

Presbytery Meeting Summary June 17, 2021 *Special Meeting*

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2021, using the Zoom online meeting format. Presbytery Moderator Elder Judy Lipsak and Vice-Moderator Rev. Ron Schermerhorn presided over the meeting.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to act upon the recommendation of the Ministry and Vocation Committee (MVC) to, if the way be clear pending a congregational vote, receive the Rev. Todd Robert Allen (Presbytery of the Miami Valley) as a member of the Presbytery, and as pastor and moderator at Park Presbyterian Church, Beaver.

MVC Chair Rev. Nick Marlatt opened the examination for Rev. Allen. After affirming his faith in Christ as Savior and Lord, Rev. Allen spoke about his previous calls, his hopes for his time at Park, and how his experience as a Transitional Pastor might impact his time at Park. Members of the Park PNC also added their thoughts about and affirmation of Rev. Allen.

The examination was suspended, Rev. Allen left the meeting, and the presbyters held a discussion. The examination was sustained, and the presbyters voted using the Zoom “polling” function, as well as by phone. ***The vote was unanimous to affirm the MVC recommendation of Rev. Allen.***

Rev. Allen returned to the meeting, and MVC Chair Rev. Marlatt prayed for Todd and the Park Church. (*Note: Rev. Allen was subsequently called unanimously as pastor by the Park, Beaver Congregation.*)

Vice-Moderator Rev. Ron Schermerhorn closed the meeting with prayer at 6:25 PM.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- There were a total of 45 participants at the meeting:
 - 20 Teaching Elders
 - 18 Ruling Elders from 15 Churches
 - 1 Corresponding Members
 - 2 Ruling Elders who are officers, CT, or Chair of a Committee or Unit
 - 4 Visitors

Presbytery Meeting Summary July 27, 2021 *Stated Meeting*

The Beaver-Butler Presbytery held its stated meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, using the Zoom online meeting format. Presbytery Moderator Elder Judy Lipsak presided over the meeting.

ACTIONS TAKEN:

Agreed to the following ecclesiastical matters:

- Received the Report of the Coordinating Team – (Zoom) May 5, 2021 Minutes
- Received the Report of the Assistant Stated Clerk May 1 – June 30, 2021

- Received the Report of the Treasurer - Profit /Loss & Balance Sheet May 31, 2021
- Approved Minutes of the previous Presbytery meetings: (Zoom) May 27, 2021 Regular Meeting and (Zoom) Special Presbytery Meeting June 17, 2021, (which will be ratified at the next person to person Presbytery meeting.)
- Received the 2020 Audit Report from Cypher and Cypher
- Affirmed the recommendation Ministry & Vocation for Inquirer Ralph Lowe to move to Candidacy Phase

Executive Presbyter Report:

Rev. Dr. Harmon encouraged the presbyters (ministers and other leaders) to take advantage of the many opportunities for learning, fellowship, and rest in the coming weeks. He also spoke about the various ways the presbytery communicates with members and churches, especially the weekly newsletter and the website.

General Assembly Commissioner Task Force:

Task Force member Rev. Dr. Judy Angleberger encouraged the presbyters to pray about applying to be a Commissioner or Youth Advisory Delegate for the 225th General Assembly, to be held in “hybrid” fashion next summer.

Board of Pensions:

BOP Senior Church Consultant Rev. Dr. Doug Portz spoke about recent BOP benefit changes for ordained members, lay employees, and churches.

Collaboration, Fellowship, & Youth Ministry Unit:

Rev. Leigh Benish invited minister members (and all those involved in pastoral ministry) to attend the Sabbath Picnic on August 18, at Zelenople Community Park.

Encouraging Churches to Flourish Ministry Unit:

Rev. Jon Nelson highlighted some exciting speakers and workshops happening the next few months:

- “Disruptive Trends in Ministry” – Rev. Susan Wonderland, Aug. 11
- “Church Treasurer Training” – Lauren Cesnales, Aug 17 (2 sessions)
- “So What Do We Do Now?” – Dr. Roger Owens, Aug. 19
- “How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going” – Rev. Susan Beaumont, Sept. 24

Mission & Compassion Ministry Unit:

Rev. Bob Edmundson spoke about the need for Matthew 25 Initiative. Bob congratulated the Vanport Church, who recently signed onto Matthew 25. We may look to our own churches or community, but when we are out in society, do we see others in need? We must continue to ask ourselves, how can I do more?

Bob highlighted the three points of Matthew 25, and encouraged the churches to focus on these:

1. Building congregational vitality
2. Dismantling structural racism
3. Eradicating systemic poverty

Ministry and Vocation Committee:

Rev. Rob Swinsburg recognized the retirement of Rev. Dr. Mary Kitchen, North and East Butler. Several colleagues offered congratulations, thanks, and best wishes to Mary for her 40+ years of ordained ministry, and 30 years of servant leadership in Beaver-Butler.

Rev. Swinsburg also moderated the examination and affirmation of Inquirer Ralph Lowe (Calvin), to move to Candidacy Phase on his path to ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

For Information – Rev. Swinsburg referred the presbyters to the following:

1. Approved Cranberry Community UPC to form a PNC.
2. Approved Glade Run, Valencia to form a PNC.
3. Rev. Todd Allen, Candidate for Park, Beaver (Presbytery of the Miami Valley) approved unanimously by the Park, Beaver Congregation, at a duly-called congregational meeting on June 27. The Park Congregation also approved his Terms of Call.
4. Rev. Monica Hamilton (H.R.) is now Moderating the North and East Butler Sessions, and preaching three Sundays per month.
5. Accepted, with regret, the resignation of Elder Andrew Why from MVC.

Nomination and Representation Committee:

Nominated and Elected:

- Ministry & Vocation Committee: CRE Charles Cline (Parker & Eau Claire), class of 2023 and CRE Kathleen Davis (The Hill), class of 2023.
- Nominating and Representation Committee: Rev. Robert Kennedy (HR), class of 2023.
- Personnel: Elder Mark Finch (Friendship), class of 2022.

Youth Leadership Coordinator:

Diana Mermon Spencer spoke of upcoming presbytery events for youth, as well as the 2022 Youth Triennium, to be held July 22-24, Indianapolis.

Special Music was provided by Mark DeWalt, North Sewickley Church.

OTHER INFORMATION OF NOTE:

- There were a total of 71 participants at the meeting:
 - 27 Teaching Elders
 - 29 Ruling Elders from 25 Churches
 - 1 Corresponding Members
 - 6 Ruling Elders who are officers, CT, or Chair of a Committee or Unit
 - 8 Visitors