

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)

**Bluestone Family Camp & Venture Camp**

**June 15-20, June 22-27, June 29-July 4, & July 6-11**

**Family Camp** – Bring your family, church youth, whoever is in your pandemic “bubble” to enjoy activities from “traditional” camp within your “family”.

**Venture Camp** – Rustic living in the open-air Bluestone Hogans. This experience is for rising high school freshman through seniors.

**Small Church Conference**

September 18 – First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

**2021 Presbytery Meetings**

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

**Presbytery Highlights**  
Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia  
May 20, 2021

The Presbytery met using the Zoom platform with **Moderator** Nancy Kissinger presiding. 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.

**Listened** Lisa Allgood, Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Cincinnati, present *Viruses, Variants, and Vaccines Oh My!* Ruling Elder Allgood is a trained immunocytochemist. She provided Presbytery with an update on the state of the worldwide pandemic. She shared what the data means for going back to in-person worship and offered recommendations as to how churches can plan for a safe return to in-person worship. The presentation is available on the Presbytery website and Facebook page.

**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](mailto:resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org) to arrange for a consultation. To view the video report visit the Resource Center’s Facebook page.

**Worshipped** with James Morley (minister, serving in a Validated Ministry as Chaplain, United Hospital Center), who preached the sermon; Diane Shafer (Ruling Elder, First Williamson) and Cherrie Sizemore (Ruling Elder, Village Chapel) served as liturgists. Minister of Word and Sacrament Doug Minnerly (Honorably Retired) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Music was provided by Barbara Chalfant (Presbytery Associate for Mission), and David Stern, Accompanist, Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering, and authorization for 14 additional, Authorized Lay Preachers (ALPs), to preside at communion in 2021. The dates, locations, and electronic platforms for the 2022 Presbytery Meetings were approved. The information is listed below.

- Saturday, February 19 – Virtual Meeting
- Thursday, May 19 – Beckley Presbyterian Church
- Thursday, August 18 – Enslow Park Presbyterian Church
- Saturday, November 12 – Davis & Elkins College

**Introduced** new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Annie McMillan**, from Great Rivers Presbytery in Illinois, who serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg.

**Heard** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She highlighted the 2020 Presbytery Summary Statistical Report. The 2020 Presbytery Minutes were reviewed by the Synod of the Trinity, and were approved without exception or delinquency. Ms. Wright announced that following a consultation with legal counsel, the Moderator, General Presbyter, Financial Administrator/Treasurer, Leadership Team Chair and Trustee Chair recommend each church incorporate. All Clerks of Session and pastoral leaders have received a letter and packet sharing specific information and templates for incorporation.

Stated Clerk Wright recommended the dissolution of **First Presbyterian Church, Welch**, at the request of the church's session. Following a summary of the events leading to the request for dissolution, the motion to dissolve the church effective May 20, 2021 was approved. A brief history of the church was included in the packet. The Moderator, General Presbyter, and Ms. Wright led Presbytery in a liturgy of celebration and thanks for the years of ministry and mission by the church.

**Listened** to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He led Presbytery in an acknowledgement that the land on which we stand is not our own, but is the land the native peoples who inhabited West Virginia. Dr. Thompson expressed thanks to all who made the virtual meeting of Presbytery possible, including Zac Morton (minister, First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown) who acted as the "Zoom Czar", Moderator Kissinger, and the Stated Clerk. He reported that Presbytery leaders hope that Presbytery will meet in-person in August. He shared his excitement that six new ministers have been called to serve in ministry within the Presbyter, and COM will examine two more. Dr. Thompson called on pastors, elders, and churches to reexamine the way ministry is done, asking whether the church building is the focus of ministry or a tool for ministry. Churches whose ministry is being starved by the care and maintenance of its building were challenged to consider selling their building.

**Welcomed** Michael Givler, Communications Coordinator for the **Synod of the Trinity**, who brought greetings from the Synod and its staff.

**Heard** the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by member, Tina Vial. Ruling Elder Vial serves as the chair of the New Life Congregational Grant Committee. She announced recent grants, and encouraged churches to remember the July 1 application deadline.

**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. He encouraged churches and members to more fully utilize the resources offered. Rev. Portz reminded members to check their accounts for accuracy.

**Heard** a report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. Bluestone will also offer in-person Family camp and Venture camp this summer. The dates for camp are June 15-20, June 22-27, June 29-July 4, & July 6-11. Bluestone now has a number of RV and tent camping sites available; contact Mark Miller for details.

**Received** the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He shared that the committee is beginning to construct the budget for 2022. Suttle and Stalnaker will conduct an audit of the 2020 financial records. Mr. Poole presented the financial reports.

**Acted on** the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The Presbytery approved Committee Chairs for 2022 and members in the Class of 2024 for the Administration, Mission, Nurture, Relations, Stewardship, and Vocations Committees as well as the Trustees and Committee on Ministry. A member was elected to the Class of 2027 for the Permanent Judicial Commission. Please see the packet posted on the website for a full list of those persons elected.

**Heard** the report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by Susan Sharp Campbell, Associate for Educational Ministry. The report focused on a video introducing the new Presbyterian Church (USA) curriculum, **Follow Me**.

**Listened** to the report of the **Committee on Ministry** given by chair, Peter Vial. Presbytery approved the recommendation of the committee for an updated Policy of Enduring Ministry and voted to rescind its current policy on Ministers Continuing Education and Study Leave. The committee was granted the authority to establish appropriate guidelines for continuing education and study leave. Dr. Vial and Moderator Kissinger led Presbytery in a liturgy of commissioning for Kari Preslar who now serves First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar, as Commissioned Pastor.

**Invited** participants to contribute to the worship offering in support of the Westminster Foundation. The Westminster Foundation provides for and funds campus ministry throughout the state. 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 continue to be accepted.

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

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Kissinger.