

Highlights of the 196th Stated Meeting of
Shenandoah Presbytery
February 28, 2023, by Zoom

Worship included the Campus minister Rev. Abby Butler- Cefalo and students involved with the combined RISE/Ukirk ministry at James Madison University. She shared the commitment to community and the safe space to ask hard questions.

Following worship, the necrology report was read followed with prayer.

The Rev. April Cranford, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian church, Waynesboro was installed as Moderator for 2023. Thanks was given to outgoing moderator Rev. David Howard who now becomes moderator of CPC for the presbytery.

The committee on Educational Resources shared upcoming training event dates.

The committee on Mission and Outreach shared information about our ongoing relationship with Ethiopia and the opportunity to give to a scholarship fund for women seeking seminary education in Ethiopia.

The committee on Relational Ministry introduced two new minister members of the presbytery. We welcomed the Rev. Joel Blunk, in a validated ministry of Spiritual Direction and the Rev. Sara Holben, HR. You can read more about these new members in the handbook for the meeting that can be found on the presbytery website.

The committee on Preparation introduced new candidate Mark Dewey to the presbytery and reminded us of all those who are under our care either as inquirers or candidates.

The committee on New Congregational Development shared the opening of the Community Cup, the new worshipping community in Martinsburg and the ongoing search for a pastor. Come and have a cup of coffee and a cinnamon twist!

The committee on Church Vitality and Transformation shared the work that is being done around the presbytery including the ongoing “Better together” conversations happening with our Waynesboro congregations.

The amendments to the constitution (the Book of Order) were presented as an omnibus motion for vote. The body asked that numbers 22A, 22B, 22E, 22I and 22P be pulled from the omnibus motion. They will be docketed for discussion, debate and vote at the May meeting of presbytery. There will be a time, arranged by the Stated Clerk, for further education concerning those specific amendments before the May meeting

With sadness the presbytery voted to concur with the recommendation from the Administrative Commission working with the Bethel congregation to dismiss them to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). The moderator shared some personal history with that congregation and prayed for their continued ministry in Christ.

The meeting adjourned on time.