

Presbytery Meeting Summary March 28, 2023 Stated Meeting

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held its stated meeting at 6:00 P.M. Tuesday, March 28, 2023, using a Hybrid format, in-person and via Zoom. Moderator was Elder Carolyn Paulsen, Vice-Moderator Rev. Jamie Fowler; the meeting was hosted by Park Presbyterian Church, Beaver, where the Rev. Todd Allen serves as Pastor.

OPENING WORSHIP:

The Presbyters welcomed – and received the Word from – the Rev. Dr. Michael R. Wilson, Stated Clerk, Synod of the Trinity. Dr. Wilson brought greetings from the almost 900 churches in the other 15 presbyteries, consisting of nearly 120,000 brothers and sisters in Christ. He read from Ephesians 4, where the Apostle Paul begs us to “...*lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.*” Dr. Wilson spoke to those gathered about “thriving in ministry.” If we are to thrive, we must walk together, and receive God’s grand & glorious vision of ministry.

ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PRESBYTERY:

- *Received* the Coordinating Team Minutes, February 1, 2023
- *Approved* the Presbytery Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2023
- *Received* the Stated Clerk Report, January – February 2023
- *Received* the Treasurer’s Report, Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss, January 2023
- *Received* the DRAFT Mission Statement, for possible approval, May 2023
- *Received* the Ministers’ 2023 Terms of Call
- *Examined and approved* Caroline Baker (Calvin, Zelienople) to move from Inquirer to Candidate Phase for Ordination
- *Authorized* the Coordinating Team to enter into a contract to sell the property of the former Calvary Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls

THE PRESBYTERY CONGRATULATED AND HONORED BARB PAFF – Secretary to the Executive Presbyter, Officers, Committees, and Units; and Office Coordinator – for *twenty years* of faithful service and ministry to the Presbytery.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM THE COORDINATING TEAM:

- Covenant, Butler is under contract to sell its church building, with a May 31 closing date.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM MINISTRY & VOCATION:

- Granted a waiver of rotation to First, Midland for three Elders/Trustees for three years
- Granted a waiver of rotation to First, Darlington for one Elder
- Appointed Rev. Mark Davis, Kiskiminetas Presbytery, as Moderator for North & East Butler, permitting him to labor within our bounds
- Appointed Rev. Dr. Larry Maley as Moderator for North Sewickley, Ellwood City

FROM THE STATED CLERK, REV. RANDALL CLOW:

- The 2022 Financial Review was completed, but the Auditors’ report was delayed; it is now available for examination.
- He reminded the Clerks of the upcoming Session Minutes Review dates and locations
- The 2023 Elder / Minister Parity Review received.

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER REPORT:

Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon reflected on the tragic events of the past days, but offered words of encouragement and thanks to the “Easter People” who continue to reach out and serve in churches and the community. Easter people share hope in the darkness. Easter people look to the light. Easter people know that not even death ends it all. We are Easter people, and Easter people give hope to a broken world.

CAMPING ASSOCIATION OF THE PRESBYTERIES OF NW PA:

Rev. Dennis Molnar, Summer Camp Director, Camp Lambec, and Transitional Director, Camping Association of the Presbyteries of Northwest Pennsylvania, brought greetings from Camp Lambec, celebrating 75 years of ministry this year. Dennis highlighted the various camps and special events coming up. Interested parties are encouraged to contact the Camp or Rev. Molnar.

COLLABORATION, FELLOWSHIP & YOUTH MINISTRY:

Rev. Leigh Benish referred the Presbyters to a new Grant, “**Strengthening Congregational Connections.**” Congregations can join forces for ministry and outreach, and receive financial support from the Presbytery. Leigh encouraged churches to join forces to apply!

SYNOD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT:

CRE Chuck Cline echoed Dr. Wilson’s comments, and highlighted the various grants and funding opportunities available from the Synod. Again, interested parties can contact the Presbytery office, or the Synod website.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 6:00 P.M, First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls, “hybrid” format – In-person and Zoom. (*Presbytery office will close early that day.*)

OTHER INFORMATION:

- There were a total of 80 participants at the meeting:
 - 31 Teaching Elders
 - 34 Ruling Elders from 28 Churches
 - 2 Corresponding Members
 - 4 Ruling Elders who are officers, CT, or Chair of a Committee or Unit
 - 9 Visitors