

Presbytery Meeting Summary September 24, 2019

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in the **Westminster Presbyterian Church, Sarver**, where the **Rev. Rob Swinsburg** serves as Pastor. The meeting was co-hosted by the **Clinton Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg**, where **Rev. Kelley Angleberger** serves as Pastor. Our **Moderator, Rev. Randall Clow**, and **Vice Moderator, Rev. Bill Mumaw**, presided over the meeting. **Elder Barry Blackburn** of the **Westminster/Saxonburg** church welcomed the presbyters.

The Presbytery's **opening worship** was led by **Rev. Mumaw**. The presbyters Dwelt in the Word in small groups, sharing insights on a reading from Deuteronomy 6:3-8. An **offering of \$359.00** to support the Mission Causes Budget was gathered while the **Westminster church choir** sang.

A Capital Access Program **grant of \$2,000.00** was presented to the elder commissioner representing the **Clinton Presbyterian Church, Saxonburg**, to assist the church with facilities repairs.

The following significant anniversaries were recognized:

- **Rev. Robert Mathias – 50 years** since ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament
- **Rev. Dr. James Moran – 40 years** since ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament
- **Rev. Dr. David Oyler - 40 years** since ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament
- **Calvary Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls – 150 years** since its founding

ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
 - ✓ Approved the **Minutes** of the July 23, 2019 stated Presbytery meeting.
 - ✓ Received the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
 - ✓ Received the **Treasurer's Report** for January-July 2019.
 - ✓ Approved the **Report of the Coordinating Team** in the form of Minutes.
- Learned that the Coordinating Team has:
 - ✓ **Dissolved the Dream Team**, with thanks for their expertise, diligence, discernment and hard work.
 - ✓ Acting as the Trustees of the Presbytery, authorized payment for repairing the transmission of the Ohio U.P. Church van. The Ohio church provides use of their van to the Refreshing Springs Mission Church, and it is essential for their ministry.
 - ✓ Authorized establishment of an **Investment Team** to seek higher returns on a portion of the Presbytery's financial assets.
- Learned that the Ministry and Vocation Committee, acting on behalf of the Presbytery, has appointed Moderators as follows:
 - ✓ **Calvary Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls – Rev. Dennis Burnett**
 - ✓ **Vanport Presbyterian Church, Beaver – Rev. Robert Goossen** (for Sept. and Oct.)
 - ✓ **Park Presbyterian Church, Zelenople – Rev. Dr. Peter de Vries**
 - ✓ **First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls – Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger**
- Approved maximum **funding of \$127,000 for grants and loans to churches during 2020** under the Presbytery's **Capital Access Program**. There are some changes to eligibility and terms for the grants and loans, so the program for 2020 is dubbed CAP 2.0. Churches that received grants in the past 3 years are eligible to apply again for a 2020 grant.

- Approved setting the **Presbytery's 2020 Per Capita amount at \$29.44**. This is unchanged from 2018 and 2019. Including the Synod and General Assembly apportionments, the total Per Capita for 2020 will be \$40.79.
- Approved, for its First Reading, the proposed **Combined Budget for the Presbytery (Administrative and Mission budgets) for 2020**.
- Approved an **Overture** to the 224th General Assembly proposed by **Rev. Rob Swinsburg** and the session of the **Westminster church, Saxonburg, "on establishing the authority of Presbyteries to define severance plans for installed ministers."** The overture will need concurrence from at least one other presbytery to be considered by the G.A.
- Affirmed the **Inquirer status of Mr. Ralph Lowe**, a member of the Calvin Presbyterian Church, Zelienople.
- Approved **Sonya-Marie H. Morley**, a Candidate under Care of Pittsburgh Presbytery studying at Pittsburgh Seminary, for service as **Student Pastor of the Refreshing Springs Mission Church**.
- Approved a **cost-of-living increase of 1.6 percent to Minimum Salary Package** (terms of call). This COLA increase of 1.6 percent is also *recommended* for pastors above the minimum and for all other church staff.
- Approved **receiving Rev. Jon Nelson** (a member of Winnebago Presbytery) for membership in Beaver-Butler Presbytery, if the way be clear. The way becomes clear if/when a call to him to serve as **pastor** is made by vote of the **Park Presbyterian Church, Zelienople**.
- Granted **Rev. Stephen Cort** the status of **Honorable Retirement**, effective November 1, 2019. Rev. Cort has been serving our **Prospect** and **Mount Nebo** churches.
- Elected:
 - ✓ To the **Mission and Compassion Ministry Unit: Rev. Jamie Leah Fowler** (Pastor, Concord/Baden), Class of 2021.
 - ✓ To the new **Investment Team:**
 - Ken Spencer** (New Bethlehem/Aliquippa), Class of 2020
 - Bert Robinson** (First/Beaver Falls), Class of 2021

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- The presbyters shared fellowship while enjoying a ham dinner prepared and served by members of our host churches.
- Communion was served during the closing worship time, with our host pastors presiding at the Lord's Table.
- A total of 90 persons attended the meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 8:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019** at the **New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Aliquippa**, where Rev. Randall Clow serves as Pastor.