

**Presbytery of Kiskiminetas
Stated Meeting – May 11, 2021
Via Zoom and In Person at Clarion First**

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| 7:00 P.M. | Worship, led by Rev. Erin Kobs and Rev. Raymond Eichler | |
| 7:30 P.M. | Constituting Prayer and Organization of Presbytery A. Explanation of the technology B. Recognition of Elders and Ministers attending for the first time C. Announcements D. Sharing of Joys and Concerns | |
| | Reports of: | |
| 7:45 P.M. | Stated Clerk | 4 |
| | A. Formation of the Roll B. Enrollment of Corresponding Members C. Approval of the Docket D. Action on Provisional Minutes of the March 13, 2021, stated meeting | |
| 7:50 P.M. | Board of Pensions Updates – Doug Portz | |
| 8:10 P.M. | Outreach Commission Updates – Raafat Girgis | 6 |
| 8:30 P.M. | General Presbyter – Don Wilson | |
| 8:50 P.M. | Nominating/Representation – Jim Dietrich | 6 |
| 8:55 P.M. | Ministry Commission – Gary Lyon | 6 |
| 9:10 A.M. | +New Business, Miscellaneous, Report of the Moderator, Adjournment with Prayer | |

Report from the Admin Commission can be found on Page 7

*Indicates Order of the Day

+Unless previously docketed, no items of new business shall be introduced following the report of the Stated Clerk. Items of new business must be presented in writing to the Stated Clerk. Consideration of such items shall take place at the time docketed for new business. Suggested amendments and motions should be submitted in writing to the Stated Clerk.

Presbytery Meeting Worship
May 11, 2021

Opening Words

Rev. Ray Eichler,
First Presbyterian Church of East Brady

One: We come and seek the ways of wisdom.

All: We come as one Body in Christ.

One: We come to find peace and sing songs of love.

All: We come to be refreshed by the Spirit.

One: Come, let us worship.

Hymn #356 (*Presbyterian Hymnal*) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune your heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above.

Call to Confession

Rev. Ray Eichler

In this wild and wondrous world, we often find ourselves stuck in patterns of keeping ourselves separated from each other. So, let us come before God to confess our need of God's grace upon our hearts and souls.

Prayer of Confession (*from Guerrillas of Grace, Ted Loder*)

Rev. Ray Eichler

Gracious and Holy One, creator of all things and of emptiness, I come to you full of truth that clatters and distracts, stifles and burdens me, and makes me a burden to others.

Empty me now of gnawing dissatisfactions, of anxious imaginings, of fretful preoccupations, of nagging prejudices, of old scores to settle, and of the arrogance of being right.

Empty me of the ways I unthinkingly think of myself as powerless, as a victim, as determined by sex, age, race, as being less than I am, or as other than yours.

Empty me of the disguises and lies in which I hide myself from other people and from my responsibility for my neighbors and for the world.

Hollow out in me a space in which I find myself, find peace and a whole heart, a forgiving spirit and holiness, the springs of laughter, and the will to reach boldly for abundant life for myself and the whole human family.
(*time for silence*)

Words of Forgiveness

Rev. Ray Eichler

Family of faith, God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us. Hear and believe this truth:
We are known. We are loved. We are forgiven. Over and over again, thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Ray Eichler

(from Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth, Walter Brueggeman)

Healing, sovereign God, overmatch our resistant ears with your transforming speech. Penetrate our jadedness and fatigue. Touch our yearnings by your words. Through our out-loudness, draw us closer to you. We are ready to listen. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 11.18-21

Rev. Ray Eichler

You shall put these words of mine in your heart and soul, and you shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and fix them as an emblem on your forehead. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your ancestors to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.

Scripture Reading: Mark 16.19-20

Rev. Erin Kobs,

The Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Homily

Rev. Erin Kobs

Prayers of the People

Rev. Erin Kobs

Hymn #386 (*Presbyterian Hymnal*) O for a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and peace.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery is relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Charge & Benediction

Rev. Erin Kobs

Report of the Stated Clerk

1. **Minutes Review:** The minutes of the presbytery from the year 2020 have been reviewed and received by the Synod of the Trinity with 1 exception (we did not offer to accept nominations from the floor during an election) and 1 discrepancy (they are now asking that each page of our minutes have the meeting date on the page).
2. **Report of the AC to Install Rev. Raafat Girgis:**

Presbytery of Kiskiminetas-March 13, 2021
Administrative Commission for the Installation of Reverend Raafat Girgis

The meeting of the administrative commission was called to order at 8:30 AM by Elder Younkins, Moderator of the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas via the Zoom platform.

Commission Members present: Elder Preston Younkins, moderator of Presbytery, Elders Joe Billotte and Liz Say from New Rehoboth Greenville and Pisgah churches respectively, Elder Randy Stear from Plumville and vice moderator of the presbytery, Elder Pam Cavalier from Shelocta, Reverend Dr. Don Wilson, Rev. Christopher McCloskey, and Reverend Kathy Nice. Reverends Paul Abell and Wayne Yost were unable to join the Zoom meeting.

Guests present: Reverend Dr. Robert Chesnut, giving the charge to the pastor.

The meeting was opened with prayer, offered by Elder Younkins. It was properly moved, seconded and carried to elect Reverend Nice, Stated Clerk, as acting clerk for the meeting. Participants then reviewed the order of worship for the installation service.

A motion was made to approve the ordination and installation of Reverend Girgis to serve as pastor of New Rehoboth Greenville and Pisgah Presbyterian Churches. The motion was seconded and approved.

It was approved to dissolve the Administrative Commission upon receiving the benediction of the worship service, which will be offered by Reverend Girgis.

With no other business before the commission, Elder Younkins adjourned the meeting at 8:35 AM and the meeting was closed with prayer. The commission and guests then joined the Zoom link from the sanctuary of the Pisgah Presbyterian Church for the service.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Kathy Nice
Acting Clerk of the Administrative Commission and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery

PRESBYTERY CABINET MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 2021

The Cabinet of the Presbytery of Kiskiminetas of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) met in stated meeting via Zoom technology. The meeting was opened at 5:04 p.m. with prayer and a devotion from Luke 24:13-35 by Moderator Rev. Marty Cartmell.

MEMBERS: *Ministers:* Marty Cartmell, Jim Dietrich. *Elders:* Preston Younkins, Jane Neal, Kathy Larimer, Mel Dunlap, Cheryl Thomas.

Ex-Officio Members: Rev. Dr. Donald Wilson, General Presbyter; Rev. Kathy Nice, Stated Clerk, Rev. Christopher McCloskey, Assistant Stated Clerk; Jim Dixon (GA Rep & Synod Rep) and Rev. Dave Koehler (Synod Rep)

Members Absent: Randy Stear, Ray Eichler (GA Rep) and Kay John, Sandy Gandolfi (ex-officio), Raafat Girgis.

DISCUSSION OF SCRIPTURE: (Road to Emmaus passage) how should we be on fire, how can we recognize Jesus better, we lose hope when living in the past tense, why/how couldn't these men recognize Jesus? (did they look away? Was it grief? Was he transformed?), scapegoat for their not figuring it out, he wasn't what they expected so they couldn't see, he met them in their disbelief (where they are), don't recognize Jesus in our friends or helpers, expect to experience Jesus – teach our people to do that – they who wait upon the Lord (Isaiah)

STATED CLERK REPORT:

- *Motion* made by Elder Larimer to accept the minutes of the February 4 meeting of Cabinet. Approved.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Rev. Dietrich)

- A resignation on the Admin Commission will bring Elder Larry Unger (Tidal) to be elected at the May meeting of Presbytery for the Class of 2021.

ADMIN COMMISSION: (Elder Thomas)

- Krystle Rupert is the new communications/website person. We look forward to working with her.

MINISTRY COMMISSION: (Elder Larimer)

- Credential team has been quite busy, as has the Call and Contract Team. Several positions are in the midst of being filled. Sligo candidate is being considered this weekend.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

- Spring Gathering is being held April 17 at Shelocta Community PC.

CAMP BOARD REPORT: (Elder Dunlap)

- Finally sold the last piece of property of Westminster Highlands. Meeting with some advisors regarding operating Camp Lambec and investments with the Presbyterian Foundation.

MODERATOR REPORT: (Elder Younkings)

- Nothing to report.

SYNOD REPORT: (Elder Dixon)

- Lots on the Synod website for programs. Grant information, including one for feeding programs, will be sent out as it is available.

OUTREACH COMMISSION

- New commission has been working on new guidelines. Two sub-teams have been created – one focused on local mission and the other on global mission.

GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT:

- May meeting of presbytery – Zoom or hybrid? Elder Larimer moved that the meeting should be hybrid, if the way be clear to locate a host. Approved. Clarion has offered if East Brady is not available or willing. (Clarion's session approved)
- Meetings at the presbytery office – Elder Dunlap moved that meetings can again be held in the presbytery office following social distancing and masking guidelines. Approved.
- September retreat – now that the retreat center is booking reservations again, should we move forward with last year's plans? Rev. Dietrich moved that General Presbyter should be directed to contact Kathryn Threadgill to see if she is available to work on Vital Congregations as was planned for last year. Approved.
- Meetings are occurring with Huntington Presbytery to look at sharing capacity and programs, NOT merging.
- Brainstorming and discussion was held related to the Mentimeter input of presbytery from the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Docket committee will be meeting immediately after the business of the Cabinet on this Zoom.

- Rev. Dietrich moved that the Cabinet adjourn. Approved.
- Next meeting of Presbytery will be on Tuesday, May 11 on Zoom and in person at Clarion First.
- Next meeting of Cabinet will be at 5 pm on June 3, to be held via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was closed in prayer by Moderator Rev. Cartmell at 6:38 p.m.

Rev. Kathy Nice, Stated Clerk

Report of Outreach Commission

The Rwanda Partnership Team will now formally be called the Global Mission Team, with Kay Smith and Adam Clever serving as co-chairs. As part of increasing interest among our local churches we noted an openness to other global mission fields, especially those that our local congregations are already involved in or excited about.

AR. Hibbs Family Memorial Fund: Received and approved a request from Presbyterian Church of Punxsutawney to amend their previously issued grant, to cover not just supplies for their community meals, but coolers, containers, and shelters for outdoor meal distribution.

More information about the Outreach Commission will be shared at the meeting.

Report of the Nominating/Representation Committee

The Rep. /Nom. Com. nominates Elder Larry Unger of the Tidal Church to be elected to the Admin Commission to fill a vacancy in the Class of 2021.

Report of the Ministry Commission

Commission Action on Behalf of Presbytery

1. Concurred with the request of the Trinity Church of Clarksburg to end the contract with Jerry Hoch effective April 30, 2021.
2. On March 1, 2021 the Ministry Commission approved the following after interviewing Rev. James Edward Rudinger: If the way be clear through the action of the Sligo Presbyterian Church to call Rev. James Edward Rudinger, the Ministry Commission, acting on behalf of Kiskiminetas Presbytery, shall receive him as a member of Kiskiminetas Presbytery upon his release from Upper Ohio Presbytery. *(Rev. Rudinger was called as the Pastor of the Sligo Church and will begin on June 1, 2021)*
3. Concurred with the recommendation of the Church Team to grant an extended term of service on the session to Ruling Elder Linda Robinson at the request of the Ridgeway Presbyterian Church Session.
4. Concurred with the recommendation of the Church Team to grant an extended term of service on the session to Ruling Elders Michael Cullum and Lynda Cullum at the request of the Clinton Presbyterian Church Session.
5. Approved a waiver of the Presbytery preaching supply policy for the Falls Creek Church so that Dennis Ferguson may preach at the church twice per month through the end of July.
6. Approved the request of the Clarion Presbyterian Church to form a PNC on the recommendation of the Call and Contract Team.

7. Approved the request of the Marion Center Church to form a PNC on the recommendation of the Call and Contract Team
8. Approved the recommendation from the Education Team of the Ministry Commission to certify candidate, Michelle Worzbyt, as ready to receive a call.
9. Concurred with the request of Rev. Dana Wilmot to formally retire from active service on September 30, 2021. The congregation will be acting to dissolve the relationship in the coming months.
10. Upon affirmative votes of the Edenburg Church of Knox and the Concord Church of Parker to concur with the request of Rev. Brian Hauser to dissolve their relationships on June 30, 2021 and to transfer his membership upon request to Beaver/Butler Presbytery.

Ministry Commission News

- Approved Colleen McFarland and Judi Paden to be representatives from the Ministry Commission working on a joint task group with Huntingdon Presbytery on matters related to our mutual interests including but not limited to Commission Pastor Training and Training of Ruling Elders to serve as Moderators.
- Ministry Commission Team name changes: *Credentials* to **PASTORAL CARE & CPM & CP to EDUCATION**
- **A Training for Ruling Elders to Serve Communion** in their home church is scheduled for June 12th from 9AM to 12 PM at two locations outside:
Beechwoods Presbyterian Church and Cowansville Presbyterian Church
More information is pending from the Education Team of the Ministry Commission with the potential to create a Zoom link to one of the events because of COVID-19 matters.

Report of the Admin Commission

Attorney Stan DeGory has been asked to respond on the status of the Deed search for Tunnelton church property. It was noted that we are paying the utilities and higher insurance costs to protect the property until the deed can be located. Plan is to sell the property for Fair Market Value in order to recover the presbytery costs of utilities, insurance, and legal expenses.

Beechwoods church has asked for permission to sell a ¼ acre to their neighbor who has been maintaining this. The neighbors have covered the costs for surveying as well as all closing expense costs. Motion passed unanimously.