

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Kissinger.

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)

Presby Prep

Starting January 2022 – Eight Courses, Monthly, Zoom
Focused on In-depth Leadership Education – Open to All
Required for All Seeking to enter the
Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor Program

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

The Creative Process for Preaching – Led by the Rev. Dr. Jennifer L. Lord
January 29 – Zoom

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

What’s Next? Discerning God’s Call Post-Covid
Led by the Rev. Victoria Curtiss – April 30 – Zoom

2022 Presbytery Meetings

February 19, 2022 – Zoom
May 19, 2022 – Beckley Presbyterian Church, Beckley
August 18, 2022 – Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, Huntington
November 12, 2022 – Davis & Elkins College, Elkins

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 13, 2021

The Presbytery met using the Zoom platform with **Moderator** Nancy Kissinger presiding. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the offering, authorization for 2022 of trained ruling elders to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in their churches of membership, and revised Policy on Authorized Lay Preachers (ALPs) Serving Churches in the Presbytery of West Virginia.

Listened to Ellie Johns-Kelley, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation, as she presented *Financial Sustainability in a Post-Covid Era*. Rev. Johns-Kelley began by setting the financial and generosity context both pre-pandemic and currently. She shared the possible risks of living through the pandemic and emerging from it with a mixed return to in person and hybrid worship. Her focus was on the steps for financial sustainability: prayer, mission and vision, engaging in year-round stewardship, additional sources of funds, and reducing expenses to activate more money for ministry and mission. Rev. Johns-Kelley is available to work with congregations. The PowerPoint presentation shared is available on the website.

Watched a video announcement from Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, who highlighted the Resource Center and its collections including video studies, commentaries and Bible study resources, children’s books, a portable labyrinth, and more. All resources are available to be shipped upon request. Contact Ms. Howard at resourcecenter@wvpresbytery.org to arrange for a consultation.

Worshipped with Kristi Moore (minister, Edgewood), who preached the sermon; Nancy Tissue (ruling elder, Fayetteville) and John Bolt (ruling elder, First Morgantown) led the liturgy. Minister of Word and Sacrament Peter Vial (Davis Memorial, Elkins) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Don Parker (ruling elder, Village Chapel) provided music.

Introduced new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Jeff Binder**, from Cascades Presbytery in Oregon, who serves as interim pastor of Old Stone Presbyterian Church, Lewisburg.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. The report highlighted four additional churches who have now completed the 2020 record review process. She presented the Rolls and Registers of Presbytery as of November 1. Ms. Wright

reminded Presbytery that following a consultation with legal counsel, the Moderator, General Presbyter, Financial Administrator/Treasurer, Leadership Team Chair and Trustee Chair recommend that each church incorporate. Each church received detailed information in May. 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 expressed thanks to all who made the virtual meeting of Presbytery possible, including Ellie Johns-Kelley, Moderator Kissinger, and Susan Sharp Campbell (staff and minister, Frankford) who acted as the “Zoom Czar”. Dr. Thompson shared the context of the Financial Sustainability Report and invited interested members of Presbytery to attend a feedback conversation on the report on Tuesday, November 16 at 7:00 PM. He recognized and thanked the members of the Presbytery staff.

Heard a report from Commissioner to the Synod of the Trinity, Jim Wilson (ruling elder, First Clarksburg) on the Synod Assembly October 24-26. He shared that Rev. Jimmie Hawkins, Director of the PC (USA) Office of Public Witness & Ministry spoke promoting conventional righteousness and social justice. The Synod’s per capita for 2022 and 2023 will remain the same at \$2.40, making the fourth consecutive year without an increase. The Synod elected the Rev. Forrest Claassen as the new Synod Executive. Mr. Wilson introduced retiring Synod of the Trinity Transitional Executive, Susan Faye Wonderland. She thanked the Presbytery for its partnership with the Synod during her time of service. The Presbytery wished her well in retirement.

Listened to the report of the **Leadership Team (LT)**, presented by chair, Andy Rice. On behalf of the committee, he nominated Doug Jenkins (minister, Honorably Retired) to serve on the Committee on Representation, Class of 2024. The motion was approved. The team brought a recommendation to increase the price of Presbytery lunch to \$10 per person. The recommendation was approved. Finally, the LT recommended that Presbytery grant the Leadership Team the authority to organize the composition of the New Life Congregational Grant Committee, make changes to the amount of grants up to \$25,000, and change the frequency of grant awards. The recommendation was approved.

Heard a report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. She announced that Bluestone will return to in person camp this summer and will offer family camp! Family camp will have dedicated staff and leaders. **The dates for summer camp 2022 are: June 14-19, June 21-26, June 28-July 3, and July 5-10.**

Listened to the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee chair, Dawn Adamy. She presented a recommendation from the committee to re-authorize

20 Authorized Lay Preachers (ALPs) to preside at the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper for 2022. The recommendation was approved. These ALPs are available to lead worship, preach, and celebrate communion throughout the Presbytery. Susan Sharp Campbell highlighted and invited members of Presbytery to join **Presby Prep** starting in January 2022.

Received the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He shared that the committee met with representatives of Suttle & Stalnacker, Certified Public Accountants, who presented the final report of the audit of the 2020 financial records. No exceptions or issues were noted. Mr. Poole presented the financial reports.

Heard the report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by committee chair, Sue Hollandsworth. She presented a recommendation to approve the Presbytery’s revised Child Protection Policy. The recommendation was approved. Ms. Hollandsworth highlighted upcoming educational opportunities including Toolbox Courses and the Educator, Clergy, Commissioned Pastor, and Authorized Lay Preacher Retreat.

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Pam Johnson, chair. The Presbytery elected David Lee (minister, Marlinton) to serve as moderator for 2022-2023 due to an unexpected vacancy in this position. Committee chairs for 2022 for Bluestone, Zac Morton (minister, First Morgantown), and Nurture (minister, First United Ravenswood) were elected. In addition, numerous persons were elected to serve on committee of Presbytery, and Emily Harden (minister, Church of the Covenant) was elected Synod Commissioner, class of 2023.

Listened to the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair, Peter Vial. He presented a recommendation to establish an Administrative Committee to inquire into the life and ministry of Whittico Memorial Presbyterian Church, Keystone. The recommendation was approved. Moderator Kissinger will appoint three members to the commission.

Joined the Moderator in thanking those who have led and served the Presbytery through its committees in 2021 and in installing the committee chairs for 2022.

Invited participants to contribute to the worship offering in support of the **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. 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. To date the offering collected is \$185. Gifts are still being accepted.

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