

Presbytery of the Alleghenies (POA) of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC)
Minutes of the 36th Stated Meeting
October 17, 2020

- 36-01** POA met for its 36th Stated Meeting, hosted by Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sharon, 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.
- 36-02** The business meeting began 9:20AM on October 17, 2020 in the Sanctuary of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sharon, PA following a time of worship with candidate Abigail Opel preaching.
- 36-03 Call to Order:** Moderator TE Josh Brown from Bellefield EPC called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.
- 36-04 Welcome** by TE Rick Stauffer, host.
- 36-05 Voting:** Moderator Brown explained the voting procedures for this 36th Stated Meeting. Those in attendance in person would vote by voice and written ballot. 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.
- 36-06 Quorum:** With concurrence of the Stated Clerk, RE Ray Kinat, Moderator Brown declared a quorum.
- 36-07 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 (over 1,500) | Mark Tumney (A) | Ray Kinat (Stated Clerk) Richard Gash John Bingaman(P*) Mike Mika(P*) Eric Peterson(P*) |

| Church | TEs | RE Commissioners |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Bellefield | Joshua Brown (P) | Carol Williams Larry Williams |
| Bergen EPC | Brandt Hammock (P) | |
| Bethany | vacant | Dan Cameron Joe Philips(P*) |
| Bethel (Enon Valley) | Gerald Dodds (A) | Cindy McCullough Murat Tanyel |
| Bethel (Prosperity) | Eric Toohey (P) | |
| Beverly Heights | Nate Devlin (P*) | |
| Brighton Presbyterian | Tim Luddy (A) | |
| Calvin | Sean Brubaker (P) | Judith Kindle Karen Hazen |
| Center | Bill Woodman (E) | |
| Colonial Village | Jared Hoyt (P*) | Michael Fesmire* Joan Linkowski* |
| Connellsville | Vacant | |
| Covenant (Ligonier) | Chris Mathewson - Trans (P) | |
| Covenant (Sharon) | Rick Stauffer (P) | Brent Ward Rob Wilson |
| CUP | Scott Graham (P) | |
| Fairview | David Perry (E) | |
| Faith Fellowship | (vacant) | |
| 1 st Presby – Bakerstown | Paul Becker (P) Jeremy Collins (A) | Allan Wettach Mike Clogan |

| Church | TEs | RE Commissioners Karen Maniago* |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 st Presby – Barton | Thomas Morgan (E) | |
| 1 st Presby – Beaver | Jeff Arnold (A) Marc de Jeu (P) | |
| 1 st Presby – Bentleyville | Andy Scott (E) | |
| First Lanaconing | <i>share Thomas Morgan</i> | |
| Fourth | Eric Amundson (P*) | |
| Gateway | Chris White (A) | |
| Graystone | Rob Sparr (P) Joseph Stroup (P) | Andrew Arblaster |
| Hanover | Jefferson Ellis (A) | |
| Harmony | Jeff Jones (P) | Gene McCandles |
| Hickory | Dan Clark(P*) | |
| Hudson | (vacant) Tim Slager (A) | |
| Knox | Justin Olivetti (A) | |
| Lancaster | Kelly Negus (A) | |
| Lebanon | Bob Titus (A) | |
| Leicester (Union) | <i>(CP supplied)</i> | |
| Lighthouse | (vacant) | |
| Manor | <i>(CP supplied)</i> | |
| Mansfield 1 st | Denny Finnegan – <i>Trans</i> (E) | |

| Church | TEs | RE Commissioners |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Memorial Park | Dean Weaver (P*) Betsy Rumer (P) Kevin Gourley (A) | |
| Middle Sandy | (vacant) | Linda McQuilken(P*) |
| Mill Creek | Harper Brady (P) | Judith Compston Amy Wright |
| Mountville | Patrick Keeley (P*) | |
| Mt. Carmel | Eric Phillips (P*) | |
| Mt. Lebanon | Carolyn Poteet (P) | Bruce Tenenbaum |
| Mt. Olivet | Kevin Neal (P) | |
| Mt. Perry | vacant | |
| Mt. Pleasant | Richard Herbster (P) | |
| Muddy Creek | Matthew Kail (E) | |
| Natrona Heights | Daniel Muttart -Trans (P*) | |
| New Albany | David Milroy (A) | |
| New Bedford | Doug Runyan (A) | |
| New Covenant | Chris Curtis (P*) | |
| New Hope | Andrew Cooper (A) | |
| North Park | Dan Hendley (P*) Ben Burkholder (A) | Bruce Allison Jim Rimmel* |
| Peters Creek | Doug Brandt (A) | |
| Petrolia | <i>(share David Perry)</i> | |
| Pierpont | (vacant) | |

| Church | TEs | RE Commissioners |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Pine Run | Lanny Mellinger (P) | |
| Portersville | Dana Opp (P) | |
| Redeemer | Douglas Kortyna(P) | Laurie LeSuer * Jaye Moelk |
| Round Hill | Matt Stith (E) | |
| Shiloh | Scott Wiest (A) | |
| Slickville | <i>(CP Supplied)</i> | |
| SOMA | <i>(CP Supplied)</i> | Caleb Musselman(P*) |
| St. Paul's | Tony Myers (A) Mike Dunlap (E) | |
| Starkdale | Carl Moore (A) | |
| Stone Church | <i>(vacant)</i> | |
| Stow | Bob Stanley (P) | |
| Summit | Tom Jones (P*) | |
| Tabernacle | Brian Carpenter (P*) Gary Koerth (A) | Rick Blair |
| Unionville | <i>(share Matthew Kail)</i> | |
| Venice | Gary Chorpenning (A) | |
| Westminster Community | <i>(vacant)</i> | |
| Windy Gap | Joseph Rearick (E) | |

Out-of-Bounds

- John Bower (P)
- Robert Cappel (A)
- Robert Cummings (P*)

- Jarred Crawford (A)
- Lindon Fowler (E)
- Tim Habecker(P*)
- David S. (E)
- Scott Steltzer (A)
- Suzanne Zampella (P*)

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)

Retired – Active

- Don Hurray (P)
- Rick Hurley (A)
- Philip Makari (A)
- Lowell Meek (A)
- John McElwain (A)
- 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 (A)
- Bobby Brown – inactive (A)
- David Chambers – OOB (A)
- Adrian Ciganic – OOB (A)
- Jim Henkel – retired (A)
- Matt Haberman – W/0 call (A)
- Bruce Hemphill – retired (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 (A)
- George Yates – retired (A)

Observers/Visitors: Marlene Becker (POA –Admin. Assist); Jim Braymer, Linda Braymer, Matthew Geary, Jack Macom, Aaron Weese, Richard Work, Dan Zippie(Covenant Sharon); Wade Rider (CUP); Ron Cepak, Mark Matsco, Rebecca Matsco, Abigail Opal (First Presbyterian Beaver); Ryan Pietryga (Memorial Park); Marc Shefelton* (Corresponding TE Rivers and Lakes Presbytery - Transitional Pastor Middle Sandy); Kathryn Atman*, Eileen Tenebaum* (Mt. Lebanon); (R George Ross (POA Treasurer)

36-08 Docket: Moderator Brown asked for a motion to approve the Docket. Motion carried and the Docket was adopted as shown below.

36th Stated Meeting
October 17, 2020
Covenant Presbyterian Church
Sharon, Pennsylvania

Saturday

| | | |
|------|---|---------------------------------|
| 8:30 | WORSHIP | TE Rick Stauffer, Host Covenant |
| 9:00 | Welcome, Opening Prayer | TE Josh Brown, Moderator |
| | Declaration of Quorum & Approval of Docket | TE Josh Brown, Moderator |
| | Installation of New Moderator | |
| | Installation of New Stated Clerk | RE Rick Blair, Moderator |
| | Explanation of Voting Procedures (online and in person) | |
| | Election of New Moderator-Elect | RE Rick Blair, Moderator |
| | Thanks to outgoing Past Moderator RE Bruce Tenenbaum | |
| | Thanks to outgoing Moderator TE Josh Brown who becomes Past Moderator | |
| | Self-Introduction of Guests | RE Rick Blair, Moderator |

| | | |
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| | Report of Church Development Committee | TE Chris Mathewson, Chair |
| | Report of Ministerial Committee | TE Eric Toohey, Chair |
| | Announcements | TE Rick Blair, Moderator |
| 12:00 | Break for Lunch/Instructions | TE Rick Stauffer, Host Covenant |
| 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 | TE Dana Opp, Stated Clerk |
| | Announcements | RE Rick Blair, Moderator |
| 3:00 | Closing Prayer and Adjourn | RE Rick Blair, Moderator |

Upcoming Dates:

- Pastor's Retreat – January 31-February 2, 2021 @ Seneca Hills,
- 37th Stated Meeting – February 12 & 13, 2021 @ Bakerstown Presbyterian Church

36-09 Election and Installation of New Moderator: Moderator TE Brown invited Moderator-Elect RE Rick Blair, Tabernacle EPC, forward. Moderator Brown invited Stated Clerk RE Ray Kinat forward to make a motion that the Leadership Team recommend we elect RE Blair, as the current Moderator-Elect, to be the next moderator of the POA, to serve a one-year term. Motion carried. TE Brown then led the installation of RE Blair. Former Moderators were invited to come forward, lay hands and pray on RE Blair. Moderator RE Blair acknowledged with thanks the service of outgoing Moderator TE Joshua Brown.

36-10 Election and installation of State Clerk - Moderator Blair then noted with thanks the service of RE Ray Kinat. Moderator Rick Bair invited Stated Clerk Ray Kinat forward. RE Kinat indicated that the Leadership Team makes a motion to elect TE Dana Opp as the Stated Clerk, to serve a three- year term. Motion carried. Moderator Blair then led the installation of TE Opp. Former Stated Clerks were invited to come forward to lay hands and pray on Stated Clerk TE Dana Opp.

36-11 Moderator Blair invited Stated Clerk Dana Opp forward. TE Opp made a motion from the Leadership Team to elect TE Betsy Rumer as the new Moderator-Elect. Stated Clerk Dana Opp read a brief biography of TE Rumer and introduced her. Motion Carried. Moderator Blair and Stated Clerk Dana Opp prayed over TE Betsy Rumer.

36-12 Moderator Blair thanked outgoing Past Moderator RE Tenebaum and acknowledged with thanks the new Past Moderator TE Josh Brown.

36-13 Moderator Blair then welcomed all those in attendance and asked first-time attendees to introduce themselves.

36-14 Report of the Church Development Committee (CDC): Moderator Blair 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. TE Mathewson updated the CDC Report indicating that RE Bandstra will take the place of TE Doug Runyan on the Connellsville Team working for dismissal

36-14A TE Mathewson encouraged us to focus on the work of revitalization of our churches. He shared from Acts 10 and the story of Cornelius' conversion. While we typically focus on the impact this would have had for the kingdom (Caesarea going from a strategic military outpost of the Roman Empire to move eastward, to a center from which the gospel would go westward... this was an enormous risk for Cornelius as it was an act of treason for him to meet with Peter) what we often miss in this passage is the transformation that Joppa underwent. Joppa under Peter's leadership was equally transformed as Peter had to turn from being a fairly inwardly focused, Christian Jewish country clubish leader to taking an enormous risk in following his Vision to meet with Cornelius. Like many of our churches, Joppa was chiefly concerned about themselves and their own. The Vision God gave to Peter opened his eyes and the eyes of those in Joppa to the true nature of the gospel... i.e. the true nature of the kingdom of God. For all people. For us to die to ourselves and to die to the kingdoms we have built for ourselves to follow our true King Jesus Christ as He brings His kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. The bullseye at which we should be aiming is this type of gospel transformation all the time. That calls us out of ourselves and towards the kingdom. When we do this as the church, the world continues to be transformed.

36-14B TE Mathewson indicated that this concluded his report.

36-15 Report of Ministerial Committee: Moderator Blair then invited Chair of the Ministerial Committee 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.

36-15A 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 at Seneca Hills Bible Camp.

36-15B TE Toohey then indicated there were items that needed presbytery approval:

Omnibus Motion:

- Terminate the commission for Commissioned Pastor Tom Holmes at Slickville Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Slickville, PA). Both the Session of the church and RE Holmes agree with the termination of the commission. RE Tom Holmes continues to serve as Commissioned Pastor for Manor Presbyterian Church (Manor, PA).
- Approve the following dissolutions where the pastor and congregation concur:
 - The Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church of Ligonier, Pennsylvania in a duly called Session meeting voted to dissolve the call of TE Christopher Mathewson, as transitional pastor. TE Mathewson has taken another call.

- Center Presbyterian Church of Grove City, Pennsylvania in a duly called congregational meeting voted to dissolve the call of TE Bill Woodman. TE Woodman is without call.
- Approve the following calls that do not require examination:
 - The Session of Center Presbyterian Church of Grove City, PA in a duly called Session meeting on September 21, 2020 voted to call TE Christopher Mathewson as Transitional Pastor.
 - The Session of Covenant Presbyterian Church (Ligonier, PA) in a duly called Session meeting voted to call TE Tim Habecker as Transitional Pastor. TE Habecker continues to serve in his other call at Ligonier Camp and Conference Center.

Omnibus motion approved

36-15C TE Toohey then invited Ms. Abigail Opel, ministerial candidate under care of the Presbytery 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**, in order to accept a call from First Presbyterian Church (Beaver, PA) as Chaplain for the Mental Health Needs in the Beaver Community.

- Exceptions to the WCF: None
- This call is a tentmaking position. She works for the Mental Health Association of Beaver County.²
- An endorsement interview with the Chaplains Work and Care Committee is scheduled for October 26-27.
- TE Marc De Jeu from First Presbyterian Church of Beaver, PA was invited to come forward to testify to the call from the Session to Abby Opel to the position of Chaplain. She will work in the mental illness field in the community. Within the church she will lead in education and counseling mental illness issues in addition to occasional preaching and administer the sacraments.

36-15D Candidate Opel, 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 Ms. Opel reported no exceptions to the Presbytery In accordance with the **BOG 12-4**. The Presbytery then examined Ms. Opel in accordance with **BOG 12-2**. On motion, the examination was arrested and Ms. Opel was excused. A vote was taken and Ms. Opel was approved for ordination and installation at First Presbyterian Church of Beaver, PA. Motion carried. Ms. Opel signed the Ministerial Obligation Form, which is on file in the Clerk's office. Prayer Partner Rebecca Masco and TE De Jeu prayed over Ms. Opel.

36-15E TE Toohey invited RE Bruce Tenenbaum forward. RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Ryan Pietryga forward having been a member of Memorial Park EPC in Allison Park, 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. Pietryga in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Pietryga as a Candidate Under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. Motion carried. In Accordance with **BOG.11-2C.**, the Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the RE

Blair. A prayer for the Candidate was offered and a charge was given by TE Scott Graham. TE Chris White of Gateway EPC was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Pietryga.

36-15F RE Tenenbaum invited Mr. Wade Rider, having been a member of CUP EPC in Chippewa, 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. Rider in Christian experience and growth; motives for seeking ordination and personal call to ministry and approved Mr. Rider as a Candidate Under Care of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. Motion carried. In Accordance with **BOG.11-2C.**, the Candidate responded affirmatively to the constitutional questions posed by the RE Blair. A prayer for the Candidate was offered and a charge was given by TE Scott Graham. TE Gary Koerth, Church Planter at Hope for Renewal, Idora, PA was appointed as the Candidate's advisor for Mr. Rider.

36-15GTE Toohey indicated that he would resume his report after lunch.

Announcements:

Moderator Blair invited TE Bob Stauffer forward. The Presbytery raised \$33,000 at the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament in support of mission partner EduNations in Sierra Leone. Next year we would like to include more churches in the golf tournament to fulfill the commitment of the Presbytery to support the work in Sierra Leone. Next year the tournament is June 14, 2021.

Moderator Blair invited TE Rich Herbster Mt. Pleasant EPC and the Director of Presbyterian Studies at Trinity School of Ministry. TE Herbster gave an update on the work with our seminary partner and the established Presbyterian tract. Currently there are 8 students enrolled in the tract. The seminary is offering a course in January 2021 on John Calvin all are invited to enroll.

36-16 Report of the Business Committee: Moderator Blair called forward RE Ray Kinat, 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. RE Kinat brought attention to the completed audit report in the packet. RE Kinat gave a reminder to submit session minutes for 2019.

36-16A RE Kinat called attention to the draft budget in the packet. The Leadership Team moves that the 2021 Budget, with the additional \$6,000.00 for the annual donation to the EduNations Fund Raiser, be approved. Motion approved.

36-16B RE Kinat indicated this concluded his report.

Break for Lunch at Noon.

36-17 The 36th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies reconvened at 1 pm.

36-18 Continuation of the Ministerial Committee Report- Moderator TE Blair called TE Toohey forward to continue to the report. TE Toohey invited Rev. Matthew Geary forward.

36-18A The Ministerial Committee recommends Rev. Geary, an ordained minister of the PCA, seeking transfer from the Calvary Presbytery (PCA) in order to accept a position as Assistant Pastor of Youth and Families at Covenant Presbyterian Church (Sharon, PA), from within the Reformed tradition, presenting the credentials of education required by those seeking ordination in the EPC - **BOG.12-3B.1**. Having sustained oral examination before the Ministerial Committee, Rev. Geary was presented to the Presbytery for examination. Rev. Geary's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms were declared to the Presbytery in accordance with the **BOG 12-4**, Rev. Geary's reported exceptions to the Presbytery Exceptions to the WCF: 21.8 **and** Exceptions to the WLC: 109. ON MOTION, Rev. Geary's exception(s) to the Westminster Confession of Faith and Catechisms were allowed. The Presbytery then examined Rev. Geary on his views in accordance with the **BOG 12-2**. ON MOTION, the examination was arrested and Rev. Geary was excused. ON MOTION, the minister's examination was sustained in the areas prescribed by **BOG 12-3B.1**. Rev. Geary was welcomed to the Presbytery. TE Rick Stauffer of Covenant EPC, Sharon, PA prayed over the minister. Rev. Geary will be responsible to assist families in their ongoing spiritual training of children 3 years old through 12th grade in the church, while carrying out a Biblical mandate to reach lost families with the Gospel through spiritual interaction with students.

36-18B Each year, members of the Ministerial Committee are appointed by the presbytery to 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 TE Opel and TE Geary were found to be in order according to the BOO. All pastors signed the Ministerial Obligation Form which are on file in the Clerk's office. The Ministerial Committee, appointed by the presbytery as an administrative commission to install and ordain pastors, will ~~do so for~~ **ordain and install TE Opel and install TE Geary**.

36-18C TE Toohey indicated that this concluded the Ministerial Committee report.

36-19 Report of the Leadership Team and Stated Clerk: Moderator Blair then invited Stated Clerk TE Dana Opp forward to present the report of the Leadership Team and Stated Clerk (written report included in the Commissioner's Packet). TE Opp opened his report with prayer. Stated Clerk Opp thanked outgoing Stated Clerk RE Ray Kinat.

36-19A TE Opp called attention to the Stated Clerk and Leadership Team report in the packet. TE Opp indicated that there were several actions that needed presbytery approval:

- Approve the Minutes of the 35th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies. (The Minutes have been posted on our website, 30 days prior to this meeting). Motion approved
- In accordance with the Book of Order **BOG 21-1 C a**. The Leadership Team moves that the Ministerial Committee be appointed, for one year beginning October, 2020, as Administrative Commission for the purpose of ordaining and installing Teaching Elders. Motion approved.

36-19B TE Opp called attention to the 40th GA Descending Overtures. This is the first reading. It will be voted on at the 37th Stated Meeting in February 2021.

36-19C TE Opp called attention to the Leadership Team Report in the packet and highlighted the work of the Team.

36-19D TE OPP called attention to the report in the packet of the actions of the Administrative Commission for Westminster Community EPC Church, Canton, OH. The Commission has begun their work and will continue to report to the Presbytery. Up most in their minds is the spiritual welfare of the remaining members. Financial considerations have to be considered and necessary building maintenance is being addressed.

35-19E TE Opp announced the 37th Stated Meeting will be February 12 & 13, 2021 at First Presbyterian Church of Bakerstown.

36-19F TE Opp indicated that this concluded his report.

36-20 Moderator Blair 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 Blair dismissed the body with prayer.

TE Dana Opp, Stated Clerk

RE Blair, Moderator