

**Bluestone Committee** chair, John McKinnon, gave a report on the 2014 camping season at Bluestone!

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Stewart.

### **Upcoming Events**

(Details at [www.wvpresbytery.org](http://www.wvpresbytery.org) or call 304-744-7634)

**The Road To...** Elementary School Retreat, September 19-21, Bluestone

**Public Works: Reclaiming God's Glory in the World**, October 7, Village Chapel

**Fall Getaway, *The Faith Song***, October 10-12, Bluestone

### **Next Stated Meeting**

Saturday, December 13, 2014 at First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont

### **2015 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, February 28 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Thursday, June 11 at Davis & Elkins College, Elkins

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 Palmer .....	Interim Executive Presbyter
Maureen Wright .....	Stated Clerk
Lois Coffey .....	Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Craig Butler .....	Transitional Associate for Congregational Development
Claire Butler .....	Interim Hunger Action Enabler and Ministry with Older Adults
Susan Sharp Campbell .....	Associate for Educational Ministry
Nellie Howard .....	Resource Center Director
Leslie Curtis .....	Office Administrator
Mark Miller .....	Director of Bluestone Conference Center

### **PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS**

**8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday**

**Phone (304) 744-7634 Fax (304) 744-7649**

**Email: [office@wvpresbytery.org](mailto:office@wvpresbytery.org)**

# **Presbytery Digest**

## **Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia**

*August 19, 2014*

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, with **Moderator** Joan Stewart presiding. The Presbytery was welcomed by Rev. Paul Romine, Pastor of First Presbyterian Church. Ruling Elders attending their first Presbytery meeting as a commissioner were introduced and welcomed. The **Stated Clerk** then welcomed corresponding member, John McDonald, from the Shenandoah Presbytery. He is serving the Marlinton Presbyterian Church as an interim pastor.

Stated Clerk, Maureen Wright, declared a **quorum** present with 53 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 42 churches.

Following the approval of the **docket** as amended with the addition of an announcement about the Elementary Retreat, the **Consent Agenda** was adopted. Items on the consent agenda included the approval of excused absences and the approval of session moderators. In addition, the transfer of membership of Mr. Clyde Richey from the dissolved church, The Shack, was approved, the Honorable Retirement requests for Janet Jenkins and Bruce Stevens were granted, and various covenants were renewed.

The **Consent Agenda** also approved the worship offering to go to the Young Adult Volunteer program, a one year service opportunity for young adults from 19 to 30 years of age. YAV's live in Christian community, deepening and developing their faith while serving in communities of need. The offering totaled \$1254.00.

Moderator Joan Stewart, appointed **Temporary Clerks**: Rev. Larryetta Ellis, Rev. George Spransy, Ruling Elder Randy Fife, and Ruling Elder Patricia Lester. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee**.

Presbytery **worshipped** together under the leadership of Teaching Elder Nancy Didway, pastor of the Highlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, who preached, Ruling Elder Mark Swartz as liturgist, and Ruling Elder Pat Collier, CRE at First Presbyterian Church, Kenova, who led the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. Worship included the musical leadership of organist, Linda McCallister, keyboardist, Pam Ferrell, guitarist, Bryan Roberts and flutist, Betty King.

**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 morning was marked by a presentation from the **Nurture Committee, Exploring Possibilities for Ministry with Children and Youth: No Matter the Size of your Congregation.** Presbytery was inspired and challenged by the words of Teaching Elder, Ed Bowen, Parish Associate First Presbyterian Church, Huntington. Dr. Bowen shared his ministry to the community of the Cabwaylingo Chapel. Teaching Elder, Joanne Glaser, pastor to the Tygarts Valley Parish shared the experience of the Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Church with an afterschool program which has grown to serve 60 children. Finally, Teaching Elder, Elise Neal, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, told of the importance of youth ministry and her experiences as both leader and a youth of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

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

Janice Johnson, committee chair, presented the report of the **Vocations Committee.** The committee recommended approval of the continuation of Eric Springer (First Presbyterian, Huntington) as an Inquirer. The recommendation was approved.

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by chair, Cinda Harkless, recommended that there be no increase in salary for the Minimum Terms of Call for Installed Pastors and Certified Church Educators for 2015. The recommendation was approved.

The morning concluded with a blessing of the **Cluster Shepherds** by **Relations Committee** chair, Nancy Tissue. The following persons are serving as Cluster Shepherds: Frankie McCain (Charleston); Barbara Accord and Robin Ray (Clarksburg); John Arbuckle, Ben Gurley and Carolyn Napier (Greenbrier Valley); Cinda Harkless (Huntington); Joanne Glaser (Mountain Valley); Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke (Parkersburg); Nancy Didway (Teays Valley); Nancy Payne (Beckley). The Logan cluster needs a shepherd and the Beckley cluster is looking for members to join a shepherd team.

The afternoon session began with a hymn accompanied by guitarist, Bryan Roberts and our very own Presby Picker, Paul Romine. Moderator Stewart also led Presbytery in prayer.

The **Vocations Committee** chair, Janice Johnson, led an examination of candidate for ordination, Karen R. Kinney. Ms. Kinney successfully completed her examination and was approved for ordination. Terms of call and a report of the examination for match were provided by **Ministry Committee** chair, Cinda Harkless. Ms. Kinney will serve as the pastor of the Glenville Presbyterian Church.

**Treasurer** Lois Coffey presented the financial reports. David Lee, **Stewardship Committee** chair, presented the 2015 Budget. Rev. Lee highlighted and explained several increases for 2015. He shared with presbytery the financial stresses from decreases in membership and churches withholding funds. Presbytery approved the proposed budget for 2015 of \$799,350 and the budget support Option 1 recommended by the committee. (The support options may be viewed on the presbytery website, see presbytery packet.)

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

**General Assembly Commissioners** Jim Musgrave, Amy Wallace Parker, Robin Ray, Jim Rowe, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Elly Maddy reported on the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

Sharon Rowe presented the report of the **Administration Committee.** The retirement of **Lois Coffey**, Financial Administrator and Treasurer was recognized with a song, Sixteen Years, written by Pam Ferrell. Pam performed the song with presbytery joining in for the refrain. Presbytery honored Lois with a gift in her honor to the music program of her church and cards from church treasurers throughout presbytery. Lois honored presbytery by asking all current and former staff members to play chimes leading presbytery in a hymn.

The committee presented the current job description for the Financial Administrator/Treasurer and recommended Mr. Rockland L. Poole to be approved as Financial Administrator/Treasurer starting September 1, 2014. The recommendation was approved.

The **Nominating Committee** report was given by Terry Cunningham. Teaching Elder, Peter Vial, was elected as **Moderator Elect** for 2015. In addition the committee chairs for 2015 were elected as well as people to serve on several other Presbytery and Synod committees.

The **Leadership Team** presented for approval the dates of the 2015 Presbytery Meetings (listed at the conclusion of the *Digest*). The dates were approved. Presbytery approved the recommendation of the team that all employing organizations pay full healthcare and pension dues for participating members and their dependents. Ministry Committee will consider exceptions and assist congregations needing financial assistance. The new Presbytery Logo and Mission Statement were approved.

The **Trustees** recommended for approval both a loan from the Presbyterian Church (USA) as part of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program for \$48,000 for the First Presbyterian Church, Williamstown and a guaranty by Presbytery for the loan. The recommendations were approved.