

Presbytery Digest
 Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia
 February 20, 2016

The **Leadership Team** report included a report of **Overture Task Force**. The Presbytery received requests for concurrence to three Overtures to the General Assembly: Overture 38 *On Supporting the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Regarding Protecting Individuals from Violence and Discrimination*, Overture 28 *On Celebrating the Completion of the Six-Year Discernment on Peacemaking*, and Overture 30 *On Choosing to be a Church Committed to the Gospel of Matthew 25*. At the recommendation of the Task Force Presbytery took no action to concur with the overtures.

General Presbyter, Ed Thompson, shared with presbytery, asking for prayers, patience and invitations to presbytery churches. He expressed thanks to the General Presbyter Nominating Committee, the Installation Commission and to the staff. He introduced staff members stating “we are here to serve you”.

The Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Vial.

Upcoming Events

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

Festival of Faith

April 2, 2016, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Small Church Conference

April 30, 2016, Fayetteville Presbyterian Church, Fayetteville

Next Stated Meeting

Thursday, May 19 at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

Additional 2016 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, August 20 at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

Thursday, November 17 at First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans

Digest Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Ed Thompson	General Presbyter
Maureen Wright.....	Stated Clerk
Rocky Poole	Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Susan Sharp Campbell	Associate for Educational Ministry
Barbara Chalfant	Associate for Mission
Nellie Howard	Resource Center Director
Mark Parsons-Justice	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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The Presbytery met at Beechwood Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg, with **Moderator** Peter Vial presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by the Rev. Rick Johnson, Pastor of the church. The **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, welcomed new Teaching Elders Kyle Key who is serving as Pastor of the Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot, and Ed Thompson who is serving as **General Presbyter**. Ruling Elders attending their first Presbytery meeting as commissioners were introduced. Ms. Wright declared a **quorum** present with 41 Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners from 41 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 the celebration of communion at the Spring Getaway at Bluestone. In addition, covenant renewals for Ruling Elders Commissioned to Particular Pastoral Service, Temporary Supply Pastors and Stated Supply Pastors were approved. Terms of Call for Kyle Key were approved as well as a Temporary Supply Covenant. Requests for the waiver of rotation of officers and an Installation Commission were approved.

The **Consent Agenda** also approved the worship offering to be sent to the Young Adult Volunteer Program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The offering totaled \$923.

Moderator Vial appointed **Temporary Clerks**: Teaching Elders Nancy Didway and Pat Ryan, and Ruling Elders Kathryn McCrary and Larry Napier. The Moderator also appointed Leadership Team members present as the **Bills and Overtures Committee**.

The **Administration Committee**, represented by Sharon Rowe, led presbytery in recognition of Leslie Curtis, former Office Administrator, for her service to the presbytery.

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. **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Director**, Mark Miller, shared upcoming events at Bluestone and invited commissioners to pick up summer camp brochures.

The morning was marked by a presentation on the **Young Adult Volunteer Program** led by Blake Collins. Mr. Collins shared that the program places young adults from ages 19 to 30 to live in intentional Christian community, deepening and developing their faith while serving alongside partners in sites across the United States and around the world. Young Adult Volunteers serve for one academic year, August - July, as they explore God's calling in their lives. Mr. Collins challenged those present to return to their congregations and reflect on the question, how are we engaging young people in the church?

Presbytery **worship** included the celebration of communion and the installation of Ed Thompson as **General Presbyter**. The members of the **Installation Commission** were Teaching Elders Cinda Harkless, Amy Parker, and Peter Vial. Ruling Elder members of the commission were George Lilley, Jim Musgrave and Cyndi Taylor. Ed Thompson preached the sermon. The charge to Dr. Thompson was given by Amy Parker. Cinda Harkless charged the Presbytery. Communion celebrants were Ed Thompson and Maureen Wright.

The afternoon session began with the necrology, a time of celebration of the lives and service of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders who died in 2015. This liturgy was led by **Nurture Committee** chair, Kari Preslar, and member 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.

Bluestone Committee chair, John McKinnon, presented the committee's report. Rev. McKinnon made a motion to approve the celebration of communion at the Guy's Weekend on April 24 with Teaching Elder Rob Laukoter as celebrant. The motion was approved. The following were included as items of information to presbytery: the remodeling of three cabins continues, Friends of Bluestone continues its fundraising efforts in support of Bluestone, and Bluestone Conference Center Incorporated gathered for its annual meeting in September, 2015.

The **Nurture Committee** led presbytery in viewing a video featuring **Triennium**. Triennium is focused on equipping young people to be transformational Christian leaders and seeks to join with the home churches of the attendees to help call young people into deeper discipleship in Jesus Christ. It is a high energy, biblically infused, and focused gathering of youth from across the Presbyterian Church (USA) at Purdue University. The event will take place July 19-23. All churches are invited to send youth to participate in the presbytery sponsored trip.

The **Mission Committee** report began with Robin Blakeman of the **Stewardship of Creation Ministry Team** who shared that the team is available to provide workshops for churches, clusters, clergy groups, and Presbyterian Women's gatherings on water prevention and energy conservation! The committee also recognized Josh Sowards of **Heathy Bodies Healthy Spirits** who shared the mission of this group which is *Building a dream taking on a mission: West Virginia*

off the top of the worst health lists. Those present were encouraged to register to become part of the network that connects West Virginians of faith with "how to" resources to help create healthier churches and communities.

Treasurer, Rocky Poole, reviewed the financial reports.

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

Sharon Rowe, **Administration Committee** chair, introduced the new Office Administrator, Mark Parsons-Justice. Mr. Parsons-Justice comes to us with a wealth of experience in working with churches in a variety of capacities. He formerly served as a pastor, church music director, and youth director in The United Methodist Church. Currently, Mark is the Director of Music at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church where he directs the adult choir, plays piano each Sunday, and writes and arranges music for the choir and congregation.

The **Ministry Committee**, represented by chair Cinda Harkless, recommended approval of the request from Barbara Romfo, Teaching Elder, to be released from the exercise of ordered ministry as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Following approval, Rev. Harkless led presbytery in a time of celebration of Ms. Romfo's ministry that included a blessing for her continued journey of faith, prayer, and the singing of a hymn. Teaching Elder Laryetta Ellis invited presbytery to the **Small Church Conference** on April 30 at the Fayetteville Presbyterian Church.

The **Nominating Committee** report was given by Terry Cunningham. Teaching Elder Forest R. "Rick" Johnson (Class of 2016) and Ruling Elder Jorn Ott from the Beckley Presbyterian Church (Class of 2018) were elected to serve on the Mission Committee. Ruling Elder John Nesius from First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, (Class of 2019) and Teaching Elder Charla Waters Koerner (Class of 2021) were elected to the Permanent Judicial Commission. Ruling Elder Kari Preslar was elected to serve on the Leadership Team in the Class of 2017.

The **Leadership Team** report was made by chair, Randy Fife. The team met in retreat in January to discuss the book *UnChristian* by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons. The subtitle of the book is "What a new generation thinks about Christianity" which offered the starting point for discussion by the team of how the presbytery and its churches are reaching out to youth and young adults. The team also engaged in an exercise to "count the blessings" of the presbytery through asset mapping. The Leadership Team is engaged in a review of the budget process and how the budget is communicated to members of presbytery. This group will report at the May meeting of presbytery. The Leadership Team also appointed a group to review the process of receiving, reviewing, and acting on Overtures and Overture Concurrences to the General Assembly.