

## **Presbytery Meeting Summary September 26, 2023 Stated Meeting**

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held its stated meeting at 4:00 P.M. Tuesday, September 26, 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 the Trinity Presbyterian Church, Butler, where Carmen Shullo serves as Commissioned Pastor. The Sacrament of Communion was also celebrated.

### **OPENING WORSHIP:**

The Commissioners welcomed The Rt. Rev. Dr. Lt. Col. Bliss Divine K. Agbeko (Rtd.) from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. He spoke from Romans 12:4-11 – Paul compares the family of believers to various parts of the body, as well as instructions on mutual love and honor. Rev. Agbeko noted the 175-year history of the EPC Ghana, and its relationship with the PC(USA), and the Beaver-Butler and Lake Erie Presbyteries in particular. He encouraged us “...with the love of Christ to support each other.”

### **ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PRESBYTERY:**

- *Approved* the Presbytery Meeting Minutes, July 25, 2023
- *Received* the Coordinating Team Minutes, July 5, 2023
- *Received* the Stated Clerk Report, July-August 2023
- *Received* the Treasurer’s Report, Balance Sheet and Profit & Loss, July 31, 2023
- *Approved* the Sales Agreement between Park, Beaver and Columbia Gas for an easement currently leased by Columbia
- *Received* the 2024 Presbytery Meeting and Holiday Schedules
- *From Ministry & Vocation (MVC): Approved* the Union Congregation Agreement between Ambridge United PC and Zion’s First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ambridge

### **STATED CLERK:**

Rev. Randall Clow directed the Presbyters to three **Sample Templates**, provided by the Presbytery to address recent changes in our *Book of Order*. Churches are now required to have an **Anti-Racism Policy**, a **Harassment Policy**, and a **Family Medical Leave Policy**. The Templates are available on the Presbytery website.

### **MINISTRY & VOCATION:**

- The Presbyters approved a 3% increase for 2024 Terms of Call for Pastors, Certified Christian Educators, and Certified Associate Christian Educators.
- Pastors having contractual relationships with Church Sessions (as opposed to those called by Congregations) will now be called *Covenant Pastors*.
- The Presbyters approved for a First Reading a *Process to Receive New Members (Note: Previously ordained clergy wishing to become members of BBP)*

**PERSONNEL:** The Presbyters approved the 2024 Terms of Call for Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Harmon

### **MISSION & COMPASSION:**

The Presbyters welcomed International Peacemaker Amira Barham, a Palestinian Christian. Using a number of dramatic photographs and other visuals, Amira presented a powerful and thought-provoking picture of the conditions under which the Palestinian community must live (and survive).

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE – THE PRESBYTERS:**

- *Approved* the Per Capita Matching Program: Beaver-Butler Presbytery (BBP) will match (at the Church Session's request) 50 cents per dollar, up to the Church's assessed and remitted Synod and/or GA Per Capita, to be paid from BBP reserves (Deadline December 1, 2023).
- *Approved* the 2024 Per Capita Amount: \$32.00 per member (\$0.41 increase from 2023).
- *Approved* the 2024 BBP Budget (understanding that the deficit comes out of reserves).

### **CHURCH AND PASTOR ANNIVERSARIES:**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Steffin Hill – 100 years</li><li>• Highland, Slippery Rock – 175 years</li><li>• North Butler – 175 years</li></ul> <hr/> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Doug Dorsey – 25 years</li><li>• Jean Smith – 25 years</li><li>• Leigh Benish – 10 years</li><li>• Melissa Morris – 10 years</li><li>• James Salyers – 10 years</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Winship – 60 years</li><li>• Ed Heller – 50 years</li></ul>   |   |

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS FROM MINISTRY & VOCATION:**

- Approved the Transitional Pastor Team of Ruling Elder Tom McMeekin & Rev. James Steiner for Valencia.
- Appointed Rev. Lee Dryer as Moderator at Mt. Chestnut through September 30, 2023; Rev. Larry Maley will serve as their Transitional Pastor beginning October 1, 2023.
- Approved the *Ministry Discernment Profile* (MDP) for Ohio (Note: the MDP replaces the Ministry Information Form).
- Examined and Approved Elder Tim Casey as Commissioned Pastor for Mt. Pleasant.
- Approved Ruling Elder Jim Paff able to serve Communion.
- Approved a request for a waiver of rotation of one Elder for Buffalo.
- Approved a part-time Covenant Pastor contract between Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen and the White Oak Springs and Faith Congregations.

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**NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, November 14, 6:00 P.M, New Salem Presbyterian Church, Midland, “hybrid” format – In-person and Zoom. (*Presbytery office will close early that day.*)

### **ADDITIONAL DATES AND INFORMATION OF IMPORTANCE:**

- **Pastors, Elders, and Youth** are encouraged to pray about and apply to participate in the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, June 25 – July 4, Salt Lake City. Applications are on the Presbytery website.
- **Monday, October 9 – Wednesday, October 11: Wee Kirk Conference**, Laurelville. ECF is willing to help pay \$75.00 per person for attendees.

### **OTHER INFORMATION:**

- There were a total of 95 participants at the meeting:
  - 37 Teaching Elders
  - 34 Ruling Elders from 27 Churches
  - 1 Ruling Elders who are officers, CT, or Chair of a Committee or Unit
  - 23 Visitors