

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

Upcoming Events

(Details at www.wvpresbytery.org or call 304-744-7634)

Bluestone Camp & Retreat Summer Camp

Offering residential and family camp options on various dates.

Week 1 – June 16-22

Week 2 – June 23-29

Week 3 – June 30-July 6

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) General Assembly

June 25-July 4- Salt Lake City, Utah

Small Church Conference

God is Here Worship in the Small Church

September 14 – Fayetteville Presbyterian Church

2024 Presbytery Meetings

Saturday, August 17 – Highlawn Presbyterian Church, Huntington

Thursday, November 21 – First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont

Highlights Prepared by Maureen Wright, Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY STAFF

Maureen Wright	Transitional General Presbyter & Stated Clerk
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
Kathryn Willoughby Weed.....	Associate for Ministry to the Aged
Lelie Breinar	Administrative Assistant to the Stated Clerk

PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday

Phone (304) 744-7634 Fax (304) 744-7634

Email: office@wvpresbytery.org

<p>Presbytery Highlights Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia <i>May 16, 2024</i></p>

The Presbytery met at Clifton Presbyterian Church, Maxwelton, Dawn Adamy (minister, Bream Memorial) presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. Stephen Baldwin, pastor of the Clifton and Ronceverte churches, welcomed the Presbytery and recognized co-host Ronceverte Presbyterian Church. Members attending through Zoom were greeted. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Approved the **Consent Agenda**, which included the requests for excused absences, the designation for the offering to go to the Korea Hana Foundation, and authorization of five ruling elders to serve communion in their churches of membership.

Listened to a brief overview of the General Assembly provided by **Transitional General Presbyter** Maureen Wright. The 226th General Assembly will meet in Salt Lake City, starting on June 30, and will elect co-moderators. Those standing for co-moderators are: CeCe Armstrong, associate pastor in the Charleston-Atlantic Presbytery, along with Tony Larson, pastor in New Harmony Presbytery and Marian McClure Taylor, retired member of Mid Kentucky Presbytery, along with Danny Morales, chaplain and pastor in Tropical Florida Presbytery. A panel of those who have served as commissioners to the General Assembly responded to questions regarding their experiences. Members of the panel were John Bolt (RE, First Morgantown), Jim Musgrave (RE, Highlawn Huntington), Andy Rice (minister, Oak Grove), Susan Sharp Campbell (minister, Frankford), and Tina Vial (RE, Davis Memorial Elkins).

Heard announcements from Se Hwan Isaiah Kim (minister, First Hinton) sharing that the Korea Hana Foundation is an organization that assists North Korean refugees settle in South Korea and Mark Miller (Bluestone Camp Director) who reminded the Presbytery that registration is open for Bluestone Camp & Retreat’s summer camp. Colleen Earp, Program Director at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, offered greetings to the Presbytery and highlighted their summer 2024 programs.

Worshipped with Se Hwan Isaiah Kim who preached the sermon; and Sue Hollandsworth (ruling elder, Oak Grove) who served as liturgist. Ministers of

Word and Sacrament Chris Kilbert (Riverlawn) and Marietta Macy (First Charleston) presided at the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Music was provided by Julie Gillilan, organist for Ronceverte Presbyterian Church. The celebration of the Lord's Supper included blessing bestowed by the Moderator and Leadership Team Chair Randy Fife (RE, Bream Memorial).

Collected \$1,027 for the offering to the Korea Hana Foundation.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright (ruling elder, Village Chapel). She highlighted the Presbytery's 2023 Statistical Report that offers a snapshot of the Presbytery. The report reflects a change in total membership of the presbytery at 5,895, a loss of 295 members from 2022.

Listened to the report of the **Transitional General Presbyter**, Maureen Wright. She acknowledged that the land on which we met and live belonged to the native peoples who inhabited West Virginia long before white settlers arrived. Maureen shared prayer concerns from around the Presbytery. She expressed gratitude for the Leadership Team and the committees of the Presbytery as well as those who made the meeting possible, and recognized and thanked the presbytery staff. She shared reflections on using church buildings and property as tools for ministry and mission. She challenged the churches of the Presbytery to engage in conversation about their buildings as resources or as a burden.

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by chair Randy Fife. He presented the second reading and recommendation to change to the Presbytery manual clarifying the Presbytery boundaries by county as part of a denomination-wide effort to clarify the boundaries of all presbyteries. The Presbytery approved the recommendation. He presented an update on the team's work for **A Season of Discernment** that seeks to determine what God is calling the Presbytery to be and do. The goal is to present a recommendation to the Presbytery at its November meeting outlining a vision for the Presbytery including a committee structure and staffing model to fulfill the vision.

Commissioned Chris Kilbert and Susan Shelton Perry (ruling elder, First Logan) our General Assembly Commissioners and Emma Rau (Highlawn Huntington), our Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 226th General Assembly. Moderator Adamy led the Presbytery in a liturgy of commissioning.

Heard the presentation of the financial reports by Chris Alfred, **Financial Administrator/Treasurer**.

Listened to the report of the **Mission Committee** presented by Sharon Bell (minister, Highlawn Huntington), chair of the committee. She told the

Presbytery, "There's an app for that!", inviting congregations to submit Hunger and Mission grant applications.

Heard the report of the **Administration Committee** presented by Monte Mitchell (minister, Beckley), chair of the committee. He announced the hiring of two part-time employees, Kathryn Willoughby Weed as Associate for Ministry to the Aged and Leslie Bremar as Administrative Assistant to the Stated Clerk.

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

Listened to the report of the Bluestone Committee presented by committee member Debbie Taylor (ruling elder, Old Stone). She encouraged churches to send kids to summer camp.

Heard the report of the **Committee on Representation** presented by Susan Perry, chair of the committee. She nominated Pamilla Ferrell (ruling elder, First St. Albans) for a three-year term as Recording Clerk of the Presbytery and Jim Musgrave (ruling elder, Highlawn Huntington) to serve on the Administration Committee in the class of 2026. There were no nominations from the floor. Both were elected.

Listened to the report of the **Trustees** presented by member Randy Fife. The Trustees recommended Presbytery approve up to \$75,000 to replace the flat roof and repair the shingled roof of the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston, to list the property for sale with Goldman Associates. The Presbytery approved the recommendation.

Heard the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair George Lilley. He presented a recommendation to create an Administrative Commission to inquire into the life, ministry, and vitality of the Anderson Memorial Presbyterian Church, Welch. The presbytery approved the recommendation.

Moderator Adamy reminded Presbytery to review the printed reports of the **Nurture, Relations, Stewardship**, and **Vocations** committees. These reports were included in the meeting packet.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Adamy.