

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by chair Cinda Harkless, recommended the proposed *Leave Policy*. The recommendation was approved. She also presented the Terms of Call for Andrew Rice to serve the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Hillsboro. The terms were approved. Rev. Rice came to the Presbytery with the *For Such A Time as This* program.

Interim Executive Presbyter, Forrest Palmer, highlighted his reflections on the question, who is presbytery? Through the work and witness of the presbytery, we are all “the presbytery”! He also shared the news of the birth of twin grandsons.

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Fife.

Upcoming Events

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

Disaster Preparedness Training

September 12-13, First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston

Healthy Boundaries Workshop

September 26, Presbytery of West Virginia Office, South Charleston

Telling Our God Stories with John Vest

October 3, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Next Stated Meeting

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
Rocky Poole Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Craig Butler Transitional Associate for Congregational Development
Barbara Chalfant Associate for Mission
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

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Presbytery Digest

Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia

August 29, 2015

The Presbytery met at Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg, with **Moderator** Randy Fife presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the Rev. Laryetta Ellis, pastor of the church. Ruling Elders attending their first Presbytery meeting as commissioners were introduced. The **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright declared a **quorum** present with 40 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 53 churches.

Following the approval of the **docket**, the **Consent Agenda** was approved. Items on the consent agenda included the approval of excused absences and approval of communion to be celebrated at the Fall Getaway and the Older Youth Retreat. In addition, the continued Inquirer relationship with Eric Springer was approved; also approved was new Inquirer, Jessica Anderson Lopez. A Temporary Supply covenant, a Commissioned Ruling Elder covenant and a Moderator of Session were approved. The body approved the recommendation of the Ministry Committee that there be no increase in the minimum compensation requirement for Terms of Call for Teaching Elders and Certified Christian Educators.

The **Consent Agenda** also approved the worship offering to be sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance designated for the congregations in South Carolina that have been destroyed by fire in recent months.. The offering totaled \$1,212.

Moderator Fife appointed **Temporary Clerks**: Teaching Elders Janice Fraser and John Koerner, and Ruling Elders Agnes Doyle-Kalland and Joe McMillion. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee**.

Nurture Committee Chair, Kari Preslar, invited Presbytery to attend several upcoming events: *Telling Our God Stories*, Elementary UP events, the Older Youth Retreat and Triennium. **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 **Ministry Committee**, represented by chair Cinda Harkless, led presbytery in a recognition of the Honorable Retirement of W.D. Hasty, Jr., pastor First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield. Rev. Hasty was joined by his wife and partner in ministry, Phyllis.

The morning was marked by the presentation, **Let Us Pray**, led by the **Leadership Team**. Leadership Team chair, Joan Stewart, shared that the team began 2015 by engaging in prayer for the churches, mission and work of the presbytery and its partners. Commissioners and visitors to the meeting were each given two churches for which to pray. Rev. Stewart told those present that the focus on prayer has continued to be woven into all of the team's work. Cinda Harkless, provided witness of the work of prayer and the Holy Spirit through the reading of *Sailboat Church* by the members of the Leadership and a small group in the congregation she pastors, Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church. The presentation continued with the presbytery at prayer: prayers of Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication (**ACTS**).

Presbytery was led in a **Service for Wholeness** based on the service in the Book of Common Worship. Liturgist, Teaching Elder Joanne Glaser, led presbytery's **worship** through prayer and singing. The proclamation of the word offered presbytery a time of reflection on scripture and on images of brokenness and healing. Members of presbytery were anointed by Patricia Jarvis, Karen Kinney, Rob Laukoter, and Todd Wright.

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

George Lilley shared a report from the **General Presbyter Nominating Committee**. The committee has received applications and determined a group of imminently qualified applicants who will be interviewed via technological means. A small number of applicants will be interviewed in person this fall. The committee plans to present a candidate to presbytery for approval at its meeting in December.

Synod Commissioner, John Bolt, presented a visual and spoken report on the history and ongoing ministry of the **Synod of the Trinity**. The Synod continues to discern the best way to lead and serve its presbyteries as it "grows into" its new policy governance structure. Presbytery of West Virginia's second commissioner, David Lee, is a member of the new Synod Governing Commission.

Treasurer Rocky Poole reviewed the financial reports. Dave Lee, **Stewardship Committee** chair, reported that a financial review for 2014 has been completed by Gibbons and Kawash of Charleston; there were no issues or exemptions found. Copies of the review are available by calling the presbytery office. He also shared that the committee has been tasked with establishing a fiscal policy that best serves the presbytery in this season of diminishing membership and resources. Rev. Lee called on the congregations of presbytery to not reduce their Shared Mission Giving. He called on presbytery to remember, "We have been called, redeemed and equipped for such a time as this". A motion was made and approved to include Rev. Lee's remarks in the minutes of the meeting.

The afternoon session began with a hymn and prayer led by Moderator Fife.

The **Leadership Team** report was made by **Moderator Elect**, Peter Vial, who began with a presentation of the second 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 Manual was approved as printed.

Following an overview of the overture process by **Stated Clerk**, Ms. Wright, Rev. Vial led presbytery in considering two overtures: one sent by the Session of the St. Andrew Church, Pinch, regarding a new chapter for the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity in the Book of Order that focused on scripture and another sent by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church, Logan, that asked the General Assembly to rescind the actions of the 221st Assembly regarding the divestment of funds as relates to Israel. The presbytery heard recommendation from the **Overture Task Force** appointed by the Leadership Team. Presbytery declined to send these overtures to the General Assembly.

The Leadership Team report concluded with the presentation of certificates to those who had completed the **Institute for Leaders in Ministry**. The pastoral leaders honored were Pat Collier (in absentia), Barbara Hopta, James Riggs (in absentia) and Sarah Specht.

The **Nominating Committee** report was given by Terry Cunningham. Ruling Elder Susan Perry, First Presbyterian, Logan, was elected to serve on as the Moderator Elect for 2016. Eight committee chairs for 2016 were elected. Ms. Cunningham reminded presbytery that applications for commissioners to the 222nd General Assembly are being accepted through September 30. (See the presbytery website for details.)

Bluestone Committee chair, John McKinnon, was joined by Bluestone Director, Mark Miller, as the committee's report was made. Presbytery heard about the number of campers who participated in this summer's camping program (234) including the 30 children who were sponsored by Send-A-Kid to camp. Interested members of presbytery were invited to make donations to the Send-A-Kid to camp program.

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

Greg Kubar, chair of the **Mission Committee**, introduced Mark Spangler, director of presbytery partner **Davis-Stuart, Inc.**, who briefly shared the mission and ministry of the therapeutic residential care facility for adolescents. Barbara Chalfant highlighted upcoming events: Disaster Preparedness Training and the West Virginia Healthy Faith Summit.