an elder in the PC(USA) and serve on the session of a local church. This is because the NWC is not chartered and does not have a session to which the leader can be ordained. The NWC leader is excluded by our interpretation of polity from possibly qualifying to be a CRE with voice and vote at presbytery unless they step back into the traditional model and serve a traditional church. This "catch" excludes gifted, entrepreneurial leaders from taking a role in our governance to the detriment of the PC(USA).

The path for leaders of NWCs involves our immigrant leaders too, and we need clarity around their leadership as well.

Rev. Dr. James Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, writes: “Our global mission work is shifting as countless numbers of immigrants are coming to the United States seeking freedom and opportunities. It is only a matter of time before our government leaders will be forced to pass a bill seeking a new pathway to citizenship in the United States of America. Just as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sent missionaries William H. Sheppard and Samuel N. Lapsley to the Congo, we must be willing to embrace and welcome persons who seek freedom in the United States as an act of love. Therefore we must prepare this mission field to receive immigrants seeking refuge and peace.”

These are identified issues. As the task force listens to and responds to the concerns of presbyteries across the country, other concerns can be identified and addressed in the report and action solutions presented to the 226th General Assembly (2024).

Other insights from church leaders and teachers:

“Ministry is changing. We cannot use a 20th century model of leadership as we live and lean into new and creative ministries of the 21st century. As so much of our growth and energy is coming from our New Worshiping Communities, we have to find new ways of discussing what ordained leadership looks like in the 21st century. We must not succumb to a dynamic where we are serving our polity instead of our polity serving us. This involves looking at new creative ways to empower and affirm our bi-vocational leaders, our immigrant community leaders, and our New Worshiping Community leaders. They need to have access to serve and vote as leaders in the presbytery, where they can be supported and we can all learn and grow from their insights and wisdom.”

—Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett, executive director, Presbyterian Mission Agency, PC(USA)

“As the PC(USA) reaches more broadly into the neighborhoods around us to call new disciples and form new communities of worship and witness, we need—and God is providing—new kinds of leaders who bring gifts and skills ‘for such a time as this.’ We are called to respond to and receive these gifts of God with new openness and flexibility in our equipping and credentialing of these leaders.”

—Rev. Nikki Collins, coordinator, 1001 Worshipping Communities, PCUSA

“At the time of the American Revolution, Presbyterians and Congregationalists were the two largest Protestant denominations in the new nation. The religious landscape changed dramatically in the 19th century. While Presbyterians adhered to the standard of an educated clergy, Methodists and Baptists won the West with their much greater flexibility about who could be messengers of the gospel. By the time new pastors were trained, we were always many years and hundreds of miles behind the frontier. In the 21st century, with attendance at Christian worship in decline, the question must be asked once more: Will Presbyterians be flexible enough to change with a changing situation. Who will we send?”

—Dr. Ronald C. White, presidential biographer, who has taught American church history at Princeton, San Francisco, and Fuller Theological Seminaries

Additional Rationale:

According to PCUSA Research Services, nearly half of our denomination's 600 new worshipping communities are led by individuals who are not ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament in the Presbytery Church (USA), though many are immigrant pastors with many years of ministry experience in their country of origin.

The work of the Spirit in these New Worshipping Communities and their leaders is evident. In them we see the Body of Christ. In a denomination of declining and aging membership and that is over 90% White in its membership, we have much to learn from these new worshipping communities whose participants are younger and more ethnically diverse, and that are engaging unchurched and dechurched people at a higher rate than our established churches.

And yet, our current polity prevents many of these new worshipping communities and their leaders from having voice or vote in the governing life of our church.

In practice, our polity leads to a scenario contrary to biblical witness. The Apostle Paul wrote the first of his letters to the church in Thessalonica, less than two years after the Christian community had been founded there. In his letter, Paul addresses them as a *church*, not merely as a fellowship or as a new worshipping community. Missiologist David Bosch writes concerning this, "From the very first moment these were *complete* churches, with the Word and the sacraments – which were all they needed to be the church of Jesus Christ." (p. 379) However, in our current polity, many of our new worshipping community leaders are ineligible for ordination (and therefore not authorized to practice the sacraments) in the PC(USA), often times despite being ordained ministers in their country of origin.

The one-way dependence our current polity creates between new worshipping communities and our established churches also sadly perpetuates White supremacy. With their leaders unable to be ordained in our denomination and authorized to practice the sacraments, many of our immigrant new worshipping communities are dependent on outside ministers (who are often White) to preside at baptisms and the Lord's Supper. To be sure, the love these ministers have for these NWCs is often profound, but the unintended consequences are not hard to see. Imagine the formative effects of an immigrant child growing up in a new worshipping community singing and hearing the Word proclaimed in the same language as their mother's lullabies, but only receiving the body and blood of Christ from White hands.

It's time to catch our polity up to the new work the Holy Spirit has done among us. This overture seeks to convene the right mix of people to consider the appropriate changes to our Book of Order that would recognize the ministry and validate the call of many new worshipping community leaders and would clear the way for the Presbyterian Church (USA) to more fully receive the diverse wisdom of these innovative leaders in the governing life of our church.

Domestic Abuse Overture

Mark Roth, ruling elder, East Liberty Presbyterian Church
Rev. Charissa Clark Howe, teaching elder, chaplaincy director, Foundation of HOPE

Recommendation

Based on God's call for us to live in healthy relationships free of violence and coercion, and bearing in mind the proven efficacy of gun relinquishment procedures, Pittsburgh Presbytery overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to:

- Endorse the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms' gun relinquishment protocol.⁶
- Educate congregations about this issue, and make them aware of the [resources](#) available through the Presbyterians Against Domestic Violence Network.⁷
- Encourage church members to advocate in their presbyteries for removal of guns from domestic abusers.

Rationale

God's people are consistently called by God to be peacemakers and to stand for the wellbeing of the abused and oppressed. One of the most powerful stands the church can take is to protect those who have less power. Women and children are still at great risk of harm at the hands of patriarchal systems -- even in our own time and place. It is our duty to stand with them and to call for their protection and dignity.

One area where we can do much more is confronting the sin of domestic violence. Domestic violence harms not only the persons involved in it, but the covenant of marriage, parental relationships, and the community as a whole. It is also an affront to the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The witness of the Gospels shows Jesus himself standing up for those who were abused, marginalized, and violated by unjust power dynamics in the patriarchal society of his time. (See John 8:1-11, the woman in adultery; John 4:4-30, 39-42, the woman at the well; Luke 8:40-48, the woman who touched his robe; Luke 7:36-50, the woman with the ointment.) Jesus also stood as a voice for children, commanding his disciples to treat them as a valuable part of God's Kingdom (See Luke 16:18).

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, remains a stubbornly persistent problem in American society, one that has only grown worse during the confinement of the pandemic.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, [1 in 4 women](#) and 1 in 9 men will experience physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner during their lifetimes.¹

Intimate partner homicides are rarer, but the numbers are still devastating. In 2015 alone, there were [1,352 intimate partner homicides](#) in the U.S. Almost all of the victims were women.²

More than two-thirds of intimate partner homicides are committed with guns. One landmark study showed that when an abuser has access to a gun, the risk of homicide [rises by 400 percent](#).³

It's not just women who are at risk. Of the 156 family mass murders in America between 2006 and 2016, [49 percent of victims were children](#).⁴ Intimate partner homicides also cause the collateral killings of neighbors, other relatives and police officers.

Federal law and many state laws already prohibit people convicted of domestic violence from possessing guns. Federal law also prohibits those who have protection from abuse orders against them from possessing guns. But research has shown that most states do not have effective procedures to make sure domestic violence convicts relinquish their weapons.

As a result, many women [are killed](#) each year by partners or former partners who use guns that they should not have.⁵

In jurisdictions that do have stronger enforcement, overall intimate partner homicides go down, according to Michigan State University researcher Dr. April Zeoli. Her work shows that regions with stronger gun relinquishment provisions show an overall decrease in intimate partner homicides of 12 percent.


To improve the effectiveness of gun relinquishment provisions, The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms has created a [model protocol](#) for how to ensure that domestic abusers turn in their firearms.⁶

It recommends that judges address the issue of gun ownership at the time someone is convicted of domestic violence or becomes subject to a protection from abuse order. Importantly, it also recommends that if domestic abusers are honest about divulging what weapons they have, that information will not be used against them in criminal court, as long as they relinquish their firearms.


The adoption of such procedures would undoubtedly prevent the deaths and injuries of many women and children.

Footnotes

¹ <https://ncadv.org/STATISTICS>


²  Disarming Domestic Abusers.pdf

³ <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdfplus/10.2105/AJPH.93.7.1089>

⁴  The frightening frequency of family mass shootings

⁵

https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2021/oct/26/domestic-abuse-gun-violence-reveal?utm_term=308a1deb167b5b0581ba78959534a865&utm_campaign=GuardianTodayUS&utm_source=esp&utm_medium=Email&CMP=GTUS_email

⁶  firearms-report.pdf

⁷ <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/phewa/padvn/>

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY TO PRESBYTERY

February 15, 2022 Meeting

The committee met via Zoom on February 15, 2022. A quorum was present.

Part I - Items for Information

- 1. Positions Available** For the information of members of the Presbytery, the Commission lists the following positions within the Presbytery that are thought to be available.

Pastor	Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church, Tarentum
Pastor	First Presbyterian Church, Edgewood
Pastor	Unity Presbyterian Church, Greentree
Associate Pastor	Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Covenant Pastor	(PT) Baldwin United Presbyterian Church, Baldwin
Covenant Pastor	(PT) Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Church, Glenshaw
Covenant Pastor	Shared Ministry-Mt. Hope PC & UPC Universal, Pittsburgh
Designated Pastor	Crafton United Presbyterian Church, Crafton

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Commission recommends that the following recommendations be adopted by consent: **#’s 2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9**

*2. Moderators

The appointment of the **Rev. Henry Knapp** as moderator of the Hebron United Presbyterian Church effective December 20, 2021.

The appointment of the **Rev. Linda Ruby** as moderator of the Baldwin Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2022.

The appointment of the **Rev. Jason Rea** as moderator of the Forest Avenue Presbyterian Church effective March 1, 2022.

*3. Temporary/Covenant/Interim Pastors

The request of the Southminster Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Dr. Don Ewing** as Interim Pastor effective December 20, 2021 for one year.

The request of the Oakmont Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco** as Covenant Associate Pastor effective December 12, 2021 for one year.

February 15, 2022

The request of the Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Vance Torbert III** as Temporary Pastor effective February 1, 2022 for six months.

The request of the Hebron (Clinton) Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Jason Rea** as Covenant Pastor effective March 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the Forest Avenue Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Jason Rea** as Covenant Pastor effective March 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of **Rev. James Davidson** as Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the Mosaic Community Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of **Rev. Joshua Fisher** as Covenant Pastor effective February 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the East Union Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of **Rev. Jo Ramsey** as Covenant Associate Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabeth for the renewal of the services of **Rev. Ben Schneider** as Covenant Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of **Rev. Dr. Kristin Widrich** as Covenant Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of **Rev. Sharon Stewart** as Covenant Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year.

***4. Letters of Reception**

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco, HR from the Presbytery of Southern New England effective February 24, 2022.

***5. Letters of Dissolution**

The request of the **Rev. Dr. Douglas Rehberg** to dissolve the call at The Hebron United Presbyterian Church effective December 19, 2021.

***6. Letters of Dismissal**

The request of the **Rev. Dr. Cynthia Reyes Fillmore** to be dismissed to Pueblo Presbytery, effective October 8, 2021.

The request of the **Rev. Dr. Billy Younger** to be dismissed to Washington Presbytery, effective January 6, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Rebecca Reeder** to be dismissed to Western Kentucky Presbytery, effective January 1, 2022.

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***7. Members At-Large**

The request of the **Rev. Jane Esterline** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective January 1, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Dr. Douglas Rehberg** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective December 20, 2021.

***8. Calls**

The call of the Southminster Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Laura Bentley** as Designated Associate Pastor effective February 7, 2022 for a period of two years. Annual terms of call are Salary \$28,500.00 and Housing \$28,500.00; Full Pension Plan; Medical Deductible Reimbursement 1,228.00, Social Security Offset \$4,360.00; Continuing Education \$2,000.00; Expense Allowance \$1,000.00; 4 weeks vacation and 2 weeks study leave.

***9. Commissioned Pastor**

The request of the Amity Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the services of **Elder Gary Molinaro** as Commissioned Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year and authorized to perform the following functions at Amity Presbyterian Church:

- Administer the Lord's Supper.
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism.
- Moderate the session.
- Have a voice in meetings of the Presbytery
- Have a vote in meetings of the Presbytery (such vote to be counted as an elder commissioner for purposes of parity).
- Perform a service of Christian marriage when invited by the session and permitted by state law.
- Perform a service of Christian burial when invited by the session.

Those Who Have Entered the Church Triumphant

The Rev. Dr. George Kehm

January 8, 2022

February 15, 2022

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report to Pittsburgh Presbytery February 2022

Regular Meeting of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) met in a regular meeting on Monday, January 31, 2022 (virtually via Zoom video conference). With a quorum being present, Chair Elder Peggy Bonfiglio opened the meeting with prayer.

Items for Information

1. Enrolled as Inquirers

The commission reports the following Applicants were examined and approved to be enrolled as Inquirers:

DUNIK Sherri Lynn Dunik has been a member of Hot Metal Bridge Faith Community since 2017, graduated from CCAC in 2020, and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

2. Received as Candidates

The commission reports the following Inquirers were examined and approved to be received as Candidates:

WELLSTEAD Victoria Wellstead has been a member of Shadyside Presbyterian Church since 2019, graduated from Tulane Law School, and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Victoria enrolled as an Inquirer in September 2020.

CASEY Karl Casey has been a member of Bower Hill Community Church since 2011, is participating in the Inter Presbytery Leader Formation Program, and is preparing to serve as a Commissioned Pastor. Karl enrolled as an Inquirer in November 2018.

3. Ordination Examinations

The commission reports the following persons have been given permission to take the Senior Ordination Examinations specified:

Erin Angeli (BCE)
Sharron Boddy-Adedipe (Polity, Worship and Sacraments)
Michael Creamer (Polity, Theology, Worship and Sacraments, Exegesis)
Suzanne Good (Polity, Theology, Worship and Sacraments)
Sonya-Marie Morley (BCE)
Steven Singleton (Theology, Worship and Sacraments)

Items for Action

1. Consent Motion

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the following item be approved by consent: **# 2.**

***2. Appointments of Commissions for Ordination**

The commission reports the following commissions were appointed to ordain the stated Candidate, with full authority to arrange and conduct the service subject to the requirements of the constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The moderator or his/her appointee shall be moderator of the commission and the first named minister after the moderator shall be the clerk:

EMRICK Kristen Emrick's service of Ordination is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. at Unity Presbyterian Church on Sunday, February 27, 2022, with the following commissioners: The Moderator or their designee, Rev. Dennis Molnar, Rev. Deborah Warren, Rebecca Abbott (Unity Presbyterian Church), and Wayne Gelston (Second United Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg).

Committee on Nominations

Report to Presbytery
February 24, 2022

The Standing Committee on Nominations is nominating the following people to fill positions in the unexpired terms shown:

Standing Committees/Commissions:

Commission on Ministry

Elder Tyler McGuigan (2024A) – East

The Committee on Nominations is grateful to all who have submitted names of interested ruling and teaching elders to serve on the committees and commissions of Presbytery. Any member of Presbytery who has an interest in being considered for nomination to any Standing Committee or Council, or who knows of any other person who has such an interest, is strongly encouraged to relay the names and contact information for suggested nominees to the Committee on Nominations in care of cnelson@pghpresbytery.org. Information concerning the functions of the committees of Presbytery may be found in The Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery available under Stated Clerk Resources on the Presbytery website, www.pghpresbytery.org.