

Executive Committee Report April 18, 2017

Pittsburgh Presbytery's Executive Committee met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2017 at the Presbytery Center. Co-Chair Rev. Lance Chapman opened the meeting with prayer.

Items for Information

1. Child and Youth Protection Policy

The Executive Committee approved the Child and Youth Protection policy for Pittsburgh Presbytery as follows:

Pittsburgh Presbytery Child and Youth Protection Policy

Jesus said "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14) Jesus welcomed children and charged those who care for them to remove stumbling blocks from their paths. (Matthew 18: 5-6)

Pittsburgh Presbytery believes that it is called by God to help its congregations, pastors, and related organizations to provide a safe, nurturing environment for all children, to prevent the abuse of children while in their care, and to ensure prompt reporting of suspected abuse or neglect.

Although Pittsburgh Presbytery does not at any time have children within its direct care, it is dedicated to ensuring compliance with applicable laws and provisions of the Book of Order, and to providing information, examples, guidelines, resources, and referrals to its congregations, pastors, and related organizations. Toward that end, Pittsburgh Presbytery will:

- Provide guidelines for and make available models of child protection policies for use by congregations and related organizations in drafting their own policies;

- Support congregations, pastors, and related organizations by sharing information about available resources and training opportunities;

- Require that any organization that uses Presbytery facilities and expects to have children in attendance have and follow its own appropriate general child protection policy or a child protection plan for the specific event;

- Require that any group or organization that receives grant funding from Presbytery and works with children or includes them in the funded program have an appropriate child protection policy;

- Require that all teaching elder members who work with or are in regular contact with children, whether paid or as volunteers, have the background checks and clearances required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania;

- Require that in order to be enrolled as an inquirer under the care of Pittsburgh Presbytery an individual must have all of the background checks and clearances required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as required by the Committee on Preparation on Ministry;

Require that all teaching elder members comply with the mandatory reporting requirements of Pennsylvania law and the Book of Order. Failure to so comply may form the basis for discipline of the teaching elder under the Rules of Discipline set forth in the Book of Order.

2. Great Ends of the Church Fund Grants

The Executive Committee approved the grants proposed by the Great Ends of the Church Fund Subcommittee for 2017. The list of grants awarded will be announced at the presbytery meeting.

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Executive Committee recommends that the following items be approved by consent: **# 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.**

2. Election of the Stated Clerk

At the February 16, 2017 Stated Meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery, the Stated Clerk Nominating Committee nominated Ruling Elder Carla Campbell for election as Stated Clerk of Pittsburgh Presbytery. The election of the Stated Clerk for a five-year term commencing July 1, 2017 is in order at the May 4, 2017 meeting.

***3. Recognition of Anti-Racism Transformational Team as a Ministry Team**

The Executive Committee recommends that the Anti-Racism Transformational Team be recognized as a Ministry Team of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

***4. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Baldwin United Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms of one elder to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2017 and one deacon for election to the Class of 2019 for Baldwin United Presbyterian Church.

***5. Waiver of Six-Year Limitation on Terms – Emsworth United Pres. Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forwards to Presbytery for its approval, a waiver of the six-year limitation on terms for one elder for election in 2017 for Emsworth United Presbyterian Church.

***6. Permission for Sale of Property – Pine Creek Presbyterian Church**

The Executive Committee approved and forward to presbytery for its approval the request of Pine Creek Presbyterian Church to sell a vacant lot for a selling price of \$45,000; the proceeds to be used for their cemetery fund.

***7. Finance Reports – December 2016 and January and February 2017**

The Executive Committee recommends Presbytery receive and file for audit the Presbytery Financial Statements for the months of December 2016 and January and February 2017.