

HANDBOOK OF REPORTS
for the
186th STATED MEETING
of the
SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY

Via Zoom
Saturday, August 22, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Shenandoah Presbytery is a covenant body where:

- ~congregations are empowered to be centers for mission,
- ~people of God are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a
challenging world,
- ~church professionals are nurtured and strengthened for service,
- ~open communication and information are used constructively and
creatively to keep us connected.

INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY
Per Presbytery Manual Chapter V

Number of Meetings – Our Book of Order (G-3.0304) requires presbytery to hold stated meetings at least twice each year. At this time, there will be four STATED meetings for 2020: February 22, May 19, August 22, and November 17.

Kind of Meetings – Besides stated meetings there are adjourned meetings and special meetings.

Adjourned Meetings – Held to conclude unfinished business of preceding stated meeting. New Business may be placed on docket.

Special Meetings – The moderator shall call a special meeting at the request of, or with the concurrence of, two ministers and two elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three ministers and three elders, the elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The Synod may direct the Presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten (10) days in advance to each minister and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.

Who Determines Type of Meetings? – The presbytery itself. If the business at a stated meeting is not completed in the time allowed on the docket, then the presbytery votes to extend the time on that day or votes to schedule an adjourned meeting later. Special meetings may be called in conformity with presbytery's policy, expressed in its manual.

Docket Preparation – The Presbytery Meeting Planning Committee composes the docket. Time periods for committee reports are arranged in consultation with chairs and others responsible for reports.

Docket Problems – The times listed for the presentation of reports are only general orders, and not orders of the day, unless specifically noted (see Procedural Rule A). Frequently, debate bogs down over procedural matters, and controversial issues create considerable discussion. Presbytery can always limit debate. Candidates and transferring ministers of necessity may require special considerations for their examinations because of such things as travel schedules and seminary schedules. The docket may be amended at any time during the meeting. Commissioners should be aware of possible extension of time needed for such amendments and the possible delay in adjournment.

PROCEDURAL RULES

5.5. OPERATING PROCEDURES

- 5.5.1. The Presbytery shall in its proceedings abide by the requirements of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), its Standing Rules or Manual of Operations, and Robert's Rules of Order (newly revised) in this order. A list of procedural rules adopted by Presbytery shall be printed on the inside cover of each handbook.
- 5.5.2. A report of any agency of Presbytery requiring more than 10 minutes of Presbytery time may be made an Order of the Day.
- 5.5.3. Reports having been mailed out in advance, the committee chairperson shall not read the report except to make reference to a few highlights of the report and to recommendations by numbers, moving their adoption.
 - A. Any reports not included in the Handbook shall be submitted as part of a Supplemental Report available either electronically or on paper distributed prior to the beginning of the Presbytery meeting at which the report is presented.
 - B. Any report not so circulated shall not be received by the Presbytery except by approval of the governing body by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. If a group wishes to submit such a report, a person shall summarize its content and purpose before the vote is taken.
- 5.5.4. On matters where there may be deep concern, possible controversy or lack of information, the committee making the report shall provide critical background information, so that the governing body may expeditiously make wise and considered decisions.
- 5.5.5. Debate shall be free and open, with equal time being given to proponents and opponents insofar as possible.
- 5.5.6. Any member of the governing body desiring to speak must stand, identify themselves by name and congregation, be recognized by the Moderator, and go to a microphone if available.
- 5.5.7. A member of the presbytery may speak twice on any particular motion, and not for more than a total of five minutes, but the second time may only be granted after all who have not yet spoken have had an opportunity to do so. The maker of the motion is entitled to speak first, if desired.
- 5.5.8. Lengthy motions must be written out and presented to the Stated Clerk.
- 5.5.9. References to the following procedures from Robert's Rules of Order may prove useful:
 - A. A committee recommendation does not require a second to be on the floor.
 - B. Other motions require a second prior to discussion or action.
 - C. When there is no apparent disagreement or objection to a motion, the Moderator may declare it is adopted by common or general consent.
- 5.5.10. No flash photography will be allowed during the worship service at meetings of Presbytery.
- 5.5.11. When Presbytery meets in a location where seating is limited, priority shall be given to voting members for seating within the meeting area. If it is necessary to use other rooms for overflow seating, visitors and other non-voting members shall use these areas.
- 5.5.12. QUORUM:
A quorum of the Presbytery shall be any ten teaching elders and ten ruling elders from at least ten different congregations. (G-3.0304).

Seeking to be Faithful Together:
Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will . . .

<p>Give them a hearing . . . listen before we answer John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange, · we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others. 2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement. 3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
<p>Speak the truth in love Ephesians 4:15</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teaching. 5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion. 6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
<p>Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace Ephesians 4:3</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree. 8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven. 9. Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously; · seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement; · be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience; · abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with the Guidelines. 10. Include our disagreements in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
VOTING MEMBERS OF SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY

All ministers enrolled in Shenandoah Presbytery

Ruling elders commissioned to churches

Ruling elders from each church session

0-400 members = 1 ruling elder

401-800 members = 2 ruling elders

801-1200 members = 3 ruling elders

1201+ = 4 ruling elders

Ruling Elders who serve in the following capacities shall be enrolled as members of Presbytery for the term of their service:

- moderator or vice moderator of Presbytery
- chair or vice chair of Coordinating and Planning Commission
 - chair of a committee
- exempt employees of the Presbytery (on at least a half-time basis)
- Commissioned Ruling Elders providing particular pastoral services, as authorized by presbytery
- Certified Christian Educators who are serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery

Such service does not count towards the number of ruling elders a congregation is entitled to send.

ACRONYMS YOU MAY HEAR AT THE MEETING

AC – Administrative Commission

ARE – Authorized Ruling Elder

CCVT– Committee on Church Vitality & Transformation

CER - Committee on Educational Resources

CMO – Committee on Mission & Outreach

CNCD–Committee on New Congregational Development

CPA – Committee on Presbytery Administration

CPC – Coordinating and Planning Commission

CPM – Committee on Preparation for Ministry

CPT – Committee on Pastoral Transition

CRE – Commissioned Ruling Elder

CRM – Committee on Relational Ministry

DPRT – Disaster Preparedness Response Team

ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

EECMY - Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus

EPC – Evangelical Presbyterian Church

GA – General Assembly

IC – Investigating Committee

KCC – Key Church Communicator

LRT – Listening Response Team

MIF – Ministry Information Form

PAM – Presbyterian Association of Musicians

PCA – Presbyterian Church in America

PCUS – Presbyterian Church in the United States

PCUSA – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

PDA – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

PIF – Pastor Information Form

PJC – Permanent Judicial Commission

PNC – Pastor Nominating Committee

RE - Ruling Elder

SPYCE – Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council Extraordinaire

TE – Teaching Elder

TPR – Temporary Pastor Relationship

Ruling Elder Rick Comstock of Trinity Church serves as the Presbytery Moderator for 2020

DOCKET

(Members of Presbytery are urged to sign in to Zoom at 9:45 to avoid back log)

- 10:00 a.m. Call to Order and Prayer
- 10:05 a.m. General Presbyter: Electronic Meeting Recommendation
- 10:10 a.m. Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Meeting Instructions
Determining a Quorum
Procedural Rules
Welcome and Introduction of Guests
Adoption of the Docket
Report of the Stated Clerk – TE Bronwen Boswell
Report of the Associate General Presbyter – TE Nancy Meehan Yao
- 10:50 a.m. Presbyterian Historical Society – David Staniunas
- 10:55 a.m. Board of Pensions – Martha Reisner
- 11:10 a.m. General Assembly Commissioner Reports
- 11:20 a.m. Committee on Nominations – Brad Langdon
- 11:30 a.m. Committee on New Congregational Development – Karen Greenawalt
- 11:35 a.m. Coordinating and Planning Commission – Rachel Crumley
- 11:50 a.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Kate Rascoe
- 11:25 a.m. Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation – David Witt
- 12:05 p.m. Committee on Relational Ministry – Betty Dax
- 12:15 p.m. Anticipated Adjournment

STATED CLERK REPORT

I. FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Please see pages 14-20 for informational reports from the following committees: Educational Resources, Mission and Outreach, Pastoral Transition, Presbytery Administration, and Representation.
- B. The Minutes of the 2019 meetings of Shenandoah Presbytery were read and found to be without acceptances.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. That Presbytery excuse from attendance from all or part of this stated meeting those ministers who submit such a request.
- B. That Presbytery receive the minutes of the commission to install Teaching Elder Robert Vaughan at the Romney Church as found on page 3.
- C. That Presbytery approve the minutes from the February 22, 2020, meeting of Presbytery as distributed.

MINUTES OF COMMISSION TO ORDAIN AND INSTALL THE REV. ROBERT VAUGHAN, as pastor of the Romney Presbyterian Church of Romney, West Virginia. In accordance with the appointment of the Committee on Pastoral Transition, the commission convened at the Romney Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, March 14, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Commission members present: Teaching Elders: Kevin Hay, Ann Pettit, and Nancy Meehan Yao
Ruling Elders: Kathy Kuykendall (Romney) and Lynn West (Moorefield)

Also invited were Teaching Elder Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt from National Capital Presbytery and Teaching Elder Bronwen Boswell, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, in place of Moderator Richard Comstock and Teaching Elder James Yao from Moorefield Church.

A quorum was present.

Bronwen Boswell, convener, called the commission to order and led in prayer. The commission elected Bronwen Boswell as moderator and Nancy Meehan Yao as recording clerk.

The congregation was called to worship. Judith Fulp-Eickstaedt preached the sermon on the subject “Life and Death, Blessings and Curses” from Romans 7:15-25a. Bronwen Boswell stated the proceedings of the presbytery preparatory to the ordination and pointed out its nature and importance; Bronwen then asked the questions of the candidate and Kathy Kuykendall asked the questions of the congregation. These being answered in the affirmative and with prayer led by Kevin Hay, the commission ordained Robert Vaughan to the ordered ministry of teaching elder as a minister of the Word and Sacrament and installed him as pastor of the Romney Presbyterian Church.

Bronwen Boswell delivered the charge to the congregation, and Kevin Hay delivered the charge to the pastor.

At the conclusion of the service the newly ordained and installed pastor made a brief statement and pronounced the benediction.

After the installation service the officers and members of the church came forward to their pastor and gave him an appropriate expression of cordial reception and affectionate regard.

Bronwen Boswell, Moderator
Nancy Meehan Yao, Clerk

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS (CN)

- I. Recommend that Presbytery elect the following to serve:

Committee on Educational Resources:

Class of 2022: John Dull (Tinkling Spring)

Committee on Mission and Outreach:

Vice-Chair: Teaching Elder Helen “Punker” Robertson (Fairfield & Williamsville)

Class of 2021: Isabel Chewning (New Providence)

- II. Recommend that the Committee on Nominations of Shenandoah Presbytery assume the duty to recommend persons from Shenandoah Presbytery for nomination to serve on four Permanent Synod Committees (Nomination Committee, Jubilee, Committee on Representation, and Synod Permanent Judicial Commission) as required.

Rationale: Current and traditional practice has been that the presbytery’s Synod committee representatives each find their own replacements. The change would relieve current representatives of the need to find their own replacements, provide a clear process that would assure proper representation and permit the presbytery’s Nominations Committee to include in its work searching for nominees for these Synod positions assigned to the Shenandoah Presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CNCD)

Committee on New Congregational Development continues to support, encourage and pray for our New Worshiping Communities including Stephen City 2: the Stephen City Food Bank and Faith on Tap in Stephen City, VA; Church of the Wild Two Rivers in Shepherdstown, WV and our newest NWC that is still in the planning stages, The Community Cup in Martinsburg, WV. If you are interested in or are thinking about a New Worshiping Community please contact one of the members of the CNCD. We would love to listen and talk together to find out what God might want to start.

Members of the Committee:

Adrienne North

Gusti Newquist

John Bethard

Judith Becker

Kevin Hay

Nancy Meehan Yao

Bronwen Boswell

Karen Greenawalt

COORDINATING AND PLANNING COMMISSION (CPC)

The Coordinating and Planning Commission met via Zoom on April 28 and July 28 and conducted the following business:

I. FOR INFORMATION:

Heard reports from all committees of the Presbytery.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

Cancelled the May 2020 Stated Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery per the Executive Orders of both Virginia and West Virginia in relation to Covid-19.

Approved the following business related to the above action:

- A. Granted the status of honorable retirement to Rev. Deborah H. Klein effective May 31, 2020.
- B. Granted the status of honorable retirement to Rev. William M. Klein effective May 31, 2020.
- C. Granted the status of honorable retirement to Rev. William J. Lowrance effective June 1, 2020.
- D. Approved the changes in terms of call report for installed pastors for 2019-2020.
- E. Approved the following nominees to serve:
 - Committee on Educational Resources - Renata Kamp, Class of 2021 (Warrenton)
 - Committee on Mission and Outreach – RE Mac Sterrett, Class of 2021 (Augusta Stone)
TE Rob Vaughan, Class of 2022 (Romney)
 - Committee on New Church Development – TE Gusti Newquist, Class of 2022 (Shepherdstown)
 - Committee on Pastoral Transitions – TE Karen Allamon. Class of 2022 (Staunton-First)
 - Committee on Relational Ministry – TE Jamie Smith, Class of 2022 (Mossy Creek)
RE Beth Smith, Class of 2022 (Massanutten)
- F. Approved the annual reports of ministers, candidates, inquirers, DCE's and churches for the year December 31, 2019.
- G. Approved the statistical reports summary for the year ending December 31, 2019.
- H. Approved the financial review for the year ending December 31, 2019.

III. RECOMMENDATION:

The Coordinating and Planning Commission commends the resolution from the Trinity Session to the Presbytery as stated:

In this moment, when Black women like Althea Bernstein and Oluwatoyin Salau, and especially Black trans women like Riah Milton, Dominique "Rem'mie" Fells, and Nina Pop are facing brutalization and death because of the intersections of race and gender, it is imperative that we lift up and honor the ways that black women and girls are disproportionately affected by the systems of white supremacy and misogynoir in communities, the church, and society at large. We cannot sit by and allow Black women and girls to remain invisible. We must confess that we have participated in structural sin that has exploited, abused, and dehumanized Black women and girls. We affirm the imago dei of Black women and girls as we recognize their cries. The Presbytery of Shenandoah confesses the failure of the 224th General Assembly to include this statement in the affirmation that Black Lives Matter. We commit to listening and in the work of racial justice, attending to the particularity of the plight of Black women and girls.

**On the Church in This Moment in History –
Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action
Item 00-29
224th General Assembly (2020)**

“Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.”
- Isaiah 58:12 (NRSV)

This 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA) declares that Black lives matter; that our country’s most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege, to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color; and that the church, through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice. We have been slow to face the reality of systemic racism. We have been slow to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, of our fellow Christians, of our fellow citizens, and of those who have come to America for a better life, whose value has been judged by the color of their skin. We pledge to join hands and hearts with our BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) siblings to actively confront and dismantle systemic racism in our church and in society at large, and to work for a more just, merciful, and peaceful country that allows all of God’s children to flourish.

The 224th General Assembly (2020)

1. Calls all Presbyterians to hear and heed the Gospel imperative to love God, neighbor, and self by living out a deeper commitment to active participation with Jesus Christ in the work of building God’s kingdom through
 - a. Personal and corporate repentance, spiritual renewal, and devotion to the Great Ends of the Church: repenting, both personally and corporately, for the role we as individuals and as a predominantly White-dominated church played in history and continue to perpetuate today, even if unknowingly, in systemic racism and White Supremacy, especially in terms of our own local silence, silencing those who attempt to speak or act, and our failure to act regarding police brutality, voter suppression, educational and healthcare inequality, and other acts of systemic racism on federal, state, and local levels
 - b. Listening and responding to the voices of peoples long silenced through programs such as Hands and Feet: Presbyterians Engaging in Communities, the Poor People’s Campaign, and Freedom Rising, approved by the 222nd General Assembly
 - c. Energetic, intelligent, imaginative, and loving involvement in the Matthew 25 Initiative and its intertwined foci: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty
2. Directs the Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly (2020) to facilitate a time of silent vigil of 8 minutes and 46 seconds as a symbolic representation in solidarity with our BIPOC siblings, and of corporate lament and personal introspection of our complicity in perpetuating systemic racism and racial injustice before the adjourning of the 224th General Assembly (2020).
3. Directs the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency to review all items of business referred from the 224th General Assembly (2020) to the 225th General Assembly (2022) to consider prayerfully whether the recommendations could be enacted under current social witness policy or the authority of agencies and their boards to make programmatic decisions between assemblies.

4. Calls congregations, sessions, presbyteries, and synods to review items of business referred from the 224th General Assembly (2020) to the 225th General Assembly (2022) and prayerfully consider the call of God to work and witness for the goals and values expressed therein, in particular the following items as starting points for developing plans for action in dismantling structural racism at every level of the PC(USA):

a. 02-020, “Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force Report”

b. 02-034-INFO, “Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation Progress Report with Recommendation”

c. 02-041, “Lazarus is Walking in Baltimore - from the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy”

d. 02-084, “A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA) - From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee”

e. 02-100, “Approval of Part 1 of the 2021–2022 Mission Work Plan for the Presbyterian Mission Agency—From the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board,” especially the sections on dismantling structural racism

5. Recommends that PC(USA) congregations, mid councils, and all General Assembly entities develop and adopt an antiracism policy in their bylaws by engaging Item 02-137, “On Amending G-3.0106 to Add an Antiracism Policy with Suggested Training for All Members of Each Council.” This work can be done now at all levels, even in advance of the 225th General Assembly, at which time that General Assembly can act on setting a constitutional requirement to do so if it chooses.

6. Honoring the spirit of Item 02-034-INFO - the Progress Report from the Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation and its conclusions regarding the need to address "institutional racism and oppression within the church" and "to call the church to do the hard work of repair necessary for reconciliation," directs the Special Committee on Racism, Truth, and Reconciliation to prepare for the 225th General Assembly (2022) a report deconstructing white privilege within our own denomination's (and predecessor denominations') history of involvement in the colonization, enslavement, oppression, and genocide of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), including theological support and benefits to our institutions. The report should also include a study of our denomination's history of prophetic witness, resistance and abolition, and make recommendations towards proposed amends, reparations, and reconciliation.

7. Thanks the Stated Clerk for adding his signature to the Open Letter of the Poor People's campaign and directs the Presbyterian Mission Agency to commend the use of the learning resources and the Open Letter of the Poor People's campaign as educational tools for congregations.

8. Commends to the entirety of the PC(USA), its members, congregations, presbyteries, synods, and the GA entities the poem included in the rationale and retyped here for reading, reflection, meditation.

A knee on a neck
laying bare for all to see
the evil of
callous
soulless
entitled
power
choking the life from
God's beloved
just because.

We know what must change.
Will we, church?

We have written many
true, significant,
sometimes even sincere
words.

We have confessed:
Belhar, C'67, Barmen...

Enough words?
Never enough witness.

We know we must change.
Will we, church?

Kairos.

We believe that the work of attending to the pain, suffering, and long-standing oppression of our BIPOC siblings in Christ is central to our work of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When Black Americans are killed at twice the rate of white Americans (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>) we have much to lament. We, in particular white people, and as a predominantly white denomination, must confess our complicity in perpetuating systems of oppression against our BIPOC siblings. The church must be the first place seeking racial justice and reconciliation, the dismantling of structural racism, and the healing of our marginalized communities. It has, unfortunately, not often been so. We must have our own denominational and congregational houses in order. We must dare to be an image of hope for those around us.

While we recognize and honor the work towards justice that has been happening and continues at every level of the PC(USA), we also name that in this time it is not enough. We must become actively antiracist in our theology, policy, and praxis. When our colleagues, siblings, and neighbors protest in the streets to say that being Black should never be an excuse to be targeted and killed, when so many stand in solidarity to say #BlackLivesMatter, and when our own communities are weighed down in grief and anger, it is the time to stand alongside our BIPOC siblings in voice and in action.

bell hooks, an American author and social activist says this, "Love is an action, never simply a feeling." If we claim to love our neighbor, especially our BIPOC neighbors, we are called to action. We have said a lot and not done enough. Acknowledging the grief of our siblings in Christ and naming that the Church has a primary calling to be repairers of the breach means nothing without moving towards action. We cannot wait until the 225th General Assembly to begin again to take action.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VITALITY AND TRANSFORMATION (CCVT)

Stated Purpose of CCVT: To provide processes and support for congregations that have an identified need, willingness, and ability to engage in spiritual and/or programmatic growth which can lead to deeper commitment both within and beyond current membership.

CCVT Members: David Witt, chair; Phil Sommer, vice-chair; Malcolm Brownlee, Rick Comstock, Ed Dawkins, JoAnn Harmon, Tracie Martin, Juliana Ritchie, Karen Thatcher; Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, Staff Support

Report to Shenandoah Presbytery – August 22, 2020

We will look forward to testimonies this year at the presbytery meetings from Trinity and Opequon churches, both who have gone through the CAT process and have been journeying forward through a season of visioning with their installed pastors. Trinity will report in August, Opequon in November.

✓ **CAT Application**

Patrick Pettit, Nancy Meehan Yao, Bronwen Boswell, and David Witt met via ZOOM to discuss next steps in the process of training a team of “super CAT consultants,” who would accompany a congregation for a season (possibly 1-2 years) as the congregation utilizes the CAT during a pastoral transition or in a planning/visioning process and then seeks to apply and implement the results of the CAT in designing mission and ministry. This will bring CCVT, CPT, and the presbytery staff together in an intentionally collaborative process. Follow-up is ongoing.

✓ **Grants to Churches for Innovative Worship**

CCVT has awarded 14 grants since March, totaling just under \$10,000, all the grants for the advancement of technology for worship, both hardware and connections (ZOOM). These grants have come from the 2018 Fund, which was originally for \$3,000 per year, 3 grants per year, with a single congregation receiving up to \$1,000 per year. The application is on the presbytery website, has been highlighted at presbytery meetings, and has been included in recent e-letters. Considering the COVID pandemic, CCVT has set aside the limit of three grants per year but reaffirmed the \$1,000 maximum per year to one congregation. CPA graciously and generously allocated \$5,000 in additional funds for CCVT to award; all of those funds have now been awarded. Thankfully, CPA has now made additional funds available, based on the dire and growing need. These grants are making virtual worship available now within many communities and will be useful for ministry through worship and other areas in the future. We invite churches to seriously consider applying for grants as you make changes, modifications, and improvements in this season of life and ministry in the world. Please do not hesitate to apply. Applications are found on the website and should be emailed to David Witt (pastor@opequonchurch.org) or mailed to him at 217 Opequon Church Lane, Winchester, VA 22602.

Grants Have Been Awarded to the following churches:

Beulah, Bridgewater, Buckton, Buena Vista, Finley Memorial, Lexington, Loch Willow, Middletown, Monterey, Moorefield, Nineveh, Romney, Timber Ridge, Waynesboro Second, Westminster, Woodstock and Waynesboro area churches.

Recent ZOOM Meetings

At our recent meetings, we have focused on sharing what was happening within our churches and communities, new developments in ministry, and how we could offer and communicate support to congregations. While we solicited ideas and resources for ministry/outreach through request in the presbytery e-letter, we didn't receive any. We have discussed financial implications, the Board of Pensions deferment, loan applications, the mental health of pastors, helping people grieve, what to do when people/pastors get sick, and disaster plans for congregations. We certainly want people to share their needs in this season of crisis/concern/distancing/isolation.

At our August meeting, we will be discussing how current changes and developments will impact our churches in the future and how we will make modifications in working with them. How can we best engage congregations? What are the best resources in this season and in these changing times? Going forward, we will encourage congregations to think critically about the following:

- For what are you grateful?
- What are the opportunities going forward?
- How is the Church becoming something new and different?
- What have you learned? What will you do in the future?

And we will ask, “How can we listen to help/accompany/empower the churches of Shenandoah Presbytery?”

✓ **Today’s Presentation**

- ❖ **CCVT is pleased to present a special report from special people from a special church at the presbytery meeting today...we celebrate Trinity Presbyterian Church of Harrisonburg, Virginia!**

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY (CRM)

I. FOR INFORMATION:

CRM met via Zoom in March, April, May & July

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Transferred the membership of Teaching Elder Martin Stokes, Honorably Retired, to the Presbytery of Providence effective April 2, 2020.
- B. Renewed the supply pastor contract between the Craigsville Session and TE Gwen Carr from March 1, 2020-February 28, 2021.
- C. Renewed the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Union Session and CRE Judy Hensley from March 1, 2020-February 28, 2021.
- D. Renewed the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Buckton Session and CRE Mark Johnson from February 24, 2020-February 23, 2021.
- E. Renewed the parish associate contract between the Opequon Session and TE Tracie Martin from April 1, 2020-March 31, 2021.
- F. Renewed the revised terms of call between the Keyser and Piedmont churches and TE Tom Forbes beginning February 17, 2020.
- G. Renewed the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Little Falls Session and CRE Paul Wolverton from April 1, 2020-March 31 2021
- H. Renewed the recommissioning of Ruling Elder Mark Johnson to the Bloomery Church through December 31, 2022.
- I. Renewed the recommissioning of Ruling Elder Judy Hensley to the Union Church through December 31, 2022.
- J. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Elk Branch Session and David Beeson from April 1, 2020-April 1, 2021.
- K. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Buffalo Gap Session and Teaching Elder Gwen Carr from March 1, 2020-February 28, 2021.
- L. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Lexington Session and Teaching Elder Kelly-Ann Rayle from May 1-November 30, 2020, pending signature of the clerk of session.
- M. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Fairfield Session and Helen "Punker" Robertson from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.
- N. Renewed the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Burlington Session and Linda Reece from May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021.
- O. Renewed the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Springfield Session and Linda Reece from May 1, 2020-April 30, 2021.

- P. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Broadway Session and Jacob Kave from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.
- Q. Renewed the temporary supply contract between the Clear Brook and Highland Memorial sessions and Charly Franks from August 1, 2020-July 31, 2021.
- R. Renewed the contractual relationship between the Mt. Olive Session and Stacy Meyerhoffer, James Smith, and Tom Holden from June 1, 2020-June 1, 2021.

III. RECOMMENDATION:

Be looking for the revised Salary Policy for all installed pastoral relationships to be included in the Supplemental Packet. CRM will finalize this document at their August 13 meeting and will present to the August 22 meeting of Presbytery.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES (CER)

The CER met in June and July by Zoom.

The deadline for applications for camps and conferences was on June 1. One application was granted in the amount of \$1,300. That award was based on the strategy and development of a plan to keep all participants within their own family groupings. Strict measures were set out to assure everyone involved followed Covid-19 restrictions.

The deadline for higher education applications for scholarships was July 15. We received 23 applications representing 10 churches. The amount awarded was \$11,500. It was noted by the committee that the number of applications and participating churches has significantly increased over the past several years. The funds came from the following invested accounts: Blue, Brown & Hogshead, McClung and Grafton.

Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao will provide an overview of the Presbyterian Women's Horizon's Bible Study by Zoom on Saturday, September 19.

CER Members

Tommy Carrico, (TE)

Sarah Wolfe, (TE)

Amanda Thomas, (TE)

Cliff Gilchrest (RE)

Sarah Hill (TE) – co chair

April Cranford (TE)- co chair

COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH (CMO)

At the February meeting of the Committee on Mission and Outreach, we approved the request from Living Waters team for \$3250.00 to build a model of the water filtration system used in their projects. Also approved the request for \$5000.00 to be released from line item Water Projects to help support the work of Living Waters in Guatemala. Approved the request for \$5000.00 from the Bolling Hobson Fund/Mission Work Reserve and to become partners with the Voices of Jubilee, who was endorsed by the Mid-Atlantic Synod

At the March meeting of the Committee on Mission and Outreach, we voted to add the word of Faith Food Pantry and the Sherando Food Pantry to the Hunger Fund Distribution list.

At the May meeting we voted to approve the request for \$5000.00 from the Domestic Mission Reserves to the Thermal Shelter of Front Royal.

This report is given by the Committee on Mission and Outreach.

COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION (CPT)

I. FOR INFORMATION:

CPT met via Zoom in March (twice), April, May, June and August

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Appointed the following moderators and liaisons:
Ben Salem: Larry Miles as moderator
Berkeley Springs: John McDonald as moderator
Lexington: Kevin Channel as liaison and John Peterson as moderator
Massanutten: Ann Pettit as moderator
Mt. Olive: Jamie Smith as moderator
Waynesboro First: Karen Allamon as liaison
- B. Approved the following interim ministry information forms and authorized Kim Stroupe to input the data onto the Church Leadership Connection web site:
Franklin/Ruddle, Hebron, Lexington, and Waynesboro First
- C. Approved the CAT reports from Massanutten and Woodstock churches.
- D. Granted permission for Massanutten and Woodstock churches to form pastor nominating committees:
- E. Appointed John Lown to serve as mentor to commissioned ruling elder Susanne Taylor
- F. Approved renewing the interim contract between the Augusta Stone Session and Teaching Elder Patrick Pettit from April 1-October 1, 2020.
- G. Approved the commission to ordain and install Robert Vaughan at the Romney Church on Saturday, March 14, 4:00 p.m.:
- H. Approved adding Honorably Retired Teaching Elder Bill Reinhold to the supply list. (TE Reinhold lives in the bounds of Shenandoah Presbytery and retains his membership in Coastal Carolina Presbytery.)
- I. Approved the supply contract between the Mt. Carmel Session and Teaching Elder Sarah Hill from April 1-October 5, 2020.
- J. Approved renewing the interim contract between the Falling Waters Session and Teaching Elder John McDonald from July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021.
- K. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Steve Willis (Peaks Presbytery) who has received an interim contract to the Hebron Church, and granted permission for TE Willis to labor in the bounds of the Presbytery.
- L. Approved the interim contract between the Hebron Session and TE Steve Willis from July 13, 2020-July 13, 2021.
- M. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Patrick Pettit (Shenandoah Presbytery) who has received an interim contract to the Waynesboro First Church.
- N. Approved the interim contract between the Waynesboro First Session and Teaching Elder Patrick Pettit from September 1, 2020-September 1, 2021.

COMMITTEE ON PRESBYTERY ADMINISTRATION (CPA)

Items for information:

The CPA met on May 21, 2020

1. Shenandoah Presbytery Office Property, 1111 N. Main Street, Harrisonburg

The CPA met with realtor, Jeff Robb, and decided to reduce the price of property to \$895,000, with no option to subdivide. Depending on activity, the property will be reduced by \$50,000, every 2 or 3 months, until we get to \$795,000, where we will hold.

2. New Presbytery Office space

A task force, composed of GP Bronwen Boswell, Hannah Bush (RE Hebron), and Heidi Rutz (RE Front Royal), will explore options for the new Presbytery office. It was mentioned that staff prefers that the office to be near the Harrisonburg area.

3. Presbytery Office status

The presbytery staff members are mostly working from their homes and continue to function at a very productive level. The presbytery's telephone line is being monitored by the staff at their homes. Various staff members come in to the office one or more times each week.

There may be expenditures needed for replacing some equipment that is being used heavily. The new presbytery website is up and running, with some things still being added or adjusted

4. Innovations in Worship grants.

The CPA is open to approve additional funds from the 2018 Fund so that the CCVT can administer grants to congregations.

PRESBYTERY REPORT TO SYNOD ON REPRESENTATION
2020 Form for Year 2019

Instructions: Please review the attached Guiding Statements page. For the edification of all, we ask that the Guiding Statements page be included when this report is submitted to the Presbytery. (Use additional pages to complete any questions as needed.)

Presbytery Name: Shenandoah

- I a. If the Presbytery has a Committee on Representation (COR):
how often does it meet? as needed
does it meet with the Presbytery Nominating Committee? as needed
how does it report to Presbytery? through Coordinating and Planning Committee
- b. If the Presbytery does not have a COR, please describe how the oversight of appropriate representation is addressed?

II What is the size of the Presbytery? Churches 100 Members 10,764
What percentage of members are racial-ethnic minorities? <1% What percentage of Presbytery Committee members and leadership are racial-ethnic minorities? <1%.

III. Of the Presbytery committee leadership positions:
How many are filled by women? 6 How many are filled by men? 5

IV. In the past 5 years, has the Presbytery elected an ethnic-minority Moderator of the Presbytery?
Yes _____ No x

V. What actions or initiatives has Presbytery Committee on Representation taken to include and engage ethnic-minority, and other under-represented members, in the work and leadership of the Presbytery?
None at this time. There are so few BIPOC members in the presbytery, that would place an outsized burden on them for participation. At the encouragement of the COR, the Presbytery did adopt a year-long focus on issues around race and racism that was carried out in meetings over the course of the year.

VI. If the Presbytery employs paid staff, describe how attention is given for the need of diversity among applicants and among those hired?
We have not had a staff search in the past year.

VII. The Presbytery representative to the Synod Committee on Representation is:
Tom Forbes, from Keyser and Piedmont.
(Name) (Church, City)

VIII. The Synod Committee on Representation stands ready to help. What might the Synod COR do to assist your efforts to embrace and achieve diversity in the leadership and committees of the Presbytery?
Offer opportunities for antiracism training for the Presbyteries.

Report submitted by Rev. Stephanie Sorge Signature 

	Committee	Total	Male Clergy	Male Laity	Female Clergy	Female Laity	Asian Amer.	African	African Amer.	Hispanic Latino	Native American	Multi-Cultural	Middle Eastern	White	Other Self Ident	Person With Disability	Youth 25/ Under	Young Adult 26-35	Adult 36-64	Senior Adult 65+
1	Budget & Finance (CPA)	10	4	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	4	6
2	Church Vit. Transform.	8	4	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	3	5
3	Committee on Pastoral Trans.	13	6	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	9	4
4	Presbytery Corporation	15	4	9	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	1	8	6
5	Presbytery Council	16	2	4	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	11	5
6	Nominating Committee	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	1
7	Commissioner to 224 GA/	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	3	0
8	Committee on Preparation	6	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	4	1
9	Committee on Representation	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	1
10	Permanent Judicial Commission	7	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	1	5	1
11	Synod Commissioner	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
12	Ed Resources	7	1	1	4	1	0	0	0	0	PG 19	0	0	7	0	0	0	2	4	1

13	Mission	11	3	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	5	6
14	NCD	6	3	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	6	0
15	Relational Min.	13	6	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	10	3
	TOTAL	124	43	26	29	26	2	0	0	PG 20	0	0	0	0	122	0	0	0	6	78	40

Volunteer Service to Shenandoah Presbytery

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Congregation _____

___ Ruling Elder ___ Teaching Elder ___ Retired

I am interested in serving God through Shenandoah Presbytery in the following ways:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

I am currently serving in Shenandoah Presbytery in the following ways:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Opportunities to Serve in Shenandoah Presbytery

Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation (CCVT)

Purpose: To provide processes and support for congregations that have an identified need, willingness, and ability to engage in spiritual and/or programmatic growth which can lead to deeper commitment both within and beyond current membership.

Committee on Educational Resources (CER)

Purpose: To provide education and resources in the areas of stewardship, children's ministry, youth and young adult ministry, evangelism, social justice issues, and other areas related to congregational ministry through the use of specialized teams and regional and presbytery-wide training events.

Committee on Mission and Outreach (CMO)

Purpose: Coordinate and oversee local, national, and international mission work through congregations and mission communities. CMO will provide information, resources, encouragement and support.

Committee on New Congregational Development (CNCD)

Purpose: To formulate and implement a comprehensive plan for location, funding, and development of new congregations and new worshipping communities within the bounds of the presbytery.

Committee on Nominations (CN)

Purpose: To nominate to Presbytery individuals to serve on presbytery committees, adhering to established norms of committee membership and representation including vacancies, chairs and vice-chairs; and to nominate persons to serve on presbytery's PJC and as commissioners to Synod and General Assembly meetings.

Committee on Pastoral Transition (CPT)

Purpose: To fulfill all Book of Order and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and guidance to churches and pastors in the process of moving from one pastor/congregation relationship to another. These responsibilities include work related to dissolving pastoral relationships, working with churches in all processes leading to the next pastor call, and examining teaching elders for readiness and suitability to receive calls.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM)

Purpose: To oversee the care and examination of inquirers and candidates for ministry, inform sessions of the process for inquiry and candidacy, and conduct examinations of candidates seeking calls within the bounds of this presbytery.

Committee on Presbytery Administration (CPA)

Purpose: To oversee the management of presbytery funds, property, and staff.

Committee on Relational Ministry (CRM)

Purpose: To fulfill all Book of Order and Presbytery Manual responsibilities related to oversight of and assistance to churches and teaching elders in their ministry. These responsibilities include all matters related to matriculation of new pastors, periodic visits with sessions and pastors, support for clergy wellness and continuing education.

Committee on Representation (COR)

Purpose: To advise the Presbytery with respect to membership of its committees and to the employment of its personnel per Book of Order G-3.0103.