

**708<sup>TH</sup> STATED  
MEETING**

**OF THE PRESBYTERY OF  
HUNTINGDON**

**KRISLUND CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023  
9:30 A.M**

P.S. Register in advance for lunch at \$10.00 per person.

PPS: Clerks, remember Session Records Review is coming up the beginning of October.

PPPS: Bring your plastic bottle caps.

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## DIRECTIONS TO KRISLUND:

**From the Southwest or State College:** Take I-99 around State College to Exit 81, Pleasant Gap. Continue south one mile toward Pleasant Gap on PA #26. Turn left onto East College Avenue, which is PA-64. Continue north on PA #64 for about 11.7 miles. Turn right onto PA #445 South and travel 3.5 miles to the Krislund sign on right. (Note: PA #445 is scenic, but curvy. Take your time and be alert for slow-moving Amish buggies and over large trucks). Turn right at the Krislund sign, cross the bridge and follow the signs about a mile to the Fellowship Lodge on the right.

**From the Southeast:** Take US #322 to Potters Mills. Turn right onto North PA #144. (Do NOT follow Truck Route PA #144 North.) Continue on PA #144 for five miles into Centre Hall. At the north end of town, turn right onto east PA #192. Follow PA #192 for 10.5 miles to Madisonburg. Turn left onto PA #445 north. Travel 3.8 miles to the Krislund sign on your left. Turn left at the Krislund sign, cross the bridge and follow the signs about a mile to the Fellowship Lodge on the right.

**From the North West:** Take I-80 east to exit #173. Turn right at end of ramp onto south PA #64, going towards Lamar. Follow PA #64 3.2 miles through Lamar. Turn left onto PA #445 South and travel 3.5 miles to the Krislund sign on right. (Note: PA #445 is scenic, but curvy. Take your time and be alert for slow-moving Amish buggies and over large trucks). Turn right at Krislund sign, cross the bridge and follow the signs about a mile to the Fellowship Lodge on the right.

## LUNCH



Lunch will be provided by Krislund by pre-registration only. Cost \$10, which covers our welcome coffee as well. Reserve a lunch where you register online. Money collected at registration table at Krislund.

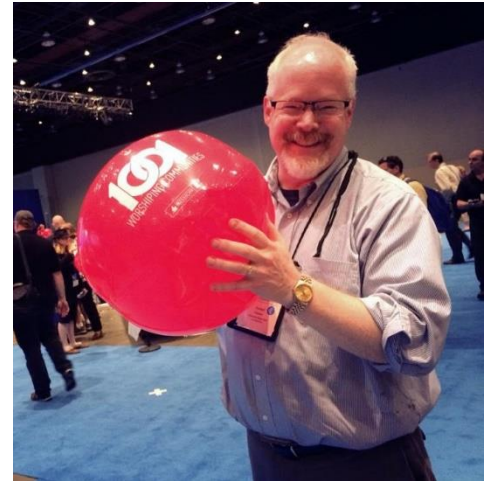
Lunch reservations due Monday, September 25, 2023.

You are also welcome to bring your own lunch.

## **A Few Possibilities for the Next Season of the Church**

### **Our Facilitator for the morning: Rev. Forrest Claassen**

Rev. Forrest Claassen is the Synod Executive of the Synod of the Trinity, an area which covers all of Pennsylvania, most of West Virginia, and slivers of Ohio, New York and Maryland.



He appreciates how the *Book of Order* allows presbyteries, congregations and congregational leaders to seek God's mission in their particular contexts. He values *Robert's Rules* for its pursuit of justice in deliberative settings.

Before the Synod, Forrest served (in reverse order) as Co-Executive and Stated Clerk of Los Ranchos Presbytery in Southern California; as Stated Clerk to the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest and pastor to Clarkston Presbyterian Church in Clarkston, Washington; and as co-pastor to a tri-cultural congregation in Southeast Alaska. He continues to love seeing how Presbyterians work out their faith to fit their particular geographies and cultures.

Forrest graduated from Stanford University and Princeton Theological Seminary. He and his wife Karen live in Greentree, just outside of Pittsburgh, where she is pastor of Unity Presbyterian Church. Their daughter Margaret, her husband Dalton, and their two-year-old son live in Portland, Oregon.

**DOCKET FOR 708TH STATED MEETING  
THE PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON  
ZOOM AND IN-PERSON**

September 30, 2023

9:00	Fellowship & Technology Check	1:20	COM (Nancy Bostian) pp. 8-17
9:30	Convene with prayer and worship		Family Leave Policy, pp. 10-13
	Monetary Offering for Krislund		Severance Policy, pp. 14-15
	Bottlecaps for Krislund physical offering		2024 terms of call, pp. 16-17
	Barry Vance worship leader	1:35	CoPL (Beth Raney, Carl Campbell), pp. 18-23
10:05	Welcome and logistics by Krislund staff		Electronic Meeting Manual –amendment p. 18
10:10	Synod of the Trinity: Shape of Future		2022 Audit Management letter, pp. 19-20
	Ministry [Forrest Claassen] pp. 4, 7		2024 per capita, p. 21
12:00	Lunch (\$10.00—covers lunch and our welcoming coffee)		2024 Budget, pp. 21-23
12:40	Presbytery business meeting	1:50	Administrative Commission Reports, pp. 24
	Seating Corresponding Members	2:00	General Presbyter (Kate Sillman)
	Minutes	2:05	Stated Clerk (Ginny Rainey) pp. 25-32
	Docket, Consent Agenda pp. 5-6	2:10	New business and announcements
12:50	Hunger & Food Security [Leanne Peters]	2:20	adjourn.
1:15	Nominating Committee pp. 32-33		Next meeting: November 14, Philipsburg, 9:30 a.m.

# CONSENT AGENDA

**What** is a consent agenda?

A consent agenda is made up of items that may be considered routine business that need action, but are unlikely to require debate. Items for inclusion on the consent agenda must be sent out in advance with the pre-presbytery mailing and clearly marked for the consent agenda.

**Why** is a consent agenda useful?

When the consent agenda is called for, the moderator will call for a motion to approve the entire consent agenda in one vote, thus saving presbytery time for items requiring more discussion.

**BUT** What if I wish to debate, discuss, ask for clarification on some part of the consent agenda?

Simply, rise to be recognized and request that that item be removed from the consent agenda. One person's request is all that is required. No second is required; no vote need be taken to remove the item.

Do not give the explanation of your concern, need for clarification, points to be emphasized or opposed at this time. The item will come up for consideration at the time when the remainder of that committee's report is made, and you will be afforded the opportunity to speak to the motion at that time.

#####

## **Items for the September 30, 2023, Consent Agenda**

**From COM:** Item 1, p. xx, re-authorize officiating at Lord's Supper; Item 2, half-time contract Robertson & East Kish

**From Administrative Commissions:** Item 1, p. 24, dismiss Spring Creek A.C.; Item 2, p. 24, affirm closure of Mapleton Depot and dismiss Mapleton Depot A.C.

**From Clerk:** Item 1, p. 25-26, Remove Rev. Robert Cauffman

# A Few Possibilities for the Next Season of the Church

10:10 Introduction

Who I am

What the Synod is

10:25 Possibility #1: Engaging with those outside our walls and ways (both old and new)

Breakout Groups, Part 1

*What did you hear?*

*What did it make you think of? How did it make you feel?*

*Who are the strangers around you to whom you might extend philo-xenia?*

Report back

11:00 Possibility #2: Exploring less traditional models of church leadership

Breakout Groups, Part 2

*What did you hear?*

*What did it make you think of? How did it make you feel?*

*If the traditional “one church, one pastor” model isn’t working, what might you try?*

Report back

11:35 Final thoughts

11:40 Conclude

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY  
REPORT  
September 30, 2023**

**FOR ACTION:** The Committee on Ministry recommends that presbytery approve the following motions:

- 1. Renewal of authority to officiate at the Lord's Supper:** That presbytery reauthorize the following ruling elders to officiate at the Lord's Supper in our congregations until October 1, 2024: LaMarr Adamson, Judi Bookhamer, Nancy Bostian, Bill Conway, Richard Ginter, Stan Howes, Alicia Hughes, Gary Jewart, Janet Kephart, Scott Kretchmar, Todd Lewis, Ken Lynch, Terry Musser, Tricia Noonan, Leanne Gill Peters, Ken Raney, Dave Shobert, and Kate Sillman.
- 2. East Kish & Rev. Ela Robertson**
  - a. Ela Robertson & St. John's Lutheran:** That the contract between the Rev. Ela Robertson and the council of the Belleville St. John's Lutheran Church be dissolved effective October 31, 2023.
  - b. Joy Kaufmann & Reedsville East Kishacoquillas:** That the contract between the Rev. K. Joy Kaufmann and the session of the East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church for temporary supply services be terminated by mutual agreement, effective October 31, 2023, with thanks for her service.
  - c. Ela Robertson & Reedsville East Kishacoquillas:**
    1. That presbytery approve the half time contract of the session of the Reedsville East Kish Presbyterian Church for temporary pastoral services with the Rev. Ela Robertson, effective October 31, 2023, for up to December 31, 2024; it may be renewed annually, provided that the terms of service meet presbytery minimum terms of service, and contingent upon submission of up-to-date background checks.
    2. That presbytery dismiss the Rev. K. Joy Kaufmann as moderator of the East Kish Presbyterian Church, with gratitude for her service, effective October 31, 2023, and appoint the Rev. Ela Robertson as moderator of East Kish Presbyterian Church effective November 1, 2023.
    3. That presbytery approve the following terms of service for the contract between the session of East Kish and the Rev. Ela J. Robertson, which are given on an annual basis.

Cash salary and housing allowance	\$ 30,521.50
403(b)9 retirement contribution	\$ 3,357.37
Insurance premium reimbursement	<u>\$ 5,830.56</u>

**Other Terms of Service**

Vacation: one month per year, including at least four Sundays

Continuing Education: Two weeks, including two Sundays, (Date and content set in consultation with session)



Continuing Education expenses, vouchered, (\$500 per church), cumulative to \$1500 per church over three years

Travel expenses: vouchered, reimbursed at the current IRS staff rate

Governing Body Service (beyond normal committee or task force work and stated meetings):

One week per year, including one Sunday

4. Termination: This agreement may be terminated upon 60 days' notice given either by the session of the East Kishacoquillas Presbyterian Church, the Temporary Supply Pastor, or the Committee on Ministry. If notice is given by other than the Temporary Supply Pastor, thirty days of additional severance pay will also be given.

Note: Rev. Robertson remains the half time temporary supply pastor of the West Kish Presbyterian Church.

3. Suzanne McFall: that COM recommends that presbytery certify Ruling Elder Suzanne McFall, an elder of the First United Presbyterian Church of DuBois, as a Certified Lay Preacher and authorize her to officiate at the Lord's Supper in our congregations until October 1, 2024.

Note: Elder McFall has submitted all the required background checks

4. Family Leave Policy: that presbytery adopt the attached Family, Parental, Medical and Traumatic Leave Policy in compliance with G-2.0804. (*Full text of proposed policy on pp. 10-13.*)
5. Severance Policy: that presbytery adopt the attached Severance Policy in compliance with G-3.0303c. (*Full text of proposed policy on pp. 14-15.*)
6. 2024 minimum terms of call: That presbytery approve a 4% increase in the basic terms of call for 2024. (*See pp. 16-17, 2024 Minimum Terms of Call.*)

## FOR INFORMATION

**Bruinooge & Coalport & Irvona:** The contract for part-time pastoral services between the sessions of Coalport & Irvona and the Rev. Rob Bruinooge will expire effective October 1. Rev Bruinooge wishes to more fully retire. He will continue as moderator of the sessions. The Committee on Ministry expresses its gratitude for his pastoral services.

**Altoona Providence:** Rev. Janie McElwee-Smith has been appointed moderator of Altoona Providence.

**Petersburg Bethel:** The administrative commission appointed by COM to install Lori Danielson as pastor of Petersburg Bethel, consisting of Moderator Rev. Pat Roller; Elder Kate Sillman (Winburne), Rev. Anne Ard; Rev. Carl Campbell; Rev. Brett Hoover; Elder Dain Davis (Alexandria); and Elder Frank Sajeski (Petersburg Bethel), met on Sunday July 9, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. at the Petersburg Bethel Presbyterian Church and proceeded to the installation. AC dismissed.

## **PROPOSED PARENTAL, FAMILY, MEDICAL, AND TRAUMATIC LEAVE POLICY**

The Presbytery of Huntingdon,

### **RATIONALE**

- A. The celebration, nurture, and encouragement of the family take place in many ways and on many levels in the life of a church. During times of joy and times of sadness the congregation has the opportunity and the responsibility of extending care for the pastor and their family.
  - 1. This policy shall meet or exceed all recommendations and/or laws of the PC (USA) church and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
  - 2. This policy applies to PC(USA) Pastors serving in calls to PC(USA) churches within the bounds of the Presbytery of Huntingdon. Sessions are strongly encouraged to make the same benefits available to contractual pastors, including CRE's, and to Certified Christian Educators.
  - 3. To qualify for the benefits of this policy, pastors must meet the following conditions:
    - 2. a. The pastor must have worked for Employer for twelve (12) months or fifty-two (52) weeks. The twelve (12) months or fifty-two (52) weeks need not have been consecutive.
    - 3. b. The pastor must have worked at least 1,250 hours if full-time or 625 hours if half time, during the 12-month period immediately before the date when the leave is requested to commence.

### **PARENTAL LEAVE**

- B. Parental Leave is extended to all pastors who are welcoming a new child into their family, whether by birth, or adoption or foster placement. The policy applies to the terms of call of all installed pastors serving congregations in the presbytery, including those serving in part-time or full-time positions in instances of maternal or paternal leave.
  - 1. Pregnancy: When a pastor becomes pregnant, or a pastor's spouse becomes pregnant, the session/council should ordinarily be consulted within 12 weeks of a physician's confirmation of the pregnancy. Maternal leave would ordinarily begin with the physician's certification that the female pastor can no longer perform her duties. Paternal leave may begin at a time agreed upon by the pastor and his session/council.
    - a. Congregations are required to provide, as a minimum, the pastor's full salary and benefits for twelve (12) weeks. This leave does not require the pastor to exhaust other types of paid leave including vacation and study leave time.
    - b. Other arrangements may be negotiated by the pastor and session/council to extend the leave beyond the initial period of three months (12 weeks). A pastor may extend the period of parental leave at his/her discretion by using accrued vacation.

- c. Should a pastor experience a stillbirth or the death of a child following birth, they shall receive twelve (12) weeks parental leave at full salary and benefits.
  - d. Upon completion of the parental leave, the pastor will be entitled to return to his or her position. The position will not be filled during the leave except on a temporary basis.
- 2. Adoption or Foster Placement: When a pastor begins the adoption or foster placement process, the session/council should ordinarily be consulted. Parental leave may then be used toward the pre-adoption process as well as when the child arrives.
  - a. Congregations are required to provide, as a minimum, the pastor's full salary and benefits for twelve (12) weeks. This leave does not require the pastor to exhaust other types of paid leave including vacation and study leave time.
  - b. Other arrangements may be negotiated by the pastor and session/council to extend the leave beyond the initial period of three months (12 weeks). A pastor may extend the period of parental leave at his/her discretion by using accrued vacation.
  - c. Should a pastor experience a stillbirth or the death of a child following birth, they shall receive twelve (12) weeks parental leave at full salary and benefits.
  - d. Upon completion of the parental leave, the pastor will be entitled to return to his or her position. The position will not be filled during the leave except on a temporary basis.

## **FAMILY LEAVE**

- C. Family Leave is appropriate in life-altering circumstances when the pastor is called upon by reason of major life trauma or serious illness to be the primary caregiver for a spouse, child, parent, sibling, or other family member for whom the pastor bears primary responsibility.
  - 1. Congregations are required to provide, at a minimum, the pastor's full salary and benefits for up to twelve (12) weeks. This leave does not require the pastor to exhaust other types of paid leave, including vacation and study leave time.
  - 2. Other arrangements may be negotiated by the pastor and session/council to extend the leave beyond the initial period.
  - 3. Upon completion of the leave, the pastor will be entitled to return to his or her position. The position will not be filled during the leave except on a temporary basis.

## **MEDICAL LEAVE**

- D. Medical Leave is appropriate in instances when the pastor is unable to work due to accident or personal illness. In cases of foreseeable medical leave need, the pastor shall request leave at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the requested leave. Pastors eligible for temporary leave for a medical disability shall provide certification by a licensed physician. The pastor shall receive full salary and benefits for the period of temporary disability up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, at which time the pastor, enrolled in the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (USA) (or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly) shall apply for disability benefits under the Benefits Plan.
1. Congregations are required to provide, at a minimum, the pastor's full salary and benefits for up to twelve (12) weeks. This leave does not require the pastor to exhaust other types of paid leave, including vacation and study leave time.
  2. Other arrangements may be negotiated by the pastor and session/council to extend the leave beyond the initial period.
  3. Upon completion of the leave, the pastor will be entitled to return to his or her position. The position will not be filled during the leave except on a temporary basis.

## **TRAUMATIC LEAVE**

- E. Traumatic Leave is appropriate to allow the pastor to heal following a tragic loss or traumatic event, including the death of an immediate family member (spouse, child, or another person for whom the pastor was the primary caregiver), a catastrophic event in the life of the pastor or his/her immediate family, or other circumstance that would ordinarily disrupt a person's life and ability to function in their professional duties. Pastors and/or session councils may consult with the General Presbyter and/or the Presbytery of Huntingdon's Committee on Ministry for guidance on traumatic leave requests.
1. Congregations are required to provide, at a minimum, the pastor's full salary and benefits for up to twelve (12) weeks. This leave does not require the pastor to exhaust other types of paid leave, including vacation and study leave time.
  2. Other arrangements may be negotiated by the pastor and session/council to extend the leave beyond the initial period.
  3. Upon completion of the leave, the pastor will be entitled to return to his or her position. The position will not be filled during the leave except on a temporary basis.

## GENERAL

- F. Churches are encouraged to be supportive in every way when such a situation arises that necessitates a pastor to step away from the daily life of a congregation and tend to the needs of his or her family or her/himself. Family and parental leave is in addition to vacation and other periods of extended time away already set forth in the pastor's call or contract.
- G. Providing these forms of leave creates an additional financial strain on congregations. The session and pastor are encouraged to explore the availability of resources from the Board of Pensions and other insurance providers to help ease these strains.
- H. It is recommended that the session/council, along with the help of a liaison from COM, form a special Parental or Family Leave committee/ministry team. It is recommended that the team be made up of at least one ruling elder currently serving on session (typically from the worship and music committee), one COM liaison, and three (3) at-large members from the church prior to the pastor's leave for the purpose securing appropriate pulpit supply, pastoral care, moderators for session meetings, and administrative assistance during the pastor's absence. Additionally, the COM liaison may be helpful, if needed, in advising the session/council on how they may continue the mission of the congregation while the pastor is absent.
- I. A pastor is expected to return to his or her position for at least one (1) year following leave. If a pastor initiates dissolution within one year following family, maternity, paternity, adoption, foster placement leave, or traumatic leave, any unused vacation and study leave time shall be credited against the leave.
- J. Congregations are encouraged to respect the boundaries and privacy of the pastor while he or she is away on Parental, Family, Medical, or Traumatic Leave.
- K. Congregations are encouraged to write their own Parental, Family, Medical or Traumatic Leave policies so long as the policy shall meet or exceed all requirements and/or laws of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Congregations choosing not to adopt their own policy will be covered by the presbytery's policy.

**SEVERANCE POLICY DRAFT**  
Presbytery of Huntingdon

**GUIDELINES FOR PAYMENT OF SEVERANCE UPON DISSOLUTION OF  
CHURCH PASTORAL EMPLOYMENT**

Because congregations promise when calling a pastor to pay him/her/them fairly and provide for her/his/their welfare as he/she/they works among us, and because every call eventually comes to an end, we in Huntingdon Presbytery wish to establish clarity of expectations for severance for the time of termination of a pastoral relationship between pastor and congregation. We covenant in the initial call or contract, and subsequent terms of call or contract that follow, that we will abide by this policy.

1. This policy applies to pastoral calls and to pastoral contracts for those serving in temporary pastoral service, Certified Christian Educators and Certified Associate Christian Educators within the presbytery.
2. Severance is to be considered in instances where the pastoral call is involuntarily dissolved. Severance may also be considered where there is an incompatible situation, if the parties mutually agree to the dissolution. For example, severance may be considered as “transitional support” if the pastor is not immediately moving to another call.
3. If a pastor voluntarily resigns because s/he has received another call, is retiring, or choosing to leave the ministry, while severance is neither customary nor expected, any decision regarding a severance allowance is left to the discretion of the session.
4. If the relationship is a renewable contract, each party should give 30 days notice of intent of whether or not they intend to seek renewal. If a session fails to give notice, severance shall be due to the pastor. If the session gives due notice of intent not to renew, any decision regarding a severance allowance is left to the discretion of the session.
5. The Severance Package for a pastor will be negotiated among the session, the pastor, and representatives from the Committee on Ministry. If the pastoral relationship is a call, the Severance Package must also be approved by the congregation. If the pastoral relationship is a contract, only the session, along with the pastor and the Committee on Ministry will be involved.
6. Factors involved in calculating severance:

- a. When agreeing on terms of severance, due consideration should be given to the church's ability to pay severance.
  - b. A pastor's length of service to a congregation should be a consideration when negotiating terms of severance. See suggested formula for calculating severance based on years of completed service:
    - 1 to 3 years = 4 months of severance
    - 4 years = 6 months of severance
    - 5 years = 7 months of severance
    - 6+ years = 9 months of severance
  - c. Severance should be based on base salary, housing or use of manse, if applicable, and utilities, and social security offset (if the offset is included in terms of call or contract), and include medical insurance coverage and pension credits.
  - d. Any additional medical coverage, continuing pension and/or terms of call may be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. In all cases churches are responsible for remitting any benefit dues that are payable as a result of the severance payments.
  - e. Severance does not usually include professional expenses, transportation expenses, or allowance amounts. Consideration may be given to reimbursing unused vacation time by adding to the amount of severance.
  - f. Payments should usually be made according to the regular payroll schedule of the church, but lump-sum can be arranged if agreeable to both parties.
7. Once a severance agreement has been reached between the appropriate parties (see item 5. above), the employee and a representative from each of the corresponding bodies will sign a contractual document listing the terms of the severance package. The Committee on Ministry can assist with drafting that document if needed.
  8. Congregations are encouraged to write their own Severance Policy so long as the policy shall meet or exceed all requirements and/or laws of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Congregations choosing not to adopt their own policy will be covered by the presbytery's policy.

**4% increase**  
**2024 Minimum Terms of Call for Those in a Pastorate**  
**WITH a Manse in the Presbytery of Huntingdon**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ Difference</b>
Basic Salary for New Calls (in addition to Manse) 4% increase over 2023 Basic Salary	\$43,085	44808	1723
<b>Experience Apportionments:</b>			
One to five years in present call (2023 Basic Salary plus 2%)	\$43,947	45705	1758
Six to ten years in present call (2023 Basic Salary plus 4%)	\$44,809	46601	1792
Eleven or more years in present call (2023 Basic Salary plus 6%)	\$45,670	47497	1827
Benefits Plan Premium (% of Effective Salary)	Church pays 39%	Church pays 39%	
Vacation (dates set in consultation with session)	1 month, including at least 4 Sundays		
Study Leave Time (dates and content set in consultation with session)	2 weeks per year, cumulative to 6 weeks		
Study Leave Expenses (reimburse actual vouchered expenses)	\$1,000 per year, cumulative to \$3,000 over 3 years		
Travel Expenses (reimburse actual vouchered expenses)	100 % of current IRS (TBD)		
Governing Body Service (beyond normal committee or task force work and stated meetings)	1 week for program service including Sunday		
Manse Utilities (full cost of heat, water, sewer, refuse, electric and basic phone service)	Paid in full by the church		
Parental, Family, Medical, Traumatic Leave Policy			
Severance Policy			

When was your manse inspected this year? \_\_\_\_\_

**Mid-Year New Calls:** If the pastor is new, contract for new pastor may be negotiated for up to 17 months following the June Presbytery meeting at next year's minimum terms for Basic Cash Salary for New Calls.

**Suggested additional pensionable items:** The following are not required but are strongly recommended by the COM: supplemental insurance premiums (dental, life, medical); Benefits Plan Major Medical Deductible: 1% effective salary for the member, 1 % for family members, co-payment of 20% on additional costs up to 4% of effective salary; deferred compensation, such as contribution to retirement savings fund, etc.

**Suggested additional non-pensionable items:** SECA offset (an amount equivalent to an employer's share of the FICA tax or 7.65% of the Total Effective Salary); book allowances (vouchered), professional dues or expenses (vouchered), sabbatical leave.



**4% Increase**  
**2024 Minimum Terms of Call for Those in a Pastorate**  
**WITHOUT a Manse**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>\$ difference</b>
Basic Salary for New Calls 4% increase over 2023 Basic Salary	\$59,846	62240	2394
<b>Experience Apportionments:</b>			
One to five years in present call (2023 Basic Salary plus 2%)	\$61,043	63485	2442
Six to ten years in present call (2023 Basic Salary plus 4%)	\$62,240	64729	2489
Eleven or more years in present call (2023 Basic Salary plus 6%)	\$63,437	65974	2537
Benefits Plan Premium (% of Effective Salary)	Church pays 39%	Church pays 39%	
Vacation (dates set in consultation with session)	1 month, including at least 4 Sundays		
Study Leave Time (dates and content set in consultation with session)	2 weeks per year, cumulative to 6 weeks		
Study Leave Expenses (reimburse actual vouchered expenses)	\$1,000 per year, cumulative to \$3,000 over 3 years		
Travel Expenses (reimburse actual vouchered expenses)	100 % of current IRS (TBD)		
Governing Body Service (beyond normal committee or task force work and stated meetings)	1 week for program service including Sunday		
Parental, Family, Medical, Traumatic Leave Policy			
Severance Policy			

**Mid-Year New Calls:** If the pastor is new, contract for new pastor may be negotiated for up to 17 months following the June Presbytery meeting at next year's minimum terms for Basic Cash Salary for New Calls.

**Suggested additional pensionable items:** The following are not required but are strongly recommended by the COM: supplemental insurance premiums (dental, life, medical); Benefits Plan Major Medical Deductible: 1% effective salary for the member, 1 % for family members, co-payment of 20% on additional costs up to 4% of effective salary; deferred compensation, such as contribution to retirement savings fund, etc.

**Suggested additional non-pensionable items:** SECA offset (an amount equivalent to an employer's share of the FICA tax or 7.65% of the Total Effective Salary); book allowances (vouchered), professional dues or expenses (vouchered), sabbatical leave.

**COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY LIFE  
REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023:**

**FOR ACTION:** The Committee on Presbytery Life requests:

1. **2024 per capita:** That presbytery adopt a 2023 per capita of \$39.24, composed of \$29.04 for presbytery; \$2.40 for synod; an \$9.80 for General Assembly
2. **2024 administrative budget:** That presbytery adopt a 2024 administrative expense budget of \$139,897.61. The full proposed 2024 administrative budget is found on pp. 21-22.
3. **2024 mission budget:** That presbytery adopt a 2024 mission budget of \$33,300. The full proposed 2024 mission budget is found on p. 23.
4. **Electronic Meeting Manual Amendment** (second reading): That presbytery approve the following amendment to the Manual to explicitly permit hybrid meetings of presbytery. (*Text to be added is highlighted in yellow and in italics.*)

## MANUAL

### **M-3.00 MEETINGS AND GATHERINGS**

**M-3.01 Meeting Types and Notice:** Huntingdon Presbytery shall hold regularly scheduled stated meetings and, as needed, special meetings. Meetings may be held in person or via electronic means. *This includes joining one or more persons electronically to an otherwise in-person meeting.* Notice for a stated or special meeting shall be sent not less than ten days in advance to each minister of the Word and Sacrament and each ruling elder member of presbytery and to the session of every church.

Amendments to the Manual require two readings. This is the second reading. It requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

**Tyrone Presbyterian Church:** CoPL approved the plans of the Tyrone Presbyterian Church to update/replace their heating system and upgrade the outdated and inadequate electrical service. The boiler is failing. Cost will be about \$100,000. No borrowing is needed.

**Tech grants:** CoPL is using the Brotherhood Mutual Insurance rebate as seed grants to encourage sessions to upgrade their technology. Grants have been awarded to Logan Valley and Philipsburg.

**Broadband access:** Broadband access is essential to access and full participation in services in central Pennsylvania. Broadband access is limited and of low quality in central PA. It has become a rural/urban justice issue. CoPL encourages sessions to contact their state legislators in Harrisburg to improve access to quality broadband across the Commonwealth.

**Comprehensive review of staff salaries:** CoPL requested that the Personnel Committee review staff salaries for equity and fairness, including a process for regular increases. The Personnel Committee will send this process to CoPL by the end of April 2024 so it can be included in the 2025 budget.

**Auditor Report:** Our auditor David Bourne of Boyer & Ritter sent a report on the full financial review of our 2022 financial records. The auditors found no material modifications needed to the financial statements. No significant issues were found requiring discussion with or correspondence with management. *See management letter below. Any commissioner to this meeting is welcome to contact the stated clerk for a copy of the financial review report. CoPL reviewed the report on September 11 with Mr. Bourne.*



## INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS'S REVIEW REPORT

Board of Directors  
The Presbytery of Huntingdon, Inc.  
Tyrone, Pennsylvania

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of The Presbytery of Huntingdon, Inc. (the Presbytery), which comprise the statement of assets, liabilities and net assets - modified cash basis as of December 31, 2022, the related statements of revenue, expenses and changes in net assets - modified cash basis and functional expenses - modified cash basis for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting; this includes determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of financial statements in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. We believe the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

We are required to be independent of the Presbytery and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our reviews.

### **Accountant's Conclusion**

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting.

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Camp Hill, PA • Carlisle, PA • Chambersburg, PA • State College, PA

### **Basis of Accounting**

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our conclusion is not modified with respect to this matter.

### **Other Matter - Supplementary Information**

The supplementary information referenced in the Contents is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from, and relates directly to, the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The supplementary information has been subjected to the review procedures applied in our review of the basic financial statements. We are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the supplementary information. We have not audited the supplementary information and do not express an opinion on such information.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Boyer & Ritten". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

State College, Pennsylvania  
August 14, 2023

2024 Administrative Budget - Proposed

INCOME

1	Total Per Capita 3472 members @ 39.24		136,241.28
2	Other Service to Churches		1,200.00
3	Synod Rebate from Brotherhood Mutual Insurance		0.00
4	Transfer from Contingency fund		3,472.00
5	Transfer from Fulton Fund		6,000.00
6	Presby share of Unified, Select & Designated Mission Giving		11,300.00
7	Partnership with the Presbytery		<u>10,000.00</u>
8	TOTAL INCOME		<u>168,213.28</u>

9 EXPENSES

10	General Assembly share 3472 members @ 9.80	34,025.60	
11	Synod share 3472 members @ 2.40	<u>8,332.80</u>	
12			42,358.40 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Presbyter to pay to Synod</span>
13	Personnel		
	8% increase		
14	GP - Salary	34,700.00	
15	Housing	<u>8,500.00</u>	
16			43,200.00
17	Employer 403(b) contrib	2,500.00	
18	SECA offset	3,304.80	
19	Healthcare	5,245.20	
20	BofP Benefits	<u>46.68</u>	
21	Total Benefits		<u>11,096.68</u>
22	Total GP Package		54,296.68
23			
24	Office Assistant - Wages	21,565.44	
25	FICA	1,649.76	
26	BoP Benefits	<u>298.68</u>	
27	Total Office Ass't package		23,513.88 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Group life VSP; \$20/</span>
28			
29	Stated Clerk - Wages	16,524.52	
30	FICA	1,264.13	
31	BofP Benefits	<u>240.00</u>	
32	Total Stated Clerk package		<u>18,028.65</u> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7.65%</span>
33			
34	Total Personnel		95,839.21
35	Office Expenses		
36	Audit	7,200.00	
37	Bookkeeping - Synod	6,600.00	
38	Computer Repair/Tech Support	500.00	

39	GP - Conferences	2,500.00	
40	GP - Ecumenical Activities	250.00	
41	GP - Other	100.00	
42	GP - Study Leave	1,000.00	
43	GP - Local Travel	3,500.00	
44	GP - Discretionary	250.00	
45	Insurance - Worker's Comp	1,500.00	
46	Internet Provider	200.00	
47	Membership, Books, etc.	300.00	
48	Payroll Service	800.00	
49	Post Office Box Rent	166.00	
50	Postage	500.00	
51	Rent	1,500.00	
	Resource Materials/Web	300.00	
52	Staff Stipend	1,800.00	
53	Staff Training	200.00	
54	Stated Clerk Conferences	2,500.00	
55	Supplies & Equipment	1,500.00	
56	Telephone	500.00	
57	Travel for Office	<u>1,500.00</u>	
58			
59	Total Office		35,166.00
60	Committees		
61	Mileage	50.00	
62	Materials, Other	150.00	
63	Communications	100.00	
64	Website 5 yr. premium paid until 2025		
65	Total Committees	<u>300.00</u>	300.00
66			
67	Stated Meetings		
68	Custodian - Honorarium	500.00	
69	Organist - Honorarium	500.00	
70	Meals, etc.	300.00	
71	Moderator Gift	<u>100.00</u>	
72	Total State Meetings		1,400.00
73			
74	TOTAL PRESBYTERY EXPENSES		139,897.61
75	Total Net gain/(loss)		-6,850.33

PRESBYTERY OF HUNTINGDON - MISSION BUDGET

	Income	2024 PROPOSED Expenses	
<b>INCOME</b>			
1 General/Unified Mission giving	22,000.00		
2		22,000.00	
3 Partnership for the Presbytery	10,000.00	10,000.00	
3 Designated Mission giving to Presbytery			
4 Office support			
5 GP Resourcing to congregations & Pastors	1,300.00		
6 Resource Center			
8 Total designated Mission Giving		1,300.00	
TOTAL PRESBYTERY MISSION INCOME			
9 Total Presbytery Mission Income		33,300.00	
10 Small Church Redevelopment Grant - Synod		1,100.00	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
From Unified Mission giving			
11 Presbytery missions			
12 Krislund		11,500.00	
13 Breezewood Truck & Traveler		500.00	
14 Youth Triennium		0.00	
15 Total to Presbytery Missions		<u>12,000.00</u>	
15 Presbytery Office			
16 GP Resourcing to congregations & Pastors		8,000.00	
17 Office		3,300.00	
18 Resource Center		0.00	11,300.00
19 Partnership with the Presbytery Fund		10,000.00	<u>10,000.00</u>
20 Total for Administrative Budget		<u>21,300.00</u>	
21 TOTAL GENERAL/UNIFIED			<u>33,300.00</u>
22 Committed using Synod Grant and New Covenant funds as needed			
23 Small Church Redevelopment Grant		1,100.00	
24 Committed using designated donations and Unified as needed			
25 Pakh 5 Nan Partnership		3,100.00	

Additional Select Mission Giving to  
Presbytery

Estimated  
giving

For Church  
Redevelopment

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORTS

**For Action:** The Administrative Commissions to carry out the dissolution of various churches request:

1. **Lemont Spring Creek:** That presbytery dismiss the Administrative Commission to carry out the dissolution of the Lemont Spring Creek Presbyterian Church with thanks.
2. **Mapleton Depot:** That presbytery confirm the action of the Mapleton Depot Administrative Commission to dissolve the corporate and ecclesiastical entities of the Mapleton Depot Presbyterian Church, effective September 6, 2023, and to dismiss the Administrative Commission to carry out the dissolution of the Mapleton Depot Presbyterian Church with thanks for its service.

### For information

1. **Lemont Spring Creek:** The most recent session minutes 2015-2022 have been received. Complete run 1834-2022. Remaining assets, minus funds for digitizing records, donated to Spring Creek Cemetery. Six members remained, of which one has been given a letter of transfer to Pine Grove Mills. A summary history of the congregation has been added to the record. The members of the A.C. are Rev. Carl Campbell, ruling elder Alicia Hughes (Spring Creek), and ruling elder Ken Raney (Pine Grove Mills)
2. **Madera:** Attorney Ann Wood has proceeded to draft the paperwork to complete the sale of the Madera property. The trustees of the Madera Presbyterian Church sold the church property to the Presbytery of Huntingdon for one dollar. The Presbytery has arranged insurance coverage on the property. Attorney Wood has drafted the paperwork for the sale of the property to Sainte Millie LLC for \$10,000. Closing will be held by the purchasers' attorney Mr. Kasubick. A summary history of the congregation has been added to the record. The members of the A.C. are ruling elder Janet Kephart (Osceola), Rev. Jimmy Hopper, ruling elder Eric Johnson (Clearfield), and ruling elder Ann Wood (Clearfield).
3. **Mapleton Depot:** The Administrative Commission to carry out the dissolution of the Mapleton Depot Presbyterian Church met on September 6, 2023 and approved minutes, collected last records to be turned over to the presbytery, verified the distribution of assets to recipients, and requested the presbytery confirm the AC action to dissolve the congregation effective September 6, 2023. Sheldon and Shirley Coons were given letters of transfer to Mount Union Presbyterian Church. A summary history of the congregation has been added to the record. The members of the A.C. are Rev. Joy Kaufmann, Rev. Mary Jo Bruinooge, ruling elder Ken Raney (Pine Grove Mills), ruling elder Dan Mertz (East Kish), and Dan Young (Mapleton Depot)



## STATED CLERK REPORT September 30, 2023

### For Action:

1. **Robert Cauffman:** The stated clerk requests that the Rev. Robert Harvey Cauffman be removed from the rolls on account of death effective July 18, 2023, and that the attached memorial tribute be spread across the minutes.

### For Information:

1. **Session Records review** is set for Tuesday October 3, 9:30 a.m. in clusters except for the Centre Region and makeup, which will take place Tuesday October 10, 9:30 a.m. at Pine Grove Mills. Clerks are reminded to bring both their minutes and their register. Any questions, please contact Jim Crawford (814) 384-4339 or Ginny Rainey (814)867-7878.

### ROBERT HARVEY CAUFFMAN [Petersburg Bethel, McAlevy's Fort, Milesburg]

Bob Cauffman was born in Norristown, PA, in 1936. He stayed in Pennsylvania to attend Ursinus College, from which he graduated in 1958, and then entered Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, from which he received the B.D. in 1961. He was ordained in his home presbytery of Philadelphia on September 14 of that year to serve as pastor of the Franklinville Presbyterian Church in Maryland. In 1963 he returned to Pennsylvania to accept the call of the yoke of Canton and Monroeton congregations in Lackawanna Presbytery.

He was solidly grounded in the Reformed faith, not distracted by contemporary social issues. He wrote in May 1966: "It is dangerous and foolish to say that there is a contemporary theological problem which is the most important. Nevertheless, from a series of contemporary theological problems, I feel that communication of the Good News in and through Jesus Christ warrants my concern.

We realize that we have been recipients of a gift and message from God which is of supreme importance to the life of every individual. The gift and news of 'life' not only comes to us, but to all persons of every generation and location. Aware of our duty to share this Gospel, we immediately know the obstacles confronting us as we attempt to proclaim its message."

In the 1970's, he returned to the town of his birth to serve as supply of the Cliveden congregation of Norristown in Philadelphia Presbytery. During these years, he carried out his ministry in chaplaincy/counselor positions. Like Second Isaiah among the people in Exile, he fostered the development of "a leadership aimed at breaking the obsession with the past and encouraging the people to focus on the present and its impact on the future." Just as he sought to encourage drug addicts and broken families to start anew with renewed vision, he found a calling to ministry among mature churches, that were despairing of regaining a gloried past. He would patiently restore confidence through Biblical preaching, mission-centered education and the one-one-one community-building of visitation. Strengthening the members for their own ministry, he wrote, "With the values and lifestyle of Jesus as both our goal and standard, I believe all believers are called to be ministers in Jesus' sense of the word. I affirm that God has wisely dispersed His gifts among us, but all of us are commissioned to bear the Good News."

He was received into this presbytery on April 15, 1986, accepting a call to the yoke of Petersburg Bethel and McAlevy's Fort, where he was installed on April 20. He became active in Krislund affairs and chaired the presbytery's Camp & Conference Committee in the early 1990's. Later he served on the Interpretation & Stewardship Committee, promoting missions. He was willing to go where he was needed, and twice, in 1988 and 1992, moderated Bethany Parish in the opposite end of Huntingdon County, as well as Moshannon Parish in 1996.

By the mid 1990's, it became evident that his congregations had strengthened and could stand on their own. On March 1, 1996, the call with the Huntingdon County yoke was dissolved, and Bob moved to northern Centre County, being installed at Milesburg on March 10. Bob took honorable retirement on April 1, 2002, preaching a farewell sermon at the first presbytery meeting this stated clerk attended in this presbytery.

In retirement, he returned to the Philadelphia area, settling in Royersford, with his second wife Francine. But central Pennsylvania's call was still strong, and he retained his membership in our presbytery. He returned to Centre County during the pandemic. He died July 18, 2023.

Virginia F. Rainey, stated clerk  
[Additional information from PHS Biographical file]

### **THE SPRING CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH Lemont, Centre County**

The Spring Creek Presbyterian Church of Lemont was originally called The Slab Cabin Church — located in Penn's Valley near the confluence of Spring Creek and Slab Cabin Run. About 1775 Scots-Irish settlers in that area petitioned the Presbytery of Donegal to furnish them supply ministers; in that year Rev. Philip Fithian and Rev. William Linn held services in the home of Captain [later General] James Potter. At the time there were twenty-eight Presbyterian families living in Penn's Valley.

Around 1780 they formed congregations known as Presbyterian societies, one at Sinking Creek, another at Spring Creek. By the mid 1780's they were recognized by the Donegal Presbytery as likely churches. The two churches, along with the sometime participation of East Penns Valley and Boalsburg, constituted a united parish, served by the same pastor, for eighty-six years: from 1789 to 1875. The first pastor was the Rev. James Martin. Martin was an Irishman, who was raised in the tiny Associate Presbyterian Synod. He was trained at Abernethy Theological Institute and came to North America in 1774. He joined the PCUSA in 1778. In the next decade, according to Gibson, he was made pastor of East and West Penn's Valley, Warriors Mark, and Half Moon. On April 15, 1789, he organized and was installed as pastor of Spring Creek. He served as pastor of Sinking Creek as well until 1794. When Carlisle Presbytery was split in two, creating the Presbytery of Huntingdon, in 1795, he had left Spring Creek. He was the second minister on our presbytery's roll, but died before the second meeting of presbytery.

The Congregational Minutes of Spring Creek state that the real organization began under the second pastor, the Rev. David Wiley. Wiley was ordained and installed as pastor of Spring Creek and Sinking Creek on April 9, 1794, by Carlisle Presbytery. About the same time, the first session, consisting of David Barr, George McCormick, Thomas Ferguson, William Wiley, and James Ardery were ordained and installed and served as the elders until 1801. When Wiley left, he changed careers and became the editor of the first agricultural periodical published in the U.S.

The Spring Creek congregation built a log church on Slab Cabin Run; although it was unfinished until 1802, the congregation used it for worship after 1794. In 1831, the congregation gathered and opinions were offered that the building was so uncomfortable that the people could not assemble in the winter. With the refusal of folks to attend worship, the trustees remodeled in 1832 and used the building until 1847, when — after a Sunday evening service — it was destroyed by fire. They replaced it with a plain frame building which served the congregation until 1872. The construction of the replacement was not a simple matter. The congregation had several groupings of families; each wanted the new building to be built where they were located. The congregation met and argued and claimed never ending agitation about moving the site to the end of the mountain. Finally, the present church was erected in Lemont. The congregation obviously learned from its building woes, for its state charter of 1877 stated that eligibility to serve as a trustee required both membership in the church and contribution to its finances.

In 1834 under pastor David McKinney, Spring Creek joined the American Sunday School movement, which promoted literacy in order that everyone could read the Bible. Spring Creek started a Sunday School in Harris Township, which became a second site for the congregation. The Sunday School continued until at least 1895. Meanwhile the mother congregation set off Pine Grove Mills in 1834 and State College congregation in 1888.

Despite the disagreements over buildings, the church thrived under the pastorage of Robert Hamill. He was ordained at Sinking Creek on May 6, 1846 and installed at Spring Creek on June 9. He served both congregations until 1875 and continued at Spring Creek until his retirement October 8, 1890. In addition to the congregation, he generously served as stated clerk of presbytery for forty-four years, moderator of the synods of Harrisburg and Philadelphia, and seven times a General Assembly commissioner. Presbytery said of him “That as we knew him, he was a devoted pastor, tender and sympathetic in counsel, in seasons of revival full of wisdom and power, and in the exercise of discipline gentle and discreet. As a member of Presbytery, he was always dignified in debate, clear in thought, sincere in motive and in fellowship with his brethren, hospitable in his own house and always a genuine friend.”

The congregation continued to appreciate its building with its lovely stained glass. In 1914, the building was electrified. Major renovations were undertaken in 1949, making the basement into a usable fellowship hall. The manse was completed behind the church in October 1950. The Christian Education building was built in 1959 and dedicated in 1960. This made possible, during the pastorate of the Rev. Daniel Eveland, the congregation's entertainment of the first stated meeting of the Presbytery in its history. The Spring Creek Cemetery was set off as a separate corporation in 1961.

With the election of Elder Robert W. Ishler of Spring Creek as Moderator in 1972 the Presbytery of Huntingdon began the continuing custom of alternating elders and clergy as moderators. For its celebration of the PCUSA Bicentennial, four former pastors and two-hundred sixty-four persons were present.

In recent decades, major building repairs took prime place: In 1979, the stonework was repaired; in 1988, the steeple was rebuilt. In August 2006, the packed dirt foundation gave way, causing the upper third of the east wall to collapse into the sanctuary. Drawing on the grit of their ancestors, the congregation rebuilt—on a sure-r foundation! The session has drawn on our Full Communion Partner the United Church of Christ for its two most recent pastors, David Meyer and Dick Henry. Its current clerk of session is Pat Kepler. It has provided presbytery leadership through Anna Mary Ishler's contributions

to Presbyterian Women and ruling elders Rick Woomer and Alicia Hughes as certified lay preachers.

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. As the church entered the twenty-first century, its resources and its congregation shrank. The pandemic of 2020 and beyond made it clear that the work it had so well promoted was nearing completion. On October 16, 2022, the congregation of Spring Creek voted to request the presbytery to dissolve the congregation. The property was sold to the Centre Pointe Apostolic (Pentecostal) congregation, and the Presbyterian congregation was closed on June 27, 2023.

Virginia F. Rainey, Stated Clerk

## **MADERA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Madera congregation began with the formation of the Sunday School movement in Clearfield County in 1840. Leadership in the movement was taken by Presbyterian elders (probably at Mount Pleasant Crossroads), included William McCullough, William Mullen, and G. W. McCully. They met in a schoolhouse until a church was built; as moving in day arrived, Beulah, the congregation was organized May 18, 1859.

Presbyterians were just beginning to form communities in the timberlands of Clearfield County. A privately educated preacher, William Burchfield, was pastor at Fruit Hill, but rode a circuit around the county, including both Beulah and Madera, for the first years. Alpheus H. Holloway was the first installed pastor on September 1, 1863. He had an interesting past, in that he was ordained in 1859 by the Presbytery of Louisiana as pastor of Woodville, Mississippi. He returned to the north at the outbreak of the Civil War, supplying Beulah until his installation in September 1863.

About three miles to the northwest, another cluster of Presbyterians settled, creating the community of Madera. Essentially from the start of Beulah, there was shared preaching and shared pastor, as well as shared Sabbath School classes when Holloway resigned in June 1867. But in 1873, William Gemmill arrived, born in Scotland, raised in Milroy, and educated in Pine Grove Mills. The call was well made, and Gemmill stayed fourteen years. One call with two locations.

Albert A. Bird served as interim pastor, being ordained to the position after having served as a student preacher over the summer. He came from Union TS of New York, one of the few pastors who was neither from Princeton or Western TS of Pittsburgh. He was well liked, and the presbytery ordained him on October 5, 1877 and installed him as pastor of the Houtzdale congregation which had been organized on September 25. He continued promoting the Sabbath School movement through a state wide organization, while preaching at both Houtzdale and Madera.

The mountaintops were beautiful; the forests full of mature old-growth trees, ripe for timber cutting. The isolated settlements were beginning to grow. And grow they did, but often in different directions. Madera and Beulah began to chafe at their bounds. In 1888, the Presbyterians of Madera began construction of their own building, which was dedicated on September 22, 1888. They petitioned for their own organization, which was accomplished June 30, 1894.

James Cornely, Isaac Hegarty, J. H. Cupples, and Denton Beeman were elected as the first ruling elders. Cornely and Hegarty had served in the same capacity at Beulah, while Cupples and Beeman were

ordained on July 1. James E. Giffen was installed as pastor on November 9, 1894. It seemed auspicious start: Two new congregations, both with new churches, and a young eager pastor ready to lead them. But the bottom fell out immediately. During 1894, the Beulah parsonage burned. On January 27, 1895, the new Beulah church was destroyed by fire. For the next couple of years, services seem to have been held in the Lutheran church. The pastor requested dissolution of relationship on September 18, 1895 because of the fires and the inability of the church to pay his salary. [Congregational minutes, September 18, 1895].

Then just before Christmas on December 21, 1901, in Madera fire broke out in Kirk's hardware store and would have incinerated the entire town, had not the Philipsburg and Houtzdale fire companies arrived with help. While the church itself was not damaged, clerk of session Isaac Hegarty, wrote that all records—minutes, registers, deeds--did get burned up, along with Shoff and Cornely homes.

The people of Madera were resilient. By 1910, they reported 66 members and 119 Sunday School members. A new pastor from Ireland, the Rev. John Mitchell showed up ready to love them and work. He was installed on November 26, 1902 and stayed 22 years, the call lasting until May 31, 1925. Under his leadership, the building was refurbished, new pews, and new pulpit about 1915. The Sunday School rooms were expanded, giving Madera a building that was the center of the community.

Throughout the first quarter of the twentieth century, Madera had continued in its yoke with Beulah, although the new Houtzdale congregation had been added as a third preaching point. While Madera stayed strong, Beulah withered and broke. On January 28, 1929, members of the Beulah Presbyterian Church presented a petition to a special meeting of presbytery that their congregation be dissolved and that provision be made for the disposal of the property. The Beulah petition sought that, out of the proceeds of the sale of church property and of the endowment funds, a lasting fund should be created, the income from which should be paid in equal shares to the neighboring Presbyterian church of Madera and the neighboring Presbyterian church of Houtzdale, to be used by them for maintenance of the preaching of the Gospel.

In 1937, the Trustees of Presbytery sold property in Madera to the Presbyterians that contained their church. In addition, the Clearfield Trust received funds of about \$4,000 to provide an annual income for Presbyterian preaching in the communities of Houtzdale and Madera. In November 1988, Clearfield Trust Company transferred management of the fund to the Presbytery of Huntingdon.

Along the way, the congregation looked outward. During World War II, Henry Sloan Coffin, moderator of the PCUSA General Assembly recognized the congregation for overfilling its commitment to supporting the Wartime Service Fund. The congregation supported the work of Presbyterian missionary Jane E. Doolittle, who was principal of the American Presbyterian school for girls in Teheran for over thirty years and a missionary in Iran for nearly sixty years.

Later pastors were Gusty P West, 1926-1946; Louis Lytle, 1950-1960; Morrison Rider, 1972-1979; Bob Yetter, 1980-1990; Elaine Africa, 1993-2000; and Lay Pastor Carl Bittner.

The founding families remained loyal. Christeen Cornely was a ruling elder, following in the footsteps of her grandfather James Cornely, who was one of the original session. Christeen's sister Vivian played the organ. At the centennial anniversary the congregation replaced the carpeting, sandblasted the exterior, and acquired a new stove. Julia Shoff served as clerk of session.

On April 18, 2021, the session voted to request that the presbytery close the church. The final moderator was Rev. Charles Swenson. The Clerk of Session was Caryn Southern.

Sources: The Centennial Anniversary of the Presbytery of Huntingdon; Minutes of the Presbytery of Huntingdon; Minutes of Madera Presbyterian Church; Fiftieth Anniversary of the Madera Presbyterian Church; "The Fire at Madera," Altoona Tribune (Altoona, PA), December 24, 1901, p.1; "Mission Worker Visits Houtzdale Madera Churches," Clearfield Progress (Clearfield, PA), November 14, 1958, p. 6.

Virginia F. Rainey, Stated Clerk

### **MAPLETON DEPOT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

When the Pennsylvania Railroad pushed its nose up the Juniata River heading for Cresson summit and the Laurel Highlands, it created opportunities for new communities where valleys debouched into the Juniata River. Rev. David Campbell, tells the story of how a church came to be planted in one of those communities, Mapleton. In the late 1850's, Rev. Britton Collins, pastor at Shirleysburg, paid a visit to one of his parishioners Isaac Miller, who happened to possess a gem of a rifle, but had moved to Mapleton. While arrangements were made to borrow the rifle, the pair became acquainted with the Pennsy station ticket agent Colonel Donaldson, who persuaded Collins that Mapleton at the mouth of Hare's Valley was ripe for Presbyterian planting. The occasional preaching led to the opening of a Sabbath School, which in turn led in 1861 to the raising of a brick church building.

George Washington Shaiffer and Cochran Forbes joined Collins in supplying the Presbyterian mission, or New Worshipping Community. In 1867, the group petitioned for organization as a congregation. Collins and Huntingdon elder Samuel Brown were appointed by Huntingdon Presbytery to determine its viability. On May 2, they organized the congregation with thirteen members and two elders, Matthew Campbell and Benjamin Kauffman. Collins continued to supply the congregation.

On June 25, 1872, William Prideaux was installed as pastor, in a yoke with Shirleysburg. Prideaux was already retirement age when he arrived at Mapleton, but he stayed ten years until October 4, 1882. Then he went on to preach up the valleys and ridges in the mining camps of southern Huntingdon and Fulton counties. When he finally retired in 1889, the presbytery called him "An humble, conscientious, prayerful servant of the Lord." By 1875 Mapleton had forty members. McKnight Williamson and George Elliott served as short-term supplies following Prideaux.

Then in the 1880's, the growing congregation enlarged the church, adding on a vestibule, an iconic steeple. A celebratory dedication service was planned with Prideaux coming from Huntingdon and Richard M. Campbell coming from Port Royal to preach on October 15, 1889, and enjoy the new debt-free improvements. In 1908, an addition was made to the other end of the church, giving it breathing space for the Sunday School and a kitchen. By now, led by Rev. Edward Snook, the congregation had sixty members. Snook was a graduate of Lane Seminary and was nearing retirement, but still energetic.

During the first World War, the congregation was deeply involved in community outreach. The young pastor Walter Boardman threw himself into Scouting with the young and Odd Fellows with the more mature. He joined with the Methodist pastor in preaching to the Aetna Explosive Plant in the

Newton Hamilton portion of the yoke on alternate Wednesdays. For those of us who travel through southern Huntingdon, we owe him a debt of gratitude for his work as organizing/first vice president of the Mount Union, Orbisonia, and McConnellsburg Highway Association, which lobbied for the construction of US #522. Sadly, the Aetna plant shut down immediately after the armistice and the plant itself was razed to the ground by the following Easter, devastating the economic viability of both communities. The call was dissolved on December 15, 1919.

After a short period, the congregation called Chalmers Goshorn, who was truly a child of Huntingdon Presbytery. He was the elder son of Shade Gap farmers, who despite the death of his parents when he was seven, made the most of his opportunities, serving as principal of the Three Springs School. Although he had barely stepped outside the county, he gained experience, serving in the American Expeditionary Force at the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne, France, offensives. Returning home, he gained his missing education at the College of Wooster and Princeton Seminary. He then returned home to be ordained on June 7, 1923 and installed the following weekend at Newton-Hamilton and Mapleton. He joined the Mapleton American Legion and was elected to the Newton-Hamilton school board. He stayed six years, demitting on January 31, 1930, in order to take the call of Osceola Mills. When he left, Mapleton had one hundred members.

For the congregation's centennial, the celebration came on May 3, 1967, led by its pastor Boaz Obed Smith. Smith, like Goshorn, was a local boy, a product of the southern part of the presbytery, from a mining family in Tuscarora Valley. He was called to be an evangelist. After serving upper Huntingdon County congregations like Shaver's Creek, Petersburg, and Bethel, he returned to the mining camps of southeastern Kentucky. It was at the end of his career he came to Mapleton, in the spring of 1965 as stated supply. He knew how to preach to the work force of extractive industries. He promoted prayer meetings throughout the presbytery.

Following Smith, the congregation struggled to find a new pastor. In September 1970, it entered into a yoke with Mount Union for supplies from Rev. James W. Matz. Matz wholeheartedly leaped into community service, from starting Head Start, to American Red Cross, to the local ministerium. He was our commissioner to the General Assembly that considered the Confession of 1967. He left for Pittsburgh on March 31, 1971, but the yoke continued until 2015.

Elaine Africa became the congregation's first female pastor November 23, 1980. This lasted until March 31, 1988. The second female pastor was Carol Barrett, who was installed July 30, 2000. Illness in her family prompted her resignation a year later. Rev. Franklin Moist served as temporary supply. On October 1, 2014, Mary Jo Bruinooge became yoke pastor, but the following year, she became pastor uniquely of Mapleton, which she continued until July 23, 2017. When she returned from Eastminster Presbytery she again became Mapleton temporary supply on December 2, 2020. She led the congregation gracefully, with tenderness and assurance of hope and faithfulness through the griefwork of closing the congregation. The building was sold to the borough where it will continue to serve the community. The congregation was dissolved on September 6, 2023. Hazel Bell was long time clerk of session.

Virginia F. Rainey, Stated Clerk

## Terms & Committees of the Presbytery of Huntingdon for 2024

(as of 9/23/2023) \* = Concluding Term Bold & Italic = Nominee

### OFFICERS OF PRESBYTERY 2024

<b>2024 Moderator - One year term M-4.03</b>	Elder Janet Kephart
<b>2024 Vice Moderator - One year term M-4.04</b>	<b><i>Rev. Jack Miller</i></b>
<b>2026 Stated Clerk - 5 Year term M-4.05</b>	Elder Virginia Rainey
<b>General Presbyter M-4.07</b>	Elder Kate Sillman
<b>Treasurer Appendix V</b>	Rev. Carl Campbell

\*M-4.07 General Presbyter is an ex officio member of all teams and committees except the Permanent Judicial

### VISIONING TEAM (M-7.02 4 members elected to single 4-year term)

**M-7.04** To meet at least 6 times a year (Chair, Vice Chair & Recorder appointed by Nominating Committee)

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Elder S. Todd Lewis*	Rev. Tom Poole, <b><i>Vice</i></b>	Elder Bill Sisson, <b><i>Chair</i></b>	<b><i>Elder Bizz Maser</i></b>

*Synod Representative - Rev. Dennis Braun*

*Rev. Barry Vance, Alternate*

### COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY (M-8.02 12 members elected to 3-year terms to serve on a COM Sub-Committee)

**M-8.04** To meet at least 8 times a year (Chair, Vice Chair & Recorder who is normally Stated Clerk appointed by Nominating Committee)

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Elder Nancy Bostian* Chair	Rev. Sarah Sedgwick	<b><i>Elder Gail Wagner</i></b>
Rev. Brett Hoover*	Rev. Ernie Walls*	<b><i>Rev. Jimmy Hopper*</i></b>
Rev. Katie Hopper*	Elder Terry Musser	<b><i>Rev. Janie Smith</i></b>
Rev. Jack Miller*	Elder Jake Wagner	<b><i>Elder Ken Lynch*</i></b>

Elder Virginia Rainey, Stated Clerk-Recorder

***Elder Holly Kithcart, Alternate***

### COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY LIFE (M-9.02 12 members elected to 3-year terms)

**M-9.03** This includes the Trustees of the Presbytery - Chair of Committee to serve as Corporation President

**M-9.04** To meet at least 8 times a year (Chair, Vice Chair appointed by Nominating Committee)

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Elder Sara Bresler	Elder Pauli Belfiore	<b><i>Rev. Mary Morrow</i></b>
Rev. Carl Campbell, Vice Chair*	Elder Judy Black	<b><i>Rev. Lori Danielson</i></b>
Elder Susan Ferguson*	Rev. Ela Robinson*	<b><i>Rev. Mark Liller</i></b>
Elder Beth Raney, Chair*	Elder Robyn Yurky	<b><i>Elder Ken Manno</i></b>

Elder Virginia Rainey, Stated Clerk-Recorder

***Elder Matt Waddell Alternate***

### PERSONNEL TEAM

**M-10.04** To meet at least 3 times a year (Chair and recorder nominated by the Nominating Committee)

Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Rev. Stephanie Weaver	Deacon Jennifer Creighton	<b><i>Rev. Anne Ard</i></b>

***Elder Peggy Horner, Alternate***

### KRISLUND CAMP & CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (2 members elected to 2-year terms; may be reelected to serve six years)

**M-11** Members serves with two other presbyteris meet monthly as the board of the camp

Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Elder Ed Bratton	<b><i>Elder Scott Kretchmar*</i></b>
Deacon Ginny Westover	<b><i>Rev. K. Joy Kaufmann</i></b>

***Elder Jim Purdum, Alternate***

### PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION (M-12.02 7 members elected to 6-year terms, cannot serve successive terms)

**M-12.04** The commission shall elect from its members a moderator and clerk to meet at such times and places as the commission shall determine

Class of 2024	Class of 2026	Class of 2028
Elder James Crawford*	Elder Robert Peters*	Elder Beth Farmer*
Elder Gail Wagner*		Rev. Mary Jo Bruinnoge*
<b><i>Rev. Kathy Colebank*</i></b>		<b><i>Elder John Sobel*</i></b>

***Rev. Jimmy Hopper\* - Alternate***



**NOMINATING COMMITTEE** (M-13.02 includes 2 at large members, designates a recorder)

Moderator of Presbytery to serve as Chair	Elder Janet Kephart*
Vice Moderator of Presbytery to serve as Vice Chair	<b>Rev. Jack Miller*</b>
Visioning Team representative to serve a 2-year term	Rev. Tom Poole *
Committee on Ministry representative to serve a 2-year term	Rev. Jack Miller*
Committee on Presbytery Life representative to serve a 2-year term	Rev. Carl Campbell*
Class of 2024 Member at Large	CLP Scott Kretchmar*
Class of 2025 Member at Large	<b>Elder Ruth Fisher*</b>

*Elder Linda Vance, Alternate*

**SYNOD COMMISSIONERS**

2025 Elder Commissioner	<i>Elder Stan Howes</i>
2025 Commissioner at Large	<i>Rev. Brian Choi</i>
2025 Minister Commissioner	<i>Rev. Dennis Braun</i>

**GA COMMISSIONERS**

Minister Commissioner	<i>Rev. Brett Hoover</i>
Elder Commissioner	<i>CLP Janet Kephart</i>
Alternate Minister	<i>Rev. Brian Choi</i>
Alternate Commissioner	<i>Elder Ken Raney</i>

**SYNOD PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION**

Minister Commissioner	Rev. Brett Hoover
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**ORDINATION EXAM READERS** (need 1 Minister, 1 ruling elder, and 1 alternate)

	READERS	ALTERNATE READER
Minister	<i>Rev. Jimmy Hopper</i>	
Ruling Elder	<i>Elder Dan Mertz</i>	<i>Elder Stan Howes</i>