

Voted: on the report of the **Nominating Committee**; Sue Chenoweth, Ruling Elder from Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins was elected to serve on the Nurture Committee in the Class of 2020.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Parker.

For more information about reports, opportunities or events please see the website or call the presbytery office.

Upcoming Events

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

2018 Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Events

March 16, 2018 – Evangelism
April 17, 2018 – Mental Illness Awareness & Response
June 2, 2018 – Leading Congregations through Change
September 8 – Biblical Storytelling
October 27 - Preaching

State of Appalachia Conference 2018

Sponsored by West Virginia Council of Churches & others

March 23-24, 2018 at Pipestem Resort State Park

www.stateofappalachia.org

Festival of Faith

April 7, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Keynote Speaker: Jan Edmiston, Co-Moderator Presbyterian Church (USA)

Additional 2018 Presbytery Meetings

Thursday, May 17, at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Saturday, August 18, at First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont

Thursday, November 15, at Ronceverte Presbyterian Church, Ronceverte

Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Ed Thompson General Presbyter
Maureen Wright Stated Clerk & Associate for Congregational Support
Rocky Poole Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Susan Sharp Campbell Associate for Educational Ministry
Barbara Chalfant Associate for Mission
Nellie Howard Resource Center Director
Mark Miller Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Director of Facilities
Amy Robinson Director of Communications/Office Administrator
Sarah Specht Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Program Director

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

Presbytery Highlights

Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia

February 24, 2018

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Huntington, with **Moderator** Amy Wallace Parker presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the **Rev. Skip Seibel**, pastor of the church. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Listened to a presentation from 2017 Leadership Team Chair, George Lilley, and 2018 Leadership Team Chair, Susan Perry regarding the work of that team to develop a Presbytery Strategic Plan for 2018-2023. Following the presentation, the Presbytery divided into small groups to discuss the proposed plan.

Heard announcements from: Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources and encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center Display and to come by the center at the Presbytery office; Amy Robinson, **Director of Communications/Office Administrator**, invited churches to participate in the upcoming workshop on website building on March 10, and Susan Sharp Campbell, **Associate for Educational Ministry**, regarding upcoming Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox courses in Evangelism and Mental Health.

Worshipped with Pat Collier (Commissioned Ruling Elder, serving First, Kenova), who preached the sermon and with John Yeager (Commissioned Ruling Elder, serving Winfield) as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Chris Bailey (Campus Pastor, Marshall University) and Bonnie Boyce (Honorably Retired) presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The service included special music provided by Dale Capehart and organ music by Sandee Folsom.

Celebrated the lives and service of Ruling Elders and Ministers of Word and Sacrament who died in 2017.

Received an offering of \$972.45 for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Cents-Ability Offering directed to the support of food pantries throughout the presbytery.

Introduced new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Guy Richard "Rich" Cardot** who is now serving as the pastor of the Valley Parish: Belington, Beverly, Mill Creek, and Tygarts Valley Presbyterian Churches.

Approved the **Consent Agenda** which included such items as the requests for excused absences; celebration of the Lord's Supper at two upcoming events at Bluestone Camp and Retreat; continuing Jay Nunley as an Inquirer; new and renewed pastoral covenants for Stated Supply pastors, Commissioned Ruling Elders and Lay Supply Pastors; session moderators; and an Authorized Lay Preacher to

administer the Lord's Supper for 2018. The designation for the offering was also approved.

Received the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, that included approval, as allowed by the Presbytery Manual, by the Moderator, Leadership Team Chair, Chair of Trustees and Stated Clerk for the sale of the Montgomery Church property, a parcel of land held by First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown, and the Rock Forge Presbyterian Church manse.

Acted on the recommendations of the Negotiating Team of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Hurricane. Approved the dismissal of the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians, effective March 16, 2018. Due to the fact that the congregation is vacating the church property and is taking few furnishing and resources as well as leaving supplies to complete the bathroom addition, the presbytery approved a motion to forgive the church's outstanding Per Capita and mission giving.

Heard the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Rev. Thompson greeted the body and thanked First Presbyterian Church for its ministry. He reminded the body of the need to focus on adult baptism which is one marker of church vitality. He reported on the desire of the Presbytery to hear from its churches and highlighted the upcoming **Listening to our Churches, Strengthening our Partnership** events scheduled throughout the Presbytery. He lifted up specific individuals for pastoral care and concern. His report concluded with the introduction of new staff member, Sarah Specht who serves as **Bluestone Program Director**.

Heard greetings from the **Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary** brought by A.B. Rhodes Associate Professor of Old Testament and Faculty Director of the Louisville Grawemeyer Award, Tyler Mayfield. Dr. Mayfield shared the seminary's commitment to give scholarships or 100% tuition grants to all masters level students. He also shared ways the seminary is building bridges with churches.

Listened to the report of the **Leadership Team** and approved its recommendation to form an Administrative Commission to explore and discern the best use of the property vacated by the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant upon its dismissal. The Moderator appointed the following members of the commission: Laura Boggess, Ruling Elder, Teays Valley; Laura Brekke, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Chaplain, Davis & Elkins College; Nancy Didway, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Highlawn, St. Albans; Nate Garver-Daniels, Ruling Elder, Davis Memorial, Elkins; Kevin Geurink, Minister of Word and Sacrament, First, Logan.

Listened to the report of the **Moderator Elect**, Steve Hornbeck, regarding a request from the Palo Duro Presbytery to concur with their overture to the General Assembly. The overture calls for the Presbyterian Mission Agency to develop a department dedicated solely to the ministry and mission of the small church.

Following the report, a motion was made and seconded to concur with the overture. The motion was approved. The Leadership Team was directed to prepare a rationale to accompany the overture.

Heard a report from the new **Bluestone Program Director**, Sarah Specht. Ms. Specht reflected on why she applied for and accepted this new position as Program Director and shared her plans for expanding Bluestone's ministry. She concluded with ways that churches and individuals can help Bluestone, especially calling on those present to **send kids to Bluestone for camp!**

Listened to a report of the **Nurture Committee** by Kari Preslar who highlighted Festival of Faith, the Younger Youth Retreat, and this summer's Montreat Youth Conference. Youth Council applications will be emailed to churches in March as well as applications for college loans and grants through the Riner Fund.

Voted on a recommendation from the **Trustees** presented by Jim Robinson for Presbytery to act as guarantor for an Energy Efficiency Loan by Spencer Presbyterian Church from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to install solar panels on the church roof.

Viewed the pictorial **Moment for Stewardship** from the Stewardship Committee, thanking churches, Presbytery committees and staff for their service to the ministry and mission of the Presbytery.

Listened to the report of the **Mission Committee**. Barbara Chalfant, **Associate for Mission**, distributed a survey regarding the Older Adult Newsletter. She updated Presbytery on plans for potential flooding. Joan Stewart shared an update of the work of West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) and thanked Presbytery for their support.

Listened to **Good News from the Pews** where Ruling Elder Commissioners from churches throughout the presbytery shared good news of mission and ministry.

Listened to the report of the **Vocations Committee** from chair, Jim Musgrave, who highlighted the start of a new **Authorized Lay Preacher (ALP)/Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)** preparation program starting in September 2018.

Listened to **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole who presented the financial reports.

Heard the report of the **Ministry Committee** presented by chair, John Koerner. Presbytery approved the requirement that all Pastoral Leaders be required to have criminal and financial background checks prior to approval for service. It also approved required Boundary Training every five years. The Honorable Retirements of David Richards and Paul Romine were celebrated.