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May 2022

Sisters and brothers,

The psalmist exults, “How blessed it is when kindred live together!” (Psalm 133:1) We usually cite also the last two words, “in unity,” which is of course a major qualifier. How miserable it is, conversely, if they live together in discord. Our tendency is to run away from conflict, preferring the easy path of division to the hard work of reconciliation.

Living together is no guarantee of bliss, even when we live together in unity. Yet even when the bliss is gone, the blessing remains.

It is possible to live together in discord, even if it is painful. But it is impossible to live in unity without being together. Unity and separation are mutually exclusive.

The long pandemic season that has separated us from each other has tested our bonds of unity, even to the breaking point. Deep conflicts have erupted in several of our congregations, all of which have been exacerbated, if not entirely caused, by communications breakdowns between people who stopped connecting when the pandemic struck.

This will be our first in-person presbytery meeting since 2019. How blessed it is when kindred are together! We got half-way there last December when we had a hybrid presbytery meeting, some of us in person and others online. That was a wonderful day of partial reunion, but still incomplete. We discovered that hybrid meetings, in which we try simultaneously to offer commissioners in-person and online both voice and vote, are both technically daunting and relationally inadequate. The playing field is not level, and thus the work of presbytery is hobbled.

Our Executive Committee has directed that whatever form our presbytery meetings take moving forward, the playing field will be level. Either we’ll all meet by Zoom, or we’ll all meet in person. If we meet in person, as we are doing this time, we will stream the meeting online, so those who cannot attend can watch it in real time.

How blessed it is when kindred are together! May our love for one another grow as we spend time together once again as the community of saints known as “Pittsburgh Presbytery.” I am grateful and proud to be part of that community, part of *your* community!

Yours in Christ’s service,

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 peacemaking 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

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Hicks Memorial Chapel

May 19, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

Rev. Rebecca DePoe (Moderator), Ruling Elder Louise Schoppe (Sr. Vice 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

Greetings from Our Host

Seating of Corresponding Members

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

Worship & Celebration of African American Presbyterian Churches (60 mins.)

Rev. Michael Holohan and Rev. Gavin Walton will preach and our Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly will be commissioned.

Attending to our Corporate and Ecclesiastical Business

Executive Committee Report

Election of Stated Clerk

Examination of Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe for Ordination and Call as Associate Minister for Justice Ministries

Stated Clerk's Report

Rechartering of the New Worshipping Communities Commission

Hearing from Our Staff, Commissions, Committees, and Ministry Teams

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee on Nominations Report

Commission on Ministry Report

General Minister's Report

Voter Suppression Resolution from the Amos 5:24 Ministry Team

Going Forth by God's Grace to Serve

New and Old Business

Report from the Roll Clerk and Closing Prayer

CONSENT AGENDA May 19, 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 5 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – First Presbyterian Church of Gibsonia
- Item 6 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Valley Presbyterian Church
- Item 7 – Finance Reports – December 2021 and January and February 2022
- Item 8 – Permission to Encumber – Second United Presbyterian Church Wilkinsburg
- Item 9 – Permission for Sale of Church Property – Whitehall United Presbyterian Church
- Item 10 – Permission for Sale of Church Property - Emsworth United Presbyterian Church
- Item 11 - Permission to Subdivide and for Sale of Church Property – Sampson’s Mills Presbyterian Church

Matters from the Stated Clerk

- Item 3 – Election of Theological Student Advisory Delegate
- Item 4 – Dismissal of Prosecuting Committee
- Item 5 - Ecclesiastical Administrative Commission to Ordain or Install

Matters from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

- Item 2 - Approval of Accommodation for Particular Circumstances - for Candidate 611519

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 – Permission to Labor Within Bounds
- Item 9 – Honorable Retirement

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

The regular meeting Minutes Reading Committee met on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at the Presbytery Center immediately following the regularly stated Presbytery meeting which was conducted by Zoom video conferencing and read the minutes of said meeting. A quorum was present.

	P	A	E		P	A	E
Ruling Elders				Teaching Elders			
Carla Campbell	X			Rebecca DePoe	X		
Cathy Nelson	X			Trent Hancock	X		
Louise Schoppe			X	Sheldon Sorge			X

The Committee recommends approval of the Minutes of the regularly stated Presbytery Meeting Thursday, February 24, 2022 via Zoom video conferencing. **For the Committee:**
The Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock, Chair.

The next meeting of the Minutes Reading Committee will be held on May 19, 2022 immediately following the next Stated meeting of Presbytery expected to held at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Any commissioner present in person at such meeting is invited to attend.

**Executive Committee Report
May 19, 2022**

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Executive Committee met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 in the Patrick Room at the Presbytery Center. Co-chair Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock opened the meeting with prayer.

Items for Information

1. Covid Protocol for May Presbytery Meeting

In addition to compliance with the Covid-19 protocols required by the host for our May meeting, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the Executive Committee strongly recommends that attendees at the May presbytery meeting self-test on the day of the meeting and not attend unless they receive a negative result.

2. Presbytery Meeting Format

Due to the level of technological and staff support necessary to conduct a hybrid meeting, the limitations on sites able to host a hybrid meeting, and the difficulty in maintaining a balanced debate during a hybrid meeting, the Executive Committee has determined that future meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery would either be held in person or via video conference, but not in hybrid format.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Executive Committee recommends that the following items be approved by consent: **#5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.**

2. Election of Stated Clerk

At the February 24, 2022, Stated Meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee nominated Ruling Elder Carla Campbell for re-election as Stated Clerk of Pittsburgh Presbytery. The election of the Stated Clerk for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2022, is in order at the May 19, 2022, meeting.

3. Call of New Associate Minister for Justice Ministries

The Special Nominating Committee is expected to report that it is recommending that Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe be called to be the Associate Minister for Justice Ministries. Elder Lowe, a Candidate under care of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, will be examined for ordination and call.

4. Revised Charter of New Worshiping Communities Commission

The Executive Committee approved and recommends that Presbytery approve, the proposed revised charter for the New Worshiping Communities Commission as follows:

1. Membership

- a. The New Worshiping Communities Commission shall have twelve (12) members, of whom six (6) shall be ruling elders and six (6) shall be teaching elders.

- b. They shall be elected in compliance with the principles of inclusiveness, participation, and representation.
 - c. The quorum of the New Worshiping Communities Commission shall be a majority of its membership.
 - d. Standing Members - Any individual serving in the following roles shall be asked to serve as a member of the commission if they meet the qualifications listed in 1a-b
 - 1. 1001 New Worshiping Communities Staff Members.
 - 2. The Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary or its successor program.
 - ii. These individuals shall serve regular terms as part of a rotating class, and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as a voting member.
 - iii. If a standing member is ineligible to serve as a voting member, they shall be afforded voice but not vote as part of the commission.
2. Authority - The Commission is established per G-3.0109b(4):
- a. *Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council. Functions that may be entrusted to administrative commissions include, but are not limited to developing immigrant fellowships, organizing new congregations, merging congregations, or forming union or federated congregations (G-5.05);*
3. Powers and Responsibilities
- a. To create and supervise new worshiping community task forces as appropriate;
 - b. To request budgets from Presbytery to implement and staff such new worshiping communities; and
 - c. To assume all powers and responsibilities of a session for the benefit and ministry of the new worshiping community and to lead such a community as authorized in G-1.02 (Organizing a Particular Church).
4. Accountability - The Commission shall be directly accountable to, and shall report directly to, Presbytery. The Commission shall hold stated meetings and may, with due notice, hold special meetings as called by the Chair or by two (2) members of the Commission.

***5. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – First Presbyterian Church of Gibsonia**
 The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms of two elders of First Presbyterian Church of Gibsonia to serve additional terms beginning in 2023.

***6. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Valley 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 Valley Presbyterian Church to serve an additional term beginning in 2023.

***7. Finance Reports – December 2021 and January and February 2022**

The Executive Committee recommends Presbytery receive and file for audit the Presbytery Financial Statements for the months of December 2021 and January and February 2022.

***8. Permission to Encumber – Second United Presbyterian Church Wilkinsburg**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval the request of Second United Presbyterian Church of Wilkinsburg to encumber its property via a \$100,000 line of credit from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (“PILP”) which requires that presbytery guarantee the loan. Funds will be used to hire part-time staff to restart educational programs.

***9. Permission for Sale of Church Property – Whitehall United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to presbytery for its approval the request of Whitehall United Presbyterian Church for permission to sell their property for \$800,000. The congregation is discerning its future.

***10. Permission for Sale of Church Property – Emsworth United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to presbytery for its approval the request of Emsworth United Presbyterian Church to sell its property at market price. The congregation intends to dissolve and to direct the funds to community outreach.

***11. Permission to Subdivide and for Sale of Church Property – Sampson’s Mills Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to presbytery for its approval the request of Sampson’s Mills Presbyterian Church to subdivide its property and sell the portion that consists of the former manse at market price.

***12. Permission for Sale of Church Property – Verona Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to presbytery for its approval the request of Verona Presbyterian Church to sell its property at market price. The congregation intends to dissolve and to direct the proceeds to a number of charitable entities.

New Worshipping Communities Commission Charter and Membership

Background:

At the September 1999 meeting of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Presbytery adopted the following recommendation, creating what was then called the New Church Development Commission.

Council recommends that Presbytery create an administrative commission to be known as the New Church Development Commission [G-9.0503a(2)], which will report semi-annually to the Presbytery and have the following powers:

- 1. To create two new church development (NCD) task forces to plan and implement new church start-ups in a) the Pittsburgh north side community affiliated with the Pittsburgh Project and b) the western area of Allegheny County;*
- 2. To create and supervise future NCD task forces as appropriate;*
- 3. To request budgets from Presbytery to implement and staff such new church developments; and*
- 4. To assume and all powers and responsibilities of a session for the benefit and ministry of the new congregation and to lead such church as authorized in G-7.0200, Organizing a Particular Church, or to delegate such powers and responsibilities to the new congregation when said Commission deems it appropriate to do so.*

Since 1999, there have been significant changes in the Book of Order, the structure of the Presbytery, and within the PC(USA) regarding new church development and new worshipping communities. As such, at its meeting on December 1st 2021, the Commission approved the following charter for adoption by the Presbytery:

1. Membership
 - a. The New Worshipping Communities Commission shall have twelve (12) members, of whom six (6) shall be ruling elders and six (6) shall be teaching elders.
 - b. They shall be elected in compliance with the principles of inclusiveness, participation, and representation.

- c. The quorum of the New Worshipping Communities Commission shall be a majority of its membership.
 - d. Standing Members - Any individual serving in the following roles shall be asked to serve as a member of the commission if they meet the qualifications listed in 1a-b, and are members of Pittsburgh Presbytery or one of its congregations:
 - 1. 1001 New Worshipping Communities Staff Members.
 - 2. The Director of the Center for Adaptive and Innovative Ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary or its successor program.
 - ii. These individuals shall be included be serve regular terms as part of a rotating class, and shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as a voting member.
 - iii. If a standing member is ineligible to serve as a voting member, they shall be afforded voice but not vote as part of the commission.
2. Authority - The Commission is established per G-3.0109b(4):
- a. *Administrative commissions are designated to consider and conclude matters not involving ecclesiastical judicial process, except that in the discharge of their assigned responsibilities they may discover and report to the designating council matters that may require judicial action by the council. Functions that may be entrusted to administrative commissions include, but are not limited to developing immigrant fellowships, organizing new congregations, merging congregations, or forming union or federated congregations (G-5.05);*
3. Powers and Responsibilities
- a. To create and supervise new worshipping community task forces as appropriate;
 - b. To request budgets from Presbytery to implement and staff such new worshipping communities; and
 - c. To assume any and all powers and responsibilities of a session for the benefit and ministry of the new worshipping community and to lead

such community as authorized in G-1.02 (Organizing a Particular Church).

4. Accountability - The Commission shall be directly accountable to, and shall report directly to, Presbytery. The Commission shall hold stated meetings and may, with due notice, hold special meetings as called by the Chair or by two (2) members of the Commission.

Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
December 2021

	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	18,181	11,250	(6,931)	84,199	135,000	50,801
Pittsburgh Presby. Foundation	200,000	0	0	0	200,000	200,000	0
Endowment Withdrawals/Income	306,900	(11,396)	25,575	36,971	311,074	306,900	(4,174)
Short-term Invest. Income	75,000	0	6,250	6,250	48,750	75,000	26,250
Other Income	70,437	9,944	5,870	(4,074)	145,725	70,437	(75,288)
Total Presbytery Mission Income	787,337	16,729	48,945	32,216	789,748	787,337	(2,411)
<u>Being the Presbytery Income</u>							
Per Capita Income	722,882	45,426	137,882	92,456	678,944	722,882	43,938
Endowment Withdrawals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Being the Presbytery Income	722,882	45,426	137,882	92,456	678,944	722,882	43,938
Total Budgeted Revenues	1,510,219	62,155	186,827	124,672	1,468,692	1,510,219	41,527
Expenses							
<u>Mission To Our Congregations</u>							
Disciplemaking/Spirit.Growth	9,425	1,844	786	(1,058)	5,129	9,425	4,296
Cong.Enhancement/ACT	65,000	8,214	2,500	(5,714)	52,990	65,000	12,010
Pastor Ministry Accounts	12,000	56	1,000	944	3,407	12,000	8,593
Resourcenter Expense	1,700	(20)	142	162	569	1,700	1,131
Stewardship & Mission Interp.	1,250	0	104	104	0	1,250	1,250
Total Mission To Our Congregations	89,375	10,094	4,532	(5,562)	62,095	89,375	27,280
<u>Mission Beyond Congregations</u>							
Ecumenical Partnerships	18,100	1,417	1,508	91	18,500	18,100	(400)
GA & Synod Per Capita Support	270,593	0	0	0	270,594	270,593	(1)
International Partnership	3,000	0	250	250	1,000	3,000	2,000
Mission Ministry Team	2,600	0	217	217	0	2,600	2,600
New Worshiping Communities	100,000	1,732	4,158	2,426	76,568	100,000	23,432
Crestfield Support	110,000	0	0	0	110,000	110,000	0
Justice Ministries	11,750	19	979	960	1,893	11,750	9,857
Total Mission Beyond Congregations	516,043	3,168	7,112	3,944	478,555	516,043	37,488

**Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
December 2021**

	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
<u>Ecclesiastical Costs</u>							
Administrative Expense	85,008	2,977	7,084	4,107	84,487	85,008	521
Executive Committee Expenses	5,550	0	463	463	92	5,550	5,458
Ministry - COM & CPM	10,125	100	844	744	6,831	10,125	3,294
Property Expense	71,800	6,862	6,650	(212)	76,764	71,800	(4,964)
Stated Clerk Office	950	0	79	79	159	950	791
Total Ecclesiastical Costs	173,433	9,939	15,120	5,181	168,333	173,433	5,100
Total Personnel	731,368	64,439	60,947	(3,492)	709,257	731,368	22,111
Total Budgeted Expenses	1,510,219	87,640	87,711	71	1,418,240	1,510,219	91,979
Presbytery Operating Budget Net Total	0	(25,485)	99,116	124,601	50,452	0	(50,452)

Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
January 2022

	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	7,491	11,250	3,759	7,491	11,250	3,759
Pittsburgh Presby. Foundation	190,000	47,500	47,500	0	47,500	47,500	0
Endowment Withdrawals/Income	332,977	27,152	27,748	596	27,152	27,748	596
Short-term Invest. Income	75,000	0	6,250	6,250	0	6,250	6,250
Other Income	63,595	1,244	5,300	4,056	1,244	5,300	4,056
Total Presbytery Mission Income	796,572	83,387	98,048	14,661	83,387	98,048	14,661
<u>Being the Presbytery Income</u>							
Per Capita Income	704,277	317,164	344,277	27,113	317,164	344,277	27,113
Endowment Withdrawals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Being the Presbytery Income	704,277	317,164	344,277	27,113	317,164	344,277	27,113
Total Budgeted Revenues	1,500,849	400,551	442,325	41,774	400,551	442,325	41,774
Expenses							
<u>Mission To Our Congregations</u>							
Disciplemaking/Spirit.Growth	9,425	1,620	785	(835)	1,620	785	(835)
Cong.Enhancement/ACT	65,000	3,381	5,417	2,036	3,381	5,417	2,036
Pastor Ministry Accounts	12,000	285	1,000	715	285	1,000	715
Resourcenter Expense	1,700	0	142	142	0	142	142
Stewardship & Mission Interp.	1,250	0	104	104	0	104	104
Total Mission To Our Congregations	89,375	5,286	7,448	2,162	5,286	7,448	2,162
<u>Mission Beyond Congregations</u>							
Ecumenical Partnerships	18,100	1,417	1,508	91	1,417	1,508	91
GA & Synod Per Capita Support	262,817	0	65,704	65,704	0	65,704	65,704
International Partnership	3,000	0	250	250	0	250	250
Mission Ministry Team	2,600	0	217	217	0	217	217
New Worshiping Communities	100,000	15,211	12,458	(2,753)	15,211	12,458	(2,753)
Crestfield Support	100,000	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	100,000	0
Justice Ministries	11,750	19	979	960	19	979	960
Total Mission Beyond Congregations	498,267	116,647	181,116	64,469	116,647	181,116	64,469

**Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
January 2022**

	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
<u>Ecclesiastical Costs</u>							
Administrative Expense	86,491	6,743	7,208	465	6,743	7,208	465
Executive Committee Expenses	5,550	238	462	224	238	462	224
Ministry - COM & CPM	10,125	1,932	844	(1,088)	1,932	844	(1,088)
Property Expense	69,100	7,549	6,425	(1,124)	7,549	6,425	(1,124)
Stated Clerk Office	3,450	0	288	288	0	288	288
Total Ecclesiastical Costs	174,716	16,462	15,227	(1,235)	16,462	15,227	(1,235)
Total Personnel	738,491	57,709	61,541	3,832	57,709	61,541	3,832
Total Budgeted Expenses	1,500,849	196,104	265,332	69,228	196,104	265,332	69,228
Presbytery Operating Budget Net Total	0	204,447	176,993	(27,454)	204,447	176,993	(27,454)

Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
February 2022

	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	1,070	11,250	10,180	8,561	22,500	13,939
Pittsburgh Presby. Foundation	190,000	0	0	0	47,500	47,500	0
Endowment Withdrawals/Income	332,977	27,000	27,748	748	54,152	55,496	1,344
Short-term Invest. Income	75,000	0	6,250	6,250	0	12,500	12,500
Other Income	63,595	3,865	5,300	1,435	5,109	10,599	5,490
Total Presbytery Mission Income	796,572	31,935	50,548	18,613	115,322	148,595	33,273
<u>Being the Presbytery Income</u>							
Per Capita Income	704,277	48,409	40,000	(8,409)	365,573	384,277	18,704
Endowment Withdrawals	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Being the Presbytery Income	704,277	48,409	40,000	(8,409)	365,573	384,277	18,704
Total Budgeted Revenues	1,500,849	80,344	90,548	10,204	480,895	532,872	51,977
Expenses							
<u>Mission To Our Congregations</u>							
Disciplemaking/Spirit.Growth	9,425	0	785	785	1,620	1,571	(49)
Cong.Enhancement/ACT	65,000	3,381	5,417	2,036	6,762	10,834	4,072
Pastor Ministry Accounts	12,000	11	1,000	989	296	2,000	1,704
Resourcenter Expense	1,700	434	142	(292)	434	283	(151)
Stewardship & Mission Interp.	1,250	0	104	104	0	208	208
Total Mission To Our Congregations	89,375	3,826	7,448	3,622	9,112	14,896	5,784
<u>Mission Beyond Congregations</u>							
Ecumenical Partnerships	18,100	1,417	1,508	91	2,833	3,017	184
GA & Synod Per Capita Support	262,817	65,122	0	(65,122)	65,122	65,704	582
International Partnership	3,000	0	250	250	0	500	500
Mission Ministry Team	2,600	0	217	217	0	433	433
New Worshiping Communities	100,000	16,203	12,458	(3,745)	31,415	24,917	(6,498)
Crestfield Support	100,000	0	0	0	100,000	100,000	0
Justice Ministries	11,750	19	979	960	38	1,958	1,920
Total Mission Beyond Congregations	498,267	82,761	15,412	(67,349)	199,408	196,529	(2,879)

**Pittsburgh Presbytery
Operating Fund Revenues & Expenses - Summary
February 2022**

	Annual Budget	MTD Actual	MTD Budget	MTD Budget Remaining	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Budget Remaining
<u>Ecclesiastical Costs</u>							
Administrative Expense	86,491	4,803	7,208	2,405	11,546	14,415	2,869
Executive Committee Expenses	5,550	0	462	462	238	925	687
Ministry - COM & CPM	10,125	669	844	175	2,600	1,688	(912)
Property Expense	69,100	7,855	6,425	(1,430)	15,405	12,850	(2,555)
Stated Clerk Office	3,450	0	288	288	0	575	575
Total Ecclesiastical Costs	174,716	13,327	15,227	1,900	29,789	30,453	664
Total Personnel	738,491	59,047	61,541	2,494	116,757	123,082	6,325
Total Budgeted Expenses	1,500,849	158,961	99,628	(59,333)	355,066	364,960	9,894
Presbytery Operating Budget Net Total	0	(78,617)	(9,080)	69,537	125,829	167,912	42,083



Request to Encumber or Mortgage

Church Information

Church Name: Second United Presbyterian
 Address: 300 Hay Street
 City: Pittsburgh Zip: 15221
 Church Phone: 412-242-4430
 Web Site: secondup.net
 Email: secondpresbyterian@me.com

Congregational Statistics

Year Founded: 1891 Total Membership: 86
 Giving Units: _____ Average Attendance: 38

Contact Information

Pastor: Deborah Warren Telephone: 412-377-2498
 Email: debwarren@me.com

Chair of Finance: _____ Telephone: _____
 Email: _____

Treasurer: John Snyder Telephone: (724) 327-4528
 Email: snyders0221@comcast.net

Other: Barbara Kirk, Clerk of Session Telephone: (412) 417-9942
 Email: barbkirk2up@gmail.com

Reason for Request

(please check all that apply)

Building Project

Renovations

Refinance

Other

Description of the Project:

(Please give a brief description of the proposed project.)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound financial impact on Second UP. We are an entrepreneurial congregation and much of our ministry and mission is supported by our educational programs. The loan we are requesting is to help return these ministries to pre-COVID pandemic levels.

Project Scope:

(Please list the various segments or areas of the proposed project.)

Expand summer camp to pre-COVID-19 level. Expand childcare to pre-COVID-19 level. Expand ESL to include both on-line and in person classes, return to course offerings from Foundations to Advance levels.

Summary of Project Costs:

We will need to add three part time teachers and two part time teacher assistants at a cost of between 18,000 and 22,000 each per year.

Schedule:

We will implement partial expansion of summer school this summer with further expansion the summer of 2023. The additional staff for the children's center and ESL programs will be hired for the school year beginning fall of 2022.

Financial Information

Total Project Budget \$ \$115,00 over 2 year period Amount to be Financed \$ \$100,000

Annual Operating Budget \$ Text

What is the total of funds (cash) that are designated for the project now? \$ 0

Do you have other Designated Funds that will be used for the project? \$ No

What is the estimated available funds from a Capital Campaign? \$ _____

Will there be any other source of funds? Yes No
If "Yes", from where? Fundraisers/Stewardship campaign

What is the expected dollar amount of these funds? \$ 10,000

Please attach the following financial reports:

- 3 years of annual reports
- Most recent monthly operating fund report of current fiscal year
- Current Balance Sheet

Capital Campaign Plans - or other plan for repayment

Capital Campaign Planned? Yes No

If "Yes", what is the date of the campaign kick-off? _____

What is the estimated dollar amount to be raised? \$ _____

How long will the campaign be? 1 Year 2 Years 3 Years Other _____
(please list)

Are you or will you be working with a campaign consultant? Yes No

If you are not holding a capital campaign, please explain how the loan will be paid for: _____

We anticipate that this line of credit will be enable us to return our educational programs to pre-COVID enrollment. The increased tuition schedule should enable us to both enhance and expand the program as well as pay back the loan.

Loan Information

Please list the financial institutions that you have or are planning to apply for a loan to:

1. Presbyterian Loan and Investment Program

Date Applied: _____ Approved Rate: 3 % Terms: 24 Months

2. _____

Date Applied: _____ Approved Rate: _____ % Terms: _____ Months

3. _____

Date Applied: _____ Approved Rate: _____ % Terms: _____ Months

Please attached all commitment letters received to date.

The Session of the Second United Presbyterian Church
of Wilkinsburg Pennsylvania, in transmitting the foregoing request of the
Board of Trustees, certifies that the Congregation at a REGULAR SPECIAL-CALLED
meeting held on April 10, 20 22, and approved the foregoing proposed
transaction.

Second United Presbyterian Wilkinsburg

The session of (insert name of congregation) of (location), Pennsylvania, has reviewed the guidelines for loan approval and understands and agrees to these guidelines.

(Signed) Barbara A. Kirk
Clerk of Session

Date: April 10, 2022

(Signed) Deborah Lane
Moderator of Session

Date: April 10, 2022

**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
Whitehall United Presbyterian Church of Pennsylvania,
(name of congregation)

held 02-06-2022 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 4935 East Willock Road

City, Borough, Township Pittsburgh, PA. Whitehall Borough

Buildings erected thereon _____

**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 # 3089 Page # 475 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? \$ 800,000.00

On what terms? Cash

Appraisal Amount \$ 1,665,609.00

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? savings - investments - ? merger with

If "No" what use is planned? _____ another congregation

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

certify that the corporation, at a REGULAR SPECIAL CALLED meeting, which was held on
02-06-2022, 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 Whitchell United Presbyterian Church requests the written permission of
(name of congregation)
Pittsburgh Presbytery for the foregoing proposed transaction.

(Signed) Christine P. Noworowski
President of the Board of Trustees

(Attest) Cheryl P. Jenmore
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Whitchell United Presbyterian Church of
(name of congregation)

Whitchell Borough 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
02-06-2022 APPROVED DISAPPROVED the foregoing proposed transaction.
(date)

(Signed) _____
(Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Clerk of Session)

Attn: Mr. Roy Burford
Business Administrator
Pittsburgh Presbytery
901 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233



EMSWORTH UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 16, 2022

Please find the enclosed application forms that have been duly completed and signed as per the presbytery's instructions requesting formal permission from Pittsburgh Presbytery for the proposed sale of the Emsworth UP Church building and the associated parking lot at 73 Hiland Avenue, Emsworth, PA 15202.

Included with the completed forms are copies of the original 1893 and 1946 deeds which include the legal description of the two adjacent properties from the Register of Deeds Office in Pittsburgh.

As we are currently without a pastor, we have been working with Mr. Ralph Lowe as our presbytery liaison. Our session has continued to meet regularly with Ralph over the past 9+ months. Ralph is fully aware of the steps we have taken thus far regarding this proposed sale. Ralph can readily assist your office in many regards as to this effort.

Chev and Rachael Wisniewski at kevin.wisniewski@pittsburghmoves.com of Coldwell Banker are the realtors we have contacted to assist us in the sale of the properties.

Their phone numbers are:

Cell: 412-496-3568

Office: 421-264-8300

There has been significant interest from several parties in this sale already. We hope to formalize the frame work for the terms of a proposed sale in the coming month or two, but we are very much aware that presbytery's written approval for this is required in advance. Thereby, we sincerely request your prompt assistance in expediting this proposed sale through your Business Administration office and subsequently through the required committees / presbytery offices for their consideration as well.

We thank you in advance for your kind assistance.

The session of the Emsworth UP Church
73 Hiland Ave.
Emsworth, PA 15202

Nancy Mehalic (Clerk of session) 412-734-2470
Dan Williams (President of the corporation) 412-965-0898

73 Hiland Avenue, Emsworth, Pittsburgh, PA 15202

Phone: 412-766-4238

E-mail: emsworthupc@gmail.com

Website: emsworthupchurch.org



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 [X] SPECIAL meeting of the Corporation of the
EMSWORTH U.P. CHURCH of Pennsylvania,
(name of congregation)

held SEPT. 26, 2021 at which a quorum was present, the Session and/or Board of Trustees of the
(date)

said Church was authorized to [X] SELL [] LEASE [] ACQUIRE [] ENCUMBER real property for the
Church corporation as follows:

Street Address or Road 73 HILAND AVENUE

City, Borough, Township EMSWORTH, PA 15202

Buildings erected thereon CHURCH BUILDING FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP AND

ADJACENT VACANT LAND (CURRENTLY USED FOR PARKING)

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: CHURCH BUILDING FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP -
Deed Book # Page # Parcel ID # 0213-B-00008-0000-00 AND VACANT
ADJACENT LOT 0213-C-00110-0000-00

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 [X] SOLD, for what price? \$ 399,000 (OR BEST OFFER RECEIVED)

On what terms? CASH

Appraisal Amount \$ TO BE COMPLETED BY PURCHASER

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

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

Reasons for the action DECLINING MEMBERSHIP AND LIMITED FUNDS FOR EXTENSIVE MAINTENANCE.
(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 [X] NO

If "Yes" in what manner?

If "No" what use is planned? DISBURSED TO FURTHER OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH.

The Board of Trustees of EMSWORTH U.P. CHURCH Presbyterian Church Corporation
(name of congregation)

certify that the corporation, at a REGULAR SPECIAL CALLED meeting, which was held on
FEB. 3, 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 EMSWORTH U.P. CHURCH Church requests the written permission of
(name of congregation)
Pittsburgh Presbytery for the foregoing proposed transaction.

(Signed) 

President of the Board of Trustees

(Attest) 

Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of EMSWORTH U.P. CHURCH Presbyterian Church of
(name of congregation)

EMSWORTH 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
TO BE DETERMINED APPROVED DISAPPROVED the foregoing proposed transaction.
(date)

(Signed) 

(Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Clerk of Session)

SAMPSON'S MILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1665 LINCOLN WAY WHITE OAK, PA 15131
412.678.5355



THE REV. JESSICA MCCLURE ARCHER

April 5th, 2022

Dear Mr. Burford,

Please see the accompanying application for Permission of Presbytery on Transactions of Real Property and supporting documentation. Thank you for reviewing these documents and forwarding them to the Property Committee and the Executive Committee in hopes to secure Presbytery's approval at its May 2022 meeting.

Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church is seeking to sell 1677 Lincoln Way in White Oak Borough. The property in question is adjacent to the church building. It was purchased in 1975 to be used as a manse for the associate pastor at the time. Following that associate pastor's departure in the 90's, the manse has been utilized as a rental property for the church.

The Session has determined that the cost to maintain the property as a rental is no longer a feasible and profitable venture, as the maintenance and upkeep costs are becoming a strain to the church, due to the aging structure. Thus, Session believes that it is prudent both financially and strategically to sell the property, as it conserves resources needed for ministry, mission and maintenance of the church, her work and building. Session plans to conserve the profits of the sale in our Capital Savings Account for future capital expenditures.

To accomplish this, a subdivision is necessary as the current parcel includes a portion of the church's parking lot. The current parcel runs from Lincoln Way to Ohio Avenue. The church is currently working with a surveyor to complete this and prepare a subdivision application for White Oak Borough approval. The goal is to create a new lot to meet the minimum lot requirements, which will include primarily the footprint of the single-family home structure. (Please see attached documentation for the proposed lot split for reference).

On April 3, 2022, Session called a special meeting of the congregation and corporation to authorize the Session/Board of Trustees to sell 1677 Lincoln Way contingent on the successful approval of the subdivision by the borough and the presbytery's approval. This motion was approved.

Please let us know if you need any additional documentation or information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you,

Rev. Jessica McClure, Moderator

George Depsch, President

Nancy Swanson, Clerk/Secretary



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 [X] SPECIAL meeting of the Corporation of the
Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church
(name of congregation) of Pennsylvania,

held 4/3/2022
(date), at which a quorum was present, the Session and/or Board of Trustees of the

said Church was authorized to [X] SELL [] LEASE [] ACQUIRE [] ENCUMBER real property for the
Church corporation as follows:

Street Address or Road 1677 Lincoln Way

City, Borough, Township White Oak Borough

Buildings erected thereon Single Family Home

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:

This parcel will require a subdivision. The proposed subdivision is to
meet the borough's minimum requirements. Please see the
supporting document regarding the anticipated subdivision. Once
surveyed and approved this information will be provided.

If to be [] BOUGHT [X] SOLD, for what price? \$ Fair Market Value

On what terms?

Appraisal Amount \$ Not Yet Appraised. County Assessment \$69,500.

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)

This property has served as a rental for over 25 years, after serving initially as a manse. It is no
longer financially advantageous for the congregation to maintain this property as rental due to the
age of the structure and funds needed for maintenance.

If to be SOLD or LEASED will the proceeds be conserved? [X] YES [] NO

If "Yes" in what manner? The funds will be conserved in the church's capital savings account.

If "No" what use is planned?

The Board of Trustees of Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church Corporation
(name of congregation)

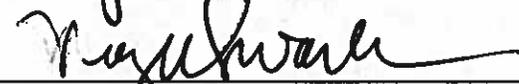
certify that the corporation, at a REGULAR SPECIAL CALLED meeting, which was held on
4/3/2022, APPROVED DISAPPROVED the recommendation of the Session
(date)

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 Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church requests the written permission of
(name of congregation)
Pittsburgh Presbytery for the foregoing proposed transaction.

(Signed) 
President of the Board of Trustees

(Attest) 
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Sampson's Mills Presbyterian Church of
(name of congregation)

White Oak Borough 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
4/3/2022 APPROVED DISAPPROVED the foregoing proposed transaction.
(date)

(Signed) 
(Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Clerk of Session)

The Board of Trustees of VERONA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN Church Presbyterian Church Corporation
(name of congregation)

certify that the corporation, at a REGULAR SPECIAL CALLED meeting, which was held on
04/03/2022, 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 VERONA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN Church Church requests the written permission of Pittsburgh Presbytery for the foregoing proposed transaction.
(name of congregation)

(Signed) [Signature]
President of the Board of Trustees

(Attest) _____
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees of VERONA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN Church Presbyterian Church of
(name of congregation)
VERONA 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
04/03/2022 APPROVED DISAPPROVED the foregoing proposed transaction.
(date)

(Signed) [Signature]
(Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Clerk of Session)

**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
VERONA UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Pennsylvania,
(name of congregation)

held 04/03/2022 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 566 SOUTH AVE

City, Borough, Township VERONA, PA 15147

Buildings erected thereon _____

**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 # 2439 Page # 442 Parcel ID # 0364-M-00012-0000-00

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? \$ LISTED FOR \$200,000

On what terms? _____

Appraisal Amount \$ \$529,200 - ALLEGHENY COUNTY ASSESSMENT

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? _____

If "No" what use is planned? SEE ATTACHED

Application For Permission of Presbytery on Transactions of Real Property
Verona United Presbyterian Church

Attachment for Use of Proceeds

Presented at and voted on at Special Congregational Meeting 04/03/2022

The session has approved disbursements of the proceeds from the sale of the building that may include but are not limited to the following organizations: Hilltop Toddler and Preschool, JNIM, Twin Boro Health Ministry, Cross Roads Presbyterian Church and Pittsburgh Presbytery. Final disbursement amounts are subjected to final negotiations upon sale of the building and the final sale price.

**REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
May 19, 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 September 22, 2022 presbytery meeting must be made **in writing** to the Ecclesiastical Committee via the Stated Clerk's office no later than **noon on Wednesday August 24, 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 deadline for docket time and waiver requests for the December 8, 2022 presbytery meeting is November 2, 2022.

2. Special Administrative Review of Session of Grand View Avenue Presbyterian Church

On February 15, 2022, the Stated Clerk was informed in writing of possible irregularities and/or delinquencies by the Session of Grand View Avenue Presbyterian Church. The Stated Clerk followed the procedures set forth in the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery to determine whether special administrative review was necessary under G-3.0108 b of the Book of Order. The specific alleged irregularities and/or delinquencies brought to the Stated Clerk's attention were the failure to elect the minimum number of ruling elders required to constitute a session as required by the congregation's by-laws and by the Book of Order, the failure to elect a clerk of session, and a lack of necessary financial transparency.

As set forth in the Manual, a group consisting of the Moderator, Rev. Rebecca DePoe, the Stated Clerk, the General Minister, Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge, and the co-chairs of the Executive Committee, Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock and Ruling Elder Lenore Williams, determined that special administrative review was necessary and appointed the following individuals to constitute the special administrative review team:

Ruling Elder Mary Jo Buffo
Rev. Dr. Jo Forrest
Rev. Dr. Dan Merry

The team has completed its work and submitted a written final report recommending the appointment of an administrative commission to take original jurisdiction over the session. The Moderator will appoint an Administrative Commission.

3. Plea Agreement in Disciplinary Matter

The Investigating Committee in Disciplinary Matter DM2021-01 filed charges on February 16, 2022, a pre-trial conference was held on April 8, 2022, and a trial was scheduled to commence on May 10, 2022. Prior to the trial, the parties were able to reach a settlement of the matter which was accepted by the Permanent Judicial Commission of Pittsburgh Presbytery on May 10, 2022. Pursuant to D-11.0701, the Stated Clerk will report the decision at the May 19, 2022 Stated Meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery and will append a true and correct copy to the Minutes of the meeting.

4. Presbytery 2021 Statistics

As of December 31, 2021, Pittsburgh Presbytery had 128 charted congregations, 290 minister members, and a total of 21,745 congregants. The 2021 statistical report is attached hereto.

5. Presbytery 2021 Minutes Reading

The 2021 Minutes of Pittsburgh Presbytery were examined at the Synod of the Trinity Records Review Conference held via Zoom videoconferencing on May 4, 2022, and they were approved with no exceptions or delinquencies.

6. 2021 Minutes Reading

The Ecclesiastical Committee has scheduled in person minutes reading opportunities by appointment at the Presbytery Center for:

May 21, 2022
September 17, 2022
October 22, 2022

The option to participate in electronic minutes exchange is being offered again this year. Clerks of session should contact the Stated Clerk's office to make arrangements to participate in minutes reading.

7. Dissolution of Neville Island and St. Andrews Congregations

The West Branch Closed Churches Administrative Commission acted on March 18, 2022 to dissolve the Neville Island Presbyterian Church and the St. Andrews United Presbyterian Church. The AC has reached an agreement for the sale of the Neville Island building and is in the process of listing the St. Andrews building for sale.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Stated Clerk recommends items 3, 4, and 5 be approved by consent.

2. Resolution of Thanks for the Life and Witness of Ruling Elder Nan Moone Currington

Ruling Elder Nan Moone Currington joined the Church Triumphant on April 18, 2022 at the age of 105. As a Ruling Elder she ministered in the church with dedication and distinction. In addition to her long and faithful ministry at both Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church and Mt. Hope Community Church, she served Pittsburgh Presbytery as an Associate Stated Clerk and in that capacity, she helped many congregations, pastors, and especially clerks of session fulfill their calling to bear witness faithfully and fruitfully to Jesus Christ in their various places of ministry. For the Synod of the Trinity, she organized the African American Leadership Event and the Presbyterian African American Youth and Family Event. The Stated Clerk therefore intends to move that:

Pittsburgh Presbytery express its profound appreciation for the life, witness, and leadership of Ruling Elder Nan Currington whose memory continues to inspire members of her congregation and the presbytery in their own dedicated service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

***3. Election of Theological Student Advisory Delegate**

The Office of the General Assembly has informed the Stated Clerk that Ruling Elder Elizabeth Nicodemus, a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and an Inquirer under care of Pittsburgh Presbytery, has been selected as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the 225th General Assembly (2022). This nomination must be confirmed by election by the presbytery. Nominations from the floor are not in order.

***4. Dismissal of Prosecuting Committee**

Disciplinary Matter DM-2021-01 having been concluded, the Stated Clerk requests that the Prosecuting Committee in this matter be dismissed with thanks. Member of the Prosecuting Committee are:

Rev. Lance Chapman
Ruling Elder Penn Hackney
Rev. Stephanie Martin
Ruling Elder Louise Schoppe

Pittsburgh Presbytery also expresses its appreciation for the efforts of Rev. Derek Campbell who also participated as a member of the Investigating Committee before leaving the presbytery to take a new call.

***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 Ordain Kristen Emerick

EMRICK The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery on February 24, 2022 to ordain Kristen Emrick, comprising Moderator, the Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Rev. Dennis Molnar, and Rev. Deborah Warren and Elders Rebecca Abbott and Wayne Gelston met by appointment on February 27, 2022 at 2:30pm at Unity Presbyterian Church.

There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by the Rev. Rebecca DePoe. All things being prepared in advance, decently and in order, the Commission approved the Service of Ordination and voted to proceed to the ordination of Kristen Emrick according to the direction of Presbytery and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commission moved to the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. and ordained Kristin Emrick.

Moderator DePoe asked the constitutional questions which the candidate answered in the affirmative. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Dennis Molnar. The Rev. DePoe offered the prayer of installation.

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 Ordination with the pronouncement of the Benediction by the Rev. Kristen Emrick

Administrative Commission to Install Rev. Nancy Titus

TITUS The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery on December 10, 2021 to install the Rev. Nancy Titus as pastor of Forest Hills Presbyterian

Church, comprising Senior Vice Moderator, the Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Rev. Sharon Stewart, and Rev. Carolyn Cranston and Rev. Matthew Fricker and Elders Nancy Stanny, Frank Hancock, and Suzanne Good met by appointment on February 20, 2022 at 2:30pm at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by the Rev. Rebecca DePoe. 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 the Rev. Nancy Titus according to the direction of Presbytery and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commission moved to the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. and installed the Rev. Nancy Titus as the pastor of Forest Hills Presbyterian Church.

Moderator DePoe asked the constitutional questions which the candidate answered in the affirmative. The sermon was delivered by Elder Frank Hancock. The Rev. DePoe offered the prayer of installation. The Charge to the Newly Installed was given by Rev. Sharon Stewart and the Charge to the Congregation was given by Rev. Matthew Fricker.

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 the Rev. Nancy Titus.

2021 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Pittsburgh
Address 901 Allegheny Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Phone 412-323-1400 **Fax** 412-323-2256
Email ADomske@pghpresbytery.org
Web Site www.pghpresbytery.org



Membership

Prior Active Members	22915	Adjusted membership	22874
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Gains

Certificate	126
Youth Professions	131
Professions & Reaffirmations	186

Total Gains 443

Total Ending Active Members 21745

Losses

Certificate	87
Deaths	449
Deleted for any Other Reason	1036

Total Losses 1572

Baptisms

Presented by Others	206
At Confirmation	15
All Other	19

Average Weekly Worship Attendance	8563
Female Members	13144
Friends of the Congregation	2485
Ruling Elders on Session	1044
Do you have Deacons? Yes / No	82 / 29

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	2425
26 - 40	3681
41 - 55	3593
56 - 70	5216
Over 70	5120

Total Age Distribution 20035

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment	710
Sight impairment	379
Mobility impairment	721
Other impairment	587

Christian Education

Birth - 3	287
Age 4	225
Kindergarten	197
Grade 1	201
Grade 2	206
Grade 3	224
Grade 4	211
Grade 5	256
Grade 6	210

Grade 7	224
Grade 8	219
Grade 9	187
Grade 10	138
Grade 11	142
Grade 12	154
Young Adults	331
Over 25	2597
Teachers/Officers	934
Total Christian Education	6943

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	162
Black/African American/African	587
Middle Eastern/North African	30
Hispanic/Latino-a	57

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous	7
White	18284
Multiracial	77
Total Racial Ethnic	19204

Financial Data

Annual Income	41,239,788
Annual Expenses	38,523,260

Mission Expenses	3,267,244
Personnel Expenses	21,601,753
Facilities Expenses	7,384,361

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report to Pittsburgh Presbytery
May 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, May 2, 2022 at 4:00 pm. 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 Applicant was examined and approved to be enrolled as Inquirer:

HENKEL Heather Henkel, a member of Parkwood United Presbyterian Church since 2015, graduated from Miami University in 1995, and graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2020.

2. Received as Candidates

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

ABBOTT Rebecca Abbott has been a member of Unity Presbyterian Church since 2001, graduated from Point Park University in 2008, and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Rebecca enrolled as an Inquirer in November 2019.

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.

SINGLETON Steven Singleton has been a member of Bidwell Street United Presbyterian Church since 1997, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a Masters in Teaching in 1998, and graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2021. Steven enrolled as an Inquirer in September 2019.

WELLSTEAD Victoria Wellstead has been a member of Shadyside Presbyterian Church since 2016, graduated from Tulane Law School in 1991, and is expected to graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2022. Victoria enrolled as an Inquirer in September 2020.

3. Ordination Examinations

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

Sharron Boddy-Adedipe (Theology, Worship and Sacraments)

Suzanne Good (Worship and Sacraments)

4. Sermons Heard

The commission reports a sermon was heard from the following Candidate:

Amy Newell – 3/27/2022

5. Certified Ready to Receive a Call & Circulate PIF

The commission reports the following Candidate was examined and approved to be Certified Ready to receive a call and approved to circulate her Personal Information Form:

Jason Dauer

Amy Newell

Items for Action

1. Consent Motion

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

***2. Approval of Accommodation for Particular Circumstances-** for Candidate 611519 (see enclosed proposal)

Update and Accommodations for Candidate 611519
Commission on Preparation for Ministry of Pittsburgh Presbytery
May 2022

Background:

1. At the September 2021 Presbytery meeting, the Presbytery approved a set of accommodations for candidate 611519. This individual has diagnoses of ADHD, difficulty with math, and slow processing speed.
2. Four accommodations were approved at that time
 - a. Extended time for the Bible Content Exam
 - b. An adapted ordination exam for polity, allowing 18 hours for completion rather than 9 hours.
 - c. An adapted ordination exam for theology, allowing 18 hours for completion rather than 9 hours.
 - d. To accept a letter from an approved tutor that the candidate has achieved the proficiency necessary for ordination to satisfy the language requirement for Hebrew. (The individual completed their Greek requirement in seminary).
3. The Commission is pleased to report that accommodations B, C, and D have yielded a successful result for the individual.
4. Despite the extended time, the individual was unsuccessful in passing the Bible Content Exam.

Additional Accommodation Request for the Bible Content Exam

In consultation with their care team, Candidate 611519 has requested an alternative means of assessment for the Bible Content Exam. At the most recent Commission on Preparation for Ministry meeting, the commission approved the following as an alternate means of assessment for Bible Content and requests the Presbytery's approval.

- The exam will be administered verbally and consist of twenty questions covering the Old and New Testaments.
- Three members of CPM will serve as the evaluators, and one person will serve as the convener. The individual will be free to ask clarifying questions to the convener only.
- The range of time for responses will be 3-5 minutes.
- The questions will ask the individual to identify significant themes, stories, and theological concepts from all sections of scripture.
- Primary sources for developing these questions will come from the following resources:
 - The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (Yale University Press, 1992)
 - The New Dictionary of Biblical Theology (Intervarsity Press, 2000)
 - Pre-2012 Bible Content Exams Available at www.whitneyhq.com

- Evaluators will score the response to each question on a 1-5 scale. The total score from each evaluator will then be averaged to determine a final overall score. The passing mark will be 70 (out of a possible 100 points)
- The individual will be able to ask for a break when needed.

In reviewing the official documentation supplied by Candidate 611519's psychologist, we believe this format, particularly the freedom to take breaks, will give the individual the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge in a way conducive to their abilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Brian Wallace

CPM Staff Liaison

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Personal Profile Form for Candidates Ready for Examination**

Name: Ralph Lowe

Status: Certified Ready Pending Call, Pittsburgh Presbytery

Sense of Call

My childhood is full of memories of time spent in church. New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was a central part of our family life, our home away from home. My earliest church memories are of the smell of ink from the old fashion manual printing press my grandmother, Grandma Demus, would operate as the church secretary. Grandma Demus played the piano, sang in the choir, ran the kitchen, and helped raise my two sister and myself in the church. She loved and cared for everyone. My faith through love and service was cultivated early in life.



I believed my vocation existed in the business world. I worked hard to advance my career but no matter how far I advance, I never felt fulfilled in the work. At the time, I did not understand why. As I got married to the most wonderful woman in the world, Kelli Lowe, and started a family, church continued to be a central part of life. Continuing in the family tradition, I centered myself in the service of the church. But what I believed to be an affirmation of a family tradition of faith started to transform into something more. After leading a particularly difficult conversation about social justice during an adult education class, my wife Kelli approached me and said the statement planting the seed that changed my life forever, “Honey, you would make a good pastor”. My immediate response was laughter and a decade of consistent retorts of “no” every time the Holy Spirit gave any hints of a vocation in ministry. I simply did not feel adequately equipped or worthy of such a holy and high task. So, I continued my work in the business world, but increasingly felt less and less fulfilled. But when it is of God who am I to hinder and the inner compulsion to service in a different way became unbearable to ignore. I sought the advice of a few trusted pastors who, to my dismay, all affirmed the statement my wife made years prior.

My loving concern for others is something I link directly to my grandmother. Once I began saying yes to the call of my heart, I could see how parish ministry would be a great way to express my faith in action of love and service and a clear next step. My seminary experience was exciting, hard, affirming, hard, life-giving, hard, life-draining and did I mention hard, but the inner compulsion pushed me through. Toward the end of my seminary studies, a pastor friend alerted me of a job opportunity with the Pittsburgh Presbytery as the Director of Justice Ministries. He had been part of my adult education classes over the years and thought this opportunity was best suited for me. After talking it over with my wife, I decided to apply for the position.

Social justice ministry has become a vital part of my ministry of love. Looking back, I can now see the reason why I did not feel fulfilled in work was because I was not doing the work God called me to do. God was preparing me for this ministry. All of the tough conversations of interpreting the gospel with a lens of justice has led me to this call. Associate Minister of Justice Ministries allows me to continue on my journey of faith through love and service combining word and sacrament with the understanding of the work that needs to be done as a presbytery to fight injustice in the world. I know this will be a difficult task but one I have been called to for a long time.

Ralph Lowe
Statement of Faith

1 **I believe in one Triune God, one God in three persons;** Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
2 eternally working in relationship to one another. God, creator of all things known and unknown,
3 created humanity in God's image entrusting earth and all creatures to humanity's care.
4 Humanity, initially declared good, turned away from God through disobedience and fell from
5 original "good" into sin becoming estranged from God condemned to death.

6 I believe in God's perfect love and desired relationship with creation, God sent God's
7 only begotten son Jesus Christ, who is God incarnate, the Word made flesh, the second person of
8 the Trinity, fully human and fully divine. Christ, according to scripture was born without sin, of
9 the virgin Mary, lived as the perfect example of love among us, was arrest, tortured, crucified,
10 died, and buried. Christ became the perfect sacrifice of obedience and love becoming sin taking
11 on the judgment of all humanity for salvation. Christ was resurrected, triumphant over death and
12 sin. Creation is now reconciled to God in Jesus Christ through his life, death, and resurrection.
13 Christ now sits at the right hand of God interceding on our behalf, reigning and enlivening us
14 through the sent Spirit. In consummation of God's perfect love and work of redemption for
15 creation, Christ will come again for final judgement, to rule and judge, in power and glory
16 making a new heaven and new earth.

17 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, helper, and truth. The Spirit,
18 who is fully God, enlightens our minds and hearts enabling us to draw on and remember the
19 words and life of Christ, leading us to love and discern God's will. As a presence of God with us,
20 a source of grace and Christian life, the Spirit lives in us and unites us with Christ, comforting
21 and guiding, renewing our faith through conviction of our sins and repentance.

22 I believe the church is the embodiment of Jesus Christ in word and deed in the world
23 today. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the church glorifies God as the exemplified witness of Jesus

Ralph Lowe
Statement of Faith

24 Christ through prayer, preaching and teaching of scripture and administration of the sacraments.
25 The sacraments are signs and seals of God's grace. In Baptism, we are ingrafted into Christ, so
26 that we might share in his righteousness, receiving our identity as members of Christ's body. In
27 the Lord's Supper we are spiritually nourished by Christ body and blood, united with him, giving
28 us a foretaste of life everlasting. I believe the church, as witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ,
29 should care about the immediate needs of people. Standing for peace and justice as stated in our
30 confession, "the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that
31 justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream and undertake
32 its mission.

33 I believe scripture, through the Holy Spirit, to be the inspired authoritative word of God,
34 sufficient in all matters of faith and practice to spread the story of God and God's people.
35 Revealing all we must do to glorify God and all we must believe in order to be saved. Witness to
36 Jesus Christ; the incarnate of God and God's liberating love and amazing grace.

37

38 Word Count: 542

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Personal Profile Form for Candidates Ready for Examination**

Name: Jason Dauer

Status: Certified Ready Pending Call, Pittsburgh Presbytery

Biographical Statement

I was born and raised in Pittsburgh in a family of six: mom, dad, grandmother, brother, and sister. I grew up attending a small American Baptist church that my great-great-grandparents organized and built, and my extended family still attends that church to this day. Growing up in that church, I was formed by participation in the weekly service, choir, bell choir, summer youth mission trips, an annual hotdog roast, and many casseroles and covered dishes. I attended North Allegheny School District for grade school and Grove City College for undergraduate in Communication Studies and Biblical & Religious Studies. During undergrad, I directed VBS at the church I grew up at, worked at an evangelical mega church, served as a Project Coordinator for YouthWorks (a youth mission organization), and formed an underground LGBTQ student ministry called The Table. Grove City was my first introduction to the reformed tradition. However, I grew to love the PC(USA) while attending Sanctuary Faith Community, a former 1001 New Worshipping Community. In 2018, I started at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary for my MDiv with an Emphasis in Forming New Faith Communities, and in my final year, I served as the Vice President of the Student Association. After dating for several years long-distance between Pittsburgh and Chicago, my husband David and I were married in December of 2020. He started his career as a high school math teacher and currently works as a technical product manager. We're excited to continue our journey together in Pittsburgh!



Current Sense of Call

When I was in ninth grade, I gave my first sermon on John 3:16. I preached on the inclusive nature of “whosoever.” Looking back, I preached this sermon because I feared the lack of acceptance I might one day face when coming out. Part of my decision for going to Grove City was that I thought it would help these feelings go away. However, it was during my first year of undergrad that I came out as gay. I started attending the local Episcopal Church, for it was the only space that was welcoming and affirming of who I was, and this congregation encouraged me to pursue ordination. Through my coming out process, I dove deeper in the Scripture and theological studies, which is why I added Biblical & Religious Studies as a second major. I fell in love with Scripture, the Church, and all the good Christianity has to offer. I could see the Spirit moving in The

Table—our underground LGBTQ ministry—yet I could not face my call to ministry. Even to this day, James 3:1 rings in my head—that teachers of the law will be held to a higher standard and stricter condemnation. Upon graduation from Grove City, I entered a year of discernment—should I pursue further education to be a professor of intercultural communication or go to seminary? During that year, I worked as a youth pastor, attended Sanctuary Faith Community, and traveled to the Gay Christian Fellowship Conference, which all helped me accept my call to ordained ministry. I was at the Conference standing in a room of hundreds of LGBTQ Christians who refused to leave the Church even through the pain, and I felt the Spirit's call for me to be the pastor for LGBTQ folks.

1 I trust in the triune God—one God in three persons, the Holy Parent, the Word, and the
2 Spirit.

3
4 In the beginning, God formed galaxies and mitochondria, metals and gases, life on this
5 planet and possibly on others. We relate to this being as a Holy Parent, for this is the one who
6 created, sustains, and provides for all of life.

7
8 The Word is Christ, the incarnation of God made flesh and bone. With the Holy Parent,
9 the Word of God formed life and the cosmos. God chose to walk with us as Jesus of Nazareth.
10 Seeking greater solidarity and intimacy with Creation, the Word was born to a teenage mother in
11 a particular time and place, and she named him Jesus. Entering human existence through
12 maternal labor, we recognize the universality of our God.

13 For almost three years, this poor, wandering, brown-skinned tradesman traveled with a
14 group of friends, teaching and proclaiming a better way of doing life and being humans together.
15 If we understand the word “queer” to imply a disruption of binaries, disturbance of norms, and
16 uncovering of power structures, Jesus was the holy queer: both divine and human, disrupting the
17 flow of human history, breaking down assumptions about the spiritual and material, rebuking
18 systems of oppression, and causing us to finally take divine presence on earth seriously.

19
20 Because God gave humans the freedom to choose how to live, humans could choose to
21 hurt and harm, refusing to learn and grow toward peace, love, and joy. We call this sin—that
22 which separates us from God and God’s Creation. Sin is both the hurt and pain we cause one
23 another through words and actions as well as our systems of oppression and domination.

24 To restore relationships that sin harms, Jesus became the new Adam—leading humanity
25 into a new way of relationship, to eternal life. Becoming the new Adam, Jesus gave us
26 eschatological visions of the Kin-dom’s social, economic, political, and relational hopes.

27 The leaders of his day condemned Jesus to death by the State. Jesus died the death of an
28 insurrectionist—capital punishment. On the cross, Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have
29 you abandoned me?” (Mt. 27:46). He was buried, experiencing complete disconnection from
30 everyone and everything, and God was silent as Jesus’ friends sat in fear and trauma. Because
31 God abandoned God’s self, we know that God will never abandon us.

32 When the women went to anoint Jesus’ body with oil, they met a resurrected Jesus at the
33 tomb. Through the resurrection, Jesus’s radical love defeated death and utter disconnection, but
34 our eschatological hope is for the Kin-dom to be fully realized—a future without death,
35 domination, and oppression.

36 The cross is both the instrument of our just conviction and the means God uses to open
37 our eyes to God’s unfathomable grace. We are justified through Christ, not because of what we
38 have done but because of who Christ is and what Jesus has done. Ascended, Jesus continues to
39 advocate and intercede for us and all of Creation. This gives us hope that all relationships will be
40 restored and that we will be fully present with God in the age to come. We hope for the

41 restoration and transformation of all things—of our bodies, animal and plant species, and the
42 planet.

43

44 The Holy Spirit is God in and around us. Seeking even greater solidarity with Creation,
45 God enters all—comforting, convicting, assuring, and provoking us to acts of justice and mercy.
46 The Holy Spirit is how we connect to the divine; She empowers and encourages us to help usher
47 in God’s Kin-dom: to love without ceasing, care for the vulnerable, be with the disenfranchised,
48 stand for justice, and hope for peace.

49

50 Christ established the Church to be God’s hands and feet that usher in the Kin-dom on
51 Earth. The Holy Spirit guides the Church as it seeks divine love, joy, peace, and justice. The
52 Church is the global population of people who abide in Jesus and rest upon his bosom.

53

54 I trust Scripture is the inspired library of God’s people throughout history, filled with a
55 diversity of genres and rich narratives. Through this library, we come to know the particularity of
56 God’s salvific work through the Incarnation, Jesus of Nazareth. As a gem glimmers differently at
57 every angle, who, where, and when we are allow the Holy Spirit to speak to us in new ways
58 through Scripture, pointing us toward God’s mercy and grace.

59

60 Sacraments are the physical ways we experience divine presence with us—outward signs
61 of inward realities of grace. Through the physicality of everyday elements, the Holy Spirit moves
62 in us, and we formed into the likeness of Christ, experiencing God’s grace. Baptism and the
63 remembering of it refreshes and renews our spirits as we continually claim Jesus. Through the
64 Lord’s Supper, local communities are bound together and experience a glimpse of God’s future
65 Kin-dom. As the Body of Christ, we participate in these practices while we wait for God’s Kin-
66 dom to come to fruition, knowing the whole cosmos yearns for restoration.

67

68 Word Count: 844

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry
Personal Profile Form for Candidates Ready for Examination**

Name: Amy Newell

Status: Certified Ready Pending Call, Pittsburgh Presbytery

Biographical Statement

I live in Plum Borough, where I was born and raised, with my teenage daughter Mercy. I am a caregiver by nature and enjoy serving others and building relationships with those whom God puts in my path. I am friendly and outgoing and am known for my warm smile and my willingness to help where needed. I attended Community College while still in high school, finishing my degree in accounting at Duquesne University. My first job after college was in the real estate department of Giant Eagle in RIDC park. While I enjoyed the work, I found it difficult to work all day inside an office with minimal human contact. I started working part-time at Bath and Body Works for Christmas so that I could get out among other people. This proved to be the better fit for me, and I eventually made the switch to Bath and Body Works where I have been for the last 22 years. Originally, I attended a Baptist Church, but at that time there wasn't a place for a single woman with a college education. At this point, I was struggling with my faith, in part because my brother's 16 year old friend died in a car accident in front of our house. I saw the impact of this on people I loved, and I was angry at God. One day, I wandered into the Presbyterian Church across the street from my apartment. I had no idea what I was doing there, but God knew. These warm, loving people brought me back to God and to church. My faith was renewed and I felt loved by God and others. God has showered me with blessings, and some of those blessings have been the hardships that have helped shape me into the person that I am today.



Current Sense of Call

I feel like God has been calling me from a very young age. When I was in grade school, a bus would pick me up and take me to church. Even though my family didn't go to church, I wanted to attend. I considered myself called to full time ministry, even though all of my ministry work was on a volunteer basis. When my pastor resigned about 5 years ago, I realized that I wanted that to be my dream job. We used pulpit supply for about 6 months and then suddenly, the person who was supposed to preach on Christmas Eve ended up in the hospital. I volunteered to preach then, and loved the experience. On occasions when we were unable to fill the pulpit, I would preach. Eventually, we hired a pastor, and he encouraged me to continue to preach once a month and to lead worship each week. People would regularly ask me when I was going

to go to seminary and I would just laugh. I was too old and had to support my daughter and myself. Then, one day, when I picked up the church mail, there was a packet for PTS. I assumed the pastor had requested it, and it finally felt right. Attending PTS has been an amazing experience. I have come to realize that learning is a lifelong experience. I have been pushed outside of my comfort zone and grown in my faith. I have grown in community with those around me. I feel led to parish ministry and relish the experience of serving God and being called to part time service in a local congregation, while continuing to minister to people at Bath and Body Works on a part time basis and serving on the Board of Directors of PTS as well.

1 Amy Newell

2 Personal Statement of Faith

3 Triune God and each person of the God-head:

4 I believe in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person of the God-head is
5 equally divine, eternal, and infinite. They are three separate persons but live within each other as
6 one God. God the Father created the world and everything in it, including us. When we sinned,
7 God the Father found a way to restore us to right relationship with God through Jesus the Son.
8 Jesus is God incarnate, fully divine while also fully human, born of the Virgin Mary and the
9 Holy Spirit. While on Earth, he was physically like us in all ways, having a body and a soul.
10 Because of this, Jesus can sympathize with our weaknesses. Living within believers, the Holy
11 Spirit comforts and guides us in interpreting God's will and the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit also
12 bestows on believers spiritual gifts to carry out God's mission. Because the ways and thoughts of
13 God are not like the ways and thoughts of humanity, we cannot truly understand how the Trinity
14 works, but we take it on faith.

15 The saving work of Jesus Christ:

16 I believe Jesus is the sinless Son of God who paid our debt, that was caused by our sin,
17 with his atoning sacrifice on the cross. This salvation is a free gift of God, offered by the grace
18 of God, through which we are redeemed and sanctified through our faith, not our works. Jesus
19 willingly suffered and died, because of his love for us, so that we can receive eternal life instead
20 of eternal damnation for our sins. Through his resurrection, we are delivered from sin and death.
21 We will receive eternal life when we are raised with him to dwell in heaven, where we will
22 worship God forever.

23 The church:

24 Christ is the head of the church, which is comprised of all believers from around the
25 world. As members of the church, believers join in the body of Christ. Believers should unite to
26 form local congregations so that they can worship God in community and carry out God's
27 mission in the world. It the mission of the church to build relationships with others and to
28 actively strive for justice and equality for all, while recognizing the diverse culture and gifts of
29 others. We are called to be agents of reconciliation with God and one another in restoration of
30 creation, through his resurrection. I believe that God chose us before we knew how to choose
31 God.

32 Scripture:

33 I believe the Scriptures to be the Holy Word of God, complete, authoritative and timeless.
34 The Scriptures are God's letter to God's people in which God is revealed to us through Jesus
35 Christ and his atoning sacrifice on the cross. Every part of Scripture from both the Old and New
36 Testaments works together to tell one cohesive story.

37 Sacraments:

38 As the church seeks to be faithful to the earthly ministry of Jesus, the church practices
39 two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's supper. Baptism is an outward sign of an invisible
40 grace. Through baptism, people of all ages, including children, are sealed by the promise of the
41 gospel and marked as Christ's own. Through baptism, people are joined to the church and
42 receive their identity as beloved children of God.

43 The Lord's supper is a sign of our salvation. Believers are called to eat the bread and
44 drink the cup in remembrance of Christ's death on the cross. In this meal we find grace, healing,
45 and restoration to wholeness as God is offered to us through the elements of communion and we
46 offer ourselves to God. The bread and wine do not become the actual body and blood of Jesus,
47 but the elements nourish our souls. Through the Holy Spirit, believers share in the suffering and
48 death of Jesus. When we partake, we should examine ourselves and confess our sins. These
49 sacraments are done in community because we need fellowship with each other.

50 Eschatology:

51 I believe that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God and that
52 he will come again to earth for the Final Judgment. At that time, the kingdom of God will be
53 complete. We hope in the return of Jesus to restore creation and to receive the hope of our
54 salvation.

55 Humanity and sin:

56 I believe that God created the heavens and the earth and everything in them, visible and
57 invisible, out of nothing. Humans were created in the image of God with an immortal soul and a
58 mortal body. God desires a personal relationship with humans and for humans to follow God's
59 will. God sustains and provides for creation. All people are born into sin due to the original sin
60 of Adam and Eve, and they also actively sin. Sin is any thought or action that is in opposition to
61 the commandments of God and that separates us from God.

62

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 Preparation for Ministry

Elder Margaret Dixon, Beulah (2024A) – East

Foundation

The Rev. Austin Crenshaw Shelley, Shadyside (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.

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
TO PRESBYTERY**

May 10, 2022 Meeting

The committee met on May 10, 2022 at the presbytery center.. 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	Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Fox Chapel
Pastor	(PT) Southside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
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	(PT) Homestead Presbyterian Church, Homestead
Covenant Pastor	(FT) Shared-Mt. Hope PC & UPC Universal, Pittsburgh
Covenant Assoc Pasto	(PT) John McMillan Presbyterian Church, Bethel Park
Designated Pastor	Crafton United Presbyterian Church, Crafton
Temporary Pastor	(PT) Covenant Community Presbyterian Church, Greentree

Items for Information

1. Parish Associate

The Rev. Dr. Gary Neal Hansen will serve as a Parish Associate at Shadyside Presbyterian Church for six months beginning March 1, 2022.

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. Heather Schoenewolf and Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy** as co-moderators of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church effective June 1, 2022.

The appointment of the **Rev. Doug Gebhard** as moderator of the Union Presbyterian Church effective June 1, 2022.

May 10, 2022

The appointment of the **Rev. Deb Warren** as moderator of the Swissvale Presbyterian Church effective May 19, 2022.

***3. Temporary/Covenant/Interim Pastors**

The request of the Union Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Doug Gebhard** as Interim Pastor effective June 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the First Presbyterian Church, Duquesne for the renewal of the services of **Rev. Dr. Judi Slater** as Temporary Pastor effective January 1, 2022 for one year.

The request of the Sewickley Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Emily Miller** as Temporary Associate Pastor effective May 16, 2022 for one year.

***4. Letters of Reception**

The Rev. Emily Miller from Beaver-Butler Presbytery effective May 16, 2022.

***5. Letters of Dissolution**

The request of the **Rev. Dennis Molnar** to dissolve the call at Unity Presbyterian Church effective June 30, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Derek Campbell** to dissolve the call at Unity United Presbyterian Church effective April 30, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Dr. Randy Bush** to dissolve the call at East Liberty Presbyterian Church effective May 31, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Lynn Portz** to dissolve the call at Shadyside Presbyterian Church effective May 31, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Melissa Morris** to dissolve the call at Swissvale Presbyterian Church effective September 30, 2022.

***6. Letters of Dismissal**

The request of the **Rev. Derek Campbell** to be dismissed to Redstone Presbytery, effective May 1, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Douglas Rehberg** to be dismissed to Redstone Presbytery, effective March 22, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Jane Esterline** to be dismissed to San Jose Presbytery, effective April 11, 2022.

May 10, 2022

***7. Members At-Large**

The request of the **Rev. Dr. Randy Bush** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective June 1, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Melissa Morris** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective October 1, 2022.

***8. Permission to Labor Within Bounds**

The request of **The Rev. Dr. Gary Neal Hansen**, member of John Knox Presbytery to labor within the bounds of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

The request of **The Rev. Doug Gebhard**, member of Beaver-Butler Presbytery to labor within the bounds of Pittsburgh Presbytery to serve as Interim Pastor of Union Presbyterian Church.

The request of **Becky Boyer**, Commissioned Pastor and member of Washington Presbytery to labor within the bounds of Pittsburgh Presbytery as Chaplain at Southwood Psychiatric Hospital in Washington County, when serving at their Bridgeville location.

***9. Honorable Retirement**

The request of the **Rev. Lynn Portz** for honorable retirement effective May 31, 2022.

The request of the **Rev. Dennis Molnar** for honorable retirement effective July 1, 2022.

CITIZENS' RIGHT TO VOTE: A CALL TO ACTION

Be it resolved that the following statement is adopted by the Pittsburgh Presbytery and will be distributed to the Presbytery's churches and teaching elders, the Synod of the Trinity, local media, and elected officials who represent citizens within the Presbytery:

We Christians of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, recalling Christ's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves and not neglect "the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith," declare our commitment to upholding the civil rights of all Americans, including the hard-won right to vote, which is now being threatened across our land.

Hundreds of bills have been introduced in state legislatures recently that will make it difficult, and in some cases practically impossible, for many eligible citizens to vote. Such measures echo a long, unjust, and violent history of efforts to keep African Americans and other people of color, especially, from voting, restricting their access to the representation we all need to protect our rights and freedoms.

These bills are put forth in the name of ensuring election integrity, though study after study has shown that our recent elections have been overwhelmingly free and fair. Very little fraud has been found through in-person or mail-in balloting, and former Attorney General William Barr said there was no evidence of wrongdoing that would have changed the outcome of the 2020 election. Legislative or other efforts that have the effect of keeping people from voting amount to disenfranchisement, regardless of what their proponents claim.

A democratic republic should make it easier, not harder, for all its eligible citizens to vote, and voters should be able to choose their representatives through elections; but in the rampant practice of gerrymandering, politicians try to choose their own voters and make access to the polls easier for their supporters and harder for opponents.

Our Presbyterian Church has long supported civil rights, including the right to vote. In the 1950s, the church became acutely aware of the catastrophic consequences of not speaking out against practices that kept millions of Americans from the ballot box and other civil rights. A 1959 General Assembly urged voting rights for all citizens of voting age, and the church supported the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and its renewal in 2006 (passed 98-0 in the Senate, 390-33 in the House). Again in 2008, the General Assembly called for measures "providing greater accessibility for all voters."

Governments at every level need to make voting safe, secure, and easily accessible for all citizens. Congress can help by passing the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, the For the People Act, and the Freedom to Vote Act, or comparable legislation, and state legislatures must not be allowed to twist voting procedures for partisan advantage. We call upon our representatives at all levels of government to guarantee the fundamental right to vote for every eligible American.