

Presbytery Meeting Summary March 26, 2019

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the, in the **East Butler Fire Hall**. The meeting was hosted by the **East Butler Presbyterian Church**, with the assistance of the **North Butler Presbyterian Church**. **Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen** serves as Pastor for both congregations. A quartet from these two churches, **Four for Christ**, sang several times during the meeting. Our **Moderator, Rev. Randall Clow**, and **Vice Moderator, Rev. Bill Mumaw**, presided over the meeting. **Elder Greg Sasse** of our host church welcomed the presbyters.

The Presbytery honored **Agnes Peebles** for her service over many years. In the past several years she has **documented the history of the churches** that were formerly part of the Presbytery but have closed or been dismissed to other Reformed bodies. Her work will allow the Presbytery to preserve the history of those congregations.

The Presbytery's **worship time** was organized around suggestions from the Mission and Compassion Ministry Unit, including a reading of the **Great Commission** (Matthew 28:16-20), and group discussion questions regarding the congregations' and Presbytery's ways of interpreting and supporting mission.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
 - ✓ Approved the **Minutes** of the January 26, 2019 stated Presbytery meeting.
 - ✓ Received the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**, including the **2018 Presbytery Summary**, which indicated that the Presbytery ended 2018 with 79 ministers (down 3) and 63 churches (up 1).
 - ✓ Received the **Treasurer's Report** for January-December 2018 and for January 2019.
 - ✓ Approved the **Report of the Coordinating Team** in the form of Minutes.
- Received the 2019 **Diversity Report** from the Nominating and Representation Committee.
- Received the **Report of the Auditors** Cypher and Cypher for 2017 and 2016.
- Received the first report of the **Dream Team**, comprised of eight representatives of the Shenango and Beaver-Butler presbyteries. The Dream Team has met four times, resourced by Michelle Snyder a consultant from Crow's Feet. To enhance the level of trust, they are working under a covenant of confidentiality. The hope is to start creating opportunities to invite members of the presbytery to open conversations about this process. The Dream Team asked for verbal and written responses to a *Presbytery Dreamin'* questionnaire. The responses will help guide the Dream Team in imagining the presbytery of our future.
- Learned that the Ministry and Vocation Committee had previously taken the following actions on behalf of the Presbytery:
 - ✓ Approved the **Interim Pastor** contract between **Rev. Tom Clyde** and the **Crestview church, Callery** through June 30, 2019.
 - ✓ Extended the **Interim Pastor** contract between **Rev. Deborah Huffmyer** and the **North Branch church, Monaca**, at the present terms of call.
 - ✓ Renewed the **Temporary Pastoral Relationship** between the **Rev. John Silbert** and the **Covenant church, Butler**, for half-time.

- ✓ Agreed, if the way be clear, to extend the **Designated Pastor** status between **Rev. Tega Swann** and the **Refreshing Springs church, Aliquippa**, until June 30, 2019.
- ✓ Authorized **Rev. Dr. Carolyn Jones** (a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery) to **serve the Old Union church, Mars, during the sabbatical leave of Rev. Dr. Peter de Vries**. She is also authorized to moderate and administer the sacraments.
- ✓ Authorized **Commissioned Ruling Elder Mr. Tom McMeekin to perform a wedding** at the Jefferson Center Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg, in the summer of 2019.
- Elected **Elder Bob Young** (a member of the Plains church, Cranberry Twp.) to serve on the **Camping Association Board**; and **Elder John Rackley** (a member of the Park church, Beaver) to serve on the **Permanent Judicial Commission of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery**, class of 2024.
- Thanked the pastor and people of the **East Butler and North Butler** churches for hosting this meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- A total of 106 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 8:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2019** at the **Ohio U.P. Church, Aliquippa**, where **Rev. Nicholas Marlatt** is Pastor.