

## Presbytery Meeting Summary July 23, 2019

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2019 in the **Mount Chestnut Presbyterian Church, Butler**, where the **Rev. Ronald Schermerhorn** serves as Pastor. Our **Moderator, Rev. Randall Clow**, and **Vice Moderator, Rev. Bill Mumaw**, presided over the meeting. **Elder Melissa McCandless**, Clerk of Session of our host church, welcomed the presbyters.

The meeting was preceded by a choral prelude offered by **Mt. Chestnut's choir**. The Presbytery's **opening worship** was led by **Rev. Clow**. The presbyters Dwelled in the Word in small groups, sharing insights on a reading from First Peter 3:8-12. An **offering of \$577.00** to support the Mission Causes Budget was gathered while the Mt. Chestnut choir sang once again.

A Capital Access Program **grant of \$2,000.00** was presented to the elder commissioner representing the **Cranberry Community U.P. Church, Cranberry**, to assist the church in replacing its roof.

**Commissioned Ruling Elder Chuck Cline**, one of our **Commissioners to the Synod of the Trinity**, reported on a regional Synod workshop he attended about the **sharp rise in hate groups and related hate-motivated action** by groups and individuals. We need to speak up to communicate that such activity is unacceptable. Elder Cline plans to share printed resources with church leaders.

A **Moment in Remembrance** of **Rev. Dr. Paul Wierman**, who passed away on July 16, 2019, was led by Rev. Dr. Gary Angleberger.

### ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
  - ✓ Approved the **Minutes** of the May 28, 2019 stated Presbytery meeting.
  - ✓ Received the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
  - ✓ Received the **Treasurer's Report** for January-May 2019.
  - ✓ Approved the **Report of the Coordinating Team** in the form of Minutes.
- Learned that there will be **no vote on merger with Shenango Presbytery in September**. The members of the Dream Team from Shenango were not entirely satisfied with the depth of reimagining being envisioned, and ask that the process be slowed down. It is not a firm "yes" or "no" but will mean no merger vote will be taken at this time. This development will have implications for Beaver-Butler's short-term and long-term strategies, to be addressed by our Coordinating Team.
- Learned that the Coordinating Team has:
  - ✓ Extended the part-time contract with our Temporary Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. David Oyler, through July 31, 2020.
  - ✓ Approved a contract to paint the alley and rear side of the Presbytery's building in Zelienople for \$11,254.
  - ✓ Sold for \$65,000 the property of the former Knox Church, Ellwood City. After deducting accrued utilities, maintenance and other expenses, proceeds are about \$22,000 (of which half goes to Christ Church, Ellwood City, as previously agreed).
- Learned that the Ministry and Vocation Committee, acting on behalf of the Presbytery, has:
  - ✓ Granted approval for the **Mars U.P. Church**, to **form a Pastor Nominating Committee**.

- ✓ Enrolled Elder Ralph Lowe as an Inquirer effective July 1, 2019.
- ✓ Approved temporary pastoral relationships and terms of call for:
  - **Rev. Doug Gebhard** serving the **Calvin Presbyterian Church, Zelenople**, July 7, 2019 through January 6, 2020.
  - **Rev. Stephen P. Gutridge** serving the **Glade Run Presbyterian Church, Valencia**, for 12 months starting June 1, 2019.
  - **Rev. Donald Snyder** to provide part-time temporary supply services for the **North Branch Presbyterian Church, Monaca**, beginning July 1, 2019.
  - **Rev. Mark Frailey** (a member of Shenango Presbytery) serving the **Union Presbyterian Church, Clintonville**, part time; while also serving the Coolspring Presbyterian Church (Shenango Presbytery), for 6 months starting July 1, 2019.
- Granted **Rev. Lee Dreyer** the status of **Honorable Retirement**, and dissolved the pastoral relationship with the **White Oak Springs Church**, effective June 30, 2019.
- Approved the **terms of call** for **Rev. Jamie Fowler** as Pastor, **Concord Presbyterian Church, Baden**. The terms of call were not previously known because the Concord congregation acted to call Rev. Fowler on June 9<sup>th</sup> (after the Presbytery acted “if the way be clear” for her call to proceed on May 28<sup>th</sup>).
- Dismissed **Rev. Donald Aull** to **Shenango Presbytery** effective June 3, 2019.
- Appointed **Rev. Nick Marlatt** as **Moderator** for the **Refreshing Springs Mission Church**, with the help of Ruling **Elder Andrew Honess**.
- Elected Ruling **Elder Andrew Honess** (member of the Ohio U.P. Church, Aliquippa) and **Rev. Leigh Benish** (Pastor, the Hill Presbyterian Church, Butler) to serve as **Standard Ordination Exam Readers**.
- Agreed to **deploy Ruling Elder Gregg Hartung** as a Commissioned Ruling Elder to serve the **Crestview Presbyterian Church, Callery**, effective September 1, 2019, and to empower him to officiate for weddings, administer the sacraments, and after mentoring in doing so, to moderate the session after December 31, 2019.
- Recognized the **ministry of Rev. Tega Swann** with the **Refreshing Springs Mission Church, Aliquippa**. Rev. Swann is soon departing for Michigan in support of her young daughter’s higher education opportunity. A time of open prayer was offered on their behalf.
- Elected **Elder Andrew Why** (member of First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls) to serve on the **Ministry and Vocation Committee, Class of 2020**.
- Authorized the **sale** of the former **Fountain Park Presbyterian Church property**, and empowered certain officers of the Presbytery to sign documents affecting the sale.

**OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:**

- A total of 129 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 9:18 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019** at the **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sarver**. It will be co-hosted by the Clinton Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg.

*Save the Date: An event is planned for Sunday, September 29, 2019 2-5 p.m. at the Mt. Chestnut Presbyterian Church, Butler, on the topic of “the future of the church.”*