

Ruling Elder as moderator at **Rock Forge** and **Canyon Community** Presbyterian Churches.

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](http://www.wvpresbytery.org) or call 304-744-7634)

#### **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

#### **Small Church Conference**

Keynote Speaker: Andy James, New Hope Presbtery  
September 15, 2018 at Summersville Presbyterian Church

#### **Disaster Response Training – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**

Sponsored by the Synod of the Trinity & Presbytery of West Virginia  
September 27, 2018 – Village Chapel Presbyterian Church

#### **Fall Getaway Retreat**

October 5-7, 2018 at Bluestone Camp & Retreat, Hinton

#### **2018 Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox – Preaching**

Led by Richard Voelz, Assistant Professor of Preaching & Worship  
October 27, 2018 – Presbytery Office

#### **Next Stated Meeting**

Thursday, November 15, at Ronceverte Presbyterian Church, Ronceverte

*Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk*

#### **PRESBYTERY STAFF**

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 ..... 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](mailto:office@wvpresbytery.org)**

## **Presbytery Highlights**

### Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia

*August 18, 2018*

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, with **Moderator** Amy Wallace Parker presiding. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer. The Presbytery was welcomed by **Rebecca Mihm**, pastor of neighboring church, Fleming Memorial. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Introduced** new Minister of Word and Sacrament members **Noha Khoury Bailey** who is working in a Chaplain Residency program at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington and **Zac Morton** who is now serving as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown. **Casey Lieneman**, ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church America, who is serving as Designated Pastor of the Church of the Covenant, Grafton, was also introduced.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included such items as the requests for excused absences; the celebration of the Lord's Supper at the Small Church Conference and the Bluestone Fall Getaway Retreat; granting Inquirer status to Jay Nunley, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Logan; new and renewed pastoral covenants and session moderators. The designation for the offering was approved.

The **Consent Agenda** also included the approval of the 2019 Stated Meeting dates and locations:

February 16 – Kanawha United Presbyterian Church, Charleston  
May 16 – First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown  
August 24 – Bluestone Camp and Conference Center, Hinton  
November 21 – Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot

**Listened** to a presentation from Olanda Carr, Ministry Relations Officer, **Presbyterian Foundation**. Mr. Carr spoke on *Creating a Culture of Generosity* offering new ways for all to think about generosity and Stewardship. He highlighted the scripture, "Where your treasure is, your heart will be also," Matthew 6:21 as an example. Elder Carr defined stewardship as the joyous discipline of thanking God with the way we live our lives, as well as spend and share our money.

**Heard** an announcement 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.

**Worshipped** with Mike Seely (minister, serving First Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg), who preached the sermon and with Lynn Proudfoot (ruling elder, Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins) as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Rebecca Mihm (minister serving Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairmont)

and Zac Morton (minister serving First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown) presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. A time of remembrance of baptism was observed. The service included music provided by the Cambridge Handbell Choir.

**Received** an offering of \$950 for the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Cents-Ability program that addresses hunger locally, nationally and internationally. In addition an opportunity to impact the communities of our host churches through a local mission continued. First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, requested food items for its backpack program. Presbytery donated more than three large baskets of food.

**Heard** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright, who highlighted the March baptism by the New Worshipping Community at Davis & Elkins College Chapel. Ms. Wright made a motion to approve the creation of an Administrative Commission for the purpose of dissolving the Lakeview Presbyterian Church, Lakebottom, at their request. The motion was approved.

**Listened** to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Dr. Thompson highlighted pastoral concerns including the upcoming retirements of eleven pastors. He spoke to the challenges of this reality and lifted up the good things that are being done in the churches.

**Heard** the report of General Assembly commissioners Susan Sharp Campbell (minister), Larryetta Ellis (minister), Randy Fife, (ruling elder, Bream Memorial), John Bolt (ruling elder, First Morgantown), and Paul Brady, Young Adult Advisory Delegate. The commissioners shared their experiences from the General Assembly and actions taken by the Assembly.

**Listened** to the report of the Administrative Commission to review the future of the Presbytery's Hurricane property. Following a thorough exploration by the commission on the feasibility to establish a new worshipping community or another ministry in the vacated church building, the commission was unanimous that it was not viable and instructed the Trustees to sell the property. Moderator Parker dismissed the commission with thanks.

**Approved** a recommendation from the **Leadership Team** for the training of ruling elders to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in their particular congregation under the provisions in G-3. 0301b. Those ruling elders who are authorized by Presbytery will be required to submit an annual report to Presbytery detailing the number of times they have celebrated the Lord's Supper. The sessions of congregations participating in the program must have their session records reviewed annually in order to continue in the program. With the completion of these requirements, ruling elders may be re-authorized annually. Names for authorization will be presented to Presbytery at the last stated meeting of each calendar year. Seven training opportunities will be offered in September and October.

**Heard** a report from Sarah Specht, **Program Director of Bluestone Camp & Retreat**. She reported on experiences of the camping season and thanked the body

for its support. She spoke about the **Fall Getaway Retreat** occurring in October, and about the relationships she is developing with others who are interested in a Kinship Camp.

**Approved** the 2019 Budget as presented by **Stewardship Committee** chair, Karen Kinney. **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole, presented the financial reports.

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

**Heard** the report of the **Vocations Committee** from chair, Jim Musgrave, who introduced **Mark Parsons-Justice**. Mr. Parsons-Justice was approved as an **Inquirer** at the last Presbytery meeting. Elder Musgrave encouraged ruling elders to join the twenty-six people who have committed to participate in the **Presby Prep** program.

**Listened** to a report of the **Nurture Committee** given by Kari Preslar who highlighted **The Book of Common Worship**, which was used to design worship at this Presbytery meeting. She encouraged those present to send youth to the Older Youth Retreat, **Recharge Your Faith**. Elder Preslar made a motion to approve **Jen Evans**, member of Arkansas Presbytery, to serve communion at the retreat. The motion was approved. A promotional video for the **2019 Triennium** was shown. Paul Brady, who has been a participant at Triennium, spoke briefly about his experience.

**Heard** the report of the **Nominating Committee** as given by Terry Cunningham, chair. The Presbytery approved the recommendation from the committee for the following **2019 committee chairs**: Administration – **George Lilley**; Bluestone – **Denny Dodson**; Committee on Representation – **Terry Cunningham**; Mission – **Bob McCutcheon**; Relations – **Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke**; Stewardship – **Becky Ceperley**; Trustees – **Jim Rowe**; and Vocations – **Jim Musgrave**. Minister **Andy Rice** was approved as Moderator Elect.

**Heard** the report of the **Mission Committee** given by committee chair, Bob McCutcheon. Dr. McCutcheon reported that **2019 mission grant** and **hunger grant** applications are available. He highlighted the Synod of the Trinity workshop on Disaster Response Training on September 27. Tina Vial was recognized to speak about the International Peacemaker from Palestine, Rev. Alex Awad, who will be in the Presbytery in September. She invited members of Presbytery to host events with Rev. Awad.

**Listened** to the report of the **Ministry Committee** presented by John Koerner. Rev. Koerner made a motion that the Moderator appoint an Administrative Commission to dissolve the **McKinnon Presbyterian Church** at their request. The motion was approved. He led presbytery in the commissioning of **John Bolt** as Commissioned