

Presbytery Meeting Summary March 29, 2016

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 in the **Jefferson Center Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg**, where **Rev. Jonathan West** serves as Pastor. Our Moderator, **Teaching Elder Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen**, and Vice Moderator, **Ruling Elder Tom McMeekin**, presided over the meeting. **Ruling Elder Sally Pavlina** of our host church welcomed the presbyters.

For the opening worship/reflection time, **Ruling Elder Tom McMeekin** brought an apple tree from his greenhouse business and connected it with John 15:1-11 on “The Vine and the Branches.”

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
 - ✓ Approved the Minutes of the January 23, 2016 stated Presbytery meeting.
 - ✓ Approved the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
 - ✓ Approved the Treasurer’s Report for January-December 2015.
 - ✓ Approved the Report of the Coordinating Team in the form of Minutes.
- Received from **Executive Presbyter Alan Adams** a first reading of the proposed new **Committee and Unit Structure for the Presbytery**, and learned that there will be gatherings to discuss it and ask question on the following dates and places:
 - Monday, April 18th at 7:00 p.m. West Sunbury Presbyterian Church
 - Thursday, April 21st at 7:00 p.m. Westminster Presbyterian Church (Evans City)
 - Thursday, April 28th at 1:00 p.m. Presbytery Office in Zelienople
 - Thursday, April 28th at 7:00 p.m. Vanport Presbyterian Church
- Agreed to **dissolve the Fountain Park Presbyterian Church** at the end of worship on April 3rd.
- Agreed to the following recommendations from the Committee on Ministry:
 - ✓ To transfer **Rev. Tony Catullo to Redstone Presbytery**, where he has accepted an interim pastor position at the Pleasant View Church of Smock, PA.
 - ✓ To grant **First Church, Midland** a **waiver of rotation** for three ruling elders for three years.
 - ✓ To transfer **Rev. Rebecca Mihm** to the **Presbytery of West Virginia** to accept the call of Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, West Virginia.
 - ✓ To **grant Ruling Elder Tom McMeekin**, Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, **authority to administer the Lord’s Supper** for the next two years.
 - ✓ To **authorize Rev. Harper Brady** (a member of the EPC) **to administer the sacraments at the Mill Creek Church, Hookstown**, given the facts that the church is being dismissed by the Presbytery, and that this Interim is known to us. However, this is not setting a precedent.

- ✓ To **dissolve the pastoral relationship** between the **Westminster Saxonburg** and **Rev. Deborah Huffmyer**, effective March 7, 2016.
- ✓ To appoint **Rev. Jonathan West** as **moderator** of the **Westminster Church, Saxonburg**, effective March 7, 2016.
- ✓ To approve a contract for **Interim Pastor** services between **Rev. Deborah Huffmyer** and the **North Branch Church**, effective March 8, 2016.
- ✓ To transfer **Rev. John Dickey (H.R.)** to **Pittsburgh Presbytery**.
- ✓ To extend the **interim pastoral contract** between **Rev. Dan Callahan** and the Steffin Hill Church, to October 15, 2016.
- ✓ To extend **Rev. Jim Steiner's interim contract** with the **Concord and North Washington churches**, to expire June 14, 2016.
- ✓ To approve **Rev. Jordan Rimmer's** third year of **seminary debt assistance**.
- ✓ To approve a six-month contract for part-time **pastoral services** between the **Ambridge UP Church** and **Rev. Beth Wierman**.
- ✓ To appoint **Rev. Dave Byers** as **moderator** of the **Mill Creek Church**, effective April 4, 2016.
- ✓ To appoint **Rev. Jim Kirk** as **moderator** of the **Clinton Church, Saxonburg**, effective March 7, 2016.
- ✓ To **dissolve the pastoral relationship** between **Rev. Allison Bauer** and the **Frankfort Church, Frankfort Springs**, effective April 3, 2016; and to **transfer her membership to Scioto Valley Presbytery**, when the way is clear, so she may accept a call to the Second Church, Portsmouth, Ohio.
- ✓ To appoint **Rev. Randall Clow** as **moderator** of the **Frankfort Church**, effective April 3, 2016.
- ✓ To **grant Rev. Lee Bittner the status of Honorably Retired**, effective March 29, 2016.
- ✓ To appoint **Rev. Alan Adams** as **moderator** of the **Mt. Pleasant Church, Darlington**, effective March 7, 2016.
- ✓ To appoint **Rev. Mark Boyd** as **moderator** of the **First Church, Rochester**, effective March 29, 2016.
- **Concurred with an Overture** to this summer's 222nd General Assembly from the **Presbytery of Flint River** titled, *On removing the Divestment Mandate by the 221st General Assembly Regarding Caterpillar, Inc. Motorola Solutions and Hewlett-Packard*.
- Approved an application from the Cranberry Community U.P. Church to **refinance a loan of almost \$1.2 million with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program**. This refinancing will reduce the church's monthly mortgage payment by about \$900/month, and avoid a large balloon payment.
- Approved a **grant of \$45,000** for the **Refreshing Springs Ministry Task Force**, from the funds from departed churches.

- Examined and approved **Rev. Douglas Dorsey**, a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery, for **membership in Beaver-Butler Presbytery** pending congregational action to call him to serve as **Pastor of the Saxonburg Memorial Church, Saxonburg**. (*Since then the congregation has voted to call him. Rev. Dorsey will start May 15th.*)
- Approved the 2016 pastoral **Terms of Call** that have been received.
- Elected **Ruling Elder Ron Carter** (a member of the Plains Church) to serve on the **Congregational Leadership and Development Unit**, Class of 2017.
- **Thanked the people of the Jefferson Center church, Saxonburg**, for hosting this meeting, including providing an array of refreshments.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- **Rev. Joe Tagliaferre**, Interim Director of the **Camping Association of the Presbyteries of Northwestern PA**, reported that the Camping Association is in financial distress but will offer 5 to 6 weeks of summer programming at both **Camp Lambec** and **Westminster Highlands**. **Camp brochures** were distributed, and are now available. Specific needs of the Camping Association are: (1) financial support, (2) hands and feet for camp repair/maintenance projects, and (3) prayer support.
- **Grants** are available for churches and participants for **mission trips**. Details, including grant guidelines, are on the Presbytery's website.
- To encourage participation in the denomination-wide initiative, *Educate a Child, Transform the World*, the Presbytery's Peacemaking Committee is offering each congregation a **minimum grant of \$100** (from past Peacemaking Offerings) to support educational ministries. Apply by letter or email to the Presbytery office, indicating what your church is doing and the amount requested.
- **Rev. Doug Portz**, our **Regional Representative** from the **Board of Pensions**, provided a thorough briefing. Among other topics: (1) He outlined the basic plan for **flexible benefits for non-installed pastors and lay employees** that is planned effective January 2017. (2) He is available to assist pastors with the planning and process toward retirement. Rev. Portz works out of an office in Pittsburgh.
- The presbyters shared together in **Communion**. Our host pastor, **Rev. Jonathan West**, presided at the Lord's Table.
- A total of 112 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 9:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday, **May 24, 2016** at the **Westminster church, Evans City**, where **Rev. Tom Harmon** is Pastor.