

Summary of the 201st Stated Meeting of the Shenandoah Presbytery

The meeting was held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Waynesboro.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 by Moderator William North and opened with prayer. Rev. Jonathan Bunker was nominated and approved to serve as Stated Clerk and Parliamentarian pro tempore for this meeting. Rev. April Cranford, pastor at Westminster, welcomed the gathered body. The worship service and coffee fellowship were coordinated with and through the Better Together cohort, a group of Presbyterian congregations in the wider Waynesboro area. They have been meeting together for several years, originally with Rev. David Witt, and currently with Rev. Rich Schemp. Guests were introduced to the Presbytery, including partners from Ethiopia.

The report of the Stated Clerk was received and approved. Associate General Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao, reviewed with the body the Presbytery's Background Check and Mandatory Boundary Training policy, highlighting new requirements to the policies, per the changes to the Book of Order, including the requirement for all in active service as Elders on Session to complete the Boundary Training at least every thirty-six months. The content for that training had been previously approved by the Presbytery, and is available for use in congregations/Sessions, and appears on the Presbytery website. A first read of the required Harassment Prevention Policy was included for information.

Worship with organ, choir, saxophone, piano and organ, and communion was celebrated. Four of our five commissioners to the General Assembly were commissioned: Stephanie Sorge, Pam Snyder, Denise Rouse, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate, Lizzy Healy. (David Witt had been previously commissioned at the CPC meeting, as he was unable to be with us this morning.)

Reports from committees were heard. Rev. Dwight McCormick, pastor at Community Cup New Worshipping Community, shared pictures and stories of the ministry happening in Martinsburg, WV. The offering from the meeting was directed for the support of Community Cup ministries. Rev. Amena, from Ethiopia, spoke during the Committee on Ministry and Outreach portion.

Among actions taken were the approval of the sale of property to Fishburn Military Academy from First Presbyterian, Waynesboro. Also, the Presbytery approved the reformation of the Committee on Ministry, from the two distinct previous committees: Pastoral Transition, and Pastoral Relations. Those currently serving on those two committees will serve on the new committee. Rev. Patrick Pettit was nominated and elected as moderator of the new COM.

The Educational Hour was a continuation of the Bible Study "Why are Presbyterians Like That," in 5 small groups. The meeting was closed with prayer, pending the end of those small group studies. A delicious Venezuelan lunch was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all who helped to make this Presbytery meeting a joyous success.

Prayerfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Nancy Meehan Yao

Associate General Presbyter