

Presbytery of the Alleghenies (POA) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Minutes of the 35th Stated Meeting
August 8, 2020

- 35-01** POA met for its 35th Stated Meeting, hosted by Hickory Presbyterian Church in Hickory, PA. Notice to the POA churches was given at least 30 days prior to the meeting. This meeting was a hybrid, done both in person and virtually via Zoom.
- 35-02** The business meeting began 10:00 am on August 8, 2020 in the Sanctuary of Hickory United EPC Church, Hickory, PA following a time of worship.
- 35-03 Call to Order:** Moderator TE Josh Brown from Bellefield EPC called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.
- 35-04 Welcome** by TE Dan Clark, host.
- 35-05 Quorum:** With concurrence of the Stated Clerk, RE Ray Kinat, Moderator Brown declared a quorum.
- 35-06 Attendance of TE's and RE Commissioners:** There were 45 Teaching Elders (TEs) and 42 Ruling Elder Commissioners (REs) present. Those TEs in attendance are noted with (P), those unexcused are noted with (A), and those who have been excused are marked with (E). Those attending by Zoom are indicated with an (*) :

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Amazing Grace	Roger Korsten (A)	
Ardara	(CP Supplied)	
Bay	Mark Tumney(P*)	Ray Kinat (Stated Clerk)
Bellefield	Joshua Brown (P)	Carol Williams* Larry Williams*
Bergen EPC	Brandt Hammock (P*)	Tom Jones*
Bethany	vacant	Dennis Thompson*
Bethel (Enon Valley)	Gerald Dodds (P*)	

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Bethel (Prosperity)	Eric Toohey (P)	
Beverly Heights	Nate Devlin (P*)	Norman Hargraves* Robert Thomson
Brighton Presbyterian	Tim Luddy (A)	
Calvin	Sean Brubaker (P*)	Jim Mason*
Center	Bill Woodman (P*)	
Colonial Village	Jared Hoyt (P*)	Michael Fesmire* Mary Linkowski*
Connellsville	Suzanne Zampella (P*)	
Covenant (Ligonier)	Chris Mathewson - Trans (P)	
Covenant (Sharon)	Rick Stauffer (P)	George Ross Aaron Weese
CUP	Scott Graham (E)	Judson Herter
Fairview	David Perry (E)	
Faith Fellowship	(vacant)	
1 st Presby – Bakerstown	Paul Becker (E) Jeremey Collins (P*)	Allan Wettach Robert Klein LuAnn Olyer* Nelson Crooks*
1 st Presby – Barton	Thomas Morgan (P*)	
1 st Presby – Beaver	Jeff Arnold (P*) Marc de Jeu (P*)	
1 st Presby – Bentleyville	Andy Scott (A)	

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
First Lanaconing	<i>share Thomas Morgan</i>	
Fourth	Eric Amundson (A)	
Gateway	Chris White (P*)	
Graystone	vacant Joseph Stroup (P*)	Ronald Marshall Andrew Arblaster*
Hanover	Jefferson Ellis (P)	
Harmony	Jeff Jones (A)	
Hickory	Dan Clark(P)	Kit Little Lynn Davis
Hudson	(vacant) Tim Slager (A)	
Knox	Justin Olivetti (A)	
Lancaster	Kelly Negus (A)	
Lebanon	Bob Titus (A)	
Leicester (Union)	<i>(CP supplied)</i>	Carol Griffen* George Richardson*
Lighthouse	(vacant)	
Manor	<i>(CP supplied)</i>	
Mansfield 1 st	Denny Finnegan – <i>Trans</i> (E)	
Memorial Park	Dean Weaver (P) Betsy Rumer (P*) Kevin Gourley (A)	
Middle Sandy	(vacant)	George Bush Vicki Smith*

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Mill Creek	Harper Brady (E)	Judith Compston Rebecca Beckert
Mountville	Patrick Keeley (P*)	
Mt. Carmel	Eric Phillips (P*)	
Mt. Lebanon	Carolyn Poteet (P*)	Bruce Tenenbaum
Mt. Olivet	Kevin Neal (E)	
Mt. Perry	vacant	
Mt. Pleasant	Richard Herbster (P)	Sara Beth Miller Richard Pierce
Muddy Creek	Matthew Kail (A)	
Natrona Heights	Daniel Muttart -Trans (P*)	
New Albany	David Milroy (A)	
New Bedford	Doug Runyan (P)	
New Covenant	Chris Curtis (P*)	
New Hope	Andrew Cooper (A)	
North Park	Dan Hendley (P*) Ben Burkholder (P*)	Bruce Allison Mark Sharpnack*
Peters Creek	Doug Brandt (A)	
Petrolia	<i>(share David Perry)</i>	
Pierpont	(vacant)	
Pine Run	Lanny Mellinger (E)	Ruth Carter*
Portersville	Dana Opp (P)	Richard Harbaugh*

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Redeemer	Douglas Kortyna(P*)	Laurie LeSuer*
Round Hill	Matt Stith (E)	
Shiloh	Scott Wiest (A)	
Slickville	<i>(CP Supplied)</i>	
SOMA	<i>(CP Supplied)</i>	
St. Paul's	Tony Myers (E) Mike Dunlap (E)	Jim Bandstra* Jonathan Flower*
Starkdale	Carl Moore (P)	John Parkinson
Stone Church	(vacant)	
Stow	Bob Stanley (E)	Ralph Appleby*
Summit	Tom Jones (A)	
Tabernacle	Brian Carpenter (P*) Gary Koerth (P)	Rick Blair Scott Hadley Wally Valentine
Unionville	<i>(share Matthew Kail)</i>	
Venice	Gary Chorpenning (A)	
Westminster Community	(vacant)	
Windy Gap	Joseph Rearick (P)	

Out-of-Bounds

- John Bower (P*)
- Robert Cappel (P*)
- Robert Cummings (P*)
- Jarred Crawford (P*)
- Lindon Fowler (E)
- David S. (E)
- Scott Steltzer (A)

Administrators:

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

Active W/O Call

- Anthony Bianchini (A)
- Bryan Bushong (A)
- Peter Dembroski (A)
- Matt Guertin (A)
- Rick Negley (A)
- Carol Rettew (A)
- Rob Sparr (E)

Retired – Active

- Don Hurray (A)
- Rick Hurley (A)
- Philip Makari (A)
- Lowell Meek (A)
- John McElwain (P*)
- Tom Sawyer (E)
- Rick Wolling (A)
- Roger Woodworth (A)

Associate and/or Inactive Status

- Karen Anderson - retired(A)
- Hu Auburn – retired (A)
- Thom Burbridge -retired (P*)
- Bobby Brown – inactive (A)
- David Chambers – OOB (A)
- Adrian Ciganic – OOB (A)
- Jim Henkel – retired (A)
- Matt Haberman – W/O call (A)
- David Hunt – W/O Call (A)
- Daniel Lee – W/O Call (A)
- David Massimi – retired (A)
- William Milligan – retired (A)
- James Moelk – retired (A)
- Bill Pawson – retired (A)
- Doug Reinard – retired (A)
- Bob Shull – W/O Call (A)

- Garnett Slatton – W/O Call(A)
- John Timmerman – retired (A)
- Mike Vonderau – W/O Call (P*)
- George Yates – retired (A)

Observers/Visitors: Marlene Becker (POA –Admin. Assist); Greg Burdette, Bruce Hemphill, Margie Hemphill (Bellefield); Peter Chace, William Sikes (Beverly Heights); Jeff Newell (Covenant – Sharon); Marc Shefelton (Corresponding TE Rivers and Lakes Presbytery - Transitional Pastor Middle Sandy); Joshua Hayes*(Gateway); Patty Hamilton, Bobbi Rasel, George Yonker (Hickory); Kathryn Atman*, Eileen Tenebaum* (Mt. Lebanon); Jeanne Cox (Mt. Pleasant); Caleb Matthews* (Stated Supply – Stone); Andy Byers* (Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic); Lou Beaty (Visitor)

35-07 Docket: Moderator Brown asked for a motion to approve the Docket. Motion carried and the Docket was adopted as shown below.

35th Stated Meeting
August 8, 2020
Hickory Presbyterian Church
Hickory, Pennsylvania

Saturday

10:00	WORSHIP	TE Dan Clark, Host Hickory
	Welcome, Opening Prayer	TE Josh Brown, Moderator
	Declaration of Quorum & Approval of Docket Self-Introduction of Guests	TE Josh Brown, Moderator
	Report of Church Development Committee	TE Chris Mathewson, Chair
	Report of Ministerial Committee	TE Eric Toohey, Chair
12:00	Break for Lunch/Instructions	TE Dan Clark, Host Hickory
1:00	Report of Ministerial Committee continued	TE Eric Toohey, Chair
	Report of Business Committee	RE Ray Kinat, Temporary Chair
	Report of Leadership Team/Stated Clerk	RE Ray Kinat, Stated Clerk
3:00	Closing Prayer and Adjourn	TE Josh Brown, Moderator

35-08 Moderator Brown explained the voting procedures for this 35th Stated Meeting. Those in attendance in person would vote by voice. Those in attendance via Zoom would vote electronically. We would allow time for all of the Zoom votes to be tallied. Moderator Brown reminded everyone that only TE's and RE Commissioners can vote. Moderator Brown then reminded all TEs and RE Commissioners that they should have a packet containing all of the written reports and forms that would be discussed at this meeting.

35-09 Moderator Brown then welcomed all those in attendance and asked first-time attendees to introduce themselves.

35-10 Report of the Church Development Committee (CDC): Moderator Brown called forward TE Chris Mathewson to give his report. TE Mathewson opened with prayer. TE Mathewson referred to the written report in the packet. TE Mathewson summarized the work of the various teams within the CDC: Inquiring Church Team; Transitional Pastor Team; Elder Training Team; Vitality/Coaching Team; Church Planting Team.

35-10A TE Mathewson indicated that transitional pastor training is being offered August 14 & 15 at Bethany EPC. Open to pastors and church elders who are discerning a transitional time for their church.

35-10B TE Mathewson invited TE Gary Koerth of the Hope for Renewal church plant to give an update. TE Koerth reported that during this time of COVID-19 they have gone back to the most basic means of ministry which is building relationships. They began providing a YouTube message and making lunches on Sunday for delivery. In June they began worshipping on the front lawn. They have partnered with a local nonprofit to deliver meals, continued prayer walking and meeting some of the needs for those in the community. The building is close to being ready for ministry however they have not been able to host work parties.

35-10C TE Mathewson indicated that this concluded his report.

35-11 Report of Ministerial Committee: Moderator Brown 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.

35-11A TE Toohey explained the role of the Ministerial Committee and provided an overview of their activities. He referred to the written report in the packet. He announced that next year's Pastors' Retreat will be Jan 31-Feb 2, 2021. TE Toohey announced that the MC will be calling all TE this year to fill in their annual report and to provide a pastoral checkup and pray for them.

35-11B TE Toohey then indicated there were items that needed presbytery approval:

Omnibus Motion of the Ministerial Committee:

- Renew the call for Commissioned Pastor Dana Carpenter at the Isaiah Project under the authority of Bay Presbyterian Church (Bay Village, OH) for three more years.
- Renew the call for Commissioned Pastor David Missel at Leicester Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Leicester, NY) for three more years.
- Approve the following dissolutions where the pastor and congregation concur:
 - Bethany Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Mercer, Pennsylvania in a duly called congregational meeting on February 9, 2020 voted to dissolve the call of TE Peter Dembroski. TE Dembroski is without call.
 - Connellsville Presbyterian Church of Connellsville, Pennsylvania in a duly called congregational meeting on July 5, 2020 voted to dissolve the call of TE Suzanne Zampella. TE Zampella has taken another call.
- Approve the following calls that do not require examination:
 - Approve TE John Bower's new Out of Bounds call as a hospice chaplain at Grace Hospice (Youngstown, OH). TE Bower began working February 3, 2020.
 - The Session of Hudson Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Hudson, Ohio in a duly called Session meeting voted to call TE William Rasch as Transitional Pastor. TE Rasch began working March 9, 2020.
 - The Session of Bethany Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Mercer, PA in a duly called Session meeting voted to call TE Robert Stauffer as Transitional Pastor. TE Stauffer began working April 1, 2020.
 - Approve TE Suzanne Zampella to serve Out of Bounds as the Transitional Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Monett, Missouri (ECO). TE Zampella began working July 1, 2020.
 - Graystone Presbyterian Church (Indiana, PA) in a duly called congregational meeting on July 26, 2020 voted to call TE Rob Sparr as Pastor.

A Ruling Elder from Graystone provided a testimony of the process of the pulpit search committee and their confirmed sense to call TE Rob Sparr.

Omnibus motion approved

35-11C TE Toohey gave an update on the background of Bruce Hemphill and the process that the Ministerial Committee used to review his circumstances and their discernment process of recommending Bruce for admittance as a Retired Associate Pastor. This was made in consultation with the General Assembly Stated Clerk's office.

- Rev. Hemphill's ordination was suspended by the RPCNA. This suspension was a result of Rev. Hemphill submitting a paper to the presbytery asking for them to study whether or not the Bible permitted women to hold ordained office in the church. His suspension was upheld after appeal.

- Reviewing Rev. Hemphill's case, the Ministerial Committee finds that the grounds for his suspension do not constitute a disciplinable offense in the EPC. Therefore, we recommend that the Presbytery examine Rev. Hemphill to receive him and lift the suspension on his ordination.

The Ministerial Committee recommends Bruce Hemphill to be examined on views by the presbytery as a retired teaching elder seeking transfer from the Presbytery of the Alleghenies (RPCNA) to become an associate member of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies (EPC). Having sustained oral examination before the Ministerial Committee, Mr. Hemphill was presented to the Presbytery for examination. In accordance with the **BOG 12-4**, Rev. Hemphill exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms NONE were declared to the Presbytery in accordance with the **BOG 12-4**. ON MOTION, Rev. Hemphill's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms were allowed. The Presbytery then examined Rev. Hemphill on his views in accordance with the **BOG 12-2**. On motion, the examination was arrested and Rev. Hemphill was excused. ON MOTION, the minister's examination was sustained in the areas prescribed by **BOG 12-3B.1**. Rev. Hemphill was welcomed into the Presbytery. TE Brown prayed over Rev. Hemphill and his wife.

35-11C TE Toohey indicated that he would resume his report after lunch.

35-12 TE Brown invited TE Dean Weaver to give an update on Sierra Leone EPC and the work of mission partner EduNations. TE Weaver asked for prayer for the churches and the pastors of the Sierra Leone EPC. In particular prayers for one of the villages under attack of witchcraft, in another a pastor lost his wife to typhoid and in another a pastor's wife is recovering from major surgery. The second Annual POA Golf Outing will be on September 21st. Churches are encouraged to support the outing by sending golf foursomes, donating items for an online silent auction and purchasing items in the auction.

Break for Lunch at Noon

35-13 The 35th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reconvened at 1 pm.

35-14 Continuation of the Ministerial Committee Report- Moderator TE Brown called TE Toohey forward to continue to the report. TE Toohey invited Ministerial Committee member RE Bruce Tenenbaum to present candidates to come under care:

35-14A RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Peter Chace, having been a member of Beverly Heights EPC in Mt. Lebanon, PA, 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 **BOG.11-2C.**, the Presbytery examined Mr. Chace in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Chace as a Candidate under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. In Accordance with **BOG.11-2C.**, the Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the TE Brown. A prayer for the Candidate

was offered and a charge was given by TE Brown. TE Carolyn Poteet was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Chace.

35-14B RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Gregory Burdette, having been a member of Bellefield EPC in Pittsburgh, PA 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 **BOG.11-2C.**, the Presbytery examined Mr. Burdette in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Burdette as a Candidate under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. In Accordance with **BOG.11-2C.**, the Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the TE Brown. A prayer for the Candidate was offered and a charge was given by TE _Brown. TE Doug Kortyna was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Burdette.

35-14C RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Joshua Hayes, having been a member of Gateway in Slippery Rock, PA, 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 **BOG.11-2C.**, the Presbytery examined Mr. Hayes in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Hayes as a Candidate under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. In Accordance with **BOG.11-2C.**, the Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the TE Brown. A prayer for the Candidate was offered and a charge was given by TE Brown. TE Eric Phillips was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Hayes.

35-14D RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Jeffrey Newell, having been a member of Covenant in Sharon, PA, 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 **BOG.11-2C.**, the Presbytery examined Mr. Newell in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Newell as a Candidate under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. In Accordance with **BOG.11-2C.**, the Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the TE Brown. A prayer for the Candidate was offered and a charge was given by TE Brown. TE Lindon Fowler was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Newell.

35-14E TE Toohey indicated that this concluded the Ministerial Committee report.

35-15 Report of the Business Committee: Moderator Brown called forward RE Ray Kinat, Temporary Chair, to give the report. RE Kinat opened with prayer. RE Kinat referred to the financial reports in the packet for the current financial position of the POA.

35-15A RE Kinat called attention to the draft budget in the packet. This is the first read of the budget and it will be voted on at the 36th Meeting.

35-16 Report of the Leadership Team and Stated Clerk: Moderator Brown then invited RE Ray Kinat forward to present the report of the Leadership Team and Stated Clerk (written report included in the Commissioner's Packet). RE Kinat opened his report with prayer.

35-16A RE Kinat called attention to the report from the EPC Women's Council in the packet which will be voted on at the GA 2020 to close this permanent committee.

35-16B RE Kinat reported on the formation of the Administrative Commission for Westminster Community EPC Church which was voted on electronically by the Commissioners of the 34th Stated Meeting. The Commission has begun their work and will report to the Presbytery.

35-16A RE Kinat indicated that there were several actions that needed presbytery approval:

- Approve the Minutes of the 34th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. These Minutes have been posted on our website at least 30 days prior. Approved
- Approve a motion from the Leadership Team to elect R George Ross to a full term as Treasurer of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. Approved

35-16B RE Kinat announced the 36th Stated Meeting will be held at Covenant EPC in Sharon, PA on October 16 & 17, 2020

35-16C RE Kinat indicated that this concluded his report.

35-17 Moderator Brown indicated that this concluded the business for the meeting. He then entertained a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved at 2:30PM. Moderator Brown dismissed the body with prayer.

RE Raymond M. Kinat, Stated Clerk

TE Brown, Moderator