

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)

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox: Stewardship

June 2-3, 2017 at Kanawha United Presbyterian, Charleston

Bluestone Camp and Retreat – Week 1

June 11-17, 2017 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

General Assembly Commissioner Application Deadline

June 15, 2017

Bluestone Camp and Retreat – Week 2

June 18-24, 2017 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

Bluestone Camp and Retreat – Week 3

June 25 – July 1, 2017 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

Bluestone Camp and Retreat – Week 4

July 2-8, 2017 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

Next Stated Meeting

Saturday, August 19, at Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins

Final 2017 Presbytery Meeting

Thursday, November 16, at Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg

Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

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| 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..... | Director of Bluestone Camp and Retreat |
| Amy Robinson | Director of Communications/Office Administrator |

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

May 18, 2017

The Presbytery met at Bridgeport Presbyterian Church, Bridgeport, with **Moderator** Susan Perry presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the Rev. Robin Ray, pastor of the church. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Engaged in a celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation through video, quiz bowl and song.

Worshipped with Kim Trisel (Ruling Elder/Certified Associate Christian Educator, First, Fairmont) and Father Benedict Kapa (All Saints Catholic Church, Bridgeport) as liturgists. Teaching Elders Barbara Accord (Davis Memorial, Gassaway) and James Morley (Chaplain, Member at Large) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The service commemorated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Received an offering of \$936 for West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps.

Listened to an announcement from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who shared several new resources including *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey* and *Who Counts?: 100 Sheep, 10 Coins and 2 Sons*. Ms. Howard encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center Display and to visit the center at the Presbytery office.

Approved the **Consent Agenda** which included such items as approving the requests for excused absences, new Terms of Call for installed pastors , renewal of Temporary Supply covenants and renewal of covenants for Ruling Elders Commissioned to a Particular Pastoral Service, session moderators and an Authorized Lay Preacher to officiate at the Lord’s Supper.

Received the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, who updated presbytery on the work with the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Hurricane, session’s request to be dismissed to the Evangelical Order of Presbyterians (ECO). The congregation voted to be dismissed. As

approved by presbytery at its meeting in February a team of three (Teaching Elder Jim Robinson, Ruling Elders Betsy Crockett, and Jack Dilley) are working with three people selected by the church to negotiate a recommendation on the property. The negotiators are waiting for an appraisal of the property. Ms. Wright also shared a chart that records the results of the 2016 Statistical Reports and Session Record Reviews.

Heard the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Rev. Thompson shared the West Virginia Council of Churches' video summarizing the council's listening sessions on substance abuse and encouraged pastoral leaders to attend the council event, Clergy Consultation on Substance Abuse. His report also included joys and concerns from around the Presbytery.

Approved the report of the Administrative Commission to dissolve the McLean Presbyterian Church, Ronceverte. Chair of the commission, Cam Harkness presented the report and called on Ruling Elder, Sam Masters, who shared a brief history of the church.

Approved the report of the Administrative Commission to dissolve the Montgomery Presbyterian Church, Montgomery. Chair of the commission, Doug Jenkins presented the report and directed presbytery to the brief history of the church found in the packet. The report also included highlights of the church's history in pictures.

Approved the report of the Administrative Commission to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church, Terra Alta. Chair of the commission, John Bolt presented the report which included highlights of the church's history in pictures. Clerk of Session, Luther "Bud" Parrack and his wife, were recognized.

Recognized the three dissolved churches with a litany of celebration of their Ministry and Witness; the litany was led by **Moderator**, Susan Perry and **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson.

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

Heard a verbal report of **Bluestone Committee** from committee member, Parry Johnson (Laity, Riverlawn). The committee is working to develop,

update and implement policies that keep all children and youth at Bluestone safe. Mr. Johnson encouraged presbytery to continue to register campers for the upcoming camp season.

Heard the report of the **Ministry Committee** presented by chair, Cinda Harkless. Presbytery unanimously approved the recommendation of the committee that the Rev. Skip Seibel be called as Pastor and Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church, Huntington. The recommendation of the committee to restore Sharon Bell as Minister of Word and Sacrament/Teaching Elder was approved following a time of sharing by Ms. Bell. A time of reaffirmation of Rev. Bell's ordination vows was led by Moderator Perry.

Accepted the financial reports presented by **Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. Mr. Poole shared the 2017 top 20 churches by pledge and the 2017 top 20 churches by giving per member.

Listened to the report of the **Mission Committee**. The committee called on the Director of the **West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps**, Joan Stewart, to share the exciting work going on throughout the presbytery. The **Glenville Presbyterian Church** was recognized by Robin Blakeman of the **Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team Affinity Group**, as a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Earth Care Congregation.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Perry.

For Information: Leadership Team; Nurture, Relations and Vocations Committees; and Trustees provided printed reports. Highlights of these reports include: The **Leadership Team's** request of the Stewardship Committee to develop a budget to be presented to presbytery at its August meeting. The **Vocations Committee** reported the withdrawal of Inquirer Jessica Lopez. The committee also announced a new **Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Ruling Elder** training to begin in September 2018. The **Trustees** granted the request to support First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood's application for a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

The **Nominating Committee** is accepting applications for **General Assembly Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate** through June 15. Contact Terry Cunningham or the Stated Clerk for more information.