

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK
February 13, 2020

Items for Information

1. Deadline for Docket Time and Waiver Requests for May Presbytery Meeting

The Ecclesiastical Committee has announced that all requests for docket time at the May 14, 2020, presbytery meeting must be made to the Ecclesiastical Committee via the Stated Clerk's office no later than **noon on Wednesday, April 8, 2020**. If action by the Presbytery will be requested, the full text of the motion and any accompanying documents (reports, rationale, etc.) must be submitted by this time as well. Requests for waivers of the six-year limitation on terms for elders and deacons are due on this date also.

The remaining deadlines for docket time and waiver requests for 2020 are as follows:

Presbytery Meeting	Deadline
September 24, 2020	August 26, 2020
December 10, 2020	November 4, 2020

2. Reminder Regarding Expiration of Child Protection Clearances

Under Pennsylvania law, the clearances required for those who work or volunteer with children are valid for 60 months. Since this law went into effect in January 2015, those clearances obtained soon after the law went into effect will expire on their five-year anniversary. Churches are urged to review their files and notify those individuals whose clearances must be renewed.

3. Appointment of Investigating Committee

As reported to the presbytery at the December 5, 2019, meeting, on Thursday, November 14, 2019, the Stated Clerk received a written accusation against a minister member of Pittsburgh Presbytery. On December 19, 2019, the Moderator appointed the following individuals to constitute the investigating committee for this matter:

Ruling Elder Jackie Fennel (Hampton)
Rev. Dr. Carolyn Jones (Honorably Retired)
Ruling Elder Tom Lyons (Crossroads-Gibsonia)
Rev. Dr. Karl McDonald (Ken Mawr)
Ruling Elder Kears Pollock (Parkwood)

The investigating committee has begun its work.

4. 2019 Minutes Reading Dates and Locations

The Ecclesiastical Committee has scheduled Minutes Readings from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on the following dates and locations:

March 14, 2020, First United Presbyterian Church, Tarentum
March 28, 2020, Southminster Presbyterian Church, Mt. Lebanon
April 18, 2020, Oakmont Presbyterian Church, Oakmont
May 2, 2020, Unity Presbyterian Church, Greentree
May 16, 2020, Presbytery Center
September 12, 2020, Presbytery Center

5. Request for Concurrence Expected to be Introduced as New Business

The Peacemaking Ministry Team has informed the Stated Clerk's office that it intends to introduce as an item of New Business, a request that Pittsburgh Presbytery concur with Overture 29 from the Presbytery of the Susquehanna Valley titled "Regarding Depleted Uranium in Iraq". Overture 29 provides:

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) of the PC(USA) to address the crisis of depleted uranium in Iraq, an ongoing effect of the U.S. invasion that is now poisoning the people and the land. In so doing, it recalls the overtures of the 223rd General Assembly (2018), (Item 08-04) "On Renewing Our Call to Promote Environmental Justice" and (Item 08-05) "On Responding to Environmental Racism" by directing the pertinent offices of the PC(USA) to seek the justice of a lasting remedy by doing the following:

1. Comprehensive Testing and Remedy

a. Direct the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to send a message to the U.S. president, the U.S. secretary of state, the U.S. secretary of defense, and to each U.S. senator and representative urging, with the consent of the Iraqi government,

(1) an immediate and comprehensive assessment of the distribution of depleted uranium in Iraq, including inventory of remaining military equipment, and testing and mapping of soil and water contamination due to the presence of depleted uranium;

(2) a thorough epidemiological report of the Iraqi population to discern the health effects of depleted uranium, including its infant mortality rates;

(3) removal and containment of depleted uranium in Iraq by committing existing capabilities and resources in the U.S. in conjunction with funding, training, and equipping Iraqi workers to do the job;

(4) funding, training, and equipping Iraqi clinics and hospitals to treat those suffering the physical and mental health effects of depleted uranium;

(5) ongoing testing and epidemiological reporting to discern the results of remedial measures; and

(6) full cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in their work in Iraq.

b. Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through its Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, to support this witness in their work, as well as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as they have done substantial characterization work already and have financial and oversight resources toward performing these actions.

2. Work to End the Military Use of Depleted Uranium

Direct the Presbyterian Mission Agency, through its Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, to work with representatives of member states to urge a worldwide ban on the military use of depleted uranium.

Rationale in support of this overture may be found at:

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000540>

The Peacemaking Ministry Team has not submitted additional rationale in support of this overture.

6. Invitations for Hosting the Presbytery during Calendar Year 2021

The Ecclesiastical Committee would welcome your invitation for the Pittsburgh Presbytery to meet at your church/facility for its February, May, or December 2021 stated meeting. Invitations to host a dinner meeting in May are of interest. Please notify the Ecclesiastical Committee of your congregation's interest via the Stated Clerk's office. If your congregation is unable to host a meeting but is interested in partnering with a host congregation to provide volunteers and other support, please let the Ecclesiastical Committee know via the Stated Clerk's office as well.

7. Appointment of Associate and Assistant Stated Clerks

The Stated Clerk has appointed Rev. Eric Dennis as Associate Stated Clerk and Adrien Domske and Dorothy Winter as Assistant Stated Clerks.

8. Permanent Judicial Commission Expired Terms Roster

In accordance with D-5.0206b of the Rules of Discipline, the Stated Clerk is required to maintain a current roster of the members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the last six years and to report those names annually to the presbytery. The following are the minister and elder members of the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery whose terms have expired within the last six years and who, therefore, would be available to fill a quorum in the event that current members of the Permanent Judicial Commission are unable to attend hearings in a particular case:

Name	Term Expired
Rev. Dr. Don Ewing	2016
Rev. Dr. John Welch	2016
Elder Ann Baker, Esq.	2017
Elder William Cadwell	2017
Rev. Ann Morris	2018

9. Ruling Elder Parity – 2020

Presbytery Plan for Addressing Teaching and Ruling Elder Parity. Under provisions of article G-3.0301 of the Book of Order, the Presbytery annually redresses an imbalance of ministers and elders in accordance with a plan set out in the Presbytery Manual. The imbalance is addressed by (1) subtracting ministers who do not live within a reasonable meeting-commuting range or whose frail health prevents their attendance, (2) calculating the number of ruling elder commissioners which participating congregations by size are permitted to send to presbytery meetings (as set forth in the Manual of the Presbytery), (3) enrolling ruling elders actively serving on commissions and committees of the presbytery, (4) enrolling presbytery ruling elder officers, staff, commissioned ruling elders and past moderators, and (5) inviting congregations on the basis of an annual rotation to send an additional ruling elder to presbytery meetings. The structure of this presbytery teaching and ruling elder parity plan has been in place for a number of years.

The membership of Pittsburgh Presbytery as reported to the Stated Clerk as of December 31, 2018, was:

Minister Members:	315
Less those unlikely to be able to attend	<u>-47</u>
	268

Ruling Elders	
Ruling Elders by Congregation Membership Size	144
Plus Ruling Elder Officers/Committee Service	63
Plus Serving Commissioned Pastors	6
Plus Additional Ruling Elders by Rotation	<u>55</u>
	268

Items for Action

1. Consent Motions

The Stated Clerk recommends that the following items be approved by consent: **# 4 and 5.**

2. Motion to Concur with Overture 4 to the 224th General Assembly

At the December 5, 2019, Stated Meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery, a motion that Pittsburgh Presbytery concur with Overture 4 to the 224th General Assembly was tabled to the February meeting. Overture 4, from the Presbytery of Arkansas, is titled "On Forming a Commission to Write a New PC(USA) Confession to Be Considered for Inclusion in the Book of Confessions". Overture 4 states:

The Presbytery of Arkansas overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to form a commission to write a new confession for the PC(USA) to be considered for inclusion in the Book of Confessions. This commission shall be formed by no later than December 31st, 2022.

Rationale in support of this overture may be found at:

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000514>

3. Request for Concurrence with Overture 12 to the 224th General Assembly

The Commission on Ministry has requested that Pittsburgh Presbytery concur with Overture 12 from the Presbytery of the Miami Valley titled "On Amending G-2.0503 to Change the Designation Honorably Retired to Retired". Overture 12 states:

The Presbytery of the Miami Valley overtures the 224th General Assembly (2020) to direct the Stated Clerk to send the following proposed amendments to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes:

1. Amend the first paragraph of G-2.0503 as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with a strike-through.]

"A minister of the Word and Sacrament is a member of a presbytery and shall be engaged in a ministry validated by that presbytery, a member-at-large as determined by the presbytery, or ~~honorably~~ retired."

2. Amend G-2.0503c as follows:

"c. ~~Honorably~~ Retired

"Upon request of a member of presbytery, the presbytery may designate the member ~~honorably~~ retired because of age, or physical or mental disability, or *other factors satisfactory to the presbytery.*"

Rationale in support of this overture may be found at:

<https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000522>

***4. Ruling Elder Parity**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the following elder officers, former moderators, committee/commission members, and staff of Pittsburgh Presbytery be commissioned as elder presbyters for the calendar year 2020 to redress an imbalance of minister and elder presbyters (See, Book of Order, G-3.0301):

EQUALIZED RULING ELDERS 2020

Elected Officers of Presbytery:

Senior Vice Moderator	Mark Roth	East Liberty
Vice Moderator (West)	Elsie Knappenberger	St. Andrews
Treasurer	Christopher Martin	East Liberty
Stated Clerk	Carla Campbell	Southminster

Former Moderators:

Ronald Curry	Grace Memorial
David Green	Bower Hill
Frank Hancock	Oakmont PC
Jean Kennedy	East Liberty
Mark Krauland	East Liberty
Kears Pollock	Parkwood UP
Lenore Williams	East Liberty

Presbytery Executive Committee:

Dan Beckstrom	Bethel (Bethel Park)
Chris Blackwood	Southminster
Bob Crynack	Glenshaw
Jim Gockley	Shadyside
Clifford Huff	Glenshaw Valley
Darlene Rushing	Hot Metal Bridge
Larry Shoup	Hebron, Clinton
John Van Cleve	Westminster

Presbytery Staff:

Roy Burford	Bethel (Bethel Park)
Cathy Nelson	Crafton UP

Commission on Ministry:

Lora Bethea	East Liberty
Robert Dressing	Pleasant Hills
Jodi Dukes	Rennerdale
Susan Herrle	Wexford
Hill Jordan	Valley View
Jeff Mulkern	Elfinwild
Brad Pietryga	Homestead

Bucky Savatt
Ann Turnock
Lauren Wolcott
Earle Wooding

Ken Mawr
Beulah
Hot Metal
Pleasant Hills

Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Tim Bailey
Peggy Bonfiglio
Nat Hunter
Bob Lindemann
Amanda Wade
Jim Weikel
Kaye Wentling
Drew Wilson
Janice Wolff

Carnegie
Tarentum, First UP
Shadyside
Elfinwild
Clinton
Ken Mawr
Hillcrest
Forest Hills
Hampton

Nominating Committee:

Arthur McAra
Barb Prevost

Wexford
Crafton Heights

Permanent Judicial Commission:

Jeanne Bingman
Eugene Harris
Barbara Jay
Laura Vassamillet

Sewickley
East Liberty
Bethel (Bethel Park)
Sewickley

Response Team:

Jane Fox
Derwin Rushing
Michelle Snyder

Sixth
Hot Metal
Bower Hill

Administrative Commission for Transformation:

Cheryl Densmore

Whitehall

New Worshipping Communities Commission:

Don Barnes
Gene Walker
Vera White

Open Door
Mosiatic
Hiland

Administrative Commissions:

Boston, First

Tim Biggs
Ronald W. Howell
Jean Jenkins
Becky McHolme

Boston, First
Boston, First
Boston, First
Bethesda, Elizabeth

Calvert

John Picket
Ronald Salisbury
Shirley Voller

Fox Chapel
Parkwood
Calvert

Forest Grove

Scott Davis
Peter Pross

Union
Mosaic

Commissioned Ruling Elders:

Ross Community
Bull Creek
Amity
Hawthorne
Forest Ave.
Oakdale

Dale Craig
Robert Henry
Gary Molinaro
Paul Nigra
C. Louise Schoppe
Nancy Kay Stanny

Ross Community
Tarentum, First UP
Pleasant Hills
Hawthorne
Ken Mawr
Valley

***5. Ecclesiastical Administrative Commissions to Ordain or Install**

The Stated Clerk recommends that the Minutes of the following Ecclesiastical Administrative Commissions be approved, and the commissions be dismissed with thanks:

Administrative Commission to Install Rev. Nicole Atkinson

ATKINSON The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery on December 5, 2019, to install Nicole Atkinson as Pastor at Crossroads Presbyterian Church, comprising Moderator Rev. Charissa Clark Howe, Rev. Ryan Pixton, Rev. Sarah Robbins, Rev. Stephanie Martin, Elder Tom Lyons (Crossroads Presbyterian Church), Elder Frank Hancock (Oakmont Presbyterian Church), and Elder Louise Schoppe (Ken Mawr Presbyterian Church) met by appointment on January 12, 2020, at 2:30 pm at Crossroads Presbyterian Church.

There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by Rev. Howe. All things being prepared in advance, decently and in order, the Commission approved the Service of Installation and voted to proceed to the installation of Rev. Nicole Atkinson according to the direction of Presbytery and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commission moved to the Sanctuary at 3:00pm and installed Rev. Atkinson as Pastor for Crossroads Presbyterian Church.

Rev. Howe asked the constitutional questions which the candidate answered in the affirmative. The sermon was delivered by Rev. Sarah Robbins. Rev. Howe offered the prayer of installation and Rev. Leigh Benish, minister member of Beaver-Butler Presbytery, delivered the charge to the congregation. Rev. Pixton offered the charge to the pastor.

The minutes of the Commission were read and approved. Upon motion duly made, the Commission moved to adjourn at the conclusion of the Service of Installation with the pronouncement of the Benediction by Rev. Atkinson.

Administrative Commission to Install Rev. Derek Campbell

CAMPBELL The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery on December 5, 2019, to install Derek Campbell as Pastor for Unity United Presbyterian Church, comprising Former Moderator, the Rev. Steven Werth, the Rev. Michael Gehrling, and the Rev. Carolyn Cranston, together with Ruling Elder Ann Turnock (Beulah Presbyterian Church) and Ruling Elder Michael Bucci (Unity United Presbyterian Church), met by appointment on January 12, 2020, at 2:45 p.m. at Unity United Presbyterian Church.

There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by the Rev. Steven Werth. All things being prepared in advance, decently and in order, the Commission approved the Service of Installation and voted to proceed to the installation of Derek Campbell according to the direction of Presbytery and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Commission moved to the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. and installed the Rev. Derek Campbell as Pastor for Unity United Presbyterian Church

Senior Vice-Moderator Werth asked the constitutional questions which the candidate answered in the affirmative. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Michael Gehrling. The Rev. Dr. Van Campbell, minister in the Evangelical Free Church of America, offered the prayer of installation and charge to the pastor. Ruling Elder Michael Bucci offered the charge to the congregation.

The minutes of the Commission were read and approved. Upon motion duly made, the Commission moved to adjourn at the conclusion of the Service of Installation with the pronouncement of the Benediction by the Rev. Derek Campbell.