

September 2020

Beloved colleagues in our Lord's service,

This month we meet as a presbytery as we never have before. We have grown to love the wide open space we are given at our September meeting home, [Crestfield Camp and Conference Center](#). Spaciousness is a delight that the psalmist celebrates as a sign of God's salvation: "We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place." ([Psalm 66:12](#)) That feels especially tangible when we meet at Crestfield.

Each year at Crestfield we have an open mic session, where I invite attendees to tell something of how God was at work in their congregation with some outreach activity over the summer. We make generous space for those testimonies, and additionally for remembrance of all our elders and pastors whose earthly journey among us ended over the past year. We find space to share table fellowship. Some among us seek outdoor space as their chosen place to sit during the meeting, so we put out loudspeakers and erect tent shelters to accommodate them.

Alas, our space for working, playing, and praying has been greatly constricted by the COVID-19 pandemic over the past six months. We are restricted in where and how we gather. We are all struggling with what I'll call "life-space stenosis." Our worlds have narrowed. Travel is curtailed. We spend most of our time tethered to home. For many of us, much of our "world" has collapsed to the size of our computer monitor. That's how it is for this presbytery meeting. And that is how it will be for at least the next three presbytery meetings, unless we experience an unexpected breakthrough in treating and preventing the spread of COVID.

In Romans 8, Paul celebrates that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. Neither natural calamities nor human opposition. Neither spiritual powers nor social pressures. One of the things on Paul's list of things-that-cannot-separate-us-from-God's-love is "distress" (KJV). The Greek word is *stenochoria* – literally, stenosis of our living space. It is exactly what we have experienced due to the COVID pandemic. Even *that* can't separate us from God's love!

I have rejoiced to hear the myriad ways our congregations have seen God at work amid the COVID lockdown and lockout. We are distressed at being curtailed in our ability to gather, yet we are finding new ways to care for one another and to reach out to those in need. The church has not ceased being the church, even when its ability to gather is restricted.

And presbytery is still presbytery. Despite our "Zoom fatigue," we are still able to gather electronically, and to carry out our work missionally. *Stenochoria* is no picnic; but it cannot kill what God is doing among us and through us. Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ's mission,



Rev. Dr. 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.**
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***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.**

Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh

To Be Conducted via Zoom

September 24, 2020 – 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Charissa Howe (Moderator), Ruling Elder Mark Roth (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

Seating of Corresponding Members

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

Generosity Committee Announcements

Board of Pensions Announcements

Celebration of the Anniversary of the Peacemaking Ministry Team

Time of Devotions and Prayer -- Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge

Attending to our Corporate and Ecclesiastical Business

Review of Digital Meeting Practices and Methods for Seeking Recognition and Voting

Executive Committee Report

Report of Pandemic Response Administrative Commission

Approval of 2021 Budget

Stated Clerk's Report

Hearing from Our Staff, Commissions, and Committees

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report

General Minister's Report

Commission on Ministry Report

Committee on Nominations Report

New Worshipping Communities Commission Report

Going Forth by God's Grace to Serve

New and Old Business

Report from the Roll Clerk and Closing Prayer

CONSENT AGENDA
September 24, 2020

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

June

- Item 3 - Finance Reports – January, February, March, and April 2020

September

- Item 2 – Waiver of Parity Requirement – Forest Hills PC
- Item 3 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitations on Terms – Concord Presbyterian Church
- Item 4 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitations on Terms – Baldwin Presbyterian Church
- Item 5 – Waiver of Six-Year Limitations on Terms – Springdale UPC
- Item 6 – Finance Reports – May, June and July 2020
- Item 7 – Permission for Sale of Property – Mt. Nebo United Presbyterian Church
- Item 8 – Permission for Lease of Property – Bellevue United Presbyterian Church

Matters from the Stated Clerk

- Item 2 – Dismissal of Investigating Committee
- Item 3 – Dissolution of Upper Room Presbyterian Church
- Item 4 – Dismissal of Forest Grove Administrative Commission

Matters from the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

September

- Item 3 - Appointments of Commissions for Ordination

Matters from the Commission on Ministry

September

- Item 2 – Moderators
- Item 3 – Temporary Pastors
- Item 4 – Letters of Dissolution
- Item 5 – Members At-Large
- Item 6 – Letters of Dismissal
- Item 7 – Calls
- Item 9 – Administrative Commission to Install
- Item 10 – Commission to Moderate Sessions and Congregational Meetings
- Item 11 – Commissioned Pastors
- Item 12 – 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 13, 2020, at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary immediately following the regularly stated Presbytery meeting held there, and read the minutes of said meeting. A quorum was present.

	P	A	E		P	A	E
Ruling Elders				Teaching Elders			
Carla Campbell	X			Eric Dennis	X		
Cathy Nelson	X			Sheldon Sorge			X
Mark Roth	X			Charissa Howe	X		
Frank Hancock	X			Steven Werth	X		

The Committee recommends approval of the Minutes of the regularly stated Presbytery Meeting Thursday, February 13, 2020 at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. **For the Committee:** *The Rev. Eric Ewing Dennis, Chair.*

The next meeting of the Minutes Reading Committee will be held on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at Westminster Presbyterian Church immediately following the regular meeting of Presbytery held there. Any commissioner present at such meeting is invited to attend.

Executive Committee Report June 30, 2020

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Executive Committee met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2020. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the meeting was held via video conference technology which allowed all members to see, hear, and speak to each other in real time. Co-chair Rev. Carol Divens Roth offered an opening prayer.

Items for Information

1. Creation of the Presbytery Meeting Pandemic Response Administrative Commission

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which necessitated the cancellation of the May 2020 meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery, it may be necessary for Pittsburgh Presbytery to meet virtually or in a hybrid virtual and in-person format. It also may be necessary to change plans for meetings in response to changing conditions and recommendations regarding the virus.

The current Manual of Pittsburgh presbytery does not envision or permit a virtual or hybrid presbytery meeting. If an in-person gathering is permissible and advisable, it will require safety and disinfection protocols which must be appropriate to the then-current level of virus spread in the region and which likely will need to be revised as we gain further information about the virus and its transmission mechanisms.

Accordingly, the Executive Committee acted on behalf of the presbytery pursuant to the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery to form a Presbytery Meeting Pandemic Response Administrative Commission and empowered it to:

Enact additions and revisions to the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery, including the by-laws of the corporation and the standing rules governing presbytery meetings for this and only this purpose: to permit and enable Pittsburgh Presbytery to meet virtually or in a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting.

Establish the format, date, time, and place of presbytery meetings, including the ability to deviate from the previously announced format, date, time, or place of the meeting if necessary, for the presbytery to meet safely.

Establish safety protocols for in-person presbytery meetings including but not limited to social distancing plans and mandates for participant conduct and use of personal protective equipment.

Recommend changes to the docket of the meeting to permit a safe gathering including limitation on the length of the meeting.

Approve, after consulting with the Finance Committee and the General Minister, the purchase, rental, or license of necessary equipment, software, digital services, etc. necessary to conduct virtual meetings.

Approve, after consulting with the Finance Committee and the General Minister, the purchase or rental of equipment, the purchase of supplies, and the engagement of cleaning or other services necessary to enable a safe gathering of the presbytery.

The Executive Committee specified that all actions of the administrative commission are to be reported to the Executive Committee and the presbytery as soon as is practical. The administrative commission will have the advice and assistance of the presbytery staff and the Ecclesiastical Committee upon request.

The following individuals were appointed to serve on this administrative commission:

Ruling Elder Frank Hancock (Former Moderator, current co-chair of the Commission on Ministry)

Rev. Charissa Howe (Moderator)

Ruling Elder Mark Roth (Senior Vice Moderator)

Rev. Jeff Tindall (Former Senior Vice Moderator and Stated Clerk, current co-chair of the Executive Committee)

Ruling Elder Lenore Williams (Former Moderator, current member of the Executive Committee).

Each member of the Presbytery Meeting Pandemic Response Administrative Commission previously has been elected to serve as moderator or senior vice moderator of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

2. Personnel Changes at Pittsburgh Presbytery

The Executive Committee reports that Administrative Assistant Cindy Miller retired as of June 30, 2020 after 19 years of faithful service to Pittsburgh Presbytery. The committee further reports that the employment of Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby, who has served the presbytery on a part-time, contractual basis for the past 8 months, would be discontinued with thanks effective June 30, 2020.

The Executive Committee approved moving the Director of Justice Ministries, Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe, to full-time exempt employment with additional duties working with congregations in transition effective July 1, 2020.

The Executive Committee also approved moving Adrien Domske to full-time non-exempt employment also effective July 1, 2020 as Administrative Assistant and Webmaster. The position includes the new responsibilities of webmaster and of assisting the Associate Minister with work of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motion

The Executive Committee recommends that the following item be approved by consent:
3.

2. Approval of 2021 Budget

The Executive Committee approved and recommends that Presbytery approve the Proposed 2021 Budget. The proposed budget was circulated to all churches, teaching elders, and enrolled ruling elders of presbytery on August 17, 2020.

***3. Finance Reports – January, February, March, and April 2020**

The Executive Committee recommends presbytery receive and file for audit the Presbytery Financial Statements for the month of January, February, March, and April 2020.

2021 Pittsburgh Presbytery Budget Narrative

The Executive Committee recommends to presbytery the attached budget to enable us to do God's work faithfully and fruitfully in our place and time. Our budget is an instrument to help us fulfill our mission as a covenant community called by God, sharing together in the ongoing life and ministry of Jesus, proclaiming the Gospel publicly in word and deed in the power of the Spirit.

Guiding principles:

1. We will be guided in our priorities by our presbytery [mission statement and plan](#).
2. We will NOT increase the per capita assessment in 2021.
3. We will decrease our annual draw from the Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation.
4. We will maintain in full our mission investments through congregational mission grants (ACT, line 10) and New Worshiping Communities grants (line 20).
5. We will maintain in full our commitments to outreach and discipleship support.
6. We will reduce our staff size and costs where possible.

Pertinent facts:

1. Our Personnel costs (line 38) drop significantly as we implement a staffing plan that has been adjusted due to staff attrition. Specifically:
 - a. We have eliminated one full-time administrative support position, opened by the retirement of Cindy Miller, spreading those responsibilities to other staff, most significantly to Adrien Domske, who moves from part-time to full-time.
 - b. We have eliminated one full-time leadership staff position, opened by the retirement of Beverly James, spreading those responsibilities to other staff, most significantly to Ralph Lowe, who moves from part-time to full-time.
 - c. Staff are being granted a 2% increase in compensation for 2021.
2. We secured a forgivable loan/grant of \$106,000 under the Payroll Protection Plan. This will help make up any pandemic-related losses of income from per capita and undesignated mission support in 2020.
3. Board of Pensions dues will not be raised in 2021.
4. This budget is based on total per capita remaining the same in 2021 as in 2020:
 - a. General Assembly: 8.98 (an increase of .03)
 - b. Synod: 2.40 (no change from 2020)
 - c. Presbytery: 23.41 (a decrease of .03)
 - d. Total: 34.79

Changes from the 2020 budget:

1. The request for undesignated presbytery mission income (line 1) is reduced by \$65,000, given historic giving patterns. The Generosity Committee is working diligently to increase congregational mission giving to presbytery.
2. Pittsburgh Presbytery has ceased its function as a treasury service for channeling congregational contributions to the mission and ministry support of GA and Synod. Such

support now goes directly from congregations to the higher councils. This changes to zero lines 2 (income) and 17 (expense) in the budget.

3. The request from the Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation (line 3) is reduced from \$250,000 to \$200,000, in keeping with the commitment the Executive Committee made last Fall to reduce that draw, in order better to preserve Foundation assets.
4. Short term investment and other income (line 5) is increased by \$25,206 due to increased income from renting additional office space to Church Union on the first floor.
5. Due to increased operational efficiencies, administrative costs are reduced by \$10,439 (line 14 plus line 28).
6. Crestfield support (line 21) is reduced by \$10,000, per the covenant agreement schedule adopted in 2018.
7. Per capita income (line 25) is reduced because of a loss of 1,066 members in the membership base, to 23,778. Based on historic patterns, we calculate this income to be less than what is assessed.
8. Stated Clerk Office expenses (line 32) are cut by \$2,250 due to 2021 being a non-GA year, eliminating GA attendance expenses, and due to reduction in purchasing Books of Order and Confessions in favor of downloading them electronically.
9. Due to the reduction in staff outlined above, Personnel costs (line 38) are reduced by \$107,057.

2021 Presbytery Budget Proposal

Presbytery Mission and Ministry Support

Line #	Line Item Description	2021 Budget Request	2020 Budget	2019 Actual	2018 Actual	2017 Actual	2016 Actual
Income							
1	Presbytery Mission and Ministry Support	135,000	200,000	95,086	147,076	194,375	148,048
2	GA & Synod Mission and Ministry Support	-	50,000	-	30,259	40,980	48,495
3	Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation	200,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
4	Endowment Withdrawals	306,900	307,000	309,399	300,729	296,597	279,775
5	Short Term Investment and Other Income	145,365	120,159	137,948	124,920	128,648	119,605
6	<i>Subtotal Mission and Ministry Income</i>	787,265	927,159	792,433	852,984	910,600	845,923
7	Additional Trust Withdrawals	-	-	-	-	68,493	-
8	Total Mission and Ministry Support Income	787,265	927,159	792,433	852,984	979,093	845,923

Expenditures

Mission and Ministry Support For Our Congregations

9	Disciplemaking / Spiritual Growth	9,425	9,425	5,843	1,281	8,115	9,012
10	ACT - Admin. Commission for Transformation (Enhancement Grants, Student Interns & Daycamps)	65,000	65,000	61,550	49,330	65,000	63,060
11	Pastor Ministry Accounts	12,000	12,000	4,459	6,011	6,367	8,444
12	Presbytery Resources	1,700	1,700	159	1,260	1,386	1,765
13	Stewardship & Mission Interpretation	1,250	1,250	-	-	818	1,250
14	Ministry Related Administrative Costs	51,005	57,269	57,166	64,625	61,177	60,454
15	<i>Subtotal Congregational Support</i>	140,380	146,644	129,177	122,507	142,863	143,983

Mission and Ministry Support Beyond Our Congregations

16	Ecumenical Partnerships	18,100	18,100	18,100	18,100	18,100	18,100
17	GA & Synod Ministry Support	-	50,000	-	30,259	40,980	48,495
18	International Partnership	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	1,405	3,124
19	Mission Ministry Team	2,600	2,600	750	1,900	1,382	2,000
20	New Worshiping Communities	100,000	100,000	88,917	85,627	106,874	104,795
21	Crestfield Support	110,000	120,000	130,000	140,000	(150k not incl. in total below)	
22	Justice Ministries	11,750	11,750	4,378	3,917	2,776	5,290
23	<i>Subtotal Mission & Ministry Beyond Support</i>	245,450	305,450	245,145	282,803	171,517	181,804
24	Total Presbytery Mission & Ministry Support *	385,830	452,094	374,322	405,310	314,380	325,787

2021 Presbytery Budget Proposal

Being The Presbytery

			2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Line #	Line Item Description	Budget Request	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Income	25 Per Capita	722,882	777,836	676,529	775,048	738,369	805,875	
	26 Additional Endowment Withdrawals	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	27 Total Operational Income	722,882	777,836	676,529	775,048	738,369	805,875	
Expenditures								
Ecclesiastical Costs								
	28 Administration / Office Expense	34,003	38,178	38,111	43,084	40,785	40,302	
	29 Exec. Committee	5,550	5,150	3,882	4,137	5,171	5,039	
	30 Ministry (COM/CPM)	10,125	10,125	10,183	12,627	12,098	6,907	
	31 Property Expenses	71,800	68,100	77,101	92,139	85,534	82,124	
	32 Stated Clerk's Office	950	3,200	2,439	1,333	1,084	6,823	
	33 <i>Subtotal Presbytery Ecclesiastical Costs</i>	122,428	124,753	131,716	153,320	144,672	141,196	
	34 GA & Synod Per Capita	270,594	281,979	292,793	274,792	274,674	282,356	
	35 Total Being The Presbytery*	393,022	406,732	424,509	428,112	419,346	423,552	
Presbytery Personnel								
	36 Leadership Staff	572,051	643,336	598,176	581,448	719,935	662,838	
	37 Support Staff	159,245	202,835	195,853	237,397	248,938	269,085	
	38 Total Personnel	731,296	846,171	794,029	818,844	968,874	931,923	
		(114,875)						
Total Mission + Being Income		1,510,147	1,704,995	1,468,962	1,628,032	1,717,462	1,651,798	
Total Mission + Being Expenditures		778,852	858,826	798,831	833,422	733,726	749,340	
Total Presbytery Personnel		731,296	846,171	794,029	818,844	968,874	931,923	
Net Income (Deficit) / Surplus		0	0	(123,897)	(24,234)	14,862	(29,465)	
		Budget	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	

* The remainders of Mission and Ministry Support Income and Being the Presbytery Income are directed to associated Presbytery Personnel costs

**Executive Committee Report
September 24, 2020**

Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

Due to the on-going global Covid-19 pandemic, Pittsburgh Presbytery's Executive Committee met via Zoom on Tuesday, September 8, 2020. The Co-chair, Rev. Jeff Tindall, opened the meeting with prayer.

Items for Information

1. Presbytery Meeting Schedule for 2021

Executive Committee has determined that the February and May 2021 meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery will be held online. Dates, times and locations for the meetings are as follows:

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

2. 2019 Audit

Pittsburgh Presbytery received a clean audit for 2019.

3. Re-Election of Representative to Crestfield Board

The Executive Committee re-elected Rev. Eric Dennis as a representative of the Executive Committee to the Board of Directors of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center.

4. Repayment Deferment for Loan to Crestfield Camp and Conference Center

The Executive Committee granted the request of Crestfield Camp and Conference Center to defer repayment of its loan obligation to the presbytery from March 2020 to January 2021 due to severe cash flow difficulties caused by the cancellation of programs due to Covid-19.

5. Interim Report of the Pandemic Response Administrative Commission

The interim report of this Administrative Commission follows.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Executive Committee recommends that the following items be approved by consent:
2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

***2. Waiver of Parity Requirement – Forest Hills Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the requirement of parity between males and females to permit service by an all-female session.

***3. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Concord 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 Concord Presbyterian Church to serve an additional term beginning in 2020.

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

The Executive Committee approved, and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms of one deacon of Baldwin United Presbyterian Church to serve additional terms beginning in 2020.

***5. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Springdale United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approve, and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms of two elders of Springdale United Presbyterian Church to serve additional terms beginning in 2020.

***6. Finance Reports – May, June, and July 2020**

The Executive Committee recommends Presbytery receive and file for audit the Presbytery Financial Statements for the months of May, June, and July 2020.

***7. Permission for Sale of Property – Mt. Nebo United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved, and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, the request of Mt. Nebo United Presbyterian Church for permission to sell a parcel of undeveloped land.

***8. Permission for Lease of Property – Bellevue United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved, and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, the request of Bellevue United Presbyterian Church to lease portions of its property, including the worship space, for one year to Redeemer Anglican Church for worship on Sunday evenings, fellowship, meals, meetings, and other uses. The approval is conditional pending receipt of evidence of the authority of the pastor to sign the lease and clarification of an incomplete phrase in the lease.

Interim Report of the Pandemic Response Administrative Commission September 24, 2020

As described fully in the Executive Committee's June 30, 2020, Report to Presbytery, on that date it formed a Pandemic Response Administrative Commission ("AC"). In creating the AC, the Executive Committee noted that the current Manual of Pittsburgh presbytery does not envision or permit a virtual presbytery meeting, but that it was apparent that in-person meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery would not be prudent given the current and anticipated state of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Indeed, during the summer of 2020, a meeting that met the minimum-quorum requirements of 30 ministers and 30 ruling elders was far in excess of the 25-person maximum advised by the Allegheny County Health Department.

The AC met via Zoom throughout the summer and, on August 10, 2020, amended the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery as follows:

Amendment to the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery

To be inserted on Article 1, Page 3 of 3 as a new paragraph under subheading "6. Meetings of Presbytery":

Meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery may be conducted through use of Internet meeting services designated by the Presbytery that support anonymous voting and support visible displays identifying those participating, identifying those seeking recognition to speak, showing (or permitting the retrieval of) the text of pending motions, and showing the results of votes. These electronic meetings of the Presbytery shall be subject to all rules previously adopted by the Presbytery to govern such meetings, which may include any reasonable limitations on, and requirements for, participation in Presbytery business. Any such rules adopted by the Presbytery shall supersede any conflicting rules in the parliamentary authority, but may not otherwise conflict with or alter any rule or decision of the Presbytery or of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. An anonymous vote conducted through the designated Internet meeting service shall be deemed a ballot vote, fulfilling any requirement in the bylaws or rules that a vote be conducted by ballot.

The AC determined that the September and December 2020 Stated Meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery should be held online and requested that the Executive Committee determine how subsequent meetings will be conducted.

The AC then adopted the "**Pittsburgh Presbytery Standing Rules for Digital Meetings**" and the "Pittsburgh Presbytery September 2020 Meeting Procedures Using Zoom and Mentimeter", copies of which follow.

Following the first virtual meeting on September 24, 2020, the AC anticipates meeting to make any necessary changes or additions to the standing rules.

Pittsburgh Presbytery Standing Rules for Digital Meetings

1. Determining Whether to Hold a Digital Meeting

The Executive Committee may decide to schedule any stated meeting of the presbytery as a digital meeting when establishing the schedule for presbytery meetings.

In the event of circumstances that make attendance at or travel to a previously scheduled in-person meeting unsafe or unwise, the Executive Committee may opt to hold a digital meeting instead.

If the circumstances that make an in-person meeting unsafe or unwise are urgent and it is impractical to poll the entire executive committee, the determination that a meeting should be held virtually may be made by a special committee consisting of the co-chairs (or chair and vice chair) of the Executive Committee, the Moderator and the Senior Vice Moderator of Presbytery, the General Minister and the Stated Clerk. The determination of whether it is practical to poll the Executive Committee will be made by its chairs, in consultation with the General Minister and the Stated Clerk.

2. Software and Procedures

Pittsburgh Presbytery anticipates using Zoom digital meeting services with possible use of Mentimeter.com for voting. Specific procedures for conducting meetings are included in the attached document. As updates and changes are made to Zoom or Mentimeter or as other platforms become available, the Executive Committee, Moderators and/or staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery may opt to use other programs and/or to adjust procedures. Software will be available at no cost to participants but may require advance installation.

3. Registration for Presbytery Meetings:

All presbyters (those entitled to vote in the meeting because of their status as minister members of the presbytery, enrolled ruling elders, and commissioners elected by the session of a congregation) should register in advance in order to participate in the meeting. **In order to accommodate the possibility of an emergency that would necessitate the holding of a digital meeting, advance registration henceforth will be required for all presbytery meetings.**

Registration will require a two-step process:

First, the Notice of a Presbytery Meeting which is sent to all presbyters and congregations will include a link to the registration form. This email will ask individuals to complete the registration form indicating their intent to attend and their role in the meeting (for example minister, ruling elder commissioner from a congregation, ruling elder commission because of office or commission), similar to the cards completed at registration for a meeting held in person. Those who do not have internet access may call the Stated Clerk's assistant to register.

Registration should be completed by 48 hours before the scheduled start of the presbytery meeting. Visitors and those wishing to be seated as corresponding members **must** register at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

In urgent circumstances, presbyters (those who are entitled to vote at the meeting) who have not previously registered may contact the Stated Clerk's office in the manner specified in the notice of the meeting to request to register and will be sent a link to enter the meeting as soon as possible.

Those who complete step one will receive an email with information and a link to participate in the meeting. Each presbyter must have a separate device to participate and vote in the meeting. Whenever possible, presbyters should use a device equipped with a camera, since they will be asked to show themselves throughout the meeting. Presbyters must use their “real” names on screen.

If any presbyters have to call into a meeting using a telephone, they will need to register with that number so that presbytery staff can identify them properly during the meeting. Use of a touch-tone telephone is necessary to participate.

Meeting participants (such as speakers) who are not presbyters and those expected to be seated as corresponding members must pre-register to participate in the digital meeting. Participants and corresponding members will have the letter “Z” placed before their name to indicate that they are not entitled to vote.

Visitors will be able to observe the meeting via a link provided on the presbytery website (<https://www.pghpresbytery.org/events/presbytery-meetings/schedule-meeting-materials/>)

4. Training:

Prior to the first digital meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery, anticipated to be held September 24, 2020, at least two training and practice opportunities will be provided to registrants. For subsequent digital meetings, at least one training and practice opportunity or a link to a previously-recorded training session will be provided unless there is insufficient time.

5. The Day of the Meeting:

The co-hosts will admit people from the “waiting room” having recorded their first and last names as well as their registration title (i.e. Rev., Pastor, Elder) which would act as their “name tag” for quick reference when calling on them. The co-hosts will replace the telephone numbers of those participating by phone with the individual’s name and will add the letter “Z” to the beginning of the names of speakers and corresponding members.

6. Requesting to Speak:

All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting until recognized to speak by the Moderator. The method for requesting to speak expected to be used at the meeting will be stated and explained in the notice of the meeting and practiced at the start of the meeting.

7. Voting:

The methods of voting expected to be used at the meeting will be stated and explained in the notice of the meeting and practiced at the start of the meeting. Several different methods of voting are expected to be used during a digital meeting depending on the level of controversy expected and the degree of precision necessary. Voting methods will be chosen to permit all presbyters to vote and to raise objections.

8. Technological Requirements:

Pre-recorded presentations are encouraged and will be shared via the screen share function as will documents when appropriate. Worship may be pre-recorded as well. All pre-recorded reports or other videos to be used at the meeting must be submitted at least

one week prior to the meeting. If applicable, proof of copyright permission to broadcast the video during a digital meeting must be submitted at the same time.

Chat among participants will be disabled. Participants may use the chat function to communicate with the co-hosts.

Each attendee is responsible for his or her connection to the internet and/or telephone and for the advance installation of necessary software. No action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented him or her from participating in the meeting, provided that at least a quorum of members remains connected and adequately able to participate. The Moderator may cause or direct the temporary disconnection or muting of an attendee's connection if it is causing undue interference with the electronic meeting.

9. Use of Breakout Rooms:

During the meeting, the breakout room feature of Zoom, or a similar feature of other platforms, will be used when it is prudent for a participant to be asked to leave the meeting temporarily, such as during discussion on a candidate appearing for introduction and examination.

Breakout rooms may be used at the discretion of the Moderator for small group discussion, but not action, except that those participating by phone only may be asked to use breakout rooms to cast ballots by indicating their votes individually to a co-host.

10. Decorum

Presbyters who fail to exercise appropriate decorum, including suitable behavior, language, and screen displays, may have their audio and/or video feed turned off at the discretion of the co-hosts. Anyone who persists in such conduct may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the Moderator.

Pittsburgh Presbytery September 2020 Meeting Procedures Using Zoom and Mentimeter

Seeking Recognition and Requesting to Speak:

Those who wish to speak should seek recognition via the chat function, indicating whether they wish to speak in favor of or against the motion or for some other purpose, such as raising a point of order. Those participating by telephone should use the raise hand feature.

Voting:

Method 1: For votes which are not expected to be controversial (such as adopting the docket), the Moderator should ask if there are “any objections?”. Anyone who has an objection would be directed to seek recognition to speak by using the “raise hand” feature.

Method 2: The “raise hand” feature will be used for votes where the Moderator needs a better idea of the will of the body without the need for precision.

Method 3: When precision is needed, the Moderator may use the online voting service “mentimeter.com.” The Moderator will provide instructions on how to use this function if a vote is needed. Those participating by telephone who do not have access to the internet will be asked to give their vote to a co-host in a separate breakout room. The co-hosts will report only the vote totals to the Moderator.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
September 24, 2020

Items for Information

1. Deadline for Docket Time and Waiver Requests for December Meeting

The Ecclesiastical Committee has announced that all requests for docket time at the December 10, 2020, presbytery meeting must be made to the Ecclesiastical Committee via the Stated Clerk's office no later than **noon on Wednesday, November 4, 2020**. 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.

2. A Reminder about Copyright and On-line Worship

Congregations broadcasting their worship online must have a license or permission to include any copyrighted material including music, images, and text, whether read or graphically reproduced, in worship streamed on the internet. Copyright is automatic when the work is created, and it need not display a copyright symbol to be protected. Any rights granted with the purchase of the physical book, sheet music, etc. and any religious use exceptions are limited to the use in "in person" worship and do not include the right to broadcast. A few of our congregations already have been contacted by copyright holders seeking compensation for unauthorized use of copyrighted material.

3. 2019 Minutes Reading Waiver

Due to the pandemic, which has prevented in-person minutes readings, and the disparity in access to technology to permit electronic minutes readings, the Ecclesiastical Committee has granted congregations within Pittsburgh Presbytery a waiver of the minutes reading obligation for 2019 minutes.

4. 2020 Minutes Readings

The Ecclesiastical Committee will schedule the reading of congregational minutes for 2020 as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so, likely during the fall of 2021.

5. Sale of Former Forest Grove Community Presbyterian Church Property

The property of the former Forest Grove Community Presbyterian Church sold on September 8, 2020, for a net after closing costs of approximately \$224,000 to be deposited in the closed churches fund. This particular property had been a drain on the fund with several costly repairs during the five years that the presbytery had been responsible for its upkeep. The summary report of the Administrative Commission follows.

6. 2019 Presbytery Minutes Review

The 2019 Minutes of Pittsburgh Presbytery were examined at the Synod of the Trinity Records Review Conference held via Zoom on April 29, 2020, and they were approved with one exception: the absence of a report from the Committee on Representation.

7. 2019 Statistics

As of December 31, 2019, Pittsburgh Presbytery had 130 chartered congregations, 308 minister members, and a total of 23,778 congregants. The 2019 statistical report is attached hereto.

8. New Clerk of Session Training

The Ecclesiastical Committee has scheduled New Clerk of Session Training to be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, February 6, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

9. New Edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised

Section G-3.0105 of the *Book of Order* specifies that meetings of councils "shall be conducted in accordance with the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* except when it is in contradiction to this Constitution." As of August 28, 2020, the new 12th Edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* is our governing parliamentary authority. The 12th Edition is available at www.amazon.com, including in Kindle format, and the popular *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised in Brief* is available in a new edition as well. Spiral-bound and other versions may be purchased from the National Association of Parliamentarians via their on-line store at www.parliamentarians.org.

10. No Proposed Book of Order Amendments from 224th General Assembly

The 224th General Assembly was conducted as a Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic and did not propose any amendments to the *Book of Order* to be voted on by presbyteries. All substantive overtures were referred to the 225th General Assembly to be held in 2022.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Stated Clerk recommends the following items be approved by consent: **#s 2, 3, 4.**

***2. Dismissal of Investigating Committee**

The Investigative Committee empaneled in the matter DM2019-02 has completed its work and the Stated Clerk recommends that it be dismissed with thanks. The members of the Investigating Committee are:

Ruling Elder Mary Jo Buffo
Rev. Jane Esterline
Rev. Trent Hancock
Ruling Elder Mark Roth
Rev. Jeff Tindall

In the communication of the decision that no charges should be filed to the Stated Clerk, the Investigating Committee included the following:

[T]he Investigating Committee recommends that Pittsburgh Presbytery adopt new policies requiring periodic boundary training for member pastors of the presbytery, and recommends that churches continue to update their safe child policies based on the boundary training. The committee can assist in providing links to such training carried out by other presbyteries.

The Stated Clerk has transmitted this recommendation to the Commission on Ministry which has taken the matter under advisement.

***3. Dissolution of Upper Room Presbyterian Church**

After consulting with the congregation and seeking the guidance of the New Worshipping Communities Commission, under whose guidance the congregation was launched, the session of the Upper Room Presbyterian Church requested that Pittsburgh Presbytery

dissolve the congregation. The church held its final worship service on February 23, 2020. As the congregation's ecclesiastical and legal affairs were concluded by the session with assistance from the New Worshipping Communities Commission, the Stated Clerk has determined that an administrative commission is not necessary and asks that the congregation be dissolved by presbytery as of September 24, 2020.

***4. Dismissal of Forest Grove Administrative Commission**

As reported above, the Forest Grove Administrative Commission completed the sale of the property on September 8, 2020, after more than five years of effort. The members of the Administrative Commission are:

Ruling Elder Scott Davis
Ruling Elder Peter Pross
Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby
Rev. Susan Rothenberg
Ruling Elder Louise Schoppe

The Stated Clerk requests that the Administrative Commission be dismissed with thanks.

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
FOREST GROVE COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
September 10, 2020

The congregation of the Forest Grove Community Presbyterian Church, 20 Williams Dr., Coraopolis, PA held its final worship service on May 31, 2015, after a congregational vote to dissolve. On May 7, 2015, the Moderator of the Pittsburgh Presbytery, acting on behalf of a request from the session of the Forest Grove Community Presbyterian Church, appointed an Administrative Commission to assist the church officers and members in the physical, business, and ecclesiastical aspects of closing the church. This appointment was reported to the Pittsburgh Presbytery at its Stated Meeting on May 14, 2015. The Moderator appointed the following individuals to the Administrative Commission:

Mr. Scott Davis, Ruling Elder, Union Presbyterian Church of Robinson Twp.
Mr. Peter Pross, Esq., Ruling Elder, Mosaic Community Church
Rev. Larry Ruby, Hiland Presbyterian Church
Rev. Susan Rothenberg, Emsworth United Presbyterian Church
Ms. Louise Schoppe, Ruling Elder, KenMawr United Presbyterian Church

The Commission met for the first time on June 4, 2015, at which time Ruling Elder Clare Louise Schoppe was elected as its chair. The Commission agreed that their initial mandate was to explore any and all possible uses for the church including, but not limited to a new worshipping community, a retreat center, senior center, etc. Each of the commission members connected with various resources over the course of the next year, meeting in person and connecting via email. None of the proposed uses solidified into a working plan. It was therefore concluded that the church property would need to be sold and the Commission requested an appraisal through Nicklas King McConahy, Real Estate Appraisers and Consultants, Cranberry Township. The Commission also retained Mr. Derek Myers to list the property.

There was interest in the property from several existing religious organizations, but they were unable to secure funding. Also, several land developers showed interest in the property (6.5 acres). However, the township zoning ordinance, R-2, stipulated that the property could only be used as a residence, a church, or a funeral home. The commission worked for an extended time with a buyer who wanted to open a daycare. A large portion of the building had been the location of a very successful preschool for many years but the zoning board would not change the R-2 status and the offer was withdrawn. This seemed to be the major stumbling block and one which limited the potential usage of the property.

The Commission decided in September 2019 that it would secure the services of a new realtor. Commission member Scott Davis recommended Cowden Creek Realty and its

agent Mr. Jason Menni. The change brought renewed interest to the property and several offers which were also subject to the zoning ordinance. On March 17, 2020, the Administrative Commission signed a contract with a buyer who planned to use the building as a residence and the sanctuary as a music studio. There were several extensions to the original agreement with a final closing scheduled for August 31, 2020. On the evening of August 30th, the buyer backed out of the agreement. Fortunately, the realtor had an interested party as a back-up and within a week, sale of the property was finalized.

A closing on the property was held on September 8, 2020, at Pennsylvania Land Title in Robinson Township. The listed buyer is The John Bundy, Jr. Irrevocable Trust (trustees StaceyJ. Barcia and Michelle R. Marino). In addition to the buyers, C. Louise Schoppe, Realtor Jason Menni and the settlement agent were present. At the conclusion of the closing, Elder Schoppe, on behalf of the Pittsburgh Presbytery received a check in the amount of \$224,142.96.

Many of the physical furnishings of the church were donated to other churches including the communion table, the pulpit, office furniture, communion ware, and many preschool items. The Administrative Commission also held an open house for friends of Forest Grove to come and take final items which were left in the building. Donations were accepted for the Hunger Fund and forwarded to the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

The Forest Grove Community Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission has concluded its work as of September 8, 2020. I would request that the Commission be dissolved as of that date with gratitude for its service.

Regards,

Clare Louise Schoppe, Chair

2019 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	24844	Adjusted membership		24748
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Gains

Certificate	212
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Youth Professions	198
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Professions & Reaffirmations	506
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Total Gains	916
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Total Ending Active Members	23778
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Losses

Certificate	178
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Deaths	457
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Deleted for any Other Reason	1251
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Total Losses	1886
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Baptisms

Presented by Others	287
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At Confirmation	13
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All Other	47
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Average Weekly Worship Attendance		10408
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Female Members		14272
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Friends of the Congregation		3165
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Ruling Elders on Session		1139
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Do you have Deacons? Yes / No		92 / 26
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Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under	2860
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26 - 40	4456
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41 - 55	4299
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56 - 70	5614
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Over 70	5654
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Total Age Distribution	22883
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People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment		631
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Sight impairment		234
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Mobility impairment		727
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Other impairment		970
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Christian Education

Birth - 3	507
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Age 4	377
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Kindergarten	343
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Grade 1	308
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Grade 2	284
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Grade 3	314
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Grade 4	329
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Grade 5	314
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Grade 6	252
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Grade 7		228
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Grade 8		231
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Grade 9		230
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Grade 10		210
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Grade 11		214
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Grade 12		207
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Young Adults		513
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Over 25		2869
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Teachers/Officers		1190
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Total Christian Education		8920
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Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian	233
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Black/African American/African	882
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Middle Eastern/North African	30
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Hispanic/Latino-a	58
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Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous		9
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White		19825
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Multiracial		534
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Total Racial Ethnic		21571
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Financial Data

Annual Income	41,056,401
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Annual Expenses	39,536,900
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Mission Expenses		3,288,113
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Personnel Expenses		22,570,842
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Facilities Expenses		8,480,346
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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

To Pittsburgh Presbytery
April 22, 2020

The commission met at 4:00 PM on April 22, 2020, via video conference; a quorum was present.

Items for Information & Report

- 1. Session Visits** The commission reports a visit with the following congregation to discuss the role of the session in the preparation for ministry process:

 - Mosaic Community Church: conducted on Monday, March 2

- 2. Pre-Care Consultations** The commission reports Pre-Care Consultations were conducted with the following Applicants:

 - Newell, Amy (Hoboken Presbyterian Church): conducted via video conference on Tuesday, April 7
 - Pross, Peter (Mosaic Community Church): conducted via video conference on Wednesday

- 3. Enrolled as Inquirers** The commission reports the following Applicants were examined and approved to be enrolled as Inquirers:

Newell, Amy Amy Newell, a member of Hoboken Presbyterian Church since 2007, graduated from Duquesne University in 1996 and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Pross, Peter Peter Pross, a member of Mosaic Community Church since 2018, graduated from East Carolina University in 1973 (BS), the University of Richmond in 1978 (MA), and the University of Richmond in 1982 (JD) and will be pursuing Commissioned Pastor training.

- 4. Certified Ready to Receive a Call & Circulation of PIF** The commission reports the following Candidates were examined and approved to be Certified Ready to receive a call and approved to circulate their Personal Information Form:

 - Ashley, Ashley
 - Riker, Cassandra

- 5. Annual Consultations** The commission reports Annual Consultations were reviewed and the following Inquirers (I) / Commissioned Pastor Inquirers (CPI) / Candidates (C) were approved to continue under the care of Pittsburgh Presbytery:

 - Dauer, Jason (I): conducted on Monday, February 10

- Riker, Cassandra (C): conducted on Thursday, February 13

6. Ordination Examinations

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

- Ashley, Brendan: Reformed Theology and Worship & Sacraments
- Doege, Caryn: Church Polity and Worship & Sacraments
- Grubbs, Amanda: Worship & Sacraments

7. Sermons Heard

The commission reports sermons were heard from the following Candidates:

- Ball, Michael: Sunday, March 15, at First United Presbyterian Church, Tarentum
- Riker, Cassandra: Sunday, March 29, online at Hampton United Presbyterian Church

8. Withdrawal from Process

The commission reports the following person withdrew from the care process of Pittsburgh Presbytery:

- Richardson-Eckes, Anthony

Items for Action: None

Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report to Pittsburgh Presbytery

June 24, 2020

Regular Meeting of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2020, via Zoom video conference. A quorum was present.

Items for Information

1. Session Visits

The commission reports a visit with the following congregation to discuss the role of the session in the preparation for ministry process:

East Liberty Presbyterian Church – conducted on 6/16/20

Parkwood United Presbyterian Church – conducted on 6/16/20

2. Pre-Care Consultations

The commission reports Pre-Care Consultations were conducted with the following Applicant(s):

Morley, Sonya-Marie (East Liberty Presbyterian Church) – conducted on 6/18/2020

3. Annual Consultations

The commission reports Annual Consultations were reviewed and the following Inquirers (I) / Commissioned Pastor Inquirers (CPI) / Candidates (C) were approved to continue under the care of Pittsburgh Presbytery:

Ashly, Brendan (C) - conducted on Saturday, May 23

Bird, Darrah (I) - conducted on Thursday, June 11

Doege, Caryn (I) - conducted on Wednesday, June 10

Emrick, Kristen (I) - conducted on Wednesday, June 10

Quinn, William (I) - conducted on Wednesday, May 6

4. Enrolled as Inquirers

The commission reports the following Applicant(s) were examined and approved to be enrolled as Inquirer:

MORLEY Sonya-Marie Morley, a member of East Liberty Presbyterian Church since April 2005, graduated from The George Washington University in 1998 and expects to graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2020.

5. Received as Candidates

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

DOEGE Caryn Doege, a member of Sewickley Presbyterian Church since May 2016, graduated from Saint Francis University in 2011 and expects to graduate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2021. Caryn became Enrolled as an Inquirer in April 2019.

EMRICK Kristen Emrick, a member of Unity Presbyterian Church since May 2015, graduated from Allegheny Community College in 2015, from the American Public University in 2018, and is currently a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Divinity. Kristen became Enrolled as an Inquirer in January 2019.

6. Ordination Examinations

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

Grubbs, Amanda – Worship & Sacraments

8. Sermons Heard

The commission reports sermons were heard from the following Candidates:

Riker, Cassandra – 3/20/20, online at Hampton United Presbyterian Church

9. Withdrawal from Process

The commission reports the following person withdrew from the care process of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

Seif, Paul

10. Removal from Process

The commission reports the removal of the following person from the care process of Pittsburgh Presbytery:

Simonson, Jo-Ann

11. Readers for Ordination Exams

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

Teaching Elders:	Carolyn Cranston, Brian Wallace, Gavin Walton
Ruling Elders:	Bob Lindeman, Gary Molinaro, Kaye Wentling
Alternate:	Amanda Wade

Items for Action

None

**Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report to Pittsburgh Presbytery
September 2, 2020**

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Commission on Preparation for Ministry met in a regular meeting on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, via Zoom video conference. The meeting was called to order and opening prayer was led by Chair Rev. Bob Walkup.

Items for Information

1. Pre-Care Consultations

The commission reports Pre-Care Consultations were conducted with the following Applicant(s):

Wellstead, Victoria (Shadyside Presbyterian Church) conducted virtually on August 19, 2020.

Connolly, Andrew (Korean United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh) conducted virtually on August 31, 2020.

2. Enrolled as Inquirers

The commission reports the following Applicant(s) were examined and approved to be enrolled at Inquirer:

CONNOLLY Andrew Connolly has been a member of Korean United Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh since 2019, graduated from the University of Valley Forge in 2017, and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

WELLSTEAD Victoria Wellstead has been a member of Shadyside Presbyterian Church since 2016, graduated from Wellesley College in 1981, Tulane Law School in 1991, and is currently enrolled at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

3. Received as Candidates

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

ANGELI Erin Angeli is a member of Riverview United Presbyterian Church since 2019, graduated from Northern Michigan University in 2011, and from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2018. Erin is being received from Mackinac Presbytery. She was received on September 2, 2020.

QUINN William Quinn is a member of Covenant-Community Presbyterian Church since 2016, graduated from Penn State University in 1983, and graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2020. William became enrolled as an Inquirer in September 2018.

4. Annual Consultations

The commission reports Annual Consultations were reviewed and the following Inquirers (I) / Commissioned Pastor Inquirer (CPI) / Candidates (C) were approved to continue under the care of Pittsburgh Presbytery:

Morley, Sonya-Marie (I) - Annual Consultation conducted on 7/15/20

5. Ordination Examinations

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

Quinn, William – Biblical Exegesis, Worship & Sacraments, Church Polity, and Theological Competence

Emrick, Kristen - Biblical Exegesis

Ashley, Brendan - Biblical Exegesis and Worship & Sacraments

Items for Action

1. Consent Motion

The Commission on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the following item be approved by consent: **# 3**.

2. Approval of Candidates for Ordination

The commission recommends the following Candidates be approved for ordination (biographical sketch, call statement, and Statement of Faith included in packet materials):

VINAY Kevin Vinay, a member of Homestead United Presbyterian Church since 2000, graduated from Geneva College in 2002, and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2016. If the way be clear, Kevin will serve as Associate Pastor at Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church.

***3. Appointments of Commissions for Ordination**

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

VINAY If the way be clear, Kevin will serve as Associate Pastor at Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church. His service of Ordination & Installation is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 4, 2020, with the following commissioners: The Moderator or their designee, Rev. Charissa Howe, Rev. Thomas Ribar, Rev. Joshua Fisher, Elder Karen Wellman (Homestead United Presbyterian Church) and Elder David Lindberg (Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church).

Dear Friends-

Last September, CPM utilized a new format for what had historically been called “Oral Parts of Trial.” Based on feedback we’ve received from various members of the Presbytery and further discussion within CPM, at this meeting, we’ll be using an approach that varies from both of the previous formats.

1. Introduction - The chair and/or representatives of CPM will introduce the person being examined and recommended for ordination.
2. Endorsement - An individual (or individuals), selected by the candidate and CPM, who knows the individual will speak to the candidate’s fitness and readiness for ordained ministry.
3. Brief Biography and Statement of Faith - The candidate will then briefly introduce themselves, share their faith journey and sense of call, and then read their faith statement.
4. The moderator will then ask the candidate to briefly expand on a section of their statement of faith.
5. The moderator will then ask if there are any further questions from the body. Commissioners’ questions must relate to the candidate’s statement of faith, forms of service, or sense of call. Questions beyond this scope will be ruled out of order.
6. The entire process, from introduction to the end, will be docketed for 25 minutes in total length.

In Christ,
Rev. Brian Wallace
Associate Minister / CPM Staff Liaison

CPM Oral Parts of Trial Procedure & Introduction

Name

Kevin Vinay

Brief biographical sketch (300 words or less)

I grew up in Munhall, PA. I was the youngest of three boys, and our family faithfully attended a local Methodist Church. My mom was an active leader in the church, so I was very involved in church life from a young age. In high school, a good friend invited me to a Laurelville weekend retreat, an evangelistic event led by the Pittsburgh Youth Network (now the Pittsburgh Kids Foundation). That weekend had a tremendous impact on my relationship with Christ. As I look back, it also began my journey into vocational ministry. I began college with a major in filmmaking, but after sensing a direct call to ministry during my sophomore year I pursued a degree in Student Ministry at Geneva College.

During my first seven years of post-college ministry, I served as the Director of Student Ministries at the First Presbyterian Church of Waynesburg. These were wonderful, formative years for me personally and vocationally. The Lord provided me with strong mentors in the faith. My wife, Lindsay, and I got married and had our first of three sons. Yet, my desire to attend seminary and our desire to live closer to family brought us back to the Pittsburgh area.

I began serving at Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church as the Assistant Director of Student Ministries, which afforded me time to complete courses at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Through various leadership shifts that occurred within the church, I became the Director of Student Ministries as well as the Director of Communications. As I explored my personal sense of call to pastoral ministry, my wife and I believe we have been led by God to serve this particular church family and its surrounding communities long-term.

Briefly describe your sense of call to ordained ministry and to the position to which you are being ordained (300 words or less)

Since high school, I have sensed God's call into vocational ministry. In recent years, have had many more occasions to serve members of the church who are older than my typical audience in the Student Ministry and Children Ministry spheres. Over the past five years, there has been a growing desire to pursue more of this kind of ministry in the future. Without prompting, various mentors and individuals encouraged me to consider pastoral ministry. So, I entered the ordination process as an "inquirer" (this term was particularly appropriate for me), asking the Lord to guide my steps. This process served to confirm God's call to full-time pastoral ministry.

Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church is a strong Gospel-centered church led by a Gospel-centered pastor and program staff. This is incredibly significant to me. Moreover, I believe this church has the potential to grow even stronger in its Gospel-centered conviction and mission in the future. This energizes me as a leader who desires to see God glorified, Christ exulted, and the people of God excited to fulfill their calling as a church. Having served here for ten years, I am very familiar with the responsibilities of the Associate Pastor. I feel personally, vocationally, and spiritually equipped to perform those tasks with excellence.

My family and I have embedded ourselves in this location and have built strong relationships with church family and community members. I look forward to continuing the good work of discipleship, holistic ministry to families, the expansion of a missional identity, pastoral care, and evangelism to a fast-growing community.

This particular church family is primed to glorify God by making a significant Kingdom impact locally, regionally, and internationally. Through this ordination process, it seems that the Lord has called me to be

part of a pastoral team that provides authentic leadership, godly wisdom, faithful courage, and biblical hope to that end.



1 I believe Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.
2 Jesus is Lord, the eternal Son of God made flesh. Jesus is Savior, whose body was broken and whose blood was
3 shed as the fullest expression of God's love. His atoning sacrifice provides forgiveness of sin and satisfies the
4 wrath of God. Jesus is Lord, whose reconciling work on the cross was confirmed upon his resurrection. Jesus is
5 Savior, who provides assurance for eternal life to all who believe in him. Jesus is Lord, who ascended into
6 heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father, victorious over the powers of darkness. Jesus is Savior, who
7 will return in glory to rescue those eagerly waiting for him.
8 I believe in God the Father, Almighty, whom Jesus most fully reveals and to whom Jesus reconciles those who
9 believe in him. He is the creator of heaven and earth, sovereign over all creation and worthy of all glory, honor,
10 and praise. He is compassionate, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in love. He is the eternal Father of his
11 begotten Son, sharing one divine nature with the Son. He is the Father of those who, through the indwelling of
12 the Holy Spirit by faith, are adopted as his children and made co-heirs with Christ by grace.
13 I believe in the Holy Spirit: eternal God, giver of life, and immanent presence of God who shares the divine
14 nature with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit empowers the children of God to believe in Jesus: convicting
15 them of sin, comforting them with the gospel, sanctifying them from strength to strength, and unifying them for
16 the sake of the Church and the world at-large. The Spirit resides within those who believe, sanctifying them and
17 guaranteeing their eternal inheritance to the praise of God's glory.
18 I believe the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.
19 I believe that human beings are created in the image of God. As God's image bearers, men and women are called
20 to cultivate the earth, glorifying God in relationship with him and one another. Humanity's rejection of God,
21 however, maligns the image of God within us. Depravity distorts humanity's identity and purpose, replacing our
22 devotion to God's glory with the craving to glorify created things. The punishment for sin is death.
23 I believe that God, who is rich in mercy, despite humanity's rejection of him, sent his Son, Jesus Christ, into the
24 world to die on behalf of sinful people. Whoever believes in Jesus will not be eternally separated from God, but
25 will have eternal life with him. This is the immeasurable gift of God: those who believe are saved by grace.
26 I believe the Church is the body of Christ comprised of those who believe in Jesus. It is one, holy, universal,
27 apostolic Church. One: unified by one Spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of
28 all. Holy: set apart by God for the unique service of Jesus Christ in the world. Universal: comprised of all who
29 trust in the promises of Christ- past, present, and future. Apostolic: built upon the testimony of eye-witnesses to
30 the risen Lord.
31 I believe that all who follow Christ, as the Church, are called to proclaim the gospel. Central to the context of
32 Christian worship, the faithful preaching of the Scriptures- the inspired Word of God- routinely declares the
33 glorious nature and gracious work of God and calls people to faithfully respond. All Scripture is God-breathed,
34 written by humans illuminated by the Holy Spirit, making it the authoritative revelation of truth for the Church. I
35 believe the Church must strive toward a faithful interpretation of the Scriptures, beginning with Scripture's own
36 consistent, harmonious interpretation of itself and proceeding through a historical, Reformed tradition.
37 I believe that the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper experientially testify to the gospel and serve the
38 Church as external signs of inward realities.
39 In Baptism, an individual is united with Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. It is a sign of the new
40 covenant established by Jesus, the purification from sin, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the incorporation of an
41 individual into Christ's Church. The baptismal water reminds God's children of his power, justice, and mercy
42 revealed throughout redemptive history. Baptism signals the immersion of an individual, and the individual's
43 community of faith, into the reality of God- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
44 At the table of the Lord's Supper, the Church is united with Christ and one another as they celebrate the new
45 covenant established by Jesus through his atoning sacrifice on the cross. Christ, himself, hosts the sacrament,
46 welcoming anyone seeking communion with him. This sacrament offers assurance for Christ's presence with his
47 people now, and hope for life with him for eternity.
48 I believe in eternal life. Christ will return, the dead will be physically raised, God's final judgment will be
49 declared, and the Church Triumphant will live completely satisfied, in union with Christ forever, in the new
50 heaven and new earth.

(843 words)

General Assembly Commissioner Reports

Being a Commissioner for Pittsburgh Presbytery to the 224th General Assembly of the PCUSA turned out differently than I thought it would be. I was not expecting to participate in a virtual assembly from a chair in my living room. One advantage of participating from my living room is that if I wanted to get something to drink I just had only go a short distance to the kitchen and get something from the refrigerator. I am sure that no one expected a virtual assembly. I am sure that what was learned from this experience will serve the church well should there ever come a time in the future when a virtual GA will occur.

I was a little familiar with what happens at GA. I was the co-chair of the Special Needs Subcommittee of the Hospitality Committee for the 224th GA which was held in Pittsburgh in 2012.

I spent a couple of months reviewing the overtures which were on the docket for the GA. I compiled a list of questions I had on several of the overtures. I also prepared some statements I would like to make about some of the overtures should the opportunity present itself.

While in Baltimore I planned to see my brother in law and his wife, who are members of the Harundale Presbyterian Church in Glen Burnie Maryland. I also planned on reconnecting with the Rev. John Brewster who travels to the US to attend GA, Rev. Brewster is the pastor of Greenhills Parish Church in East Kilbride Scotland. I plan on traveling to Columbus Ohio for the next GA as my youngest son lives near there and if the opportunity arises to reconnect with Rev. Brewster at that time.

John Ferguson

First, let me start off by saying it was truly an honor and a blessing to be asked to serve as a Commissioner for the 224 General Assembly. I was so grateful for all the guidance and training, I received from Carla Campbell, Stated Clerk, Pittsburgh Presbytery, General Assembly training staff, and technical support. A special thank you to the Pittsburgh Presbytery for the words of encouragement, updates, mini training session, goodie box with lots of treats, and even the use of a chrome notebook on such short notice.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and unprecedented times, OGA had to change the traditional in person gathering to be streamed on the zoom platform in order to still be able to have General Assembly in 2020 and they made it happen. To me, this says a lot about the level of dedication, perseverance, and knowledge of staff.

I had never been on a zoom gathering with such a large magnitude as the 224 General Assembly and to be quite honest, I was concerned about experiencing technical difficulties. During the training sessions we were assured that we would have GA technical support and we did, so that put my mind at ease. I also experienced a computer malfunction prior to GA gathering and my local presbytery loaned me a chrome notebook so that I would have 2 devices and be properly prepared by the time the GA gathered.

On Friday, June 19th Plenary 1 was set to begin at 7:00 pm. I knew there was a lot of business to be covered and I remembered praying that I would be able to keep up. I also remembered closing my eyes, taking a deep breath and quietly saying Lord, not my will but your will be done. I was trying to get myself mentally prepared because I was serving as a Commissioner for the first time. I must admit that God answered my prayers, and I found myself feeling more comfortable as time went on.

I was also extremely impressed with the strong resilience from over 500 participants standing up for and expressing their love for God, human kind, and the church. I must also admit all the time, many discussions, voting, and the amendments, although sometimes appeared to be extremely long, was well worth it in the end. Being a first time Commissioner was definitely an eye opening and invaluable experience, and to God be the glory!

In closing, I witnessed the collective work of the body come together to make significant changes in such a short period of time. For it is times such as these that God is calling us to be the church, even if it means virtually. As for me, it was a very humbling experience and I am forever grateful for the opportunity to be an active participant. I am also convinced that I must continue to be willing to roll up my sleeves and help do the work in this part of God's vineyard. Lastly, I can honestly say for this to have been the first time the GA was held virtually, the technical support staff, co-moderators, Stated Clerk, and all persons involved in the 2020 virtual General Assembly need to be commended for such a smooth transition and exemplary job!

Peace and Blessings,

Dawn Harvin

General Assembly Commissioner Report – Rev. Scott D. Hill

It was a long-awaited privilege to serve as a commissioner to the 224th GA on behalf of Pittsburgh Presbytery. The reality was not at all the experience I had been expecting over these years. It was, of course, a historic and (we hope) unique experience of being the Body of Christ.

I once made a list of my top experiences of the Holy Spirit, and there ended up being seven of them, including an experience as an observer at the 204th General Assembly in Milwaukee in 1992. Though I am sure the Holy Spirit can move through the internet, I did not have a comparable experience this year. Still, it was surprisingly moving to watch Presbyterians—some of whom I knew, some whom I knew of, and others strangers from Maine to Hawaii—log in to the opening night. It was also surprisingly meaningful and humbling to stand later that night, alone (and yet not), in our home office, to be commissioned. I am grateful for the technology that allowed us to meet and worship together, the servants of the church who very ably managed that technology, and what we were able to accomplish together for the sake of the PC(USA) and the reign of God.

As most people are aware, there was just one committee, which sorted out what business we would address and made recommendations about what we would refer to the 225th General Assembly. Those were hard decisions, based on what was most pressing, what could reasonably be debated over Zoom, and the level of fatigue we would experience. We thus missed out on an important relational piece--committee service. Instead, we had an online small-group experience a week or two before GA started. I was glad for that. We also had commissioner training at the national, Synod and Presbytery levels--all very worthwhile.

The Assembly was deeply affected by the twin pandemics of COVID-19 and systemic racism. I feel good about the ways we addressed each of them, yet I also continue to process how the business unaddressed reflects the racism within our system. We failed to find a way to adequately hear and respond to a report on Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls. We clearly affirmed that Black Lives Matter to Presbyterians and “that our country’s most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege, to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color; and that the church, through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice.” Yet this is just a new phase in a journey that will require much more soul-searching and painful learning for those of us born into white privilege. I learned, for example, that those of us who felt deeply weary and brain-dead after a few hours on Zoom (and thus reluctant to take on one more thing) have no idea how exhausting it is to be a Black Presbyterian.

The denomination is indebted to our own Mark and Rev. Carol Roth for an excellent statement on the viral pandemic, which the Assembly adopted with minor amendments. It calls us into grief, advocacy, prayer, action, discernment, and affirmations that we “we are guided both by the evidence of science and our deepest values as a people of faith.”

Another important issue for me was the status of San Francisco Theological Seminary, of which I am a proud and grateful alumnus. (Oddly, two of your commissioners, both living in Oakmont, are SFTS alums!) After a merger with the University of the Redlands, the Committee on Theological Education (COTE) seems to have acted to “demote” the seminary without consulting the Assembly. I was involved in discerning appropriate ways to remedy the situation, which were ultimately not successful, though our excellent GA co-moderators have pledged to mediate discussions, and the GA PJC has weighed in.

Your commissioners are not finished! Our term runs until 2022, and I am involved in the Synod’s coordination of continued work by commissioners to further the work of the Assembly, including unfinished or neglected business.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve!

This was my first time as a GA commissioner, and of course I would have been excited to be there in person in Baltimore. On the other hand, by attending the virtual GA, when things got slow I could pop out to the kitchen for more coffee without missing anything significant.

The virtual experience also offered me more important opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise. By virtue of being chosen to head one of the standing committees, I was named to the Committee on Business Referral. Despite its sleepy sounding name, the committee had an important job -- to set the agenda for the GA's business docket. It also became the place where commissioners could discuss the big issues on everyone's mind that were not originally going to be addressed at this streamlined GA - the pandemic and our nation's racial crisis.

As a result, my wife, Rev. Carol Divens Roth, and I had a chance to write the resolution on the church's pandemic response -- with suggestions from other committee members -- that was approved by the GA, and I had the chance to participate with other committee members in discussing the anti-racism resolution that also was passed. Establishing those relationships and being able to help craft the church's message to the world in this era made this a very meaningful GA for me.

While nothing will replace the intimacy and power of an in-person GA, I think this experiment showed that we can conduct business "decently and in order" on a virtual platform, and I would not be surprised if parts of future GAs are conducted remotely as a result.

Mark Roth

My report as Minister Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly

There are many facets of the virtual Assembly that I celebrate and am proud to have served the church in this way. I am especially proud that the General Assembly voted by an 85% majority to reaffirm the three-fold mandate of the Matthew 25 initiative. By this vote, I believe we as Presbyterians are giving a strong “YES” to an initiative that directs every congregation in the denomination to 1) dismantle structural racism, 2) eradicate systemic poverty, and to 3) build congregational vitality. I know there are many congregations in Pittsburgh presbytery that already identify as “Matthew 25 churches.” I would like to know how to support the presbytery in getting all of our congregations involved in this work-- whether formally or informally, whether on Zoom or in person, whether with baby steps or in huge strides.

I also celebrate the Assembly’s approval of the statement, “On the Church in this Moment.” I celebrate that Pittsburgh’s own Mark and Carol Roth were initial authors of the statement. Against overwhelming resistance from top administrators to introduce no “new business” during this year’s virtual Assembly, the delegates rose up to say that in order for the PC(USA) to hold any hope of being relevant in people’s lives, we must issue a statement addressing the pressing issues of our time. Our nation is hurting. The pandemic is still raging, racial injustice infects communities, and an economic crisis is plunging millions into poverty. The PC(USA) must not remain silent – and thankfully, we spoke a resounding word of hope and challenge.

As a first-time delegate to a General Assembly, I was skeptical of how well the technology could support a business meeting of over 500 participants. I have to say, on many levels, the format far exceeded my expectations. I remained engaged with every facet of the meeting from worship, to plenary session, to debate, to election of co-moderators. I celebrate how the well-orchestrated preparations resulted in well-run meeting.

I celebrate the successes of the 224th Assembly, but sadly I cannot escape the accompanying grief of all that was left undone. I wonder how we, as delegates, can hold our presbytery and our denomination accountable to pick up the pieces between now and the 225th Assembly in 2022. In particular I grieve the numerous reports on social media, in the Presbyterian *Outlook*, in a joint letter from previous moderators, all charging that the taint of systemic racism caused injury to some of our members and interfered with our ability to hear urgent cries for justice. The most scrutinized action was an Assembly decision to not allow new business brought by the Task Force on Disparities Experienced by Black Woman and Girls. The Assembly had earlier voted to refer the report of this Task Force to the 2022 General Assembly. It is true that myriad reports were referred to the 2022 Assembly, but it is the injustice toward Black woman and girls that most stirred controversy. In the days and weeks following the Assembly, many have called for an examination of white privilege, power, and preference for Robert’s Rules of Order over truth-telling and acts of justice.

I am reporting on what happened this past June, but as I understand it, commissioners are not relieved of their duties until the next General Assembly in 2022. So, I am left with questions. What is my on-going role as a delegate in addressing these accusations of racism and injustice? How is Pittsburgh presbytery and the Synod of the Trinity taking a lead in addressing these charges?

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Wiens

Some Reflections on Serving as a Commissioner to the 224th General Assembly

Rather than highlight some of the actions adopted by the GA in June, I'd simply like to share an impression or two of that important week and a half. I was certainly disappointed like the other delegates when I learned in April that I wouldn't be traveling to Baltimore for in-person sessions but instead camped out in front of my computer in the den of my own home. After waiting 35 years for the opportunity, I was looking forward to the chance of meeting other Presbyterians from around the country over a helping of Maryland crab cakes. However, in light of the REAL sacrifices OTHERS were making during this pandemic, I realized it was really no sacrifice at all but the acknowledgment that life as we've known it would probably be very different once we emerged on the other side of this crisis.

Through a series of workshops, Carla and the staff of our Synod did a wonderful job helping us to understand and navigate the computerized voting process we'd each be employing throughout the plenary meetings. I was especially surprised one Saturday to answer my door and discover in front of it a small box containing various goodies, gizmos, and gadgets inside- compliments of Sheldon and Carla. A note inside explained how it was meant to compensate for the absence of the usual GA dinner hosted by the Presbytery Exec but believe me, nothing could make up for the cancellation of my much-anticipated crab cake dinner. However, their thoughtfulness was much appreciated all the same!

Little did I realize that my beloved seminary—San Francisco Theological Seminary—would become a major issue throughout the convention. The Dean of SFTS, Dr. Jana Childers, asked if Scott Hill and I could help the seminary advance its case before the whole GA which we gladly agreed to. She explained to me the brouhaha currently between the school and the Commission on Theological Education (COTE) which would be recommending that SFTS no longer have GA privileges as it had entered into a merger with a non-sectarian institution (University of the Redlands) without the denomination's permission. Because the assets and resources of the seminary would become the property of the university after five years, COTE felt that its legacy as a Presbyterian institution would eventually disappear. Therefore, without recognition by the GA, the school would be barred from celebrating the Lord's Supper or serving as an educational arm of the denomination. This would severely hinder its ability to recruit students or solicit donations from Presbyterian churches. Dr. Childers wanted to explain on the floor the history of the seminary's strained relationship with COTE as well as answer why it had entered into such a relationship with a secular institution like the University of Redlands in the first place.

Therefore, in the weeks leading up to the GA, Scott and I were involved in a series of strategy meetings with Jana and others regarding the seminary's efforts to get her seated so as to receive the privilege of the floor. Since it was made clear from the outset that no major decisions would be made until the next GA in two years time, our efforts employing Roberts Rules of Order ultimately proved fruitless. Steps were taken by certain individuals to ensure that she would not be seated, which meant that for the first time in her 150-year existence, SFTS would have no representation at any GA and would effectively sever her ties to the Presbyterian Church USA. However, before the Friday plenary session, representatives of the school did manage to secure a meeting with both newly-installed co-moderators to explain their case. Afterwards, Dr. Childers and the others were promised that as soon as possible once the assembly had concluded, our new moderators would try to settle the disagreement, even offering to bring a mediator if need be.

Let me conclude by saying that I am convinced that there can be no real substitute for the experience of persons being individually present at a GA. Virtual conventions such as we were forced to hold may serve as a convenient measure but the discussions and debate that take place between persons when they are forced to stand and face one another are much more vibrant and invite greater participation from the whole. I was grateful for the opportunity and I will continue to feel for the next two years (during which I shall continue to serve as a commissioner) the weight of being one of 450 other commissioners who are charged with making responsible and prayerful decisions which will affect EVERY Presbyterian church in EVERY corner of our nation.

Rev. David K. Wood, Ph.D., Pittsburgh Presbytery

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
TO PRESBYTERY
May 14, 2020 Meeting**

The committee met via Zoom on April 28, 2020. 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. If the position is for pastor or associate pastor, listing here indicates that the Ministry Information Form has been filed with Louisville and the church is receiving PIF's:

Pastor	Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church, Tarentum
Pastor	Clinton United Presbyterian Church, Clinton
Pastor	Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville
Pastor	Jefferson United Presbyterian Church, Jefferson Hills
Pastor	Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Pastor	Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Pastor	Waverly Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Pastor	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper St. Clair
Associate Pastor	Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Associate Pastor	Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church, Pleasant Hills
Part Time Temporary Pastor (26-28 hrs.)	Bellevue United Presbyterian Church, Bellevue
Part Time Temporary Pastor (16-18 hrs.)	First Presbyterian Church, Castle Shannon
Part Time Temporary Pastor (8-10 hrs.)	Grand View UP Church, Pittsburgh
Part Time Temporary Pastor (16-18 hrs.)	Noblestown UP Church, Oakdale

2. Completion of Temporary Contracts

The completion of the contract between the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram and the **Rev. Bonnie Taylor** effective November 1, 2019.

The completion of the contract between the Liberty Presbyterian Church and the **Rev. Debbie Smith** effective May 24, 2020.

Part II

Due to the cancellation of the stated meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery previously scheduled for May 14, 2020 necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Commission on Ministry voted to act on behalf of the presbytery pursuant to Article 9, Section 4 of the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery to approve the following action items:

1. Moderators

The appointment of the **Rev. Stephen Hodges** as moderator of the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church effective April 1, 2020.

The appointment of **Nancy Stanny** as moderator of the Valley Presbyterian Church effective April 1, 2020.

2. Temporary Pastors

The request of the Chartiers Valley United Presbyterian Church for renewal of the services of **Rev. Alina Kanaski** as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020.

The request of the East Liberty Presbyterian Church for renewal of the services of **Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan** as Temporary Associate Pastor for 8 months effective Jan. 1, 2020.

The request of the Waverly Presbyterian Church for renewal of the services of **Rev. Jane Duffield** as Interim Pastor for six months effective February 15, 2020.

The request of the Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church for renewal of the services of **Rev. Tim Sweigart** as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020.

The request of the Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. William Little** as Temporary Pastor effective June 1 – September 13, 2020.

3. Letters of Dissolution

The request of the Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of **Rev. William Little** effective May 31, 2020.

The request of the Open Door Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of **Rev. BJ Woodworth** effective June 12, 2020.

4. Letters of Dismissal

The request of the **Rev. Michelle Wahila** to be dismissed to the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, effective May 14, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Conrad Sharps** to be dismissed to the Presbytery of St. Augustine effective May 14, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Dorothea Ghering-Burick** to be dismissed to Shenango Presbytery effective September 17, 2019.

The request of the **Rev. Bonnie Taylor** to be dismissed to Beaver Butler Presbytery effective March 24, 2020.

5. Members At-Large

The request of the **Rev. Bonnie Taylor** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective November 1, 2019.

The request of the **Rev. Laura Bentley** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective May 31, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Debbie Smith** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective May 24, 2020.

6. Calls

The call of the Mt. Pleasant United Presbyterian Church for the services of the **Rev. Stephen Hodges** as Pastor effective April 1, 2020. Annual terms of call are: Salary \$33,000 and Housing \$22,000; Full Board of Pensions Plan, Expense Allowance \$1,000; Automobile Allowance \$1,000; Medical Deductible 2%; Study Leave \$2,000; Social Security Offset \$4,207.50; Dental Insurance; 4weeks vacation; 2weeks study leave.

Data	Women				Ethnic/Minorities				Disabled				TOT
	PIF	INT	POS	REF	PIF	INT	POS	REF	PIF	INT	POS	REF	
Mt. Pleasant	102	3	0	0									229

PIF – Number of Personal Information Forms received

INT – Number interviewed

REF – Number refused position

POS – Number offered position

TOT – All PIFs considered

7. Commissioned Pastor

The request of Oakdale United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of **Elder Nancy Stanny as** Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2019 and authorized to perform the following functions at Oakdale Church:

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

The request of Oakdale United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract of **Elder Nancy Stanny as** Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020 and authorized to perform the following functions at Oakdale Church:

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

The request of Valley Presbyterian Church for the services of **Elder Nancy Stanny as Commissioned Pastor** from April 16 through December 31, 2020 and authorized to perform the following functions at Oakdale Church:

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

8. Laboring Outside Our Bounds

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

9. Honorable Retirement

The request of the **Rev. William Little** for honorable retirement effective June 1, 2020.

19. New Worshipping Communities Commission

The completion of the contract between the New Worshipping Communities Commission and Rev. Laura Bentley as Organizing Pastor of Sanctuary Missional Fellowship as of May 31, 2020.

<p style="text-align: center;">Pastors That Have Entered The Church Triumphant</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Rev. Dr. John MacLeod February 26, 2020</p>

**REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY
TO PRESBYTERY
June 9, 2020 Meeting**

The Commission met via Zoom on June 9, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. 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. If the position is for pastor or associate pastor, listing here indicates that the Ministry Information Form has been filed with Louisville and the church is receiving PIF's:

Pastor	Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bridgeville
Pastor	Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church, Tarentum
Pastor	Clinton United Presbyterian Church, Clinton
Pastor	Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville
Pastor	Jefferson United Presbyterian Church, Jefferson Hills
Pastor	Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Pastor	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper St. Clair
Associate Pastor	Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Part Time Temporary Pastor (26-28 hrs.)	Bellevue United Presbyterian Church, Bellevue
Part Time Temporary Pastor (16-18 hrs.)	First Presbyterian Church, Castle Shannon
Part Time Temporary Pastor (8-10 hrs.)	Grand View UP Church, Pittsburgh
Part Time Temporary Pastor (8-10 hrs.)	Mosaic Community Church, Pittsburgh
Part Time Temporary Pastor (16-18 hrs.)	Noblestown UP Church, Oakdale

2. Completion of Temporary Contracts

The completion of the contract between the Westminster Presbyterian Church and the **Rev. Jason Freyer** effective August 7, 2020.

Part II

The Commission on Ministry voted to act on behalf of the presbytery pursuant to Article 9, Section 4 of the Manual of Pittsburgh Presbytery to approve the following action items:

1. Moderators

The appointment of the **Rev. Kyle Erickson** as moderator of Third Presbyterian Church effective August 17, 2020.

2. Temporary Pastors

The request of the Hillcrest United Presbyterian Church for the renewal of the contract for services of **Rev. Dr. Jack Lolla** as Temporary Pastor for one-year effective October 1, 2020.

3. Letters of Reception

The Rev. Stephen Hodges from the Presbytery of the James effective April 1, 2020.

The Rev. Kyle Erickson from the Tropical Florida Presbytery effective August 17, 2020.

4. Letters of Dismissal

The request of the **Rev. Calvin C. Wilson** to be dismissed to the Presbytery of Northern New England, effective March 25, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Dr. David Antonson** to be dismissed to the Sacramento Presbytery, effective April 23, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Angel De La Cruz** to be dismissed to the Kiskiminetas Presbytery, effective May 24, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Jason Freyer** to be dismissed to the Washington Presbytery, effective August 1, 2020.

5 Letters of Dissolution

The request of the First Presbyterian Church, Edgewood to dissolve the call of **Rev. Michael Rucker** effective June 30, 2020.

6. Members At-Large

The request of the **Rev. BJ Woodworth** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective June 15, 2020.

7. Calls

The call of the Third Presbyterian Church for the services of the **Rev. Kyle Erickson** as Pastor effective August 17, 2020. Annual terms of call are: Salary \$56,500.00 and housing \$36,000.00; Full Board of Pensions Plan, Expense Allowance \$2,000.00; Medical Deductible 2%; Study Leave \$ 2,000.00; Social Security Offset \$7,076.25; Moving Costs \$11,577.00; four weeks vacation and two weeks study leave.

Data	Women				Ethnic/Minorities				Disabled				TOT
	PIF	INT	POS	REF	PIF	INT	POS	REF	PIF	INT	POS	REF	
Third	96	6	0	0	35	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	309

PIF – Number of Personal Information Forms received

INT – Number interviewed

REF – Number refused position

POS – Number offered position

TOT– All PIFs considered

8. Commissioned Pastors

The request of Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of **Elder Bob Henry** as Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2020 and authorized to perform the following functions at Bull Creek:

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

9. Honorable Retirement

The request of the **Rev. Carol Divens Roth** for honorable retirement effective April 1, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Michael Rucker** for honorable retirement effective July 1, 2020.

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

September 15, 2020 Meeting

The committee met via Zoom on September 15, 2020. 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. If the position is for pastor or associate pastor, listing here indicates that the Ministry Information Form has been filed with Louisville and the church is receiving PIF's:

Pastor	Bethany Presbyterian Church, Bridgeville
Pastor	Bull Creek United Presbyterian Church, Tarentum
Pastor	Clinton United Presbyterian Church, Clinton
Pastor	Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville
Pastor	Shadyside Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Pastor	Westminster Presbyterian Church, Upper St. Clair
Associate Pastor	Hebron United Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh
Full Time Temporary Pastor (Part Time negotiable)	McKeesport Presbyterian Church
Part Time Temporary Pastor (26-28 hrs.)	Bellevue United Presbyterian Church, Bellevue
Part Time Temporary Pastor (24-27 hrs.)	First Presbyterian Church, Edgewood
Part Time Temporary Pastor (16-18 hrs.)	First Presbyterian Church, Castle Shannon
Part Time Temporary Pastor (8-10 hrs.)	Grand View UP Church, Pittsburgh
Part Time Temporary Pastor (8-10 hrs.)	Mosaic Community PC, Pittsburgh

2. Completion of Temporary Contracts

The completion of the contract between the **Rev. Jane Duffield** and Waverly United Presbyterian Church effective July 31, 2020.

The completion of the contract between the **Rev. John Porter** and Third Presbyterian Church effective July 31, 2020.

The completion of the contract between the **Rev. Al Stuart** and Universal United Presbyterian Church effective July 31, 2020.

The completion of the contract between the **Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby** and Jefferson United Presbyterian Church effective August 31, 2020.

The completion of the contract between the **Rev. Sarah Robbins** and Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville, effective September 30, 2020.

The completion of the contract between the **Rev. Bill Little** and Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church effective September 13, 2020.

Part II - Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Commission recommends that the following recommendations be adopted by consent: #’s **2,3,4,5,6,7,9,10,11,12.**

*2. Moderators

The appointment of the **Rev. Caitlin Werth** as moderator of the Waverly Presbyterian Church effective August 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Nicole Atkinson** as moderator of the First Presbyterian Church Gibsonia effective September 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Kristin Widrich** as moderator of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Jessica McClure Archer** as moderator of the McKeesport Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Sharon Stewart** as moderator of the Liberty Presbyterian Church effective September 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Cheryl Khylllep** as moderator of the First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood effective September 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Jane Esterline** as moderator of the Cross Roads Presbyterian Church, Monroeville effective October 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Dr. William Youmans** as moderator of the Oakdale United Presbyterian Church effective September 15, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby** as moderator of Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church effective October 1, 2020.

The appointment of the **Rev. Page Creach** as moderator of the Noblestown United Presbyterian Church effective January 1, 2021.

*3. Temporary Pastors

The request of the Noblestown United Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Page Creach** as Covenant Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2021.

The request of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Sharon Stewart** as Covenant Pastor for one-year effective September 1, 2020.

The request of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Dr. Kristin Widrich** as Covenant Pastor for one-year effective September 1, 2020.

The request of the Mt. Vernon Community Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Dr. Larry Ruby** as Interim Pastor for one-year effective October 1, 2020.

***4. Letters of Dissolution**

The request of the First Presbyterian Church Gibsonia to dissolve the call of **Rev. Darcy Hawk** effective August 31, 2020.

The request of the McKeesport Presbyterian Church to dissolve the call of **Rev. James Leuenberger** effective August 31, 2020.

***5. Members At-Large**

The request of the **Rev. Al Stuart** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective August 1, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. Sarah Robbins** to be enrolled as a member at large of Pittsburgh Presbytery effective October 1, 2020.

***6. Dismissals**

The request of the **Rev. Darcy Hawk** to be dismissed to Lehigh Presbytery effective June 3, 2020.

***7. Calls**

The call of the Waverly Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. Caitlin Werth** as Pastor effective August 1, 2020. Annual terms of call are Salary \$50,000.00; Housing \$5,000.00; Full Pension Plan; Medical Expense \$1,100.00, Social Security Offset \$4,207.50; Continuing Education \$2,000.00; Expense Allowance \$2,000.00; 4 weeks vacation and 2 weeks study leave.

The call of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church for the services **Kevin Vinay** as Associate Pastor, if the way be clear, effective September 1, 2020. Annual terms of call are Salary \$56,750.00; Full Pension Plan; Medical Expense \$1,135, Expense Allowance \$2,000.00 Social Security Offset \$4,341.00; Continuing Education \$2,000.00; 4 weeks vacation and 2 weeks study leave.

Data	Women				Ethnic/Minorities				Disabled				TOT
	PIF	INT	POS	REF	PIF	INT	POS	REF	PIF	INT	POS	REF	
Waverly	25	2	1	0	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	51
Pleasant Hills	0	1	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	22

PIF – Number of Personal Information Forms received

INT – Number interviewed

REF – Number refused position

POS – Number offered position

TOT – All PIFs considered

8. Call Requiring $\frac{3}{4}$ Vote of Presbytery

The call of the Open Door Presbyterian Church for the services of **Rev. John Creasy** as Co-Pastor effective June 1, 2020. Annual terms of call are Salary \$40,610.00; Housing \$19,468.00; Full Pension Plan; Medical Expense \$1,202, Social Security Offset \$4,244.00; Continuing Education \$3,100.00; Dental \$1,680.00; Cell Phone \$600; 5 weeks vacation and 3 weeks study leave.

***9. Administrative Commissions to Install**

The election of the following ministers and elders of Pittsburgh Presbytery to serve as an Administrative Commission to install the **Rev. Caitlin Werth** as Pastor of Waverly Presbyterian Church on September 27, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom and the service livestreamed to Facebook. **The first named minister after the moderator to be clerk of the commission.** Moderator Rev. Charissa Howe or her designee to moderate. Ministers Rev. Dr. Ronald Peters, Rev. Jeff Eddings and Rev. Ayana Teter; Elders Susan Matthews, Riverview Presbyterian Church, Richard St. John, Community House Presbyterian Church and Gwen Vargas, Waverly Presbyterian Church.

***10. Commission to Moderate Sessions and Congregational Meetings**

Commission on Ministry recommends the commissioning of **Elder Ralph Lowe** to moderate sessions and congregational meetings as necessary, in order to be able to do his work fully.

***11. Commissioned Pastors**

The request of Forest Avenue Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of **Elder Louise Schoppe** as Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective October 1, 2020 and authorized to perform the following functions at Forest Avenue:

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

The request of Valley Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of **Elder Nancy Stanny** as Commissioned Pastor for one-year effective January 1, 2021 and authorized to perform the following functions at Valley:

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

***12. Honorable Retirement**

The request of the **Rev. Mary Lynn Callahan** for honorable retirement effective September 1, 2020.

The request of the **Rev. James Leuenberger** for honorable retirement effective August 31, 2020.

Committee on Nominations

Report to Presbytery
September 2020

The Standing Committee on Nominations is nominating the following persons to fill the position in the unexpired terms shown to be elected at today’s meeting:

Standing Committees/Commissions:

Executive Committee

Elder Nancy Bunce, Sewickley (2022A) – West

Commission on Ministry

Elder Pat Kelly, Northmont (2022A) - North

Elder Anita Perry, Riverview (2022A) - North

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

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

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The Standing Committee on Nominations is **nominating Rev. Rebecca Depoe, Mt. Nebo United and Glenshaw Valley Presbyterian Churches for Senior Vice-Moderator in 2020**. Nominations from the floor shall be in order at the September meeting provided the nominator has affirmed the nominee's willingness to serve if elected. Self-nominations shall not be permitted. There shall be no additional nominations for Senior Vice-Moderator at the December meeting at which time the election shall be held.

The Standing Committee on Nominations is announcing the following nominations for election at the December meeting. Nominations from the floor shall be in order for all of the Standing Committees of Presbytery at the September meeting provided the nominator has affirmed the nominee’s willingness to serve if elected.

Standing Committees/Commissions:

Executive Committee

The Rev. Jane Esterline, Plum Creek (2023B) – East

The Rev. Erin Davenport, PTS (2023A) – East

The Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock, Glenshaw (2023A) – North

The Rev. Emily Cooper, Covenant-Community (2023A) – West

Elder Darlene Rushing, Hot Metal (2023B) – South

Elder Bob Brown, Southminster (2023A) -South

Commission on Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Don Dawson, HR (2023B) – North

The Rev. Tara Thompson, Southminster (2023B) – South

Elder Hill Jordan, Valley View (2023B) - East

Elder Judy Shipley, First, Pittsburgh (2023A) – South

Commission on Preparation for Ministry

The Rev. Patrice Fowler-Searcy, East Liberty (2023B) – East
The Rev. Aaron Teter, All Saints CFW (2023A) – East
The Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Mt. Nebo (2023B) – West
Elder Tom Cox, Hot Metal Bridge (2023A) - South

Foundation

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

Synod Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)

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

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The Committee on Nominations is grateful to all who have submitted names of interested ministers and 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.