

**MINUTES OF THE
PRESBYTERY COUNCIL
April 15, 2008**

The Presbytery Council met on Tuesday, April 15, convening at 10:07 a.m. at the Presbytery Office. Members present were:

Jonathan Bunker, Council Chair
Charlotte Hott, Council Vice-Chair
Ron Wilkes, Presbytery Moderator
Ann Held, Presbytery Vice-Moderator
Mimi Moring, Presbyterian Women Moderator
Wray Sherman, Budget & Finance Chair
Joel Thorton, Church Development Rep
Kathleen Haines, Higher Education/Campus Ministry
Ron Potter, Office & Personnel Chair
Ann Pettit, Professional Dev. Chair

Homer T. Cornish, World Wide Ministries Chair
Ed Brown, Eastern Panhandle Rep
Ramona Sanders, Central Valley Rep
John Sloop, Central Valley Rep
Dan Williams, Highland-Augusta Rep
Martin Stokes, Maury River Rep and Communications Chair
Joan Wilson, Mtn Valley Rep
Barbara Johnson, Potomac Highlands Rep and Nominations Chair

Staff:

Thomas D. Hay, General Presbyter
Philip Sieck, Stated Clerk

Lisa Hedrick, Resource Coordinator
Doug Sensabaugh, HAE/Communications

Jonathan Bunker welcomed Mimi Moring, the new Presbyterian Women Moderator and Jan Owen, the Stated Clerk candidate. The Council voted to give Jan Owen voice at the meeting.

Charlotte Hott opened the meeting with prayer and devotions.

Barbara Johnson was approved as the substitute secretary.

AGENDA

The printed agenda was approved for the day.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 15, 2008, were approved as distributed.

MISSION COMMUNITY REPORTS

Central Valley – Ramona Sanders submitted a written report highlighting the Disaster Response Training, pulpit exchange, upcoming Third Annual Cookout and Clean Up Day at Camp Massanetta Springs. The next meeting of the mission community will be Thursday, May 1, 2:00 p.m. at Harrisonburg First Presbyterian Church.

Eastern Panhandle – Ed Brown submitted a written report noting that Charles Town Church has increased their 4 cents a meal program to 6 cents a meal due to rising food costs and several churches have had an increased in membership.

Highland Augusta – Dan Williams stated the meeting will be in two days. Currently 62 people are going on the Baja Mission trip with room for 8 more. \$3000 was raised at Applebee's for the trip.

Maury River – Martin Stokes reported a pulpit swap and plans for a Youth Rally May 18, a Community Hymn Sing on June 1, a Mission Trip to DC August 13- 17 and Disaster Response Training. A Living Waters challenge contribution of 90 cents per person per year is being made.

Mountain Valley – Joan Wilson submitted a written report noting the Spring Mission Community Fellowship Event will be moved to the fall, a special dinner and program with Bruce and Lora Whearty will be Sunday, April 27, and the next meeting of the mission community will be May 8, 7:00, at

Warrenton Church.

Potomac Highlands – Barb Johnson reported that a worship service began a meeting of productive planning. The picnic will be held in June.

STAFF REPORTS

General Presbyter – Tom Hay reported Kim Stroue is temporarily filling the bookkeeper position in addition to other duties. Candidates for the vacant positions of stated clerk and bookkeeper have been found. Tom shared about his attendance at Woodstock for the baptism of several developmental challenged members of the congregation.

Stated Clerk – Philip Sieck shared a letter from the General Assembly Clerk thanking Shenandoah Presbytery for support of per capita and including brochures about GA per capita. Phil reported the status of the various commissions functioning in the Presbytery. He reported on three requests to speak at a Presbytery meeting: Children's Home of the Highlands at Wytheville, the Lynchburg-based Presbyterian Children's Home, and from Jason Whitener for a National Guard representative to present the need for chaplains.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to give authority to the Presbytery Planning Committee to contact the two Children's Homes and schedule both for the May meeting or schedule one for May and one for a later meeting.

A motion was made in response to a request made by Jason Whitner, pastor of Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church, seconded and approved to invite the National Guard representative to have a display at the May meeting and talk to interested individuals during lunch, with an email prior to the meeting letting ministers know of the presence of the representative at the meeting. Phil read a letter from Rose Niles, Associate for Theological Education and Seminary Relations, stating the need for an advocate for the Theological Education Resource Fund

A motion was made, seconded and approved to send the request to the Nominating Committee.

Phil shared a communication from the South Louisiana Presbytery reporting on the use of PDA funds designated for Katrina relief.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to have the report included in the packet at the May Presbytery meeting.

Treasurer – No Report

Resource Coordinator – Lisa Hedrick reported that 'Weed and Seed' –pulling old unhelpful resources and replacing with newer more pertinent materials – was occurring. The Christian Educator Group is growing and doing well.

Communications/HAE – Doug Sensabaugh gave a tour of the Presbytery Website which he has been encouraged to repeat at the May Presbytery meeting.

PAY DAY LOAN DISCUSSION/MOTION

Nancy Summerlin a student from Union-PSCE shared the history and present status of Pay Day Loans in Virginia. The VA Interfaith Center on Public Policy is the actual lobbying body but churches can work to contact local legislators and by educating people about alternative financial resources.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to appoint a task force to study the PC(USA) document about usury alternative suggestions and make recommendations to Council for possible action by the Presbytery, reporting no later than the fall meeting. The Council chair, the General Presbyter and the Presbytery Moderator will appoint the task force.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Professional Development – Ann Pettit reported the committee will meet next week about WV fund loans and planning future events.

PRESBYTERY MEETING TASK FORCE

Ann Pettit reported work continues in preparing recommendations.

Budget & Finance – Wray Sherman submitted a written report.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to send to Presbytery the recommendation for the disposition of a \$20,000 budget surplus for 2007 in the amounts to follow \$10,000 to be given to the Shenandoah Presbytery Youth Council to Fund the 2008 Montreat Youth Conference Trip, \$6,550 for Office Equipment (update of the phone system) and \$3,500 to the Personnel Committee for flexibility in staffing needs.

Campus Ministry – nothing to report

Church Development – Joe Thornton submitted a written report for information with action requests that will be presented at the May presbytery meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to reestablish solicitations for the Barnabas Fund.

Communications – Martin Stokes reported the Committee met April 12. Doug Sensabaugh videotaped Bob Goshorn presenting the History of Shenandoah Presbytery. The first church website workshop went very well. No cost hosting of church websites will continue at least through 2008.

Funds Administration – no report

Nominations – Barb Johnson reported the need for two additional people on the committee which needed to be approved by Council.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to delegate John Sloop, representative of the Central Valley Mission Community and Martin Stokes representative of Maury River Mission Community to appoint someone from each of their respective mission communities to the committee.

Stewardship Education Resource Team – no report

Office & Personnel – Ron Potter reported that Heather Carter of the Slanesville Presbyterian Church had been hired as Bookkeeper and would start next week.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for Council to recommend to Presbytery the nomination of Jan Owen as Stated Clerk.

Presbyterian Women – Mimi Moring reported the PW Spring Retreat at Massanetta was a great success. The Summer Gathering at Massanetta will be June 12-15.

iCare – Mimi Moring stated members and sponsors are needed.

Presbytery Planning – The Committee will meet following today's Council meeting to prepare the docket for the May 13 Stated Presbytery Meeting.

Paddy Run Outdoor Ministries – received a written report for information.

Resource – no report

Vision and Mission – no report

Worldwide Ministries – Homer Cornish submitted a written report for information, including the fact that only 19 churches have not turned in their Mission Questionnaires. Kathleen Haines reported on the status of the trip to Ethiopia to teach English.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend that the Presbytery portion of the Peacemaking offering go to Living Waters team projects.

OLD BUSINESS

The Task Force on Investment Policy had its first meeting and will be reporting in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

Request from SPYCE for Shenandoah Presbytery to join with the Presbytery of the James in petitioning the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic to fund the Youth Leadership Conference that had occurred in previous years.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to make the petition.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 with prayer by the Rev. Jan Owen.

Next meeting: Tuesday July 15, 2008, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by,
Barbara R. Johnson, Secretary Pro-Tem