

*“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Happy New Year! What a year we've come through. As I reflect on a year gone by, I think of the many ways we have grown in faithfulness and capability. Likewise, I wonder what new season Christ is calling Beaver-Butler to as we journey forward.

A year ago, Alan Adams was our Executive Presbyter. Our Transition Team was only beginning to consider reaching out to other presbyteries with overtures of shared ministry. Likewise, David Oyler was still the Executive Presbyter of one presbytery.

We made our plans. Many did not work out the way we thought they would. With God's help, many others did. In faithfulness, we continue to equip congregations, share stories of mission and ministry, and discern God's direction for new possibilities in our future together. I hope by looking through our rearview mirror that you and I can see a glimpse of God's leading.

As we move forward, I am pleased to share that Randall Clow has answered the call to serve as your next Moderator. Randall is leaving his long-term role as the chairperson of the Coordinating Team. He has led this presbytery through countless moments of decision-making, legal actions, and attention to caring for presbytery resources. Along with Vice Moderator, Bill Mumaw, the presbytery's gatherings are in capable hands of leadership.

As we journey forward in faithfulness, the coming months bring a new season of discernment. At our meeting, you will receive a final report from the Transition Team who will provide a pathway toward considering a merger with Shenango Presbytery. While this was not their first anticipated outcome, leading the presbytery to this point is a new place of opportunity.

Beaver-Butler will begin our upcoming year in prayerful consideration of whether we sense that moving toward a merger is by God's will. To help assist our discernment, the Coordinating Team is appointing a "Dream Team," who along with a consultant and matching group from Shenango Presbytery, will provide hopeful gatherings for questions and conversation.

Lastly, this will be my final letter as Moderator. I am grateful to have received your call of leadership. I am hopeful for our continued flourishing in mission and ministry together. I continue to pray for us all as we serve Christ, the many parts of one body.

With Friendship and Affection,

Tom