

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: Creative Worship in Advent

September 8-9, 2017 at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Small Church Conference

September 23, 2017 at Summersville Presbyterian Church, Summersville

Fall Getaway

October 6-8, 2017 at Bluestone Camp & Retreat, Hinton

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox: Family Systems

October 27-28, 2017 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Next Stated Meeting

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

2018 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, February 24, at First Presbyterian Church, Huntington

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 ThompsonGeneral Presbyter
Maureen WrightStated Clerk & Associate for Congregational Support
Rocky PooleFinancial Administrator/Treasurer
Susan Sharp CampbellAssociate for Educational Ministry
Barbara Chalfant Associate for Mission
Nellie HowardResource 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

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Presbytery Highlights
Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia
August 19, 2017

The Presbytery met at Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins, with **Moderator** Susan Perry presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the Rev. Dr. Peter Vial, pastor of the church. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Introduced: Kevin Geurink who is now serving as the pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Logan. Laura Brekke (San Jose Presbytery) was introduced as the new Chaplain at Davis & Elkins College. Jim Burton (New Harmony Presbytery) who is serving as Interim Pastor at the Beckley Presbyterian Church and Casey Lieneman (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) who is serving as Interim Pastor at the Church of the Covenant, Grafton were seated as Corresponding members for the duration of their service.

Approved the **Consent Agenda** which included such items as approving the requests for excused absences, new Terms of Call for an installed pastor, an Authorized Lay Preacher to administer the Lord's Supper, new and renewed pastoral covenants, session moderators, minimum compensation, waiver of rotation of officers and a required criminal background check for all new pastoral leaders. The celebration of the Lord's Supper was approved for the Fall Getaway at Bluestone.

Heard reports on the Flood Recovery work of **West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW)**. Stephen Baldwin, pastor of the Ronceverte Presbyterian Church, introduced a video on the recovery efforts in Greenbrier County that focuses on one family's journey. Paul Romine, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans, shared his reflections as Chair of the Board of Directors of WVMAW. David Bush, pastor at Winfield Presbyterian Church and site director for WVMAW spoke about his work in the Clendenin and Elk View areas. Much has been accomplished but there is more work to be done. Individuals and congregations who would like to participate may contact Joan Stewart, Director of WVMAW.

Worshipped with Rev. Joan Stewart (Minister of Word and Sacrament, Summersville) who preached the sermon and with Lauren Jarroll (Ruling Elder, Summersville) as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament David Bush (Honorably Retired, Winfield) and Rebecca Mihm (Fleming Memorial, Fairmont)

presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The service included a Blessing of Hands.

Received an offering of \$924 for **Cents-Ability** which is a part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program that works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes.

Listened to announcements from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources and encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center Display and to visit the center at the Presbytery office. Perry Johnson from the Bluestone Committee invited everyone present to attend the **Fall Getaway** on October 6-8.

Received the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, who made a motion that the Moderator appoint an Administrative Commission to dissolve the **McElhenney Presbyterian Church** at their request. Ms. Wright 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. A report is expected at the November meeting.

Heard the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Rev. Thompson's report began with the number 29. The median membership number for churches in the Presbytery is 29. As pastoral leadership for our smaller churches is challenging, there will be a new **Authorized Lay Preacher (ALP)/Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) preparation program** starting in September 2018. He also challenged churches to reflect on their legacy. His report continued with the number 45, the number of ordained, non-retired clergy who are members of the Presbytery who are serving as pastors. The Leadership Team is currently exploring how this impacts our committee structure. Rev. Thompson concluded with the number 16; the number of churches searching for pastoral leadership. His report also included joys and concerns from around the Presbytery.

Approved the 2018 Budget as presented by **Stewardship Committee** chair, Karen Kinney. Treasurer, Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

Heard the report of the **Nominating Committee** as given by Terry Cunningham, chair. Steve Hornbeck, Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church, Buckhannon, was elected **Moderator Elect**. The committee chairs for 2018 were elected. Rebecca Mihm, Minister of Word and Sacrament, Fleming Memorial, was elected as **Synod Commissioner**. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Susan Sharp Campbell (Frankford Presbyterian Church) and Larryetta Ellis (Edgewood Presbyterian Church) and Ruling Elders John Bolt (First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown) and

Randy Fife (Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston) were elected as **General Assembly Commissioners**.

Reviewed the revisions to the *Statement of Purpose and Policy for Presbytery of West Virginia Events Involving Children Youth and Persons with Disabilities* presented by the **Nurture Committee** and adopted the updated policy. Presbytery was also invited to attend **Soul Shop** on November 30 which focuses on Suicide Prevention.

Heard the first **Minute for Stewardship** from the Stewardship Committee that focused on the generosity shared since 2016 to engage in the ministry of flood recovery.

Received the report of the **Leadership Team** and elected Terry Cunningham as the 2018 **Nominating Committee** chair and Minister of Word and Sacrament, Bob Wood (Fayetteville Presbyterian Church) to serve on that committee in the class of 2020. Presbytery approved the dates and locations of its meetings for 2018 which are listed at the conclusion of these highlights.

Learned about the **Small Church Conference** on September 23 at the Summersville Presbyterian Church. All are invited to attend. Register by calling the Presbytery office.

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

Approved the recommendation by the **Trustees** that the expenses incurred by the Presbytery as managers of the Brush Creek, Montgomery and First, Terra Alta properties be reimbursed to the 2017 general fund from the \$17,000 payment for the McLean Presbyterian Church property.

Listened to the report of the **Mission Committee**. The committee is planning a trip to **Nyeri Presbytery** in Kenya in January 2018. Those interested in joining the trip should contact the Presbytery Office immediately.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Perry.

For Information: Bluestone and Vocations Committees provided printed reports. Highlights of these reports include: The **Bluestone Committee** summarized the spring retreat season, summer camping season, summer retreats, infrastructure improvements and financial implications. The **Vocations Committee** reported on their work regarding the repayment of loans from the McClintic Fund and the start of a new **Authorized Lay Preacher (ALP)/Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) preparation program** starting in September 2018.