

PRESBYTERY OF KISKIMINETAS
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Date: September 17, 2012

TO: Ministers, Clerks of Session, Members of Presbytery Council, and Presbytery Commissioners who have been elected for the year 2012

Dear Friends:

The Presbytery of Kiskiminetas will hold a Called Presbytery Meeting on **Thursday, October 4, 2012, at 6:00 pm** at the Dayton Glade Run Presbyterian Church for the sole purpose of examining Brett Hoover for Ordination and approve his call to the Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Excused absences from attendance at the Presbytery meeting will be granted up to the meeting and for 2 days (48 hours) after the meeting. Requests for excuses after that time will not be granted.

As preparation for the meeting, the following items of interest are enclosed:

- 1) Statement of Faith and Bio for Brett Hoover - to be installed at Clarksburg/Trinity

Attention Clerks of Session: Elder Commissioners do not receive this mailing since we do not know in advance who they will be. (The mailing is sent directly to those whose names and addresses we have received as having been elected for the year 2012.)

It is important that you give the enclosed information to the Elder Commissioner(s)
In order to be properly recognized and recorded, Elder Commissioners will now be signed in via computer by a Presbytery assistant.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Those Commissioners desiring to read the minutes of the meeting may do so on the Presbytery web page (www.kiskipby.org) by clicking on the Presbytery Meeting Central and using the password. You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader to view them. If you do not know the password, contact the Stated Clerk or the Presbytery Office to obtain it. Those without Internet access may request a print copy of the minutes by calling the Presbytery Office.

Directions: **DAYTON, DAYTON GLADE RUN**
2540 Dayton Smicksburg Rd, Dayton 16222 - 814-257-8666

From Kittanning, take Route 85 east approximately 14 miles to Route 839. Proceed on 839 north for approximately 5 miles. Watch for the sign for the Dayton Glade Run Church and turn right at Stockdale Transport. Proceed 1/8 mile and the church is on the left. **From Indiana**, take Route 119 north to Home. Turn left on Route 85 and proceed to Plumville. Turn right on Route 954 and go north for approximately 6 miles to Smicksburg. Turn left on West Kittanning Street and proceed 3 ½ miles. The church is on the right. From New Bethlehem, take Route 839 south through Dayton. One mile south of Dayton, turn left at Stockdale Transport. Proceed 1/8 mile and the church is on the left. **From Punxsutawney**, take 119 south and turn right onto 210. At Trade City go straight onto 954 south. At Smicksburg, turn right on West Kittanning Street and proceed 3 ½ miles. Church on right.

My faith journey began in the Anabaptist tradition with the Brethren Church. I was baptized at age 11 and my family sporadically attended worship services at the Bedford Brethren Church. A few years later, one of my close school friends invited me to attend youth group meetings at the Bedford Presbyterian Church. As I became more involved in the youth group, my parents became more involved in the worship life of the church. We were well on our way to changing membership and becoming Presbyterian. We officially joined the church shortly after they had called a new minister, Doug Friant.

I had several formative experiences at the Bedford Presbyterian Church before I graduated from High School. First, the Holy Spirit moved me toward faith in Jesus Christ at a youth retreat called Fun in the Son. I would describe the experience as a conversion as the Holy Spirit awoke in me a response of faith to the amazing atoning grace found in Jesus Christ. The second major formative experience was the initial recognition of Spiritual gifts for ministry. Like most churches, the Bedford Church had a yearly worship service led entirely by the youth group. Pastor Friant suggested that I should preach. Until that point, I had never considered preaching or even the possibility of pursuing pulpit ministry as a vocation. But after I preached, I was amazed by the number of people who suggested that I pursue ordained ministry. After a while, I started to think that maybe God was trying to tell me something through their suggestions.

I continued to wrestle with issues of faith and my sense of call at college. During my freshmen year, I set out to understand and evaluate my Presbyterian identity. I asked myself questions like exactly do Presbyterians believe and do I except those beliefs with full personal integrity? In other words, I wanted to claim my faith commitments as my own. As I read the Confessions, John Calvin, and other Presbyterian writers, I fell in love with the Reformed Tradition. I am still living into this desire to understand faith in my continuing studies. This first foray into theological exploration has started a lifetime of questioning, study, reflection, and reliance on God's grace when things seem to be incomprehensible. I also remained active in corporate worship at a local congregation. In this home away from home church I encountered the same kinds of affirmation of gifts for ministry that I received elsewhere. I became very active in their youth ministries and eventually became the youth minister for the congregation. Until the end of my sophomore year, I was working under the assumption that I would be an educator at the High School or College level. Then, one night during prayer, I got the unmistakable sense that God was calling me to ministry. I took counsel with some of my closest spiritual advisors and they all suggested that I pursue this calling.

I was still on the fence about becoming a minister, but I applied to Princeton Theological Seminary with the mindset that if I was accepted, then my calling would be confirmed and I would proceed (looking back on it this seems a little silly). I was accepted at Princeton and finally embraced God's call. Seminary was a trying and rewarding experience. I am most grateful for all the people who helped to support me at seminary. Their love and encouragement helped me through the difficult times, and they gave me a community to share joys and frustrations. Looking back, I am amazed by God's guidance and provision in my life. Going forward, I hope to share God's amazing grace with others and to remain obedient to God's continuing call in my life.

1 I believe in One, Holy, Sovereign, and Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; who created all things
2 and lovingly governs them through divine Providence.

3 I believe in one hope, one mediator, and one Lord, Jesus the Christ, the only Son of God, who was
4 conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of a virgin, Mary. In this Jesus, the fullness of God and humanity dwells
5 in perfect unity in his person. In his ministry, the righteousness of God was revealed.

6 I believe Jesus was delivered into the hands of his persecutors and suffered death on the cross. On the
7 third day after his murder, God raised Jesus from the dead, vindicating his sinless life, and triumphing over the
8 powers of sin and death. He appeared to several people including the women who followed him and his chosen
9 disciples. He then ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father, continually praying for
10 us, until the day when he shall return again in glory to judge all of humanity and establish his eternal kingdom.

11 I believe in God the Holy Spirit, who moved over the waters of creation, empowered the prophetic voice of
12 the prophets, descended like a dove on Christ at his baptism, and blesses members of the church with every
13 good spiritual gift. The Holy Spirit awakens faith in the believer and continually calls them to be transformed by
14 the renewing of their minds unto obedience.

15 I believe salvation to be entirely the gracious work of the Triune God. When I was lost in the power of sin,
16 the Holy Spirit awoke within me faith in God's faithfulness made known in Jesus Christ. On the cross, Christ paid
17 my ransom and liberated me from slavery to sin and death. Now, when God looks on me in judgment, God sees
18 only the acquired righteousness of Jesus Christ and accepts me as a reconciled child. In response to this
19 gracious love and with the support of the Holy Spirit, I am called into a life of joyous thanksgiving and continuing
20 transformation into the likeness of Christ.

21 I believe in the holy fellowship of all those who profess belief in the Triune God revealed in Jesus Christ.
22 This fellowship is God's Church and Christ's one body. God blesses the Church with the sacramental gifts of
23 baptism and the Lord's Supper. In baptism, we receive through the Holy Spirit the sign and seal of our calling into
24 the body of Christ. In the Lord's Supper, we are nourished by the Holy Spirit through the spiritual partaking of
25 Christ's body and blood, we are reminded of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf, and we are called afresh to unity and
26 service. I believe that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired word of God written,
27 bearing authoritative witness to the Word of God incarnate: Jesus Christ; and that they are fit for teaching and
28 guidance. I believe in resurrection of the body and eternal life, trusting in God's promise that death itself will be
29 forever defeated.