

Highlights of the 181st Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery

February 23, 2019 Bethel Presbyterian Church

The Coordinating and Planning Commission of the Presbytery has chosen to emphasize the work of anti-racism in the coming year. The mornings worship was built around the theme in scripture and song and included the reading of the necrology report of Ruling and Teaching Elders from 2018.

Our congregations are invited to read Waking Up White by Debby Irving between now and the May meeting of Presbytery where for a portion of the meeting we will move into small groups to discuss the book. Contact Associate GP Nancy Meehan Yao for further information. If you have already read Waking Up White the second suggested book is White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo.

Rev. Rachel Crumley, pastor of Tuscarora Presbyterian Church was installed as the new moderator of the presbytery. Rev. Bill Klein was thanked for his service as moderator and was presented with a Celtic cross and a coloring book with colored pencils.

An Administrative Commission was formed to “consider and conclude matters” (G301b) arising from the actions taken by members of the First Martinsburg congregation leaving the denomination.

Board of Pensions consultant Martha Reisner presented three new programs from the Board of Pensions. First Call, First Steps- for seminary students; Pathways to Renewal- reduced dues for small churches who call a pastor under the age of 40 who have not been in the pastors participation program; and Healthy Pastors-Healthy Congregations – Financial education for both pastor and congregation with the possibility of a grant for the pastor to reduce debt. Contact Martha to get started.

Passed the electronic meeting policy and the Child, Youth and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.

Our Educational time was led by Olanda Carr of the Presbytery Foundation who gave a well-received presentation entitled “Creating a Culture of Generosity”. The power point slides are attached to the email.

Synod Moderator, Susanne Taylor, invited everyone to participate in the Synod anti-racism training March 11 & 12 at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA.

Cherokee Adams from Eastern Virginia brought greetings from the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) Program of the PCUSA and shared her experiences with us encouraging young adults to apply to the program.

RE Mark Johnson was commissioned as the CRE for the Buckton Congregation and Linda Reece was recommissioned as the CRE for Springfield and Burlington.

A report of the Moffett grants was given with the Healthy Community Ministry of First Staunton highlighted.

The constitutional amendments to the book of Order were voted upon.

It was a full meeting! Thanks to the folks at Bethel for their warm hospitality.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bronwen Boswell