

,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 Event

Addiction and Recovery 101 – Led by Sky Kershner
Friday, March 15 –Presbytery Office

Festival of Faith

Keynote Speaker: Brian McLaren
April 6 – First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

Communication and Team Building
Led by Sky Kershner and Will Messer
Tuesday, April 30 – Presbytery Office

The Guys Weekend

April 26-28 – Bluestone Camp and Retreat

Bluestone’s Spring Getaway Retreat

Featuring Musical Guest – Spencer Ayscue
May 3-5 – Bluestone Camp and Retreat

Additional 2019 Presbytery Meetings

Thursday, May 16, at First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown
Saturday, August 24, at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton
Thursday, November 21, at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot

Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Ed ThompsonGeneral Presbyter
Maureen WrightStated Clerk & Associate for Congregational Support
Rocky Poole Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Susan Sharp CampbellAssociate for Educational Ministry
Barbara Chalfant Associate for Mission
Nellie HowardResource 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 16, 2019

The Presbytery met at Kanawha United Presbyterian Church, Charleston, with **Moderator** Stephen Hornbeck presiding. The Presbytery was welcomed by **Patterson Lyles**, pastor of the church, who led the Presbytery in prayer. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Introduced new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Glenn Coleman**, Interim Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Charleston.

Approved the **Consent Agenda** which included such items as the requests for excused absences; Honorable Retirements; renewed pastoral covenants for Stated Supply pastors, Commissioned Pastors, and lay pastors; requests for waiver of rotation of officers; Validated Ministries for 2019; Terms of Call and session moderators. The designation for the offering was also approved. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper for Bluestone’s spring events was approved.

Listened to the **Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson**, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who stressed that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is not dying but reforming. It needs to adapt to the changes in the world. He said this should be cause for excitement not hopelessness; we need to be ‘ahead of the game.’ There was opportunity for questions and answers. He talked about fellowships that have been developed as part of the Worshipping Community initiative, although because of racism and culturalism, not all of these communities have become actual churches. Shared power is the way of the future. When asked about the Presbyterian Church’s greatest gift to the ecumenical community, Dr. Nelson said that our greatest gift is Reformed Theology.

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; Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat’s Program Director**, who encouraged churches to pick up brochures for the 2019 Bluestone Camp and Retreat summer camp season.

Worshipped with J. Herbert Nelson (corresponding member, National Capital Presbytery), who preached the sermon and Sallie Daugherty (ruling elder, First, Charleston) as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Kevin Geurink (First, Logan) and Julie Hitsman (Spencer and chaplain, CAMC) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The service included music provided by Johan Botes and Ashley Dannewitz.

Received an offering of \$1,312 for the building of a church in the Nyeri Presbytery, Kenya, during the Presbytery's mission trip to Kenya, August 21 through September 2. The opportunity to impact the communities of our host churches continued. Presbytery host churches designate an item that may be brought to the meeting to support a local mission. Kanawha United asked for Ensure nutritional supplement to benefit Covenant House, Charleston, Aids Ministry.

Honored those ruling elders, reported by their churches, who had joined the church triumphant in 2018, as well as ministers **Leonard Lynn Hood II** and **Arvie Leon Maynard**.

Received the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. The report included the roster of Permanent Judicial Commission members whose terms have expired in the past six years, as required by the Book of Order. Ms. Wright made a motion that the Moderator appoint an Administrative Commission to dissolve the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charleston, at their request. The motion was approved.

Voted on the proposed amendments to the constitution. Presbytery voted in the affirmative on all of the proposed amendments: 18-A Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons (78 for, 3 against); 18-B Renunciation of Jurisdiction (18-B 1: 78 for, 3 against and 18-B 2: 80 for, 1 against); 18-C Officers (50 for, 29 against); 18-D Membership of Presbytery (77 for, 3 against); 18-E Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor to its Pastors and Congregations (80 for, 1 against); 18-F Welcoming to the Table (79 for, 2 against); 18-G Disciplinary Offense (77 for, 4 against); and 18-H Time Limit (18-H 1: 75 for, 6 against and 18-H 2: 81 for, 0 against).

Heard the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Dr. Thompson thanked those in attendance for coming. He shared that for the past three years, he has asked the commissioners present to reflect on the baptisms in their churches. He invited those present to reflect on adult baptisms as a sign of congregational vitality and challenged all churches to reach out in their community. Dr. Thompson encouraged all churches to attend the upcoming listening events paired with Session Record Reviews and Treasurer Talks. Presbytery wants to hear from its churches.

Voted on nominations from the **Leadership Team** for members to serve on the Nominating Committee. Bonnie Boyce (minister) was elected to serve for the Class of 2019. David Lee (minister) and Richard Thomas (ruling elder, Beechwood) were elected to serve in the Class of 2021. The Leadership Team also presented for a second reading and approval a revised Presbytery Manual. The manual was approved and copies may be requested by calling the Presbytery Office. The manual will be posted on the Presbytery website in the near future.

Heard the report of the **Ministry Committee** presented by committee chair, Shelly Barrick Parsons. Presbytery approved the recommendation of the committee that when a church provides moving expenses for a pastor the church shall also provide a

bonus to cover the pastor's increased tax burden. (Due to the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017, relocation expenses are now taxable income.)

Listened to the report of the **Vocations Committee** from chair, Jim Musgrave. Presbytery approved the recommendation of the committee that **Mark Parsons-Justice** (Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church) be approved as a candidate for ministry. The Moderator led a litany of celebration for the occasion. The Presbytery also approved the committee's request to waive the time requirements of G-2.0602 for Mr. Parsons-Justice.

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

Heard Financial Administrator/Treasurer, Rocky Poole present the financial reports.

Acted on the report of the **Nominating Committee** as given by Pam Johnson, chair. Nancy Kissinger (ruling elder, Beckley) was elected to serve on the Leadership Team, Class of 2020. Melody Simpson (ruling elder, Bream Memorial) was elected to serve on the Mission Committee, Class of 2021. Laura Brekke Wagoner (minister) was elected to serve on the Nurture Committee, Class of 2021, and John Koerner (minister) was elected to serve on the Relations Committee, Class of 2021.

Listened to a report of the **Nurture Committee** given by Kari Preslar, committee chair. The committee encouraged all churches to participate in upcoming events including the Younger Youth Retreat, 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium, Festival of Faith and the Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox events. Youth Council applications are being accepted through April 30; contact Susan Sharp Campbell for more information.

Heard the report of the **Mission Committee** given by committee chair, Bob McCutcheon who called on committee member Robin Ray who presented the committee's ongoing fundraising project to raise funds for the building of a church in the Nyeri Presbytery, Kenya, during the Presbytery's mission trip to Kenya. Churches and individuals may purchase bricks for \$10, roof panels for \$50, windows for \$100 and doors for \$500. The goal is to raise \$8000. A flyer detailing this project is available on the Presbytery website.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Hornbeck.

Please note that attendees received a paper copy of the packet of flyers that provide details of upcoming Presbytery events. Some of these events are listed at the back of these Highlights. If readers have an interest in one of the events mentioned, please contact your pastoral leader or ruling elder commissioner to this meeting. Additional copies are available on the Presbytery website.