

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)

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

New RV Camping sites are available, contact Mark Miller for details.

Review of 2021 Session Records

August 7, 2022 – Elk Hills Presbyterian Church, Charleston, 3:00 PM

August 14, 2022 – Frankford Presbyterian Church, Frankford, 3:00 PM

August 21, 2022 – Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, 3:00 PM

August 28, 2022 – Milton Presbyterian Church, Milton, 3:00 PM

September 11, 2022 – Zoom event, 3:00 PM

2022 Presbytery Meetings

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 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
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
May 19, 2022

The Presbytery met at Beckley Presbyterian Church, Beckley, with **Moderator** David Lee presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. Monte Mitchell, pastor of the church, welcomed the Presbytery. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Introduced new Minister of Word and Sacrament **Elizabeth Lewis**, Pastor of the Glenville Presbyterian Church, Glenville.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance’s work in Ukraine for the offering, and re-authorization for 2022 for a ruling elder, David Oliver, to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in his church of membership.

Reflected on the proposal from the Leadership Team to sell the Presbytery office building. **Leadership Team** chair, Randy Fife, introduced the details of the recommendation to Presbytery. **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson, offered a brief presentation on the context of the Leadership Team’s recommendation including membership and financial trends, as well as the work of the Financial Sustainability Task Force. All in attendance joined small groups to consider further the recommendation. This small group time allowed for questions to be answered and for discussion regarding the sale to take place in an informal setting.

Heard an announcement from John Koerner, chair of the **Relations Committee**, about the work of the committee to contact the churches of the Presbytery. He encouraged Clerks of Session to return calls as the committee seeks to build stronger relationships and learn ways in which the Presbytery can better support its churches. He shared that the committee has limited grant funds to award to churches engaged in cooperative ministry and mission. Contact Rev. Koerner for details on the grants.

Worshipped with Zac Morton (minister, First Morgantown), who preached the sermon; Nancy Smallenberger (ruling elder, Old Stone) who led the liturgy. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Se Hwan Isaiah Kim (First Hinton) and Joan Stewart (minister, Summersville and West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Beckley Presbyterian Church’s organist, Kim Bennett, and a women’s chorus provided music.

Moderator Lee began the afternoon business with prayer. He shared that the **offering** collected during worship was \$939. **Gifts are still being accepted.**

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She highlighted two items of information from her printed report: the Presbytery's Statistical Report that reflects the information reported by churches, and that the Presbytery's 2021 minutes had been reviewed and approved without exception or delinquency by the Synod of the Trinity. She also provided the dates and locations of the Session Record Review Events; these can be found in the Upcoming Events section of these highlights.

Listened to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He expressed thanks to Beckley Presbyterian Church for their gracious hosting of the meeting, and to all who made the 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 commended the work of the Leadership Team and the Administration Committee that resulted in the proposal to sell the Presbytery office building. He concluded with a recognition and thanks to the members of the Presbytery staff.

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team** (LT), presented by chair, Randy Fife. He moved the recommendation to sell the Presbytery office building. (The full recommendation is available on the Presbytery website.) Following a time of discussion, Presbytery voted by paper ballot. The Presbytery approved the recommendation with 56 votes in favor and seven opposed. Mr. Fife highlighted several items of information including the creation of a Task Force to determine 2023 meeting dates and locations.

Listened to 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.

Heard the report of the **Administrative Commissions** to dissolve the Buffalo and Red Sulphur Springs Presbyterian Churches. Jean Summerfield (ruling elder, First Nitro) and Steve Cort (Honorably Retired minister), members of the commissions, presented reports and brief histories of each church. The Presbytery approved the recommendations to dissolve the churches effective May 19, 2022. The Moderator, General Presbyter, Mrs. Summerfield, and Rev. Cort led Presbytery in a liturgy of celebration and thanks for the years of ministry and mission by the churches.

Celebrated Good News from the Pews where Ruling Elder Commissioners from churches throughout the presbytery shared good news of mission and ministry.

Listened to the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair, Peter Vial. He invited commissioners to read the full printed report. The report included new covenants for Commissioned Pastors. Dr. Vial and Moderator Lee led Presbytery in a liturgy of commissioning for ruling elder Jennifer Anderson who serves First

Presbyterian Church, Whitesville, and ruling elder Debbie Penn who serves Eleanor Presbyterian Church, as Commissioned Pastors.

Heard the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He presented the financial reports for the first quarter of 2022.

Heard the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee member, Todd Wright. He made recommendations to approve that additional ruling elders be authorized to preside at communion in their congregations of membership. The recommendations were approved. Dr. Wright presented for a first reading a recommendation to amend the Presbytery Manual adding to the committee's authority as a commission to take action and reauthorize Authorized Lay Preachers to preside at communion as they provide pulpit supply, and reauthorize Ruling Elders to preside at communion in their congregations of membership. He invited commissioners to direct comments or questions to the committee chair, Dawn Adamy, or the Stated Clerk.

Moderator Lee reminded Presbytery to review the printed reports of the **Administration, Bluestone, Mission, Nurture, and Relations** committees. These reports are available on the Presbytery website.

Moderator Lee adjourned the meeting with prayer.