



**Stated Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Charleston
November 18, 2023**

	<u>Page #</u>
Docket _____	1-2
Consent Agenda _____	3
Report of the Stated Clerk _____	4-10
Report of the Leadership Team _____	11-12
Report of the Committee on Representation _____	13-14
Report of the Administrative Commission to Dissolve Ruffner Memorial PC _____	15-17
Report of the Committee on Ministry _____	18-31
Report of the Stewardship Committee _____	32-45
Report of the Vocations Committee _____	46-47
Report of the Nurture Committee _____	48-49
Report of the Bluestone Committee _____	50
Report of the Administration Committee _____	51
Report of the Relations Committee _____	52-53
Report of the Trustees _____	54
Evaluation Form _____	55

Worship Bulletin & Flyers follow the evaluation form

THE PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Synod of the Trinity – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

First Presbyterian Church

Charleston, West Virginia

November 18, 2023

A MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

Who are we? The Presbytery of West Virginia is a baptized, covenant people called by God to reflect Christ's love through mission, ministry, and relationships.

What is our vision? It is our vision that everyone will experience the love of God.

What is our mission? The Presbytery of West Virginia strengthens, supports, and serves our worshipping communities as they share God's love through mission, ministry, and relationships.

DOCKET

*Indicates "Order of the Day" (To be taken up precisely at the time indicated)

9:00 – 10:00 Registration and time for fellowship and refreshments

*10:00 Call to Order

David Lee, Moderator

Greetings from First Presbyterian Church

Bill Myers

Business of the Presbytery

- Welcome of new Ministers Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk
- Seating of new Corresponding Members
- Recognition of Ruling Elders attending Presbytery for the first time
- Statement of Quorum
- Approval of Docket
- Consent Agenda Moderator
 - o A consent agenda groups together routine items and resolutions under one agenda item. Items included in the consent agenda will not be open for discussion and all are approved in one vote. Opportunity will be given prior to the vote for members to remove items from the consent agenda. Items that are removed will be added to the regular agenda for separate discussion.
- Appointment of Temporary Clerks
- Appointment of Standing Committees
 - o Committee on Bills and Overtures
 - Leadership Team members present

*10:15 Educational Focus

11: 25 Announcements: Resource Center, Lunch Roundtable Opportunity

*11:30 Morning Worship

*12:30 Recess for Lunch

*1:30	Afternoon Prayer	Moderator
	Report of the Stated Clerk	Stated Clerk
	- Presentation of Procedural Matters	
	Report of the Transitional General Presbyter	Maureen Wright
	Report of the Leadership Team	Randy Fife
	Report of the Committee on Representation	Susan Shelton Perry
	Report of the Administrative Commission to dissolve Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church	Jim Robinson
	Report of the Committee on Ministry	George Lilley
	“Good News from the Pews”	Moderator
	This is a time of sharing good news from churches throughout the presbytery by Ruling Elder Commissioners only.	
	Report of the Stewardship Committee	Mark Boyd
	- Financial Reports	Chris Alfred
	Report of the Vocations Committee	Todd Wright
	Report of the Nurture Committee	Claire Butler-Bass
	Report of the Bluestone Committee	Zac Morton
	Report of the Administration Committee	Monte Mitchell
	Installation of the 2024-2025 Moderator	Moderator
	Installation of 2024 Committee Chairs and Presbytery Leaders	Dawn Adamy
	New Business	
	Completion of Feedback Forms	

4:00 Anticipated Time of Adjournment with Charge and Benediction by the Moderator

Printed Reports for Information Only: Mission Committee, Relations Committee and Trustees

2024 Stated Meetings:

February 17 – Zoom

May 16 – Clifton Presbyterian Church with co-host Ronceverte Presbyterian Church

August 17 – Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington

November 21 – First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

CONSENT AGENDA

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS:

From the Stated Clerk

1. That the requests for Excused Absences be approved.

From the Mission Committee

1. That the offering received at the November 18, 2023 Presbytery meeting be directed to the Presbytery's Hunger Grant fund to supplement those monies collected through the Cents-Ability Offering of churches.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK

November 19, 2023

Correspondence (received 8/1/23 through 10/28/23)

1. 9/1/2023 A letter from Rev. Forrest Claassen, Executive of the Synod of the Trinity, that notified the Presbytery of West Virginia of the Synod Campus Ministry Grants for campus ministries at WVU Tech, Concord University, Davis & Elkins College, Fairmont State University, Marshall University, and West Virginia University. The funds for the first semester were included with the letter.

ACTION: Shared with Westminster Foundation and submitted the funds to the Presbytery Treasurer for distribution to Westminster Foundation.

2. 9/19/2023 The minutes of the Administrative Commission to install William E. Myers as campus pastor of West Virginia University, Morgantown.

ACTION: Referred to be included in the minutes of this Presbytery Meeting

3. 10/15/2023 The minutes of the Administrative Commission to install Steve Elderbrock as pastor of the Bridgeport Presbyterian Church, Bridgeport.

ACTION: Referred to be included in the minutes of this Presbytery Meeting

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **(CA)** That the requests for Excused Absences be approved.
2. That Presbytery direct the moderator appoint an administrative commission for the purpose of dissolving the **Alderson Presbyterian Church, Alderson** at its request. This commission is empowered pursuant to Presbytery policy, to do the following:
 - a. Assist the Session to wind up the affairs of the church, provide pastoral care during the dissolution process, transfer members as directed, and plan a final service of worship
 - b. Receive Session records, retain records to wind up the affairs and deposit the records with the Stated Clerk, who will forward them to the Presbyterian Historical Society
 - c. Grant letters of dismissal to members of the church within one year of the effective date of dissolution
 - d. With the aid of the Presbytery Trustees, arrange for the sale of the property or take possession of all real and personal property, inventories of equipment or other property and consult with legal counsel to arrange for the transfer of title to a new buyer or

execute the terms of the original deed, transferring title of the property to the Presbytery if necessary

- e. Take possession of appropriate financial records, arrange for transfer to the Presbytery of all accounts, consult with the remaining members regarding the financial legacy of the congregation, and make recommendations to Presbytery regarding the financial legacy of the church
- f. Consult with the Session regarding requests of the congregation with regard to the disposition of the property and arrange for the disposition of the property or arrange for its retention and storage with the Presbytery Trustees
- g. Assert claim of the Presbytery to any property of the church not known at this time or property which may come to the church as the beneficiary of a will or trust

This church shall be dissolved effective the date on which the Presbytery receives and approves the commission's final report.

INFORMATION:

1. The Presbytery of West Virginia's statistical summary for 2022 was submitted to the Synod of the Trinity's Stated Clerk, Dr. Michael Wilson.
2. The Roll and Register of the Presbytery of West Virginia follows this report. Please contact the Stated Clerk if your information is not correct.
3. The 2021 minutes of the Enslow Park Presbyterian Church have been reviewed.
4. The following churches 2022 Session Records were reviewed by the Presbytery of West Virginia:

Bates Memorial Presbyterian Church; Beckley Presbyterian Church; Beechwood Presbyterian Church; Belington Presbyterian Church; Belle Presbyterian Church; Beverly Presbyterian Church; Bridgeport Presbyterian Church; Canyon Community Presbyterian Church; Centerville Presbyterian Church; Church of Our Saviour; Clifton Presbyterian Church; Community Presbyterian Church; Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins; Edgewood Presbyterian Church; Elk Hills Presbyterian Church; Enslow Park Presbyterian Church; Falls View Presbyterian Church; Fayetteville Presbyterian Church; First Presbyterian Church, Bluefield; First Presbyterian Church, Charleston; First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg; First Presbyterian Church, Dunbar; First Presbyterian Church, Hinton; First Presbyterian Church, Huntington; First Presbyterian Church, Kenova; First Presbyterian Church, Kingwood; First Presbyterian Church, Logan; First Presbyterian Church, Morgantown; First Presbyterian Church, Nitro; First Presbyterian Church, Parkersburg; First Presbyterian Church, St. Albans; First Presbyterian Church, Thomas; First Presbyterian Church, Weston; First Presbyterian Church, Whitesville; First

Presbyterian Church, Williamson; First United Presbyterian Church, Ravenswood; Fleming Memorial Presbyterian Church; Frankford Presbyterian Church; Glenville Presbyterian Church; Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington; Highlawn Presbyterian Church, St. Albans; Kanawha United Presbyterian Church; Kuhn Memorial Presbyterian Church; Marlinton Presbyterian Church; Oak Grove Presbyterian Church; Old Stone Presbyterian Church; Point Pleasant Presbyterian Church; Riverlawn Presbyterian Church; Rock Lake Presbyterian Church; Rome Presbyterian Church; Ronceverte Presbyterian Church; Second Presbyterian Church; Smithers Presbyterian Church; Spencer Presbyterian Church; Spring Creek Presbyterian Church; South Park Presbyterian Church; Summersville Presbyterian Church; Teays Valley Presbyterian Church; Trinity Presbyterian Church; Upper Glade Presbyterian Church; Village Chapel Presbyterian Church; Waverly-Bethel Presbyterian Church; Westminster Presbyterian Church; Winfield Presbyterian Church.

Rolls and Registers of Presbytery

The 2019-2021 Book of Order in G-3.0104 and G-3.0305 states that the Stated Clerk shall keep the rolls of presbytery's membership and registers of all Certified Christian Educators, Certified Associate Christian Educators and ruling elders commissioned to particular pastoral service. According to the Presbytery Manual, presbytery's membership includes officers of the Presbytery and Leadership Team members. Please contact the Stated Clerk with corrections or updates.

Presbytery Rolls as of November 3, 2023

Officers

Moderator: David A. Lee; **Moderator Elect:** Dawn Marie Adamy; **Transitional General Presbyter & Stated Clerk:** Maureen H. Wright; **Recording Clerk:** John F. Koerner; **Financial Administrator/Treasurer:** James C. Alfred.

Leadership Team

Dawn Marie Adamy, Christopher M. Bailey, W. Randolph Fife, Senta Goudy, Amy Kesterson, David A. Lee, Jane Lothes, Monte D. Mitchell, James E. Morley, William C. Myers, Arden Swecker.

Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

Engaged in Validated Ministry:

Dawn Marie Adamy, Christopher M. Bailey, Stephen H. Baldwin, Sharon Suzanne Bell, Robin Blakeman, Mark Allen Boyd, Claire Lamonte Butler-Bass, Susan Sharp Campbell, Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke, Guy Richard Cardot, Garland Dale Carey, E. Denison Dodson, Stephen William Elderbrock, Emily Kathleen Harden, Cinda Harkless, Julie Norris Hitsman, John S. Holland, Kyle W. Key, Noha Tamen Khoury-Bailey, Christopher M. Kilbert, Se Hwan Isaiah Kim, Charla Waters Koerner, John F. Koerner, David A. Lee, Elizabeth Lewis, W. Patterson Lyles, Marietta Macy, Annie Elizabeth McMillan, Monte Dean Mitchell, Kristi Shay Moore, James E. Morley, Zachary M. Morton, William C. Myers, William E. Myers, Julia Olt, Amy Wallace Parker, P. Douglas Pendleton Jr., Andrew K. Rice, Joan S. Stewart, William Evan Walker, Todd R. Wright.

Members At-Large:

Leslie S. Clay, Thomas Joseph Marchio, Schuyler Olt, Jean C. Sutton.

Honorably Retired:

Barbara A. Accord*, Ralph Judson Alford II*, Robert K. Bondurant*, David H. Bower*, Bonnie Boyce*, Agnes L. Brady*, Ronald W. Buckalew*, Kenneth B. Calebaugh*, R. Leon Carroll Jr.*,

Robert Alan Carter*, Stephen Carter Cort*, David S. Deaderick*, Robert W. Debnam*, Charles B. Dreyer*, Robert H. Glaser*, Paul E. Goehner*, Leonard E. Graham*, Benny E. Gurley*, Kristine Haig*, Cameron R. Harkness*, P. Douglas Heidt*, Virginia Kay Hollis*, Douglas Jenkins*, Janet Jenkins*, Forest R. Johnson*, Thomas M. Johnston Jr.*, William G. McCoy*, Gary S. McGrew*, Richard W. McGuire*, Douglas A. Minnerly*, Richard S. Mobayed*, Christopher Perkins*, Boyd C. Purcell*, David P. Richards*, John A. Riley*, Charles L. Ringe*, M. Bruce Robertson*, James E. Robinson*, Michael R. Seely*, Frank L. Seibel*, David K. Shaffer*, Donna Lee Shogren*, Richard J. Snyder*, John W. Sonnenday*, Donald L. Spencer*, Charles M. Spring*, Bruce G. Stevens*, C. Gregory Stone*, J. Dexter Taylor*, Edward J. Thompson*, Peter A. Vial*, Gary C. Walker*, James A. Walther Jr.*, Kathryn A. Willoughby Weed*, Richard B. Wilson*, Sara G. Woodard*.

Under Censure:

Michael Ducheneau (Excluded from exercise of office until June 2013; he may now initiate the process required to be included.)

Corresponding Members (Members of other Presbyteries Laboring in Our Bounds):

David Bush* (Coastal Carolina Presbytery), Bruce Macbeth* (Shenandoah Presbytery).

Registers of Presbytery as of November 2, 2023

Certified Christian Educators

Certified Christian Educators: Susan Sharp Campbell, Susan C. Eason+, Kay Lamb*, Marcia Leitch*, Dana Marzolf*, Barbara Palmer*, Forrest Palmer*, Kari Preslar, Karen B. Robinson*, Cyndi C. Taylor*, Maureen Wright.

Certified Associate Christian Educators: Martha O'Dell+.

Commissioned Pastors

Jennifer Anderson, Robert Bane, Jeff Barton, Nancy Bulla, Preston Collier, William Dunfee, Roger Eskins, Terry Layton, Jim Musgrave, John Nelson, Debbie Penn, Kari Preslar, Emmet Rogers, Cherrie Sizemore, Ginna Taylor, John Yeager.

*All retired persons are noted with an asterisk.

+These persons are not currently involved in active service as Christian Educators.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

A. Principles of Parliamentary Law

- Courtesy to all
 - Majority rule
 - Justice for all
 - One Item at a time
 - Respect the rights of the minority
 - Partiality for none
- Usually pro and con speakers will alternate and individual speaking will identify his or her position.
- No one is allowed to speak more than once on a pending question until all wishing to speak have been heard; a person can then speak a second time, but no more than twice (unless the body gives special permission by two-thirds vote for a third speech).

B. Relevant Provisions of Presbytery's Manual (Section III of Manual)

1. "No new business shall be introduced after Presbytery recesses for lunch (unless by two-thirds vote Presbytery sets a different deadline for introduction of new business), and any new business not listed on the docket shall be presented in written form."
2. "...each elder elected an officer, General Presbyter, or a member of Leadership Team shall be enrolled as a member of the Presbytery for the term of office, whether or not commissioned by his or her session."
3. "The privilege of the floor without vote shall be granted to lay members of Presbytery's committees and to laypersons serving on Presbytery's staff, if not enrolled as members of the Presbytery."
4. "The privilege of the floor without vote shall be granted to certified church educators serving the churches of Presbytery, if not enrolled as members of the Presbytery. Certified church educators who are ruling elders and serving churches of Presbytery shall have voice and vote privileges. (G-2.1103b)"

NOTE: The phrase, "privilege of the floor without vote," means that the person has the privilege of speaking on the floor of Presbytery, including debating a motion under consideration, subject to rules and guidelines that govern discussion and debate. However, the person does not have the privilege to make motions or to vote.

Those who have "privilege of the floor without vote" are lay members of committees, lay members of Presbytery staff, church educators, and youth advisory delegates. Those with "voice and vote" privileges are member Teaching Elders, Ruling Elder commissioners, Certified Christian Educators*, Commissioned Ruling Elders, General Presbyter, Stated Clerk, Recording Clerk, Treasurer, Moderator, Members of Leadership Team and Presbytery Committee chairs.

C. Procedural Rules for the meeting of Presbytery (approval by two-thirds vote required to adopt #3).

1. Persons wishing to speak to the Presbytery - giving a report, debating a motion, raising questions - will do so by using the microphones.
2. Each speaker, after recognition by the Moderator, will give his or her name and church name (or other relationship to the Presbytery if not pastor or elder commissioner from a session).
3. Limitation of Debate - 30 minutes per main motion, with each individual limited to 3 minutes per speech.
4. A recommendation from a committee or other entity elected by the Presbytery, upon being presented to Presbytery by an elected member of that entity, is considered to be on the floor for Presbytery's debate, amendment, and disposition without the necessity of a motion placing the recommendation on the floor.

Motion Basics

STEPS OF THE MOTION

1. *Commissioner* rises and addresses the Moderator.
2. *Moderator* recognizes commissioner and grants the floor.
3. *Commissioner* makes motion. (Commissioner may not debate before the motion is seconded.)
4. *Another commissioner* seconds the motion without recognition from the moderator.
5. *Moderator* states the motion.
6. *Moderator* calls for debate. (Maker of the motion has the privilege of first debate.) All speakers must address the moderator and be recognized by the moderator.
7. *Moderator* states the motion.
8. *Moderator* takes the vote and announces the vote and the results of the vote.
9. *Moderator* states the next order of business.

SEVEN USEFUL MOTIONS

1. **Amend.** There are *only* three forms of simple amendment.
 - a. to delete or strike out
 - b. to add or insert
 - c. to strike out and insert

The words proposed for deletion or addition *must be consecutive words*. When the amendment does not involve consecutive words or is longer than a paragraph, the motions "to substitute" (a form of amendment) is used. This is a difficult motion and should *never* be used when the simple form of amendment can be used.

2. **Commit or Refer.** To commit or refer back to committee for further study and amendment allows the consultative process to be used in greater depth. When this motion is made, it needs to state clearly what committee; appointment of the committee, if necessary; the task of the committee; and report time.
3. **Postpone to a Particular Time.** This motion takes precedence over the preceding two and has the power to grant additional time to a particular member or committee or do further study or consultation. It should always be used in preference to "table" because it permits debate on the propriety of postponement.
4. **Limits on Debate.** The assembly always has the power, and the moderator the right of suggestion, to limit debate to a particular hour, or extend or shorten speeches according to the necessity of the moment. Limits on the length of speeches are advisable in instances where the issue before the assembly is highly divisive and many members wish to speak.
5. **Previous Question.** The maker of the motion "to move the previous question" (close debate and immediately take the vote) must be recognized by the moderator and the motion must receive a second. *It is never in order when called from the floor.* This motion should never be considered when it is used to prevent legitimate debate.
6. **Lay on the Table.** This motion is seldom necessary. The motion "to postpone" is always preferable because of its lower rank and its debatability. Misuse of this subsidiary motion can be a strategy that seriously abridges the rights of the assembly because of its high rank and its adoption by a majority vote without debate. The moderator is obliged to explain carefully to the assembly the implications of this motion should it be made.
7. **Consideration by Paragraph or Seriatim.** Consideration by paragraph or seriatim is an incidental motion that may be suggested by the moderator or any two members of the assembly, allowing for orderly consideration of a complex proposal with several different parts, clarifying for the assembly the controversial aspects of the proposal. Each paragraph of the proposal can be amended without finally adopting the new wording until the final action on the main motion as amended.

(Adapted from *Parliamentary Procedures in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)* by Marianne L. Wolfe, P.R.P.)

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Randy Fife, Leadership Team Chair

November 18, 2023

INFORMATION:

1. The Leadership Team met on September 12, 2023 (called meeting). A summary of the meeting follows.
 - a. Welcomed new member Jane Lothes.
 - b. Reviewed the plans for the educational aspect of the upcoming November meeting of Presbytery.
 - c. Reviewed the progress of the ad hoc group drafting/revising policies of the Presbytery in accordance with the Book of Order requirements approved by a majority of the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
 - d. Reviewed the status of addressing the need to delegate certain Stated Clerk-related administrative tasks of the Transitional General Presbyter/Stated Clerk.
 - e. Considered the use of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance funds of \$7,500 received by Presbytery to address immediate needs from the August flooding. The funds were given to assist Presbytery partner, West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WV VOAD).
 - f. Reviewed the status of the Presbytery's *Season of Discernment*, specifically addressing the timetable for promulgating, responding to, and reviewing the results of the consultant's survey; considering how best to communicate with members and congregations; determining how to handle follow-up of those communications; and reviewing the plan for expected listening sessions to be held around the Presbytery.
2. The Leadership Team met on October 10, 2023 (called meeting) in order to review in detail the results of the survey undertaken on the Presbytery's behalf by Emily Swanson of Holy Cow! Consulting. The Team celebrated the fact that nearly 500 surveys were returned and heard from Ms. Swanson as to various aspects of the results. The Team also reviewed the plan for follow-up listening sessions by the consultant with various groups (clerks of Session, committee members, active clergy/commissioned pastors, retired clergy, and Presbytery staff) and for listening sessions led by members of the Leadership Team around the Presbytery open to all.
3. The Leadership Team met on October 19, 2023 (stated meeting). A summary of the meeting follows:
 - a. Reviewed a draft docket for the upcoming November meeting of the Presbytery.

- b. Reviewed draft reports from Presbytery committees.
 - c. Reviewed the status of drafting/revising various Presbytery policies.
 - d. Considered persons to serve on Task Force that will develop an anti-racism policy, a new Book of Order requirement approved by a majority of the Presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA).
 - e. Heard from the Administration Committee on the status of work on potential delegation of various administrative tasks of the Stated Clerk and on the need to revise position descriptions of other staff, especially the Office Administrator/Communications following the sale of the Presbytery office building.
 - f. Reviewed correspondence from Synod Executive Forrest Claassen as to funds being set aside for Presbyteries to assist with new or innovative ecclesiastical structures or missional practices. The Team determined it would more fully review the matter at its January retreat.
 - g. Heard of the resignation of Sarah Specht, Bluestone Program Director, effective as of December 31, 2023.
 - h. Reviewed the request of the Nurture Committee for a resource table at the November Presbytery meeting featuring information from the Israel/Palestine Mission Network of the PC (USA). After discussion, the team approved a lunch roundtable discussion led by the Rev. Marietta Macy, Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, who is a steering committee member of the Israel/Palestine Mission Network. The Nurture Committee affirmed this opportunity.
 - i. Considered how to address funds received annually for the purpose of pastoral services at Presbyterian Homes in light of various Presbytery staffing changes.
 - j. Appointed Mark Boyd as interim chair of the Stewardship Committee to serve until the November 18 Presbytery. Rev. Boyd is replacing Jack Dilley upon his resignation.
 - k. Approved the request of the Nurture Committee to allow Rev. Ann Russ, keynote speaker for the fall youth retreat, to preside at the table at the conclusion of the retreat.
 - l. Reviewed the status of the Presbytery's *Season of Discernment*, with particular attention to the plan for various Zoom and in-person listening sessions.
4. The Leadership Team met on November 13, 2023 (called meeting) in order to review with consultant Emily Swanson the information from the recent listening sessions.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Susan Perry, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. For Committee Chair for November 18 – December 31, 2023**
Stewardship Committee – Mark Boyd (MWS, First St. Albans)
- 2. For Committee Chair for 2024**
Leadership Team – Randy Fife (RE, Bream Memorial)
- 3. For Committee Members**
 - a. Committee on Ministry**
Class of 2024 – Beth Vorhees (RE, First Charleston)
Class of 2025 – Bill Dunfee (RE, First Williamstown)
Class of 2026 – Doug Minnerly (MWS, HR, Charleston)
 - b. Mission Committee**
Class of 2026 – Rick Johnson (MWS, HR, Vienna)
 - c. Nurture Committee**
Class of 2026 – Marietta Macy (MWS, First Charleston)
Class of 2026 – Will Myers (MWS, WVU Campus Minister)
Class of 2026 – Andrew Tilley (RE, Second Huntington)
 - d. Relations Committee**
Class of 2024 – Sally Woodard (MWS, HR)
Class of 2026 – Doug Pendleton (MWS, First Huntington)
 - e. Stewardship Committee**
Class of 2024 – Kyle Key (MWS, Teays Valley)
Class of 2025 – Schuyler Olt (MWS, Member-at-Large, Lewisburg)
 - f. Trustees**
Class of 2026 – James Rowe (RE, Old Stone)
 - g. Vocations Committee**
Class of 2026 – Nancy Martin (RE, Mount Hope)

h. Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2029 – Schuyler Olt (MWS, Member-at-Large, Lewisburg)

4. 226th General Assembly, 2024

a) Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner

Christopher Kilbert (Riverlawn)

b) Ruling Elder Commissioner

Susan Shelton Perry (First Logan)

c) Alternate Minister of the Word and Sacrament Commissioner

Bill Myers (First Charleston)

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO DISSOLVE RUFFNER MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHARLESTON, WV

Jim Robinson, Chair of the Commission

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church property be transferred to the Presbytery of West Virginia Trustees.
2. That the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective on the date of the property transfer.
3. That the Administrative Commission be dismissed with thanks upon completion of the transfer.

RATIONALE

Working with a broker, the Administrative Commission has diligently tried to sell the property within the terms of the original deed, particularly the deed for the lot upon which the sanctuary is built. Two sales have failed. It is in the best interest of the Presbytery for its Trustees to assume the responsibility for the disposal of the property.

RECOMMENDATIONS APPROVED AUGUST 17, 2023:

4. That the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective upon completion of the sale of the property or when the property is turned over to the Trustees of the Presbytery.
5. That Presbytery approve the financial legacy recipients of The Friends of Bluestone, The Westminster Foundation, and Daymark, Charleston.
6. The Commission hereby asserts the claim of the Presbytery to any property of the church not known at this time, or property which may come to the church as the beneficiary of a will or trust.

RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

At its meeting on January 12, 2023, the Leadership Team approved the creation of an administrative commission for the purpose of dissolving the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church. The Moderator appointed the following members to the commission:

- Andy Ceperley (Ruling Elder, First, Charleston)
- Roberta Fowlkes (Ruling Elder, Kanawha United)
- Pat Posey-Maine (Ruling Elder, Ruffner Memorial)

- Amy Wallace Parker (Minister, Village Chapel)
- Jim Robinson (Minister, Honorable Retired)

The appointment of the administrative commission was warranted due to the pending sale of the building, and there were an insufficient number of elders to act as the session. The duties of the administrative commission were as follows:

- Assume the full powers and jurisdiction of the Session
- Assist the Session to wind up the affairs of the church, provide pastoral care as needed, transfer members as directed, and plan a final worship
- Receive Session records, retain records to wind up the affairs and deposit the records with the Stated Clerk, who will forward them to the Presbyterian Historical Society
- Grant letters of dismissal to members of the church within one year
- With the aid of the Trustees, arrange for the sale of the property, consulting with legal counsel to arrange for the transfer of title to a new buyer or execute the terms of the original deed, transferring title to the property to the presbytery if necessary
- Take possession of appropriate financial records, arrange to transfer to the Presbytery of all accounts, consult with the remaining members regarding the financial legacy of the congregation and make recommendations to Presbytery regarding the financial legacy of the church
- Consult with the Session regarding requests of the congregation with regard to the disposition of the property and arrange for the disposition of the property or arrange for its retention and storage with the Presbytery Trustees

The Administrative Commission began its work on February 3, the first of several meetings held. The commission held two congregational meetings; the first meeting was held to talk about the idea of closing the church, and the second was to plan for the closing worship service and to finalize the members desires for the use of the residual funds from the sale of the building.

The first offer for the building was made in October 2022, and the Administrative Commission believed that it should be quick to closing. Therefore, the commission voted to accept the higher of the two bids offered for the property. This was not to be the case and the commission had to give the proposed buyer a deadline to close on the property. They failed to do so, and the property was offered to the second party that made the second of the two original offers. The current offer would sell the building to the Redeemed Christian Church of God. The property purchase is scheduled to close by August 14, 2023.

Thinking that the sale was imminent, the final worship service was planned for May 7, 2003. It was a well-attended event, with some 75 people attending. The reception that followed included cookies prepared by various bakers from the surrounding churches.

The Session records were transferred to the Stated Clerk on June 19. The financial records are pending the final accounting after the sale of the property to the second buyer. The Administrative Commission voted to disperse the legacy funds to: The Friends of Bluestone, The Westminster Foundation, and Daymark, all of which minister to young people, which has been important to the members of Ruffner Presbyterian Church through the years. Daymark is a nonprofit based in Charleston working to help meet the individual needs of youth living in crisis through safe shelter, guidance, and education. The final accounting will include a disbursement to the Presbytery to cover the church's per capita assessments that have not been paid for several years.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

George Lilley, Committee on Ministry Chair

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Recommend approval of the Presbytery's revised Sick Leave Policy to include Paid Medical Family Leave. The proposed revision immediately follows this report.
2. Recommend approval of the Presbytery's revised Policy Concerning Termination of Pastoral Relationships. The proposed revision immediately follows this report.

INFORMATION:

1. Heard and responded to Pastoral care concerns.
2. Honored the ministry of minister members of Presbytery **Richard Mobayed** (HR) and **Richard Lamb** (HR) with memorial gifts. Honored the ministry of former Presbytery Stated Clerk **John Goodman**.
3. The 2023 Small Church Conference was held on October 7 at Elk Hills Presbyterian Church.
4. Approved the Stated Supply covenant between **Summersville Presbyterian Church** and **Joan Stewart** from October 31, 2023, through January 31, 2024. Terms: 30 hours/week; salary: \$3,684 per month of which \$906.16 is housing allowance; auto reimbursement at the IRS rate; vacation 4 weeks (including Sundays); continuing education 2 weeks (including Sundays). Responsibilities: worship on Sunday and special services; preach bi-weekly, coordinate worship services, pastoral care, home visitation, coordinate Christian Education; moderate the session; administer the Lord's Supper; administer the Sacrament of Baptism.
5. Held a Healthy Boundary Training event on October 27, 2023, by Zoom.
6. Assigned exit interviews as needed.
7. Reviewed the following exit interviews: **Parrish Bridges** and the session of **First Huntington**.
8. Approved the Commissioned Pastor covenant between **First Presbyterian Church, Kenova**, and **Pat Collier** from June 18, 2023, through January 31, 2024. Terms: \$150 salary/week; vacation 4 weeks (including Sundays); Responsibilities: worship on Sunday and special services; moderate session meetings; administer the Lord's Supper; administer the Sacrament of Baptism; officiate at marriages where permitted by state law; have a voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery. Mentor: Jean Sutton.

9. Approved the Commissioned Pastor covenant between **Baxter Presbyterian Church and Liberty Presbyterian Church** and **Rick McLaughlin** from November 1, 2023, through January 31, 2025. Terms: 10 hours/week; salary: \$750 month; auto reimbursement at the IRS rate. Responsibilities: worship on Sunday and special services; moderate sessions of Baxter Presbyterian, Liberty Presbyterian, and Alexander Memorial Presbyterian churches; administer the Lord's Supper; administer the Sacrament of Baptism; officiate at marriages where permitted by state law; have a voice and vote in meetings of the presbytery. Mentor: David Lee.
10. The Presbytery will commission **Pat Collier** to **First Presbyterian, Kenova** and **Rick McLaughlin** to **Baxter and Liberty Presbyterian Churches**, immediately following this report.
11. Approved the Parish Associate Covenant between **P. Douglas Pendleton** and **First Presbyterian Church, Huntington** through March 1, 2024. Terms: 20 hours/week; cash salary \$2,000/month of this amount \$850 is designated as housing allowance; vacation four weeks' vacation (including four Sundays); two weeks study leave (including two Sundays); travel reimbursement at current IRS rate. Responsibilities: pastoral care, Woodlands Bible Study, weekly visits to those on the church's prayer list, regular visits to church homebound members, assist Worship Committee recruit pulpit supply, attend weekly staff meeting, work with Deacons in pastoral care matters.
12. Appointed the following ministers to serve as moderators of churches without a pastor: **First Presbyterian Church, Huntington, and Kyle Key; First Presbyterian Church, Oak Hill, and Schuyler Olt.**
13. Appointed the following liaisons to work with a church in pastoral transition: **First Presbyterian Church, Huntington, and Cherrie Sizemore.**
14. Evaluated "six-month" ministry reviews for new pastor **John Nelson** and the session of **Highlawn St. Albans.**
15. Reviewed at each meeting those churches experiencing pastoral leadership transitions.
16. Approved the following **Installation Commission** for **William E. Myers** as Campus Pastor for West Virginia University: Rev. David Lee, Chair; Ministers: Zac Morton, William C. Myers, and Joan Stewart. Ruling Elders John Bolt (First Morgantown), Debra Hagedorn (Canyon Community), Colletta Messenger (Rock Forge), and Tina Vial (Davis Memorial, Elkins). Guests of the commission: Susan Hardesty (First Kingwood) and Carol Myers (Community). The service of installation took place on September 17, 2023, at 4 p.m.
17. Approved the following **Ordination and Installation Commission** for **Marietta Macy** as Minister of Word and Sacrament to serve as Associate Pastor of the **First Presbyterian**

Church, Charleston: Rev. David Lee, Chair; Ministers: Dawn Adamy, Stephen Baldwin, and Claire Butler-Bass. Ruling Elders: Sallie Daughtery (First Charleston), Mary Lou MacCorkle (First Charleston), John Nesius (First Charleston), and Susan Thompson (First Charleston). Guests of the commission were ministers Shannon Craigo-Snell and Felipe Martinez and Ruling Elder Zack Ellison. The service of installation took place on September 30, 2023, at 2 p.m.

18. Approved the following **Installation Commission** for **Stephen Elderbrock** as Pastor of the **Bridgeport Presbyterian Church:** Rev. David Lee, Chair; Ministers: Emily Harden, John Koerner, and Evan Walker. Ruling Elders: Gerald Leech (Bridgeport), Roger Kritzer (First Fairmont), and Rebecca Alvaro (First Clarksburg). The service of installation took place on October 15, 2023, at 4 p.m.
19. Approved the transfer of **Lucy Youngblood** to **Trinity Presbytery**.
20. Approved Rev. Matthew Riegel, Lutheran Bishop, to labor inside the bounds to preach at Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church, Elkins.
21. Approved **Schuyler Olt** for membership in the Presbytery of West Virginia. Rev. Olt's autobiographical statement and Statement of Faith follow this report.
22. Approved use of Ministry Training Funds to assist **Claire Butler-Bass** to attend a continuing education event.

SICK AND FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY

To be as faithful to its personnel as they are to the congregation, the Presbytery encourages each Session to develop leave policies that are fair to both the individual and to the church. This policy sets forth the **minimum** amount of leave that each congregation; an individual congregation may choose, through the actions of its Session, to provide more generous leave benefits.

SICK LEAVE POLICY

ELIGIBILITY

This policy applies to ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Church professionals (CP), Certified Christian Educators, and ordained ministers from other denominations (herein after church professional) who are serving a PC(USA) congregation by virtue of a covenant agreement, contract, or installed terms of call within the bounds of the Presbytery of West Virginia. This policy applies to those individuals whether they are serving in a part-time or full-time capacity.

DEFINITIONS

“**Sick Leave**” is defined as time off work due to an individual’s illness or injury. Sick leave is not a substitute for or an addition to vacation time.

Included within the definition of the term “illness or injury” is physical illness or injury, dental issues, optical issues, psychiatric or psychological issues.

PAID SICK LEAVE

At the beginning of each calendar year of service, a congregation shall credit twelve (12) days of Sick Leave to each minister of Word and Sacrament, CP, Certified Christian Educator, or ordained minister from another denomination who is in covenant to serve their congregation.

Persons who enter into service after the beginning of a calendar year shall be credited at the time of the commencement of their covenant with a proportionate amount of sick leave.

At the time of the termination of a relationship the minister of Word and Sacrament, CP, Certified Christian Educator, or minister from another denomination shall have no claim for pay in lieu of unused Sick Leave.

ACCRUAL OF SICK LEAVE

Unused Sick Leave may be accrued up to a maximum of thirty (30) days.

EXTENDED SICK LEAVE

August 22, 2023

If an eligible individual's situation requires the use of more than thirty days of sick leave or whatever balance of sick leave the individual had accrued, the individual shall attempt to negotiate the situation with the Session of the congregation. There is nothing in this policy that would require or prohibit a Session from making arrangements that are more generous than the minimums stated in this policy.

The purpose of this policy is to provide for the needs of the congregation, as well as the church professional, during times when he or she is not able to carry out normal responsibilities. These should be considered minimum requirements. This policy shall be a part of the terms of call, covenant, or contract in all church professional relationships within the Presbytery.

When requested by the individual and after appropriate certification of special need by the individual's treating physician, a Session shall grant an Extended Leave, either part-time or full-time up to six months.

If the Extended Leave is needed because the church professional is injured or ill and the leave extends beyond thirty (30) days, the church professional may begin the process of claiming any applicable disability benefits.

The first three months of extended leave time shall be paid at 75% of monthly salary. Pension, Major Medical payments, and housing allowance shall continue at 100% of the annual terms of call.

The second three months of extended leave shall be unpaid leave time with no salary or travel allowance paid. However, Pension, Major Medical payments, and housing allowance shall continue at 100% of the annual terms of call, covenant, or contract.

For a three-month period of leave time taken, the minister shall give up one week of paid vacation. For a six-month leave, the minister shall give up two weeks of paid vacation and one week of paid study or continuing education leave.

Upon completion of leave time, the minister shall return to their position. The position shall not be filled during the leave, except on a temporary basis.

In the event that the individual's treating physician determines that the individual is unable to resume their normal duties and work schedule, consideration should be given to whether the duties can be performed through accommodation. However, if the individual's treating physician determines that the person is unable to substantially perform the duties of this position, with or without appropriate accommodation, the Session will provide salary and benefits in full or until the Board of Pensions extended medical coverage begins on the ninety-first day of illness or disability. Any remaining personal days/sick days are lost.

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE

POLICY

“The terms of call shall always meet or exceed any minimum requirement of the presbytery in effect when the call is made. The session shall review annually the minister’s terms of call and shall propose for congregational action (G-1.0501) such changes as the session deems appropriate, provided that they meet the presbytery’s minimum requirements. The call shall include provision for twelve weeks paid family medical leave and participation in the benefits plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including both pension and medical coverage, or any successor plan approved by the General Assembly.” Book Of Order G-208.04

Church and Other PC(USA) Entity Support

- While the individual church/entity is responsible for the funding and administration of Paid Family Leave, state-provided disability and paid leave benefits and Board of Pensions financial protection programs may be considered in order to help offset income continuation costs.
- Where possible, communication of mutual needs and planning is vital to minimize disruption for the entity served by the church professional. Church professionals are encouraged to anticipate leave with sensitivity around the needs of the church/entity/body, including but not limited to temporary replacement and fulfillment of duties.
- Paid Family Leave is not intended to be a burden but rather a source of joy as churches/entities encourage church professionals to take time for the good of their families. In the spirit of the connectional church, councils of the PC(USA) are encouraged to work together to assist individual churches/entities in the development of funding Paid Family Leave in order best to serve the Kingdom of God. Presbyteries and synods are encouraged to facilitate conversations regarding how individual churches/entities might fund Paid Family Leave.

ELIGIBILITY

All ministers of Word and Sacrament, Commissioned Church professionals (CP), Certified Christian Educators, and ordained ministers from other denominations (herein after church professional) who are serving a PC(USA) congregation by virtue of a covenant agreement, contract, or installed terms of call within the bounds of the Presbytery of West Virginia.

TYPES OF LEAVE

- Parental Leave: Within one year of birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child, a church professional may take up to twelve consecutive or intermittent paid leave weeks bonding time.
- Caregiver/Family Leave: In times when a family member requires care due to an illness or disability, a church professional may take up to twelve weeks Paid Leave, either consecutively or intermittently, depending on the nature of illness and need.
- Personal Loss: In the event of the death of a loved one or a tragic event, a church professional may take up to twelve weeks Paid Leave, either consecutively or intermittently, depending on the nature of event and need.

LEAVE PARAMETERS

- Up to 12 weeks (total, regardless of precipitating event or circumstance) of Paid Leave per year, with as much advance notice as possible. Paid Leave may be used—in accordance with need—consecutively or intermittently.

August 22, 2023

- During Paid Leave, the church professional will continue to receive all benefits including Pension, Major Medical payments, and housing allowance at 100% of the annual terms of call, covenant, or contract.
- Use of vacation time is not required but may be used to extend leave time at the discretion of the church professional.

Following the period of Paid Leave, the church professional shall be entitled to return to the same position with the same title, terms of call, hours worked, and job description.

RESOURCE

The Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Advocacy Committee for Women and Gender Justice offers a suggestion for churches to assist them in making plans to accommodate family leave – <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/the-pcusas-advocacy-committee-for-women-and-gender-justice-has-ideas-for-covering-worship-leadership-for-12-weeks-of-family-leave/>.

Policy Concerning Termination of Pastoral Relationships

The pastoral relationship is a three-party covenant between a pastor or associate pastor, **those serving in temporary pastoral service, certified educators, and certified associate Christian educators (hereafter and collectively referred to as church professionals)**, the church, and a presbytery. The Book of Order (G-3.0303c) covers the “Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships”. **G-3.0303c** is a very important reminder that only presbytery may dissolve a relationship. In the case of involuntary dissolution, such as for “irreconcilable differences” in which either the church or the presbytery seeks to dissolve the relationship without the concurrence of the **church professional** (in other words, in which the dissolution is not related to a “Reduction in Work Force” or a “Separation for Cause”), these provisions shall apply:

- a. The Session desiring to dissolve the relationship shall contact the COM in writing stating the desire to sever the relationship and a brief overview of the reasons for the request.
- b. The COM shall meet with the **church professional** and the Session within **20** days of the receipt of such a written request.
- c. If the COM judges that the continuation of the relationship will not serve Christ and His Church, the COM shall appoint three members of a Severance Negotiation Task Force.
- d. One of the COM members shall be designated as the Moderator of the Task Force.
- e. The **church professional** and the Session(s) shall each appoint two to three members to the Severance Negotiation Task Force. In the case of multiple churches yoked in a Parish Council, this responsibility may be delegated to the Parish Council upon the acquiescence of all the Sessions involved.
- f. While it is the hope of the COM that a severance package acceptable to all parties will be negotiated by the Task Force, a majority of the Task Force membership may carry a proposal to Session(s), **church professional**, and COM. Only the Session(s) may call a Congregational Meeting to move toward the dissolution of the relationship as provided in the Book of Order.
- g. While every severance package will be unique, each should address the issues of salary, housing, and benefits toward the objectives of (1) supporting **a church professional** for a reasonable period of time or until the **church professional** has entered into a comparable call or secular employment; and (2) providing a reasonable termination of salary and benefits in order that a congregation might obtain **Leadership** for the future.
- h. In determining an appropriate severance package, the Task Force should be guided by (1) the ability of the church to pay, based upon a review of financial information provided by the church and (2) the **church professional's** length of service at the church.
- i. At minimum, cash salary, housing allowance (or use of a manse), utilities, and Board of Pensions payments are to be continued for three months after the effective date of dissolution. **Based upon the agreement negotiated by the parties**, after three months **a percentage** of cash salary, full housing allowance (or use of a manse), and the Board of Pensions payments (at the appropriate recalculated amount based on lower salary), **may** be paid for an additional three months. The church's treasurer is responsible for notifying the Board of Pensions of the change in salary. Extended severance, for longer use of a manse or additional housing allowance, and the continuation of any other benefits, including but not

limited to accrued vacation time and moving expenses, etc. are negotiable. Continuing education and other professional expenses including auto allowance expense is for the benefit of the church and church professional and therefore not included in the severance package.

- j. In the event a manse is involved, the severance package should contain provisions to the effect that, upon expiration of the agreed upon severance, or sooner if the church professional moves out of the manse, the church professional shall return all keys to the premises and surrender the premises to the church in as good a condition as when received, ordinary wear and tear excepted. The Task Force should consider the desirability of including provisions calling for the church professional to vacate the manse as soon as practicable after the effective date of dissolution.
- k. In all cases, the church's responsibility for all payments or obligations under the dissolution agreement shall end when another call or other employment for the church professional begins.
- l. The church professional shall adhere to the provisions in the Guidelines for Dissolution of Pastoral Relationships, including, but not limited to, refraining from pastoral functions and from officiating at any sacraments, weddings, funerals, or other functions involving members of his/her former church, or within its properties.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF SCHUYLER OLT

It was tempting to use AI to write this, but I chose to resort to my Luddite “hunt-and-peck” typing skills. To those of you reading this, thank you! I am so grateful to share a bit about me. I hope you enjoy this, and I hope it makes you smile.

When I moved to Louisville in 1978 to attend law school at UofL, my voting precinct was in the Activities Center of LPTS. At that time, the Seminary and the law school offered a joint M.Div./J.D. degree. Having graduated from U.Va. in 1975 with a degree in Foreign Affairs and Religion, I gave it a lot of thought. After all, I was a cradle Presbyterian, nurtured in the arms of the UPC. Martin Luther King had preached in my church, and I had driven from Charlottesville to D.C. to watch the Watergate hearings. But I was concerned I would become a so-so preacher and a so-so lawyer, so I stuck to the law. But my voting precinct had a theological bookstore. Voting always meant leaving with books, and I voted in every election. I spent a lot of money voting over the next 30 years.

I was born and raised in Xenia, Ohio on April 7, 1956, and baptized as an infant at 1st UPC in Xenia by the Rev. William Graham. If you were good in Sunday School, you got to ring the bell. The rope would pull you up in the air, so it was a great incentive. Xenia had been home to what is now the Pittsburg Seminary, so we had a lingering influence from that. Xenia was also home to two HBCUs, and the AME church was across the street. The manse had been a stop on the Underground Railroad. I grew up where schools weren't segregated. Professors from the colleges taught us music, tutored us in every subject imaginable, and Louis Rhodes even taught me to snow ski in the Sixties. It was a rare place to grow up in those days. At the beginning of my first confirmation class, I wasn't really that surprised when Rev. Graham asked us if we really thought the Red Sea parted.

Following law school, I joined a large firm as a litigator, doing primarily securities and antitrust litigation. Our work dealt primarily with fraudulent coal schemes taking place in eastern Kentucky. The firm didn't think we had a chance, so the young lawyers tried them. And we won almost all of them. After that, I became the Chief Administrative Officer of Jefferson County (Louisville). I oversaw a 700 member police department, the corrections department, and planning and development, among others. I was the General Counsel of the Kentucky Retirement Systems and most recently served as City Attorney for the largest suburb of Louisville.

While the GC of KRS, I began attending Seminary. I went full-time and moved on campus, where I met Julie. I was a Chaplain at University Hospital in Louisville, a Level 1 trauma center. I was ordained 9 years ago and served the Carlisle Presbyterian Church for eight years until coming here. I was also a RE at Highland PC. We've maintained two separate households for eight years due to our calls. My hobbies are painting, making fermented hot sauce, playing music, making sausage, curing hams, flying, cooking, and sports. I've been on mission to Nicaragua and practiced law in the Virgin Islands. And I adore the grandkids!

THEOLOGICAL STATEMENT OF SCHUYLER OLT

As I noted in my autobiography, I am a cradle Presbyterian raised and confirmed in the Northern Church. First United Presbyterian was very “old school.” Only Psalms were sung during worship, and carbonated beverages were not allowed as they “had a life of their own.” Frankly, I think the latter emanated from someone who was irritated when a youth group member spilled a Coke. I certainly have never found a Scriptural source for that, and from a sense of historicity, I suspect wine during the Biblical epochs sometimes had a bit of fizz. But, as a good young Presbyterian, I was orderly and obeyed.

My theology has been broadly influenced by numerous sources, including all of the great religions. I am ecumenist and pluralist, and I place great emphasis on the Prologue of John. If, as it says and I believe, that Christ was in the beginning and if, as we believe, God is the creator of all things good, then Christ is in the creation of all things, including the great religions. But we must always remember that every religion is flawed by the intrinsic sinful nature of humanity, including Christianity, and among our callings is to always be reforming according to the will of the Triune God.

I believe that Scripture contains the absolute truth and the full revelation of God. But we are a very long way from discovering that. The words of the Bible, its stories, its myths, and its inconsistencies, are guideposts and clues toward the absolute truth and revelation of God. It is a mystical book focused upon a Divine mystery. It continues to reveal because it is the truth of a living God, and it will do so until the last day. And in my opinion, we have only scratched the surface.

Prayer is central and essential to my personal theology. But prayer is not a wish list. It is more an expression of “Your will be done, and help me to discern your will, that I may accomplish it.” And of course, “Forgive my sins, and our sins.” It is a means to express thanksgiving. And perhaps the quintessential object of prayer is to build relationship with God, such that fear is removed, faith is strengthened, and love is disseminated into discipleship. It is not a means to increase or diminish ourselves, but to better recognize the immensity of God.

As to the Eucharist, while I do not fully ascribe to transubstantiation, I certainly ascribe to Calvin’s views and those expressed in the Shorter Catechism. It is a wonderful mystery, and Holy. And it is not my place to deny it.

Hell exists. But it is sparsely populated. Otherwise, the Cross means almost nothing.

If you wish to know my views on supralapsarianism, just ask me.

Thank you for reading this, and may God bless.

Commissioning of a Commissioned Pastor

SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

Moderator: We, who are many, are one body in Christ,
and individually we are members one of another.

**People: We have gifts that differ
according to the grace given to us:
prophecy, in proportion to faith;
ministry, in ministering;
the teacher, in teaching;
the exhorter, in exhortation;
the giver, in generosity;
the leader, in diligence;
the compassionate, in cheerfulness.**

COM Chair: Lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
making every effort to maintain
the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**People: There is one body and one Spirit,
just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.**

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

COM Chair: We are called by God
to be the church of Jesus Christ,
a sign in the world today
of what God intends for all humankind.

**People: The great ends of the Church are
the proclamation of the gospel
for the salvation of humankind;
the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship
of the children of God;
the maintenance of divine worship;**

**the preservation of the truth;
the promotion of social righteousness;
and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven
to the world.**

Moderator: The Presbytery of West Virginia is satisfied that Rick McLaughlin has received preparation and instruction for pastoral service as determined by this Presbytery.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we now commission Rick McLaughlin to pastoral service in and for the Upper Pocahontas Parish – Alexander Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stony Bottom, Baxter Presbyterian Church, Dunmore, and Liberty Presbyterian Church, Green Bank.

CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

God has called you to this particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

Do you trust in Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Do you?

Do you accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be, by the Holy Spirit, the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ in the Church universal, and God's Word to you? Do you?

Do you sincerely receive and adopt the essential tenets of the Reformed faith as expressed in the confessions of our church as authentic and reliable expositions of what Scripture leads us to believe and do, and will you be instructed and led by those confessions as you lead the people of God? Do you and will you?

Will you fulfill your commission in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture, and be continually guided by our confessions? Will you?

Will you be governed by our church's polity, and will you abide by its discipline? Will you be a friend among your colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Word and Spirit? Will you?

Will you in your own life seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, love your neighbors, and work for the reconciliation of the world? Will you?

Do you promise to further the peace, unity, and purity of the church? Do you?

Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love? Will you?

Will you be a faithful ruling elder in this commission, serving the people by proclaiming the good

news, teaching faith, and caring for the people, and in your ministry will you try to show the love and justice of Jesus Christ? Will you with God's help?

PRAYER OF COMMISSIONING

CHARGE

Moderator: On behalf of the Presbytery of West Virginia, I welcome you, Rick, to ministry as a Commissioned Pastor.

COM Chair: Whatever you do, in word or deed,
 do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks to God through him.

All: Amen.

Participants:

Moderator – David Lee

Committee on Ministry (COM) Chair – George Lilley

Resource Used: 2018 Book of Common Worship

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Mark Boyd, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

INFORMATION:

1. The committee will review the final report of the financial records review from Suttle & Stalnaker, CPAs (Certified Public Accountants) at their next meeting. There were no exceptions or issues noted.
2. The committee met on November 6 and approved a request for Bluestone Camp and Retreat to draw an additional \$20,000 from their line of credit from the Presbytery's Mission Development Fund to help pay for the water tank repairs.
3. The 2023 third quarter financial reports follow this report and will be presented by Financial Administrator/Treasurer Chris Alfred.

PRESBYTERY of WEST VIRGINIA

Budget vs. Actual

YTD Sept 2023

COMPOSITE BY COMMITTEE

Committee	YTD 09/30/23	Budget	%	Restricted Fund Support
ADMINISTRATION	403,369.77	625,900	64.4%	192,400
BLUESTONE	0.00	5,500	0.0%	4,500
LEADERSHIP	6,978.46	11,000	63.4%	5,000
MINISTRY	2,802.84	16,000	17.5%	7,000
MISSIONS	29,625.02	53,500	55.4%	35,000
NURTURE	9,110.18	26,820	34.0%	18,600
PJC	0.00	200	0.0%	
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN	0.00	0	0.0%	
RELATIONS	0.00	2,250	0.0%	2,000
REPRESENTATION	0.00	200	0.0%	
STEWARDSHIP	14,703.99	9,250	159.0%	
TRUSTEES	0.00	400	0.0%	
VOCATIONS	7,741.06	24,500	31.6%	18,000
TOTAL	\$ 474,331.32	775,520	61.2%	\$ 282,500
SHARED MISSION (net)	207,045.62	303,750	68.2%	
PER CAPITA (net)	87,677.92	115,636	75.8%	
PREV. YR BENEV./PER CAPITA	7,752.42	11,184	69.3%	
OUTSIDE FUNDING	40,000.00	46,300	86.4%	
INTEREST & GIFTS	7,080.14	16,150	43.8%	
RESTRICTED FUND SUPPORT	124,775.32	282,500	44.2%	
TOTAL	\$ 474,331.42	\$ 775,520	61.2%	

PRESBYTERY of WEST VIRGINIA
Budget vs. Actual
YTD Sept 2023

	YTD 09/30/2023	Budget	%	Restricted Fund Support
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>				
OFFICE EXPENSES				
Postage	1,025.94			35,500 Mission Dev. Fund
Supplies	1,868.75			12,000 Funds of PWV
Publications & Subscriptions	1,984.99			
Presbytery Directory	463.00			
Telephone	2,343.56			
Rent	1,575.00			
Cleaning/Bldg Maintenance	0.00			
Equipment	106.99			
Equipment Maintenance	3,319.75			
Staff Expenses	7,974.97			
Insurance - Property	18,731.00			
Web Site Maintenance	262.50			
Internet Service	1,349.50			
Bank service fees	585.51			
Background Check Fees	36.00			
Miscellaneous	2,000.00			
TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	43,627.46	47,500	91.8%	
SALARY & PERSONNEL EXPENSE				
All Salaries (including housing & utilities)	227,863.97	354,500	64.3%	
Pension Expense	19,027.26	33,400	57.0%	
Medical Insurance Expense	79,880.80	129,800	61.5%	
Payroll Taxes	10,695.06	18,600	57.5%	
Workers' Compensation	751.75	1,500	50.1%	
Continuing Education & Professional Expense	4,023.09	14,600	27.6%	
Travel Expense	16,590.38	24,500	67.7%	
TOTAL SALARY & PERSONNEL EXPENSE	358,832.31	576,900	62.2%	143,900 \$79.3K Small Church, \$35.5K MDF \$29.1K Funds of PWV
COMMITTEE EXPENSE				
Consultant Fees	0.00	0	0.0%	
Staff Development	898.00	1,000	89.8%	1,000 Mission Development Fund
TOTAL COMMITTEE EXPENSE	910.00	1,500	60.7%	
	\$ 403,369.77	\$ 625,900	64.4%	
<u>BLUESTONE</u>				
CIT Support	0.00	4,500	0.0%	4,500 Rachel McClintic Fund
Committee Meetings	0.00	1,000	0.0%	
	\$ -	\$ 5,500	0.0%	
<u>LEADERSHIP TEAM</u>				
GOVERNING BODY EXPENSE				
Presbytery Meetings	3,226.84	2,500	129.1%	
Moderator Expenses	129.00	1,000	12.9%	
General Assembly	0.00	0	0.0%	0 Mission Development Fund
Denomination Resources	929.14			
COMMITTEE EXPENSE				
Legal Consultation	2,600.00	5,000	52.0%	5,000 Funds of PWV
Leadership Team	93.48	2,500	3.7%	
	\$ 6,978.46	\$ 11,000	63.4%	

PRESBYTERY of WEST VIRGINIA

Budget vs. Actual

YTD Sept 2023

	YTD 09/30/2023	Budget	%	Restricted Fund Support
MINISTRY				
CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT				
1,001 New Worshipping Comm.		500	0.0%	500 Small Church Fund
Small Church Conf.	750.00	500	150.0%	500 Small Church Fund
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY				
CRE Training (Cont. Ed.)	0.00	500	0.0%	500 Small Church Fund
Ministry Training	0.00	500	0.0%	500 PEPS
Kanawha Pastoral Care Center	1,500.00	1,500	100.0%	
Professional Development	0.00	3,000	0.0%	3,000 Small Church Fund
Church Professional Orientation	0.00	1,000	0.0%	
COM Resources	0.00	500	0.0%	
Congregational Care Travel	52.84	500	10.6%	
Memorials	500.00	500	100.0%	500 Funds of PWV - COM Disc.
Miscellaneous	0.00	500	0.0%	
Emergency Church Assistance	0.00	500	0.0%	1,500 Small Church Fund
Committee Meetings	0.00	6,000	0.0%	
	\$ 2,802.84	\$ 16,000	17.5%	
MISSIONS				
INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS				
Davis & Elkins College	937.50	1,250	75.0%	
Davis-Stuart	937.50	1,250	75.0%	
Covenant House, Inc	937.52	1,250	75.0%	
Westminster Foundation	937.50	1,250	75.0%	
CEPAD	0.00	1,000	0.0%	
MISSION PARTNERSHIPS				
Kenya Partnership	1,500.00	1,500	100.0%	1,500 Kenya Partnership
The Shack NH Support	11,250.00	15,000	75.0%	15,000 Mission Dev. Fund
Tyrand Coop. Ministry Support	1,875.00	2,500	75.0%	2,500 Midland Memorial
WVMAW	11,250.00	15,000	75.0%	15,000 Mission Dev. Fund
MISSION GRANTS				
		11,000		
Older Adult Ministry	0.00	1,000	0.0%	
Peacemaker Support	0.00	1,000	0.0%	1,000 Mission Dev. Fund
Committee Meetings	0.00	500	0.0%	
	\$ 29,625.02	\$ 53,500	55.4%	
NURTURE				
CHRISTIAN NURTURE & WORSHIP				
Resource Ctr Acquisitions	59.47	1,800	3.3%	
Resource Ctr. - Supplies/Equip.	0.00	400	0.0%	
Resource Ctr. - Subscriptions	0.00	120	0.0%	
Resource Ctr. - Catalog Program	795.00	800	99.4%	
Video License	287.65	300	95.9%	
Festival of Faith	131.71	2,000	6.6%	
Church Educators Support	212.25	400	53.1%	
Educator/Clergy/ALP/CP Retreat	5,449.13	1,300	419.2%	
Spring Youth Retreat	1,767.64	1,200	147.3%	1,200 Rachel McClintic Fund
Fall Youth Retreat	0.00	3,000	0.0%	3,000 Rachel McClintic Fund
HS Youth Conf. Mission Trip	0.00	7,000	0.0%	7,000 Rachel McClintic Fund
Youth Council	239.39	400	59.8%	400 Rachel McClintic Fund
Adult Spiritual Development	0.00	1,000	0.0%	1,000 Mission Dev. Fund
Scholarships	0.00	1,000	0.0%	1,000 PEPS
Presbytery Worship	0.00	300	0.0%	
Miscellaneous	0.00	200	0.0%	
APCE Membership	0.00	200	0.0%	
Leadership Development Program	167.94	5,000	3.4%	5,000 Small Church Fund
Committee Meetings	0.00	400	0.0%	

PRESBYTERY of WEST VIRGINIA
Budget vs. Actual
YTD Sept 2023

	YTD 09/30/2023	Budget	%	Restricted Fund Support
	\$ 9,110.18	\$ 26,820	34.0%	
<u>PJC</u>				
Permanent Judicial Commission	0.00	200	0.0%	
<u>PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN</u>				
Presbyterian Women Support	0.00	0	0.0%	
<u>RELATIONS</u>				
Cluster Support	0.00	2,000	0.0%	2,000 Small Church Fund
Relations Committee Expenses	0.00	250	0.0%	
	\$ -	\$ 2,250	0.0%	
<u>REPRESENTATION</u>				
Committee on Representation	0.00	200	0.0%	
<u>STEWARDSHIP</u>				
FINANCE & DEVELOPMENT				
Outside CPA Costs	14,703.99	9,000	163.4%	
Committee Meetings	0.00	250	0.0%	
	\$ 14,703.99	\$ 9,250	159.0%	
<u>TRUSTEES</u>				
Trustees	0.00	400	0.0%	
<u>VOCATIONS</u>				
PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY				
Care of Candidates	0.00	2,000	0.0%	
Career Counseling	0.00	3,000	0.0%	
Scholarships	0.00	5,000	0.0%	5,000 Bush Fund
Conferences	0.00	500	0.0%	
ALP/CP Preparation Program	7,161.91	10,000	71.6%	10,000 Small Church Fund
Support of ALP/CP	359.08	3,000	12.0%	
Committee Meetings	220.07	1,000	22.0%	3,000 2K Slaughterterm 1K Funds of PWV
	\$ 7,741.06	\$ 24,500	31.6%	
TOTAL	\$ 474,331.32	\$775,520	61.2%	

REVENUE IN SUPPORT of BUDGET	YTD 6/30/2023	Budget
Shared Mission (net of GA & Synod support)	207,046	303,750
Per Capita (net of GA & Synod support)	87,678	115,636
Previous Year Shared Mission & Per Capita	7,752	11,184
Outside Funding (Presby. Housing & PHP)	40,000	46,300
Interest & Gifts	7,080	16,150
Restricted Fund Support	124,775	282,500
TOTAL	\$ 474,331	\$775,520

Presbytery of West Virginia
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2023

	<u>09/30/23</u>	<u>09/30/23</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
CHECKING/SAVINGS		
Petty Cash	250.00	250.00
Payroll - WesBanco Bank	2,635.80	86.90
Cash - United Bank Checking	145,137.85	80,586.97
WV Federal Credit Union	234,056.19	233,443.61
New Life Fund - WesBanco Bank	268,235.89	376,542.74
Building Sale proceeds - WesBanco Bank	464,573.00	0.00
Total Cash/Checking	1,114,888.73	690,910.22
Wells Fargo - MDF		
Equities -- Index Fund	1,129,731.51	981,549.32
Fixed Income	478,165.52	491,120.40
Total Wells Fargo - MDF	1,607,897.03	1,472,669.72
Wells Fargo Money Market		
Wells Fargo MM - PWV	59,472.23	62,770.44
Kay Long Memorial Fund	9,381.19	8,861.45
Molly Gant Scholarship Fund	15,137.31	14,298.69
Kenya Partnership	5,109.86	4,130.32
Presbyterian Hunger Program	30,130.42	25,442.05
Pack Endowment Fund	220,553.51	219,851.24
Total Wells Fargo Money Market	339,784.52	335,354.19
INVESTMENTS		
New Covenant Funds of PWV	212,387.83	283,779.99
New Covenant New Ch. Devel	196,912.66	175,926.91
New Covenant PEPS	3,661.99	3,768.49
New Covenant Slaughter	1,962.84	1,828.71
New Covenant Riner	78,225.19	71,722.68
New Covenant Scholarship	9,388.88	10,067.81
New Covenant Seminary Student	42,771.56	38,213.11
New Covenant Dickinson	64,662.10	57,770.88
New Covenant Bush Fund	241,247.48	224,559.45
New Covenant Midland Mem.	92,231.65	86,913.42
New Covenant Small Church	1,156,091.76	1,111,557.07
T Rowe Price - Rachel McClintic	1,359,001.59	1,189,466.33
Total INVESTMENTS	3,458,545.53	3,255,574.85
TOTAL CHECKING/SAVINGS	6,521,115.81	5,754,508.98
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00

Presbytery of West Virginia
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2023

	<u>09/30/23</u>	<u>09/30/23</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00
Other Current Assets		
Notes Receivable MDF	35,570.49	38,803.29
Notes Receivable Riner	5,207.04	31,255.88
Notes Receivable R. McClintic	115,621.93	116,571.93
Workers Comp Deposit	247.09	247.09
Total Other Current Assets	<u>156,646.55</u>	<u>186,878.19</u>
Total Current Assets	6,677,762.36	5,941,387.17
Fixed Assets		
Land	0.00	58,000.00
Building & Grounds	0.00	311,766.00
Furniture & Fixtures	0.00	18,024.20
Capital Equipment	16,456.11	30,415.11
Software	669.51	10,022.51
Accumulated Depreciation	-16,542.05	-322,793.05
Total Fixed Assets	<u>583.57</u>	<u>105,434.77</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>6,678,345.93</u></u>	<u><u>6,046,821.94</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Other Current Liabilities		
Benevolence Receipts Payable	-43,121.87	-43,121.87
Payroll Liabilities	13,038.94	11,984.80
Total Other Current Liabilities	<u>-30,082.93</u>	<u>-31,137.07</u>
Deferred Revenue	0.00	0.00
Total Liabilities	<u>-30,082.93</u>	<u>-31,137.07</u>
Equity		
Fund Balance Funds of PWV	1,490,131.99	1,149,670.81
Fund Balance - MDF	1,520,744.27	1,877,071.56

Presbytery of West Virginia
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2023

	09/30/23	09/30/23
Fund Balance New Ch. Devel	184,604.99	218,612.94
Fund Balance Hunger Prog	19,287.29	20,326.53
Fund Balance PEPS	3,433.06	4,147.79
Fund Balance Slaughter	1,892.07	2,187.06
Fund Balance Riner	92,835.12	116,925.13
Fund Balance Scholarship	9,050.41	10,640.66
Fund Balance Seminary Student	40,097.71	47,484.98
Fund Balance Dickinson	60,619.84	71,788.08
Fund Balance Bush Fund	225,822.10	274,045.32
Fund Balance Midland Mem.	86,293.77	105,501.51
Fund Balance Small Church	1,030,282.28	1,249,446.79
Fund Balance Kenya Partnership	2,751.95	6,385.55
Fund Balance Rachel McClintic	1,363,483.00	1,631,744.71
Fund Balance Kay Long Memorial	8,906.84	8,851.27
Fund Balance Molly Gant Fund	14,731.94	13,082.28
Fund Balance Pack Endowment	200,290.01	220,606.08
Fund Balance New Life	348,218.99	422,927.54
Net Income	416,790.10	-997,568.15
Total Equity	7,120,267.73	6,453,878.44
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	7,090,184.80	6,422,741.37

2023 BENEVOLENCE PLEDGING & PER CAPITA REPORT

	2023 Pledge	2023 Giving at 09/30/23	12/31/21 Membership	2023 Per Capita (\$30.30/mbr)	Per Capita Rec'd at 09/30/23
Alderson		220	7	212.10	212
Alexander Memorial	290	290	7	212.10	212
Anderson Memorial			22	666.60	
Arthurdale - Community	580	580	28	848.40	424
Bates Memorial			86	2,605.80	1,311
Baxter	150		12	363.60	152
Beckley	21,000	11,333	201	6,090.30	4,454
Beechwood		345	40	1,212.00	692
Belington	480	360	24	727.20	465
Belle	1,166	778	6	181.80	137
Bethlehem	100	100	18	545.40	240
Beulah Humble			13	393.90	
Beverly			18	545.40	545
Big Spring		620	10	303.00	301
Bluefield-First		5,400	82	2,484.60	1,833
Bradley	0		17	515.10	515
Bramwell	485		16	484.80	
Bream Memorial		750	115	3,484.50	2,000
Bridgeport (all PWV)		1,750	119	3,605.70	1,999
Buckhannon-First		2,500	9	272.70	606
Canyon Community		500	6	181.80	182
Centerville	5,105	5,105	28	848.40	848
Ch. of the Covenant-Grafton	2,389	1,592	27	818.10	525
Charleston-First (all PWV)	36,750	24,500	716	21,694.80	14,463
Church of Our Saviour	800	800	7	212.10	212
Clarksburg-First		4,875	135	4,090.50	3,068
Clear Creek			18	545.40	545
Clifton	3,000	2,250	63	1,908.90	1,444
Clothier			9	272.70	543
Colcord-First			26	787.80	525
Comfort	550	546	15	454.50	455
Davis Mem. - Elkins	12,700	8,467	168	5,090.40	3,394
Davis Mem. - Gassaway	1,010	480	14	424.20	240
Dunbar-First		533	70	2,121.00	1,414
DuPont City			10	303.00	
Edgewood	3,360	1,680	49	1,484.70	742
Eleanor			12	363.60	
Elk Hills	1,500	1,125	42	1,272.60	954
Enslow Park			97	2,939.10	1,470
Fairmont-First		3,278	100	3,030.00	1,768

2023 BENEVOLENCE PLEDGING & PER CAPITA REPORT

	2023	2023 Giving at	12/31/21	2023 Per Capita	Per Capita Rec'd at 09/30/23
Falls View	1,855	928	9	272.70	145
Fayetteville	8,685	5,792	83	2,514.90	1,680
Fleming Memorial	2,500	1,855	29	878.70	659
Frankford	2,815	2,815	20	606.00	606
Gilbert			48	1,454.40	1,485
Glenville	4,520	2,260	19	575.70	576
Grace Covenant			15	454.50	
Harman			21	636.30	636
Highlawn Huntington	15,000	10,330	136	4,120.80	2,873
Highlawn St. Albans	4,000	2,680	50	1,515.00	1,011
Hinton-First	2,100	1,050	23	696.90	364
Hughes River - Cairo		2,000	10	303.00	421
Huntington-First			266	8,059.80	7,875
Huntington Second			16	484.80	485
Kanawha United	14,500	7,250	148	4,484.40	4,484
Kenova-First			29	878.70	225
Kesler Memorial	500		27	818.10	
Kingwood-First	5,400	4,050	30	909.00	682
Kuhn Memorial	1,500	1,125	83	2,514.90	1,886
Liberty		500	17	515.10	515
Logan-First	9,325	5,450	76	2,302.80	2,303
Mannington-First			20	606.00	
Marlinton	1,331	1,048	65	1,969.50	1,477
Marsh Fork	500	500	13	393.90	394
Mill Creek		3,821	19	575.70	576
Milton			22	666.60	
Mingo			25	757.50	758
Morgantown-First		12,385	234	7,090.20	5,315
Mount Hope			8	242.40	242
Nitro-First		500	78	2,363.40	1,200
Oak Grove			65	1,969.50	
Oak Hill-First			39	1,181.70	1,182
Old Stone	6,030		199	6,029.70	6,030
Parkersburg-First			113	3,423.90	2,173
Parsons			16	484.80	121
Philippi			7	212.10	212
Pineville			35	1,060.50	795
Pt. Pleasant	9,850	6,567	77	2,333.10	782
Ravenswood-First	3,865	3,865	18	545.40	545
Ripley-First	1,160	821	19	575.70	336

2023 BENEVOLENCE PLEDGING & PER CAPITA REPORT

	2023	2023 Giving at	12/31/21	2023 Per Capita	Per Capita Rec'd at 09/30/23
Riverlawn	3,000	2,000	84	2,545.20	1,274
Rock Forge	100	1,063	14	424.20	424
Rock Lake		6,737	92	2,787.60	1,631
Rome	180	120	4	121.20	81
Ronceverte	3,100	2,325	73	2,211.90	1,650
Ruffner Memorial			15	454.50	
Salem	1,000	750	13	393.90	293
Smithers	1,000	1,000	18	545.40	546
South Charleston-First	0		123	3,726.90	2,958
South Park	2,190	1,095	25	757.50	379
Spencer	1,070	535	8	242.40	121
Spring Creek	1,250	1,250	34	1,030.20	1,030
Spring Valley			54	1,636.20	
St. Albans-First			115	3,484.50	1,742
St. Andrew		2,425	56	1,696.80	579
St. Marys	100		9	272.70	
Sugar Grove	2,265	2,265	10	303.00	303
Summerlee	200	150	12	363.60	273
Summersville	1,545	1,834	51	1,545.30	1,159
Teays Valley	0		107	3,242.10	2,432
Thomas-First	424	264	16	484.80	212
Trinity		38	10	303.00	75
Tygarts Valley		1,000	29	878.70	879
Union	2,415	700	26	787.80	394
Upper Glade	3,000	1,500	50	1,515.00	850
Valley Bend	2,285	1,714	30	909.00	682
Village Chapel	15,000	10,000	216	6,544.80	4,363
Waverly-Bethel	1,550	1,549	11	333.30	333
Westminster-Vienna	5,630	4,223	92	2,787.60	2,092
Weston-First	1,335	1,335	10	303.00	303
White Sulphur Springs-First	1,000	595	33	999.90	595
Whitesville-First	0		10	303.00	303
Whittico Memorial			7	212.10	
Williamson-First			65	1,969.50	1,970
Williamstown-First	6,350		79	2,393.70	
Winfield	525	263	11	333.30	167
Zion			34	1,030.20	
TOTALS	\$243,365	\$205,075	6,335	\$191,951	130,030

BLUESTONE CONFERENCE CENTER, INC

FINANCIAL REPORT as of Sept 30 2023

INCOME STATEMENT

INCOME	09/30/23	Budget	%
Grant Subsidy - McClintic Fund	\$ -	\$ 4,500	0.0%
Retreats - Bluestone Events	4,968.00	6,000	82.8%
Retreats - Presbyterian	4,620.80	6,000	77.0%
Retreats - Non - Presbyterian	52,463.74	55,000	95.4%
Summer Camp Registrations	41,667.38	31,500	132.3%
RV/Tent Camping	550.42	1,500	
Donations	10,466.00	9,500	110.2%
Friends of Bluestone	30,000.00	60,000	50.0%
MDF-Line of credit	0.00	35,000	0.0%
Hinton Account	0.00	2,500	0.0%
Reserves	0.00	3,000	0.0%
Interest	0.74	-	-
Miscellaneous	17,724.45	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 162,461.53	\$ 214,500	75.7%

EXPENSES

Salaries & Personnel	\$ 37,316.46	\$ 44,443	84.0%
Office & Administration	7,994.70	17,328	46.1%
Plant & Operation	85,780.69	129,259	66.4%
Summer Staff & Salary	13,202.78	13,470	98.0%
Summer Program	1,886.32	3,300	57.2%
Summer Camp Trips	4,514.89	2,200	205.2%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 150,695.84	\$ 210,000	71.8%
NET GAIN/(LOSS)	\$ 11,765.69	(excl. store acct. & depr. exp.)	

NOTE - 2023 Presbytery Support

Facilities Director comp	\$ 75,439
Program Director comp	44,343
Property Insurance	13,325
Committee expense	1,000
Banking fees	160
Misc. office expense	50
\$ 134,317	

BALANCE SHEET

	09/30/23	09/30/22
ASSETS		
Current Assets	\$ 36,984.33	\$ 7,047
Property & Equip. (net of depr.)	174,280.11	174,303
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 211,264.44	\$ 181,350
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	\$ 869.90	\$ 634
Long Term Debt	63,704.16	69,668
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 64,574.06	\$ 70,302
EQUITY	\$ 146,690.38	\$ 111,048
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 211,264.44	\$ 181,350

Friends of Bluestone

Balance Sheet Detail

As of September 30, 2023

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	DEBIT	CREDIT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
ASSETS									
1000 BB&T 8395									
Beginning Balance									22,916.13
07/15/2023	Deposit				-Split-	\$339.59		339.59	23,255.72
07/15/2023	Deposit				-Split-	\$766.67		766.67	24,022.39
07/31/2023	Check		ConstantContact	5002 Operating Expenses:Marketing & Publicity Dist. PW			\$48.15	-48.15	23,974.24
07/31/2023	Deposit		interest	3000 Other Income		\$0.20		0.20	23,974.44
08/15/2023	Deposit				-Split-	\$194.05		194.05	24,168.49
08/15/2023	Deposit				-Split-	\$11,131.33		11,131.33	35,299.82
08/30/2023	Check		ConstantContact	5002 Operating Expenses:Marketing & Publicity Dist. PW			\$48.15	-48.15	35,251.67
08/30/2023	Deposit		interest	3000 Other Income		\$0.24		0.24	35,251.91
09/17/2023	Deposit				-Split-	\$203.65		203.65	35,455.56
09/17/2023	Deposit				-Split-	\$200.00		200.00	35,655.56
Total for 1000 BB&T 8395								\$12,739.43	
60202 Zoom Subscription									
Beginning Balance									158.89
Total for 60202 Zoom Subscription									
Office Supplies									
Beginning Balance									715.32
Total for Office Supplies									
returned check									
Beginning Balance									500.00
Total for returned check									
TOTAL ASSETS								\$12,739.43	\$37,029.77
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY									
Equity									
1008 Edward Jones									
Beginning Balance									-11,654.98
Total for 1008 Edward Jones									
30000 Opening Balance Equity									
Beginning Balance									26,551.22
Total for 30000 Opening Balance Equity									
Retained Earnings								\$17,693.92	\$17,693.92
Net Income								\$4,439.61	\$4,439.61
Total Equity								\$22,133.53	\$37,029.77
Total Liabilities and Equity								\$22,133.53	\$37,029.77

Friends of Bluestone

Profit and Loss

July - September, 2023

	TOTAL
Income	
3000 Other Income	0.44
4000 Donations - Individuals	11,910.00
4001 Donations - Churches	723.00
4005 Network for Good	225.00
Total Income	\$12,858.44
Expenses	
5000 Operating Expenses	
5002 Marketing & Publicity Dist. PW	96.30
Total 5000 Operating Expenses	96.30
5500 Direct Expenses	
6001 Thriva/paypal Discount Fees	22.71
Total 5500 Direct Expenses	22.71
Total Expenses	\$119.01
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$12,739.43
NET INCOME	\$12,739.43

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

Todd Wright, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Presbytery approve the following people for authorization to preside at communion in their church of membership: **Anne Felty** (First Thomas), **Erin Fink** (Milton), **Shannon Fink** (Milton), **James Hagy** (St. Andrew), **Susanne Heger** (First Clarksburg), **Nancy Jackson** (Kuhn Memorial), **Ed Kittinger** (Milton), **Robin McComas** (Kuhn Memorial), **Nancy Morgan** (Highlawn, St. Albans), **Lynn Proudfoot** (Davis Memorial, Elkins), **Paulla Smith** (Highlawn, St. Albans), **Suzette Smith** (Bradley), **Carolyn Smithers** (Highlawn, St. Albans), and **Rosemary Ward** (Bradley).

INFORMATION:

1. The committee reviewed annual reports from Authorized Lay Preachers (ALPs).
2. The committee reviewed the Authorized Lay Preacher (ALP)/Commissioned Pastor (CP) preparation program overview and application documents and made appropriate changes.
3. The committee made plans for reviewing the sermons and psychological assessments of seven Level 2 participants of the Preparation Program planning to advance to Level 3.
4. The committee voted to make a financial contribution to four churches who have hosted ALP/CP courses.
5. The committee recommended adding a third purpose for the McClintic Fund – to fund the ALP/CP preparation program as a way “to prepare ruling elders for pastoral leadership in the churches of the Presbytery as Commissioned Pastors or Authorized Lay Preachers.” On the advice of the Leadership Team and Stewardship Committee, Vocations requested that this recommendation be reviewed by counsel.
6. The committee celebrated that the August 4-5 ALP/CP Retreat was a huge success with excellent presenters and useful programs for 16 participants and two spouses!
7. The committee also celebrated that Payne Warner was ordained as pastor of First Presbyterian Youngstown, OH, on September 10 with his committee liaison, Nancy Tissue, serving on the installation commission.

8. On September 18 the committee met with Rick McLaughlin, and after reviewing his statement of faith, hearing him preach, and reviewing his exegetical method, recommended him to the Committee on Ministry as ready to be commissioned to serve as a Commissioned Pastor at Baxter and Liberty Presbyterian Churches with two provisions, which he will address during the next 12 months.
9. Committee members reported on reaching out to three individuals who had received McClintic loans and were not making payments, offering our support and updating them on programs that might help address their debt. Promises were made. We look forward to receiving payments for the rest of the fall.
10. Susan Sharp Campbell, staff support for the committee, briefed us on Church Leadership Connection changes that will impact those seeking a call as well as revisions to the PCUSA's Handbook on Preparation for Ministry.
11. Susan Sharp Campbell updated the committee on the current ALP/CP Preparation Program. Mid-year exams are being reviewed; plans are being made to hear participants preach their sermon from those exams. There have been some scheduling issues with some of the psychological/vocational assessments, but once those are completed, members of the committee will meet with participants to discuss. Plans for Level 3 are in progress with one more leader needed, and Rev. Sharp Campbell is working on this.
12. The committee is planning to offer another round of Presby Prep classes starting in January of 2024, if there is sufficient interest.
13. Through regular check-ins with Inquirers and Candidates via their liaisons, the committee offers continuing support to those preparing for ministry under the care of our presbytery.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE NURTURE COMMITTEE

Claire Butler-Bass, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

INFORMATION:

1. The Nurture Committee requested that Marietta Macy, Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, and steering committee member of the PCUSA Israel-Palestine Mission Network be invited to share with the Presbytery resources available on the current conflict in Israel and Palestine. The Leadership Team approved table discussion hosted by Rev. Macy during the lunch hour at the November Presbytery meeting.
2. **Presbytery Resource Center Report:** Looking for Lent and Easter Resources? Check out what we have available by going to www.wvpresbytery.org/resource-center and clicking on the blue Online Catalog box on the home page. Resources can be mailed or delivered to you if needed.
3. **2024 Upcoming Events Sponsored by the Nurture Committee** – Registration information can be found at www.wvpresbytery.org and in the flyers section of this packet.
 - **Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Course:** January 13 on Zoom, Healthy Congregations (family systems) with Dana Runestad and Jennifer Long
 - **Educator, Clergy, CP, ALP Retreat:** February 19-20 at John XXIII in Charleston
 - **Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Course:** March 2 at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church and on Zoom, Preaching Pentecost and the Season of Pentecost with Richard Voelz of Union Presbyterian Seminary
 - **Festival of Faith:** April 6 at First Presbyterian Church, Charleston
 - **Spring Youth Retreat:** April 12-14 at Jackson's Mill in Weston
 - **Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Course:** May 4 on Zoom, Vital Congregations (part of the Matthew 25 initiative) with Brian Coulter
 - **Youth Work Camp with WVMAW:** July 14-20
 - **2024 APCE Annual Event - Come to the Water:** Jan. 24-27 in St. Louis, Missouri

The Spirit of God calls out to us...in our wandering and wondering, in our weariness and wanting, in our waiting and worry The Spirit calls out to us..."Come, all who are

thirsty.” “Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.” Revelation 22:17

Sometimes our lives and ministry leave us parched and thirsting for a deeper experience of the water of life. The APCE Annual Event will be a time of renewal and reflection as through keynote, worship, workshops, and more, leaders will address how God is able to renew us as we thirst for justice, thirst for life, thirst for kindness and joy. The event is designed for all in educational ministry – pastors, educators, volunteers, and others. It will take place in the newly renovated Union Station Hotel and Amusement Complex, and for those unable to be in St. Louis, there will also be an online option on Zoom. Complete information, including registration, can be found at APCEnet.org. Early registration, which offers the lowest cost, ends Nov. 30.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE BLUESTONE COMMITTEE

Zac Morton, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

INFORMATION:

1. The Bluestone Committee was informed that Sarah Specht has elected to step down from her position as Program Director at Bluestone Camp. Sarah has served for six years, and the committee is grateful for her work and time serving Bluestone. Her employment at Bluestone will come to an end at the end of this year.
2. The Bluestone Committee will be working with the Administration Committee to find a replacement for Sarah to help us, at a minimum, run summer camp in 2024.
3. Summer camp and retreat dates for 2024 are as follows:
 - a. Summer Camp Dates
 - Week 1: June 16-22
 - Week 2: June 23-29
 - Week 3: June 30-July 6
 - b. Retreat Dates
 - Guys' Weekend at Bluestone: April 26-28
 - Spring Retreat at Bluestone: May 3-5
4. Per policy, emergency approval was granted to the Facilities Director to pursue needed sewer line repairs for the Health Lodge in late October. Total approval for the repairs was per a service quote at \$2,800.
5. The water storage tank at Bluestone Camp needed repairs, per a requirement by health inspection in November 2022. Repairs have been completed to the tank as of September 2023 at a cost of \$34,000. The Bluestone Committee approved a request to request a line of credit draw of \$20,000 to cover the needed funds for the repairs.
6. The pool room and filtration equipment is in need of necessary repairs. Plans for the repairs were included in the Bluestone budget. Bid for the repairs is \$33,500, which is higher than the \$25,000 budgeted for the work. The Bluestone Committee approved an increase of up to \$10,000 to allow for the necessary repairs to be completed this winter.
7. The Main Lodge roof was repaired this February. The total cost came in under estimated cost.
8. Improvements were also made to Cabins 8, 9, and 12 this year.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Monte Mitchell, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That Presbytery approve a \$435 increase in annual salary, to \$45,435, for the Financial Administrator/Treasurer, James C. Alfred.

INFORMATION:

1. The Committee welcomed Maureen Wright in her new role as the Transitional General Presbyter, and members were informed of her plans to attend several conferences and meet with each staff member about tasks that will be addressed.
2. The Committee approved a \$30 per-month stipend to help offset electricity and internet costs of part-time employees working from home. A stipend had been approved earlier this year for full-time employees.
3. It has now been a full year since the sale of the office building, and Committee member Bob Hansen has made regular check-ins with staff and reported to the committee as we together have navigated the new working arrangements.
4. The Committee approved a raise for each staff member (excepting the Transitional General Presbyter, who declined a raise since her new salary had recently been approved). The raise will be divided equally among staff, with the total amount equal to 1 percent of a budget salary line increase.
5. The Committee designated Monte Mitchell and Agnes Brady to begin the process of updating the office administrator position description.
6. The Transitional General Presbyter is continuing her work as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery but is not serving in her previous role as Associate for Congregational Support. Being both Transitional General Presbyter and Stated Clerk is a new arrangement for everyone, and the committee is working to adjust expectations and work requirements for both roles.
7. The committee accepted the resignation of the Bluestone Program Director, Sarah Specht, effective December 31, 2023.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Sharon Heidt, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **(CA)** The offering received at the November 18 Presbytery meeting be directed to the Presbytery's Hunger Grant fund.

Note: The offering will supplement those monies collected through the Cents-Ability Offerings of churches.

INFORMATION:

1. The committee has explored whether each of the counties in West Virginia is supported through food pantries or food banks. Through conversations with ecumenical partners the committee has determined that each county is served. The committee identified three ways that they can address food insecurity in West Virginia as a guide for the future work of the committee.
 - a. Get the word out about the WV Foodlink program (<https://foodlink.wvu.edu/>) so individuals can find a food pantry in their area where they might receive assistance.
 - b. Try to heighten awareness of the difficulties that food pantries are currently experiencing and encourage churches to get involved with their local food pantry in an effort to counteract the reduction of federal and state aid to those experiencing food insecurity, and to recruit persons who may be called to serve at the local pantry.
 - c. Make the Presbytery aware that the Mission Committee has funds available to award Hunger Grants and encourage any food pantry with a Presbyterian church involvement to apply for a grant if needed.
2. Awarded a \$1,500 Hunger Grant to Oakwood Terrace Task Force Christmas Project and a \$3,000 Hunger Grant to Union-Centerville Presbyterian Churches' Christmas Project.
3. The committee is working to better understand the grants and grant procedures for those monies for which the committee is responsible.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

John Koerner, Committee Chair

November 18, 2023

INFORMATION:

1. The committee continues to call the Clerks of Session of our churches in order to strengthen relationships and to discover ways in which we can better do ministry together as individual churches and as a Presbytery. So as not to duplicate the efforts of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM), we will not be calling churches with whom the COM is currently working. The committee needs the help of our Clerks of Session in returning these calls.

Members of the committee have been in contact with the following churches. In some cases, contact was made with the pastor or moderator of session, but most of these were Clerk of Session contacts.

Alderson	Community	Kenova First
Bates Memorial	Davis Memorial, Gassaway	Kesler Memorial
Beckley	Edgewood	Kingwood First
Beechwood	Elk Hills	Liberty
Belington	Enslow Park	Logan First
Belle	Falls View	Marlinton
Bluefield First	Fayetteville	Mingo
Bradley	Fleming Memorial	Morgantown First
Bramwell	Frankford	Mount Hope
Canyon Community	Grace Covenant	Nitro First
Centerville	Gilbert	Oak Grove
Charleston First	Harman	Oak Hill First
Church of Our Saviour	Highlawn, Huntington	Old Stone
Church of the Covenant	Hinton First	Parkersburg First
Clarksburg First	Hughes River	Rock Forge
Clear Creek	Huntington First	Spring Valley
Clifton	Huntington Second	South Park
Clothier	Kanawha United	Valley Bend

2. The committee has limited cluster funds (\$2,000) that can be awarded to churches that are doing cooperative ministries or missions involving more than one church. If you have ideas for this, please contact John Koerner at johnkoerner75@yahoo.com.

3. The committee is brainstorming about ideas to help our churches foster good communication and ever-deepening relationships throughout the presbytery.
4. Members of the committee have interviewed new pastors in the presbytery and written a newsletter article about them. The intent is to help the presbytery get to know our new pastors.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

Bonnie Boyce, Chair of Trustees

November 18, 2023

INFORMATION:

1. The Trustees met on September 13, 2023, to consider the request from the St. Marys Presbyterian Church to sell the church property to the non-profit Wetzel County Center for Children and Families, Inc. for \$110,000. The Trustees voted to recommend to the Presbytery approve the sale.
2. As allowed by the Presbytery's Manual of Operations, lines 198-203, on September 21, 2023, Bonnie Boyce met with Moderator David Lee, Leadership Team chair Randy Fife, and Transitional General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Maureen Wright to present the recommendation of the Trustees to approve the sale of the St. Marys Presbyterian Church to the non-profit Wetzel County Center for Children and Families, Inc. for \$110,000. The sale was approved unanimously.

PRESBYTERY OF WEST VIRGINIA

REPORT OF A SYNOD COMMISSIONER

James M. Wilson, Ruling Elder Commissioner

November 18, 2023

On October 29, 30 and 31, I attended the 2023 Synod of the Trinity Assembly in Bedford, Pennsylvania. All 16 Presbyteries were represented by commissioners, along with Stated Clerks and Executive Presbyters. Maureen Wright did double duty as our Stated Clerk and Transitional General Presbyter, as well as leading the morning devotions on Tuesday.

Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, the Co-Moderator for the 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, gave the sermon for opening worship on Monday and delivered the keynote address that afternoon. She spoke of the challenges facing our church and described this as a “season of experiment.” She challenged us to “try something” and if it doesn’t work, try something else. “If we don’t try anything, we don’t ever know what we can or can’t do.” Essentially, her message was that the worst thing we can do is to not try anything new or different.

Rev Brian Choi, Huntingdon Presbytery, was elected to a second term as Co-Moderator, and Meg Steele, Washington Presbytery, was elected as Co-Moderator, succeeding Bernice Adams, who completed her two-year term as Co-Moderator.

Synod Executive Forrest Claassen gave his State of the Synod Report Tuesday morning, noting, among other things, a new direction for the Synod’s granting process with the goal of having presbyteries address the future needs of ministry in their region. Each Presbytery will have \$30,000 set aside for its use through the end of 2026, covering expenses back to January 1, 2021. The funds are to be used explicitly to help develop new ecclesiastical structures or missional practices, specifically for something that has never been seen or done before within the bounds of the presbytery. The funds are to be used for presbytery-wide innovations, not for a select few congregations. Hardware costs are not part of the grant. Rev. Claassen also noted a proposed change in the campus ministry grant distribution in West Virginia so that it can send grants directly to the Westminster Foundation, which will streamline the process.

The offering collected at the opening worship was designated for an outreach project of the Bower Hill Community Church in Pittsburgh that is reducing or eliminating medical debt in the Synod region. This is an innovative program that buys medical debt at pennies on the dollar and then discharges it.

The financial report included a 2024 budget overview. The Synod’s Per Capita amount for 2024 and 2025 will remain the same, \$2.40. This will be the sixth consecutive year in which the per capita has not increased.

FEEDBACK

We want to hear from you!

1. How did you attend today's meeting, in person or on Zoom?
2. If you attended on Zoom, was it clear to you how to seek recognition? Why or why not?
3. What part of today's meeting was meaningful to you?
4. Did you view the orientation video for the meeting? If so, did you find it helpful?
5. Please share ways that we can improve meetings in a hybrid format.
6. How can Presbytery help your congregation?
7. Would you be willing to help with worship at a future Presbytery meeting: ____ Y ____ N
(If yes, please include your name and contact information below.)

Additional comments:

Your name (optional)_____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please return the form by emailing to office@wvpresbytery.org or mail to:
Presbytery of West Virginia, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339



Worship

Bulletin

**Presbytery Worship
November 18, 2023**

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-2, 5-6)

Leader: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People: **Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!**

Leader: O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People: **For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture, and the sheep of God's hand.**

Hymn

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

GTG 475

1 Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!

2 Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3 O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Call To Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God you are merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Yet we test the limits of your grace, constantly turning away from you and toward that which is evil in your sight. We do not understand our own actions, why we know what is right but do what is wrong despite your clear commandments. In a world awash in hate and fear, we are to be those who love others and trust you. Forgive us when instead we resemble the worst rhetoric of our culture rather than the compassion of our Lord. We place ourselves before you, asking again for your transformative grace, honest in our confession because we know you will not abandon us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon

"Hidden Talent"

Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

GTG 450

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 High King of Heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Offering

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

You give us resources, gifts, skills and talents to use in your service. We want to be faithful stewards, wise but not cautious, generous and joyous in our giving. Accept, we pray, this offering, as a sign of our desire to be trustworthy servants of our servant Lord, Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Leader: At this table we gather for a feast of thanksgiving:

People: We give thanks to the Lord who is our host!

Leader: No harsh master summons us,
Nor are we slaves cowering in fear.

**People: We come as children who run into the dining room,
and climb onto their seats at the table,
eager to hear the stories of the old days told by the elders,**

and to be reminded of what it means to be full.

Leader: Blessed family, all is ready, and all are welcome.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The God who gives gifts to us be with you.

People: The Lord who entrusts us with grace be also with you.

Leader: Lay down the burdens on your hearts:

People: The Lord lifts our hearts out of the depths of despair.

Leader: Let us pray our thanksgiving to the Lord:

L: Generous, gift-giving God, you spoke, and emptiness became universe,
Full of brand new life, balanced and whole and good.
Yet in the shadows of the garden, fear took root, and balance was lost,

**P: Lost to the greed of wanting more than enough, the illusion of control,
And the fear of failing.**

L: When, in shame for our disobedience, we tried to hide our brokenness,
You promised us sanctuary and the grace of deliverance.

P: But still, fear grew deep inside us.

L: Yet our failure to trust your mercy did not diminish your steadfast love for us.
You gave leaders and prophets new love songs to sing to us.

**P: And when our fidelity proved fleeting, you even sent your Son
to show us the depth of your love and the way of true life.**

L: Knowing our deep fears, Jesus brought a message of joy that overcomes fear,
and told stories of your realm where all are invited, all are welcome,
all are gifted, and all are loved.

L: But not everyone could uproot the fears that lived in their hearts
and made them judge others as unloved and unwelcome.
Fearful of his message of your generous grace, they sought to silence him,

P: But not even death could stifle the Word of your love.

L: Now we call upon your gift-giving Spirit to bless these elements we will share,
and make of them a true feast of your realm.
As we take our part of this bread that is a body broken for us

P: May we be moved to break open our days with acts of healing and grace.

L: And as we share this cup of life poured out for us

P: May we pour out our days in service, true offerings of praise and wonder.

L: And when at last we join the family of all your children
for the true and lasting feast of Thanksgiving,

**P: We will lay aside our fears forever and join the eternal song of all creation:
All glory, praise and thanks to you, the living One who is Three,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, now and forever, Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L Let us pray:

P. Holy God, we give you thanks for this feast of grace and life.

**As you have fed us at this table,
help us to faithfully feed the hungry
whenever and wherever we meet them.**

**As you have loved us and welcomed us to this banquet
help us to love the world you created—
and to work to bring your true peace to all your children. Amen.**

Hymn

“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”

GTG 526

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!
Jesus lives again; earth can breathe again. Pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Benediction

Offering information:

The offering for today's Presbytery Meeting will go to the Presbytery's Hunger Grant fund to supplement the funds collected through the Cents-Ability offerings of churches. If you wish to contribute online, go to www.wvpresbytery.org and click on the "Donate" button; you may also send a check, payable to Presbytery of WV, to Presbytery of WV, PO Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339. Please include the notation "meeting offering."

Worship Leaders:

Music Leaders: Jayson Keeton, Music Director and Organist, First Presbyterian Church,
Charleston

Lindsay Marchio, Soloist, First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Liturgist: Sallie Daugherty, Authorized Lay Preacher, Ruling Elder, First Presbyterian Church,
Charleston

Preacher: John Nelson, Commissioned Pastor, Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Saint Albans

Celebrants: Rev. Mark Boyd, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Saint Albans, and Rev. Julie
Hitsman, Pastor, Spencer Presbyterian Church

Communion Liturgy: Rev Dr. Amy Parker, Minister of Education and the Arts, Village Chapel
Presbyterian Church, Charleston

Resources Used: Nov 15, 2020: Presbyterian Outlook Liturgy © Presbyterian Outlook, 2020.
Liturgy written by Jill Duffield and provided for free distribution.



Flyers & Information

Classes and Dates. Please check which ones you plan to attend:

Biblical Interpretation _____ Thursday, January 11, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, January 13, 9 am-noon

Reformed Theology _____ Thursday, February 8, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, February 10, 9 am-noon

Church History _____ Thursday, March 7, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, March 9, 9 am-noon

Presbyterian Polity _____ Thursday, April 11, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, April 13, 9 am-noon

Worship _____ Thursday, May 9, 9 am-noon

OR _____ Saturday, May 11, 6:30-9:30 pm

Christian Education _____ Thursday, September 19, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, September 21, 9 am-noon

Stewardship _____ Thursday, October 17, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, October 19, 9 am-noon

Mission _____ Thursday, November 14, 6:30-9:30 pm

OR _____ Saturday, November 16, 9 am-noon

Payment is expected at the time of registration.

Books for classes are at participants' expense.

To register and pay online, go to www.wvpresbytery.org.

To register and pay by check, send completed form and registration fee to: Presbytery of West Virginia, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339



Presby Prep

Starting January 2024

Eight Courses

on ZOOM

Once Monthly

Open to All

***Required for All Seeking to become an Authorized
Lay Preacher and/or Commissioned Pastor***

Presby Prep

The Presbytery of West Virginia is pleased to announce the beginning of a new opportunity for in-depth leadership education. Courses are open to everyone, and participants may choose to attend one, some, or all courses offered. Advanced registration is required, and all courses will have assignments to be completed in advance. Each course will last three hours and will use the ZOOM online platform. Participants must have an email address that they use and be able to use the Zoom platform (assistance can be provided as needed).

The Courses

- **Biblical Interpretation:** How We Understand and Use Scripture
- **Reformed Theology:** Presbyterian Beliefs
- **Church History:** The Church through the Ages
- **Presbyterian Polity:** The Way We Govern Ourselves
- **Worship:** God's People Glorify God
- **Christian Education:** Nurturing Growth in Faith
- **Stewardship:** Using God's Gifts
- **Mission:** Engaged beyond Walls

Fees (per person):

\$10 per course OR \$50 for all eight courses.

Payment must be made in advance; sorry, no refunds.

The **registration deadline** for Presby Prep is **Thursday, November 30**. If you wish to register for individual courses, you must do so one month in advance.

NOTE: Presby Prep is LEVEL ONE of the Authorized Lay Preacher/Commissioned Pastor (ALP/CP) Preparation Program. In addition to attending all of the Presby Prep courses, those continuing with the ALP/CP program will need to complete an application form for that program. For a copy of the application form, call 304-744-7634 or go to www.wvpresbytery.org.

Registration Information

You may register online at www.wvpresbytery.org OR complete this form and return with your payment to: Presbytery of West Virginia, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339.

Name _____

Phone _____ (home) _____ (work)
_____ (cell)

E-mail (required) _____

Church _____

How many years have you been a member of this church? _____

Are you an Elder _____? a Deacon _____?

Other church(es) where you have been a member:

Please note on the page with the dates for each course which time you plan to attend.

Advance assignments will be sent at least a month in advance.

Zoom log-in information will be sent two days before the course is to take place.

EXPANDING YOUR MINISTRY TOOLBOX COURSES 2024

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox courses are designed to strengthen congregations by providing them with strong and capable leadership and further equipping their leaders with skills and resources; and to provide local opportunities for leadership development and continuing education that is affordable and timely for pastoral leaders, preachers, ruling elders, and members. Courses in 2024 are listed below so you can get them on your calendar!

- ***Seeing Differently: An Introduction to Systems Thinking***

Saturday, January 13, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Zoom

Bowen Family Systems Theory, developed by Dr. Murray Bowen, is a different way of looking at relationships, self, and even congregations. This course will include an introduction to the eight concepts of this theory as we explore what this may provide for congregational life and leadership.

Leaders: Dana Runestad and Jennifer Long who have done post-graduate work in Bowen systems theory.

- ***Preaching Pentecost and the Long Road After***

Saturday, March 2, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., at Village Chapel Presbyterian Church, Charleston and on Zoom

Using the Revised Common Lectionary texts for Year B, the focus of this course will be on exploring the contours of preaching on the day of Pentecost and strategies for preaching during the summer months after Pentecost.

Leader: Richard Voelz, Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship, Union Presbyterian Seminary



- ***Being Vital Today***

Saturday, May 4, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., on Zoom

We live in a new post-Christendom world in which the church is no longer the center of our society. This new world is unlike any world the church has ever existed in before. Thus, we need to be ready to answer a new set of questions; we cannot assume our new world understands what we do anymore. We will explore the “7 Marks of Vital Congregations” that the Office of Vital Congregations within the Presbyterian Mission Agency has identified to help us come up with some discussion questions and talking points for all the people around us in this world who want to hear more and believe but simply can’t until they see the marks.

Leader: Brian Coulter, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX, and consultant with the Presbyterian Mission Agency Office of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism.

- **TBA**

Saturday, October 26 on Zoom

Full information with registration forms for each particular Toolbox course will be made available several months in advance by email and the presbytery newsletter.

Questions? Contact Susan Sharp Campbell, susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com.

Presbytery of West Virginia's Nurture's Committee Leadership Development Coordinating Team Presents:



Seeing Differently: An Introduction to Systems Thinking

with

Dana Runestad and Jennifer Long

Saturday, January 13, 2024

on Zoom

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Course Description: Bowen Family Systems Theory, developed by Dr. Murray Bowen, is a different way of looking at relationships, self, and even congregations. This course will include an introduction to the eight concepts of the theory as we explore what insight this may provide for congregational life and leadership. For those who wish to learn more in advance of this course, suggested books are Roberta Gilbert's The Eight Concepts and Peter Steinke's How Your 21st-Century Church Family Works.

Course Leaders: **Dana Runestad** is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), where she has served in a variety of congregations and staff positions. She has studied Natural Systems Theory, spending three years in the post-graduate program at the Bowen Center in Washington D.C, where she has also participated in their Faith Leaders Seminar. **Jennifer Long** is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ, currently serving an ELCA congregation. She has participated in the Advanced Clergy Clinic in Family Systems and spent five years in the Postgraduate Program at the Bowen Center for the Study of the Family.

Registration deadline: Friday, January 5. Cost: **\$40**, due with registration

To register, go to <https://wvpresbytery.org/> where you can pay online or complete the form below and send with your check to: Presbytery of West Virginia, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339.

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Name _____ Phone _____

Church _____ Email _____



Questions? Contact Susan Sharp Campbell at susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9428.

The APCE Annual Event

Online!

JANUARY 24-27, 2024

**in
English
&
Español!**

**22 Online
Workshop
offerings
+
2 pre-events!**



**exclusive
chats with
conference
speakers**

SCAN TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE



The Spirit calls out to us...
... in our wandering and wondering
... in our weariness and wanting
... in our waiting and worry
The Spirit calls out to us...
"Come, all who are thirsty."

*"Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone
who wishes take the water of life as a gift."*

Revelation 22:17

Presbytery of West Virginia's
2024 Educator, Clergy, CP, ALP Retreat
(spouses welcome)

"Soul Space"
with
Melody Dillon
at

St. John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston

Monday, February 19-Tuesday, February 20, 2024



Focus: Soul Space is a way of studying the Biblical text that helps all of us tap into our God-given gift of creativity to explore scriptures in a new way. In our time together, we will cultivate space and silence for our souls to be nourished as we engage in reflection, art, and discussion around the biblical text.

Leader: Melody Dillon is a native Virginian, currently from Alexandria. Melody is currently attending Virginia Theological Seminary pursuing a Master of Arts in Christian Formation. She is the president of the Master of Arts class and serves on the Innovative Worship Team where she enjoys creating new and experiential liturgies for worship. Melody desires to combine her gifts for dance and the arts with her passion and call to ministry. Melody has served with an arts ministry in Berlin, Germany, danced professionally with Todd Rosenlieb Dance/Virginia Ballet Theater, and currently teaches and performs at the Local Motion Project in Alexandria.

The cost per person is as follows:

- \$120/person for overnight (all single rooms, unless you are sharing with a spouse).
- Additional attendees from the same church are \$90/person

Commuter rate is \$90 (no overnight accommodation); if you are commuting, note that you will want to plan to be present Monday 1-4 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. and Tuesday 9 a.m.-noon.

The registration deadline is Friday, February 9, 2024. To register, go to www.wvpresbytery.org to complete an online form and payment or, to pay by check, return the registration form on the next page with payment to Presbytery of WV, ECCA Retreat, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339.

Educator, Clergy, CP, ALP Retreat, 2024
Registration Form if paying by check (due by February 9, 2024)
To pay online, go to www.wvpresbytery.org

Name _____

Church _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Any special dietary concerns? _____

Check one:

_____ I plan to stay overnight at St. John XXIII, so I am paying \$120.

_____ My spouse will be attending with me, so I am paying \$210.

_____ Another person, _____, not my spouse, is attending from my church and paying \$120, so I am paying \$90.

_____ I plan to commute and do not need a room, so I am paying \$90.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Sharp Campbell, Associate for Educational Ministry, susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9428.

Please return your completed registration form with check to:
Presbytery of West Virginia
Attn: ECCA Retreat
P.O. Box 11720
Charleston, WV 25339

The Registration Deadline is Friday, February 9, 2024.

Presbytery of West Virginia's Nurture's Committee Leadership Development Coordinating Team Presents:

"Preaching Pentecost and the Long Road After"

with

Richard Voelz

Saturday, March 2, 2023

**Village Chapel Presbyterian Church
and on Zoom**

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Course Description: Is there more to preaching Pentecost than wearing red and a birthday cake for the church? And what about the long season after Pentecost - how do we preach to keep people engaged and growing in this time? Our time together will explore the contours of preaching on the day of Pentecost and strategies for preaching during the summer months after Pentecost. Our work together will be based on the Revised Common Lectionary texts for Year B.

Leader: Rich Voelz is the Associate Professor of Preaching & Worship at Union Presbyterian Seminary and is based on the Richmond, VA campus, where he has served since 2016. He has authored three books, including Preaching to Teach: Inspire People to Think and Act (Abingdon Press, 2019), Tending the Tree of Life: Preaching and Worship Through Reproductive Loss and Adoption (Energion Publications, 2018), and Youthful Preaching: Strengthening the Relationship Between Youth, Adults, and Preaching (Cascade Books, 2016). Dr. Voelz also directs The Bridge for Early Career Preachers, which provides resources, continuing education, and a supportive community for those who are moving from aspiring to active preaching ministries.

Registration deadline: Thursday, February 26. Cost: **\$40**, due with registration

To register and pay online, go to www.wvpresbytery.org.

To pay by check, complete the form below and return it with a check to:
Presbytery of West Virginia, P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339.

Questions? Contact Susan Sharp Campbell at susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9428.

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Name _____ Phone _____

Church _____ Email _____

"Preaching Pentecost and After," Part of the **EXPANDING YOUR MINISTRY TOOLBOX 2024**



Presbytery of West Virginia's Nurture Committee presents

Youth Events in 2024

Spring Youth Retreat **Friday, April 12- Sunday, April 14**



For youth in grades 6-12 and adults who work with them, the Spring Retreat will be held at Jackson's Mill, with Joseph Jumper, Resident Pastor, Myers Park Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC as the keynote presenter. This will be an opportunity for youth and adults who care for them to connect their life and faith through keynote presentations, small group conversations, worship, and recreation. Registration materials will be sent by email to church leaders in mid-February. The registration deadline is Monday, March 25.



Work Camp **with West Virginia Ministry of** **Advocacy and Workcamps** **Sunday, July 14-Saturday, July 20**

Youth currently in grades 8-12 are invited to join in the ongoing work of WVMAW for long-term recovery from disasters and the disaster of poverty in West Virginia. Work during the week will focus on home repairs for families in need under the supervision of a skilled Project Manager. We will meet at a common site and travel together to Colcord, where we will be based for the week. Adult advisors are needed; if you are interested, please contact Susan Sharp Campbell. Registration materials will be sent by email to church leaders early in 2024. The registration deadline is Monday, April 22.

For more information, contact Susan Sharp Campbell, susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9428.