

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)

Virtual Festival of Faith

Keynote Speaker: Jill Duffield, Editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*
August 29 – Zoom

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

Deep Calls to Deep: Releasing the Power of Scripture in Preaching
Led by Thomas G. Long
Saturday, October 17, 2020 – Presbytery Office or Zoom

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

Becoming and Intergenerational Church – Led by Stephanie Fritz
Saturday, November 7 – Zoom

2020 Presbytery Meeting

Thursday, November 19, Zoom

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 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 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

August 15, 2020

The Presbytery met for the first time using the Zoom platform with **Moderator Andrew Rice** presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Approved the recommendation of the Leadership Team to suspend the manual to allow for a virtual meeting using the Zoom platform.

Introduced new Ministers of Word and Sacrament **Agnes Brady**, from Winnebago Presbytery, who serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Nitro; **Se Han Isaiah Kim**, from Western New York Presbytery, who serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hinton; and **Evan Walker**, from New Hope Presbytery, who serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering, the meeting dates and locations for 2021, and the discontinuation of the Designated Pastor search for First Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg.

Listened to a presentation by **Susan M. Rothenberg**, minister member of Pittsburgh Presbytery who serves in a validated ministry as a church consultant with the Unglued Church Project and Pneumatrix. She shared her experiences with hate speech following the mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue October 27, 2018. Rev. Rothenberg lived in the Pittsburgh community where the shooting took place. She shared ways that the church can respond to hate speech.

Worshipped with Amy Wallace Parker (minister, Village Chapel, Charleston), “Curator of the Word”, who presented *Justice* and John Nelson (ruling elder, Highlawn, Huntington) as liturgist. Minister of Word and Sacrament Kyle Key (Teays Valley) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Music was provided by Maggie Rust (minister, First, Bluefield), and Harold Brown, Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield.

Heard an announcement from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources; she reminded commissioners that the Resource Center is open Monday through Thursday. In addition, resources can be shipped and consultations are available by contacting Ms. Howard at resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. Ms. Wright referred commissioners to the printed report found in the packet which included the approval of the minutes of the February 15 Presbytery Meeting and a letter from the Moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly notifying Presbytery that the overture, *Laying on of Hands at an Installation*, sent by Presbytery to the 224th General Assembly has been referred to the 225th General Assembly. She moved the adoption of **Special Procedural Matters Regarding Electronic Meetings and Suspension of Any Manual Rules That Interfere with Them**. The motion was seconded and approved.

Listened to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He began by expressing thanks to all who made the virtual meeting of Presbytery possible, especially Moderator Rice and Zac Morton (minister, First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown) who acted as the “Zoom Czar”. Dr. Thompson expressed his thanks to commissioners and visitors attending the non-traditional meeting. He shared the changes that churches have faced due to the coronavirus, and commended churches who continue in ministry and mission in spite of the pandemic. Presbytery committees continue to meet and work. Following an introduction of Presbytery staff, Dr. Thompson invited churches to contact staff for needed resources and staff.

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by chair, Steve Hornbeck. Presbytery approved the recommendation to change the time between New Life Congregational grant applications to two years. The report included a video from Tina Vial, New Life Congregational grant team, who shared details of the first awards totaling \$26,451.40. Congregations are invited to submit applications for next quarter’s awards; the deadline for applications is October 1.

Acted on the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by committee chair, Becky Ceperley (ruling elder, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston). Ms. Ceperley shared thanks for the careful work of the committees in evaluating their needs for 2021; she shared the committee’s concerns regarding the financial sustainability for the Presbytery. The 2021 Budget was approved as recommended by the committee. **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

Heard the report of the Administration Committee presented by committee chair, George Lilley. Presbytery approved the recommendation that there be no change to the Terms of Call for General Presbyter, Edward J. Thompson. This action set Dr. Thompson’s salary and housing allowance for 2021 as required by the IRS.

Listened to a video report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. She shared the details of the summer’s virtual camp program.

Heard the report of the **Committee on Ministry** presented by committee chair, Peter Vial. Presbytery approved the recommendation of the committee that there be no

increase in the minimum terms of call for Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Certified Christian Educators for 2021.

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The Presbytery approved Nancy Didway (minister, Highlawn, St. Albans and St. Andrew) as the **Moderator Elect** in 2021. Many committee chairs for 2021 and committee members were also elected. For a full report, see the meeting packet on the Presbytery’s website.

Listened to a video report from the **Relations Committee** given by Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke, committee chair. She focused on the work of the chaplains within the Presbytery and encouraged churches to submit applications for Collaborative Ministry grants that focus on supporting the programming needs of Presbytery related chaplaincy ministries. For more information, contact Rev. Campbell-Maleke.

Heard the video report of the **Mission Committee** given by Barbara Chalfant, **Associate for Mission**.

Invited participants to contribute to support the Cents-Ability program of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes for people in West Virginia, the United States, and around the world. Contributions may be made using the contribute button on the Presbytery website or by sending a check to the Presbytery office, with offering in the memo section.

Moderator Rice reminded Presbytery to review the printed reports of the **General Assembly commissioners**, the **Nurture** and **Vocations** committees, the **Trustees**, and several ongoing **Administrative Commissions**. These reports are available on the Presbytery website.

The final report of the **Administrative Commission** to dissolve the Westminster Presbyterian Church, Charleston, submitted by the chair of the commission, Rick McGuire is available on the Presbytery website. The church was dissolved July 23, 2020. Before its dissolution, the church at the direction of the session, bestowed gifts to Friends of Bluestone, as well as three Charleston ministries: Manna Meal, Covenant House, and Common Grounds. Presbytery gives thanks to God for the ministry and mission of this church.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Rice.