

Stated Clerk Summary of the 175th Stated Meeting
Of the Shenandoah Presbytery, Saturday, August 26, 2017
Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church, Grottoes, Virginia

The Shenandoah Presbytery gathered together for the 175th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery on August 26, 2017 at Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church in Grottoes, Virginia. With the meeting duly announced and materials electronically distributed, the meeting was called to order by the moderator, opened with worship. On this day, 68 Ruling Elders, 66 Teaching Elders and 31 guests were in attendance.

Registration opened at 8:30 AM. A class for first-time elders was held by the Stated Clerk at 9:00 AM with 8 in attendance.

The moderator called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM with prayer, and our morning worship began. Candidate for Ministry, Vanessa Smith (Hedgesville Presbyterian Church), brought our message using Matthew 22: 15-22, focusing on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. Communion was served.

Following worship, the moderator called the body to the business of the day as presented in the docket. A quorum was present and the rules of engagement were announced. Guests were welcomed, including the new Board of Pensions regional representative, Martha Reisner, who was available during the lunch hour for consultations; Teaching Elder Jonathan Ytterock welcomed the council to Mt. Horeb; first-time commissioners were recognized, assistant clerks were appointed, and minutes from the Stated Meeting of May 9, 2017 and the Special Meeting of July 18, 2017 were adopted.

Under new business, Teaching Elder, Stephanie Sorge-Wing moved that consideration of a resolution from the Trinity Session and co-sponsored by the Shepherdstown Session be added to the docket at the end of the schedule. The motion was properly seconded and approved. The Bills and Overtures Committee reviewed the resolution and made itself available during the lunch hour to hear from any commissioners who wished to express their views.

The docket was approved as amended.

Written and verbal reports were given by the Associate General Presbyter who spoke on her work with several committees and the upcoming Big Event as well as noting the congregations she has visited and pulpits she has filled. The Transitional Presbyter/Stated Clerk reported on the status of congregations leaving the denomination and the pulpits he has filled. He concluded by thanking the presbytery for the honor and privilege of serving the presbytery for the last four years and affirming the choice of the next General Presbyter/Stated Clerk. The Transitional Presbyter/Stated Clerk was thanked for his service by the Body.

Teaching Elder, John Cushwa, Chair of CPC, reported the commission had approved the sale of Lot 3 to JMB Acquisitions Company, LLC for \$262,257.00. CPC further moved that Teaching Elder, Stephanie Sorge-Wing be approved as member and chair of the Committee on Representation. Motion approved. Finally, CPC presented the revised Background check policy for adoption. Motion approved.

Teaching Elder, Jonathan Ytterock, gave a report for CPM their work in meeting with the Session of First Winchester, which has two Inquirers for Ministry, about their responsibilities to the Inquirer and to CPM. They have also conducted an annual consultation with an Inquirer, met with a potential Inquirer and plans to meet with another potential Inquirer and the Warrenton Session. They conducted an

examination for ordination of Candidate, Vanessa Smith (Baltimore Presbytery) and sustained that examination, conducted a final assessment on Candidate, Jacob Cave and approved him as ready to receive a call. They have also elected two Teaching Elders and two Ruling Elders to be available as readers of ordination exams.

Jonathan Ytterrock presented Vanessa Smith, reported on her examination, and called the Council's attention to her Statement of Faith and Autobiographical Statement. He then asked Vanessa Smith to share something of her sense of call to the Hedgesville congregation and concluded by asking the moderator to open the floor for questions. There being none, he recognized members of the Hedgesville congregation present at the meeting and closed with prayer.

Teaching Elder, Bill Klein, reported on the process used by the GP/SC search committee which led to their recommendation that the Rev. Bronwen Boswell be elected to the position. Rev. Boswell was then presented to the council and Teaching Elder, Jonathan Bunker, chair of CPT's Examinations Sub-Committee, led the presbytery through her floor examination. Upon answering questions from the Rev. Bunker, the floor was opened for questions. Rev. Boswell answered each question to the satisfaction of the council and the presbytery sustained her examination. The Rev. Klein moved approval of the GP/SC compensation package and that she be enrolled as a member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective October 1, 2017. Both motions were approved unanimously. The Search Committee was dismissed with thanks.

Teaching Elder, Ann Held, announced that September 30, 2017 will be the last day of the Transitional Presbyter/Stated Clerk and a reception for him will be held at the presbytery office on Tuesday, September 26 from 1:00-3:00 PM.

Teaching Elder, Lisa Wilson, reported they had received exit interviews from two pastor who have left their positions, and approved liaisons and moderators for congregations in pastoral transition. They sustained the examinations of several pastors and CREs and approved the terms of call of Vanessa Smith for Hedgesville Presbyterian Church. They also approved her ordination/Installation Commission. The list of other actions taken by CPT and the details of what is reported her can be found on pages 158 and 159 of the minutes. CPT then moved that the manual of Operation be amended to grant CPC Commission authority to approve all commissions to ordain and/or install. The motion was adopted.

Teaching Elder Jonathan Bunker, chair of the Examinations Sub-Committee of CPT, presented Teaching Elder, Fletcher Hutcheson, already approved by CPT to be pastor of Circleville and Seneca Rocks churches, to address the council and share his experience and call to ministry.

Teaching Elder, John Leggett, Chair of CRM, reported that the committee continues to work on the compensation policy and on guidelines for mentoring new pastors to the presbytery. A complete list of their actions taken can be found in the minutes on page 160. The Rev. Leggett then introduced Teaching Elder, William Lowrance, whose examination the committee sustained and received him as a member of the presbytery. The Rev. Lowrance is the new chaplain at Sunnyside Retirement Community.

The moderator commissioned Ruling Elder, Doug Dicks, from the Buckton church, to serve as Facilitator for Justice and Peacemaking Education in Israel/Palestine. Doug has previously served for more than 16 years as a mission co-worker and will be serving now under the auspices of The Church of Scotland.

Teaching Elder, Rachel Crumley, Chair of CNCD, moved approval of their policy for creating new worshipping communities. The motion was adopted.

Ruling Elder, Mary Lou Cox, moved approval of several individuals to serve on various positions in the presbytery and synod. The motion was adopted.

Following prayer, the council recessed for lunch in the fellowship hall.

The meeting was called back to order by the moderator following lunch and Teaching Elder, Rufus Burton, was invited to lead the presbytery in intercessory prayer lifting up the names and situations provided in writing by members of the council.

The presbytery then participated in a time of learning led by the Committee on Educational Resources. A presentation was made by Teaching Elder, Gwen Carr regarding the Church's roll in the care and nurture of people with disabilities. Questions and stories followed.

Teaching Elder, Punker Robertson, Chair of CER, reported on the committee's work regarding the future of Camp Paddy Run. A video was presented by the camp director, Amy Tubbs. The Rev. Robertson moved that Camp Paddy Run be transitioned to become an incorporated 501c3 overseen by a Board of Directors and in covenant relationship with Shenandoah Presbytery. The details of the motion can be found on page 162 of the minutes. After much discussion, a substitute motion was offered by Teaching Elder, Kerry Foster to the effect that Shenandoah Presbytery end its camping ministry and that CPA assume oversight of the property and determine its future disposition. Teaching Elder, Amy Fetterman offered an amendment to the substitute motion that proceeds from the sale of the property be designated for use for children, youth, and family ministry and camp and conference ministry within the bounds of the presbytery. The amendment failed. Ruling Elder, Janeen Welsh, of New Monmouth church, made a motion to refer back to Task Force for further work. The motion to refer was adopted. A motion was made to require CER to report back to the November meeting with recommendations. The motion was adopted.

Ruling Elder, Doug Sensabaugh, Chair of CMO, introduced Lydia Griffiths and Rebekah Witt, who have completed their year of service as Young Adult Volunteers. Lydia worked in South Korea and Rebekah worked in Denver, Colorado.

Ruling Elder, Jeanne Stine, of the Shepherdstown church, moved the adoption of the resolution from Trinity church regarding racism and white supremacy. Teaching Elder, Karen Greenawalt, Chair of Bills and Overtures, seconded the motion and reported that her committee supports the adoption of the resolution. The motion was adopted.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:04 PM. The presbytery will meet in stated session on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at 9:30 AM at Third Presbyterian Church in Staunton.

Respectfully submitted:

The Rev. Dr. Roy A. Martin, Jr.
Stated Clerk