

Connectional Presbyter/Stated Clerk Report November 19, 2022

Saying Goodbye to the Office

The process of preparing to move completely out of the office continues! By the time the Presbytery meets, staff will have removed all of the furniture and other items that will be used in our home offices and the session of Head of Christiana will have marked any furniture or supplies they'd like to keep. That means the rest is available for the taking!

To that end, **we are having a “clean out the Presbytery office open house” on Wednesday, December 7 from 10:30 am to 2:30 pm.** A list of available furniture and electronics will go out ahead of that date. Everything is free, and will be given away on a first come, first served basis.

Keep your eyes out for the announcement of our new mailing address!

Session Minutes Review 2022

Here's something to celebrate: there are only four congregations remaining who need to have their 2021 minutes reviewed! That's fantastic! I'll be reaching out to these four so we can finish up the year with flying colors; thank you everyone for your work!

Elsmere
Olivet

Port Deposit
Rock

Amendments to the Book of Order from the 225th General Assembly

There are 33 proposed amendments to the Book of Order that we will be voting on during our special presbytery meeting on Tuesday, February 7, starting at 6:30 pm, on Zoom. To see the booklet with all of the amendments, click here: https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga225_book_amendments_2022_final.pdf

To help us prepare, the next three Third Thursday Trainings will be focusing on these amendments. On November 17, we'll take a look at the proposed amendments for the Foundations and Worship sections, on December 15 we'll focus on the Government section, and on January 19 we'll explore the Discipline amendments. Each of these Zoom gatherings will 90 minutes because there's a lot of material to cover!

Equipping and Training Day

Join us for our first Presbytery-wide Equipping and Training Day on **Saturday, January 21 from 9 am to 1:30 pm.** This training will be completely on Zoom, which will give us the opportunity to invite workshop leaders from beyond the bounds of the Presbytery. We will have workshops for youth and young adults, elders and deacons, committee/commission members, and a variety of topics. All are welcome!

Administrative Commission for Perryville

Following the Presbytery's vote to close this chapter of ministry for the Perryville Presbyterian Church, the AC has communicated with the remaining congregation and friends of the church and has taken steps to complete the turnover of church property to the Presbytery. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Administrative Commission for West Nottingham

The AC for the West Nottingham church has been formed and trained and are in the process of setting up their first meeting with the session. TE Kate Morgan is the moderator, RE Steve Wood (Red Clay Creek) is the secretary, RE Wendy Myers (Makemie Memorial) is the vice moderator, and CRE Mawuna Gardesey serves as the liaison to COMC. Please keep this group and the West Nottingham session, pastor, and congregation in your prayers as they begin to work together.

Manual Revisions and Updates

Looking ahead into early 2023, I would like to pull together some small work groups to take a look at the following Appendices/Policies in the Manual:

Appendix N - Child Protection Policy

Appendix P - Prevention of Sexual Misconduct Policy

Thank you to those who have already volunteered! I'll be reaching out to start the work in mid to late January. If you're interested helping examine and update these policies, please let me know!

2023 Meetings

In 2023, the Presbytery has set the following meetings:

Saturday, May 20, which will be hosted by Chestertown;

Saturday, September 23, location TBD;

Tuesday, November 28, location TBD.

One of the reasons we try to share these meeting dates as far in advance as possible is that you can take them into consideration as you look at your church calendars. Please, if you have a meeting that conflicts, consider shifting that meeting that one time. With only three business meetings a year, we want to be sure to have as many of our ministers and elders present as possible!

Bay Retreat

Here's another invitation to mark your calendars for an amazing gathering: the 2023 Bay Retreat! Starting with worship on Friday, March 3 and continuing until 12 pm on Saturday, March 4, the upcoming Bay Retreat will be filled with opportunities to connect, to laugh, to be challenged, and to engage with joyful new possibilities for approaching our mission and ministry together as the church.

Part of our intention is to provide facilitated breakout time for churches that send groups of 4 or more people so that you will leave with some initial actions ready to take home and implement. Start gathering your group now!

Anti Racism Training

Two Presbytery-provided opportunities for the mandatory anti-racism training have been provided this year, and one additional training will be offered on Sunday, December 4, from 3-5:30 pm on Zoom. Click here to register:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIsceGhqDwsHt2GW7O4NyMF6cu6TNJ0tLL4>

If you are interested in attending another event provided by a different organization and would like to see if that will suffice for the training requirement, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Third Thursday Training

Third Thursday Trainings are continuing with this new name! Usually on the third Thursday of the month at 5 pm, I offer an hour-long presentation on a particular topic, which is recorded and made available for anyone who's interested.

The next three Third Thursday Trainings will be focusing on these amendments. On November 17, we'll take a look at the proposed amendments for the Foundations and Worship sections, on December 15 we'll focus on the Government section, and on January 19 we'll explore the Discipline amendments. Each of these Zoom gatherings will 90 minutes because there's a lot of material to cover!

All are welcome, so spread the word and join me! Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/93405251973?pwd=d3Y5YU5uSXh0MzM5VEo5OUdCZTA5dz09>

Welcome Lunches for Pastoral Leaders

We've now had a few welcome lunches for pastoral leaders who have joined the Presbytery since last October, and it has been a wonderful opportunity to gather, meet one another, and share a meal together with ministers and CREs. Our next lunch is scheduled for **Sunday, December 11 at 4 pm at Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen in Camden, DE**. We're looking forward to welcoming Kathy and Chris Scott! Kathy serves as the Wing Chaplain at Dover Air Force Base, so will keep her Presbytery membership in her sponsoring Presbytery. Chris has joined the Presbytery, has already been elected to Ignite, and is serving as the Bridge Pastor for West Nottingham Presbyterian Church.

For our TEs and CREs, keep an eye out for the email asking for RSVPs!

Matthew 25 Commitment and Vital Congregations

Our commitment to live into the Matthew 25 invitation continues to resonate across the Presbytery and in our congregations. This year, we are focusing on building vital congregations, the starting point that gives us a foundation for the work of dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

The Vital Congregations Initiative can be a good fit for any congregation, regardless of size or situation. We all have more to learn about being faithful, and this is a way to engage in the

conversation together, supporting one another as we explore how God is calling us to mission and ministry. This may be especially timely as we are looking forward out of the worst days of the pandemic (God willing!) and taking stock of how we have changed and how we might need to change in order to love our neighbors in tangible ways.

As of November 11, we have 12 congregations registered on the PC(USA) website as Matthew 25 congregations. If you're interested in learning more, Tracy or I would be happy to come and have a conversation with you!

Chestertown	Makemie Memorial
Community	New Castle
Coolspring	New Covenant
Dover	Ocean View
Easton	West Nottingham
Georgetown	Westminster - Wilmington

Continuing Education and Service Beyond the Presbytery

The Fraught & Flummoxed: Courage and Creativity for the Elevation of the Gospel conference at Montreat was rescheduled for January 30-February 2. This conference is focused on cohort learning including building next steps for leadership personally and within the Presbytery. If you're interested, registration is still open! <https://montreat.org/events/fraught-flummoxed>

March 28-31, Tracy and I will be joining mid council colleagues for a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama. Tracy was part of the planning team for this experience which will be co-led by Jan Edmiston and Denise Anderson. Following the pilgrimage, I'm gathering with my Las Barracas cohort until April 6 for further reflection and study.

I'm hoping to attend the White Privilege Conference in Mesa, AZ from April 12-15; my first experience of this conference was powerful and I learned a lot.

Lastly, I passed the entrance examination and am now a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians! My colleague Michael Wilson has invited me to join him in the process of becoming a Registered Parliamentarian, so that will be my next step in my parliamentary exploration.

Vacation and Personal

Someone recently encouraged me to take my vacation, and I laughed. Vacation is something I take seriously! I've already got my time blocked in 2023; knowing the rhythms of this work and the Presbytery allows me to know when I'm going to need a break.

December 27-January 3, we're gathering with family in Cancun, Mexico. In February, we'll return to Mexico, splitting time between Mexico City and the Caribbean coast.

Something to celebrate: I'm marking the 23rd anniversary of my ordination on November 17!

A Word About Jerry

When Jerry didn't join our weekly staff meeting on the morning of October 18, we knew something was wrong. He was always a faithful colleague, ready to answer questions or work with us to problem solve situations. He worked hard to streamline the ways the Presbytery functions around our finances and joined me in pushing for socially responsible investing both of the Speer Trust and of our Merrill Lynch accounts.

It is because of his attention to processes that we've been able to keep the wheels rolling. Bills are being paid and payroll is being processed because of Jerry's time of ministry with us.

His sudden death was a shock and the grief of all who worked with him throughout his life is a testament to the impact he made. Even as we on staff join with COL and Trustees in the process of filling the position of Treasurer and Accounting Administrator, we're grateful that we're not in the financial crisis we could have been in with the loss of such a pivotal team member. We know he was welcomed with those beautiful words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."