

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

Equipping Disciples Events

How the Bible Came to Be – April 11 or April 12, Zoom

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

Teaching for Faith – Led by the Rev. Dr. Rebecca L. Davis
April 24 – Zoom

Younger Youth Retreat

Trolls in Our Midst – May 15, Coonskin Park, Charleston

Bluestone Family Camp & Venture Camp

Four Opportunities beginning June 15

2021 Presbytery Meetings

Thursday, May 20 – Zoom

Thursday, August 19 – Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church

Saturday, November 13 – First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

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

Presbytery Highlights

Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia

February 20, 2021

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.

Installed the 2021 Moderator, Nancy Kissinger (ruling elder, Beckley), and Moderator Elect, Nancy Didway (minister, Highlawn, St. Albans, and St. Andrew). Installed Andrew Kent Rice (minister, Oak Grove) as the Leadership Team chair.

Listened to Diane Givens Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, as she outlined the vision of the PC (USA). This vision is guided by the direction of the 222nd General Assembly, and encourages churches, presbyteries, and all entities of the church to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor. The vision focuses on the words of Matthew 25 emphasizing mission and ministry that works to dismantle structural racism, eradicates systemic poverty, and build congregational vitality. She reminded Presbytery that “what we do matters to God”. She shared resources designed to support this vision. The Rev. Dr. Moffett challenged churches and the Presbytery to adopt the Matthew 25 vision.

Heard an announcement from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources, and invited the Presbytery to visit the center’s website and Facebook page. All resources are available to be shipped upon request. Contact Ms. Howard at resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org to arrange for a consultation.

Worshipped with Dawn Adamy (minister, Bream Memorial), who preached the sermon; Larry Davis (ruling elder, Clifton) and Terri McDougal (ruling elder, First Dunbar) led the liturgy. The service focused on the Matthew 25 vision, and the worship leaders represent the churches in the Presbytery who are Matthew 25 churches. General Presbyter, Ed Thompson, led Presbytery in a reaffirmation of baptism. Representatives of Village Chapel Presbyterian Church under the direction of Sharon Curnutte provided music.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering, authorization for 2021 of two additional, trained

ruling elders to celebrate the Lord's Supper in their churches of membership, and approval of five new ALPs.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. The report highlighted the members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the past six years as required by the Book of Order (D-5.0206). 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 led Presbytery in an acknowledgement of whose land the Presbytery is meeting on, recognizing the Native Americans who inhabited West Virginia. Dr. Thompson expressed thanks to all who made the virtual meeting of Presbytery possible, including Diane Givens Moffett, Dawn Adamy, Moderator Kissinger, Moderator Rice, and Zac Morton (minister, First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown) who acted as the "Zoom Czar". He asked those present if their church had an adult baptism in 2020, and encouraged all of those present to be intentional about inviting people to declare their faith. He encouraged churches to continue to offer online worship.

Welcomed Wayne Yost, Stated Clerk of the **Synod of the Trinity**, who brought greetings from the Synod and its staff. He thanked those in the Presbytery who participate in the work of the Synod including commissioners, Rebecca Mihm (minister, Fleming Memorial) and Jim Wilson (ruling elder, First Clarksburg), Mavis Grant Lilley (ruling elder, First Morgantown) who serves on the Permanent Judicial Commission, and John Bolt (ruling elder, First Morgantown) who is the chair of the Synod Executive search committee.

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by member, Robin Ray. She presented the second reading of revisions to the Presbytery's Manual. The revisions propose changes to allow for its Moderator to serve a two-year term, the Leadership Team chair to 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 revisions were approved. The Leadership Team also recommended that Presbytery grant the Leadership Team the authority to determine the eligibility of New Life Congregational Grant cycles. The recommendation was approved.

Listened to the report of the **Administrative Commissions** to dissolve the Lakeview and Pickens Presbyterian Churches. The chairs of the commissions presented reports and brief histories of each church. The chairs were Jim Sothen (ruling elder, South Park) and Rich Cardot (minister, Valley Parish). The Presbytery approved the recommendations to dissolve the churches effective February 20, 2021. The

Moderator, General Presbyter, Mr. Sothen, and Rev. Cardot led Presbytery in a liturgy of celebration and thanks for the years of ministry and mission by the churches.

Heard a video report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. Bluestone will be offering an in person Getaway Weekend April 30 through May 2; the theme of the weekend is *Lord, Hear Our Prayer*. Space is limited due to COVID 19 precautions. Bluestone will also offer in person family camp and Venture camp this summer.

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The Presbytery approved Jack Dilley (ruling elder, Kuhn Memorial) as the Stewardship Committee Chair in 2021. Jean Sutton (minister, Validated Ministry) was elected to serve on the Vocations Committee, class of 2021.

Heard the video report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by committee chair, Sue Hollandsworth inviting Presbytery to attend Festival of Faith 2021 on March 20 with keynote speaker, Diana Butler Bass. Presbytery also heard from members of the Youth Council regarding the joy of serving Presbytery on this planning group. Applications are being accepted through March 31 for those interested in serving on Youth Council. Details are found on the flyer included in the meeting packet.

Received the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He shared that the Presbytery was notified on January 27 that the Paycheck Protection Program loan had been forgiven. Mr. Poole presented the financial reports.

Heard the video report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee chair, Dawn Adamy. She honored five additional people who completed the Authorized Lay Preacher requirements: Rodrigo Almeida, Robert Bane, David Moore, Debbie Penn, and Emmet Rogers.

Honored those ruling elders, reported by their churches, who had joined the church triumphant in 2020, as well as minister, **Alice Monshcke**.

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. Gifts are still being accepted.

Moderator Kissinger reminded Presbytery to review the printed reports of the **Administration** and **Relations** committees, and the **Committee on Ministry**. These reports were included in the meeting packet.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Kissinger.