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February 2023

Dear Presbytery,

As we have embarked on a time of transition at Pittsburgh Presbytery, all of us on staff are taking on new tasks and rolls and finding new ways to be presbytery. We are delighted that Rev. Louise Rogers has joined the presbytery staff as a Temporary Associate Minister and already is bringing her extensive experience and pastor's heart to the staff. We are grateful for her gifts and those of all our faithful presbyters.

We are the body of Christ and all of us bring unique gifts, each important and necessary. We are better equipped to fulfill our calling when we have the benefit of the full range of gifts bestowed by our Creator. During this transition we are asking each of you to make a special effort to attend presbytery meetings and to encourage others to do so.

Each congregation recently received notification of how many ruling elders it may send to the presbytery meetings for 2023. Last year only 48 of our 122 congregations had a ruling elder attend a presbytery meeting. We are striving to do better this year and ask all of you to assist if you can whether by providing technological assistance for those who might not be comfortable with Zoom or a ride when we meet in person or even just a friendly invitation.

At this meeting, we will embark on the next phase of our transition as we elect the Special Nominating Committee that will search for our next General Minister and hear reflections for times of transition from our Synod Executive, Rev. Forrest Claassen, who will be staffing the Special Nominating Committee. Acting Head of Staff Rev. Brian Wallace will provide updates on the Landscape Study and other transition matters.

While we are again deferring our full celebration of the history and ministry of our Black churches until our May meeting, we will not miss the chance to acknowledge the importance of our commitment not just to mark their past contributions, but to walk with them in the path of justice-seeking. Using the overture from Sixth Presbytery Church on reparations for Bethel AME Church, our time of devotions will be led by our Associate Minister for Justice Ministries, Rev. Ralph Lowe, who will explore what it means to biblically address racial inequity for the sake of God's glory.

Important business at this meeting includes a request to approve a path to ordination for a minister for our newest congregation, the Pittsburgh Vietnamese Presbyterian Church, to accommodate a candidate for whom English is not his language of prayer, worship, and study. We will continue our votes on proposed amendments to the Book of Order, all of which are detailed [here](#).

We look forward to being with you at the meeting.

Grace and peace,

Carla L. Campbell
Stated Clerk and Congregational Transition Specialist