

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](http://www.wvpresbytery.org) or call 304-744-7634)

#### **Festival of Faith**

*Necessary Risks* – Keynote by Teri McDowell Ott

April 1, 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. – First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

#### **2023 Spring Youth Retreat**

*A More Loving World* – Led by the Presbytery Youth Council

April 14-16, Jackson’s Mill, Weston

#### **Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Event**

*Still Seeking to Be Faithful:*

*Creative Conflict Transformation in a Divided Age*

Led by Carl Horton

April 20, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. – Village Chapel, Charleston

#### **Bluestone Spring Getaway**

April 28-30, Bluestone Camp and Retreat, Hinton

#### **2023 Presbytery Meetings**

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  
Chris Alfred ..... 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

#### **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](mailto:office@wvpresbytery.org)**

## **Presbytery Highlights**

### **Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia**

#### *February 16, 2023*

The Presbytery met using the Zoom platform with **Moderator** David Lee presiding. The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Moderator. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper at the Spring Youth Retreat with a minister member of Presbytery as the celebrant.

**Listened** to Therese Howell, Stated Clerk of **Cherokee** and **North Alabama Presbyteries** and member of the **Rules of Discipline Task Force**, who presented, *An Introduction to the proposed Church Discipline*. Ruling Elder Howell offered an overview of the process of the revision of the Book of Order’s Rules of Discipline section. She also provided an overview of the revision, the proposed Church Discipline, and answered questions.

**Heard** an announcement from the chair of the Nurture Committee, Claire Butler. She invited the Presbytery to an Open House at the Resource Center now housed at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston. The Open House was held on February 21 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM.

**Worshipped** with Annie McMillan (minister, First Parkersburg), who preached the sermon; and Susan Shelton Perry (ruling elder, First Logan) and Jim Musgrave (ruling elder, Highlawn, Huntington) who led the liturgy. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Parrish Bridges (First Huntington) and Charla Waters Koerner (Parish Associate, First Clarksburg) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Music was provided by the Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church choir and organist, Travis Cullen.

**Heard** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She highlighted one item 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. Ruling Elder Wright reported the Administrative Commission (AC) for Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston, has met. The AC also met with members of the church on February 12 and continues its work.

**Voted** on those proposed amendments to the constitution that were not considered at the November 2022 meeting. Presbytery voted in the affirmative on all of the remaining proposed amendments: **Amendment 22-D: BUSINESS PROPER TO A CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS** (81 for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-G: PURPOSE OF INQUIRY** (77 for, 4 against), **Amendment 22-H: OVERSIGHT** (82

for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-M: OFFICERS** (82 for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-N: MEETINGS** (83 for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-CC: WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS** (80 for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-DD: IF CHARGES ARE TO BE FILED** (82 for, 2 against), **Amendment 22-EE: PETITION FOR REVIEW** (84 for, 1 against), **Amendment 22-FF: AMENDING THE USE OF “THE ACCUSED” IN THE CURRENT RULES OF DISCIPLINE** (81 for, 3 against), **Amendment 22-GG: REPLACING THE CURRENT “RULES OF DISCIPLINE” WITH A NEW “CHURCH DISCIPLINE” SECTION** (81 for, 3 against).

**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, especially Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins, for hosting the broadcast group and Zac Morton (minister, First Morgantown) who acted as “Zoom Czar”. Dr. Thompson acknowledged that the land on which we met belonged to the native peoples who inhabited West Virginia and highlighted the role of slavery in the history of West Virginia. He encouraged the Presbytery to seek ways to repair the damage of these actions. 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 remembered two ministers who died in January: Walt Case and Lanny Howe. He acknowledged the ministry of Rocky Poole as he retires. He welcomed Chris Alfred, incoming Financial Administrator/Treasurer, to the staff. He celebrated the adoption of Marley by Evan (minister, First Fairmont) and Jen Walker. Finally, Dr. Thompson recognized and thanked the members of the Presbytery staff.

**Heard** the report of the **Leadership Team (LT)**, presented by chair, Randy Fife. He presented the recommendation that Sharon Rowe (ruling elder, Old Stone) and Richard Thomas (ruling elder, Beechwood) be elected to the Committee on Representation (COR), Class of 2025, and that Susan Shelton Perry (ruling elder, First Logan) be elected to serve as chair of the COR for 2023. The recommendations were approved. The LT appointed an Administrative Commission for the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church. The team’s work is focused on planning **A Season of Discernment** that will seek to determine what God is calling the Presbytery to be and do. A consultant will be hired to guide this process. In addition, the LT determined the need for a Transitional General Presbyter and asked the COR to bring nominations for a search committee of five.

**Installed** the 2023 Moderator Elect, Dawn Adams (minister, Bream Memorial).

**Heard** the report of the **Nurture Committee** presented by committee chair, Claire Butler. She highlighted a number of upcoming events inviting Presbytery to attend the Spring Youth Retreat, Festival of Faith, and Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox courses. See the upcoming events section of these highlights or visit the Presbytery’s website for more information.

**Listened** to the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair, George Lilley. The Moderator and Mr. Lilley led the Presbytery in the commissioning of Commissioned Pastor, Rob Bane, to serve the Falls View Presbyterian Church.

**Honored** those ruling elders, reported by their churches, and ministers who had joined the church triumphant in 2022.

**Acted on** the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Susan Shelton Perry, chair. The Presbytery elected persons to the Leadership Team as well as the Bluestone and Relations Committees. Please contact the Stated Clerk for a full list of those persons elected to serve. The following persons were nominated and elected to serve on the **Transitional General Presbyter Search Committee**: Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke (minister, Waverly-Bethel and First Williamstown), Senta Goudy (ruling elder, First Parkersburg), Derek Hudson (ruling elder, Bream Memorial), Charles McNeel (ruling elder, Beckley), and Andy Rice (minister, Oak Grove). Rev. Rice was elected to chair the committee.

**Welcomed** Emily Chudy, Church Consultant from the Presbyterian Church (USA)’s **Board of Pensions**, who brought greetings from the board. She reviewed the many ways that the Board of Pensions is able to serve churches and leaders.

**Celebrated Good News from the Pews** in breakout rooms where all those present shared good news of mission and ministry from their churches.

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

**Listened** to a report from Sarah Specht, **Bluestone Camp and Retreat Program Director**. The report focused on the upcoming opportunities for spring retreats and the upcoming summer camping season. See the upcoming events section of these highlights and visit the Bluestone website for more information.

**Listened** to the report of the **Administration Committee**, presented by Monte Mitchell. He honored the work of the **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Rocky Poole who retired February 28. Rev. Mitchell and **Stewardship Committee** chair, Jack Dilley, spoke of the outstanding work done by Mr. Poole as he served the Presbytery. The Presbytery will make a donation in Mr. Poole’s honor to celebrate his contribution to the life of the Presbytery.

**Invited** participants to contribute to the worship offering in support of the **Kenya Scholarship Fund**. 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 \$305. **Gifts are still being accepted.**