

Presbytery Meeting Summary January 23, 2016

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 23, 2015 in the **Center Presbyterian Church, Beaver**, where **Rev. William Mumaw** serves as Pastor. Our Moderator, **Teaching Elder Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen**, and Vice Moderator, **Ruling Elder Tom McMeekin**, presided over the meeting. **Teaching Elder Carol Lambert** of our host church welcomed the presbyters.

The Presbytery held its **annual memorial service**, commemorating those ruling elders, deacons, ministers and trustees of the Presbytery who died during 2015. Our Moderator read First Corinthians 2:1-5 and delivered a message encouraging the presbyters to “be amazed” throughout this year at what God is doing in our midst, and to celebrate and give thanks because God is “the real deal.” The service also included the installation of Ruling Elder Tom McMeekin as Vice Moderator.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
 - ✓ Approved the Minutes of the November 17, 2015 stated Presbytery meeting.
 - ✓ Approved the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
 - ✓ Approved the Treasurer’s Report for January-November 2015.
 - ✓ Approved the Report of the Coordinating Team in the form of Minutes.
- Agreed to **dismiss the Mill Creek U.P. Church, Hookstown** to another Reformed Body. Terms of the settlement had previously been agreed upon by the Mill Creek congregation.
- Ratified the following actions taken on December 2, 2015 by the Committee on Ministry on behalf of the Presbytery:
 - ✓ Approved a **waiver of rotation** for one year for one ruling elder at the **North Washington church**.
 - ✓ **Dismissed Rev. Albert “Rusty” Stuart** to **Pittsburgh Presbytery**, where he has received a call.
 - ✓ Appointed **Rev. Kathy Horstman** as **Moderator** of the **First church, Freedom**.
 - ✓ Approved **renewal** of **Rev. Jordan Rimmer** as **Temporary Pastor** of the **Westminster church, New Brighton**.
 - ✓ Approved **renewal** of **Rev. Dennis Burnett** as **Interim Pastor** of the **New Sewickley church, Rochester**.
 - ✓ Appointed **Rev. James Campbell** as **Moderator** of **The Hill church, Butler**, effective January 1, 2016.
- Approved the following recommendations of the Committee on Ministry:
 - ✓ Approved a **waiver of rotation** for three years for one ruling elder at the **Union church, Clintonville**.
 - ✓ Approved a **waiver of rotation** for two ruling elders for the **Clinton church, Saxonburg**, in part for continuity of leadership in a time of transition.
 - ✓ **Renewed Rev. Beth Wierman** as **Stated Supply** (30 hours/week) of the **First church, Monaca**.
 - ✓ **Renewed Jeff Marquis** as **Commissioned Ruling Elder** for the **New Salem church, Midland** (20 hours/week).

- ✓ Approved **formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee** at the **Mars U.P. church**.
- ✓ Approved **Rev. Doug Turner** as **Stated Supply** (part-time) of the **Highland church, Slippery Rock**, effective upon a new contract and an abbreviated course on polity.
- ✓ Granted the **Mill Creek U.P. church, Hookstown, permission to fulfill their pastoral needs**, with **Rev. Allison Bauer remaining as Moderator** until the church is dismissed to another Reformed Body.
- Approved a **Mission and Ministry Budget for 2016**. Even with restoration of the compensation of the Resource Center Director and Youth Leadership Coordinator to their 2015 levels, the 2016 budget is still significantly reduced due to insufficient mission funding by the churches of the Presbytery.
- Agreed to **concur with 11 overtures** to this summer's General Assembly arising from other Presbyteries. Of these:
 - ✓ Nine overtures from Foothills Presbytery propose various reforms in how the General Assembly meetings go about their work and decision-making as a body.
 - ✓ An overture from Great Rivers Presbytery proposing that Teaching Elders may also be called Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.
 - ✓ An overture from Kiskiminetas Presbytery proposes to restore to the Book of Order the former definition of marriage as between one man and one woman.
- Approved **revisions** to the Presbytery's *Procedure for Nominating and Electing GA Commissioners and YAAD*.
- **Thanked the people of the Center church, Slippery Rock**, for hosting this meeting. Our hosts provided a lunch featuring "loaded" baked potatoes.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- **Rev. Betty Angelini**, Executive Director of **Camp Crestfield**, invited the presbyters into more partnership with Crestfield. For example: (1) A variety of retreats are available for youth, women, and other groups in **Crestfield's modern retreat facilities**. (2) Crestfield is prepared to **work with churches on VBS's** that would include a day at the camp.
- Our **Executive Presbyter, Rev. Alan Adams**, made a substantial PowerPoint **presentation on the "State of the Presbytery" as of the end of 2015**. He detailed statistics regarding the Presbytery's membership, finances, number of churches, and pastoral leadership, and the focus of four groups established by the Coordinating Team to plan and move the Presbytery into the future. (The presentation PowerPoint or text is available through the Presbytery office upon request.)
- The presbyters shared together in **Communion**. Our Moderator, **Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen**, presided at the Lord's Table.
- A total of 92 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 1:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, **March 29, 2016** at the **Jefferson Center church, Saxonburg**, where **Rev. Jonathan West** is Pastor.