

Sherrard Community Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission and Drew Nagle, Moderator of the Sherrard Community Presbyterian Church at time of closing

### **Report to Presbytery:**

The Administrative Commission charged with assisting Sherrard Community Presbyterian in closing fulfilled many of its responsibilities and authorities between its establishment in June 8, 2019 through September 2019. The AC planned to continue one more year in order to see that the Kid's Club continued after the congregation's closure and members had a year of support while seeking a congregation to belong. All was going to plan, then COVID pandemic came in March 2020. It put a halt to much of the AC's work. Then in the Summer of 2022 the moderator of the AC and another member of the AC received calls in other Presbyteries. Since the AC as a whole had not met since the summer of 2019 and had not been apprized of what had happened since that meeting, the Moderator of Presbytery and the Stated Clerk asked Drew Nagle, TE and pastor/moderator of Sherrard from 2012 until its closing, July 31, 2019 to make a final report.

### **History:**

In April, 2012 Drew Nagle, TE, was appointed Moderator and by contract between the sessions of Gloria Dei Presbyterian Church, Rock Island and Community Presbyterian Church, Sherrard served as half time supply pastor. The original intent was for Pastor Nagle to help the congregation move to a healthy closure in a year's time. The session and congregation annually covenanted from January 2013 through January 2018 to continue on in ministry and see where God was leading them with an understanding that God was not finished with them. In 2018 it became clear that they could not continue. The session requested that the Presbytery of Great Rivers create a Task Force to assist them in moving towards closure and passing on the ministry to others. The Task Force was formed November 3, 2018. With support of the Task Force a plan was developed and approved by session and congregation to have a final worship service on June 9, 2019 and close the congregation, July 30, 2019. On June 8, 2019 at the request of the Task Force the Presbytery created an AC to act on the Presbytery's behalf concluding all actions needed to complete the plan of closure. The Kid's Bible Club was a ministry that started with 3 grandchildren of members and grew to an average 17 children from kindergarten through eighth grade. It was the desire to continue after closure. From September, 2019 through mid-March, 2020, it continued with funds overseen by Beulah Presbyterian and taught by the three original teachers. The new owners graciously allowed it to continue to be in the lower level of the church building. During the pandemic the new owners repurposed the lower level and no longer allowed the Kid's Club to meet in the building. Kid's Club did not resume when the schools returned to in person classes.

### **Community Presbyterian Church Plan for Closure:**

Actions by the PGR Assembly:

1. MA that the Presbytery of Great Rivers will close Sherrard Presbyterian Church (Sherrard, IL) on July 31st, 2019 with their last worship service being June 9th, 2019.
2. MA that the Presbytery of Great Rivers will endorse the plan for the sale of the Sherrard Presbyterian Church (Sherrard IL) building to Robert and Christine Breshear in the amount of \$7,000.00 and for closing of the sale to take place on or about July 1, 2019.
3. MA that the Presbytery of Great Rivers allow for all liquid assets of Sherrard Presbyterian Church (Sherrard IL) as well as the monies that will be received from the sale of property to be used on their continued ministry that includes the kid's club and that Presbytery of Great Rivers or Beulah Presbyterian Church of Orion, IL temporary take on the responsibility of the

administration of such funds. A Sherrard Presbyterian Restricted Fund will be created by the Presbytery of Great Rivers bookkeeper, Sabrina McGrath. In the event that the Kids Club fails, the funds from the sale be designated for youth ministry in the Presbytery. with the completion of the above delegated tasks.

**Responsibilities and authorities for the Administrative Commission for Sherrard Community Presbyterian Church to complete the Plan for Closure:**

1. To dissolve the Sherrard-Community Presbyterian Church.

By action of Presbytery the church was officially closed July 31, 2019; due to some legal matters the bank account and incorporation with the State of Illinois the complete closure was delayed but is completed.

2. To provide for the continuing spiritual and pastoral care of the remaining members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard.
3. To transfer members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard to other congregations and to provide for pastoral care for those who do not wish to or are unable to transfer their membership.
4. To grant letters of dismissal to members for those who have not found a new church after a period of one year.

The congregation had 30 members at time of closure. At the last meeting of session several members were transferred to other congregations effective July 31, 2019. The remaining members were transferred to Presbytery for later transfer. To date most have transferred to another congregation. Pastoral care was provided to the members who did not transfer by Drew Nagle, TE. This included two funerals, and providing the bulletin and link to Facebook live for worship at Gloria Dei Presbyterian Church during the time of the pandemic when there was no in person worship.

5. To take possession of all real and personal property of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard along with all records of the congregation and to oversee transfer of all real property and accounts to the Presbytery.
6. To ensure that bills are paid, the property is maintained and secured, and adequate insurance coverage is in place.
7. To ensure that assets given for the benefit of continued ministry in Sherrard are properly housed with a congregation or council for said benefit.
8. To consult with the Session or its representatives regarding requests the congregation may have relating to the disposition of equipment, memorials, and other property, honoring them where possible and to retain such for future use at the discretion of the Presbytery.
9. To act as agents of the Presbytery of Great Rivers in negotiations for and/or to conclude the sale of 201 3rd Street, Sherrard, IL 6128.
10. To assert the claim of the Presbytery of Great Rivers to any property of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard, whether known or not known at this time, or property which may come as beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.

The AC working with the Treasurer of the congregation and PGR Administration Team completed all fiscal and legal responsibilities. After all bills were paid the remaining funds were transferred to a special account at Beulah Presbyterian Church for the continued ministry of Kid's Bible Club in Sherard per action of PGR Assembly. With advice from the congregation ecclesiastical items were given to other congregations. Other items were sold at auction. The sale approved by the PGR Assembly was delayed because of the title and deeds to the property.

There were two plots with different deeds. The one was still in the name of denomination at the time of ownership (1946). This involved showing the continuity of denominations and getting a quick claim on the deed from the PC(USA).

11. To transfer to the Stated Clerk for forwarding to the Presbyterian Historical Society all official records of the congregation. Other historical records shall be transferred to the stated clerk for storage or transfer to PHS at the clerk's direction.

The official records were received for transfer.

12. To complete any additional tasks necessary to close the corporation of the church.

All necessary actions were taken for the dissolution of the corporation.

13. To see that the long life and faithful history of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard is suitably celebrated in a service of worship. In undertaking these actions, the Administrative Commission shall be sensitive to the memory, heritage, and concerns of the members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard.

This was done at Presbytery Assembly on June 8, 2019 and at the congregation's worship on June 9, 2019. Members of the AC and other representatives of the Presbytery shared in this worship celebration.

The members of the Administrative Commission Sherrard Community Presbyterian Administrative Commission:

Teaching Elders: James Benson, chair, Joyce Chamberlain, Blake Severson,

Ruling Elders: Keith Clement, Roger Mixer, and Iona Schnowske

MA The Administrative Commission shall invite members of the Community Presbyterian Church of Sherrard to participate in its work with voice but without vote.

Elder Helenna Freeman, Clerk, Elder Lynn Crompton, Treasurer, Linda Breiby, and Elder Mark Mueller were the primary members of the congregation to work alongside the AC in the completion of the closure.

Drew Nagle, TE, assisted the session and the AC in pastoral care and the continuing of Kid's Bible Club as well as the responsibilities of Moderator completing the closure.

ACTIONS:

1. That the Presbytery requests the transfer of all remaining funds in the Sherrard (Kid's Bible Club) Account administered by Beulah Presbyterian, Orion to the Presbytery of Great Rivers for an account to give grants to PGR congregations for Children and Youth Outreach ministry.

2. That the Vision Team will direct the distribution of this account with the following criteria:

a.) That the ministry have primarily an outreach to non-churched children and youth

b) That the ministry has a component of Bible study and faith sharing.

3. That the Sherrard Community Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission for Sherrard Community Presbyterian Church be dismissed.