

**Presbytery of the Alleghenies (POA) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)**  
**Minutes of the 26th Stated Meeting**  
**February 16 & 17, 2018**

- 26-01 POA met for its 26<sup>th</sup> stated meeting, hosted by Bellefield EPC in Pittsburgh, PA. Notice to the POA churches was given at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 26-02 The business meeting began at 4:20 pm on February 16, 2018 in the sanctuary of Bellefield EPC, Pittsburgh, PA following a time of worship.
- 26-03 Call to Order:** Moderator TE Nate Devlin from Beverly Heights EPC called the meeting to order and invited host pastor TE Josh Brown forward to welcome those present, provide housekeeping instructions, and open the meeting with prayer.
- 26-04 Quorum:** With concurrence of the Stated Clerk, RE Ray Kinat, Moderator Devlin declared a quorum.
- 26-05 Attendance of TE's and RE Commissioners:** There were 47 Teaching Elders (TEs) and 55 Ruling Elder Commissioners (REs) present (excluding transitional members), according to the sign-in sheets. Those TEs in attendance are noted with (P), those absent are noted with (A), and those who have been excused are marked with (E):

<b>Church</b>	<b>TEs</b>	<b>RE Commissioners</b>
Amazing Grace	Roger Korsten (A)	
Ardara	(vacant)	Glenn Meyers Fred Bright
Bay	Carol Rettew (A) Matt Guertin (P)	Richard Gash Marilyn Kinat
Bellefield	Joshua Brown (P)	Carol Williams Larry Williams
Bergen EPC	(vacant)	Gregg McAllister
Berlin	Rick Negley (P)	David Howell
Bethany	Peter Dembroski (A)	Tom Parmelee
Bethel (Enon Valley)	(vacant)	Patty Andrews Murat Tanyel

<b>Church</b>	<b>TEs</b>	<b>RE Commissioners</b>
Bethel (Prosperity)	Eric Toohey (P)	Sara Dille Tom Bruker
Beverly Heights	Rick Wolling (A) Nate Devlin (P)	Bob Thomson
Brighton Presbyterian Center	(vacant) Bill Woodman (P)	
Colonial Village	(vacant)	
Connellsville	Suzanne Zampalla (P)	Neil Zampalla
Covenant (Ligonier)	Robert Cummings (A)	
Covenant (Sharon)	(vacant)	Jim Braymer Aaren Weese
CUP	Scott Graham (A)	Beth Hesselson Paula Keefer
Fairview	David Perry (E)	
Faith Fellowship	(vacant)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Presby – Bakerstown	Jeremy Collins (A)	Allan Wettach Nelson Crooks
1 <sup>st</sup> Presby – Barton	Thomas Morgan (P)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Presby – Beaver	Jeff Arnold (A) Henry Knapp (A) Marc de Jeu (P)	
1 <sup>st</sup> Presby – Bentleyville	Andy Scott (A)	Curtis Sprowls Michell Douglas

<b>Church</b>	<b>TEs</b>	<b>RE Commissioners</b>
First Lanaconing	<i>share Thomas Morgan</i>	Jim Ritchie
Fourth Presby	Eric Amundson (A)	
Gateway	Chris White (A)	
Graystone	Rick Hurley (A) Ryan Mowen (P) Joseph Stroup (P)	Dave Strong
Hanover	Jefferson Ellis (P)	
Harmony	Jeff Jones (P)	Eugene McCandless
Hickory	(vacant)	Chuck Fluharty
Hudson	Rob Sparr (P)	Jamie Parry
Knox	(vacant)	
Lancaster	Kelly Negus (A)	Jimmie Jackson Ed Carlsen
Lebanon	Bob Titus (A)	
Leicester (Union)	<i>(CP supplied)</i>	
Lighthouse	Anthony Bianchini (P)	Robert Eroshevich Linnard Merrill
Manor	<i>(CP supplied)</i>	
Mansfield 1 <sup>st</sup>	(vacant)	
Memorial Park	Dean Weaver (P) Betsy Rumer (A) Kevin Gourley (A)	Paula Allan Kevin Steele

<b>Church</b>	<b>TEs</b>	<b>RE Commissioners</b>
Middle Sandy	Tracy Edwards (P)	Bill Smythe
Mill Creek	Harper Brady (P)	Amy Wright Laura Narry
Mountville	(vacant)	
Mt. Carmel	(vacant)	Mary Beth DeMasi
Mt. Lebanon	(vacant)	Bruce Tenenbaum Jim Fondelier
Mt. Olivet	Kevin Neal (P)	
Mt. Perry	Bryan Bushong (A)	
Mt. Pleasant	Richard Herbster (P)	
Muddy Creek	Matthew Kail (P)	
New Bedford	Doug Runyan (E)	
New Covenant	Chris Curtis (P)	John Lockwood
New Hope	Andrew Cooper (A)	
North Park	Dan Hendley (P) Ben Burkholder (P)	Bruce Allison Phil Van Sichel Mark Sharpnack
Peters Creek	Doug Brandt (P)	Carl Maronde
Petrolia	<i>(share David Perry)</i>	
Pierpont	(vacant)	
Pine Run	Lanny Mellinger (E)	
Portersville	Dana Opp (P)	

<b>Church</b>	<b>TEs</b>	<b>RE Commissioners</b>
Redeemer	(vacant)	Bob LeSuer Laurie LeSuer
Round Hill	Matt Stith (A)	Jacquelyn Karnes
Shiloh	Scott Wiest (P)	Gene Williams
Slickville	<i>(CP Supplied)</i>	
St. Paul's	Tony Myers (P) Mike Dunlap (P)	Jim Bandstra
Starkdale	Carl Moore (E)	Janice Whitaker Carolyn Glaub
Stone Church	(vacant)	Lynda Pursel Karen Dykstra
Summit	Tom Jones (A)	
Tabernacle	Rick Stauffer (P) Gary Koerth (A)	
Unionville	<i>(share Matthew Kail)</i>	
Venice	Gary Chorpenning (P)	
Westminster Community	(vacant)	Allan Brown
Windy Gap	Joseph Rearick (P)	

### **Out-of-Bounds**

- Robert Cappel (P)
- Lindon Fowler (E)
- John McElwain (P)
- David S. (A)
- Scott Steltzer (A)
- Robert Stanley (P)

### **Administrators:**

- Bob Stauffer – POA (Church Revitalization Coordinator) (P)

## **W/O Call**

- Michael Anastas (A)
- Paul Becker – Transitional (P)
- Matt Haberman (P)
- Michael Herring (A)
- Michael Merry (A)
- Daniel Muttart - Transitional (P)
- Carolyn Poteet - Transitional (P)
- Bob Shull (A)
- Garnett Slatton (A)
- Mike Vonderau (A)

## **Retired – Active**

- Karen Anderson (A)
- Thom Burbridge (A)
- Jim Henkel (A)
- Don Hurray (P)
- Philip Makari (A)
- Lowell Meek (P)
- Tom Sawyer (P)
- Roger Woodworth (P)

## **Transitional**

<b>Church</b>	<b>TEs</b>	<b>REs</b>
Natrona Heights	(vacant)	

## **Associate and/or Inactive Status**

- Hu Auburn – retired (A)
- Bobby Brown – inactive (A)
- David Chambers – OOB (A)
- Adrian Ciganic – OOB (A)
- David Hunt – W/O Call (A)
- Daniel Lee – W/O Call (A)
- David Massimi – retired (A)
- William Milligan – retired (P)
- Bill Pawson – retired (E)
- Doug Reinard – retired (A)
- Dick Rettew – retired (A)
- John Timmerman – retired (A)
- George Yates – retired (A)

- Observers/Visitors:** Marlene Becker (POA –Admin. Assist); Anne Phillips, Eric Phillips (unknown); Barbara Gash, Devon Guertin (Bay); Randy Bryant, Andy Byer, Rebecca Byer, Roberto Cantillo, Harry Kunze (Bellefield); Nancy Gibson, Glenn Leslie, Rhae Leslie, Rhonda Miketa, Angelo Suh (Bethel Enon Valley); Jen Burkholder (CCO); Jared Hoyt (Colonial Village); Judson Herter (CUP); Phil Thrash (EPC World Outreach); Jay Highman (Hickory); Melissa Slager, Tim Slager (Hudson); John Costa (Lighthouse); Bruce Engle (Mansfield 1<sup>st</sup> EPC); Michele Michalko (Memorial Park EPC); John Bowers (Mid-Atlantic Presbytery); Gerald Dodds (Mid-West Presbytery); Mark Andrews (Mt. Jackson); Eileen Tenenbaum (Mt. Lebanon); Lenna Neal (Mt. Olivet); Jeanne Cox (Mt. Pleasant); Beth Hendley (North Park EPC); Debbie Yanke, Roy Yanke (PIR Ministries); Pam Ponchak, Peter Smith (Pittsburgh Post Gazette); Scott Boyd (PRISM); Jon Barefoot (Stone Church). Louis Kropf (The SOMA gathering); Jarrod Crawford (St. John’s Reformed);

**26-06 Docket:** Moderator Devlin then motioned to adopt the docket. Motion carried and the docket was adopted as shown below.

**26<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting**  
**February 16 & 17, 2018**  
**Bellefield Presbyterian Church**

4:00 PM	Worship	TE Josh Brown, Host Bellefield
	Welcoming, Opening Prayer	TE Nate Devlin, Moderator
	Declaration of Quorum & Approval of Docket	TE Nate Devlin, Moderator
	Self-Introduction of Guests & Observers	TE Nate Devlin, Moderator
	Report of Ministerial Committee	TE Eric Toohey, Chair
	Report of Business Committee	TE Doug Brandt, Chair
	Report of EC/Stated Clerk	RE Ray Kinat, Stated Clerk
6:00 PM	Recess for Dinner	TE Nate Devlin, Moderator
7:00 PM	Reconvene for Worship	TE Josh Brown, Host Bellefield

8:30 AM	Worship Bellefield	TE Josh Brown, Host
	Reconvene – summary of Friday afternoon/evening	TE Nate Devlin, Moderator
	Report of Church Development	TE Bob Stauffer
	Report of Ministerial Committee (continued from Friday)	TE Eric Toohey, Chair
12:00	Adjourn	TE Nate Devlin, Moderator
12:00	Workshop “Only Human... facing the emotional challenges of the ministry life.”	Roy Yanke

**26-07** Moderator Devlin explained the voting procedures for this 26th Stated Meeting (using written ballots to vote for ministers being examined, verbal for candidates) and reminded everyone that only TE’s and RE Commissioners can vote. Moderator Devlin then reminded all TEs and RE Commissioners that they should have a packet that contains all of the written reports and forms that would be discussed at this meeting.

**26-08** Moderator Devlin then welcomed all those in attendance and asked first-time attendees to introduce themselves.

**26-09 Report of Ministerial Committee:** Moderator Devlin then invited TE Eric Toohey forward to give the report of the Ministerial Committee (written report included in the Commissioners’ Packet). TE Toohey opened the report with prayer.

**26-09A** TE Toohey explained the role of the Ministerial Committee, and provided a quick overview of their activities. He called to attention the Terms of Call in the packet for TE to fill out and return to him. He pointed out the brochure on the proper administration of the Sacrament of Communion provided to all Teaching Elders.

**26-09B** TE Toohey then indicated there were items that needed presbytery approval:

- In accordance with the BOG 14-1A. Moderator Devlin moved that the Presbytery of the Alleghenies dissolve the pastoral relationship between TE Michael Merry and First Presbyterian Church of Bergen, New York. MOTION CARRIED
  - In accordance with the BOG 14-1B; First Presbyterian Church of Bergen, New York in a duly called congregational meeting on November 19, 2017 voted to dissolve the call of TE Michael Merry. TE Merry is without call.
- In accordance with the BOG 10-8, Moderator Devlin moved that the Presbytery of the Alleghenies approve the call of TE Paul Becker, as Pastor, to First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, Pennsylvania. MOTION CARRIED
  - In accordance with the BOG 10-4G; First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, Pennsylvania in a duly called congregational meeting on November 5, 2017 voted to call TE Paul Becker as Pastor.



Terms of call have been examined and found to be in order. As a part of the congregational meeting, RE Al Wettach and RE Nelson Crooks were appointed to advocate the call to TE Paul Becker at the 26<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.

- In accordance with the BOG 10-5, Moderator Devlin moved that the Presbytery of the Alleghenies approve the call of TE Jeremy Collins as Associate Pastor to First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, Pennsylvania. MOTION CARRIED
  - In accordance with the BOG 10-5, First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown, Pennsylvania in a duly called congregational meeting on November 5, 2017 voted to call TE Jeremy Collins as Associate Pastor. Terms of call have been examined and found to be in order. As a part of the congregational meeting, RE Al Wettach and RE Nelson Crooks were appointed to advocate the call to TE Jeremy Collins at the 26<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies.
  
- **26-09C** TE Toohey then called forward Mr. John Bower, TE from the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic, seeking transfer to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies in order to accept an Out-of-Bounds call as Chaplain for Buckeye Hospice, Boardman, Ohio. TE Toohey also called forward Mr. Gerald Dodds, TE from the Presbytery of the Midwest, seeking transfer to the Presbytery of the Alleghenies in order to accept a call as Pastor of Bethel Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Enon Valley). In accordance with the BOG12-4, exceptions to the Westminster Confession and Catechisms by both Transferees were allowed following a vote of the Presbytery. In accordance with the BOG 12-3A, both were examined. On Motion, the examination was arrested and TE's Bower and Dodd were excused. MOTION CARRIED and a vote was taken and both were found to be acceptable.

During the vote TE Dan Hendley was invited to announce to the Presbytery the American Association of Christian Counselors Seminar on Mental Health and the Mission of the Church May 4 & 5 in York, PA.

During the vote Jay Higham from Hickory was invited forward to tell about the ministry of EPiC, the Student Ministry of the POA. At a recent retreat over 350 youth from the POA participated.

**26-09D** RE Toohey indicated that this concluded the Ministerial Committee report for the evening and that the report would continue in the morning. He reminded the assembly, in accordance with BOG 12-2 D, the ordination candidate Tim Slager would be preaching at the evening worship service.

**26-10** Moderator Devlin then invited TE Douglas Brandt to present the Business Committee Report. TE Brandt opened in prayer.

**26-10A** TE Brandt referenced the year-end December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Financial Statements included in the Commissioners Packet and attached here.

**26-10B** TE Brandt indicated the Committee is responsible for reading the Session and Congregational minutes of each member church and will be contacting churches for their minutes.

**26-10C** TE Brandt indicated this concluded his report.

**26-11 Report of the Executive Council and Stated Clerk:** Moderator Devlin then invited RE Ray Kinat forward to present the report of the Executive Council and Stated Clerk (written report included in the Commissioner’s Packet). RE Kinat opened his report with prayer.

**26-11A** RE Kinat indicated that there were several actions that needed presbytery approval. The first was to approve the Minutes of the 25th Stated Meeting (*posted on the POA website for at least 30 days prior to the 26th Stated Meeting*). MOTION CARRIED.

**26-11B** RE Kinat presented the 37<sup>th</sup> GA Descending Overtures. In accordance with a directive issued by the Office of the Assistant Stated Clerk of the EPC, a written ballot vote was conducted. The results of the vote were communicated on the floor of presbytery and sent to the Office of the Assistant Stated Clerk of the EPC.

**26-11C** RE Kinat presented a motion from the EC to eliminate the Ministerial Committee. The change in By-laws was presented at the 24<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting and have been posted on the Presbytery website. MOTION CARRIED

**26-11D** RE Kinat provided our response to the PRC of the GA’s review, of Alleghenies Presbytery Minutes of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. A Motion was MADE, and SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED.

**26-11E** RE Kinat moved to approve the Ministerial Committee Administrative Commission minutes approved for the installation and ordination of Joseph Rearick and Harper Brady. MOTION CARRIED

**26-11F** RE Kinat indicated that this concluded his report.

**26-12** Moderator Devlin invited the Presbytery to watch the Jeff Jeremiah journal video found at the EPC website. Moderator Devlin then invited guests to share with the Presbytery.

- GA Moderator TE Dean Weaver a member of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies and Moderator of the EPC GA was invited to give a report of the GA. Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest had their first meeting. Only 71% of churches are financially supporting the GA. 20% of the PMI goes to World Outreach missionaries. Dean encouraged all churches to support the GA PMI. Dean invited the Presbytery to attend the GA this summer in Tennessee.
- Roy Yanke from PRI Ministries invited everyone to the workshop on Saturday immediately following the Presbytery meeting called “Only Human...facing the emotional challenges of the ministry life”
- Harper Brady was invited forward to invite all Pastors to the annual Pastors Canoe Trip in Canada scheduled for September of 2018.

**26-12** ON MOTION, Moderator Devlin recessed the meeting for the evening and encouraged everyone to attend the worship service after dinner and reminded everyone that candidate Tim Slager would be preaching. He then prayed for our time together. The meeting was recessed at 6:15 pm. MOTION CARRIED.

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**26-13** The 26th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reconvened at 9 am following a time of worship at 8:30 am which included the preaching of candidate Tim Slager. Moderator TE Nate Devlin opened with prayer and gave a recap of last evening's activities.

**26-14 Report of the Church Development Committee (CDC):** Moderator Devlin invited TE Bob Stauffer forward to give the report of the Church Development Committee (written report included in the Commissioner's Packet). TE Stauffer opened his report with prayer.

**26-14A** TE Stauffer explained the role of the Church Development Committee (CDC), and provided a quick overview of their activities, giving a summary of the function and responsibility of the CDC:

- Examining churches
- Planting Churches
- Development and revitalization of churches.

**26-14B** TE Stauffer

- Emphasized the need for Transitional Pastors for churches in transition. Churches need to have a time of a healthy pause where they can evaluate their life as the church and look to the next pastor. We do have a policy in place for churches to use during the transition process. There will be a time of training and equipping transitional pastors at GA.
- Presbytery Coordinators have been identified for each presbytery; Bruce Allison has taken the role at our Presbytery.
- Our church plant in Idora has opportunities for local mission trip and work projects.

**26-14B** TE Stauffer called forward TE Marc de Jeu, leader of The SOMA Gathering, a church plant sponsored from First Presbyterian Beaver and supported by the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. TE Marc de Jue spoke of exciting times at the church plant. In accordance with BOG 5-5A, TE Marc de Jeu presented to Moderator Devlin a petition requesting The SOMA Gathering be constituted as a local church. In accordance with BOG 5-5 B, Moderator Devlin declared that The Soma Gathering was now a full member church pending the final paper work being accepted at the GA. There was a time of prayer for The SOMA Gathering.

**26-14C** The sign of church health is being fruitful and multiplying. Church planting is being given an emphasis with training as part of a new initiative with Trinity School of Ministry. TE Stauffer invited TE Roger Woodworth forward to speak to the initiative. The process of planting a church strengthens the mother church. There is a need for new healthy churches with Christ at the center to reconcile the polarized culture. The process requires churches to take a fresh look at the culture we live in and how we can engage it. Jesus is the builder of the Church. Watch the website for more information about the courses being offered at Trinity School of Ministry.

**26-14D** TE Marc de Jue was invited forward to explain the work of the Church Planting Team and the process of how to participate in partnering to start a new church. The church plant team wants to recruit all churches in the POA to part of a new church plant and to participate the Trinity School of Ministry partnership with us providing education to those interested in learning about planting a church.

- TE Stauffer described hallmarks of a healthy and impactful church
  - The staff and leaders weep and pray for the lost.
  - A healthy church thinks about how they will engage the lost

- An impactful church is not content to manage what they have but they dream about what the church could be with God's help

**26-14E** TE Stauffer then indicated this concluded the report of the Church Development Committee.

**26-15 Continuation of the Ministerial Committee Report:** Moderator Devlin called forward TE Eric Toohey to continue the report of the Ministerial Committee. TE Toohey opened with prayer

**26-15A** RE Bruce Tenenbaum was invited forward to lead the presentation of candidates. RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Barrett Hendrickson forward. Mr. Hendrickson, having been a member of Bellefield EPC for at least six months, and having been endorsed by the church's Sessions as a candidate to come under care of the Presbytery, was examined by the Ministerial Committee and recommended for approval as a Candidate Under Care. In accordance with G.11-2C, the Presbytery examined Mr. Hendrickson in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Hendrickson as a Candidate Under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. The Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the Moderator (G.11-2C). A prayer for the Candidate was offered by TE Joshua Brown and a charge was given by TE Nate Devlin. TE Nate Devlin was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Hendrickson.

**26-15B** TE Toohey then invited Mr. Tim Slager, ministerial candidate, to come forward. He then reminded the body of the examination process of the Ministerial Committee and the POA, in accordance with the BOG 12-2.

**26-15C** Candidate Slager, having completed the candidacy requirements prescribed in G.11-2 and having sustained written examinations and then oral examination before the Ministerial Committee, was presented to the Presbytery for examination for the office of Teaching Elder. Mr. Slager's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms were declared to the Presbytery as required by BOG 12-4. ON MOTION, Mr. Slager's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms were allowed. The Presbytery then examined Mr. Slager in accordance with BOG 12-2. On motion, the examination was arrested and Mr. Slager was excused. MOTION CARRIED and a vote was taken and Mr. Slager was found to be acceptable. Mr. Slager signed the Ministerial Obligation Form, which is on file in the Clerk's office.

**26-15D** In accordance with BOG 13-1A, members of the Ministerial Committee serve as Administrative Commission for the POA to review the terms of call for ministers. As such, TE Toohey indicated that the terms of call for Mr. Slager to serve as Assistant Pastor of Hudson Presbyterian Church EPC were found to be in order according to the BOO. The Ministerial Committee, appointed by the presbytery as an administrative commission to install and ordain pastors, will do so for Mr. Slager at a time and place convenient for both the pastor and the Minutes of same will be on file.

During the voting Moderator Devlin invited Chris Boyd from the PRISM ministry to share about ministry with international students. PRISM seeks to develop meaningful cross-cultural relationships. 60% of international students that come to USA are from countries that are the least evangelized. The mission field is plentiful.

**26-15E** Mr. Slager was brought back into the auditorium to the applause of the presbytery. TE Rob Sparr prayed for God's continued guidance and blessing for Mr. Slager.

**26-15F** TE Toohey then indicated that this concluded his report for the Ministerial Committee.

**26-16** Moderator Devlin indicated that this concluded the business for the meeting. He then entertained a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved at 11:45 AM Moderator Devlin dismissed the body with prayer and the acapella singing of a hymn.

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RE Ray Kinat, Stated Clerk

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TE Nate Devlin, Moderator