

Presbytery Meeting Summary July 28, 2020

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held its stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 using the Zoom online meeting format, due to continuing Coronavirus concerns and restrictions. Our **Moderator, Rev. William Mumaw**, and our **Vice-Moderator, Ruling Elder Judy Lipsak**, presided over the meeting.

After orienting the participants on matters of Zoom etiquette and modified procedures for an online meeting, Rev. Mumaw read and spoke from Matthew 14:13-21, the feeding of the 5,000. He then offered prayer. The presbyters were then welcomed with music from the Vanport Church Choir.

It was noted that representatives from The Synod of the Trinity and The Board of Pensions were participating in the Zoom meeting.

Due to the on-line nature of the meeting, a check for **Capital Access Program grants** was mailed to the church, rather than being presented in person. A grant was awarded to North Washington Presbyterian Church to replace their Sunday School roof.

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:
 - ✓ Received the **Report of the Stated Clerk**: 04/24/20 – 06/24/20;
 - ✓ Received the Report of the Treasurer – Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet, May 2020;
 - ✓ Approved the **Minutes** of the May 26, 2020 stated Presbytery meeting (Zoom), which will be ratified at the next person-to-person Presbytery meeting;
 - ✓ Received the **Report of the Temporary Executive Presbyter**;
 - ✓ Received a Report of the **Executive Presbyter Search Committee**, and
 - ✓ Received details on a new **Technical Advisory Group**, formed to help pastors and congregations enhance technical efforts.
- Using Screen Share, the presbyters received a presentation by the **Rev. Dr. Doug Portz, Senior Church Consultant, Board of Pensions**.
- A motion to establish a **Task Force on Racial Reconciliation** was tabled and sent back to the Coordinating Team for further consideration. The Coordinating Team will present revised recommendations at the September 22, 2020 Presbytery meeting.
- The Policies and **Procedures Task Force** presented, for a first reading, **“When Churches Seek to Separate From Presbytery.”** The Report will be voted upon at the September Presbytery meeting.
- Conducted Zoom break-out sessions, led by the **Presbytery Covenantal Group**.

- **From the Ministry & Vocation Committee:**

- ✓ Approved the dissolution of the Associate Pastor relationship between Rev. Connie Frierson and the Calvin Presbyterian Church, Zelenople;
- ✓ Approved as Ordination Exam Readers: Rev. Stephen Gutridge, Elder Chip Weisberger, Alternate CRE Tom McMeekin;
- ✓ Granted the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. James R. Steiner, effective September 1;
- ✓ Granted the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Dr. James Moran, effective October 1;
- ✓ Granted permission for the Vanport Church, Vanport, to form a Pastor Nominating Committee, and
- ✓ Honored the Rev. Dennis Burnett on the occasion of his retirement.

- **From the Nominating Committee:**

- ✓ Elected the Rev. Emily Miller, First Beaver Falls, to the Ministry & Vocation Committee, class of 2022.

- Approved the sale of the manse by the First Presbyterian Church, Beaver Falls.

- **Regarding the minutes from the Coordinating Team May 6, 2020 meeting:**

The presbyters instructed the Coordinating Team to work together with the Refreshing Springs Mission Church (RSMC) Session, and representatives from RSMC to "...rectify any potential errors in the Coordinating Team May 6, 2020 minutes..." and to present the revised minutes at the September 22, 2020 Presbytery meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- There were a total of 78 participants at the meeting:
 - 38 Teaching Elders
 - 26 Ruling Elders from 23 Churches
 - 3 Ruling Elders from the CT or Committee / Unit Chairs
 - 2 Corresponding Members, David Oyler & Doug Portz
 - 9 Visitors
- The meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:59 p.m. Registrations were received by email after the meeting.
- Appreciation was expressed to the people, pastor, and choir of the Vanport Presbyterian Church, Vanport (which had offered to host the meeting).

NEXT MEETING:

The next stated meeting of the Beaver-Butler Presbytery will be at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2020**. The meeting will be held using the Zoom format.