

Presbytery Council
February 5, 2008

Presbytery Council met on Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at the Presbytery Center. The meeting was convened with devotions and prayer by the Council Moderator, Rev. Ken Foust. Rev. Foust opened reading Psalm 90 from *The Message* by Eugene Peterson. Using the image of “super” – Super Bowl and Super Tuesday - he contended that there is nothing “super” about Ash Wednesday, but that the “ashes” involved urge us to take sin very seriously because God does; finally, the ashes are administered in the form of a cross because God has saved us through Christ, and that is the point to be remembered.

Present

Bernice Adams	Ken Foust
Martin Ankrum	Bonnie Hartley
Cynthia Cadenhead	Douglas Holben, ex-officio
Gary Close	Helen Kester
Keith Conover	Phyllis Neral
Cheryl Croushore, ex-officio	Michael Orsted
Robert Downs, ex-officio	William Rogers
Cliff Foster	

Excused

Ross Bash	Debbie Hepler, ex-officio
Susan Blank, ex-officio	Glenn Hart
Carole Isley Corey, ex-officio	

Absent

Gerald Cumer, ex-officio

Guest

Donna Havrisko

Correspondence

None

Adoption of the Agenda

It was **MSP** to approve the agenda with the following change and additions:

- 1) Remove the Policy Reviews.
- 2) Add the following:
 - a. The request from Congruity Church to take out a loan to complete their renovation project.
 - b. The request of the Patton Church for approval of spending that exceeds the guidelines of Presbytery.
 - c. The request from Third Church, Uniontown, for approval of a mission funding grant.
 - d. The reports from the Stated Clerk Search Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Task Force on Staff Reviews.

Approval of the Minutes

It was **MSP** to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008, meeting with the following changes: Cheryl Rhea was not present, but Cheryl Croushore was present.

Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, Rev. Holben presented the report speaking to changes the Bookkeeper is making in submission procedures. He also pointed out that as of the end of the first month we are slightly ahead of the annual expectation for FirstFruits giving.

Report of the Executive Presbyter

Executive Presbyter's Report

February 5, 2008

1. I included visits to the congregations of the Mt. Pleasant, Middle and the Youngwood Presbyterian Churches in January in addition to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service in which I participated at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Greensburg. I also met with sixteen pastors from other churches in our presbytery during the course of the 1st month.
2. Currently, I continue to assist the Pastor Nominating Committees of five congregations in our Presbytery that are seeking to discern God's call for pastoral leadership for their futures. In addition to the Executive Presbyter Reference checks and District Committee on Ministry interviews, I have worked and prayed our Presbytery's way forward toward finding God's will and purpose for our life together in God's plan; please join me in this prayer ministry with Colver and Revloc, Fort Burd, Delmont, Mt. Washington, and Latrobe (Christian Ed).
3. My meetings in January included: the Presbytery Staff, the Presbytery Council, the Committee on Ministry, an orientation for the new Committee on Ministry members, the Company of Pastors, the District II Pastors gathering, the Strategy for Ministry Development Team, the District IV Educational and Training Meeting, two meetings with the Stated Clerk Search Committee, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, the Synod of the Trinity Listening Forum, the Nominating Committee, and two trips to send off and welcome the Presbytery's Sudan Mission Team.
4. I had major responsibilities with the Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania Council of Bishops and Judicatory Leaders during their retreat at Antiochian Village, the Partnership for Missional Church Cluster event at Westminster College, the Board of Pensions Grant proposal for "first call and new call pastors," and the Re-Forming Ministry Project of the Lilly Foundation in January.
5. Six congregations from our Presbytery made applications (before the deadline) to the Frank E. Clark Charitable Trust from the Synod of the Trinity. The Synod has responded with a grant of \$5,000.00 from the Clark Charitable Trust for the Small Churches in our Presbytery. I am proposing that we match the Frank Clark Grant with \$7,000.00 so that each proposal submitted by small churches be given \$2,000.00 each.
6. I, along with many others, prayed with and for the Redstone Presbytery Sudan Mission Team (Robert Downs, Ken Foust, Ken White, Donna Havrisko, Victor Van Allen, Sylvia Carlson, Debbie Hepler, Dan Foster, Lauren Pounds and Kate Silbert) during their trip to the Sudan. Along with others, I followed their way on our web site with their progress and prayed for their witness and ministry in the Sudan.
7. As I am preparing my annual report to the Presbytery for the calendar year 2007, I am gratefully reminded of the many opportunities in which I have been privileged to participate as the Presbytery of Redstone expresses our faithful witness, mission and service in our four counties.

It was **MSP** to approve the recommendation made in item #5 of the Executive Presbyter's report.

Rev. Holben introduced a video presentation from the Office of the General Assembly titled *“Together in Ministry and Mission”* that addresses many issues of concern to the church today. It was **MSP** to show this video at the upcoming meeting of Presbytery immediately prior to the presentation of the St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church request and to make copies of the video available to churches who desire one.

Associate for Pastoral Care

In Carole’s absence Moderator Foust led the Council in prayer for those lifted up– Ron Durika, Victor Van Allen, and others from the congregations of those attending Council

Old Business

Report of the Stated Clerk Search Committee

Bernice Adams reported that the work of the Committee is complete. The Committee will present its final report to the next meeting of Council on March 8, 2008.

Council Retreat

The Council Retreat will take place on March 8, 2008, at the Bishop Connare Center from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At that time the Council will hear from the networks, receive reports on the partnership with the Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church, Pine Springs Camp, and Katrina Relief Work; discuss the 2009 Budget; evaluate the work of the Presbytery to date; and review the new Presbytery configuration

Task Force on Staff Reviews

Phyllis Neral reported that the Personnel Review Task Force is set to go. They will meet with staff on February 26, 2008, to conduct the annual performance reviews. Bonnie Hartley will replace Helen Kester on the Review Team as Helen will be unavailable that date.

Nominating Committee

Rev. Ken Foust called to the attention of the Council to our responsibility to nominate persons to serve on the Nominating Committee of Presbytery. Assignments had been made at the January meeting of Council, and Bernice Adams reported that Jean Livingston, [Westmont Church - District 4] has agreed to serve, and Keith Conover reported that Rev. Geoffrey Rach [McClellandtown & Grace Chapel– District 3] has agreed to serve. It was **MSP** to nominate these persons to the Presbytery for election to serve on the Nominating Committee.

New Business

Third Presbyterian Church, Uniontown, Mission Funding Request

It was **MSP** to deny the request and report to them that, under the new presbytery configuration, funding for such projects would be accomplished by networking with other churches and / or interested persons and entities that share a similar interest and passion.

Patton Presbyterian Church Spending Request

It was **MSP** to approve the request of the Patton Presbyterian Church to expend funds currently on hand in the amount of \$47,801 to repair and refurbish all the pews and interior woodwork within the Sanctuary.

Congruity Presbyterian Church Loan Request

It was **MSP** to approve the request of the Congruity Presbyterian Church for the alternative method of funding the project previously approved.

Adjournment

1. It was **MSP** to adjourn, and the meeting was concluded with prayer led by the Rev. Martin Ankrum at 8:35 p.m.