

# REPORTS TO BEAVER-BUTLER PRESBYTERY

Tuesday, July 28, 2020  
ZOOM Format

Presbytery Meeting Begins at 6:00 PM

Please connect to the meeting between 5:30 and 5:45 PM

Registration is via Email ([office@beaverbutler.org](mailto:office@beaverbutler.org)) or  
Telephone (724-452-7515)

## OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY

Moderator: .....	Rev. William Mumaw
Vice Moderator: .....	Elder Judy Lipsak
Coordinating Team Chair: ....	Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger
Stated Clerk: .....	Rev. David D. Byers
Treasurer: .....	Elder Lauren Cesnales
Asst. Stated Clerk: .....	Rev. James Steiner

**A GATHERING OF THE CHURCHES OF BEAVER-BUTLER PRESBYTERY**  
**July 28, 2020, 6:00 PM**  
**ZOOM Meeting**

We recognize this Zoom presbytery meeting is precipitated by unprecedented circumstances. We ask for your patience as we seek to do some basic business while unable to gather together in one place. We realize this style of meeting may have some glitches. Some ‘pointers’ to help make the meeting run more smoothly:

1. We anticipate many participants. (We have room for 100 in our Zoom contract.) We would encourage you to partner with someone to call in. For instance, a teaching and ruling elder from one church might want to meet at the church to use one computer. We don’t want to shut people out if we were to reach the maximum capacity.
2. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM. Please log in between 5:30 and 5:45 PM. It will help the flow of the meeting if we can begin at 6:00 PM.
3. We ask that everyone who will be attending the Zoom Meeting please send an email to the Presbytery Office (office@beaverbutler.org) or call the Presbytery Office indicating who will be in attendance indicating whether you are a **commissioner, visitor or corresponding member, and the church you represent.** If you fail to do so then you **will** not be counted as present.

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I. OPENING WORSHIP

II. WELCOME OF NEW ELDERS AND CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. **General Assembly Commissioners Report:** Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen and Ruling Elder Wayne “Chip” McCoy

IV. LEGAL ACTION:

- A. Acting for the Coordinating Team Moderator Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger, Ruling Elder Cindy Kennedy moves that the Presbytery concur that the Zoom Meeting format, not provided for by the Presbytery Manual, be approved given the COVID-19 Pandemic, with the understanding that all actions taken in this meeting will be ratified at the next person to person meeting of the Presbytery.

*Information: This motion is being presented to concur with the recommendations provided by the CDC and for the welfare of our Commissioners and the community at large.*

B. **OMNIBUS RECEPTIONS AND APPROVALS** (Consent Agenda)

1. The Coordinating Team recommends that the Presbytery:
  - a. Receive the Report of the Coordinating Team – (Zoom) Minutes of May 6, 2020 and June 3, 2020
  - b. Receive the Report of the Stated Clerk April 24, 2020 – June 24, 2020
  - c. Receive the Report of the Treasurer - Profit /Loss & Balance Sheet – May 2020
  - d. Approve Minutes of the previous Presbytery meeting: (Zoom) Minutes of May 26, 2020, which will be ratified at the next person to person Presbytery meeting

**C. TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER MATTERS:** Rev. Dr. David Oyler

**D. BOARD OF PENSIONS PRESENTATION:** Rev. Dr. Doug Portz, Senior Church Consultant

**E. PRAYERFUL CONSIDERATION OF PRESBYTERY MATTERS**

**Coordinating Team Consideration & Matters:** Elder Cindy Kennedy

**Finance Planning Committee** – for Information: Elder Frank Aloï  
CAP Grant Award (\$2,000): North Washington Church: Sunday School roof repair (mailed to the church)

**Task Force on Racial Reconciliation:** The Coordinating Team recommends to the Presbytery the establishment of a Task Force to address Racial Reconciliation, with Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe as Chair. The Task Force shall be nine persons in rotating classes, with emphasis on diversity and balance. Further, The Coordinating Team recommends to the Presbytery that the Task Force on Racial Reconciliation shall relate to the Presbytery through the Coordinating Team. The Task Force will work with Financial Planning regarding budgeting.

**Executive Presbyter Search Committee:** Rev. Jim Steiner

**Communication Task Force:** Rev. Ron Schermerhorn

1. Presentation from Michael Givler, Synod of the Trinity Communications Coordinator

**Policies and Procedures Task Force:** Rev. Dennis Burnett

*First Reading:* “When Churches Seek to Separate From Presbytery” (Questions and clarifications only, Second Reading and vote at September Presbytery meeting.)

**New Task Force – Technical Advisory Group:** Function of this Group will be to assist pastors and congregations to enhance their technical efforts in worship, administration, and fellowship. Peter de Vries, Allen Kitchen, Judy Lipsak, Ron Schermerhorn (others?)

**Covenantal Conversations:** Revs. Tom Harmon, Dena Roy

Break-out session, to discuss the following question:

*“What will our life together look like in three to five years if we are faithful to and faithful with our call of connectional ministry?”*

**Ministry & Vocation Committee:** Rev. Nick Marlatt

1. The Ministry & Vocation Committee recommends, if the way be clear, that Presbytery concur with the request of the Rev. Connie Frierson and the action of the Calvin Church, Zelenople, to dissolve the Associate Pastor relationship, effective July 1, 2020.

2. Approve to be Ordination Exam Readers - Minister: Rev. Stephen Gutridge, Elder: Dr. Chip Weisgerber, and Alternate: CRE Tom McMeekin.
3. Ministry & Vocation Committee provides the following for information:
  - a. Granted the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. James Steiner, effective September 1, 2020, to be recognized in September;
  - b. Granted the status of Honorably Retired to The Rev. Dr. James Moran, effective October 1, 2020, to be recognized tonight;
  - c. Rev. Dennis Burnett's retirement to be recognized tonight;
  - d. Granted permission for the Vanport Presbyterian Church, Vanport, to form a Pastor Nominating Committee

**Nominating / Representation Committee:** Elder Jim Ihlenfeld

1. Rev. Emily Miller - First Beaver Falls - Ministry & Vocation Committee - class of 2022.

**F. OLD BUSINESS**

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

**First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls:** The Coordinating Team recommends that the Presbytery concur with the request of the Congregation of First Presbytery Church, Beaver Falls acted upon at a special called meeting of the Congregation on July 26, 2020, moderated by the Rev. Emily Miller to sell the church manse located at 1125 Eighth Ave, Beaver Falls, PA 15010, Parcel 04-001-0502.000.

**H. ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER:** Moderator-Rev. William Mumaw

**Coordinating Team  
Beaver Butler Presbytery  
May 6, 2020 6:30 PM  
ZOOM  
Minutes**

The Coordinating Team met on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 in the Presbytery Center at 6:30 PM. The Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger called the meeting to order.

Present: Judy Angleberger (CT Moderator), Judy Lipsak (Presb. Vice Moderator), Ron Schermerhorn, Lee Dreyer, Dennis Burnett, Frank Aloï, Charles Cline, Bill Mumaw, Carolyn Paulsen, Keith Black, Cindy Kennedy, Chuck Cline

Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. David Oyler (Temp/Interim Executive Presbyter), David Byers (Stated Clerk)

Presbytery Treasurer: Lauren Cesnales

Excused:

Absent: James Salyers

Guest: Welcomed Jim Steiner-newly elected Assistant Stated Clerk, and Investment Team Members: Ken Spencer, Mike Freeze.

1. 1. OPENING DEVOTIONS: The Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger invited the members to *Dwelling In The Word* (1 Peter 2:1-10) allowing for responses to what was heard in the passage and prayer by the Chair of the CT.  
The New Assistant Stated Clerk, Rev. Jim Steiner, was introduced and welcomed
2. PRESBYTERY INVESTMENT TEAM  
Ruling Elders Frank Aloï (Chair/Finance Committee) and Lauren Cesnales (Treasurer) presented a comprehensive Long Term Investment Plan. (attached)  
Investment Size: \$500,000  
Risk Tolerance: Aggressive  
Exchange Traded Funds  
Recommended Firm: Charles Schwab (Cranberry Twp.)  
Implementation:  
**M/S/P** the recommendation of the Investment Team, that the Investment Team be authorized to invest \$500,000 with Charles Schwab Company at investment intervals, to be managed by the Investment Team.  
The Investment Team was thanked for their excellent and diligent work.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:  
The following Minutes were approved:  
    Coordinating Team Minutes of March 4, 2020  
    Coordinating Team (Zoom) Minutes of April 1, 2020
4. RECEPTION OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES (Zoom)  
Presbytery Meeting (Zoom) Minutes of March 24, 2020 were received and will be recommended to be approved and ratified at the next in person meeting of the Presbytery, with one addition to the election of the Assistant Stated Clerk to add that the term is for three years.

5. STATED CLERK'S REPORT:

- a. Received the written report dated 2/29/20-4/23/20
- b. Due to the pandemic, Davis Street Property will be transferred upon the opening of the Beaver County Court House and the schedules of the Ruling Elder John Rackley, Rev. Tega Swann and the Stated Clerk.
- c. Report of 2019 Presbytery Minutes: The Minutes of the Presbytery were read and approved by the Synod on April 29, 2020 with one exception: Report of Annual Review of CPLs. (This is done by MVC but is not included in the Presbytery Minutes), there were no delinquencies. Thank you to Rev. Dennis Burnett, Assistant Stated Clerk, for his excellent and diligent work in taking and preparing the Minutes.

6. REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY INTERIM EXECUTIVE: Rev. Dr. David Olyer

- a. Received the written report
- b. Refreshing Springs Mission Church: within 4 months the funding will be expended by August. The members of the church desire to remain together in ministry, but not as a "church"
  1. Keeping Sonja-Marie supported in a limited way (part-time for the Fall of 2020 Partnering with another church (Ohio) in joint ministry
  2. Presbytery will continue to support at present rate

**M/S/P** to endorse continue dialogue in joint ministry efforts with a neighboring church (Ohio Church) for redirection of Refreshing Springs Church under the umbrella of the Ohio Church.

7. TREASURER REPORT: Ruling Elder Lauren Cesnales

- a. Received the Audit Report from Cypher & Cypher Years 2017 & 2018 (full report attached)
- b. Received the profit and loss statement and balance sheet: March 31, 2020
- c. Tenant Rent Reduction:

**M/S/P**, given the pandemic, to reduce the rent for a one month waiver of rent for April 2020.
- d. **M/S/P** to approve, if the way be clear upon based on review of the Finance Committee, the PILP Loan Request of the New Bethlehem Church/Aliquippa in the amount of \$75,000 to renovate and enlarge the church manse.

8. REPORT OF MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY REPORT: Rev. Bill Mumaw  
No report

9. REPORT OF THE VICE-MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY REPORT: R. Elder Judy Lipsak  
Has participated in several Zoom meetings

10. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR OF COORDINATING TEAM: Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger  
No Report

11. ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT: Rev. Bob Goossen  
No report
12. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE: Ruling Elder Frank Aloi
  - a. M/S/P the presentation of CAP grant applications for the following Churches (\$2,000 unless otherwise noted):
    - Plains Presbyterian Church - building a pavilion
    - North Butler Presbyterian Church - panels/light fixtures
    - Galilean Presbyterian Church - replace windows/new chairs
    - Trinity Presbyterian Church - parking lot restoration
    - First Presbyterian Church/Monaca – repair of the slate rood
    - First Presbyterian Church/Beaver Falls - hand railings (\$566)\*(If the May Presbytery meeting is virtual, the CAP grants will be mailed.)
  - b. Request to present the 2021 Budget to the Presbytery for approval at the November 2020 meeting. Approved by consensus.
13. TAP GRANT REPORT: Ruling Elder Frank Aloi  
TAP grants/loans  
Reviewed the formation and changes recommended by the MVC.  
Currently five applications has been received and will be reviewed.
14. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Rev. Connie Dunn
  - a. Transition of Assistant Stated Clerk:  
Dennis Burnett and Jim Steiner shared the transition process.
  - b. Discussion about the Temporary Executive Presbyter contract  
**M/S/P** to extend the Temporary Executive Presbyter contract on a monthly basis.  
**M/S/P** that the Board of Pension will receive a letter stating that the Rev. Dr. David Oyler will serve as a Consultant to Beaver-Butler Presbytery effective August 1, 2020.
15. SYNOD COMMISSIONER: CRE Chuck Cline  
Matthew 25 Churches
16. MINISTRY AND VOCATIONS COMMITTEE: Rev. Dr. David Oyler  
Honorable Retirement: by electronic vote the MVC approved the request of the Rev. Dennis Burnett to grant him the status of Honorably Retired effective August 1, 2020.
17. NOMINATING/COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION: Ruling Elder Jim Ihlenfeld  
No Report
18. MINISTRY UNITS:
  - a. Encouraging Churches to Flourish: Rev. Dr. Graham Standish  
No Report

- b. Collaboration, Youth, and Fellowship: Rev Dr. Mary Kitchen  
Collaboration, Fellowship and Youth Unit sponsored an online retreat on Monday, May 4, 2020 from 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom. Graham Standish led this event for pastors and lay pastors. The event was titled "A Home Retreat: Self Care in the Age of Social Distance." Pastors from Lake Erie and Shenango Presbyteries were also invited to take part, 40+ participants.
- c. Mission and Compassion Unit Report: Rev. Bob Edmonson  
Approve the request of the Unit to invite Doug Tilton to speak upon his ministry activities in South Africa.

## 19. TASK FORCES

- a. Transitional Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee: Rev. Jim Steiner  
Beginning the formation of the MIF and participated in a joint meeting with the Dream Team and CT Moderator.  
The goal is to have the MIF available by the June CT meeting.  
Budget Requests will be made at a later date.
- b. Communication: Rev. Ron Schermerhorn  
Presbytery Weekly Update instead of E-blurb, discussion on social media, and revitalizing the Areas of the Presbytery as communication networks.
- c. Covenantal: Rev. Tom Harmon  
No report
- d. Fellowship: Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen  
At Home Retreat
- e. Policies and Procedures: Rev. Dennis Burnett  
No report
- f. PRT: Rev. Randall Clow (Rev. Dennis Burnett reporting)  
Rev. Burnett reported that due to some concerns on the revisions that he has made to Update the PRT Policy, whole-team discussion (Zoom) before proceeding to take action, with approval at the June 2020 Coordinating Team Meeting.

## 20. OLD BUSINESS: Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger

- a. May Presbytery Meeting – discussion about format for meeting  
**M/S/P** that the format of May Presbytery Meeting be Zoom and the following actions:  
Ellie Johns-Kelly, PC(USA) Foundation will be granted 15 minutes if she desires to do so.  
Discussion led by the Covenantal Group (10-12 minutes) using small group Zoom mode, at the end of the meeting, inviting them to participate at the end of the meeting.  
Worship: 10-15 minutes.  
Also to be included: General Assembly Virtual Meeting/Commissioning
- b. July Presbytery Meeting  
Michael Givler, Communication Workshop  
Doug Portz, PC(USA) Board of Pensions

## 21. NEW BUSINESS



- a. Recommendation on Reopening Churches  
Positive comments acknowledging the desire to begin in person worship.
- b. CCLI license: encourage churches to check CCLI for full coverage and check list.
- c. **M/S/P** with deep regret the resignation of the Rev. Jim Moran as MVC Chairperson.  
Thanks to Jim for his diligence, guidance, and wisdom.
- d. Concern for staff/pastors with the increased load and hours. The Presbytery Staff is working at odd hours based upon establishing Zoom meeting and the virtual attention needed

NEXT MEETING—Wednesday-June 3, 2020: 6:30 PM Discussion Meeting

ADJOURNMENT:

M/S/P adjournment at 9:00 PM with prayer by Rev. Lee Dreyer.

ATTACHMENTS:

Audit Report from Cypher & Cypher  
Investment Team Summary

**Coordinating Team  
Beaver Butler Presbytery  
June 3, 2020 6:30 PM  
ZOOM**

**Minutes/Discussion Meeting**

The Coordinating Team (Discussion Mtg.) met on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 via ZOOM technology at 6:30 PM. The Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger called the meeting to order.

Present: Judy Angleberger (CT Moderator), Judy Lipcsak (Presb. Vice Moderator), Ron Schermerhorn, Lee Dreyer, Dennis Burnett, Frank Aloï, Charles Cline, Carolyn Paulsen, Cindy Kennedy, Jim Steiner (Assist. Stated Clerk) Chair of Executive Search Committee, Connie Dunn- Personnel Committee/Executive Search, Tom Harmon (Covenantal Conversations)

Ex-Officio: Rev. Dr. David Oyler (Temp/Interim Executive Presbyter), David Byers (Stated Clerk)

Presbytery Treasurer: Lauren Cesnales

Excused: Keith Black

Absent: Bill Mumaw (Presb. Moderator), James Salyers

1. OPENING DEVOTIONS: The Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger invited the members to *Dwelling In The Word* (Matt. 28:16-20) allowing for responses to what was heard in the passage and prayer by the Chair of the CT.

2. RECEPTION OF PRESBYTERY MINUTES (Zoom)

Presbytery Meeting (Zoom) Minutes of May 26, 2020 were received and will be recommended to be approved at the next meeting of the Presbytery and ratified at the next in person meeting of the Presbytery. Further there was debriefing of the ZOOM meeting, sharing issues, concerns and positive remarks.

3. APPROVAL OF COORDINATING TEAM MINUTES

**M/S/P** to approve the CT Minutes of May 6, 2020

3. REPORTS OF TASK FORCES

A. Executive Search

Jim Steiner

Jim reported the work of the Search Committee, the completion of the MIF and its recommendation for CT approval. Further the Search Committee has decided that local candidates will be interviewed and considered.

In the job description it was listed as 10 years of experience, however, CLC uses the limits of years of experience to which you are applying.

David Oyler and Alan Adams have agreed to serve as references.

**M/S/P** to receive the MIF as presented by the Search Committee, with one editorial correction in #5, and, in #5: "Conflict Management potential conflict" to "Conflict Management Skills" and readjusting the remainder of the sentence.

B. Presbyter Fellowship Collaboration, Youth, Fellowship  
Presbyter Fellowship list developed by John Porter and Committee

C. Policy, Procedures C. T. and Stated Clerk  
PRT Dennis Burnett/Randall Clow  
Dennis updated the process of the PRT policy which is being drawn up by  
Ruling Elder John Rackley by the July CT and Presbytery meeting.

D. Communication Ron Schermerhorn  
The group has been meeting to develop a strategy to communicate and  
resource pastors and churches, and, helping churches to communicate with  
each other. A survey will be developed regarding how information is  
received from the Presbytery and used. Information will be used to develop  
the above stated strategy.

E. Nominating/COR Cindy Kennedy/Chuck Cline  
Still searching for candidates to fill positions.

F. Personnel Connie Dunn  
Connie reported recommendations:  
1. Re-opening BBP Office will transition in opening Monday--Thursday.  
9:30AM-1:00PM, with two people in the office during the month of June  
and then indefinitely in the future.  
2. **M/S/P** to concur with the request of the Personnel Committee to hire a  
Financial Administrator for eight hours a week at the same hourly rate as  
the current Team Assistant. Further the Team Assistant hours have been  
adjusted by eight hours.  
3. Confusion as to where the responsibility/unit of the Resource Center  
rests.  
Recommend that the CYF Unit carry the responsibility for Resource  
Center

G. Administration Bob Goossen  
No report

H. Covenantal Conversations Tom Harmon  
1. Received/discussed the summary from the small group work at the  
Presbytery meeting. The group will provide best "learnings" so that a  
Presbytery mission statement can be developed, with the hope to be  
presented to the CT in August or September.  
2. Request 20 minutes at the July Meeting of the Presbytery.

4. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

1. July 28, 2020 Presbytery Meeting Format: recommend ZOOM meeting  
**M/S/P** the July 28, 2020 be held by means of ZOOM.

2. Video presentation by Ralph Lowe to be added to the July Agenda, if he is willing to do so.
3. At the Synod Meeting B/B per capita was the lowest. What can be done?
4. TAP: five applications received, one incomplete, one withdrew. Currently working with 3 congregations. The intent, with the assumption of immediate need of money, which so far does not seem to be the case. The next steps will need to be determined. An indicator that most of our churches are doing OK.

#### 5. ADJOURNMENT/CLOSING PRAYER

**M/S/P** that meeting be adjourned at 8:40PM. Tom Harmon closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted:  
David Byers  
Stated Clerk

#### Legal Actions:

**M/S/P** that the July 28, 2020 Presbytery Meeting be held by means of ZOOM.

#### For Information:

- Presbytery Meeting (Zoom) Minutes of May 26, 2020 were received and will be recommended to be approved at the next meeting of the Presbytery and ratified at the next in person meeting of the Presbytery,
- Concurred with the request of the Personnel Committee to hire a person for eight hours a week at the same hourly rate as the current Team Assistant.
- Received the executive MIF as presented by the Search Committee, with one editorial correction in #5: "Conflict Management potential conflict" to "Conflict Management Skills" and readjusting the remainder of the sentence.

**Stated Clerk's Report**  
**April 24, 2020- June 22, 2020**

1. 5.4.20 attended the MVC Zoom meeting
2. 5.6.20 attended the Coordinating Team meeting
3. 5.26.20 attended the May Zoom meeting of the Presbytery
4. 6.2.20 informed the OGA, Synod of the Trinity and Board of Pensions of the status of Honorably Retired for:
  - Rev. Dennis Burnett, effective 8.1.20;
  - Rev. Dr. James Moran, effective 10.1.20;
  - Rev. James Steiner, effective 9.1.20.
5. 5.26.20 via phone conversation with the Rev. Robert Mathias (Personnel Committee) I participated in the annual review of my work as Stated Clerk
6. 6.1.20 attended the Zoom meeting of the MVC
7. 6.3.20 attended the Zoom meeting of the Coordinating Team
8. 6.4.20 Signed and mailed the PILP Affidavit and Certificate of Incumbency from the Presbytery for the New Bethlehem Church, Aliquippa loan with the PILP.
9. Signed and mailed the Technology Grant Applications to the Synod of the Trinity for:
  - Park, Beaver
  - New Bethlehem, Aliquippa
  - The Hill, Butler
  - Old Union, Mars
  - Eau Claire, Eau Claire
10. 6.22.20 Received verification from the Board of Pensions that the Rev. Dr. David Oyler has met the requirements for post-retirement services as the Rev. Dr. Oyler continues to serve the Presbytery of Beaver-Butler.
11. Continue to respond to concerns raised in dealing with the pandemic.

**Beaver-Butler Presbytery**  
**Profit & Loss by Class**  
 January through May 2020

	Administrative	Mission	Restricted	TOTAL
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
51102 · Per Capita Apportionment	90,358.53	0.00	0.00	90,358.53
52105 · Rev.Mission Causes-Budget	125.00	45,648.57	0.00	45,773.57
52110 · Rev. Mission Causes-Other	298.75	0.00	0.00	298.75
53112 · Tinker Trust - PNC Bank	138.59	0.00	0.00	138.59
53114 · Northwest Interest	3.93	0.00	0.00	3.93
53816 · Presby. Invest and Loan Income	1,263.46	0.00	0.00	1,263.46
55120 · Interest Note Rec.	97.48	0.00	0.00	97.48
56110 · Rent Complete Travel	3,311.50	0.00	0.00	3,311.50
56115 · Rent - Tenants	4,581.00	0.00	0.00	4,581.00
57105 · Miscellaneous Income	3,286.35	0.00	0.00	3,286.35
57106 · Bulk Order Receipts	785.45	0.00	0.00	785.45
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>104,250.04</b>	<b>45,648.57</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>149,898.61</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
71105 · Per Capita Expense GA	7,975.65	0.00	0.00	7,975.65
71110 · Per Capita Expense Synod	3,887.99	0.00	0.00	3,887.99
72105 · Mission Causes Exp- Synod/GA	0.00	26,742.42	0.00	26,742.42
73000 · Salary/Wage/Benefits	31,534.51	0.00	0.00	31,534.51
74000 · Units/Officers	9,532.87	200.00	500.00	10,232.87
75100 · Cost of Space	8,518.53	0.00	0.00	8,518.53
75200 · Communications	2,157.57	0.00	0.00	2,157.57
75300 · Furniture and Equipment	982.40	0.00	0.00	982.40
75400 · Office Expense	-15,853.87	0.00	0.00	-15,853.87
75600 · Travel Expense	2,222.95	0.00	0.00	2,222.95
75907 · Bulk Order Expenditures	1,219.02	0.00	0.00	1,219.02
75910 · Wash	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>52,177.62</b>	<b>26,942.42</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>79,620.04</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>52,072.42</b>	<b>18,706.15</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	<b>70,278.57</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>52,072.42</b>	<b>18,706.15</b>	<b>-500.00</b>	<b>70,278.57</b>

**Beaver-Butler Presbytery**  
**Balance Sheet**  
 As of May 31, 2020

May 31, 20

**ASSETS**

**Current Assets**

**Checking/Savings**

**10000 · Cash**

10107 · ESB Bank

218,317.61

10108 · Northwest Savings Bank

454,939.29

10109 · Northwest Savings Market Fund

50,305.64

10115 · Petty Cash

100.00

**Total 10000 · Cash**

723,662.54

**10300 · Investments**

10511 · Presbyterian Investment & Loan

302,903.61

10512 · PILP Fixed Term Note

203,755.54

10520 · Ecumenical Cooperative

1,500.00

**Total 10300 · Investments**

508,159.15

**Total Checking/Savings**

1,231,821.69

**Accounts Receivable**

12126 · A/R Lord of the Harvest

9,910.92

**Total Accounts Receivable**

9,910.92

**Total Current Assets**

1,241,732.61

**TOTAL ASSETS**

**1,241,732.61**

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

**Liabilities**

**Current Liabilities**

Other Current Liabilities

433.36

**Total Current Liabilities**

433.36

**Long Term Liabilities**

28001 · Deferred Mortgage Income

30,000.00

**Total Long Term Liabilities**

30,000.00

**Total Liabilities**

30,433.36

**Equity**

**29000 · Restricted Funds**

**29100 · Temporarily Restricted**

29105 · Peacemaking Fund

4,802.57

29125 · New Church Development Fund

29126 · Closed Churches Fund (Fund A)

474,677.05

29127 · Departed Churches Fund (Fund B)

685,374.58

**Total 29125 · New Church Development Fund**

1,160,051.63

29135 · Technological Advancement Fund

8.33

29140 · Support of Candidates Fund

644.70

29145 · Leadership Training Fund

20,000.00

29160 · NWV Seed Grant

12,061.41

29165 · Champ Education Fund

1,307.29

**Total 29100 · Temporarily Restricted**

1,198,875.93

**29200 · Permanently Restricted**

29205 · Endowment Fund

2,575.09

29210 · Lyndora Scholarship Fund

20,003.58

**Total 29200 · Permanently Restricted**

22,578.67

**Total 29000 · Restricted Funds**

1,221,454.60

**Beaver-Butler Presbytery**  
**Balance Sheet**  
As of May 31, 2020

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	May 31, 20
39000 · Retained Earnings	-80,433.92
Net Income	70,278.57
Total Equity	1,211,299.25
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,241,732.61</b>

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Minutes  
Beaver-Butler Presbytery  
May 26, 2020

Because of the continuing uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic and the continuing need for social distancing and other precautions, the leadership of Beaver-Butler Presbytery determined again that this stated meeting should not be held in a church building as originally planned. Instead, an electronic meeting was held on the scheduled date and time using the ZOOM on-line meeting format. Thus the Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, using ZOOM technology.

**WELCOME, ORIENTATION AND OPENING DEVOTIONS:**

After a brief delay to allow those Presbyters unfamiliar with this technology to complete their ZOOM connections, Vice-Moderator Ruling Elder Judy Lipsak opened the meeting and welcomed the presbyters at 6:00 PM. She asked each participant to register by means of an email to the Presbytery Office indicating their name, capacity, and in the case of Ruling Elder Commissioners, the church being represented.

Our Vice-Moderator oriented the presbyters by asking for patience, and instructed the presbyters on matters of ZOOM etiquette (muting unless wishing to speak, using the “raise your hand” feature if wishing to speak or for voting, etc.), and explained that voting would be simplified by first asking “Are there any objections?” to each motion. If there were no objections, that motion would be approved by common consent. If there were objections, the Moderator / Vice-Moderator would proceed to voting.

The Vice-Moderator also thanked the Concord Presbyterian Church, Baden for their cooperation and musical offering.

Our Vice-Moderator then read from “Jesus Always” by Sarah Young. The writer offers some comments about strange times, reading from Psalm 42:5. We must be “on the lookout” for all the ways God is at work. Vice-Moderator Lipsak offered prayer.

**PROCEDURAL MATTERS:**

Vice-Moderator Lipsak reminded the presbyters that the meeting was being recorded.

Our Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Byers, attested to the presence of a quorum. A record of participation in this on-line meeting is provided at Attachment A.

The following Corresponding Members were enrolled, and a visitor welcomed:

- Rev. Dr. David Oyler, our Temporary Executive Presbyter, a member of Lake Erie Presbytery.
- Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer (Northeast Region), Presbyterian Foundation, a member of Lake Erie Presbytery.
- Ms. Elizabeth Connelly, Connections Coordinator, Synod of the Trinity

## **LEGAL MATTER:**

Coordinating Team Chair, the Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger, moved on behalf of the Coordinating Team, that the revised agenda for this presbytery meeting be approved, with the understanding that all actions taken in this meeting will be ratified at the next person-to-person meeting of the presbytery.

*Information: After much discussion and discernment this motion was presented to concur with the recommendations provided by the CDC and for the welfare of our Commissioners and the community at large.*

Rev. Angleberger moved on behalf of the Coordinating Team that the presbytery concur that the ZOOM meeting format, not provided for by the Presbytery Manual, be approved given the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Vice-Moderator noted that approval of this motion would require a two-thirds majority of the ZOOM participants eligible to vote. She asked if there were any objections. There were none. The Vice-Moderator ruled that the motion was approved.

## **RECEPTION AND APPROVAL OF THE OMNIBUS MOTION (CONSENT AGENDA):**

The Vice-Moderator provided an opportunity to request removal of items from the consent agenda. None were requested. A motion was made and seconded to approve the following matters by common consent:

1. The Coordinating Team recommends that the Presbytery:
  - a. Approve, if the way be clear, based upon on review of the Finance Committee, the PILP Loan Request of the New Bethlehem Church, Aliquippa in the amount of \$75,000 to renovate and enlarge the church manse;
  - b. Receive the Report of the Coordinating Team – Minutes of March 4, 2020 and (ZOOM) Minutes of April 1, 2020;
  - c. Receive the Audit Report from Cypher & Cypher Years 2017 & 2018;
  - d. Receive the Report of the Stated Clerk: 2/29/20-4/23/20;
  - e. Receive the Report of the Treasurer – Profit Loss & Balance Sheet - March 31, 2020;
  - f. Approve Minutes of the previous Presbytery meeting: (ZOOM) Minutes of March 24, 2020, which will be ratified at the next person to person Presbytery meeting; and
  - g. Approve seating of Corresponding Members: Rev. Dr. David Oyler, Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelley and visitor Elizabeth Connelly of the Synod of the Trinity Office.
2. The Ministry & Vocation Committee recommends that the Presbytery approve the request of the Rev. Dennis Burnett to grant him the status of Honorably Retired effective August 1, 2020.

3. Stated Clerk Action:

Report of 2019 Presbytery Minutes Synod Review: The 2019 Minutes of the Presbytery were read and approved by the Synod on April 29, 2020 with one Exception: Report of Annual Review of CLPs (This is done by MVC but is not included in the Presbytery Minutes); there were no Delinquencies.

*Thank you to Rev. Dennis Burnett, Assistant Stated Clerk, for his excellent and diligent work in taking and preparing the Minutes.*

Our Vice-Moderator asked if there were any objections. There were none. The Vice-Moderator ruled that the omnibus motion was approved.

**PRAYERFUL DISCERNMENT OF PRESBYTERY MATTERS:**

As she began her remarks, Rev. Angleberger shared from a letter sent by Temporary Synod Executive Susan Wonderland – “The church has never closed! Only the buildings!” A good reminder for us...

Actions from the Coordinating Team (Rev Dr. Judy Angleberger, Chair):

For Information:

1. Finance Committee Report: Elder Frank Aloï, Finance Committee Chair, reported on the most recent CAP Grant Awards (\$2,000 unless otherwise noted):
  - Plains Presbyterian Church – building a pavilion
  - North Butler Presbyterian Church – panels/light fixtures
  - Galilean Presbyterian Church – replace windows/new chairs
  - Trinity Presbyterian Church – parking lot restoration
  - First Presbyterian Church, Monaca – repair of the slate roof
  - First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls – hand railings (\$566.00)

*\*Note: Given the pandemic, CAP Grants will be mailed*
2. Accepted, with deep regret, the resignation of the Rev. Dr. James Moran as Chair of the Ministry & Vocation Committee. Rev. Angleberger thanked Rev. Moran for his sensitive and pastoral leadership, and offered best wishes from the presbytery.
3. Concurred with and approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to extend the Temporary Executive Presbyter contract on a month-by-month basis, effective August 1, 2020.
4. Celebrated the Ministry of former Assistant Stated Clerk, the Rev. Dennis Burnett. Stated Clerk Rev. David Byers offered some remarks about his extensive work and fellowship with Dennis, and Rev. Tega Swann, Member-At-Large, offered additional thanks and praise. Everyone was invited to use the “clap” function with ZOOM.

**THE MEETING WAS HANDED OVER TO THE REV. WILLIAM MUMAW, MODERATOR**

**ACTION FROM THE NOMINATING/REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE:** Ruling Elder Jim Ihlenfeld, Chair of the Nominating/Representation Committee, placed into nomination as Chair of the Ministry & Vocation Committee the Rev. Nick Marlatt, The Ohio Presbyterian Church, Aliquippa.

The Moderator provided an opportunity for other nominations by presbyters participating in this ZOOM meeting. There were none. Without objection, Rev. Marlatt was elected Chair of Ministry & Vocation

**COMMISSIONING GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS:** Moderator Mumaw led the Presbytery in the Commissioning Service for Ruling Elder Wayne “Chip” McCoy, New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Aliquippa, and Teaching Elder Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen, North & East Butler Churches, Butler. Elder Mumaw then offered a prayer for the Commissioners, and shared a charge to them from Colossians 3.

**INSTALLATION OF THE ASSISTANT STATED CLERK:** Moderator Mumaw then led the Presbytery in the installation Rev. James Steiner, Mars UP Church, Mars, as Assistant Stated Clerk. Rev. Mumaw thanked Rev. Steiner for his willingness to serve, and offered a charge to him from Ephesians 3.

**PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION REPORT:** The Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly from the Presbyterian Foundation gave a brief overview of the Foundation: assets, history, and ministry. She focused on resources such as Stewardship Navigator, Personal & Church Financial Literacy, and Church Financial Leadership Academy. The Foundation is also introducing resources on planned giving. Rev. Johns-Kelley also shared an informative video on Church Financial Leadership.

**CONVERSATIONS: COVENANTAL GROUP:** The Rev. Dr. Tom Harmon led the presbyters in a time of conversation. The presbyters separated into “break-out groups” using ZOOM, to discuss the following question: *“What have we learned about ourselves, in thinking about collaborative ministry, during this time? How will it shape our ministry moving forward?”* After the groups came back together, reflections and comments were shared with the presbyters and with the Covenantal Group.

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** The host church, Concord Baden, offered some special and inspirational music, “I Go To The Rock,” and received a heart-felt thanks (via Zoom, of course!) Heartfelt and enthusiastic thanks (limited only by ZOOM technology!) were offered to Chele DiCioccio for sharing her musical gifts.

**OTHER MATTERS OF THE PRESBYTERY:**

There was no new business.

Participation by ZOOM for this Presbytery meeting was later reported as follows:

- 27 Elder Commissioners representing 23 churches
- 4 Officers, Coordinating Team members, or Unit chairpersons who are Elders
- 39 Ministers of Word and Sacrament
- 2 Corresponding Members
- 8 Visitors
- 80 Total Attendance at this meeting

Before adjournment, our Moderator:

- Expressed the presbyters' appreciation to the people and pastor of the Concord Presbyterian Church, Baden for their understanding and support in the changes that have been forced upon us due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Reminded the presbyters to register their participation in this ZOOM meeting by email immediately following adjournment of this meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.

Our Moderator, Rev. William Mumaw, closed the meeting with prayer.

Adjournment took place at 7:32 p.m.

Acknowledgement: The Churches of the Presbytery wish to thank the Concord Church, Baden for their understanding and support in the changes that have been forced upon them due to COVID-19.

The next stated meeting of Beaver-Butler Presbytery is currently planned to be at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at the Vanport Presbyterian Church, Beaver, where the Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger serves as Transitional Pastor.

These minutes were prepared by Rev. James R. Steiner, Assistant Stated Clerk.

Respectfully submitted,

David D. Byers, Stated Clerk

**TABLE OF ATTACHMENTS TO MINUTES OF MAY 27, PRESBYTERY MEETING:**

- A Record of Participation in ZOOM Presbytery Meeting on May 26, 2020
- B Report of the Coordinating Team (Minutes of March 4, 2020 and (ZOOM) Minutes of April 1, 2020 meeting)
- C Report of the Stated Clerk for 2/29/20-4/23/20
- D Report of the Treasurer (Profit & Loss Statement by Class for March 31, 2020)
- E Report of the Treasurer (Audit Report from Cypher & Cypher Years 2017 & 2018)

**ATTENDANCE**

**Ministers**

Angleberger, A. Gary	H.R.	P
Angleberger, Judy A.	H.R.	P
Angleberger, Kelley		P
Anschutz, Richard David		A
*Barr, Eva-Maria		A
Benish, Leigh		P
Bittner, Lee	H.R.	EXC
Black, Keith		P
Boos, James	H.R.	EXC
Boyd, Mark		A
Brewer, David R.	H.R.	EXC
Burnett, Dennis D.		P
Byers, David D.	H.R.	P
Campbell, James W.	H.R.	EXC
Clifton, Thomas		A
*Cline, Charles		EXC
Clow, Randall		P
Clyde, Tom	H.R.	EXC
Creach, Page		A
Crusan, Deborah		A
Currie, Susan	H.R.	EXC
Curtis, Jeffrey A.	H.R.	EXC
de Vries, Peter C.		P
Dorsey, Douglas		P
Dreyer, W. Lee	H.R.	EXC
Dunn, Connie		P
Edmondson, Robert		P
Erwin, Kirk	H.R.	EXC
Fowler, Jamie		P
*Frailey, Mark		P
Frierson, Connie		A
Gebhard, Doug		A
Goossen, Robert		P
Gutridge, Stephen		A
Harmon, Tom		P
*Hartung, Gregg		P
Heller, F. Edwin	H.R.	EXC
Hoffman, C. F.		P
Horstman, Katherine A. L.		A
Huffmyer, Deborah E.	H.R.	EXC
Jackson, Bill	H.R.	EXC
Jamieson, William A.	H.R.	EXC
Kennedy, Robert W.	H.R.	EXC
Kennedy, Vicki		A
Kirk, Jim		P
Kitchen, Mary (Sickels)		P
Kummer, Rosalyn S.	H.R.	EXC
Loudon, Nathan		P
Maley, Lawrence		A
Marlatt, Nicholas		P
Marotta, Derek		A
*Marquis, Jeff		A
Mathias, Robert V.	H.R.	EXC
*McMeekin, Thomas		P

**ATTACHMENT A**

Meloy, Merry		EXC
Miller, Emily		P
Moran, James M.		P
Morley, Sonya-Marie		A
Mumaw, William		P
Nelson, Jon		P
Paul, A. David		P
Porter, John W.		P
Rowe, Richard F.		A
Roy, Dena		EXC
Salyers, James		A
Saul, Robert P.		P
Sawyer, Clark T.	H.R.	EXC
*Schaefer, Paul		A
Schermerhorn, Ron		P
Severance, T. Neil	H.R.	EXC
Shaffer, Andrew C.		A
Shettel, John	H.R.	EXC
Shullo, Carmen		EXC
Silbert, John		P
Sinagra, Jason		A
Smith, Jean		A
Snyder, Donald F.	H.R.	EXC
Standish, N. Graham		EXC
Steiner, Jim		P
Stoops, Leland (Terry) R.	H.R.	EXC
Swann, Tega		P
Swanson, James	H.R.	P
Swinsburg, Rob Dale		P
Taylor, Bonnie		P
Tuft, John T.		A
*Vogeley, Richard		P
Weston, Gary L.	H.R.	EXC
*Whitman, Diane		A
Wiebe, John M.	H.R.	EXC
Wierman, Beth		P
Winship, Michael	H.R.	EXC

**Elders**

Aliquippa		
New Bethlehem	Diana Spencer	
(2 votes)	Jon Barna	
Ohio	Patti Strominger	
(2 votes)	Donna J. Craig	
Raccoon		
Service		
Ambridge		
Ambridge U.P.		
Baden		
Concord	John Laudenslager	
Beaver		
Park	Jeff Anderson	
(2 votes)		
Beaver Falls		

Calvary		Monaca	
College Hill		First	
First	Andrew Why	North Branch	
(2 votes)		New Brighton	
Steffin Hill		First	
Butler		Westminster	
Covenant	Pam Patterson	New Galilee	
Faith		Galilean	
Mt Chestnut	Donna Lee Hibbs	N. Washington	
(2 votes)		N. Washington	Beverly Bishop
Saint Andrews		Parker	
The Hill	Rebecca Playmale	First	
(2 votes)		Prospect	
Trinity	Melissa Hamilton	Mt Nebo	
Callery		P. Church Prospect	
Crestview		Rochester	
Cherry Valley		First Presb.	
E. Unity		New Sewickley	Sherry Schibner
Chicora		Sarver	
North Butler	Allen Kitchen	Buffalo	Virginia Shirey
Clintonville		Westminster	Pat Hebda
Union		Saxonburg	
Connoquenessing		Clinton	Tom Hamilton
White Oak Springs	Tom Marlowe	Jefferson Center	
Conway		Saxonburg Memorial	
Conway		(2 votes)	
Cranberry		Shippingport	
Cranberry Community		Bethlehem	
(2 votes)		Slippery Rock	
Plains		Center	
Darlington		Friendship	Ruth Keith
First		Highland	
Mt. Pleasant		Valencia	
East Butler		Glade Run	
East Butler	Kerry Dowdy	(2 votes)	
Eau Claire		Valencia	Karla Gill
Eau Claire		Vanport	
Ellwood City		Vanport	Susan Hennesy
North Sewickley	Tom Umstott	West Sunbury	
Evans City		West Sunbury	
Westminster	Ruthie Pickett	(2 votes)	
(2 votes)	Vicki Nosal	Zelienople	
Frankfort Springs		Calvin	
Frankfort		(2 votes)	
Harmony		Park	
Camp Run			
Hooker			
Concord			
Mars			
Mars United			
(2 votes)			
Old Union	Sally Pavlina		
(2 votes)	Mary Rae Thompson		
Midland			
First			
New Salem			

### Corresponding Members

Name	Presbytery/Affiliation
David Oyler	Lake Erie
Ellie Johns-Kelly	Lake Erie

**Elder Members Who Are:  
Officer, Coordinating Team, or Unit  
Chair**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Presbytery/Affiliation</b>
Jim Ihlenfeld	Nominating Committee
Carolyn Paulsen	CT
Frank Aloï	Finance Committee
Judy Lipsak	Vice-Moderator

**Visitors**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Church</b>
Connie Christy	Highland, Slippery Rock
Michele Lagnese	Friendship, Slippery Rock
Lorene Winner	Old Union, Mars
Maggie Marlowe	White Oak Spr., Con.
ChrisAnn Goossen	Calvin, Zelenople
Cathy Riddle	Concord, Baden
Chip McCoy	New Bethlehem, Aliquippa
Elizabeth Connelly	Synod of the Trinity



1 **Principles and Processes**  
2 **For Beaver-Butler Presbytery**  
3 **When Churches Seek to Separate From Presbytery**

4 **I. Principles of Mission and Property in Times of Dispute**

5 ***A. The Presbytery, Property and Conscience***

6 The Presbytery of Beaver Butler seeks to develop, encourage and nurture the denominational  
7 affiliation and presbytery membership of each of its particular member churches based on our  
8 organic spiritual unity found in *the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the*  
9 *fellowship of the Holy Spirit.* (2 Corinthians 13:14) In all of our relationships, we will be guided  
10 by our own Statement of Purpose:

11 *The Purpose of Beaver-Butler Presbytery is to be a servant to the churches God has entrusted*  
12 *to us, encouraging and supporting them toward becoming healthy, growing, Missional*  
13 *Congregations. (Missional Congregations are those that discern God's mission in their*  
14 *setting and are actively working to participate in that mission.) (Manual Revision Adopted*  
15 *11/14/06)*

16 This is especially true for those congregations for whom the bonds of unity are stretched and  
17 ecclesiastical connections frayed over issues of conscience to the point of considering  
18 disaffiliation.

19 In order to achieve the goals of servanthood, encouragement and support (that are keys to  
20 ministering in times of dispute), Beaver-Butler Presbytery has historically seen its role as being a  
21 resource to:

- 22 • *Enable its congregations to carry out their mission by providing resources to proclaim*  
23 *the good news of Jesus Christ;*
- 24 • *Respond to the needs and challenges of the world in our Lord's name;*
- 25 • *Conduct constitutionally required responsibilities of a presbytery;*
- 26 • *Coordinate its mission with that of the General Assembly, the Synod of the Trinity; and*  
27 *appropriate ecumenical agencies;*
- 28 • *Serve as a channel of communication with other governing bodies;*
- 29 • *Fill a fellowship and pastoral function for its members and congregations;*
- 30 • *And work diligently to fulfill the "great ends of the church":*

31 *The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind,*  
32 *The shelter, nurture and spiritual fellowship of the children of God,*  
33 *The maintenance of divine worship,*  
34 *The preservation of the truth,*  
35 *The promotion of social righteousness, and*  
36 *The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.*

37 *(Manual of Operations 11/16/82)*

38 Therefore, in matters of Property and conscience, the Presbytery sees its role in terms of Mission  
39 Strategy first and foremost.

40  
41 ***B. The Presbytery and Mission Strategy***

42 The Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (G.-3.0301), challenges the Presbytery to  
43 order all resources ...*for the mission and government of the church throughout its geographical*  
44 *district. It therefore has the responsibility and power:*

45 *a. To develop strategy for the mission of the church in its area consistent with F-1.01 (the*  
46 *Book of Order chapter on the Mission of the Church);*

47 *b. To coordinate the work of its member churches, guiding them and mobilizing their*  
48 *strength for the most effective witness to the broader community for which it has responsibility.*

49 As a result, the Presbytery has an abiding interest in the location and facilities of the member  
50 churches as an expression of the missions of the Presbytery.

### 51 ***C. The Presbytery and the Trust Clause***

52 According to the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

53 *All property held by or for a particular church, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly,*  
54 *or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee*  
55 *or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs*  
56 *of a particular church or of a more inclusive governing body or retained for the production*  
57 *of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church*  
58 *(U.S.A.). (G-4.0203)*

59 The Trust Clause is meant to reflect the church's organic unity as it fulfills "The Great Ends of  
60 the Church", strengthening its ability to guide its member churches into their witness to the  
61 broader community. Because the Trust Clause is meant as a means of witness to our unity in the  
62 covenant of common mission, it is incumbent upon the Presbytery to act ministerially rather than  
63 adversarially to its member churches in regard to its provisions.

### 64 ***D. The Presbytery and Covenant Life***

65 Because the Trust Clause is understood by the Presbytery as a means of displaying organic unity  
66 in common mission, there are common principles that will guide the Presbytery's use of it:

- 67 • It will not be used to shackle churches to the institution of the Presbyterian Church  
68 (U.S.A.) if a church genuinely desires to depart.
- 69 • It will not be used as a weapon to threaten civil action against a congregation in keeping  
70 with 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6: 1-11 over issues of conscience. (F-3.00)
- 71 • It reflects a tangible exhibition of the inter-connected relationship organically existing  
72 between the Presbytery and its congregations

## 73 **II. Principles of Resolution**

74 The Trust Clause will not be used to initiate civil litigation preemptively. If a church initiates a  
75 civil action, the Presbytery may take legal action to defend its mission strategy for the Presbytery.  
76 In times of dispute over issues of conscience, the Presbytery will adhere to, and member churches  
77 are encouraged to adhere to, these Principles of Resolution.

78 Guided by our Presbyterian form of government, we:

- 79 1. Affirm the mission of the Kingdom of God and not the maintenance of any particular  
80 institution as our highest calling;
- 81 2. Believe that the local congregation is the primary mission unit of Presbytery, and that  
82 issues of property and money are always secondary to people and mission;
- 83 3. Will not abdicate all decisions regarding property and finance to the local congregation;

- 84 4. Understand that property is maintained and administered locally by the congregation on  
85 behalf of the denomination;
- 86 5. Maintain accountability and connection by shared, representative leadership and  
87 oversight;
- 88 6. Understand that regarding issues of conscience, “Divorce” can be a relevant analogy in  
89 releasing congregations. Each side must confront difficult realities, confront what it  
90 perceives to be a broken trust, speak of those realities to each other, and be forced to  
91 consider the ongoing health and viability of the other;
- 92 7. Will not approach property issues in such a way as to constrain local congregations in  
93 their ability to do mission and ministry;
- 94 8. Will use the Presbytery Response Team procedure described in III-A below;
- 95 9. Will use mediation, and if necessary, binding arbitration, as describe in section III-A  
96 below when resolution cannot be achieved by other means.
- 97 10. Will encourage all presbyters and congregations to “concur with or passively submit to”  
98 (G-2.0105, footnote 11) the vote and wisdom of the majority. If their consciences will  
99 permit neither, the Presbytery will be generous in allowing congregations and presbyters  
100 with strong issues of conscience to pursue peaceable withdrawal, which may include  
101 dismissal to another Reformed body in accordance with our interpretation of the Trust  
102 Clause, found in section III below.

103 **III. Processes for Resolution**

104 ***A. The Process of Discernment Leading to Possible Dismissal***

105 In the Presbyterian tradition, an inter-connected relationship is assumed between the Presbytery  
106 and its congregations. Therefore, no congregation will be dismissed to another Reformed body  
107 unless and until, at a minimum, the following process is followed:

- 108 1. The Session and its pastor/moderator, after consideration, prayer and a majority vote  
109 invites the Presbytery to form a Presbytery Response Team (PRT) in order to engage with  
110 the Session in discussions about potential resolution or dismissal for identified reasons of  
111 conscience.

112 The Session shall not approach, survey, or take congregational votes regarding dismissal  
113 before a PRT is formed and without the presence and participation of the PRT as set forth  
114 below. When separation is discussed for the first time, it is important that both the  
115 Session and the PRT approach the congregation together.

- 116 2. If warranted, a PRT is formed. A PRT shall consist of 3 members appointed by the  
117 Coordinating Team. The PRT will consist of persons familiar with regional and national  
118 issues of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and will be trained by the Presbytery. One  
119 member of the PRT may be chosen by the Session from a list of Presbytery persons  
120 trained to serve.

121 The PRT arranges to meet with the Session in hope of addressing their concerns, but if  
122 the Session is still intending to pursue dismissal, it advises the Session of the terms,  
123 which include a minimum of 10% of the fair market value of the church property being  
124 paid to the Presbytery, and perhaps more, depending upon the vote of the congregation.  
125 It is to be made clear that this discussion is on process and does not include focused  
126 discussion of financial issues.

- 127 3. The PRT shall meet with the Session, and the pastor/moderator will be asked to either  
128 voluntarily excuse him or herself from the meeting or to voluntarily decline his or her  
129 right to voice and vote. If the pastor/moderator does so, he or she will appoint a member  
130 of the PRT to act as moderator in his or her absence. The first action in that initial  
131 meeting will be to agree to the terms of *Section B*, (Favorable Terms).
- 132 The Session will be informed that stepping out of the process outlined in this document  
133 may result in a different relationship and a different process may be necessary, resulting  
134 in significant costs and/or time delays.
- 135 4. Both the PRT and the Session and the pastoral staff will be encouraged to seek ongoing  
136 dialog in the hope of resolution.
- 137 5. The PRT will promptly report the results of the initial meeting and its recommendations  
138 to the Presbytery through the Coordinating Team.
- 139 6. The PRT shall work with the Session to call a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of  
140 hearing from the members and discerning, possibly by a non-binding written “straw  
141 ballot,” how many members desire that, should the way be clear, the congregation be  
142 dismissed to another Reformed body. Prior to the meeting it will be required that the  
143 membership rolls be up to date and concur with the Annual Statistics of the PCUSA as  
144 reported by the Clerk of Session.
- 145 The Session will grant one member of the Presbytery PRT the right to voice at the  
146 congregational meeting.
- 147 7. While the quorum for congregational meetings is set by the Book of Order, and by the  
148 bylaws of particular congregations, the PRT expects that at least fifty percent (50%) of  
149 the active membership will participate in the meeting. Absentee ballots are not  
150 permitted.
- 151 8. If the PRT believes that a significant proportion (more than seventy-five percent (75%) of  
152 the attending members wish to be dismissed, they will, with the permission of the  
153 Presbytery Coordinating Team and/or Presbytery, begin to negotiate favorable terms with  
154 the congregation under the terms of *Section B*. The Session is then encouraged to begin  
155 discussion with other Reformed Bodies for membership.
- 156 9. During the negotiations the PRT will meet with members of the congregation who wish  
157 to remain within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to best strategize how to either  
158 maintain an existing mission presence, incorporate members into nearby Presbytery  
159 congregations, or create a new entity.

160 ***B. Favorable Terms***

161 The Presbytery, through the process of negotiating issues of conscience and property with  
162 congregations, will act in such a manner that will reflect its primary concern for the ongoing  
163 mission and vitality of Christian witness in the area impacted by ministry of that congregation.  
164

165 In keeping with the historic Presbyterian and Biblical model, when a congregation seeks to leave  
166 the Presbytery it is, in many ways, breaking covenant with fellow disciples of Jesus Christ. This  
167 Session therefore cautions any congregation seeking to separate from the Presbytery to consider  
168 carefully its actions; and if the governing bodies are somehow negligent or abusive toward their  
169 members, that this be discussed and pastorally attended to so that all might be strengthened in life  
170 together in Jesus Christ.  
171

172 This document likens a church seeking to separate from the Presbytery to a divorce. This analogy  
173 recognizes that neither party is ever completely happy with the terms of any negotiation,  
174 settlement, or decision by a third party. The process is costly and each party pays a price. This  
175 document provides the specific guidelines for a framework for equitable and gracious  
176 negotiations between the PRTs and congregations seeking to separate from Beaver-Butler  
177 Presbytery.

178  
179 **1. Guidelines for Negotiations Between PRTs and Congregations**  
180 **Seeking to Separate from Beaver-Butler Presbytery**

181  
182 **Specific Guidelines Concerning the Trust Clause**

- 183 A. As a way of exercising its fiduciary responsibility regarding the Trust Clause in the  
184 Constitution, the PRT shall assemble the following documents and/or data and  
185 accompany its report to the Presbytery:
- 186  
187 i. Appraisal – an appraisal of the congregation’s real estate shall be performed  
188 by an appraiser selected from a list of appraisers approved by the Presbytery,  
189 and paid for by the congregation. The Presbytery may elect to have a second  
190 appraisal performed by an appraiser from said list, at the Presbytery’s  
191 expense. In the event two appraisals are done, the average of the two shall be  
192 considered to be market value;
  - 193 ii. Financial statements – the Session will provide financial statements  
194 (income/expenses and balance sheet) for the prior three years;
  - 195 iii. Indebtedness – Statement of the congregation’s current indebtedness,  
196 including terms of repayment;
  - 197 iv. Other assets – Statement or inventory of tangible and intangible assets;

198  
199 **Specific Guidelines Concerning Settlements**

- 200 B. In order to maintain fairness and equity in every situation – when it is clear that a local  
201 congregation will be separating from Beaver-Butler Presbytery, the terms of separation  
202 will normally be set according to the following terms:
- 203  
204 i. A vote of the congregation will be taken by secret written ballot;
  - 205 ii. If the congregational vote to separate is 90% or higher at a duly called  
206 congregational meeting, terms are 10% of the market value (resale) of all real  
207 property, buildings, and fixed or permanent fixtures;
  - 208 iii. If the congregational vote to separate is less than 90% then the percentage is  
209 applied accordingly. (For example, if a vote is 75% to leave and 25% to stay,  
210 then terms of separation would be 25% of the market value ...);
  - 211 iv. Repayment of all outstanding loans from Beaver-Butler Presbytery, the Synod, or  
212 the General Assembly.
- 213  
214 C. Notwithstanding the aforesaid, in reaching terms of settlement other factors may be  
215 considered, including, but not limited to membership strength, finances, history and  
216 spiritual needs.
- 217  
218 D. Any settlement must include a timeline concerning the schedule of payments (monthly,  
219 yearly, etc) a congregation will make to the Presbytery, including a final payment due  
220 date. The PRT and congregation should also provide a means of enforcement if final  
221 payment is not received in a timely manner. In the event that the PRT agrees to provide

- 222 financing for the agreed-upon settlement, the departing congregation will agree that a lien  
223 will be placed on the real property in the unpaid amount of the settlement. A quit-claim  
224 deed will be provided to the congregation by the Presbytery when the settlement amount  
225 has been fully paid.  
226
- 227 E. Any settlement must specify if payments due include interest or are interest free.  
228
- 229 F. Any settlement must include a written record of proposals from the congregation, written  
230 counter-proposals from the PRT, and a written settlement agreement containing  
231 documentation of both the Mission Strategy and Impact Study and Trust Clause  
232 considerations.  
233
- 234 G. In the case of an impasse between the Presbytery and Session, they may submit to  
235 mediation to be conducted by a professionally certified mediator to be selected by the  
236 Presbytery and congregation. In the event that the parties cannot agree on a mediator, or  
237 the mediation is unsuccessful, then we can provide for binding arbitration. The arbiter  
238 will be chosen by both Presbytery and congregation. Should arbitration be entered, the  
239 arbiter's decision is to be followed without exception. The costs for mediation and/or  
240 arbitration will be divided equally between the Presbytery and the congregation.  
241
- 242 H. When a financial settlement is agreed upon, that settlement will be used for the mission  
243 of Beaver-Butler Presbytery.  
244
- 245 I. At the conclusion of negotiations, the congregation will hold a Congregational Meeting  
246 to vote on a possible dismissal to a specific Reformed body according to the terms of  
247 negotiation.
- 248 J. The Session will arrange for one member of the Presbytery PRT, or another  
249 representative of the Presbytery, to witness the congregational meeting.
- 250 K. At least fifty percent (50%) of the current active membership will attend the meeting. An  
251 affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the active attending members is  
252 required in order to further the dismissal process. Absentee ballots are not permitted. A  
253 written ballot will be created by the PRT.
- 254 L. The Presbytery, at a regular or specially called meeting, will vote on whether to accept  
255 the terms of dismissal without amendments by the PRT and to allow the congregation to  
256 be dismissed to a specified Reformed body according to G-3.0301(a) of the Book of Order  
257 of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). An affirmative vote of a majority of those in  
258 attendance at the meeting, and authorized to vote, is required in order to further the  
259 dismissal process.

## 260 **2. Remedy for a Broken Process**

261 In any situation in which this process does not result in a final resolution, a Session must  
262 thereafter wait a period of at least three (3) years before requesting a second entry into the  
263 process.  
264