

**Minutes of the
179th Stated Session**

**of the
PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH**

August 25, 2018

**Warrenton Presbyterian Church
Warrenton, Virginia**

NEXT STATED SESSION

**Tuesday, November 27
TBA**

**Saturday, February 23
TBA**

**Tuesday, May 21
TBA**

SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY IS A COVENANT BODY WHERE:

- » **congregations are empowered to be centers for mission,**
- » **lay persons are equipped to be Disciples of Christ in a challenging world,**
- » **church leaders and members are nurtured and strengthened for service,**
- » **open communication and information are used constructively and creatively to keep us connected.**

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CANDIDATES FOR MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Molly Morris

Home Church – Staunton First

INQUIRERS FOR MINISTRY OF THE WORD AND SACRAMENT

Hannah Altman

Home Church - Warrenton

Kelley Connelly

Home Church – Winchester First

Mark Dewey

Home Church – Winchester First

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**PRESBYTERY OF SHENANDOAH
MINUTES OF THE 179th STATED MEETING**

The 179th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Shenandoah was held at Warrenton Presbyterian Church in Warrenton, Virginia, at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2018. Moderator Bill Klein called the meeting to order with prayer.

WORSHIP

Worship included a sermon by Bill Cox, HR, the commissioning of members to the Ethiopian team traveling there this fall, and special music by the Rev. Rick Hill who played his dulcimer and had us join in song.

QUORUM AND ENROLLMENT

The Stated Clerk reported that a quorum was present. The final enrollment was as follows:

Adm	Administrator	DYP	Director, Youth Program	P	Pastor
Asst	Assistant	ED	Educator	Prof	Professor
Assoc	Associate	HR	Honorably Retired	SS	Stated Supply
Chap	Chaplain	IA	Interim Associate	Stu	Student
CM	Campus Minister	IN	Inactive	T	Teacher
COP	Co-Pastors	IP	Interim Pastor	TM	Tent Making
Coun	Counselor	ML	Minister-at-Large	TP	Transitional Presbyter
DP	Designated Pastor	OM	Overseas Missionary	WC	Without Charge

(Description code for attendance: P = present E = excused A = absent)

E	Allamon, Karen H.	P	Staunton First	Excused
A	Allen, Donald R., Jr.	HR		
A	Arnold, Timothy	Supply	Middletown	
E	Atwood, James E.	HR		
E	Atwood, Roxana M.	HR		
E	Banbury, Rosalind E.	IP	Tinkling Spring	
A	Barner, Ann Elizabeth	HR		
A	Barner, Fred Thomas	HR		
E	Baxter, John A.	HR		
P	Bethard, John T.	P	Charles Town	Kathy Donadio
P	Boswell, Bronwen W.	GP/SC		
P	Boswell, Howard W., Jr.	P	Buena Vista	Valorie MacInnis
E	Boyer, Grace Jones	HR		
E	Brandon, Joseph C.	HR		
E	Bridgman, Stewart G.	HR		
A	Brownlee, J. Malcolm	HR		
E	Bucy, Ralph D.	HR		
P	Bunker, Jonathan W.	P	Berryville	Jim Green
E	Burton, Rufus T., III	P	Martinsburg First	Tom Horn
E	Caperton, William G.	HR		
A	Carlsson, Charles M., Jr.	HR		
P	Carr, Gwendolyn B.	ML		
P	Carrico, Thomas J., Jr.	P	Finley Memorial	Absent
A	Cathcart, C. Stevens	HR		
A	Channell, Kevin J.	P	Collierstown	Absent
P	Chapman, George W.	P	Waynesboro First	Cary Bennett
P	Clark, Casey R.	COP	New Monmouth	Hope Byrd
E	Clark, Rachel F.	COP	New Monmouth	
P	Coleman, Glenn M.	IP	Mossy Creek	
A	Condro, Joseph F.	HR		
A	Conrad, Scott A.	Supply	Hot Springs	
A	Corder, William "Lee"	ML		
A	Cornish, Homer T.	HR		

P	Cox, C. William	HR		
A	Craft, John K.	P	Bethany	Absent
E	Cranford, April H.	P	Westminster	Ed Crawford
A	Crannell, J. Scott	ML		
P	Crumley, Rachel	P	Tuscarora	Eric Hulett
E	Cushman, James E.	HR		
P	Cushwa, John W.	HR		
E	Dawkins, Edward C.	ML		
E	Dax, Betty G.	HR		
P	Dent, William H., Jr.	HR		
A	Dietrich, Richard S.	HR		
A	Donohoe, Patricia A.	HR		
A	Douty, Horace D.	HR/IP	Oxford	
P	Evans, Caroline B.	P	Front Royal	Adrian Burt
A	Evans, George W.	HR		
P	Everhart, William G.	Supply	Sunnyside	
P	Farthing, Stanley H.	Supply	Zetta	
A	Fetterman, Amy	ML		
E	Field, Robert F.	HR		
E	Fisher, Merle L., Jr.	HR		
P	Forbes, Thomas H.	DP	Keyser Piedmont	Absent Kermit Becker
P	Foster, M. Kerry	P	Bridgewater	Carroll Chewning
E	Franklin, John S.	HR		
E	Garrison, John D.	HR		
E	Garriss, K. Braxton	HR		
E	Goodman, William R., Jr.	HR		
E	Goshorn, Robert D.	HR		
P	Greenawalt, Karen J.	P	Gerrardstown	Mary Cambell
P	Hand, Kevin L.	P	Franklin Ruddle	Michelle Sites Absent
E	Haney, John H.	P	Goshen Millboro Rocky Spring	Absent Absent Absent
E	Haney, M. Olivia Kincaid	Supply	Mt. Carmel	
E	Harmon, Melissa L.	ML		
P	Hay, Kevin W.	IP	Romney	
E	Hay, Thomas D.	Adm		
E	Held, Ann Reed	HR		
E	Hellmuth, Barton L.	HR		
E	Hendy, Susanna	ML		
A	Hill, Robert S., Jr.	HR		
P	Hill, Sarah L.	Assoc	Lexington	
E	Holden, Thomas J., III	HR		
P	Hopkins, E. Reed	P	Loch Willow	Wayne Glass
P	Howard, Carl D.	HR		
P	Howard, David D.	P	Strasburg	David P.
E	Hunt, Patricia	HR		
P	Hutcheson, Fletcher, Jr.	P	Circleville Seneca Rocks	Absent Elizabeth Huffman
A	Inglis, J. Leslie	HR		
A	Jones, Donald D. M.	HR		
P	Klein, Deborah H.	ML		
P	Klein, William M.	P	Lexington	Absent Absent
P	Lanaghan, Patrick R.	P	Timber Ridge	Donna Lanaghan
A	Langdon, J. Bradford	HR		
A	LaPrade, Lester N., Jr.	HR		
A	Lawton, James S.	HR		
P	Leggett, John P.	P	Massanutten	Sarah Lopacinski Absent

A Lewis, Elizabeth	Chap	Westminster-Canterbury	
E Lewis, Herbert T.	HR		
E Lowe, Emory G.	HR		
E Lowrance, William J.	Chap	Sunnyside Retirement Community	
P Lunde, James E., II	P	Warrenton	Michael Edwards Gary Light
E Macbeth, Bruce A.	HR		
A Martin, Tracie E.	PA	Opequon	
A McClintock, Lynn	ML		
A McCoig, Dan M., Jr.	P	Winchester First	Sara Gardner Absent Absent
A McCrary, Elizabeth L.	P	Augusta Stone	Absent
E McDonald, John L.	ML		
E McKune, Debra Y.	P	Falling Waters	Absent
E Miles, Larry C.	HR		
E Moore, William L.	OM		
E Muncy, Robert L.	HR		
E Newman, Howard A.	HR		
E Noll, Frederick E.	IP	Bethesda	
A Norville, Charles K.	HR		
P Osborne, Robert S.	P	Berkeley Springs	Paula Osborne
E Owen, Jan G.	HR		
E Painter, William L., Jr.	HR		
P Peterson, John C.	P	Covenant	Joan Sayers John Sayers, Sr.
P Pettit, Ann R.	Assoc	Massanutten	
P Pettit, Patrick S.	IP	Smyrna	
A Poland, Ernest L. Jr.	ML		
E Pollock, Richard	HR		
P Potter, Ronald R.	SS	Bunker Hill	
E Price, Norman G.	HR		
P Pyles, Elizabeth A.	P	McDowell	Angelika Levien
E Rascoe, Clayton T.	ML		
E Rascoe, Kathryn R.	ML		
P Rayle, Kelly-Ann	SS	Bethel	
A Reller, Charles K.	HR		
E Rhyne, C. Thomas	HR		
E Robertson, Helen	SS	Fairfield	
A Ross, Anne M.	HR		
A Sale, M. Anderson	HR		
A Shearer, J. David	ML		
P Sherman, H. Wray	P	Hermitage	Absent
A Sieck, Philip L.	HR		
P Singleton, Jacob R.	P	Staunton Third	Absent
P Sitterley, William V. P., Jr.	IP	Shepherdstown	
E Slider, C. Richard II	HR		
E Smith, Evan R.	P	Staunton Second	Absent
E Smith, Nancy A.	ML		
P Smith, Vanessa M.	P	Hedgesville	Virginia Cobb
P Sommer, Philip W.	HR		
E Stanley, Arthur L.	HR		
E Stephens, Millard M.	HR		
E Stokes, Martin L.	HR		
A Summers-Minette, Teresa L.	IP	Cooks Creek	
E Swezey, Charles M.	HR		
E Symons, Charles D., Jr.	HR		
P Thomas, Aaron Lee	P	Olivet	David Walton
P Thomas, Amanda M.	AP	Winchester First	
E Thornton, Joel P.	DP	Ivanhoe	Absent
		Wardensville	Absent

P	Tongen, Harold M.	IP	Petersburg	
E	Tremba, Randall W.	HR		
P	Unger, Philip E.	ML		
E	Vernon, Joseph H. J.	HR		
A	von Oeyen, Jr., Robert	HR		
A	Watkins, John M.	HR		
A	Whiteley, Nancy S.	HR		
E	Wilkens, Jack B.	HR		
E	Wilson, Joan M.	Supply	Broadway	
E	Wilson, Stanton R.	HR		
P	Wing, Andrew P.	ML		
P	Wing, Stephanie Sorge	P	Trinity	Chris Carlberg
P	Witt, David R.	P	Opequon	Bill Burslem Graham Taylor
P	Wolf, Sarah	AP	Covenant	
E	Woodworth, Robert B.	HR		
E	Wyche, Frank	P	Hebron	Absent
P	Yao, James C.	P	Moorefield	Donald Baker
P	Yao, Nancy Meehan	AGP		
A	Young, Betty Jean	HR		
A	Young, Philip H.	HR		
E	Young, Richard O., Sr.	HR		
E	Ytterrock, Jonathan A.	P	Mount Horeb	Alan Quimby

CHURCHES WITHOUT INSTALLED PASTORS

Ben Salem	Absent
Bethel	Kathy Swisher
Bethesda	Absent
Beulah	Absent
Bloomery	Evelyn Todd
Broadway	Juliana Ritchie
Buckton	Lisa Jo Schlosser
Buffalo Gap	Absent
Bunker Hill	Whitney Copenhaver
Burlington	Absent
Burnt	Absent
Clear Brook	Sharon Boone
Cooks Creek	Absent
Craigsville	Absent
Elk Branch	Stephanie Webb
Elkton	Franci Edwards
Fairfield	Absent
Glen Kirk	Absent
Halltown	Absent
Highland Memorial	Absent
Hot Springs	Absent
Immanuel	Absent
Kearneysville	Absent
Little Falls	Absent
McCutchen	Absent
Middletown	Absent
Monterey	Michael Bedwell
Mossy Creek	Absent
Mount Carmel	Kenneth Campbell
Mount Hope	Absent
Mount Joy	Absent
Mount Olive	Absent
Mount Storm	Absent
New Providence	Donald Roll
Nineveh	Absent

Oxford	Absent
Petersburg	Lila Frye
Pines Chapel	Absent
Romney	Vida Marie Simon
Second Opequon	Absent
Shepherdstown	Suellen Myers
Sherando	Thomas VanMeter
Slanesville	Absent
Smyrna	Absent
Springfield	Absent
Sunnyside	Mary Jo Johnson
Tabler	Hank Hogmire
Tinkling Spring	Paul Dana
	Absent
Tomahawk	Rick Coffinbarger
Union	Excused
Waynesboro Second	Absent
Williamsville	Absent
Woodstock	Jane Runyon
Zetta	Excused

VOTING RULING ELDERS:

Commissioned Ruling Elders

A Michele Elliott	E Judy Hensley	A Isca Mitchell
A William Moore	A Linda Reece	A Dwight Rinard
A Alvin Russell	A Bobby Spurgeon	A Jean Steidel

Voting Ruling Elders of Presbytery Staff or Coordinating and Planning Commission (CPC):

P Kate Lewis Brown, Moderator	P Mary Lou Cox, CPC
P Donna Lanaghan, Staff (also Timber Ridge commissioner)	

NON-VOTING VISITORS:

Visiting Ministers

Nicole Ball, Union Presbyterian Seminary	Ron Obenchain, Presbytery of the Peaks
Richard Hill, Presbytery of Baltimore	Carl Pattison, Presbytery of Northern New York

Presbytery Staff

Kim Stroupe	<u>Displays</u> Zac Carter, Presbyterian Children's Home
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Visitors

Donna Bedwell	Robert Bishop	Sharon Boone
Rick Comstock	Suzanne Creswell	Caroline Hastreiter
Laura Henson	Charlotte Hott	David Omps
Joe Palmer	Dawn Wine Ruple	Danny Smedley
Barbara Stickley		

Teaching Elders = 53 Voting Ruling Elders = 54 Additional Guests = 19 TOTAL = 126

WELCOME

The Moderator welcomed all visitors and ruling elder commissioners were recognized for this being their first Presbytery meeting. Teaching Elder Nicole Ball, Church Relations Officer at Union Presbyterian Seminary, was introduced. Teaching Elder Jim Lunde welcomed everyone to Warrenton Church.

APPOINTMENTS

The Moderator appointed the following: Assistant Clerks: Ruling Elder Adrian Burt of Front Royal Church and

Teaching Elder Andy Wing of Elkton Church and Teaching Elder Jim Yao of Moorefield Church.

DOCKET

The docket was approved as distributed. See page 78.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Teaching Elder Bronwen Boswell gave the following report:

I. FOR INFORMATION:

- A. Dates for the meetings of Shenandoah Presbytery:
 - Tuesday, November 27: Your church name here
 - Saturday, February 23, 2019: Your church name here
 - Tuesday, May 21, 2019: Your church name here
- B. Please see page 83 for an informational report from the Committee on Relational Ministry.
- C. The Minutes of the 2017 meetings of Shenandoah Presbytery were read and found to be without acceptances.

II. RECOMMENDATIONS: (all approved)

- A. That Presbytery excuse from attendance from all or part of this stated meeting those ministers who submit such a request.
- B. That Presbytery approve the minutes from the May 22, 2018, meeting of Presbytery as distributed.

NEW BUSINESS

The session of Second Opequon Church requests that Presbytery approve the sale of property pending the outcome of the congregational meeting Sunday August 26, 2018. The property is 200-202 Cather Lane, Winchester, Virginia and was known as the Round Hill Church. The sale is to the Life Church for \$375,000. It includes the cemetery and arrangements have been made for access. *A motion was made from the floor, seconded and approved.*

ASSOCIATE GENERAL PRESBYTER

Teaching Elder Nancy Meehan Yao reminded everyone that churches are required by the Book of Order to have a child and youth protection policy and a sexual misconduct policy. Nance is available to help sessions write their policies.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO SHERANDO CHURCH

Teaching Elder Karen Greenawalt, Moderator, and Teaching Elder Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, briefed the Body on the progression that has taken place since the inception of the Administrative Commission on May 22, 2018. (See page 79 for full written report) Ruling Elder Caroline Hastreiter Clerk of Session of Sherando Church, spoke briefly regarding the process.

The following recommendation from the Administrative Commission was approved by voice vote with no discussion:

That Presbytery approve the dissolution of Sherando Presbyterian Church at close of their final worship service September 16, 2018 and authorize the Stated Clerk to grant letters of dismissal to any members who might request one, and receive all Session and trustee records for deposit with the Presbyterian Historical Society.

The following recommendation from the Administrative Commission was approved by voice vote with brief discussion:

This AC agrees to remain in place, if this pleases the Presbytery, but we ask that our charge be amended to include the management and disposal of the assets and property of Sherando Presbyterian Church.

The following recommendation from the Administrative Commission was approved by voice vote with brief discussion:

That Presbytery add two more members to the Sherando AC due to three members of this commission are going to Ethiopia for two and a half weeks in October/November.

Nancy Meehan Yao led the Body in prayer.

COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION

Teaching Elder Patrick Pettit, Chair, gave the following report:

I. FOR INFORMATION:

The Committee on Pastoral Transition and the Committee on Relational Ministry held a joint meeting the morning of July 12, 2018. Among the items discussed was the need for clarification such as, temporary pastoral relationships; the distinction between churches in transition and those seemingly in ‘permanent transition;’, deployment and oversight of commissioned ruling elders; committee descriptions vs the work being done; and reactive/proactive relationships. Concerns voiced from the committee members were: mentoring new pastors; clarifying the process when a pastor leaves; increase communication between the committees when a pastor is leaving; and what does “transition” really mean.

Expectations from the committee members include pastoral education events, and annual committee retreats.

Nancy Meehan Yao briefed the group on the current churches undergoing Holy Cow CATs or Conversations and the follow-up process. Holy Cow consultants voiced the thoughts and ideas of the churches that have completed a CAT or Conversation.

The church list was reviewed, and congregations sorted into the following categories: installed, long-term supply, basic pastoral services, and transition.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Appointed the following liaisons and moderators:
Cooks Creek – Karen Allamon, liaison
Woodstock – David Howard, moderator and Mac McNichols, liaison
- B. Approved the ministry information form from Romney Church and authorized Kim Stroupe to input the data onto the Church Leadership Connection web site.
- C. Approved renewing the interim contract between the Shepherdstown Session and Teaching Elder William Sitterley from September 24, 2018-September 23, 2019.
- D. Approved the following commission to ordain Kelly-Ann Rayle held at Bethel Church on June 10:

Teaching Elders

Bill Klein
Kate Rascoe
Joe Condro
Malcolm Brownlee

Ruling Elders

Kenneth Miller, Bethel Church
Stephany Morgan, Staunton First Church
Louisa Scott, Covenant Church
David Hawkins, Lexington Church

Also invited were Teaching Elder Albert Connette, Teaching Elder Sam Adams, and Teaching Elder Seth Lovell from the Presbytery of the James.

- E. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Amanda Thomas (Presbytery of Salem) and received her as a minister member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective June 1, 2018.
- F. Granted permission for the Winchester First Church to call a congregational meeting on May 13, 2018, to nominate Teaching Elder Amanda Thomas.
- G. Approved the following terms of call between Winchester First and Teaching Elder Amanda Thomas beginning June 1, 2018:

Annual cash salary	\$30,000
Housing allowance	20,000
Automobile expense	500
Continuing Education	1,500
Major Medical	12,500
Pension and Disability	6,000
SECA	3,825

Moving expenses to the field up to \$1,000, four weeks annual paid vacation (with four Sundays), two weeks annual paid study leave (with two Sundays), sabbatical leave at the end of six years, and parental leave

- H. Approved the following commission to install Rev. Amanda Thomas as associate pastor at Winchester First Church on August 19, 2018:

<u>Teaching Elders</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>
Bill Klein	Richard Creasey, Winchester First Church
Carrie Burslem Evans	Mac McNichols, Opequon Church
Dan McCoig	Nancy Bowman, Romney Church
	Margaret Barb, Berryville Church

Also invited is Teaching Elder Lindsay Conrad from the Presbytery of Salem.

- I. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Howard Boswell (Presbytery of Western New York) and received him as a minister member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective August 1, 2018.
- J. Granted permission for the Buena Vista Church to call a congregational meeting on May 20, 2018, to nominate Teaching Elder Howard Boswell.
- K. Approved the following terms of call between Buena Vista and Teaching Elder Howard Boswell beginning August 1, 2018:

Annual cash salary	\$30,000
Housing allowance	12,000
Automobile expenses	3,000
Books and subscriptions	1,000
Other expenses	1,000
Continuing education	1,000
Major medical	11,000
Pension and Disability	5,040
SECA	3,213

Moving expenses to the field up to \$2,000, four weeks annual paid vacation (with four Sundays), two weeks annual paid study leave (with two Sundays), two, three-day personal retreats per year that do not include Sundays, sabbatical leave at the end of six years, and parental leave

The commission to install TE Boswell will be in October.

- L. Sustained the examination of Teaching Elder Richard H. Hill (Presbytery of Baltimore) and received him as a minister member of Shenandoah Presbytery effective September 1, 2018.

- M. Approved the supply contract between the Beulah and Monterey sessions and Teaching Elder Richard Hill from September 1, 2018-September 1, 2019.
- N. Approved the supply contract between the New Providence Session and Teaching Elder Amy Fetterman from August 1, 2018-July 31, 2019.
- O. Approved the following commission to install Rev. Sarah Wolf as associate pastor at Covenant Church on August 19, 2018:

Teaching Elders
 Bronwen Boswell
 John Peterson
 Amy Fetterman
 Jacob Singleton

Ruling Elders
 Janey Terry, Covenant Church
 Mary Lou McMillin, Trinity Church
 Don Reid, Olivet Church

Also invited is Teaching Elder Sam Schaus from the Presbytery of East Tennessee.

PRESENTATION OF TEACHING ELDERS

Teaching Elder Jonathan Bunker presented Teaching Elders Howard Boswell, Richard Hill, and Amanda Thomas.

TE Thomas was asked to give a brief statement of her sense of call to ministry and to the specific ministry with the Winchester First Church that she has been called to serve. No questions were asked from the floor. After recognizing members of the Winchester First Church, TE Thomas signed the roll.

TE Boswell was asked to give a brief statement of his sense of call to ministry and to the specific ministry with the Buena Vista Church that he has been called to serve. After addressing a few questions from the floor, members of the Buena Vista Church were recognized and TE Boswell signed the roll.

TE Hill was asked to give a brief statement of his sense of call to ministry and to the specific ministry with the Beulah and Monterey churches that he has been contracted to serve. After addressing a few questions from the floor, members of the Beulah and Monterey churches were recognized and TE Hill signed the roll.

COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Teaching Elder Karen Greenawalt, Chair, briefed the Body of the progress of CNCD. A video from 1001 New Worshiping Communities was shown. TE Greenawalt circulated the book “New Worshiping Communities, A Theological Exploration” to those that wanted them with the intent that at a future date those who have read the book will gather for conversation.

EDUCATIONAL TIME

Teaching Elders George Chapman, John Leggett, and Jim Lunde of the Committee on Relational Ministry led a workshop discussing the responsibilities of the Committee on Relational Ministry, what’s going on in churches, and how to be better and more relational as a presbytery and also congregation-to-congregation.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Ruling Elder Mary Lou Cox, Chair, gave the following report, *which was approved*:

Recommend that Presbytery elect the following to serve on committees:

Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation
 Class of 2018: TE John Haney

Committee on Mission and Outreach
 Class of 2020: TE Reed Hopkins

Committee on Presbytery Administration
 Class of 2020: TE Clayton Rascoe

Synod Commissioner
Class of 2019: TE Andy Wing

There were no nominations from the floor.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VITALITY AND TRANSFORMATION

Teaching Elder David Witt, Chair, introduced Teaching Elder John Peterson of the Covenant Church to talk about their ministry. TE Peterson introduced John Sayers to highlight their Helping Hands program. TE Peterson introduced Associate Pastor Sarah Wolf who began at Covenant in July who shared her first impressions of being part of the congregation. (See page 82 for written report from the CCVT.)

RECESS

Following prayer, a delicious lunch was served in the fellowship hall.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Teaching Elder Karen Greenawalt led the Body in prayer remembering the many persons and causes that members of Shenandoah Presbytery had called to our attention in written concerns during the morning.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Teaching Elder Patrick Lanaghan and Ruling Elders Donna Lanaghan, Don Baker, and Rick Comstock gave brief verbal reports, including a slideshow presentation, from their time as commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly held June 16-23, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri. See pages 80-81 for written report

GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT

Teaching Elder Bronwen Boswell reported on the 224th General Assembly to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, in 2019, with the hope that members of Shenandoah will attend. TE Boswell noted the Stated Clerk of the PCUSA suggested a per capita increase to cover the costs associated with General Assembly. Decisions were made at GA for an increase but not as much as first requested. Further details forthcoming.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH

Teaching Elder Gwen Carr, Chair, reported they are hosting Fabienne Jean and Cindy Corell from October 8-15 and Michael and Rachel Weller from September 22-October 1. Teaching Elder Reed Hopkins reported on the upcoming Ethiopian banquet is September 28 at Mt. Horeb Church. Laura Henson of Warrenton Church reported on how they are using their Moffett Fund Grant money.

COORDINATING AND PLANNING COMMISSION

Ruling Elder Kate Lewis Brown, Chair, gave the following report:

I. FOR INFORMATION:

CPC met on July 24 and heard reports from all committees.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

Approved honoring the background checks that have been performed by the Warrenton Church for the upcoming August 25 Presbytery meeting childcare.

III. RECOMMENDATION: *(approved)*

That Presbytery elect Ruling Elder Heidi Rutz of Front Royal Church to the Nominating Committee, Class of 2018.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Teaching Elder Sarah Hill, Co-Chair, gave the following report, including promotion of the Big Event September 15 and the SPYCE rally October 14:

I. FOR INFORMATION:

Rev. April Cranford will join the Commission Ruling Elder planning team as a CER representative for the fall and spring workshops.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Approved 2019 CER Budget remains the same as 2018.
- B. Approved \$5,000 for SPYCE from Blue Funds.
- C. Approved \$300 per college scholarship applicant was approved - 23 applicants totaling \$6,900 from Blue Funds (\$2,594.13, Brown Hoghead (\$605.33), McClung (\$2,881.32), Grafton (\$989.77)- leaving \$170.55 in funds.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m. with the Moderator leading in prayer. The Presbytery will meet in stated session on Tuesday, November 27, at 9:30 a.m., location to be announced.

William M. Klein, Moderator

Bronwen W. Boswell, Stated Clerk

Kim Stroupe, Recording Clerk

DOCKET

- 8:30 a.m. Registration Begins
- 9:30 a.m. Call to Order, Opening Prayer, and Morning Worship
- 10:30 a.m. Determining a Quorum
Procedural Rules
Welcome and Introduction of Guests
First time commissioners
Seating corresponding members
Welcome from Warrenton Church
Appointments by the Moderator
Adoption of the Docket
Report of the Stated Clerk – TE Bronwen Boswell
 Correction and Approval of Minutes
 New Business
Report of the Associate General Presbyter – TE Nancy Meehan Yao
- 10:50 a.m. Sherando Administrative Commission – TE Karen Greenawalt
- 11:05 a.m. Committee on Pastoral Transition – TE Patrick Pettit
- 11:35 a.m. Committee on New Congregational Development – TE Karen Greenawalt
- 11:45 a.m. Educational Time – TE George Chapman, TE John Leggett, and TE Jim Lunde
- 12:25 p.m. Directions for Lunch and Prayer – TE Jim Lunde
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch - ORDER of the DAY
- 1:30 p.m. Intercessory Prayer
- 1:35 p.m. General Assembly Commissioners Reports
- 1:55 p.m. Report of the General Presbyter – TE Bronwen Boswell
- 2:00 p.m. Committee on Nominations – RE Mary Lou Cox
- 2:05 p.m. Committee on Church Vitality and Transformation – TE David Witt
- 2:15 p.m. Committee on Mission and Outreach – TE Gwen Carr
- 2:20 p.m. Coordinating and Planning Commission – RE Kate Lewis Brown
- 2:25 p.m. Committee on Educational Resources – TE Sarah Hill
- 2:45 p.m. Anticipated adjournment

SHERANDO CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Commission Members:

John Cushwa, Teaching Elder

Tracie Martin, Teaching Elder

Nancy Meehan Yao, Teaching Elder, Associate Presbyter

Bill Burslem, Ruling Elder

Tom Van Meter, Ruling Elder

Karen Greenawalt, Teaching Elder, Chair

The Sherando AC has been actively working with the Sherando PC since June. Our first meeting was a listening session with the Session of SPC on June 11, 2018 during their Stated Session meeting. The Session members helped fill the AC in on the background of the church and how they now find themselves as a small dwindling congregation with 20 or less in worship and very limited funds but who still host 7 Girl Scout troops and Pastor Jose's church in their building.

The AC then met on June 20, 2018 to discuss what we had heard at the listening session and what our next steps should be. We decided a listening session with the congregation would be helpful so they could share their thoughts and concerns. We also concluded that the congregation might not be as aware of the limited funds with which the church was trying to operate. Tom Van Meter, the treasurer of SPC and an AC member agreed to write the letter which was sent from him, the Session and Administrative Commission to the Congregation.

The AC met with the congregation on Sunday July 22, 2018 after church and a fellowship luncheon. There was a good turnout from the congregation with 29 people plus the AC there that afternoon. We began with prayer and spent the next two plus hours listening to folks who were very concerned that their church was not financially solvent. We discussed lots of ideas and heard many wonder why are we in this state now? What happened? Why didn't someone help us earlier? Where was Presbytery? What about training or a consultant? We are tired. We need handholding. We feel like we dropped through the cracks. We are in survival mode. Finally we began to hear more tiredness, sadness and questions of what might happen if we close. The AC tried to be supportive and encouraging even in the midst of a very difficult conversation. The meeting was closed with prayer

The AC met the next evening, Monday July 23, 2018 with the Session at the Stated Session Meeting. At this meeting we addressed the question 'Where do we go from here?' with the Session. After much more discussion, it became apparent to the Session that there was not enough energy or leadership coupled with lack of finances for this church to have much of a future. The question became whether to keep limping along until all the money was gone or instead leave a legacy of some sort. Session voted that if the way be clear after a congregational meeting on August 5, 2018 the final worship service would be held September 16, 2018.

Sunday August 5, 2018, a Congregational meeting was held. The Session decision was brought to the floor and after much discussion, a vote of 10 in favor to 1 opposed. The motion passed to hold the final worship service for Sherando PC on September 16, 2018.

The Sherando AC met to discuss this decision by Sherando Church on Tuesday August 7. After prayer and discussion the Sherando AC brings the following recommendations to Shenandoah Presbytery:

1. Recommend the closure of Sherando Presbyterian Church at close of their final worship service September 16, 2018 and authorize the Stated Clerk to grant letters of dismissal to any members who might request one, and receive all Session and trustee records for deposit with the Presbyterian Historical Society.
2. This AC agrees to remain in place, if this pleases the Presbytery, but we ask that our charge be amended to include the management and disposal of the assets and property of Sherando Presbyterian Church.
3. Recommend adding two more members to the Sherando AC due to three members of this commission are going to Ethiopia for two and a half weeks in October/November.

223rd General Assembly

Church Leadership: Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri (Presbytery of Tropical Florida) and the Reverend Cindy Kohlmann (Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England) were elected Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly (2018).

In other actions involving Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) leadership, the assembly:

- ~ Confirmed the election of the Reverend Diane Moffett as president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- ~ Confirmed the re-election of the Reverend Tom Taylor as president of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation.
- ~ Confirmed the election of Alton B. Pollard III as president of Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri (left) and Cindy Kohlmann (right) Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly

Fossil Fuel Divestment: The assembly voted to continue its corporate engagement with fossil fuel companies—through its Mission Responsibility Through Investment Committee (MRTI)—rather than divest from those companies.

Israel-Palestine/Middle East: Among its actions, the assembly:

- ~ Asked RE/MAX, LLC, to end its sale and rental of property on occupied, disputed land in East Jerusalem and the West Bank.
- ~ Voiced support for all efforts to bring Palestinians and Israelis together peacefully.
- ~ Asked the state of Israel to fully comply with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in order to stop discriminatory practices; called on the U.S. government to rejoin the United Nations Human Rights Council.
- ~ Condemned the recent violence along the border between Israel and Gaza.

Per Capita: The assembly approved a 2019 General Assembly per capita apportionment of \$8.95 per member—an increase of \$1.25 (or 15.8 percent) per member over 2018, which includes the ongoing work of General Assembly and the amount (\$643,000) the assembly added by the actions it took. In other per capita-related actions, the assembly:

- ~ Approved, in a slightly amended form, an overture from the Presbytery of Newton to establish a team of twelve to fifteen persons to “review the current per capita-based system of funding the ministry of councils higher than the session, for financial sustainability into the next ten years.”
- ~ Asked the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the Office of the General Assembly to explore ways of reducing the cost of future General Assemblies.

The Way Forward: The assembly overwhelmingly approved the report of The Way Forward Commission, which was created by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) “to discern the vision for structure and function of our denomination.” The Way Forward Commission was joined by the All-Agency Review Committee in many of its recommendations. The assembly also created a Moving Forward Implementation Team to ensure follow-through of the actions taken and to make “mid-course corrections” between now and the 224th General Assembly (2020). For additional actions, view **page four** of the [Shenandoah Press July/August issue](https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/20/way-forward-vision-2020-reports-approved) or visit one of these PC(USA) webpages: <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/20/way-forward-vision-2020-reports-approved>; <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2018/6/21/commissioners-overwhelmingly-approve-way-forward-p/>.

Racism/Poverty/Violence: The assembly engaged in various acts of public witness that sought to engage issues of racism, poverty, and violence in St. Louis under the umbrella of Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II’s, Hands and Feet initiative. The offering from the opening worship service raised more than \$54,000, which after a march by assembly-goers on Tuesday afternoon, was given to ArchDefenders, a faith-based group that bails low-level offenders out of jail. Nearly three dozen people were released from custody with the money.

A few of the other actions of the assembly:

- ~ Initiated the process of possibly including Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" in the *Book of Confessions*.
- ~ Strongly condemned "the unjust, racist disparagement of people and entire nations" and committed the PC(USA) to "a collective effort to solve the real problems facing our nation and the world."
- ~ Changed the church's nomenclature from "racial ethnic people" to "people of color"...
- ~ Called for an immediate moratorium on the imposition of the death penalty and for the commutation of all death sentences to sentences of life imprisonment.

To view full list, visit **page four** of the [Shenandoah Press July/August issue](#); or for more information, visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/acswp/>.

Immigration: The assembly called upon the federal government to end family separations at the U.S.-Mexico border, to immediately reunite parents with their children, to inform every parent where their children are being held and their condition, to stop using separation of children from their parents as a tactic to force criminal confessions; and called upon Presbyterians to support immigrant families, particularly parents and their separated children in any ways they can. The assembly also addressed war, violence, and human rights in Central America (particularly Nicaragua), South Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Madagascar, and the Korean Peninsula.

Gun Violence: The assembly reaffirmed previous General Assembly policies designed to reduce gun violence, called all Presbyterians to pray for a movement of the Spirit to engage Presbyterians in nationwide actions to prevent gun violence, and urged them to create opportunities to study the issue of gun violence, with an emphasis on resources produced by the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship.

Shenandoah Presbytery Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly

Below are the names and contact information of the commissioners at General Assembly. We have also listed what each commissioner will be speaking on at the August Presbytery Meeting. You may contact them for questions regarding GA, or to invite them to speak at your church.

Donna Lanaghan, Communications Administrator/Alternate Ruling Elder, Timber Ridge Church

shenpres@shenpres.org

Asher Arey, Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD), Massanutten Church – YAAD Experience

1ashwarey@gmail.com

Patrick Lanaghan, Teaching Elder, Timber Ridge Church – Process and Polity

pastortimberidge@gmail.com

Rick Comstock, Ruling Elder, Trinity Church – Social Justice

rlgc10001@gmail.com

Don Baker, Ruling Elder, Moorefield Church – Additional Opportunities

djbaker@hardynet.com

Debra McKune, Teaching Elder, Falling Waters Church – Spirituality and Hospitality

pastormckune@gmail.com

Bronwen Boswell, General Presbytery/Stated Clerk – Per Capita

presbytersc@shenpres.org

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; Rick Comstock, Ed Dawkins, Malcolm Brownlee, Tracie Martin, Julie Ritchie, Karen Thatcher; Nancy Meehan Yao, Associate General Presbyter, Staff Support

Report to the Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery – Saturday, August 25, 2018

Phase #2: *Forward Leadership* through Holy Cow/Crows Feet Consulting

The purpose of Phase #2 is to develop and implement a methodology specific to our presbytery that incorporates education and coaching of congregations around an adaptive change methodology. *Forward Leadership* uses each congregation's CAT data as well as organizational intelligence research to cultivate congregations that are ready to respond to their data by making necessary changes to become vital. This includes selecting "Hearth & Home" congregations that have run the CAT or are willing to run the CAT and are looking to move from data to discernment/strategic planning. It involves those congregations meeting as a cohort and focusing on "Flexibility Boot Camp," "Adaptive Change vs. Technical Change," and "Crucial Conversations and Next Steps." CCVT has already paid for this. Coaching, at the congregations cost, would occur between meetings. We are pleased to announce that we called fourteen different congregations to participate and the following six have agreed to participate in this first cohort: Bethesda, Bloomery, Broadway, Loch Willow, Mt. Carmel, and Sunnyside. Our starting date is Saturday, September 22, 2018, as representatives from those congregations will gather for sharing about ministry, adaptive change, and planning. Follow-up conversations will occur in December and March.

A second strategic planning retreat for Opequon Church was held on Saturday, June 16, following the initial retreat on Saturday, April 7. Opequon Church is serving as a pilot project in using the CAT interpreted data for larger application in a visioning process. Several representatives from the presbytery and from other congregations have attended, observed, and participated in these Opequon leadership retreats incorporating elders, deacons, and staff.

Shared Ministry

We continue to emphasize the essential nature of CCVT, CRM, CPT and its leadership, along with CCND to a certain degree, meeting regularly and thinking forward. We have definite areas that overlap and intersect, especially now as we relate to Holy Cow/Crows Feet and use the CAT for strategic planning as well as pastoral transitions.

Today, we are honored and privileged to "spotlight" Covenant Presbyterian Church of Staunton, Virginia as members share about its growing mission and ministry as one of our presbytery's larger churches.

REPORTS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY (CRM)

I. FOR INFORMATION:

The Committee on Relational Ministry and the Committee on Pastoral Transition held a joint meeting the morning of July 12, 2018. Among the items discussed was the need for clarification such as, temporary pastoral relationships; the distinction between churches in transition and those seemingly in ‘permanent transition;’, deployment and oversight of commissioned ruling elders; committee descriptions vs the work being done; and reactive/proactive relationships. Concerns voiced from the committee members were: mentoring new pastors; clarifying the process when a pastor leaves; increase communication between the committees when a pastor is leaving; and what does “transition” really mean.

Expectations from the committee members include pastoral education events, and annual committee retreats.

Nancy Meehan Yao briefed the group on the current churches undergoing Holy Cow CATs or Conversations and the follow-up process. Holy Cow consultants voiced the thoughts and ideas of the churches that have completed a CAT or Conversation.

The church list was reviewed, and congregations sorted into the following categories: installed, long-term supply, basic pastoral services, and transition.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Approved renewing the contract between the Oxford Session and Teaching Elder Horace Douty through December 31, 2018.
- B. Approved renewing the contract between the Ben Salem Session and Teaching Elder Robert Miles, Jr. from April 1, 2018-February 28, 2019.
- C. Approved renewing the contract between the Bloomery Session and Ruling Elder David Omps from May 14, 2018-May 15, 2019.
- D. Approved renewing the contract between the Fairfield Session and Teaching Elder Helen “Punker” Robertson from July 1, 2018-June 30, 2019.
- E. Approved renewing the parish associate contract between the Trinity Session and Teaching Elder Kate Rascoe from June 6, 2018-June 5, 2019.
- F. Approved extending the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Buckton Session and Commissioned Ruling Elder Jean Steidel through August 26, 2018.
- G. Approved renewing the supply pastor contract between the Clear Brook and Highland Memorial sessions and Charly Franks from August 1, 2018-July 31, 2019.
- H. Approved renewing the parish associate contract between the Lexington Session and Teaching Elder Deborah Klein through December 31, 2018.

AUGUST 2018 index

ADJOURNMENT	77
APPOINTMENTS.....	71-72
ASSOCIATE GENERAL PRESBYTER	72
COMMITTEE ON CHURCH VITALITY AND TRANSFORMATION	76, 82
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES	77
COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND OUTREACH	76
COMMITTEE ON NEW CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.....	75
COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.....	75-76
COMMITTEE ON PASTORAL TRANSITION	73-75
Commissions Approved:	
Kelly-Ann Rayle	73
Amanda Thomas	74
Sarah Wolf	75
Congregational meetings:	
Buena Vista	74
Winchester First	74
Contracts Approved:	
Beulah/Monterey and Richard Hill	75
New Providence and Amy Fetterman	75
Contracts Renewed:	
Shepherdstown and William Sitterley	73
Examinations Sustained:	
Howard Boswell.....	74
Richard Hill.....	74
Amanda Thomas	74
Liaisons Approved	73
Ministerial Changes:	
Received:	
Howard Boswell.....	75
Richard Hill.....	75
Amanda Thomas	75
Ministry information forms:	
Romney	73
Moderators Approved.....	73
Terms of Call approved:	
Buena Vista and Howard Boswell.....	74
Winchester First and Amanda Thomas	74
COMMITTEE ON RELATIONAL MINISTRY	
Contracts Renewed:	
Ben Salem and Robert Miles.....	83
Bloomery and David Omps.....	83
Buckton and Jean Steidel	83
Clear Brook/Highland Memorial and Charly Franks	83
Fairfield and Punker Robertson.....	83
Lexington and Deb Klein	83
Oxford and Horace Douty.....	83
Trinity and Kate Rascoe	83
COORDINATING AND PLANNING COMMISSION	76

DOCKET	72, 78
EDUCATIONAL TIME	75
ENROLLMENT	67-71
GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPORTS	76, 80-81
GENERAL PRESBYTER REPORT	76
INTERCESSORY PRAYER	76
MINUTES APPROVED	72
NEW BUSINESS	72
Second Opequon Church granted permission to sell property	72
QUORUM	67
RECESS	76
SHERANDO CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT	72-73, 79
STATED CLERK REPORT	72
WELCOME	71
WORSHIP	67