

DIGEST OF THE MEETING OF PITTSBURGH PRESBYTERY – FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Pittsburgh Presbytery met for its regular Stated Meeting on Thursday, February 24, 2022, via Zoom video conferencing. The meeting was attended by 80 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 66 Ruling Elders. There were 40 churches represented by at least one ruling elder, and 1 registered visitor.

The outgoing Moderator, Ruling Elder Mark Roth, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with prayer and offered brief remarks.

Prayers were offered for the following who are serving in new calls in the presbytery:

Rev. Laura Bentley, Designated Associate Pastor at Southminster Presbyterian Church
Rev. Jason Rea, Temporary Pastor at Forest Avenue United Presbyterian Church
Rev. Trip Torbert, Temporary Pastor at Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Stephen Crocco, Covenant Associate Pastor at Oakmont Presbyterian Church, was introduced as a minister who is new to the presbytery

Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe led a prayer for the family of Rev. Dr. George Kehm who joined the Church Triumphant on January 8, 2022, and for the family of Rev. Dr. Robert F. Tuttle who joined the Church Triumphant on February 23, 2022.

Ruling Elder Ralph Lowe offered devotions and introduced a video, presented by the Rev. Dr. Ronald Peters, calling attention to threats to voting rights in the United States.

Elder Lowe introduced a video celebrating the history and heritage of the Pittsburgh Presbytery's African American churches.

Rev. Forrest Claassen, the new Executive of the Synod of the Trinity brought greetings to the presbytery. Rev. Dr. Doug Portz presented several announcements from the Board of Pensions.

The NextGen Ministry Team presented a video providing information on its programs and highlighting summer mission opportunities for youth at Crestfield Camp and Conference Center and the Trinity Youth Conference.

Rev. Rebecca DePoe, the incoming moderator nominated the following as vice-moderators:

Rev. Ben Schneider as Vice Moderator for the South
Ruling Elder Sally Huber-Lewis as Vice Moderator for the East
Rev. Dr. Tyler Domske as Vice Moderator for the North

Elder Mark Roth then installed Rev. Rebecca DePoe as Moderator, Ruling Elder Louise Schoppe as Senior Vice Moderator, Rev. Ben Schneider as Vice Moderator for the South, Ruling Elder Sally Huber-Lewis as Vice Moderator for the East, and Rev. Dr. Tyler Domske as Vice Moderator for the North. Rev. DePoe offered a benediction.

A resolution of thanks for the dedication and service to the presbytery of the outgoing Moderator of the Presbytery, Ruling Elder Mark Roth, was approved.

Matters from the Executive Committee

The presbytery approved the request of Riverview United Presbyterian Church for permission to sell their church building for \$250,000 and their thrift store building for \$70,000.

Matter from the Stated Clerk

The Moderator has appointed an administrative commission to conclude the legal, corporate, and ecclesiastical affairs of Emsworth United Presbyterian Church, Neville Island Presbyterian Church, and St. Andrew's United Presbyterian Church, including dissolution of the congregations and disposition of the properties. The members of the commission are as follows:

Rev. Ronee Christy (Bellevue)
Ruling Elder Susan Dobbins (Sewickley)
Rev. Dr. Bruce Ford (H.R.)
Rev. Dr. Jim Gilchrist (H.R.)
Ruling Elder Bucky Savatt (Ken Mawr)

Pittsburgh Presbytery voted to concur, with additional rationale, with Overture 55 from the Presbytery of San Fernando "On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders."

Pittsburgh Presbytery voted to overture the 225th General Assembly regarding removal of guns from domestic abusers.

The Stated Clerk Nominating Committee reported that it is nominating the present Stated Clerk, Ruling Elder Carla Campbell to serve for another five-year term and to be elected at the May 19, 2022, Stated Meeting of Pittsburgh Presbytery.

The General Minister, Rev. Dr. Sheldon Sorge, joined the meeting via video, providing an update on the state of the presbytery, current COVID responses, and an invitation to embrace the Matthew 25 initiative of the PC(USA).

Report of the Commission on Ministry

Report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Report of the Committee on Nominations

The meeting was ended at 3:01 p.m. with prayer given by the Moderator, the Rev. Rebecca DePoe.

All of the reports and texts can be found in the [Presbytery Packet](#).