

## Presbytery Meeting Summary March 20, 2018

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 in the **First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls**, where **Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger** is serving as Interim Pastor. Our Moderator, **Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon**, and Vice Moderator, **Elder Michelle Shepler**, presided over the meeting. **Elder Andrew Why**, Clerk of Session of our host church, welcomed the presbyters.

### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
  - ✓ Approved the Minutes of the January 27, 2018 stated Presbytery meeting.
  - ✓ Received the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
  - ✓ Received the Treasurer's Reports for January 2018 and for all of 2017.
  - ✓ Received the Report of the Coordinating Team in the form of Minutes.
- Heard a substantial report on the work of the Transition Team which is **planning for after Rev. Alan Adams retires** from serving as our Executive Presbyter at the end of July. The Team is exploring options that are consistent with the interests expressed in a survey taken at a Presbytery meeting two years ago, such as having a part-time EP, sharing an EP with another presbytery, future cooperative efforts, and/or merging with another presbytery. The Team has had conversations with the EP of Washington Presbytery and with a leadership team of Shenango Presbytery. Another conversation with Shenango's leaders will soon take place. If it appears this exploratory process needs to extend beyond July, the Team will recommend a plan for providing provisional executive leadership for our presbytery.
- **Concurred** with two Overtures being submitted by other presbyteries to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly which meets in June:
  - ✓ From **Carlisle Presbytery**, an Overture titled *America's Interfaith Context and the Church's Challenge*. While affirming Christian and Presbyterian beliefs, this Overture calls upon the PC(USA) to acknowledge that we live in a religiously-diverse nation; to remember that we are called to love all our neighbors, including those of other faiths; to condemn all religiously inspired and motivated violence, prejudice, discrimination and hate speech – especially anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim language and behavior; and to reaffirm positions taken by our Church over the past three decades calling for better understanding of Jewish and Islamic faiths and for interfaith conversations and partnerships at presbytery/regional and community levels.
  - ✓ From the **Presbytery of Philadelphia**, an Overture titled *For the Protection of the Children of Israel and Palestine*. This Overture states that “we do not view this new overture as breaking any particular new ground. Rather, it intends to keep the fact of violence against [Israeli and Palestinian] children in the public discourse, this time using the practices of Hamas as the example.” The Overture calls upon the Church to take steps to condemn the militarization of children, production of literature that dehumanizes either Israeli or Palestinian children, and attempts to “cleanse” the historical narrative of the Palestinian and the Jewish people; to stop supporting those entities that continue to put children in harm's way; and to support efforts to bridge divides through programs that bring Israeli and Palestinian children to study and grow together.

- Returned to consideration of a **proposed overture** to the General Assembly rising from the Session of the **Park Presbyterian Church, Beaver**, regarding ***Condemning anti-Semitism and Islamophobia***. The Presbytery **declined** to approve the proposed overture, having a sense that its core concerns are addressed in the overtures with which the Presbytery had just concurred.
- Debated at length, then **postponed until the May 22<sup>nd</sup>** Presbytery meeting, a recommendation from the Coordinating Team that the **Saxonburg Memorial Church** be granted permission to begin the PRT (**Presbytery Response Team Process**), based on a previous congregational vote.
- **Thanked the pastor and people of the First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls**, for hosting this meeting.

**OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:**

- Checks totaling \$12,000 in **grants** from the **Capital Access Program (CAP)** were presented to elder commissioners representing the **Buffalo/Sarver, Mt. Pleasant/Darlington, Friendship/Slippery Rock, New Salem, Midland, Faith U.P./Butler and Hill U.P./Butler churches**. CAP grants from the Presbytery provide half of the cost, up to \$2,000, for approved project applications. The Presbytery will grant a maximum of \$30,000 of its funds per year for three years. A total of \$28,575 has now been granted for the first grant year. New applications will be considered for the second year funds.
- Music for the times of worship and other appropriate times throughout the meeting was provided by Christine Knab, Interim Pianist, and Russ Couch, trumpeter.
- The presbyters shared together in **Communion**, served by intinction. **Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger** and **Rev. Dr. Gary Angleberger** presided at the Lord's Table.
- A total of 118 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 9:25 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, May 22, 2018** at the **New Sewickley Presbyterian Church, Rochester**, where **Rev. Dennis Burnett** serves as stated supply pastor.