

## MINUTES - PARISH ELDERS

August 20, 2018

Present: Mary Jane Knapp (Chair), Eldon Trubee, Rich Holmes, Chris Stewart, Jeff Bergeson, Sally Walker, David Smith, Suellen Skinner and Matt Skolnik (General Presbyter)

Meeting began with devotions and prayer led by Mary Jane. What word do we need to hear at this time? Trust and rest (Jeff). Discover the value of frustration. Sharing/hearing struggles with congregation members. In the mess, God is at work in the lives of members, preparing them for future, ready for new life.

**Upon MSA** - noted that Gary Friend is the name of the person talking with Shreve/Hopewell. Approved May minutes with this correction.

**Upon MSA** - approved renewal contracts for:

- a) David Rice - Wooster First
- b) Tom Houston - John Knox
- c) Larry Jack - East Union
- d) Dennis Allison - Trinity

Dan Callahan's Interim contract with Minerva First approved by email.

**Upon MSA** - Joe Svancara's TOC for New Philadelphia First reviewed and approved.

**Upon MSA** - Joe's Ordination and Installation commission consist of Ben George, Marc van Bulck, Mark Unrue, Sheila Ellenberger (who will convene the commission and do the ordination question). Will be held September 16<sup>th</sup>, time TBA.

**Upon MSA** - Approve retirement of Tom Allmon (effective 9/30/18), commissioned pastor at Hanoverton and Bethesda. (Bethel, Salineville? Working on parish creation)

**Upon MSA** - Approve honorable retirement of Mark Behrendt effective March 2018

(Please save the TOC's referred to be addressed at the meeting so we don't need to print them.)

Updates on Vacancies:

- a) Minerva First - Dan Callahan is serving as Interim, PNC up and running.
- b) Wooster, Westminster (temp/Interim Tricia Petraven). PNC is hard at work with lots of PIF's
- c) Millersburg-Clark want Anthony DeVold (from Bloomfield) and want to wait for him to finish CP training. Willing to pay \$1250 for his psych evaluation. No transition, no MIF, nothing. They are talking Interim. Calling Commission - Bob Meyer will be mentor for Anthony, Tim Pollock will be his pastor.  
(This led to a discussion about call to pastoral ministry vs. call to be a "preacher". "Mediocre preachers who are good pastors are successful". "Presbyterians are in the disciple-making business. We aren't into saving souls - that's Jesus' job.")
- d) Hanoverton-Bethesda-Bethel see above. Initial meeting. 14 and 7 miles apart. Bethesda and Hanoverton have potential because of the growth in the area. Working toward parish.

- e) Trinity, Zanesville PNC working hard. Lots of PIF's
- f) Beverly-Caldwell - they are working on by-laws with congregational meeting at Caldwell. Election of 4 PNC members. Creating yoke.

**Upon MSA** - Approved John Harra to moderate session/congregation for the meeting at Beverly. He is the supply pastor at Watertown. Beverly approved by-laws.

- g) Coshocton - 175 PIF's. PNC is stuck. Chris Stewart will preach and work with them for 90 days. Offered a covenant with him as Temporary Supply. He read it to us.

**Upon MSA** - approved the Terms of Call for Chris Stewart with Coshocton PC.

- h) Carrollton First - (Mike Doak, the PNC) - interviewing candidates.
- i) New Philadelphia First - Joe Svancara is in the pulpit and ordination is being planned.
- j) Shreve - discussions coming with Matt
- k) Savannah - discussions coming with Matt
- l) Plymouth - nothing new
- m) College Drive - Asking for assistance in planning for pastoral transition. (Anne Weirich is planning retirement next year.

Discussed minimum salary -

Upon MSA - Council of Elders is proposing to raise the Presbytery minimum to \$44,000, the PC(USA)'s minimum.

Discuss Healthy Boundaries Training - Matt introducing. Pastors need this training to remain in good standing. Important! On-line training can be watched individually or in groups. It is important to identify the boundary lines. Propose at Sept. Stated meeting, vote in Dec. Training to be in March, April, & May 2019. Will be given 2 opportunities. If they lose standing: can't seek call, or can have CP revoked. 101 and 201 trainings. 104 minutes through FaithTrust Institute. How many hours? Commission.

**Upon MSA** - the Council of Elders approved the following motion: We move that Muskingum Valley Presbytery shall require Healthy Boundaries Training at least every other year beginning in 2019 for every pastor, including CP's and HR's filling pulpits in Presbytery. If the training is not completed, individuals will not remain in good standing with the Presbytery. There will be programs offered in multiple sites in each parish.

1. Supply Pastor list - new supply list passed out for review.

2. Parish Updates

Stark Parish

Christ PC - 5 new members

Church of the Covenant - Barb Johnson - need choir director. 25 kids in VBS. Joe Svancara, Barbara Johnson and Caleb McClure forming cohort for new pastors.

Reedurban - pastor cut to half-time.

Mike Baker - Calvary (not wanting to do anything)

Ashland / Richland / Wayne Parish

Ashland First - Mike Parker back from sabbatical

Seville - Marc van Bulck

Milton - coffee house ministry, new PC

Linden Road - financial crisis, encouraging relationship building in community ministry.

Matt is willing to teach to discipleship issues

Zanesville / Morgan / Perry Parish

Sponsored a picnic and concert for churches. It was a good concert, but poorly attended.

Continuing discussion on parish formation. Suellen is waiting on by-laws and manual of Operations from Pioneer Parish in Wisconsin.

Washington / Noble Parish

Stewardship at Marietta and questions about the future.

Part-time participants.

Beverly/Caldwell (see above)

Harrison / Tuscarawas Parish

Jim McConnell of Nottingham and Freeport is not retiring per conversation with Sally.

Holmes / Coshocton Parish

News of Fresno - check with Donna Westfall

Loudonville and Perrysville - Celebrate their history with 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Warsaw - pastoral issue

(Other anniversaries noted: Bloomfield 250, Coshocton 250, John Knox 125, Caldwell 250?)

Suellen asked about Chris doing communion training for elders. Matt said he'd find someone.

Brief discussion of Per Capita and other funding issues.

Synod after GA - making administrative committee for our Synod. Structural and personality issues with potential take over if necessary.

Preparing for Mary Jane stepping down as Parish Elder Chair at the end of 2018.

3. Next meeting - November 12, 2018 at 10am - devotions - Rich Holmes

4. **Upon MSA** - Adjourned with prayer by Matt Skolnik