

brief liturgy that ended with prayer for Ms. Stone. The Vocations Committee continues its work to oversee the re-payment of loans from the McClintic Fund.

Additional written reports included in the presbytery packet were received from the **Interim Executive Presbyter**.

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Fife.

Upcoming Events

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

Play-o-logy, Experience God through the Art of Play
August 15, Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Neighborhood Experience Workshop, 1001 Worshiping Communities
August 28, Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

Elementary School Retreat, September 18-20, Bluestone Camp & Retreat

Next Stated Meeting

Saturday, August 29, at Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

Additional 2015 Presbytery Meetings

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

June 11, 2015

The Presbytery met at Davis and Elkins College, Elkins, with **Moderator** Randy Fife presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the President of Davis and Elkins College, Dr. Michael P. Mihalyo, Jr. The **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, welcomed new Teaching Elder Monica Styron who is serving as Interim Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown. Ruling Elders attending their first Presbytery meeting as a commissioner were introduced. Ms. Wright declared a **quorum** present with 48 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 42 churches. Presbytery approved the election of Recording Clerk Pro Tem, Ruling Elder George Lilley.

Following the approval of the **docket**, the Moderator called on **Mission Committee** chair, Greg Kubar, who made a recommendation that the worship offering go to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) for Texas flood relief. The motion was approved. The offering totaled \$1,010.

The **Consent Agenda** was approved. Items on the consent agenda included the approval of excused absences, the approval of an Interim Ministry Covenant and the approval of session moderators. In addition, covenants and a covenant renewal for Commissioned Ruling Elders were approved. The request for the Honorable Retirement of W.D. Hasty, Jr. was approved. The Pastor Compensation Report was approved.

Moderator Fife appointed **Temporary Clerks**: Teaching Elders Doug Jenkins and Amy Wallace Parker, and Ruling Elders Donnie Corbin and Karen Robinson. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee**.

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 Resource Center at the presbytery office.

The morning was marked by a presentation from the **Leadership Team** task force on new worshiping communities. The presenter was Vera White, National Associate for **1001 Worshiping Communities** which is a missional vision to transform the church, begun by the 220th General Assembly in June 2012 that declared a commitment to a church wide movement to result in the creation of 1001 worshiping communities in

the next 10 years. Ms. White shared her passion for this new vision through several videos and her witness. Members of Presbytery were invited to a **Neighborhood Experience Workshop** on August 28 at the Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg.

Presbytery **worshipped** together under the leadership of the Rev. Kevin Starcher and members of the now forming worshipping community at Davis and Elkins College. Students Ashlen Wilson, Elise Cardot, and AJ Ballsrud led presbytery in music and liturgy as well as a proclamation of the scripture in discussion form. Rev. Starcher was the celebrant for communion.

The afternoon session began with prayer led by Moderator Fife.

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

The **Leadership Team** chair, Joan Stewart, presented the first reading of the recommended revised Manual of Administrative Operations for the Presbytery. The revision reflects a refinement of the 2013 Manual that exhibited changes to the Book of Order and the Presbytery's Jeremiah 29:11 mission study. The revised covenant for the **Friends of Bluestone** was also approved.

Dexter Taylor shared the report of the **Administrative Commission** to dissolve the Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church, Sinks Grove. Presbytery approved the recommendations of the commission. A celebration of the Ministry and Witness of the church was led by Moderator Fife, Dexter Taylor and Stated Clerk Wright. The brief history of the church presented by Rev. Taylor will be included in the permanent record of the meeting.

Mr. Steve Hopta of the **Trustees** presented the committee's recommendation to sell the real estate at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church to the trustees of the church for \$50,000. The recommendation was approved.

Moderator Fife called on Rev. Stewart and **Worshipping Community Task Force** chair, Nancy Didway, who gave away door prizes from 1001 Worshipping Communities, West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps, Montreat, and the Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team.

Nurture Committee chair, Kari Preslar, invited presbyters to take advantage of the opportunities highlighted in the handouts for the meeting including the John Bell Event on June 19-20 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston. Ms. Preslar also shared the dates of several annual events including the Older Youth Retreat November 13-15, the Educator, Clergy, CRE Retreat February 22-23, 2016 and the Festival of Faith Event April 2, 2016. (Please see "Upcoming Events".)

Dave Lee, **Stewardship Committee** chair, detailed some financial concerns that the Presbytery is facing and will face. He shared that both the committee and the Leadership Team are exploring possibilities for a plan of financial sustainability for Presbytery with an emphasis on resourcing relationships. **Treasurer** Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

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

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by chair Cinda Harkless, recommended that the proposed *Policy on those Serving as Interim Pastor Becoming the Next Installed Pastor of a Congregation*. The recommendation was approved. A *Leave Policy* was recommended. After discussion Presbytery sent the policy back to committee for further work. The committee also recommended a commission be appointed to close the Mingo Presbyterian Church at their request. The recommendation was approved. A time of commissioning for Commissioned Ruling Elders Jim Irwin to First Presbyterian Church, Hinton, and Jim Musgrave to First Presbyterian Church, Williamson and Gilbert Presbyterian Church was led by Rev. Harkless and Moderator Fife.

The **Nominating Committee** report was given by Terry Cunningham. Ruling Elder Larry Davis of the Clifton Presbyterian Church was elected to serve on the Relations Committee, Class of 2016 and Teaching Elder Karen Kinney was elected to serve on the Stewardship Committee, Class of 2017. The committee is accepting applications for **General Assembly Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate** to the 222nd Assembly in June 2016. The deadline to apply is September 30. Applications are available on the Presbytery website (<http://www.wvpresbytery.org/>) or by calling the office (304-744-7634).

Moderator Fife once again called on Rev. Stewart and Rev. Didway who presented additional door prizes.

Greg Kubar, chair of the **Mission Committee**, presented for approval a covenant between the Presbytery and Davis-Stuart, Inc. The covenant which strengthens the historic tie between Presbytery and Davis-Stuart who provides therapeutic residential care for adolescents was approved.

The **Vocations Committee** chair, Janice Fraser, introduced Elizabeth Stone. Ms. Stone has been an Inquirer under care of the Presbytery of West Virginia. Ms. Stone has recently shared with her session and the committee her understanding of Christian vocation in the Reformed Tradition and how it relates to her sense of call; she has shared her understanding of what it means to be Presbyterian and written a Statement of Faith. The committee recommended that Ms. Stone become a candidate under care of the Presbytery. Following her successful answering of several questions, Presbytery approved the recommendation. Moderator Fife led a