

Summary of the 168<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Shenandoah Presbytery  
Tuesday, November 10, 2015, from Woodstock Presbyterian Church, Woodstock, Virginia

On this date, 69 voting Ruling Elders, 75 voting Teaching Elders and 32 guests gathered to undertake the work of the presbytery. The gathering engaged in fellowship time prior to the start of the meeting, with the host congregation providing coffee, cider and snacks for everyone. The congregation participated in a worship service as it prepared to engage in the work to be done. Once worship was completed, the work began.

With the meeting called to order, and having all of the necessary protocols completed to establish a proper meeting, the work of the presbytery began.

The Stated Clerk's Report was presented, and the body voted to affirm the appointment of the Listening Response Team (LRT) as the Administrative Commission (AC) to Warm Springs Presbyterian Church, following the guidelines in the Gracious Reconciliation/Dismissal Policy of the Presbytery.

A Special Meeting of the Presbytery slated for December 8, 2015, to be held at Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church. In this Special Meeting the report of the AC Report for Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church will be presented so that the presbytery may act upon the recommendations of the AC

The last item was filling the first of four vacancies for hosting presbytery by the Opequon Presbyterian Church, Winchester, Virginia, with their hosting of the November 1, 2016 meeting date. This leaves the February, May and August meetings sites as yet to be determined. The balance of the report containing updates and notices are in the docket.

Nominations followed the Stated Clerk's report, handling two specific items of business, bringing names for the presbytery to affirm for service by vote. Teaching Elder Christina Tutterow will be in the Class of 2016, serving on Preparation for Ministry.

The next item was the selection of commissioners for the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. The presbytery selected Teaching Elders Betty Dax and John Haney, Ruling Elders Mary Lou Cox and Dave Thalman, and YAAD Isaac Haney as the principal commissioners, with TE David Witt and Amy Fetterman, RE David Dax and Susan Phend as Alternative Commissioners if needed.

CPM brought Tom Forbes and Jacob Kave before the presbytery, having by commission authority moving both the candidacy level, for introduction and any questions from the floor. In the docket were biographical sketches and statements of faith for both candidates. The two were individually charged and prayed for and then took their seats with the rest of the presbytery.

Office and Personnel brought a two-point report, both concerning issues of property, vision and stewardship. The first was the gifting of the Resource Center's materials and remaining funds to Massanetta Springs, where it will be incorporated in their ministry

plans. The vote was all in favor to move it. A late “question” concerning the bookcases at the presbytery and their disposition, and while a definite answer was not available at this time, it was duly noted that the shelves were also a labor of love by those who built them. The plaque on the shelves will be treated honorably at the proper time.

Moving to the second point, O&P moved to be granted agency status in dealing with the process of putting the land and office space on 1111 North Main on the market. O&P presented data concerning the current and future costs of keeping the building, in light of budgetary constraints current and future, and in following where their research had taken them, determine the selling of the property was the proper course of action.

Of course, there were questions. Topics included transparency, roles of agency, concern about process should a contract be tendered, and who actually votes to sell the property, should it come to that point. The body voted to enter into contract with the realtor Lee and Associates for the 1111 North Main property and that O&P be granted permission to negotiate the terms of the listing contract. The actual sale of the property will be either by the presbytery itself or from an authorized body of the presbytery that was granted commission authority to do so.

At 11:09 AM, Transitional Presbyter Rev. Roy Martin took the microphone, and began to deliver the report of the Transition Team. His opening remarks thanked those who have worked hard on the proposals, reminded us that Carolyn Newman, one of the members of the team, was in a car accident on the way home from the last meeting and was recovering and requiring our thoughts and prayers, and then to give us background information of the process of transition, which we have been in for many years already.

A process was put in place to treat the work in steps, with different members of the Team presenting data as needed. In trying to best summarize the report of the Transition Team, the Stated Clerk has decided the best way to do so is to state, that after much debate and a re-tooling of the docket, the work of the Transition Team was heard, voted upon, and passed. In the midst of this action, take note that the February 2016 meeting of Presbytery will have many reports due outline in deeper detail what this plan will look like and how to implement it.

As a refresher, here are the motions presented to and passed by the Presbytery:

1. That the Vision Statement and Principals of Organization be reaffirmed and that the proposed committee structure for the presbytery be approved.
2. That the proposed staffing structure be approved and that the Committee on Administration bring to the February 2016 presbytery meeting a plan for transition to the new staffing structure.
3. That the proposed 2016 budget be approved as a proposed budget.

4. That the Ethiopian Partnership be reviewed by the Committee on Mission and Outreach and a recommendation be submitted to presbytery in 2016 on whether to continue the partnership and, if continued, under what provisions.

5. That SPYCE, Campus Ministry, and Camp Paddy Run be reviewed by the Committee on Educational Resources and recommendations be submitted to presbytery in 2016 on whether to continue these ministries and, if continued, under what provisions.

6. That the size of all new committees not be greater than 12 members including a chair and a vice-chair in three equal, rotating classes and that the Committee on Nominations and the Committee on Representation in consultation with the Transitional Presbyter and Transition Team be authorized to present committee sizes and names of people to serve for all new committees for approval to the February 2016 meeting of presbytery.

Final details of the voting will be recorded in the minutes of the presbytery. Each of the motioned items received a clear majority of "YES" votes

As is true in any meeting with multiple voices and an extended time of parliamentary actions, there is room for misunderstandings. In regard to budget implications on staffing, Office and Personnel is charged to bring a detailed report to the February, 2016 meeting. For the items lifted up in Items #4 and #5, the new or existing committee in which this could be lodged is the group that will determine the final outcome, with a general understanding of 2016 being the timeline.

Within this discussion was the 2016 proposed budget. In the end, presbytery adopted it as proposed pending updating, but did so in order that Asking Letters could be sent out to the congregations. For all present, please be available to your congregations and sessions when the Asking Letters are addressed by your congregation, and please respond prayerfully.

For those in attendance, there was a time to alter the docket due to time constraints of travel and such, so the docket was so altered, correctly, by those involved. The end result was the Order of the Day, Lunch, was preserved and items needing to be addressed with all parties present were to be taken care of by the body.

If someone desires, at the proper time, these items occurred: 1:23 PM, John Peterson moved to have the docket changed, having the Corporation meeting, reports from CPT and CRM come to bear, and then return to the Transition Team concluding motions. The presbytery so ordered as per Robert's Rule of Order.

As lunch concluded, and before the needed docket changes, intercessory prayers were offered by Rev. Joan Wilson.

The Corporation then opened their meeting and conducted the necessary reporting and actions to be taken. TE Ann Held moved to empower the Corporation Trustees to list the presbytery property as signing responsibility is lodged with the corporation as they hold the title to the property. The motion was seconded and passed.

By 1:45, the work of the presbytery resumed.

CPT brought forth four individuals for the presbytery to receive. Their fuller accounts can be found in the docket material, but the presbytery received TE Joe Condro as Honorably Retired; TE Carl Pattison as member-at-large, and TE's Karen Allamon and Stephanie Wing to called positions at First Staunton Presbyterian Church and Trinity Presbyterian Church respectively.

By 2:15, CPT had concluded the examination process mentioned above, and brought before the body a request for commission authority over and concerning calls issued within the presbytery. There were a few questions seeking further details, and when voted upon, it passed with a large majority of "YES" votes, and possibly 3-5 "NO" votes.

CRM took the stage at 2:22, bringing TE Ed Dawkins before the body to be received as a member-at-large, and the presbytery so voted. At 2:30, CRE's Forbes, Russell and Wilkes were recommissioned with the blessings of the presbytery in their respective ministries.

During a "lull," in the Transition Team Report, TE Skip Hastings was "retired," pending his actual retirement date sometime in the somewhat near future!

The time slot for PLT was deemed to have been fulfilled in the Stated Clerk's report, so Bills and Overtures came before the body at 3:39.

The Overture from Trinity Presbyterian Church as found on page 42 was presented and the body voted to become a concurring presbytery.

The overture concerning fossil fuel divestment was not passed by the body.

Finally, in a most quiet and almost non-discernable way, a motion to adjourn was presented and the body acted upon this motion by vacating the premises, and the 168<sup>th</sup> meeting ended at 4:03 PM, November 10, 2015.

Respectfully submitted

Rev. Kerry Foster  
Stated Clerk