

Presbytery of the Alleghenies (POA) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Minutes of the 31st Stated Meeting
May 3 & 4, 2019

- 31-01** POA met for its 31st Stated Meeting, hosted by Lancaster Presbyterian Church in Lancaster, NY. Notice to the POA churches was given at least 30 days prior to the meeting.
- 31-02** The business meeting began 4:20 pm on May 3, 2019 in the sanctuary of Lancaster Presbyterian Church Lancaster, NY following a time of worship.
- 31-03 Call to Order:** Moderator RE Bruce Tenenbaum from Mt. Lebanon EPC called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.
- 31-04 Quorum:** With concurrence of the Stated Clerk, RE Ray Kinat, Moderator Tenenbaum declared a quorum.
- 31-05 Attendance of TE's and RE Commissioners:** There were 21 Teaching Elders (TEs) and 31 Ruling Elder Commissioners (REs) present (excluding transitional members), according to the sign-in sheets. Those TEs in attendance are noted with (P), those unexcused are noted with (A), and those who have been excused are marked with (E):

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Amazing Grace	Roger Korsten (A)	
Ardara	(vacant)	Glenn Meyers
Bay	Mark Tumney(A)	Richard Gash Ray Kinat
Bellefield	Joshua Brown (P)	
Bergen EPC	Brandt Hammock (P)	
Berlin	Rick Negley (A)	
Bethany	Peter Dembroski (A)	
Bethel (Enon Valley)	Gerald Dodds(E)	Murat Tanyel

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Bethel (Prosperity)	Eric Toohey (P)	
Beverly Heights	Nate Devlin (E)	
Brighton Presbyterian	Tim Luddy (A)	Ginny Embrey Louise Frost
Center	Bill Woodman (A)	
Colonial Village	Jared Hoyt (P)	Michael Fesmire Daniel Penque
Connellsville	Suzanne Zampella (P)	Neil Zampella
Covenant (Ligonier)	Robert Cummings (E)	
Covenant (Sharon)	Rick Stuaffer (E)	Dan Zippie Richard Work
CUP	Scott Graham (P)	
Fairview	David Perry (E)	
Faith Fellowship	(vacant)	
1 st Presby – Bakerstown	Paul Becker (P) Jeremey Collins (E)	Brenda Clifford
1 st Presby – Barton	Thomas Morgan (E)	
1 st Presby – Beaver	Jeff Arnold (A) Marc de Jeu (A)	
1 st Presby – Bentleyville	Andy Scott (P)	Bethany Burney
First Lanaconing	<i>share Thomas Morgan</i>	
Fourth Presby	Eric Amundson (A)	

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Gateway	Chris White (A)	
Graystone	(vacant) Ryan Mowen (E) Joseph Stroup (E)	
Hanover	Jefferson Ellis (E)	
Harmony	Jeff Jones (A)	
Hickory	Chris Mathewson <i>Trans</i> (P)	
Hudson	Rob Sparr (E) Tim Slager (A)	
Knox	(vacant)	David Elder Janice Elder
Lancaster	Kelly Negus (P)	Jack Manley Jimmie Jackson
Lebanon	Bob Titus (A)	
Leicester (Union)	<i>(CP supplied)</i>	David Missel Carol Griffen
Lighthouse	Anthony Bianchini (A)	
Manor	<i>(CP supplied)</i>	
Mansfield 1 st	Denny Finnegan – <i>Trans</i> (E)	
Memorial Park	Dean Weaver (E) Betsy Rumer (E) Kevin Gourley (A)	
Middle Sandy	(vacant)	

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Mill Creek	Harper Brady (P)	Judith Compston Amy Wright Rebecca Beckert (allotted 1x)
Mountville	Patrick Keeley (P)	
Mt. Carmel	(vacant)	
Mt. Lebanon	Carolyn Poteet (E)	Bruce Tenenbaum
Mt. Olivet	Kevin Neal (E)	
Mt. Perry	Bryan Bushong (P)	
Mt. Pleasant	Richard Herbster (A)	
Muddy Creek	Matthew Kail (A)	
New Albany	David Milroy (A)	
New Bedford	Doug Runyan (A)	
New Covenant	Chris Curtis (E)	
New Hope	Andrew Cooper (A)	
North Park	Dan Hendley (E) Ben Burkholder (E)	
Peters Creek	Doug Brandt (E)	
Petrolia	<i>(share David Perry)</i>	
Pierpont	(vacant)	
Pine Run	Lanny Mellinger (E)	
Portersville	Dana Opp (P)	

Church	TEs	RE Commissioners
Redeemer	Douglas Kortyna(P)	Bob LeSuer Laurie LeSuer
Round Hill	Matt Stith (E)	
Shiloh	Scott Wiest (P)	Glen Challingsworth Gene Williams
Slickville	<i>(CP Supplied)</i>	
SOMA	<i>(shared with First Beaver)</i>	
St. Paul's	Tony Myers (E) Mike Dunlap (E)	
Starkdale	Carl Moore (E)	
Stone Church	(vacant)	Tina Little Karen Dykstra
Stow	Bob Stanley (A)	Ralph Appleby Thomas Edmiston
Summit	Tom Jones (A)	
Tabernacle	William Rausch <i>Corresponding</i> (E) Gary Koerth (P)	
Unionville	<i>(share Matthew Kail)</i>	
Venice	Gary Chorpenning (A)	
Westminster Community	(vacant)	
Windy Gap	Joseph Rearick (P)	

Out-of-Bounds

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

Administrators:

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

Active W/O Call

- Michael Anastas (A)
- Matt Guertin (A)
- Matt Haberman (A)
- Michael Herring (A)
- Daniel Muttart - Transitional (P)
- Carol Rettew (A)
- Bob Shull (A)
- Garnett Slatton (A)
- Mike Vonderau (A)

Retired – Active

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

Transitional

Natrona Heights (vacant)

Associate and/or Inactive Status

- Karen Anderson - retired(A)
- Hu Auburn – retired (A)

- Thom Burbridge -retired (A)
- Bobby Brown – inactive (A)
- David Chambers – OOB (A)
- Adrian Ciganic – OOB (A)
- Jim Henkel – retired (A)
- David Hunt – W/O Call (A)
- Daniel Lee – W/O Call (A)
- David Massimi – retired (A)
- William Milligan – retired (A)
- Bill Pawson – retired (A)
- Doug Reinard – retired (A)
- John Timmerman – retired (A)
- George Yates – retired (A)

Observers/Visitors: Marlene Becker (POA –Admin. Assist); Greg Clifford (First Bakerstown); Barbara Gash, Marilyn Kinat (Bay); Barret Hendrickson (Bellefield); Warren Patterson, Glenn Meade (Brighton); Sean Brubaker (Calvin – PCUSA); Justin Olivetti (Knox); Carole Missel (Leicester); Nicel Bushong, Michelle Kachinski (Mt. Perry); Jon Barefoot (Stone); Cynthia Koerth (Tabernacle)

31-06 Docket: Moderator Tenenbaum asked for a motion to approve the docket. Motion carried and the docket was adopted as shown below.

Presbytery of the Alleghenies

31st Stated Meeting

May 3 & 4, 2019

Lancaster Presbyterian Church

Friday - 4:00 WORSHIP

TE Kelly Negus, Host,
Lancaster Presbyterian

Welcome, Opening Prayer

RE Bruce Tenenbaum,
Moderator

	Declaration of Quorum & Approval of Docket	RE Bruce Tenenbaum, Moderator
	Self Introduction of Guests	
	Report of Ministerial Committee	TE Eric Toohey, Chair
	Spiritual Formation & Prayer	TE Scott Graham
6:00	Recess for Dinner/Announcements	RE Bruce Tenenbaum, Moderator
7:30	Reconvene for Worship	TE Kelly Negus, Host
Saturday		
8:30	Reconvene for Worship	TE Kelly Negus, Host, Lancaster Presbyterian
	Summary of Friday Self-Introduction of Guests	RE Bruce Tenenbaum, Moderator
	Report of Church Development Committee	TE Chris Matthewson, Chair
	Report of Business Committee	TE Doug Brandt, Chair
	Report of Leadership Team/Stated Clerk	RE Ray Kinat, Clerk
12:00	Closing Prayer/Adjourn	RE Bruce Tenenbaum, Moderator

31-07 Moderator Tenenbaum explained the voting procedures for this 31st Stated Meeting (using written ballots to vote for ministers being examined, descending overtures from General Assembly, and ascending overtures, verbal ballots for candidates) and reminded everyone that only TE's and RE Commissioners can vote. Moderator Tenenbaum 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.

31-08 Moderator Tenenbaum then welcomed all those in attendance and asked first-time attendees to introduce themselves.

31-09 Report of Ministerial Committee: Moderator Tenenbaum 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.

31-09A 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.

31-09B TE Toohey then indicated there were items that needed presbytery approval:

Motion of the Ministerial Committee:

- In accordance with BOG 14-3.B.2 Move TE Michael Herring to Inactive status for being without an approved call for over one year. TE Herring has not responded to communication from the presbytery.
 - MOTION CARRIED
- In accordance with BOG 14-1.A Berlin Presbyterian Church of Lewis Center, Ohio in a duly called congregational meeting on March 17, 2019 voted to be dismissed from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. As a result of the dismissal, the pastoral relationship between the church and TE Rick Negley has been dissolved. TE Negley is now an active teaching elder without call. TE Negley is still employed in a pastoral capacity at Berlin Church, which has merged with another non-EPC congregation.
 - MOTION CARRIED

TE Michael Anastas has determined that he will no longer seek restoration to the rolls. He had been removed at the 27th Stated Meeting, February 16 & 17, 2018 in accordance with BOD 11-12.

TE Toohey reminded the Presbytery of the annual Pastors' Retreat scheduled for next January 26-28, 2020 at Seneca Hills

TE Toohey indicated that the Ministerial Committee will be making phone calls to Teaching Elders who did not turn in their Annual Term of Calls.

TE Toohey indicated that the Ministerial Committee is still working to make the examinations clearly focused at Presbytery meetings. They will work towards 30 minutes for Transfer Exams which can be extended 15 minutes at a time. Ordination Exams will not have time limitations.

TE Toohey reminded the Presbytery that performance reviews are encouraged between TE and Session. Good job descriptions are important to establish expectations. The Ministerial Committee is open to come along side pastors and sessions to establish good communication and reviews.

31-09C TE Toohey then indicated that this concluded his report for the Ministerial Committee.

31-10 Moderator Bruce Tenenbaum called TE Scott Graham forward to lead the Presbytery in an extended time of prayer.

Announcement : TE Scott Graham encouraged everyone to consider going to Israel next year with the Presbytery next February 25- March 6, 2020. Those interested should contact TE Bob Stauffer.

Break for Dinner at 6 PM and worship at 7:30PM. Since there were no candidates required to preach. TE Kelly Negus, Pastor at Lancaster Presbyterian Church delivered the evening message.

31-11 The 31st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reconvened at 9 am on May 4th following a time of worship at 8:30 am. Moderator TE Bruce Tenenbaum opened with prayer and gave a recap of last evening's activities.

31-12 Report of the Church Development Committee (CDC): Moderator Tenenbaum invited TE Chris Mathewson forward to give the report of the Church Development Committee (written report included in the Commissioner's Packet). TE Mathewson opened his report with prayer.

31-12A TE Mathewson explained the role of the Church Development Committee and referred to the written report in the packet.

31-12B TE Mathewson indicated there was one item that needed presbytery approval.

Motion of the Church Development Committee:

- The CDC moves to extend the Natrona Heights Presbyterian Transitional Status for 6 Months as they continue their preparation for Ruling Elder Examination.
 - MOTION CARRIED

31-12C TE Mathewson invited TE Bob Stauffer forward to share the importance of the transitional time between installed pastors. TE Stauffer encouraged churches to take the opportunity to slow

down and inject good health into the church. The use of a trained Transitional Pastor helps the church answer the following health questions:

1. Who are we?
2. Where are we going?
3. How will we get there?

The advantages of a trained Transitional Pastor:

1. Gives Fresh Eyes to look at the church health.
2. Consistency in the pulpit preaching church health principles.
3. Discovering the needs of the congregation to help the pulpit search team identify what they are looking for.
4. Equipping the session to shepherd the flock
5. Take the time pressure off of the search team
6. Empowering the congregation to discover their mission to the community where they serve in places that they can build relationships
7. Brings accountability to the staff and volunteers
8. Absorb the emotion of the congregation during the time of transition
9. Discovering, naming and addressing dysfunction and sin
10. Intentionally preparing the congregation to receive the next installed pastor

31-12D TE Mathewson invited TE Gary Koerth, Church Planter of Hope for Renewal a church plant in the Idora neighborhood of Youngstown, OH. TE Koerth referenced an insert in the commissioner's packet, which described a number of opportunities for members of the presbytery. The building is in need of renovation for use as a worship space. The Presbytery heard about the bright light shining in the darkness in the Idora neighborhood. Our churches are encouraged to provide work teams to aid in the refurbishment of the store front that will become the church home.

31-12E TE Mathewson indicated that this concluded his report.

ANNOUNCEMENT: TE Bob Stauffer announced the upcoming Golf Outing Fundraiser to benefit our mission partner, EduNations in Sierra Leone, to build a senior secondary school. The Outing/Fundraiser will be held on June 24, 2019 at Avalon Golf and Country Club, in Sharon, PA. Churches are being asked to participate by recruiting foursomes, host a table for the dinner, secure sponsorships and provide items for the silent auction.

ANNOUNCEMENT: TE Bob Stauffer encouraged attendance on the POA trip to Israel Feb 25-March 6, 2020. If you are interested please contact Bob.

31-13 Report of Business Administration Team: Chairman of Team TE Doug Brandt was excused from the attendance at the meeting. Moderator Tenenbaum invited POA Treasurer RE Neil Zampella forward to review the financial statements of the Presbytery. RE Zampella opened with prayer. (Financial reports included in the Commissioners' Packet).

31-13A Moderator Tenenbaum indicated this concluded the report of the Business Administration Team.

31-14 Report of the Leadership Team and Stated Clerk: Moderator Tenenbaum 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.

31-14A RE Kinat indicated that there were several actions that needed presbytery approval:

Omnibus Motion to approve:

- Minutes of the 30th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. These Minutes have been posted on our website at least 30 days prior.
- Motion to approve "Minutes of Commission to Ordain and Install"
 - Brandt Hammack as Pastor of Bergen Evangelical Presbyterian Church, November 18, 2018
- Motion to approve "Minutes of Commission to Install"
 - Carolyn Poteet as Pastor of Mt. Lebanon Evangelical Presbyterian Church, April 7, 2019

MOTION CARRIED

- In accordance with BOG 5-10 Receive and accept the vote of the congregation of Berlin Congregation to be dismissed from the POA and EPC as to their vote on March 17, 2019
- MOTION CARRIED

RE Kinat reminded the churches to follow the procedures for the election of Commissioners to General Assembly in June 2019.

Next Stated Meeting will be in September 2019 at Seneca Hills Bible Camp and Conference Center

31-14B RE Kinat indicated that this concluded his report.

31-15 Moderator Tenenbaum indicated that this concluded the business for the meeting. He then entertained a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and approved at 11:15 am. Moderator Tenenbaum dismissed the body with prayer.

RE Raymond M. Kinat, Stated Clerk

RE Bruce Tenenbaum, Moderator