

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

September 8 – Biblical Storytelling

October 27 – Preaching

PLAY-O-LOGY

August 25, 2018 at Summersville Presbyterian Church, Summersville
Experiencing God through the Art of Play: family night suppers, simple & purposeful art activities, and “Pew Play Shh”.

Presby Prep

Starting September 2018 – Seven Courses, Monthly, Three Locations
Focused on In-depth Leadership Education – Open to All
Required for All Candidates for the Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

2018 Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox – Biblical Storytelling

Led by Tracy Radosevic, Professional Biblical Storyteller
September 8, 2018 – Village Chapel Presbyterian Church

Additional 2018 Presbytery Meetings

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 ChalfantAssociate for Mission
Nellie HowardResource Center Director
Mark Miller.....Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Director of Facilities
Amy Robinson Director of Communications/Office Administrator
Sarah SpechtBluestone 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
May 17, 2018

The Presbytery met at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston, with **Moderator** Amy Wallace Parker presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Moderator. The Presbytery was welcomed by **Todd Wright**, pastor of the church. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Approved the **Consent Agenda** which included such items as the requests for excused absences; granting Inquirer status to Mark Parsons-Justice, a member of Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church; new and renewed pastoral covenants for Stated Supply pastors and Commissioned Ruling Elders; a request for a Designated Pastor from Clifton Presbyterian Church; Honorable Retirements; Terms of Call and session moderators. The designation for the offering was also approved.

Listened to three presentations from our Mission Partners: Jeff Allen, Executive Director of the **West Virginia Council of Churches**; Andy Ceperley, President of the Board of Directors of the **Presbyterian Housing Board of West Virginia**; and Elise Neal, President of the **Westminster Foundation**.

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**, who provided an update on the Presbytery Directory, and Susan Sharp Campbell, **Associate for Educational Ministry**, regarding upcoming Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox courses on Leading Your Church Amid Change and Biblical Storytelling.

Worshipped with Cinda Harkless (minister, serving Beverly Hills), who preached the sermon and with Jim Sothen (ruling elder, South Park) as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Claire Butler (minister serving First, Ripley and First United, Ravenswood) and Patterson Lyles (minister serving Kanawha United) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The service included music provided by Sharon Curnutte, Don Parker, and Caroline Perrine.

Received an offering of \$890 for the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s General Assembly opening worship offering. The offering will go to free prisoners in the St. Louis community who have been jailed merely for their inability to pay fines levied for minor offenses. In addition a new opportunity to impact the communities of our host churches was begun. Presbytery host churches will now designate an item that may be brought to the meeting to support a local mission. Village Chapel had asked

for toilet paper as part of their support of Common Grounds, a food pantry serving Eastern Kanawha County. 735 rolls of toilet paper were donated.

Received the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, which shared that the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) had met on March 1 and elected Rick McGuire as Moderator and Cinda Harkless as Clerk. The PJC also participated in the Synod of the Trinity's PJC training. The 2017 minutes of the Presbytery were reviewed by the Synod of the Trinity on April 26 and were approved without exception or delinquency.

Heard the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Dr. Thompson congratulated Moderator Amy Wallace Parker on her the completion of her Doctor of Ministry degree from Wesley Seminary and staff member, Barbara Chalfant, who completed the Older Adult Certificate Program from Columbia Seminary. He thanked Village Chapel for their hospitality and thanked the South Park and Westminster churches for their gifts of morning refreshments and water for the journey home. He celebrated the participation of two students from Davis & Elkins in the PC (U.S.A.)'s Young Adult Volunteer Program. Dr. Thompson highlighted that seven of eight *Listening to Our Churches, Strengthening Our Partnership* conversations have taken place with two issues raised often: reaching younger generations and the opioid epidemic. He lifted up three projects being focused on by Presbytery leaders: shortening time between pastors, training ruling elders, and revising the Presbytery manual.

Approved the recommendations of the **Administrative Commission** to dissolve the **McElhenney Presbyterian Church** in Grassy Meadows. The remaining funds of the church will be divided between Davis Stuart and Bluestone Camp and Retreat. The property will be transferred to the McElhenney Community Church. A celebratory event for Presbytery, former members of the church and members of the McElhenney Community Church will be planned for the summer. A celebration of the life and ministry of the church will take place at the November 15 meeting of Presbytery in Ronceverte.

Voted on a recommendation from the **Leadership Team** that in response to Synod of the Trinity funding changes, Westminster Foundation be asked to serve on behalf of the Presbytery to oversee campus ministries within our bounds and to administer and disperse funds the Presbytery receives from the Synod for these campus ministries. The Westminster Foundation will make an annual report to Presbytery.

Enjoyed a skit presented by the **Relations Committee** outlining their work. Committee Chair, Elizabeth Campbell Maleke, encouraged churches to contact her to set up a triennial visit with a member of the committee.

Heard the report of the **Nominating Committee** as given by Terry Cunningham, chair. Terri Giles, Natalie King and Zac Morton were elected to serve on the Bluestone Committee. Jean Summerfield and Cyndi Taylor were elected to serve

on the Ministry Committee. Jessica Leech was elected to serve on the Nurture Committee and Leslie Bremar was elected to serve on the Relations Committee.

Commissioned John Bolt, Susan Sharp Campbell, Larryetta Ellis and Randy Fife, elected as General Assembly Commissioners and Paul Brady, elected as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 223rd General Assembly. Moderator Parker led the Presbytery in a liturgy of commissioning that also included Ed Thompson and Maureen Wright who will serve as Floor Parliamentarians at the assembly.

Heard 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 the **Moment for Stewardship** presented by Stewardship Committee Chair, Karen Kinney. Rev. Kinney shared that Stewardship grows out of and is guided by mission. She highlighted the ways in which those present have been touched by the Shared Mission of the Presbytery.

Heard the report of the **Mission Committee** given by committee chair, Bob McCutcheon. Dr. McCutcheon highlighted items from their written report including the Cents-Ability grants for direct food aid and community gardens. He shared that there was extensive flooding in our partner presbytery, Nyeri, Kenya, Africa. Barbara Chalfant shared that \$127.34 was collected for the Cents-Ability program during lunch. All churches are encouraged to participate in the program.

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

Listened to a report of the **Nurture Committee** given by Kari Preslar, committee chair. The committee recommended a *Strategy for Inclusivity*. The strategy was adopted following several changes. The strategy encourages the Presbytery to consider the needs of all of God's children in planning events including differently abled children, youth and adults, and members of the LBGTQ community.

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

Heard the report of the **Ministry Committee** presented by committee member, Peter Vial. Presbytery approved the dissolution of the Orgas Presbyterian Church, instructing the Trustees to transfer the property. The request from the Church of the Covenant, Grafton, to call Casey Lieneman as a Designated Pastor was approved. The Honorable Retirement of Barbara Accord was celebrated.

Received a written report from the **Trustees** regarding the negotiation of a short term lease for the property of the now dissolved First Presbyterian Church, Terra Alta. The Trustees also approved the request of First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood, to support a second grant application from the State Historic Preservation Office to support repairs to the church.