

Presbytery of the Highlands  
Stated Meeting  
September 10, 2024  
Administration and Coordinating Team Report

**Items for Consent Agenda:**

**ACT-1**

The ACT recommends the following:

- The approval of the PILP application for Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church for \$67,000 to convert from oil to gas.

**Items for Action:**

**ACT-2**

The ACT recommends the following to the Presbytery for approval:

- That the Presbytery approves the Anti-Harassment Policy for the Presbytery of the Highlands. (See attached.)

*Background: The changes in the Book of Order (July 1, 2023) now requires all councils (presbytery and sessions) have an Anti-Harassment Policy. (G-3.0106). The ACT tasked the Personnel Committee with the development of the policy. They also developed a template for sessions to use in their development of a policy.*

**ACT-3**

The ACT recommends the following to the Presbytery for approval:

- That the 2025 Per Capita be set at \$43.50.

*Background: This summer the General Assembly raised their Per Capita and we are anticipating an increase at the Synod of the Northeast Assembly in October. The breakdown of the Per Capita is Presbytery -\$28.41, General Assembly - \$10.84, Synod -\$4.25.*

## **Items for Report:**

*The ACT reports the following from their June 18, 2024 called meeting:*

### **ACT-4**

Approved the request from COM to call a Special Presbytery meeting for the Examination of Pamela Osborne for Ordination.

### **ACT-5**

Stated Clerk updated the ACT on the filing of an appeal to the GAPJC in the case of Ryan Irmer vs. Presbytery of the Highlands

### **ACT-6**

Reviewed the YTD Financial Report.

### **ACT-7**

Received a report from the Personnel Committee.

### **ACT-8**

Received a report from the Discernment Team on the planned retreat in August.

### **ACT-9**

Received a report from Worship Planning Team concerning the September Presbytery Meeting worship.

### **ACT-10**

Discussed the May Presbytery Meeting.

### **ACT-11**

Reviewed and discussed the agenda and plans for the September Presbytery Meeting. Approved a starting time of 6:30pm.

### **ACT-12**

Steve updated the ACT on the upcoming General Assembly.

### **ACT-13**

Presbytery Leader's sabbatical Part 2 was June 1 to July 20 and included General Assembly at Salt Lake City.

*The ACT reports the following from their August 27, 2024 called meeting:*

**ACT-14**

Reviewed the agenda and other issues related to the September Presbytery meeting.

**ACT-15**

The Finance and Budget Team reported that the Year-to-Date financial report is on target with the 2024 budget.

**ACT-16**

Approved the Anti-Harassment Policy and voted to recommend it to the Presbytery at the September Presbytery Meeting.

**ACT-17**

The Finance and Budget Team presented the proposed 2025 budget which includes a \$1.00 increase in the Per Capita due to the General Assembly and Synod increasing their per capita. The 2025 budget will be presented at the September Presbytery Meeting for its first reading with approval at the November Presbytery Meeting. Jeanne Radak shared the change in the model for our funding of the General Assembly and Synod (15% to GA and 4% to Synod). A detailed explanation will be provided at the Presbytery meeting.

**ACT-18**

The Funds Development Team reported that it will be working with PCUSA Mission Engagement Team on modeling a new way of funding mid councils. They also reported that they are working on developing workshops for churches around the issue of financial sustainability.

**ACT-19**

The Discernment Team reported that over the summer the leadership of the Presbytery developed a Working Vocation Statement. The ACT approved the Working Vocation Statement

- ***Working Vocation Statement: God calls the Presbytery of the Highlands to equip, enable, and nurture the presbytery community as we exemplify the love of Christ in and through creative ministries preparing our faith communities to embrace and engage a new season.***

### **ACT-20**

Approved the Presbytery Investment and Loan Application for Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church for \$67,000 to convert from oil to gas in the Parish House, Sanctuary and Manse.

### **ACT-21**

Approved on behalf of the Presbytery a New Church Development Grant for Bound Brook Presbyterian for the Martinsville Adaptive Reuse Project (MARP) seeking a \$10,000 seed grant from the PCUSA.

### **ACT-22**

Approved a request from the Insurance Partnership to contribute \$3000 from the Special Resources Fund towards a fund to contract with a consultant to provide assistance to our churches concerning church insurance issues.

### **ACT-23**

Approved signing the Group Affiliated Marketing Agreement to generate rebates for Insurance Partnership congregations based on loss experience.

### **ACT-24**

Reassigned the task of the Presbytery's Anti-Racism Policy development to a task group. Encouraged the Committee on Representation to continue with their plans to provide a Workshop this Fall to assist sessions in writing their Anti-Racism policy.