

# Presby-Lite ~ A Low-Carb review of the Presbytery Meeting

Strengthening and Transforming Our Congregations to be Missional, Pastoral, Prophetic

Paid for with per capita dollars

January 26, 2021 Meeting Highlights



## Calls and Transfers

### New Calls/Contracts:

Judith McMillan and Orchard Lake Community Church  
Anders Edstrom and Greenfield, Berkley  
Jasmine Smart and Community, Waterford  
Roxie Davis and Port Huron First

### Transfers Completed:

#### To the Presbytery of Detroit:

Garrett Mostowski from Yellowstone Presbytery

#### From the Presbytery of Detroit:

Allen Timm to Northern New England

## Major Actions Taken

**Theme:** The Presbytery approved the theme "Rise Up!" for 2021.

**Sale of Southfield-Covenant Property:** Presbytery approved the sale of the Covenant Presbyterian Church property addressed as 21575 W. 10 Mile Rd., Southfield, Michigan, for at least \$830,000.00 to Kingdom Builders Christian Church, on the condition that the funds be held in escrow until their release is approved by the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees.

**Worship:** The Presbytery celebrated worship with communion. Elder Dave Bunch preached, sharing his story and his family's history as it related to Matthew 25 and the threefold call to building vital congregations, dismantling structural racism, and ending systemic poverty. Elder Stefanie Lewis asked the constitutional questions and CRE Barconey led the installation prayer to install Elder Bunch as Moderator and Rev. Jasmine Smart as Vice Moderator. Rev. Julie Delezenne presented the symbols of office, Rev. Barbee-Watkins gave the commissioning, and Rev. Bryan Smith presided over communion.

**Administrative Commission:** Presbytery approved the creation of an Administrative Commission to inquire into and settle reported disorder within Southfield Covenant, to provide guidance and leadership for Covenant Church as it seeks to discern the way forward by creating and developing a written plan for the congregation's future, and appointed the following to the AC: Rev. Kent Clise, Chair; Rev. Karen Stunkel; Elder Greg Sykes; Elder Stefanie Lewis.

## Reports and Other Items of Interest

**Order of the Day:** The Presbytery recognized Sandy Jensen's twenty-seven years of ministry with the Presbytery of

Detroit as Director of Operations. Rev. J. Herbert Nelson, III, Stated Clerk of the PC(USA), shared personal and spiritual reflections for Sandy upon her retirement. Elder Joan Lockard presented Sandy with an Honorary Life Membership in Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Detroit. Rev. Barbee-Watkins presented the Spirit of Detroit Award signed by the Detroit City Council. Presbytery Operations presented Sandy with a blanket and flowers. Additionally, a video shared personal good wishes from many of Sandy's friends.

**TGP Report:** As part of her report, Rev. Barbee-Watkins noted common problems in churches throughout the Presbytery and highlighted the liaison program; the liaison's primary responsibility would be to build familiarity and trust with the ministers and session of the church and be responsive to their needs and questions as they arise.

**AEP Report:** CRE Charon Barconey reminded the Presbytery of its mission statement, strengthening and transforming congregations to be missional, pastoral, and prophetic, and reported that the Presbytery had been in informal conversation with the PC(USA) to become part of the vital congregations initiative, which would be presented at the March meeting

**Mission Reports:** Elder Rissler reported on behalf of Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program on the various programs available to support churches and camps, particularly the newer operating loan program and the safety and technology loan program. Rev. Doug Portz reported on behalf of the Board of Pensions that the BOP switched pharmacy drug benefits to ExpressScripts, that the BOP would no longer send paper invoices and instead all payers must use the BoardLink system, and that terms of call would need to be updated for 2021 in Benefits Connect. Elder Adrienne Adams reported as Synod Commissioner that the Synod would be making available recorded worship services for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and the Sunday after Easter to assist churches.

**Retirement:** The Presbytery celebrated the retirement of Rev. Paul Thwaite from Orchard Lake Presbyterian Church. Elder Sue Peterman presented personal remarks.