

January 2022; years two and three follow, with significant changes to options for year three.

Moderator Kissinger adjourned the meeting with prayer.

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**

September 18 – First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

#### **Bluestone Camp Fall Getaway**

October 1-3 – *Peace, Love, Fall* based on James 3:18

#### **Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event**

Transforming Conflict from the Inside Out – Led by the Rev. Dr. Theresa Latini  
October 23 – Zoom

#### **2021 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, November 13 – First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

#### **2022 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, February 19 – Virtual Meeting

Thursday, May 19 – Beckley Presbyterian Church

Thursday, August 18 – Enslow Park Presbyterian Church

Saturday, November 12 – Davis & Elkins College

*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 19, 2021*

The Presbytery met at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston, with **Moderator** Nancy Kissinger presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. Dawn Adamy, pastor of the church, welcomed the Presbytery. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Elected** John Koerner (minister, First Clarksburg) **Recording Clerk** for a three-year term.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering, approval for Authorized Lay Preacher, Jim Musgrave, to preside at communion for the remainder of 2021, and a recommendation from the Trustees to allow the Teays Valley Presbyterian Church to sell property.

**Worshipped** with Cindy Kohlmann (corresponding member, New Castle Presbytery), who preached the sermon; John Arbuckle, Jr. (Ruling Elder, Edgewood) and David White (Ruling Elder, First Dunbar) served as liturgists. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Agnes Brady (First Nitro) and Rick Johnson (Honorably Retired) presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The voices of the prayers of the people were Kristy Lyles-Bell (Director of Bream Center for Child Development), Luciana Britton (RN, Health Right), Jim Musgrave (Ruling Elder, Highlawn, Huntington), and David Payne (Charleston Police Department, Public Services Commander). Music was provided by Pam Ferrell (Ruling Elder, First St. Albans), Pam Johnson (Ruling Elder, Riverlawn), Eloise Gillespie (piano), and Jennifer Wood (violin).

**Heard** an announcement from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted new resources, encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center Display, and to come by the center at the Presbytery office. All resources are available to be shipped upon request.

**Listened** to Cindy Kohlmann, Connectional Presbyter/Stated Clerk for New Castle Presbytery and Co-Moderator of the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), present **Why Are We Discussing Racism in Church?** Rev. Kohlmann grounded her message in the scriptures, helping Presbytery to consider the implicit bias that motivates many of our actions. Thinking theologically about racism and bias, the church is the place to discuss racism.

**Received** an offering of \$500 to assist the Cabwaylingo Presbyterian Chapel with flood relief and hunger alleviation efforts.

**Introduced** new Ministers of Word and Sacrament **Kristi Moore**, from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, who serves as pastor of Edgewood Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg, and **Bill Myers** from the Presbytery of Mackinac in Michigan, who serves as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Charleston. The Stated Clerk invited Rev. Moore and Rev. Myers to sign the Book of Obligation. In addition, Agnes Brady (First Nitro), Parrish Bridges (First Huntington), Isaiah Kim (First Hinton), Annie McMillan (First Parkersburg), and Evan Walker (First Fairmont) were invited to sign the Book of Obligation. These pastors were first introduced during Zoom meetings.

**Heard** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She made a series of recommendations to ratify the actions taken at the Presbytery meetings held on Zoom during 2020 and 2021. All actions were ratified. Ms. Wright highlighted the 2020 Session Record Review events. She reminded Presbytery that following a consultation with legal counsel, the Moderator, General Presbyter, Financial Administrator/Treasurer, Leadership Team Chair and Trustee Chair recommend each church incorporate. Each church has received detailed information. Ms. Wright concluded with thanks for the volunteers who prepared 32 boxes of historical records of both dissolved and dismissed churches that were delivered to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

**Listened** to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He thanked the worship planners for opening worship with an acknowledgement that the land on which we meet is not our own, but is the land of the native peoples who inhabited West Virginia. Dr. Thompson expressed thanks to Bream Memorial for hosting the Presbytery, to Cindy Kohlmann for her leadership in the meeting, and to John Koerner for his willingness to serve the Presbytery as Recording Clerk, and to those present for their willingness to meet in person. He thanked the outgoing Recording Clerk, Mavis Grant Lilley for her service. Dr. Thompson lifted up the work of the Financial Sustainability Task Force, and recognized its members for their diligence in completing a difficult task. He also invited the Presbytery to join him for a book study at 7:00 p.m. on September 7, 14, 21, and 28. The study will explore Gil Rendle's book, *Quietly Courageous Leading the Church in a Changing World*. (Check the Presbytery newsletter for details of a daytime study.) Finally, Dr. Thompson recognized the Presbytery staff and their work.

**Heard** the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by Andy Rice. He presented the recommendation that Susan Perry (Ruling Elder, First Logan) be reelected to the Committee on Representation, Class of 2024, and serve as chair for 2022. The recommendation was approved. Rev. Rice highlighted the report of the Financial Sustainability Task Force. The task force made recommendations regarding

Presbytery staffing, the Presbytery office building, and Bluestone Camp and Retreat. The Leadership Team accepted the recommendations of the group, assigned the staffing and building recommendations to the Administration Committee to develop specific plans of implementation for Presbytery's information and/or consideration, and approved the creation of a task force to explore further the recommendations regarding Bluestone.

**Acted on** the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The Presbytery approved Randy Fife (Ruling Elder, Bream) as Leadership Team Chair for 2022 and additional members for Presbytery committees. Please see the packet posted on the website for a full list of those persons elected. The Presbytery suspended its policy to reelect Claire Butler (minister, Ravenswood), George Lilley (ruling elder, First, Morgantown), and to serve as Young Adult Advisory Delegate Rachel McNeel (ruling elder, Beckley) as commissioners to the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. Andy Rice (minister, Oak Grove) and Barbara Smith (ruling elder, Village Chapel, Charleston) were reelected as alternate commissioners.

**Listened** to the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by committee chair, Jack Dilley. He shared the process that the committee used to develop the budget. The 2022 Budget was approved as recommended by the committee. **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

**Heard** the report of the **Committee on Ministry** presented by committee chair, Peter Vial. Presbytery approved a 2.5% increase in minimum compensation for Ministers and Certified Christian Educators. An Administrative Commission was approved to inquire into the life and ministry of the Keller Presbyterian Church, Pence Springs. The Moderator and Dr. Vial led the Presbytery in the commissioning of Commissioned Pastors, Terry Layton to serve the Marsh Fork Presbyterian Church, Jay Nunley to serve First Presbyterian Church, Logan and Gilbert Presbyterian Church, and Emmet Rogers to serve the Upper Glade Presbyterian Church.

**Listened** to the report of the **Mission Committee** presented by **Associate for Mission**, Barbara Chalfant, who invited Presbytery to join the monthly mission speaker at noon on the fourth Thursday of the month. This month's speaker will be Joan Stewart, Executive Director of WVMAW.

**Heard** a report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director** who shared amazing camp experiences from this summer. **Bluestone Committee** chair, Zac Morton, invited members of Presbytery to contact him with questions and/or comments regarding the task force created by the Leadership Team.

**Listened** to the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by Dawn Adamy and Susan Sharp Campbell, **Associate for Educational Ministry**. The report focused on the preparation program for Authorized Lay Preachers and Commissioned Pastors. The program will begin with **Presby Prep** in