

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Rice.

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

Dismantling Structural Racism – Led by Presbyterian Mission Agency staff
Saturday, January 23, 2021 – Zoom

Virtual Festival of Faith

Keynote Speaker: Diana Butler Bass, scholar, historian, and author
March 20 – Zoom

Additional 2021 Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Events

Teaching for Faith: Methods, Technologies and Strategies – April 24
Conflict Management and Communication – October 23

2021 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, February 20, Zoom
Thursday, May 20 – Enslow Park Presbyterian Church
Thursday, August 19 – Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church
Saturday, November 13 – First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Ed ThompsonGeneral Presbyter
Maureen Wright Stated Clerk & Associate for Congregational Support
Rocky PooleFinancial Administrator/Treasurer
Susan Sharp Campbell.....Associate for Educational Ministry
Barbara Chalfant Associate for Mission
Nellie HowardResource Center Director
Mark MillerBluestone 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

November 19, 2020

The Presbytery met using the Zoom platform with **Moderator** Andrew Kent 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 Minister of Word and Sacrament **Parrish Bridges**, from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery in upstate New York, who serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Huntington.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering, authorization for 2021 of trained ruling elders to celebrate the Lord's Supper in their churches of membership, 2021 communion approval for Authorized Lay Preachers (ALPs), and approval of 10 new ALPs.

Listened to a presentation by **Trey Kay**, creator of the radio and podcast program *Us & Them*, which is produced by West Virginia Public Broadcasting and PRX. He shared his experiences of talking and interacting with people polarized by opposing beliefs that began during West Virginia's Textbook Wars. *Us & Them* seeks to encourage honest conversation by people on opposing sides of issues, beliefs, and politics. Presbytery was encouraged to find ways to foster honest conversation.

Worshipped with Sharon Gearing (minister, First, South Charleston), who preached the sermon and George Lilley (ruling elder, First, Morgantown) as liturgist. Minister of Word and Sacrament Rich Cardot (minister, Valley Parish) 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 and invited Presbytery to visit the center's Facebook page. All resources are available to be shipped upon request. Contact Ms. Howard at resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org to arrange for a consultation.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. Ms. Wright referred commissioners to the printed report found in the packet and highlighted the Rolls and Registers of Presbytery. Clerks of Session were reminded that Statistical Reports

may be entered December 4 through February 18, 2021. 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 led Presbytery in an acknowledgement of whose land the Presbytery is meeting on, recognizing the Native Americans who inhabited West Virginia. He called on Presbytery to remember this history of racism, challenging those present to learn and act against racism. In addition, he highlighted the New Life Congregational Grant program, the Friends of Bluestone virtual 5K Run fundraiser, and the January 23 Ministry Toolbox event, Dismantling Structural Racism. Dr. Thompson closed by challenging churches to use this pandemic time to prepare for the future: what can we do, what can you do, and what can your church do?

Welcomed Doug Portz, Senior Church Consultant from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s **Board of Pensions**, who brought greetings from the board. He shared ways in which the board has expanded its offerings to reach more pastors and congregations. Rev. Portz reminded members to check their accounts for accuracy.

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by chair, Steve Hornbeck. He presented nominations for the Committee on Representation with Pam Johnson (ruling elder, Riverlawn) as the 2021 chair. The nominees were approved. Revisions to the Presbytery’s Manual were submitted for a first reading. The revisions propose changes to allow for its Moderator to serve a two-year term, the Leadership Team chair be nominated from among its members, for electronic meetings of Presbytery, for a smaller group to approve loan amounts when loans are time sensitive, and to allow the Leadership Team to appoint Administrative Commissions when necessary. The revision will be presented to Presbytery at its February meeting for vote.

Received the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He shared that the committee had received the verbal report of the review of the 2019 financial records from Suttle & Stalnaker, Charleston. The report identified no issues or exceptions. The committee will meet with representatives to receive the full report before the end of the year. Mr. Poole reported that shared mission requests have been sent to churches and asked that churches return them as soon as possible regardless of their gift. He presented the financial reports.

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The Presbytery approved Dawn Adamy (minister, Bream Memorial) as the

Vocations Committee Chair in 2021. Several members of Presbytery committees were elected. Rebecca Mihm (minister, Fleming Memorial) was approved as a Synod Commissioner, class of 2023. Mavis Grant Lilley was elected as a representative to the Synod’s Permanent Judicial Commission. For a full report, see the meeting packet on the Presbytery’s website.

Heard the video report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by committee chair, Sue Hollandworth inviting Presbytery to join the January 23 Ministry Toolbox event, Dismantling Structural Racism. Committee member, Derek Hudson, announced Festival of Faith 2021 on March 20 with keynote speaker, Diana Butler Bass. Both events are virtual.

Approved the recommendation from the **Trustees** presented by the chair, Jim Robinson (Honorably Retired minister), to guarantee a \$40,000 loan for the Edgewood Presbyterian Church from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program.

Listened to a video report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. She shared the details of Friends of Bluestone virtual 5K fundraising race and upcoming camp opportunities including virtual Christmas content.

Heard the video report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee chair, Dawn Adamy. She honored those who have completed the Authorized Lay Preacher requirements: Jennifer Anderson, Sallie Daugherty, Adam Greathouse, Terry Layton, Rick McLaughlin, Charles McNeel, Darlene McNeel, Jay Nunley, Ginna Taylor, Deborah White.

Listened to the report of Synod Commissioners Rebecca Mihm (minister, Fleming Memorial) and Jim Wilson (ruling elder, First Clarksburg). The reported on the recent Synod Assembly and the recent Beloved Community event on hyper-partisanship.

Joined the Moderator in thanking those who have led and served the Presbytery through its committees in 2020 and in installing the committee chairs for 2021.

Invited participants to contribute to the worship offering in support of the West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps. 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 **Administration, Mission, and Relations** committees, the **Committee on Ministry**, and several ongoing **Administrative Commissions**. These reports are available on the Presbytery website.