

Presbytery Meeting Summary January 26, 2019

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 26, 2019 in the **Trinity Presbyterian Church, Butler**, where **Commissioned Ruling Elder Carmen Shullo** serves as **Lay Pastor**. Our Moderator, **Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon**, and **Vice Moderator, Rev. Bill Mumaw**, presided over the meeting. **Elder Bill Heitzer** of our host church welcomed the presbyters and thanked the Presbytery for the prayers support and resourcing to assist the Trinity Presbyterian Church in redeveloping as a renewed community of faith.

The Presbytery held its **annual memorial service**, commemorating those elders, deacons, ministers and trustees of the Presbytery who died during 2018. The presbyters sang *For All the Saints*; our Vice Moderator read Romans 8:31-35,37-39; the names of those being memorialized were projected and read aloud, and a prayer of commemoration was offered. Special music was offered by members of the praise band of the Trinity church.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
 - ✓ Approved the Minutes of the November 13, 2018 stated Presbytery meeting.
 - ✓ Received the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
 - ✓ Received the Treasurer's Report for January-November 2018.
 - ✓ Approved the Report of the Coordinating Team in the form of Minutes.
- Received a substantial final report from the **Transition Team**, chaired by **Rev. John Porter**, who shared information about **exploration of a possible merger of the Beaver-Butler and Shenango presbyteries**. The leadership councils of both presbyteries have agreed to take the next step, which is to form a **Dream Team** to imagine and propose what such a new presbytery would seek to become, and how it would enhance serving the congregations. Dream Team members for Beaver-Butler Presbytery are: **Elders Denise Hobough and John Laudenslager**, and **Reverends Connie Dunn and Tom Harmon**. They will have guidance from a consultant and support from the leadership of the Synod of the Trinity. A **Project Manager** was appointed for each presbytery to facilitate communications, be attentive to timelines, and address the ecclesiastical/polity and legal/civil matters that would be involved. **Rev. Dennis Burnett** was appointed to this role for our presbytery. A more specific plan/proposal for merger will be submitted for the votes of both presbyteries in six months or so.
- Learned that the Ministry and Vocation Committee had previously taken the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery:
 - ✓ Granted the **Calvin** church, **Zelienople**, permission to **form a Pastor Nominating Committee**.
 - ✓ Extended the **Interim Pastor** contract between **Rev. Douglas Gebhard** and the **Calvin** church, **Zelienople** through July 6, 2019.
 - ✓ Approved the **Interim Pastor** contract between **Rev. Tom Clyde** and the **Crestview** church, **Callery**, effective January 1, 2019.
 - ✓ Approved the **Interim Pastor** contract between **Rev. Robert Goossen** and the **Park** church, **Beaver**, effective January 1, 2019.
 - ✓ Appointed **Rev. Bill Mumaw** as **Moderator** of the **West Sunbury** church, **West Sunbury**, effective December 3, 2018.

- ✓ Appointed **Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen** as **Moderator** of the **Faith** church, **Butler**, effective December 3, 2018.
 - ✓ Appointed **Rev. Nathan Loudon** as **Moderator** of the **First** church, **New Brighton**, effective January 7, 2019.
 - ✓ Extended the **Interim Pastor** agreement between **Rev. Jim Steiner** and the **Mars U.P.** church, **Mars**, through February 14, 2020.
- Learned that the part-time **Temporary Executive Presbyter** contract with **Rev. David Oylar** has been **extended** for six months, through August 5, 2019.
 - Approved the **2019 Mission Budget**.
 - Elected Mrs. **Lauren Cesnales** as **Treasurer**. (She had been functioning as interim treasurer.)
 - Were introduced to **ChrisAnn Goossen**, who was recently hired as part-time **Team Assistant** for the Presbytery office. She will have responsibilities in three areas: (1) Supporting the Resource Center, (2) Assisting with financial matters, and (3) Assisting with communications (phone, web site, etc.).
 - Approved seven out of eight **proposed amendments to the Constitution of the PC(USA)** resulting from last summer's General Assembly. Those amendments approved by a majority of the presbyteries of our denomination will soon go into effect.
 - Adopted **Guidelines for Sabbatical Leave** which were recommended by the Ministry and Vocation Committee. The guidelines are available from the Presbytery Office.
 - Elected and Installed **Rev. Randall Clow** as **Moderator of Presbytery** for the remainder of 2019.
 - Thanked our outgoing Moderator, **Rev. Tom Harmon**, for his service during a time of challenge and transition.
 - Elected **Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger** as **Chair of the Coordinating Team**, and **CRE Charles Cline** as **Synod Commissioner** (Class of 2020).
 - Thanked the pastor and people of the **Trinity** church for hosting this meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- On a snowy day the presbyters enjoyed a hot lunch featuring soup, salad, various entrées and desserts, prepared and served by the members of our host church.
- After the memorial service the presbyters were treated to special music by a quartet from the North and East Butler churches.
- The presbyters shared together in **Communion**, served by intinction. Commissioned Ruling Elder **Carmen Shullo** presided at the Lord's Table.
- A total of 107 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 2:32 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019** at the **East Butler Fire Hall**. The meeting will be **hosted by the East Butler Presbyterian Church, East Butler**, where **Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen** is Pastor.