

## **Presbytery Meeting Summary** **March 24, 2020**

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 using the Zoom on-line meeting format due to the need for social distancing caused by the COVID-19 viral epidemic. Our **Moderator, Rev. William Mumaw**, presided over the meeting while our **Vice Moderator, Elder Judy Lipsak**, performed support functions to help the meeting run smoothly.

After orienting the participants on matters of Zoom etiquette and modified procedures for an on-line meeting, **Rev. Mumaw** read Psalm 107:1-6 and offered a brief reflection about how the Lord responds to us when we “cry out” beset with the issues arising from the COVID-19 epidemic. He then offered prayer.

Due to the on-line nature of the meeting **checks for Capital Access Program grants were mailed** to the churches, rather than being presented in person.

It was noted that the Executives of the Synod of the Trinity and two sister presbyteries were on-line to observe how a Zoom presbytery meeting might be conducted.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN:**

- Agreed without objection to conduct this stated meeting using the Zoom on-line format, not provided for by the Presbytery Manual, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Agreed to the modified and simplified agenda for the meeting.
- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
  - ✓ Approved the **Minutes** of the January 25, 2020 stated Presbytery meeting.
  - ✓ Received the Report of the Stated Clerk, the **Rev. David Byers**.
  - ✓ Received the **Treasurer’s Report** for January-December 2019 and for January 2020.
  - ✓ Approved the **Report of the Coordinating Team** in the form of Minutes.
  - ✓ Approved the **2020 Terms of Call** as reported by the clerks of session.
- Received **Rev. Monica Hamilton**, Honorably Retired, (a member of West Jersey Presbytery and a former member of our Presbytery), back into our membership.
- Approved a **Wavier of Rotation** for one elder and one deacon for the **Union Presbyterian Church, Clintonville**.
- Received **Rev. Bonnie Jean Calligan Taylor** (a member of Pittsburgh Presbytery) into our presbytery’s membership; approved her service as **Stated Supply pastor for the West Sunbury church, West Sunbury and the Faith church, Butler**; appointed her as **Moderator** of these two churches, and approved her terms of call to be equally shared by these two churches.
- Learned that the Ministry and Vocation Committee, acting on behalf of the Presbytery, has:
  - ✓ Transferred the credentials of **Rev. Stephen Cort**, Honorably Retired, to the West Virginia Presbytery at his request.
  - ✓ Granted to **Mrs. Kerry Dowdy**, a student at Pittsburgh Seminary, a \$2,000 **scholarship** from the Committee’s funds.

- Agreed to **return ownership** of the **Davis Street property in Aliquippa** (consisting of 4 parcels) to the original owner, **Rev. Tega Swann**. This was based upon action by the session of the Refreshing Springs Mission Church which determined that the church no longer sees these parcels as useful for the mission and ministry of the church.
- Elected **Rev. James Steiner** to serve as **Assistant Stated Clerk**, effective May 1, 2020. (The current Assistant Clerk, Rev. Dennis Burnett, has resigned effective April 30, 2020, in order to provide for an orderly transition as he prepares to retire soon.)

**OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:**

- There were a total of 74 participants in this Zoom Presbytery meeting, which adjourned with prayer at 6:42 p.m. Registrations were received by email after the meeting.
- Appreciation was expressed to the people and pastor of the **Park Presbyterian Church, Beaver** (which had planned to host this meeting) for their understanding and support in the changes that have been forced upon us due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery is currently planned to be at **6:00 p.m.** on **Tuesday, May 26, 2020** at the **Concord Presbyterian Church, Baden**, where the **Rev. Jamie Fowler** serves as Pastor. However, due to the viral epidemic, it may become necessary to hold another Zoom meeting instead. Watch for confirmation or changes to be announced.