

Highlights of the 200th Stated meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery

February 27, 2024 Via Zoom

Moderator Teaching Elder April Cranford opened the meeting with prayer and announced that in celebration of the occasion of our 200th Stated Meeting, each of the 96 congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery will be gifted \$200, anticipating each church will use the gift to share Christ's love by continuing or implementing missions in their community. We look forward to hearing reports of those mission endeavors in February 2025! Guests joining us - Cindy Corell (PCUSA Global Mission Co-worker), Keenan Rodgers (Board of Pensions Consultant), and Doug Sensabaugh (Ethiopian Partnership) were given the privilege of the floor to present reports later in the meeting. The docket was approved and Stated Clerk *pro tempore* Teaching Elder John Peterson gave a report, which was approved.

Associate General Presbyter Nancy Meehan Yao reported on the new life and energy she is seeing in congregations.

Worship was a celebration of the Psalms, with interactive readings, responses, bagpipes (!), organ selections and prayer. The necrology report was received, and prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful service and witness of those saints.

To mark, with thanks, the conclusion of Rev. April Cranford's term as Moderator, a Celtic cross and a bag filled with items for a mission trip was presented. William North, Ruling Elder from Berkeley Springs, was installed as Moderator of Shenandoah Presbytery.

The Committee on Mission and Outreach reported on the many mission opportunities in this Presbytery, including Cindy Corell's new ministry with the Dominican Republic, the visit of our Ethiopian partners in May, and the mission trip to Baja this July.

Keenan Rodgers, Church Consultant from the PC(USA) Board of Pensions gave a brief overview of changes coming to the Board of Pensions benefits plan.

The Committee on Nominations recommended a suspension of the Presbytery's standing rules that require a chair of a Presbytery Committee to be either a Teaching Elder or Ruling Elder, so that John Dull might serve as chair of the Committee on Educational Resources. The suspension was approved unanimously. Many others were nominated and approved to serve on committees of the Presbytery.

The Administrative Commission to Bethel Presbyterian Church gave their concluding report, and the AC was dismissed, with thanks for their faithful ministry and prayer for the Bethel congregation, which was dismissed to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

The Committee on Educational Resources shared the ministry, and opportunities to be in partnership, with UKIRK/ Rise at James Madison University.

The Committee on Pastoral Transition/Committee on Relational Ministry introduced a first reading of the plan to recombine to become one Committee on Ministry. Those committees also recommended changes to our Manual regarding our boundary training policy, per the Book of Order, which were approved. An Administrative Commission for the Springfield WV congregation was

appointed for the purpose of dissolving the congregation, selling and/or disposing of all property, and taking original jurisdiction if necessary.

Teaching Elder Brint Keyes was welcomed as Interim Pastor to Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, and Ruling Elder Melissa Avey was commissioned for ministry as a Commissioned Ruling Elder to the Rocky Spring congregation.

Teaching Elder David Howard, moderator of the Coordinating and Planning Commission submitted a recommendation to the description of the territory of Shenandoah Presbytery, a change which is consonant with the description created by the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, and the General Assembly of the PC(USA). After discussion the amended description was passed, 74-1.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer. The Presbytery will next meet in a stated meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, beginning at 9:30 a.m., at Westminster Church in Waynesboro, Virginia.