

Summary of the 169th Stated Meeting of the Shenandoah Presbytery
Saturday, February 13, 2016

The 169th Stated Meeting convened in the sanctuary of Lexington Presbyterian Church, Lexington, Virginia, with guest services provided by the host congregation of Lexington Presbyterian Church and members of the Maury River Mission Community.

In attendance that day totaled 153, with Voting Ruling Elders counted at 66 and Teaching Elders counted at 64, with the visitor total standing at 23.

Moderator Houston Lynch gaveled the meeting to order, offered a time of thanks for the support from presbytery for his past year of service, and then led the congregation into the time of worship. The worship service included a sermon by candidate John Craft, the passing of the moderator duties and gavel from RE Houston Lynch to TE John Cushwa, and the remembering of the ruling and teaching elders who had died in the previous year.

Upon the completion of worship, the meeting was begun with the establishing of a quorum present in the room, and Moderator Cushwa lifting up our meeting protocols, naming assistant clerks for the meeting, establishing a Bills and Overture Committee for 2016 (TE Bob Osborne, RE Kate Brown and TE Olivia Haney); appointing TE John Peterson as parliamentarian for 2016, and recognizing first time ruling elders. TE Sarah Hill provided a welcome for the body on behalf of Lexington Presbyterian Church. TE Roy Martin presented a report to the body of presbytery. The minutes of the November 10, 2015 Stated Meeting and the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 8, 2015 were approved. There was no new business added to the docket, and the revised docket (available in the supplemental reports) was adopted.

The Stated Clerk's Report was first on the docket. As informational items, the clerk reported the establishment of an LRT for Buckton Presbyterian Church, with REs Donna Lanaghan and Eric Hulett and TEs Lisa Webb and Kevin Hay as its members. The PJC reserve list was also established, and the necrology report presented.

The body then received recommendations in the report, and by consent adopted the excused absence list as it was tallied; re-elected Kim Stroupe to be the recording secretary for presbytery through December 31, 2017; received the report from the LRT for New Providence Church stating a move to an AC was not merited and then dismissed the LRT with the thanks of the presbytery; received the financial summary for the year ending December 31, 2015; approved those retired TEs who formally requested being excused from presbytery; approved the balance of TE and RE for the presbytery; and accepted the letter from First Presbyterian Church, Harrisonburg, Virginia stating their agreement to the terms of dismissal ratified in the December 8, 2015 Special Meeting of Presbytery, fulfilling the requirement of dismissal.

In a separate report, the Denomination Vetting Group, an ad hoc committee formed by presbytery at its August 22, 2015 Stated Meeting, brought forth their findings. The process was described by the chair, TE Amy Fetterman, with their four recommended denominations brought before the body, one

at a time, for voting. The presbytery voted by voice to accept the Christian Reformed Church, the Reformed Church of America and the United Church of Christ as Reformed bodies that the presbytery could dismiss a congregation to should the need arise. These three votes were nearly 100% each and very little discussion from the floor.

The vote on the Evangelical Presbyterian Church was more involved than the other three. There were several questions for clarification from the floor, with the status of women ruling and teaching elders garnishing the most attention. There were six statements taken from the floor voicing “for” and “against” voting by the body. The vote was then taken; first by voice, which was not clear, then by asking commissioners to stand. A contested vote tally, with the issue at hand being a clear understanding of who could vote, in addition to individuals moving while the tallying was taking place, which produced a 59 Yes and 62 No result as far as confirming the EPC. To better report the desires of the presbytery, a second vote was enacted, with a reminder of those who could and could not vote being provided, in addition to the request for all to remain stationary until the final tally. The results from the second, verified and enacting vote was 62 Yes and 63 No, with the judgment of the presbytery that the Evangelical Presbyterian Church would not be a denomination that a congregation of the Shenandoah Presbytery could seek dismissal.

At 11:26 AM, candidate John Craft was presented to and examined by the presbytery, with the process being led by TE Jonathan Bunker. The candidate was roundly accepted by the presbytery, and having all of the other protocols of accepting and being installed at Bethany Presbyterian Church affirmed, was asked to sign the Book of Obligation and to be installed at Bethany.

The Committee on Relational Ministry (CRM) reported next, with the report given by TE Beth McCrary. CRM brought the recommendations that the presbytery exempt the congregations of Nineveh and Union from the Book of Order G-2.0404 on the terms of service for ruling elders. This exemption is for one year. The presbytery so confirmed.

Two Commissioned Ruling Elders, Deborah Barnett (serving Hedgesville and Little Falls) and Paul Wolverton (serving Bunker Hill) were commissioned by the presbytery. Moderator John Cushwa participated in the commissioning with the asking of questions from the Book of Order for those to be commissioned. The CRE's affirmed their vocation and will serve their commissioned sites.

TE Scott Crannell was presented by TE David Witt for membership to Shenandoah Presbytery. TE Crannell is the hospice chaplain of Sentera Healthcare. The body affirmed his status at an at-large member of presbytery.

CRM also requested of presbytery, and it was granted, that TE Sally Robinson be granted the status of honorably retired effective March 1, 2016.

Presbytery then voted to affirm, as requested by CRM, that these retired TEs (Don Allen, Jim Atwood, Roxana Atwood, Richard Bethune, Homer Cornish, Jack Mathison, Bill Painter, Ed Riedesel, Anne Ross and Andy Sale), as per Book of Order W-2.4012c, be allowed to serve communion in the house churches of Trinity Presbyterian Church, for the remainder of 2016. It was so voted.

CRM brought forth a tally of Actions Taken on behalf of the life of presbytery, all of which can be found on page 9 of the docket.

A verbal report was presented by Linda Fields of Waynesboro Second Presbyterian Church, on behalf of Committee on Mission and Outreach, detailing the use of Moffet funds in their food ministry at Second.

TE Glenn Coleman presented the Coordinating and Planning Commission report, noting that at their first meeting, a quorum of existing committee chairs were present (using the PLT format currently being replaced by CPC), but requested the body to confirm the actions taken. The presbytery did as asked. The work of the CPC included validating the women's retreat The Sacramental Life to be held at Massanetta Springs, April 15-17, 2016, as well as bringing forth nominations for the Nomination Committee, of MaryLou Cox, chair, Class of 2017, Horace Douty, Class of 2016, Isca Mitchell and Joan Wilson, both the class of 2016. For the Committee on Representation, TE Olivia Haney, Class of 2018 and RE Grace Mitchell, Class of 2016 were also confirmed by presbytery.

As the meeting approached the two Order of the Days-Lunch and the Break-Out Sessions, the meeting went into recess (the fellowship hall actually) for a great lunch and fellowship time.

Following Lunch, the Break-Out Sessions convened. The Stated Clerk can only speak for the group he attended, but a time of sharing and processing occurred. There is an anticipated report of responses to be gathered and disseminated to the presbytery.

A time of Intercessory Prayer began at 2:15, and the meeting re-convened at 2:22 PM.

The Committee on Nominations then brought forth a list of nominations for the new committee structure. The presbytery voted to affirm all of the names on the multiple pages in the docket, as well as Malcolm Brownlee, Class of 2017, as part of CNCD. The clerk asks that you turn to the docket materials/minutes of the meeting for the individual names. The chairs and vice-chairs of each committee present were then commissioned to their duties by the presbytery.

Next up was the Committee on Presbytery Administration. RE Greg Trobaugh presented the report for 2015, noting that the presbytery ended the year with a surplus of \$7,986.00. In preparing for 2016, the asking letters were sent out. Circleville Presbyterian Church was the first responder to this request (thank you Circleville!). As of this date, 86% of congregations have responded. Of those responding, 43 pledged what they were asked; 45 pledged less than asked; 4 pledged more than asked and as of now 13 have not responded. Currently then the 2016 budget reflects a shortage of \$2,550.00. The 2016 budget, with shortfall, was moved and accepted by a near unanimous vote.

TE Ann Held, chair of the former Office and Personnel, which is now a part of CPA, brought updated job descriptions for the staff of the presbytery. The positions descriptions are for the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk; Associate General Presbyter; Administrative Assistant; Funds Administrator; and Communications Administrator. The current staff of presbytery changes with the retirement of

Doug Sensabaugh this spring; the current staff is being retained, pending search for the two positions of General Presbyter/Stated Clerk and Associate General Presbyter. The Associate Presbyter position will be the first to go online sometime in the summer. The timeline for the other position is yet to be determined. There were questions from the floor concerning the GP/SC & AGP positions, with responses provided. The Stated Clerk duties are proposed to be assumed "at no cost" by the GP, in facing budget realities. The AP focus is being lifted up as the first to be filled, and the search will be for a focus on development qualities. There was one question raised concerning grammar; the questioner has promised to forward by email the proposed changes.

The presbytery affirmed these actions.

Continuing with the report, TE Ann Held moved that the presbytery extend the contract of the Transitional Presbyter for an additional year (October 15, 2016-October 14, 2017) to continue to the visioning and implanting of the new committee structures. Verbal votes were taken on both actions, with the vast majority voting Yes (only one or two No votes voiced).

The Committee on Pastoral Transition was brought to the presbytery by TE Lisa Webb. Their recommendation concerning the installation of TE Karen Allamon was approved. One other item presented that bears a notation is that Ben Salem Presbyterian Church has a temporary pastoral relationship established with TE Bob Miles of Peaks Presbytery. In working with calendars, their COM will not meet to validate this ministry until after our meeting; but in conversation with them by the Stated Clerk, the way seems to be clear for this final step.

Other actions of CPT can be found in the docket.

Also, there are several reports referenced in the summary that are also to be found in the docket materials. The Stated Clerk would advise TE, RE and sessions to take time to copy, print and save these materials, as they may be useful in the future for teaching, training and reference. I call to your attention the report of the denomination vetting group, the ECO report from a previous meeting of presbytery, as well as the committee descriptions, volunteer form, and nominations report concerning the names of those serving.

At 3:00 PM, give or take a moment, the presbytery received an adjournment motion and the moderator so ordered.

Blessings and Prayers on the work of the presbytery, its member congregations, its RT and TE, and its membership.

Submitted by Rev. Kerry Foster, Stated Clerk.