

**Report from the Administrative Commission for Perryville Presbyterian Church
September 14, 2022**

Members:

Debbie Reeves, chair

Rev. Terry Dougherty

Rev. Nate Philips

Rev. Gary Willingham-McLain

Our administrative commission has met several times over the summer, as a team. We learned from Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Connectional Presbyter, the nature of our commission. We learned about the pastoral and administrative/governing sides of our responsibility and task vis a vis the Perryville Presbyterian Church and voted to assume original jurisdiction. We then proceeded to interview the two remaining active members of the church, as a group, on two separate occasions, as well as other telephone conversations that took place between our chair, Debbie Reeves, and those individual members. We also interviewed and collected information from the former pastoral leader, CRE Anne Gunn. We also toured the church sanctuary, offices, and grounds, getting a full update on the condition of the property as it stands.

Discerning that there was most likely not a viable congregation remaining at the church, out of which to revive and renew ministry in its present form, we wrote a letter to all known members, including several who had not attended for many months, asking them to meet with us to discuss the viability of the current congregation, in order to prepare us for our decision as a commission.

The meeting was called, the two who came to the meeting felt the sadness but also acknowledged and accepted that there was no viable congregation with which to restart. (One of the attendees had not been attending for some years and now attends another church.)

Now, after much pastoral concern and discussion, **our commission recommends to the New Castle Presbytery that we:**

- 1) close the current Perryville Presbyterian Church with celebration for their life and ministry, and task the AC to write the membership a letter informing them of this decision;**
- 2) keep and maintain the property, with the vision of this resource “lying fallow” for a time without any activity—in anticipation of some future “seeds of new ministry” possibly sprouting up.**

We feel that this process has been graced with discernment, compassion, clarity—and some real hope.

Respectfully,

The Administrative Commission for Perryville Presbyterian Church