

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)

Younger Youth Retreat

Finding Your SOUL – March 19, 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Bream Memorial PC, Charleston

Festival of Faith

God Speaks in the Chaos – Keynote by William P. Brown
April 2, 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

The Guy’s Weekend

April 22-24 – Bluestone Camp & Retreat

Bluestone Camp & Retreat Summer Camp

Offering traditional residential and family camp options
Week 1 – June 12-18 Week 3 – June 26-July 2
Week 2 – June 19-25 Week 4 – July 3-9

2022 Presbytery Meetings

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
February 19, 2022

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

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation of West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) for the offering, and re-authorization for 2022 for three trained ruling elders to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in their churches of membership.

Installed the 2022-2023 Moderator, David Lee (minister, Marlinton).

Listened to Jenelle Holmes, Organizing Pastor of the Ormewood Church in Atlanta, as she presented *Loving Your People: Community Organizing as Ministry*. Rev. Holmes focused on listening as the basis for churches to discern ministry. As she began her ministry with the Ormewood Church, she and other church leaders made a commitment to listening. Her presentation included several stories of listening. She offered a plan for “neighborhood exegesis” in addition to two helpful books, *Creative Confidence: Unleashing the Creative Potential Within Us All* by Tom and David Kelley, and *The Art of Gathering: How We Meet and Why It Matters* by Priya Parker.

Heard an announcement from Susan Sharp Campbell, Associate for Educational Ministry, about Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) 2022. In order to keep youth and adult leaders safe, PYT 2022 has been cancelled. Plans for PYT Beyond, which was to be a follow up, will instead be a lead-in to PYT 2025; information will be shared as soon as it is available. Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2025 will offer tracks for youth and young adults. Nellie Howard, **Resource Center Director**, shared that following her retirement the Resource Center will be staffed by volunteers. Look for details regarding Resource Center hours in upcoming newsletters.

Worshipped with Laura Brekke Wagoner (minister, chaplain Davis & Elkins College), who preached the sermon; Jay Nunley (ruling elder, First Logan) and Ginna Taylor (ruling elder, First Charleston) led the liturgy. Minister of Word and Sacrament Evan Walker (First Fairmont) led Presbytery in a Reaffirmation of Baptism.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She highlighted two items of information from her printed report: the roster of members of the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) whose terms have expired within the past six years as

required by the Book of Order, and a meeting of the PJC. Ms. Wright reported that Honorably Retired Minister of Word and Sacrament, Gary McGrew, was elected Moderator, and Honorably Retired Minister of Word and Sacrament, Douglas Jenkins, was elected Clerk.

Listened to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He expressed thanks to all who attended and those who made the virtual meeting of Presbytery possible. Dr. Thompson led Presbytery in a land acknowledgement to recognize and honor the native peoples who first inhabited West Virginia. He invited those present to reflect on adult baptism and encouraged all of those present to be intentional about inviting people to declare their faith through baptism. Dr. Thompson shared an update on those working to bring future recommendations on the sale of the office building and those working to redefine the relationship between the Presbytery and Bluestone. He recognized and thanked the members of the Presbytery staff.

Welcomed Forrest Claassen, new Executive of **Synod of the Trinity**, who brought greetings from the Synod and its staff. He expressed his desire to learn about the mission and ministry of the Presbytery, and shared about the work and priorities of the Synod. Rev. Claassen recognized the leadership of John Bolt (ruling elder, First Morgantown) who served as chair of the Synod's Executive Search Committee.

Listened to the report of the **Leadership Team** (LT), presented by chair, Randy Fife. He echoed the update by the General Presbyter, Ed Thompson, on the continued work regarding financial sustainability. He referred those present to the printed report of the Leadership Team including envisioning the future of the Presbytery.

Honored those ruling elders, reported by their churches, who had joined the church triumphant in 2021.

Heard the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by George Lilley. He presented a recommendation to establish an Administrative Committee to dissolve the Red Sulphur Springs Presbyterian Church at their request. The recommendation was approved. Moderator Lee appointed Steve Cort (minister, Spring Creek) and Alyson Dotson (ruling elder, Ronceverte) to the commission; a ruling elder from Red Sulphur will be appointed. Mr. Lilley and Moderator Lee led Presbytery in a liturgy of commissioning for Ginna Taylor who now serves First Presbyterian Church, South Charleston, as Commissioned Pastor.

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Susan Perry, chair. The Presbytery elected Sharon Heidt (ruling elder, First Charleston) to serve as chair of the Mission Committee for 2022. The following persons were elected to serve on Presbytery committees: Kristi Moore (minister, Edgewood) and Jay Nunley (ruling elder, First Logan) to serve on the Committee on Ministry; Claire Butler (minister, First United Ravenswood) to serve on the Leadership Team; Sallie Daugherty (ruling elder, First Charleston) to serve on Stewardship; and Jean Sutton

(minister-at-large) to serve on Vocations. In addition, Chris Kilbert was elected as an ordination exam reader for the Class of 2023, and Robin Blakeman (minister, Validated Ministry) was elected as an alternate commissioner to the 225th General Assembly.

Listened to a report from the **West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps** (WVMAW) by Joan Stewart, Executive Director. She shared that the board has named an Executive Director Intern, Vic Morris. Mr. Morris spoke about the work and needs of WVMAW, and shared that the group has a new website, <https://wvministry.org/>. WVMAW is hoping to have a full summer of work groups.

Heard the report of the **Trustees** presented by committee chair, Jim Robinson. The Trustees recommended Presbytery approve a quit claim deed to the State of West Virginia for the former Cass Presbyterian Church relinquishing all further interest in the property and decision making. The motion was approved.

Listened to the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He presented the financial reports including 2021 year end.

Heard the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee chair, Dawn Adamy. She invited Lauren Davis, Candidate for ministry from First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, to share the story of her call to ministry. Rev. Adamy led the presbytery in prayer for Lauren.

Heard a report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. She shared the camping opportunities available this summer including in person, traditional residential and family camp. The dates for summer camp 2022 are listed in the upcoming event section of these highlights.

Listened to the report of the **Administration Committee**, presented by Senta Goudy. She honored the work of **Resource Center** Director, Nellie Howard who will retire February 28. Ms. Goudy spoke of the excellent work done by Ms. Howard as she has served the Presbytery. The Presbytery will make a donation in Ms. Howard's honor to celebrate her contribution to the life of the Presbytery.

Invited participants to contribute to the worship offering in support of the **West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps** (WVMAW). 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 \$400. **Gifts are still being accepted.**

Moderator Lee adjourned the meeting with prayer.