

Additional written reports included in the presbytery packet were received from the **Administration, Nurture and Vocations Committees.**

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Fife.

Upcoming Events

(Details at www.wvpresbytery.org or call 304-744-7634)

Small Church Conference, April 18, First Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

The Guy's Weekend, April 24-26, Bluestone Camp & Retreat

Spring Getaway Retreat, May 1-3, Bluestone Camp & Retreat

Youth in Service: MISSION POSSIBLE, June 6, Bridgeport/Clifton, & Presbyterian Church of the Covenant

John Bell, June 19-20, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Next Stated Meeting

Thursday, June 11, at Davis & Elkins College, Elkins

Additional 2015 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, August 29, at Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

Thursday, December 3, at Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Huntington

Digest Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Forrest PalmerInterim Executive Presbyter
Maureen Wright..... Stated Clerk
Rocky PooleFinancial Administrator/Treasurer
Craig Butler.....Transitional Associate for Congregational Development
Barbara Chalfant.....Associate for Mission
Susan Sharp Campbell.....Associate for Educational Ministry
Nellie HowardResource Center Director
Leslie CurtisOffice Administrator
Mark Miller..... Director of Bluestone Conference Center

PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS

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Presbytery Digest
Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia
February 28, 2015

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, with **Moderator** Randy Fife presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer led by Nancy Didway for **1001 Worshipping Communities.** The **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, declared a **quorum** present with 44 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 56 churches. The **docket** was approved. Presbytery approved the motion by Ms. Wright to seat Rev. Susan Faye Wonderland, Philadelphia Presbytery, and Rev. Thomas Hay, Shenandoah Presbytery, as corresponding members for the duration of the meeting.

Greg Kubar, **Mission Committee** chair, presented a motion for the worship offering to go to West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. The offering totaled \$1616.00. Presbytery also approved a motion by the Stated Clerk to allow all present at the meeting to have the privilege of voice during *A Brief Exploration of the Amendments* only.

Moderator Fife, appointed **Temporary Clerks:** Teaching Elders WD Hasty, Karen Kinney, Peter Vial and Bob Wood, and Ruling Elders Susan Conn and Kay Lamb. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee.**

Amy Wallace Parker, 221st General Assembly Commissioner, introduced presbytery to *A Brief Exploration of the Amendments.* This small group opportunity allowed all present to reflect on the proposed amendments to the constitution. The small groups could also call on the knowledge of the 221st General Assembly Commissioners: Jim Musgrave, Amy Wallace Parker, Robin Ray and Jim Rowe. In addition the keynote speaker from the February 27th Commissioner's Forum, Rev. Tom Hay, **Associate Stated Clerk** of the Presbyterian Church (USA), Moderator Fife, Ms. Wright and **Interim Executive Presbyter**, Forrest Palmer were also available to answer questions.

Presbytery **worshipped** together under the leadership of **Synod Transition Executive**, Susan Faye Wonderland, who preached, Lay Pastor Bill Hairston as liturgist, and Teaching Elder Larryetta Ellis, pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg, and Teaching Elder Todd Wright, pastor of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston, as communion celebrants. Worship included the musical leadership of Mary Odin and Fred Gaul. The liturgy and sermon were

inspired by the proposed Belhar Confession. Worship included the 2014 necrology of Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders.

Following worship, Moderator Fife called on Susan Faye Wonderland to make a special presentation on behalf of the Synod of the Trinity. Rev. Wonderland invited Jim Robinson, **Synod Moderator** and **former Synod Executives** Tom Johnston and Bruce Stevens forward. Rev. Wonderland asked the presbytery to stand for the Synod as she honored Bruce Stevens with **Synod Executive Emeritus** status. This was marked by the presentation of a framed certificate.

The Presbytery was welcomed by Bill McCoy, **Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Charleston**. Dr. McCoy led presbytery in blessing the luncheon meal.

The afternoon session began with a hymn. Moderator Fife also led Presbytery in prayer.

Ms. Wright welcomed new Teaching Elders **Ellen Dawson** who will serve as the Interim Campus Pastor at Marshall University and **Ken Locke** who will serve as the Interim Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston. Ruling Elders attending their first presbytery meeting as a commissioner were introduced and welcomed. Ruling Elder Steve Hopta also introduced Lynn Gilliland of the Montreat Conference Center.

The **Consent Agenda** was adopted. Items on the consent agenda included the approval of excused absences and the approval of several Interim Ministry Covenants. In addition, covenants and covenant renewals for Temporary Supply pastors, Commissioned Ruling Elders, and a Parish Associate were approved. The requests for the Honorable Retirements of Kristine Haig and John Sonnenday were approved. Authorized Lay Pastor, Betsy Rae Ross was approved to serve communion. Elizabeth Stone was approved to continue as an Inquirer under the care of presbytery.

The **Stated Clerk's Report** was presented. The **Procedural Matters** were presented; the limitation of debate to 30 minutes per motion was approved.

Moderator Fife called on the Stated Clerk to introduce the voting on the proposed amendments from the 221st General Assembly. Ms. Wright explained the ballot process and the process for orderly debate. Time keepers **Moderator Elect**, Peter Vial and **former Stated Clerks** John Bolt, Frank Mansell and Jim Robinson were introduced. Following a time of debate and prayer, presbytery voted on the proposed amendments. The ballots were counted by the **Temporary Clerks**.

Nurture Committee chair, Kari Preslar, invited presbyters to take advantage of the opportunities highlighted in the handouts for the meeting. (Please see "Upcoming Events".) Barbara Chalfant, **Associate for Mission**, encouraged all those present to

complete a Healthy Life Church survey. **Resource Center Director**, Nellie Howard, shared several new resources available in the Presbytery Resource Center. She encouraged those present to visit the Resource Center display. Ms. Howard also invited members of presbytery to visit the Prayer Room throughout the day to spend time in silent prayer for the meeting, the churches and the people of our Presbytery. Guided prayers and meditations, Bibles and a contemplative, quiet space were provided.

The **Leadership Team** chair, Joan Stewart, shared highlights from the Leadership Team retreat that focused on Joan Gray's book, *Sailboat Church*. Following an extended time of visioning, the group has called the presbytery into a time of spiritual reflection titled, **Let Us Pray**.

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by Susan Perry, invited members of presbytery to attend the upcoming **Small Church Conference** on April 18 at the Fayetteville Presbyterian Church. A time of commissioning for Commissioned Ruling Elder, Kellan Sarles, to First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield, was led by Ruling Elder Perry and Moderator Fife.

A verbal report of the **Relations Committee** was given by Teaching Elder Pat Ryan. Rev. Ryan shared that the committee is re-organizing its structure to meet the responsibilities of the committee. The committee will now focus on cluster development and relations and will also support a Tech affinity group. Both the committee and the affinity group are in need of additional members. Interested volunteers may contact committee chair, Nancy Tissue, or the presbytery office.

Good News from the Pews was shared by Ruling Elder Commissioners from several churches.

Dave Lee, **Stewardship Committee** chair, recognized the financial stresses that many churches are experiencing. He shared his conviction that the financial needs of presbytery will be met. **Treasurer** Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

Mr. Forrest Palmer, **Interim Executive Presbyter**, reported to presbytery. He then lifted up presbytery's core values: **ministry, mission** and **building relationships**. He highlighted ways in which these values are being lived out throughout the presbytery. Mr. Palmer invited the staff to introduce themselves and their work.

The results of the amendment voting were announced. Each of the proposed amendments was approved by the presbytery: 14-1 The Belhar Confession (Yes 121, No 15), 14 A Renunciation of Jurisdiction (Yes 84, No 53), 14-B.1 Final Assessment (Yes 122, No 15), 14-B.2 Accommodation (Yes 126, No 11), 14-C Child Protection (Yes 130, No 7), 14-D Minimum Composition of a Presbytery (Yes 131, No 6), 14-E Interreligious Stance (Yes 124, No 13) and 14-F Marriage (Yes 92, No 44).