

For more information about reports, opportunities or events please see the website or call the presbytery office.

**Upcoming Events**

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

**Bluestone Camp & Retreat Summer Camp**

Offering traditional residential and family camp options  
Week 1 – June 11-17                      Week 3 – June 25-July 1  
Week 2 – June 18-24                      Week 4 – July 2-8

**Small Church Conference**

*Ministry in the Wilderness* – Led by Judy Slater  
October 7, Elk Hills Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**2023 Presbytery Meetings**

Thursday, August 17 – Fayetteville Presbyterian Church  
Saturday, November 18 – First Presbyterian Church, Charleston

**2024 Presbytery Meetings**

Saturday, February 17 – Zoom Meeting  
Thursday, May 16 – Clifton Presbyterian Church  
Saturday, August 17 – Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington  
Thursday, November 21 – First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont

*Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk*

**PRESBYTERY STAFF**

Ed Thompson .....General Presbyter  
Maureen Wright ..... Stated Clerk & Associate for Congregational Support  
Chris Alfred ..... Financial Administrator/Treasurer  
Susan Sharp Campbell.....Associate for Educational Ministry  
Mark Miller .....Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Director of Facilities  
Amy Robinson..... Director of Communications/Office Administrator  
Sarah Specht .....Bluestone Camp and Retreat: Program Director

**PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS**

**8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday**  
**Phone (304) 744-7634 Fax (304) 744-7649**  
**Email: [office@wvpresbytery.org](mailto:office@wvpresbytery.org)**

**Presbytery Highlights**  
Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia  
*May 20, 2023*

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg, with **Moderator** David Lee presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. John Koerner, pastor of the church, welcomed the Presbytery. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

**Elected** Pam Ferrell (ruling elder, First, St. Albans) **Recording Clerk Pro Tem** for this meeting.

**Approved** the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering to go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the sale of 1,100 square feet of Enslow Park Presbyterian Church’s property.

**Listened** to Elizabeth Connelly, Connections Coordinator for the Synod of the Trinity, who focused on grants including how to cultivate community connections and relationships, how to find grant sources, and how to write grants.

**Heard** an announcement from Kari Preslar (Commissioned Pastor, First, Dunbar) on the Commissioned Pastor (CP)/Authorized Lay Preacher (ALP) Retreat on August 4-5 at Jackson’s Mill near Weston, WV. Claire Butler, the chair of the Nurture Committee, encouraged members and friends of the Presbytery to use the Resource Center now housed at Bream Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston.

**Worshipped** with Forrest Claassen (Executive, Synod of the Trinity), who preached the sermon; and Melody Simpson (ruling elder, Bream Memorial) who served as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Dawn Adamy (Bream Memorial) and John Holland (Fayetteville) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Music was provided by the First Presbyterian Church, Clarksburg, bell choir and pianist, Mary Kay Devono.

**Celebrated** the ministry and retirement of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. Stephen Baldwin (minister, Ronceverte) acted as the MC for the celebration that included reflections on Dr. Thompson’s ministry from George Lilley (ruling elder, First Morgantown), Stated Clerk Wright, and Forrest Claassen. Former Presbytery staff member, Pam Ferrell (ruling elder, First, St. Albans) shared a clever tale using the names of current and former staff. Video greetings from Mark Miller, Bluestone Facilities Director, and Katie Thompson Johnson were shared. A box of cards from friends and colleagues was presented to Dr. Thompson. A gift of \$1000 was given in his honor to the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, and all enjoyed a delicious chocolate cake!

**Heard** the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright. She highlighted two items of information from her printed report: the Presbytery's 2022 Statistical Report that offers a snapshot of the Presbytery and its churches, and that the Presbytery's 2022 minutes had been reviewed and approved without exception or delinquency by the Synod of the Trinity. She also shared that the Board of Pensions is in a *Season of Rebuilding* and wants to hear from pastors and churches as they restructure. All those who wish to offer input are invited to attend a virtual town hall meeting by registering at <https://seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org/news-events/events>.

**Listened** to the report of the **General Presbyter**, Ed Thompson. He acknowledged that the land on which we met belonged to the native peoples who inhabited West Virginia long before European settlers arrived. Dr. Thompson recognized the death of former Executive Presbyter Gay Mothershed and spoke of her strong leadership. Dr. Thompson noted that this would be his last meeting. He expressed gratitude for working in and among the people of the presbytery, and he recognized and thanked the presbytery staff.

**Heard** the report of the **Leadership Team** (LT), presented by Moderator Elect and member of the team, Dawn Adamy. She highlighted the team's work on planning **A Season of Discernment** that will seek to determine what God is calling the Presbytery to be and do. The team conducted an extensive search for a consultant to guide the Presbytery through this process. The team has hired Emily Swanson of Holy Cow! Consulting. Rev. Adamy encouraged members of Presbytery to participate in **A Season of Discernment** including the initial survey.

**Acted on** the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by committee chair, Todd Wright. Dr. Wright presented Ms. Marietta Macy, candidate from the Presbytery of Ohio Valley, to be examined for ordination. She was invited to introduce herself, share her sense of call and her Statement of Faith. Dr. Wright led an examination of Ms. Macy in the areas of Theology, Christian Faith, Bible, Worship and Sacraments, and Polity. The Moderator opened the floor for further questions. The Moderator heard a motion to sustain the examination. It was seconded and approved. Ms. Macy was then excused from the meeting room. The Moderator heard a motion to approve the examination of Ms. Macy and approve her for ordination to serve the First Presbyterian Church, Charleston, as Associate Pastor. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The Presbytery greeted Ms. Macy upon her return with applause and the singing of the Doxology. Dr. Wright offered a prayer for Ms. Macy's future ministry.

Dr. Wright also shared that the committee in consultation with the Stewardship Committee has updated the Rachel McClintic loan guidelines, he and the Presbytery Treasurer sent out a letter on March 31 to those with outstanding loans to clarify the repayment process and spell out how a portion of the loan might be forgiven for those who have made regular payments over a sustained period of time.

**Listened** to the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair, George Lilley. Moderator Lee and Ruling Elder Lilley led Presbytery in a celebration of the retirement of Dr. Peter Vial.

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

**Heard** the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**, Chris Alfred. He reported that the agreed-upon procedures engagement for the period of January 1 to February 28, 2023, was complete. The report indicated no significant outstanding items. The purpose of this work was to protect the outgoing and incoming Financial Administrator/Treasurers and the Presbytery. Mr. Alfred presented the financial reports.

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

**Heard** the report of the **Transitional General Presbyter Search Committee**, presented by Andy Rice, chair. Rev. Rice reported that the committee's work is in progress, and they look forward to bringing a recommendation to the Presbytery.

**Acted on** the report of the **Administration Committee**, presented by Monte Mitchell. He presented a motion to approve the dissolution of the call between General Presbyter, Ed Thompson, and the Presbytery effective upon Dr. Thompson's retirement, August 1, 2023. The motion was approved.

The **Nurture Committee** ceded its docket time.

**Acted on** the report of the **Committee on Representation** given by Doug Jenkins, committee member. Rev. Jenkins nominated Senta Goudy (ruling elder, First, Parkersburg), to serve on the Leadership Team in the class of 2025. There were no nominations from the floor. Ms. Goudy was elected.

**Invited** participants to contribute to the worship offering in support of **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. Contributions may be made using the donate button on the Presbytery website or by sending a check to the Presbytery at P.O. Box 11720, Charleston, WV 25339, with *offering* in the memo section. To date the offering collected is \$761. **Gifts are still being accepted.**

Moderator Lee adjourned the meeting with prayer.