

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)

Expanding Your Ministry Toolbox Events 2025

Get Better at Dealing with Difficult People – Led by Sarah Moore-Nokes
Saturday, January 18 – 9:00 a.m. – Noon, Zoom
Registration open through January 10

Pastoral Care with the Dying and Their Loved Ones
Led by Kathryn Willoughby Weed
Saturday, March 1 – 9:00 a.m. – Noon, Zoom

Preaching the Bible for Our Times – Led by Karoline M. Lewis
Saturday, October 18 – 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Hybrid

Bluestone Camp & Retreat,

Guy’s Weekend – April 25-27 & **Spring Getaway** – May 2-4
Summer Camp starting June 15

2025 Presbytery Meetings

Thursday, February 20 – Charleston Area
Thursday, May 15 – First Presbyterian Church, Logan
Saturday, August 16 – Fleming Memorial, Fairmont
Saturday, November 15 – Old Stone, Lewisburg

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

Presbytery Highlights
Meeting of the Presbytery of West Virginia
November 21, 2024

The Presbytery met at First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont, Dawn Adamy (minister, Bream Memorial) presiding. The meeting was opened with prayer. Evan Walker, pastor, welcomed the Presbytery. Members attending through Zoom were greeted. The highlights of the meeting are shared below.

Worshipped with Andy Rice (minister, Oak Grove) who preached the sermon, and Margaret Bolt (ruling elder, First Morgantown) who served as liturgist. Ministers of Word and Sacrament Steve Elderbrock (minister, Bridgeport) and Amy Wallace Parker (minister, Village Chapel) presided at the celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Music was provided by John Morrison, Music Director and Organist, First Presbyterian Church, Fairmont.

Listened to announcements from Susan Sharp Campbell (minister, Frankford) sharing the opportunity for youth to attend the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium July 28 – July 31 in Louisville, Kentucky. Kari Preslar (CP, First Dunbar) invited Presbytery to attend Festival of Faith on March 22, 2025; Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly, Rev. CeCe Armstrong and Rev. Tony Larson, will offer the keynote address and workshops. Sharon Bell (minister, Highlawn Huntington) shared that the Mission Committee has mission and hunger grants; she encouraged churches to take advantage of this opportunity.

Heard a presentation from Leadership Team chair, Randy Fife, and members David Lee and Amy Kesterson on the Strategic Plan for the Presbytery. Following the presentation, the Presbytery gathered in small groups with members of the Leadership Team to discuss the details of the plan. In person and Zoom groups allowed commissioners and visitors to ask questions to better understand the proposed priorities, committee structure and staffing model. (Read the summary of the [Strategic Plan](#).)

Collected \$676.68 for the offering to the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Contributions are still being accepted.

Heard the report of the **Stated Clerk**, Maureen Wright (ruling elder, Village Chapel). The report highlighted the churches who have completed the 2023 session record review process. She presented the Rolls and Registers of

Presbytery as of November 7 and invited members to submit corrections as necessary.

Listened to the report of the **Transitional General Presbyter**. Ruling Elder Wright led the Presbytery in a land acknowledgement. She noted that the consideration of the Strategic Plan was a big moment for the Presbytery. In addition, she announced that the West Virginia Council of Churches has been notified by Donald M. Kersey, General Counsel, Deputy Secretary of State, West Virginia Secretary of State's Office of the following decision. The U.S. District Court for the Northern District Court of WV, which finds the WV Constitution's prohibition against church and religious organization incorporation unconstitutional. Therefore, the Secretary of State's Office will process all properly completed and submitted applications for incorporation by churches and religious organizations. This has implications for us as our Book of Order states "Where permitted by civil law, each congregation shall cause a corporation to be formed and maintained." (G-4.0101)

Heard the report of the **Leadership Team**, presented by chair, Randy Fife. He presented the recommendation to approve the proposed Strategic Plan. The recommendation was approved unanimously. Ruling Elder Fife recommended approval of two revised policies: Policy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual Misconduct and Policy of the Presbytery of West Virginia for Safeguarding the Wellbeing of Children, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities. Both were approved. The team nominated Doug Jenkins (retired minister) and Kari Preslar (CP, First Dunbar) to serve on the Committee on Representation, Class of 2027, and Doug Jenkins to serve as chair of the committee for 2025. The nominations were approved. A Bullying Policy was presented for a first reading.

Listened to a report from Commissioner to the Synod of the Trinity, Elizabeth Campbell-Maleke (minister, Waverly-Bethel and First Williamstown) on the Synod Assembly October 27-29. She reported on the Ministry in Appalachia presentation and discussions which included a panel with three members of the Presbytery: Nelle Howard (ruling elder Waverly-Bethel), Derek Hudson (ruling elder, Bream Memorial), and Susan Shelton Perry (ruling elder, First Logan). The Synod's per capita for 2025 will remain the same at \$2.40.

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 **Committee on Representation** presented by Susan Shelton Perry, chair of the committee. She nominated persons to serve as committee chairs for 2025, persons to serve on several committees, and an Ordination Exam Reader. There were no nominations from the floor. All those nominated were elected.

Heard the report of the **Vocations Committee** presented by Todd Wright, chair of the committee who shared that a cohort of ruling elders and Commissioned Pastors were trained as moderators to serve when invited by the Committee on Ministry.

Listened to the report of the **Committee on Ministry**, presented by chair, George Lilley, who presented a recommendation to create an Administrative Commission to inquire into the life, ministry, and vitality of Second Presbyterian Church, Huntington. The presbytery approved the recommendation. He presented a recommendation to create an Administrative Commission to dissolve the Rock Forge Presbyterian Church, Morgantown at their request. The presbytery approved the recommendation. The Presbytery commissioned Erica Layton as Commissioned Pastor to First Presbyterian Church, Colcord. The Presbytery celebrated the ministry of Kyle Key (minister, Teays Valley) as he retired.

Heard to the report of the **Stewardship Committee** presented by Mark Boyd, chair, who recommended the use of \$20,000 to establish the fund to assist churches with the 2025 increases in medical coverage through the Board of Pensions. The Presbytery approved the recommendation. Chris Alfred, Financial Administrator/Treasurer, presented the third quarter financial reports.

Listened to the report of the **Trustees** presented by member Roger Perry. The Trustees recommended Presbytery approve the sale of the Ruffner Memorial Presbyterian Church, Charleston, to list BW Apartments, LLC for \$215,000. The Presbytery approved the recommendation.

Acted on the report of the **Administration Committee** presented by Senta Goudy (ruling elder, First Parkersburg), member of the committee. She presented two recommendations regarding Bluestone: approve Mark Miller as the 2025 Summer Camp Director and approve an additional \$10,000 compensation for the added duties as well as allocating an additional \$10,000 for summer staff bonuses as needed. Both recommendations were approved. Ruling Elder Goudy also moved that staff be given an additional holiday – Juneteenth on June 19. The recommendation was approved.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Adamy.