

HOW DOES YOUR PRESBYTERY DO IT?

Through its Staff:

Elder **Stephen Benz** is the Interim Executive Presbyterian - the chief administrative officer - who is responsible for the operation of the presbytery and is also a pastor to all the churches.

Gary Close is the Stated Clerk, the continuing, ecclesiastical officer.

Bobbie Shaffor is the Administrative Assistant, and the first point of contact for all presbytery business (724-837-6737, secretaryredstone@comcast.net).

Reverend **Carole Isley Corey** is the Associate for Pastoral Care and is a pastor to all the pastors and their families (814-255-7431).

The **three coordinators:** Mission, Christian Education and Congregational Support.

Through its volunteers:

The members of the standing **committees** and **task forces** and the **Moderator** and **Vice Moderator**. The Council reviews the relationship between the Presbytery's structure and mission. It also acts as the Board of Trustees. The Committee on Ministry is responsible for the relations between the churches and their pastors. The Committee on Preparation for Ministry shepherds those who aspire to be ministers or lay pastors. The Committee on Representation assures that the principle of fair representation is followed. The Nominating Committee seeks individual volunteers for the committees. The Judicial Commission tries cases brought before it. In addition, ad hoc task forces are created to handle specific items, and are then disbanded.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

First, **pray** for the PC(USA).

Second, **pray** for the presbytery.

Make a point of **attending presbytery meetings** (March, May, September and November), and volunteer to your session to be commissioned, or attend as a visitor to lend support and to learn.

Attend the less formal **District Meetings**, and learn how you can help your church and the churches in your district.

Volunteer for committees and task forces of the Presbytery by calling Bobbie at the Presbytery Office, (724) 837-6737.

Become a Presbytery Ambassador to visit the churches in the Presbytery —call Bobbie for the training schedule.

What is a presbytery?

What
does your presbytery
do for you?

How
does your presbytery
do it?



Communicate the Word,

Carry on the work,

Change the world,

Together!

This is based on the requirements and definitions as stated in the "Book of Order", the manual of the Presbytery of Redstone, and the 2006 Report of the Mission Strategy Task Force.

WHAT IS A PRESBYTERY?

It is a way for Presbyterians to share power and responsibility and sustain mutual relationships.

“The nature of Presbyterian order is such that it shares power and responsibility. The system of governing bodies, whether they have authority over one or many churches, sustains ... mutual relationships ... Form of Government, [G-4.0302]”

The presbytery consists of all the churches and ministers within its boundaries. The Presbytery of Redstone encompasses 83 churches and their pastoral leaders within four counties (Cambria, Fayette, Somerset, and Westmoreland.) It is further subdivided into four geographical districts. The voting members of the presbytery (presbyters) consist of all the ministers, and at least one elder commissioner from each church, elected for that purpose by the session. Redstone is one of 16 presbyteries in the Synod of the Trinity, which covers Pennsylvania, most of West Virginia, and part of Ohio. There are a total of 173 presbyteries and sixteen synods in the United States, or PC(USA).

“A Presbytery is a corporate expression of the church consisting of all the churches and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within a certain district. When a presbytery meets, each church shall be represented by an elder commissioned by the session ... [G-11.0100]”

WHAT DOES YOUR PRESBYTERY DO FOR YOU?

In Mission, Ministry, Maintenance:

It develops strategy and initiates major mission projects. It works through the **Mission Coordinator**, with the member churches, to develop mission networks and to assist them in identifying, coordinating and implementing their mission projects.

It maintains three **major mission projects**: Pine Springs Camp, the Sudan, and another grass roots mission, such as the current “100 weeks” hurricane relief mission to the Gulf coast.

It provides **pastoral care** for the churches.

It establishes pastoral **relationships with the churches** and may dissolve them at the request of one or both of the parties.

It establishes and maintains those ecumenical relationships which enlarge the **life and mission** of the churches within its boundaries.

It may authorize specific elders to administer the Lord’s Supper.

It maintains a **resource center** and a **Christian Education Coordinator** to support and encourage the Christian Education community.

The **Congregational Support Coordinator** provides leadership for the churches to come together to reinforce their common faith and to implement projects too large for individual congregations.

It implements the principles of **participation, inclusiveness, and affirmative action.**

It provides encouragement, guidance, and **resources** to its member churches through its staff and committees.

It may divide, dismiss, or dissolve a church, but only at the request of its members.

It works with the churches to control the location of new churches and of churches desiring to move.

It takes special oversight of **churches without pastors.**

It enters into covenant relationship with those **preparing to become ministers** of the Word and Sacrament, to help them in their faith journeys.

It elects elder and minister readers for **ordination examinations.**

It ordains, receives, dismisses, installs, removes, and disciplines ministers.

It receives persons preparing for professional service in the church, and commissions them.

It serves in judicial matters, when needed.

It may assume original jurisdiction when a session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely the affairs of its church.

It maintains a **regular and continuing relationship to the higher governing bodies** of the church, and provides mission funding for those higher governing bodies.

It establishes and superintends the agencies necessary for its work.

It reviews session minutes and records.

It considers and acts upon requests from its churches regarding real property.