

Moderator Lee 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 or call 304-744-7634)

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Events 2023

How to Be a Hybrid Church – Led by Christen Kinard

Thursday, January 19 – Zoom, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Registration open through January 12

I Love to Tell the Story (Preaching) – Led by Donna Giver-Johnston

Saturday, March 4 – 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Seeking to be Faithful Together: Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of

Disagreement – Led by Carl Horton

Thursday, April 20 – 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Embracing God's Future

Saturday, October 28 – Zoom, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

2023 Presbytery Meetings

Thursday, February 16 – Virtual Meeting

Saturday, May 20 – First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg

Thursday, August 17 – Fayetteville Presbyterian Church

Saturday, November 18 – First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

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
Mark Miller Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Director of Facilities
Amy Robinson Director of Communications/Office Administrator
Sarah Specht Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Program Director

STAFF 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 12, 2022

The Presbytery met at Davis & Elkins College, Elkins, with **Moderator** David Lee presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. Tina Vial, Coordinator of Foundation and Church Relations at Davis & Elkins, welcomed the Presbytery. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, and designated the offering to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for their response to Hurricane Ian.

Gathered in small groups to discuss 24 of the 33 proposed amendments to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Constitution, Part II, the Book of Order following an introduction by the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. This was a time for those gathered to ask questions and explore the pros and cons of the proposed amendments on churches and the Presbytery. The remaining proposed amendments will be considered at the February Stated Meeting on Thursday, February 16, 2023.

Worshipped with Todd Wright (minister of Word & Sacrament, Village Chapel), who preached the sermon; Dana Marzolf (Ruling Elder, Davis Memorial Elkins) who served as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Elizabeth Lewis (Glennville) and Peter Vial (Davis Memorial Elkins) who presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Members of the D&E community provided music; pianist and director, Donna Baroudi Huffman, and quartet members: Heather Humphrey, Anna Ruf, Nicole Schumacher, and Jessica Walton.

Heard an announcement from Joan Stewart, Executive Director of **West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy and Workcamps**, who highlighted the work of our partner ministry and the search for a new Executive Director. Claire Butler, chair of the **Nurture Committee**, encouraged commissioners to visit the Resource Center display.

Received an offering of \$837.29 to assist Presbyterian Disaster Assistance with their response to the victims of Hurricane Ian. At lunch, \$77.72 was collected for the Cents-Ability Program that supports local hunger ministries, as well as national and international projects through the Presbyterian Hunger Program.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**. The report highlighted the churches who have completed the 2021 record review process, adding two churches. Those churches not on the list were encouraged to complete the review. Ruling Elder Wright presented

the Rolls and Registers of Presbytery as of October 25 with two corrections, and invited members to submit correction as necessary. She commented on the recent failure of state constitutional amendment three advising churches to await clarification from the West Virginia Secretary of State and legal counsel.

Voted on the proposed amendments to the constitution. Presbytery voted in the affirmative on the following proposed amendments: **Amendment 22-A:** THE CATHOLICITY OF THE CHURCH (39 for, 13 against), **Amendment 22-B:** OPENNESS (38 for, 14 against), **Amendment 22-C:** MEETINGS (52 for, 0 against), **Amendment 22-F:** TRANSFER OF MINISTERS OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS (45 for, 7 against), **Amendment 22-J:** FUNCTIONS (52 for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-K:** TRAINING, EXAMINING, AND COMMISSIONING (51 for, 2 against), **Amendment 22-L:** CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS (48 for, 4 against), **Amendment 22-S:** TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY (33 for, 19 against), **Amendment 22-V:** COMMUNION (47 for, 6 against), **Amendment 22-W:** ORDER OF WORSHIP (46 for, 7 against), **Amendment 22-X:** HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (48 for, 5 against), **Amendment 22-Y:** HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP (46 for, 7 against), **Amendment 22-Z:** THE CHURCH'S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH (50 for, 3 against), **Amendment 22-AA:** PASTORAL CARE (48 for, 4 against), and **Amendment 22-BB:** PASTORAL CARE (48 for, 5 against).

Presbytery voted in the negative on the following proposed amendments: **Amendment 22-E:** CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP (18 for, 34 against), **Amendment 22-I:** TERMS OF CALL (14 for, 39 against), **Amendment 22-O:** ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (23 for, 30 against), **Amendment 22-P:** ADMINISTRATION OF MISSION (20 for, 33 against), **Amendment 22-Q:** RELATIONS WITH SESSIONS (22 for, 31 against), **Amendment 22-R:** COMPOSITION AND RESPONSIBILITIES (24 for, 28 against), **Amendment 22-T:** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (22 for, 32 against), and **Amendment 22-U:** THEOLOGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (26 for, 27 against).

Listened to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He acknowledged that the land on which we met belonged to the native peoples who inhabited West Virginia long before European settlers arrived. In addition, he recognized the role of slaves in the history of West Virginia. Slaves contributed to the economy, brought wealth to their masters, some of which was given to our churches, and some of their labor would have helped to build some of our oldest churches. Dr. Thompson challenged Presbytery to remember and learn from our past – to find ways to recognize the harm done to the native peoples and to the slaves who contributed to who and what we are now. He shared an update on the sale of the Presbytery office building; recognizing the staff, volunteers, and members of the Administration Committee who worked to oversee the move to the storage space and staff members' homes. Dr. Thompson honored Susan Sharp Campbell, Associate for Educational Ministry, upon her 20th anniversary working for the Presbytery. He recognized Davis

and Elkins College and the good work happening at the college. He closed by reminding those present that the staff continues to be ready to help churches and leaders.

Heard the report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by committee member, Amy Wallace Parker. She updated Presbytery on the Resource Center now located at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charleston. Members of Presbytery were encouraged to visit the center or request items via email. Presbytery watched a video tour of the new space. The keynote speaker for Festival of Faith 2023 was announced; all are invited to come hear the Presbyterian Outlook editor, Terri McDowell Ott.

Listened to the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole. He shared that the Stewardship Committee met October 24 to receive the final report of the 2021 financial record review from Suttle & Stalnaker, CPAs Charleston. Mr. Poole presented the third quarter financial reports.

Acted on the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Susan Shelton Perry, chair. The Presbytery elected Dawn Adamy (MWS, Bream Memorial) as Moderator Elect. The following leaders were elected as committee chairs for 2023: Leadership Team – Randy Fife (RE, Bream Memorial); Administration – Monte Mitchell (MWS, Beckley); Bluestone – Zac Morton (MWS, First Morgantown); Committee on Ministry – George Lilley (RE, First Morgantown); Mission – Sharon Heidt (RE, First Charleston); Nurture – Claire Butler (MWS, First Ravenswood & Point Pleasant); Relations – John Koerner (MWS, First Clarksburg); Stewardship – Jack Dilley (RE, Kuhn Memorial); Trustees – Bonnie Boyce (MWS, Honorably Retired), Vocations – Todd Wright (MWS, Village Chapel). Please contact the Stated Clerk for a full list of those persons elected to serve on Presbytery committees.

Heard a report from Commissioner to the Synod of the Trinity, Jim Wilson (ruling elder, First Clarksburg) on the Synod Assembly October 23-25. He reported that Dr. Michael Wilson was elected to serve as Synod Stated Clerk starting in January. The Synod's per capita for 2023 will remain the same at \$2.40. Mr. Wilson shared the highlights of the ongoing work of the Synod.

Participated in the commissioning of ruling elders as Commissioned Pastors led by **Committee on Ministry** chair, Peter Vial and Moderator Lee. Those commissioned were, Jim Musgrave to serve First Presbyterian Church, Logan and Gilbert Presbyterian Church, and John Nelson to serve Highlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans.

Listened to the report of the **Mission Committee** presented by **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson, who invited Presbytery to re-commit to the Presbytery partnership with Nyeri Presbytery, Kenya. He encouraged those present to consult the Presbytery packet to identify church partnerships, and to connect with partner churches.