

## **Presbytery Meeting Summary September 22, 2020**

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held its stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 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 20, the parable of the workers in the field. He then offered prayer. The presbyters were then welcomed with music from the Covenant Church, Butler.

Moderator Mumaw reminded the presbyters that the meeting was being recorded, the sole purpose to ensure the Assistant Stated Clerk produced accurate minutes. He also recognized the Rev. Dr. David Oyler, Temporary Executive, as a Corresponding Member.

Rev. Connie Dunn, Personnel Committee Chair, introduced Elaine Nucci, recently hired Financial Assistant.

Due to the on-line nature of the meeting, checks for **Capital Access Program grants** were mailed to the following churches:

- Westminster UP Church, Evans City: Landscaping, storm windows;
- Vanport Presbyterian Church, Vanport: Refurbish the manse;
- Covenant Presbyterian Church, Butler: Repoint exterior wall, refinish interior wall;
- Ohio UP Church, Hopewell: Building security enhancements.

### **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 agenda for the meeting.
- Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:
  - ✓ Received and approved **Special Rules for Presbytery Meetings**;
  - ✓ Received the **Report of the Coordinating Team (Zoom)** – Minutes of July 1, 2020;
  - ✓ Received the **Report of the Stated Clerk: 06/01/20 – 08/31/20**;
  - ✓ Received the **Report of the Treasurer** – Profit & Loss and Balance Sheet, July 2020;
  - ✓ Approved the **Minutes** of the July 28, 2020 stated Presbytery meeting (Zoom), to be ratified at the next person-to-person Presbytery meeting;
  - ✓ Received the **Report of the Temporary Executive Presbyter**;
  - ✓ Received the **Financial Review for 2018 and 2019** from Cypher and Cypher Accountants;
  - ✓ Received and approved the **2021 Administrative and Mission Budget**;
  - ✓ Received a Report of the **Executive Presbyter Nominating Committee**;
  - ✓ Received and approved **“When Churches Seek to Separate From Presbytery”**;
  - ✓ Received the **Covenantal Conversations Task Force Report**;

- ✓ Recognized **Service Anniversaries** for the following:
  - 10 years: Jamie Fowler, Mark Frailey, Dena Roy
  - 40 years: David Brewer, Bob Edmundson, Mary Kitchen, Deborah Huffmyer
  - 60 years: Gary Angleberger, William Jamieson

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

- ✓ Approved NO INCREASE in Terms of Call for 2021;
- ✓ Approved dissolution of the call between North Sewickley Church and Rev. Nathan Loudon, effective September 1, 2020, and transfer of his membership to the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, if the way be clear;
- ✓ Endorsed Elder Ralph Lowe (Calvin, Zelenople), under the authority and direction of Pittsburgh Presbytery, to moderate Session and/or Congregational meetings within Pittsburgh Presbytery;
- ✓ Approved the agreement between Rev. Emily Miller (First, Beaver Falls) and First, New Brighton to contract a portion of her time to serve First, New Brighton as their Stated Supply. To begin October 1, 2020;
- ✓ Approved Elder and Deacon waiver of Term Requirements at New Sewickley;
- ✓ Concurred with the request from Rev. Tega Swann to Labor Outside the Bounds to serve St. John's Presbyterian Church, Detroit, pending a written request from Detroit Presbytery, and
- ✓ Recognized the retirement of Rev. James Steiner.

- **Regarding the formation of the Racial Reconciliation Task Force:**

**MOTION:** Due to the importance of the issue of Racial Reconciliation, and after prayerful discernment, we are seeking advice, including speaking with members of the National Presbyterian Black Caucus, to discern the best methods to generate a Task Force regarding this important issue. *PASSED*

- **Regarding the July 28 Consent Agenda item from the May 6, 2020 Coordinating Team minutes, the Coordinating Team responded:**

A meeting of the Refreshing Springs Mission Church Session is being scheduled for this Thursday, September 24. Rev. C.F. Hoffman has agreed to serve as Moderator. The Session will review and confirm any discussions or actions from the Refreshing Springs Mission Church February 2020 Session meeting. Rev. Hoffman will report back to the Coordinating Team, who will then report to the presbytery.

- **Regarding items removed from the Consent Agenda:**

- ✓ Tabled the item concerning payment of Transfer Tax and Recording Fee for the Refreshing Springs Mission Church Davis St. property.
- ✓ Approved mediation about a particular action taken at the August 4 Coordinating Team meeting, reflected in item #3 of the August 4 meeting minutes. The Mediation process will follow recommended PC(USA) guidelines for mediation, and follow those standards.

**OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:**

- There were a total of 96 participants at the meeting:
  - 41 Teaching Elders
  - 34 Ruling Elders from 29 Churches
  - 1 Corresponding Member
  - 5 Ruling Elders who are officers, CT, or Chair of a Committee or Unit
  - 15 Visitors
  
- After closing music from Covenant Church, Moderator Mumaw adjourned the meeting with prayer at 9:10 p.m. Registrations were received by email after the meeting.
  
- Appreciation was expressed to the people, pastor, and musicians of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, Butler (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, November 17, 2020**. Format and (possible) venue to be decided by the Coordinating Team at its October 7, 2020 meeting.)