

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)

Equipping Disciples Events

The Book of Confessions: How the Church Has Spoken in and to the World
September 25, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. & September 26, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., Zoom

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event

Interfaith Relationships and Dialogues
How to Effectively Develop Them and Transform Church, Community, and Self
Led by Ibstesam Sue Barazi, Victor Urecki and Todd Wright
October 27, 2022, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Village Chapel, Charleston

2022 Youth Retreat

A More Loving World – Led by David LaMotte
November 18-20, Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

David LaMotte in Concert

November 18, 8:00 p.m., Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton
(This portion of the Youth Retreat is open to the public.)

2022 Presbytery Meetings

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
August 18, 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 and the designation of West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps (WVMAW) for the offering.

Listened to Forrest Claassen, new Executive of **Synod of the Trinity**, who presented, *Forrest Hates Titles*, a presentation on combating racism and practicing “love of strangers.” Rev. Claassen grounded his presentation in his pastoral experiences in Alaska and California. He focused on hospitality, curiosity, collision, charity, trust, humility, change, and compassion.

Heard two announcements. Robin Blakeman who works in a Validated Ministry with West Virginia Interfaith Power and Light, announced a grant program from National Religious Partnership for the Environment for mini grants of \$500 for local creation care projects that include youth. Sharon Heidt, chair of the Mission Committee, announced that the committee has grant monies to be disbursed and encouraged churches to submit applications. Churches can find grant details on the Presbytery website.

Worshipped with Agnes Brady (Honorably Retired minister), who preached the sermon; and Sue Hollandsworth (ruling elder, Oak Grove) who led the liturgy. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Kyle Key (Teays Valley) and Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke (First Williamstown and Waverly Bethel) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Music was provided by Ed Harkless (organist, First Huntington) and Cinda Harkless (minister, Kuhn Memorial). Amy Wallace Parker (minister, Village Chapel) wrote the communion liturgy.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She highlighted two items of information from her printed report: the overture submitted to the General Assembly through the work of the Theology, Worship, and Education Committee considered Overture TWE 06, On Amending W-4.0403 Regarding the Laying on of Hands at an Installation, submitted by the Presbytery of West Virginia. The Rev. Dr. Amy Wallace Parker served as Overture Advocate. The committee did not approve the overture as submitted for recommendation to the Assembly, but did amend W-4.0403 to include the words, “Signs and symbols of blessing may be conferred on the newly installed or commissioned person.” The amended recommendation was

approved by the General Assembly. The Stated Clerk thanked Dr. Parker for her work and agency on behalf of the Presbytery. Stated Clerk Wright reminded Clerks of Session of the upcoming session record review events on September 8 on Zoom, and September 11 on Zoom.

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, and invited Presbytery to pray for the original host church, Enslow Park Presbyterian Church, as they continue their flood recovery. Dr. Thompson led Presbytery in a land acknowledgement to recognize and honor the native peoples who first inhabited West Virginia. He recognized the faithfulness and ministry of Commissioned Pastors Jay Nunley and Tom Hastie who passed away since the May Presbytery meeting. Dr. Thompson acknowledged the ministry of Barbara Chalfant as she leaves the staff of Presbytery to join the staff of the Presbytery of the James. He shared the need for the Presbytery to determine its path ahead, acknowledging the challenge and excitement of the task. He called the Presbytery to be faithful to Jesus Christ now and as it moves forward. Finally, he asked for prayers for the staff as the office building is sold and staff transitions to working from home.

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team (LT)**, presented by chair, Randy Fife. The recommendation from the LT regarding New Life Congregational Grants that a congregational cap of \$30,000 in any five-year period was approved. Mr. Fife requested Presbytery approve the following meeting dates and locations for 2023: February 16 on Zoom, May 20 at First Clarksburg, August 17 at Fayetteville, and November 18 at First Charleston. The motion was approved. Presbytery also approved the LT recommendation that the Resource Center be moved to Bream Memorial with up to \$1,200 for moving expenses. The recommendation was approved. He referred those present to the printed report of the Leadership Team found in the packet.

Listened to the report of the **Trustees** presented by chair, Jim Robinson. The Trustees recommended Presbytery approve the request from First, Fairmont to accept a \$40,000 grant from the West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture, and History. The motion was approved. This grant attaches a five-year encumbrance to the deed.

Heard the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by committee chair, Jack Dilley. He shared the process that the committee used to develop the 20223 budget. On behalf of the Administration Committee, three motions were made and approved, for an \$850 increase in the salaries of the Financial Administrator/Treasurer, General Presbyter, and the Stated Clerk. The 2023 budget was approved as recommended by the committee. **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole presented the financial reports.

Listened to the video report of General Assembly commissioners Andy Rice

(minister of Word & Sacrament), Barbara Smith (ruling elder, Village Chapel), and Rachel McNeel (Young Adult Advisory Delegate). The commissioners shared their experiences from the General Assembly and actions taken by the Assembly.

Heard the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee chair, Dawn Adamy. She presented two changes to the manual for a second reading and action. The changes would add two items to the list of powers granted to the committee to act as a commission; the items allow the committee to reauthorize two categories of ruling elders to preside at communion. The recommendations were approved. Rev. Adamy shared that inquirer Payne Warner was approved by the committee to move to candidacy. A video prepared by Mr. Warner was shared.

Listened to the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair, Peter Vial. Presbytery approved a 3% increase in minimum compensation for Ministers and Certified Christian Educators. The Moderator and Dr. Vial led the Presbytery in the commissioning of Commissioned Pastor, Pat Collier, to serve the Spring Valley Presbyterian Church. Presbytery also recognized the ministry of Agnes Brady (minister) and celebrated her retirement.

Heard the report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by committee chair, Claire Butler. She shared details regarding the move of the Resource Center. Once the move is complete Presbytery will be invited to a grand re-opening, but resources are currently available by emailing the center. Rev. Butler also highlighted upcoming events.

Listened to a video report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. The report shared amazing camp experiences through the voices of campers and staff!

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Rich Cardot. The Presbytery elected Jim Wilson (ruling elder, First Clarksburg) to serve as Synod Commissioner, class of 2025.

Heard the report of the **Administration Committee**, presented by chair, Monte Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell reported on how churches may request unneeded furnishings from the office building. He honored the work of **Associate for Mission**, Barbara Chalfant. Dr. Mitchell spoke of the excellent work done by Ms. Chalfant as she has served 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 \$230. **Gifts are still being accepted.**