

PRESBYTERY DIGEST

A summary of actions & information from the meetings of Pittsburgh Presbytery

May 3, 2018

Glenshaw Presbyterian Church

The meeting was called to order by the Rev. Dr. Trent Hancock, Moderator, at 4:00 PM. The meeting was organized around the Great Ends of the Church as recorded in the *Foundations of Presbyterian Polity* in the *Book of Order*. An offering of \$1,786.86 was received for equal distribution to the [Lazarus Fund](#) and the [Hunger Fund](#). This amount will be matched by the [Pittsburgh Presbyterian Foundation](#).

From the Presbytery

Heard a report from the following:

- the **North Branch** led by the Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Minister
 - Ø the Rev. Dr. Terry Mann reported on the recently developed relationship of shared ministry of the Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church and the Pleasant Unity United Presbyterian Church, which he serves as Pastor
 - Ø Stephanie Martin, Spiritual Formation Associate at the Northmont United Presbyterian Church, reported on a collaborative youth ministry initiative involving several North Branch Congregations
- the leadership team of **Freedom Rising**, a new program for mentoring young African American boys for leadership in the church and the world; they invited applications for grants to establish or augment such programs from churches and mission groups within our bounds; information about those grants can be found [online](#).

From the Executive Committee

Elected the following:

- Elder Fred Shields as Chair of the Property Committee
- Elder Nancy Wright as member of the Property Committee
- Elder Bob Crynack and the Rev. Walt Pietschmann as members of the Personnel Committee

Announced the following:

- a change in employment terms for Elder Carla Campbell, Stated Clerk of Pittsburgh Presbytery, for oversight of congregations in transition; this will increase her employment to full-time and full benefits
- a special Executive Committee meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 4:00 PM in the Patrick Room of the presbytery center for the purpose of promoting a full and open discussion regarding Per Capita payments by the presbytery as instructed by the motion adopted at the December 2017 presbytery meeting; the meeting is open to all presbyters

Approved the following:

- distribution of the Great Ends of the Church Fund Grants:
 1. Beulah United Presbyterian Church, East End Youth Ministry Community Engagement Initiative (\$15,000.00)
 2. Central Presbyterian Church of Tarentum, Faith Community Partners (\$43,000.00)
 3. Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Let's Go Fishing (\$10,000.00)
 4. Kerr Presbyterian Church, Kerr House (\$13,500.00)
 5. Second United Presbyterian Church, Creating Flexible Space for Worship & Community Involvement (matching grant up to \$48,050.00)

Recommended the following for presbytery action; **approved**:

- the waiver of the six-year limitation on terms for one elder at the Deer Creek United Presbyterian Church for election in 2018
- the request of The Presbyterian Church of Coraopolis to sell a portion of its parking lot for \$25,000

From the Stated Clerk

Announced the following:

- all requests for docket time at the September presbytery meeting must be made to the Ecclesiastical Committee via the Stated Clerk Office no later than noon on Wednesday, August 22, 2018; request for waivers of the six-year limitation on terms for ruling elders and deacons are due on this date as well
- congregational minutes, rolls, and registers will be read from **9-11:30 AM** on the following dates at the places listed

Saturday, May 5, 2018, at [Elfinwild Presbyterian Church](#)

Saturday, May 19, 2018, at [Bethel Presbyterian Church](#), Bethel Park

Saturday, June 9, 2018, at [Pittsburgh Presbytery Center](#)

Saturday, September 22, 2018, at [Pittsburgh Presbytery Center](#)

Reported the following:

- the Ecclesiastical Administrative Commissions to
 - Ø ordain Ashley Birt as a Pastor on February 18, 2018
 - Ø ordain Maggie Smith as a Pastor on February 3, 2018
 - Ø install the Rev. Elisabeth Shelton Hartwell as a Pastor for Hiland Presbyterian Church on April 8, 2018
 - Ø install the Rev. Gavin Walton as Pastor for Grace Memorial Presbyterian Church on February 11, 2018

- the 2017 Minutes of Pittsburgh Presbytery were examined and approved with one exception

Recommended the following for presbytery action; **approved**:

- the following individuals as overture advocates of Pittsburgh Presbytery to the 223rd General Assembly to the overtures specified:
 - Ø the Rev. John Creasy, Overture 6: On Directing the BOP & the Foundation to Divest from Fossil Fuels & Invest in Securities that Focus on Renewable Energy
 - Ø the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge, Overture 18: On Appointing a Team to Review the Current Per Capita Based System of Funding the Ministry of Councils Higher than the Session
 - Ø the Rev. Dave Carver, Overture 22: On Support & Prayer for the Church & People of South Sudan

From Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Reported the following:

- a Session visit was conducted with Covenant-Community Presbyterian Church
- the following individuals were received as Candidates:
 1. Emily Cooper, a member of Elfinwild Presbyterian Church
 2. Ingrid Kalchthaler, a member of North Hills Community Baptist Church and an ordained minister in the American Baptist Church, endorsed by the East Liberty Presbyterian Church.
 3. Jane Larson, a member of The Open Door Presbyterian Church
- Annual Consultations were conducted with the following Candidates:
 1. Jane Larson
 2. Deborah Smith
- the following individuals were given permission to take the Ordination Exams as specified:
 1. Michael Ball (Church Polity, Worship & Sacraments)
 2. Paul Seif (Church Polity)
 3. Kevin Vinay (Bible Exegesis, Church Polity, Worship & Sacraments, and Theological Competence)
- Candidate Benjamin Claypool withdrew from the care process of Pittsburgh Presbytery
- a sermon was heard from Candidate Deborah Smith

- the following Candidates were Certified Ready to receive a call:
 1. Britney Knight
 2. Deborah Smith

From the General Minister

Reported the following:

- the provisional plan to restructure staff assignments in response to the departure of Associate Minister, the Rev. Ayana Teter, who has accepted a call to serve the Board of Pensions of the PC (USA); Elder Carla Campbell, Stated Clerk of Pittsburgh Presbytery, will be adding new duties as the Congregational Transition Specialist, making her employment full-time
- the proposed General Assembly increase in Per Capita and the likely impact on presbytery budgets
- receiving an inquiry into the possible sale of the presbytery offices and relocation possibilities; he invited any member of presbytery with suggestions about office relocation to be sent to him

From the Commission on Ministry

Reported the following:

- the completion of the contract between the Rev. Aaron Teter and the United Presbyterian Church of Ingram effective March 11, 2018
- the completion of the contract between Rev. Dr. Rene Whitaker and the Carnegie Presbyterian Church effective April 30, 2018
- the Rev. Ayana Teter has accepted a position with the Board of Pensions effective March 12, 2018

Moved presbytery approve the following appointments; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Dr. Bill Gracey as Moderator of the United Presbyterian Church in Ingram effective March 12, 2018
- the Rev. Dr. Stewart Bair as Moderator of the Gladden United Presbyterian Church effective March 30, 2018
- the Rev. Dr. Colleen Molinaro as Moderator of the Carnegie Presbyterian Church effective May 1, 2018

Moved presbytery approve the following calls; **approved** by consent:

- the call of the Carnegie Presbyterian Church for the services of the Rev. Dr. Colleen Molinaro as Pastor effective May 1, 2018.

Moved presbytery approve the following commissions to install; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Dr. Colleen Molinaro as Pastor of the Carnegie Presbyterian Church on June 10, 2018, at 4:00 PM

Moved presbytery approve the following temporary pastoral contracts; **approved** by consent:

- the request of the East Union Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of the Rev. Mary Josephine Ramsey as Temporary Associate Pastor effective January 1, 2018, for one year
- the request of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of the Rev. Kristin Widrich as Temporary Associate Pastor effective January 1, 2018, for one year
- the request of the Pleasant Hills Community Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of the Rev. Carolyn Cranston as Temporary Associate Pastor effective January 1, 2018, for one year
- the request of the Third Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of the Rev. Karie Charlton as Temporary Associate Pastor effective January 1, 2018, for one year
- the request of the Third Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of the Rev. Mary Louise Russell as Temporary Associate Pastor effective January 1, 2018, for one year
- the request of the Logans Ferry Presbyterian Church to renew the contract for the services of the Rev. Tim Sweigart as Temporary Pastor effective may 1, 2018 for five months

Moved presbytery grant member-at-large status to the following; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Cheryl Lynn Khylllep effective May 3, 2018
- the Rev. Dr. Rene Whitaker effective May 1, 2018
- the Rev. Aaron Teter effective March 12, 2018

Moved presbytery receive the following members; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Balajiedlang (Bala) Khylllep from the Presbytery of South Dakota effective May 3, 2018
- the Rev. Cheryl Lynn Khylllep from the Presbytery of South Dakota effective May 3, 2018
- the Rev. Dr. Colleen Molinaro from the Presbytery of Redstone effective May 1, 2018

Moved presbytery grant letters of dissolution to the following; **approved** by consent:

- the request of the Rev. Allan Drake to dissolve his call with The Presbyterian Church of Plum Creek effective May 31, 2018

Moved presbytery grant dismissal to the following; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Jay Lewis to the Presbytery of Redstone effective March 20, 2018

Moved presbytery approve the following validated ministries; **approved** by consent:

- the Rev. Balajiedlang (Bala) Khylllep as Associate Director of the World Mission Initiative, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Moved presbytery approved the following commissioned pastors; **approved** by consent:

- the request of the Bull Creek Presbyterian Church for the services of Elder Robert Henry to serve as part-time Commissioned Pastor for six months effective March 1, 2018
- the request of the Pittsburgh Vietnamese Presbyterian Fellowship to renew the commission for Elder Don Barnes to administer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper for one year effective April 1, 2018

From the Committee on Nominations

Pittsburgh Presbytery Foundation

- Elder Margaret Zabo, Bower Hill (2020A/West)