

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Hornbeck.

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)

**Small Church Conference**

Keynote Speaker: Judi Slater

Saturday, September 7 – Fayetteville Presbyterian Church

**Ruling Elder Training for Presiding at the Lord’s Supper**

September 29 – Bridgeport Presbyterian Church

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

**Bluestone’s Annual Fall Getaway Retreat**

A New Look at Creation through the Psalms

October 4-6 – Bluestone Camp and Retreat

**Soul Shop: Ministering to Suicidal Desperation**

Leader: Michelle Snyder, Soul Shop Director

October 24 – Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event**

Leading Congregations Amid Change – Led by Ken McFayden

Saturday, November 2 – Presbytery Office

**Additional 2019 Presbytery Meetings**

Thursday, November 21, at Teays Valley Presbyterian Church, Scott Depot

*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 24, 2019

The Presbytery met at Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton, with **Moderator** Stephen Hornbeck presiding. The Moderator opened the meeting with prayer. The Presbytery was welcomed by Sarah Specht, **Program Director**. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Introduced** new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Dawn Adamy**, Pastor of the Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences and the request from the Committee on Ministry to permit First Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg, to seek a Designated Pastor with the help of the Presbytery. The designation for the offering was also approved. The celebration of the Lord’s Supper for the Older Youth Retreat in November was approved; the celebrant will be Shelly Barrick Parsons.

**Listened** to the **Jessica Lilly**, West Virginia Public Broadcasting’s Southern West Virginia Bureau Chief, as well as host and co-producer of Inside Appalachia. Jessica shared her story of life in Appalachia, some of Inside Appalachia’s stories, and her own journey of faith.

**Heard** an announcement from: Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources, especially those focused on Appalachia, and encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center Display and to come by the center at the Presbytery office.

**Worshipped** with Stephen Baldwin (minister, Ronceverte Presbyterian Church), who preached the sermon and Nellie Howard (ruling elder, First, Williamstown) as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Barbara Accord (Honorably Retired) and Monte Mitchell (Beckley Presbyterian Church) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. The service was a celebration of ministry in Appalachia that included Stephen’s sermon, “Faith & Fear”. Bill Kimmons and Mark Miller provided music.

**Received** an offering of \$977 for the Westminster Foundation that supports campus ministry across West Virginia, reaching more than 30,000 students.

**Enjoyed** a delicious lunch provided by Bluestone Camp and Retreat following a prayer led by Mark Miller, **Facilities Director**.

**Received** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. The report included the opening date for the 2019 Statistical Report season, December 6. The Stated Clerk highlighted that all churches contact the Presbytery Trustees as soon as they enter into the process of buying or selling property or securing a loan, especially a loan with the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP). Ms. Wright made a motion that the Moderator appoint an Administrative Commission to dissolve the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, Huntington, at their request. The motion was approved. She presented a second motion for the celebration of the Lord's Supper at the installation of Dawn Adamy as pastor of the Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church. The motion was approved.

**Heard** the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Dr. Thompson thanked those in attendance for coming. He recognized the 16-year ministry of Shelly Barrick Parsons as campus pastor at West Virginia University that included leadership with the Westminster Foundation and chair of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. The report highlighted the budget reality reflected in the proposed 2020 Budget. The proposed budget reflects an unsustainable drawdown on the Funds of the Presbytery of West Virginia. In 2018, 36 of our churches did not support Mission Giving at any level and 14 churches paid no Per Capita. As of June 30, 2019, 40 of our churches had submitted no Mission Giving and 31 churches paid no Per Capita. This reality is putting a strain on the ongoing staffing and work of the Presbytery.

**Listened** to the report of the **Leadership Team** presented by chair, Amy Wallace Parker (minister, Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston). Rev. Parker noted the ministry of the Presbytery's only 1001 Worshipping Community at Davis & Elkins College and the need for the community to share its ministry with Presbytery. She made a motion that the Presbytery grant the privilege of voice to the Chapel Moderator of this Worshipping Community, Megan White. The motion was approved.

**Examined Margaret Elisabeth (Maggie) Rust**, candidate for ordination under the care of East Tennessee Presbytery. The **Vocations Committee** chair, Jim Musgrave (ruling elder, Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington), asked Ms. Rust questions in the areas of polity, worship and sacraments, theology, Christian faith, and Bible. Ms. Rust successfully answered these questions. Following questions from the floor and discussion by the Presbytery, the ordination was approved. Ms. Rust will serve as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield.

**Heard** the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by committee chair, Becky Ceperley (ruling elder, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston). Ms. Ceperley shared that the committee will be working with Presbytery committees to provide more accurate funding in the development of the 2021 Budget, as well as reviewing the issue of financial sustainability for the Presbytery. On behalf of the Administration Committee, three motions were made and approved, for a 1% increase in the salaries of the Financial Administrator/Treasurer, General Presbyter, and the

Stated Clerk. The 2020 Budget was approved as recommended by the committee. **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 **Ministry Committee** presented by committee chair, Shelly Barrick Parsons (minister, Member-At-Large). Dr. Parsons reminded churches of the action taken in 2018 to approve a \$500 increase for pastor's continuing education funds. The committee will review pastor compensation for 2020 at its next meeting and notify churches of any proposed increases in minimum compensation. Those present were invited to the Small Church Conference. Megan White of the Worshipping Community at Davis & Elkins College gave a report of the community's ministry. The Moderator and Dr. Parsons led the Presbytery in the commissioning of Commissioned Pastors: Jeff Barton, Nancy Bulla, Jim Irwin, Jim Johnston, Jim Musgrave, and Kari Preslar.

**Acted on** the report of the **Nominating Committee** given by Pam Johnson (ruling elder, Riverlawn, St. Albans), chair. The Presbytery approved Nancy Kissinger (ruling elder, Beckley) as the **Moderator Elect** in 2020. Many committee chairs for 2020 and committee members were also elected. For a full report, see the meeting packet on the Presbytery's website.

**Approved** the recommendation of the **Trustees** as presented by Jim Robinson (minister, Honorably Retired) to sell the property of the dissolved Brush Creek Presbyterian Church, Ridgeview for \$20,000.

**Heard** the report of the **Mission Committee** given by Barbara Chalfant, **Associate for Mission**, who reported that \$91.64 was collected today for the Cents-Ability Offering. She showed a video from those representing the Presbytery on a mission trip to Kenya, Africa, visiting our partners in Nyeri Presbytery.

**Listened** to a report of the **Nurture Committee** given by Kari Preslar, committee chair. The committee encouraged all churches to participate in upcoming events. Some of the events are listed at the conclusion of these highlights; full details can be found in the meeting packet on the Presbytery's website.

**Learned** about the work of the **Relations Committee** from chair, Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke, who highlighted Cluster Support Grants available to churches working together in ministry and mission. Contact Rev. Campbell-Maleke for details.

**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. **Friends of Bluestone** Board Member, David Kaufman (ruling elder, First, Parkersburg), shared the history of the Friends of Bluestone and invited those present to participate in the group that is dedicated to the support of Bluestone.