

PRESBYTERY COUNCIL MINUTES

April 12, 2011

PRESENT:

Dan Williams, Council Chair
Karen Thatcher, Council Vice-Chair
Jonathan Bunker, 2011 Pby Moderator
Paul Dana, 2011 Pby Vice-Moderator
Rufus Burton, Eastern Panhandle Rep
Randy Webb, World Wide Ministries
Will Heyward, Resource Chair
Martin Stokes, Communications Chair
Beth Pyles, Budget/Finance Chair

Charlie McFarlin, Church Development Rep
Sandi Ey, Mountain Valley Rep
Dot Bowers, Presbyterian Women
Richard Johnson, Nominations
Skip Hastings, Office & Personnel
Kerry Foster, Shenandoah 2010
Howard Newman, Highland-Augusta Rep
Phil Zirkle, Central Valley Rep
Patrick Pettit, Central Valley Rep

Staff:

Sally Hinchman, Interim GP/Stated Clerk
Lisa Hedrick, Resource Coordinator
Lucille Gohdes, Treasurer

Doug Sensabaugh, HAE/Communications
Kim Stroupe, Asst. to the Constitution
Heather Carter, Bookkeeper

Dan Williams led the group in devotions and prayer.

The agenda for the day was received and the minutes of January 11, 2011, were approved as distributed.

INCORPORATION ISSUE

Sally Hinchman noted that the Book of Order G-7.0401 says that churches shall form a corporation when permitted by civil law. No churches in Shenandoah Presbytery have incorporated since Virginia approved the incorporation issue in 2002. Sally and Dan Williams will confer with attorney Phil Miller and bring the issue back to Council at the special meeting May 31. Sally will confer with other Virginia presbyteries to see how they are handling church incorporations.

SHENANDOAH 2010

Received a written report from the Shenandoah 2010 Task Force that included several proposals and recommendations.

1 – Small Church Committee Task Force Proposal – Amended the fourth paragraph on page 2 ~~...look to the formation of a Committee on Small Churches~~ *further explore how we can better serve small churches in Shenandoah Presbytery.*

Motion made, seconded and approved to form the Task Force and instruct them to report back to the October Presbytery Council stated meeting. Dan Williams, Sally Hinchman, and Jonathan Bunker will find persons to complete the Task Force membership that already includes John Haney, Phil Sommer and Ron Wilkes.

Council approved the recommendation from Shenandoah 2010 to instruct the Nominations Committee to prepare a slate of five to seven nominees to serve as the general presbyter search committee. These nominees will come before the August Presbytery meeting.

Council approved the recommendation from Shenandoah 2010 that Council hold a special meeting on Tuesday, May 31, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

A motion was made, seconded and approved that Council present the mission community portion of the Shenandoah 2010 report (pages 5-9) to the May Presbytery meeting and direct the Presbytery Planning Committee to docket time for an open discussion of the findings of Shenandoah 2010.

STANDING COMMITTEES

World Wide Ministries – Randy Webb presented changes to the guidelines for the Samuel Ramsey Fund. World Wide Ministries will take the recommended changes to the May Presbytery meeting. Call to prayer and fasting during Holy Week. Sample brochure inserts will be on the shenpres.org web site. Also noted an official representative from the EECMY will bring greetings at the May Presbytery meeting.

Resource Committee – no report

Office & Personnel – Skip Hastings reported that Cheri Bowman has resigned from the Presbytery Office staff effective May 20. The Council accepted this resignation with regret. Office and Personnel will recognize Cheri's 12 years of service at the May 10 Presbytery meeting.

Motion made, seconded and approved to fill the position of Office Coordinator on a temporary basis while an analysis is made on the needs of the Presbytery Office.

Communications – Martin Stokes reported that Patrick Lanaghan led a successful Front Page workshop in February; April Cranford will conduct a Facebook workshop at The Big Event; planning to develop a single web page for each church who currently have no web presence.

Church Development – submitted a written report noting the contract with Percept has been renewed, grant of \$1500 to Nineveh Church to help with their summer intern, \$3000 to Burlington Church towards the installation of a chair lift, and will recommend to the May Presbytery meeting the approval of Woodstock Church borrowing up to \$270,000 for their church expansion. CCD is working with the Committee on Ministry to form a policy for churches leaving the Denomination.

Budget and Finance – Beth Pyles reported that of the reports received of the church's 2011 financial commitment, acceptances have been cut by 10-50%. The 2012 budget hearings will be Friday, May 20, 2011, 10-4:00. The Synod has communicated that their prior per capita assessment reduction was not permanent and the amount will increase quite substantially beginning in 2012. The Committee needs guidance from Council, before their budget hearings, to prioritize the financial needs of the Presbytery. The Council discussed options for giving the needed guidance to the Committee. Beth will send via email web links of requested documents.

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEES

Nominations –Richard Johnson and Dan Williams presented the findings of the task force assigned to analyze the procedure for electing the General Assembly commissioners. ***A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend to the May Presbytery meeting adoption of the new election procedure.***

OTHER REPORTS

Presbyterian Women – Dot Bowers circulated a written report noting the Spring Gathering was held April 9, 2011, at Massanetta Springs. In the interval between the January and April meetings of Council, Presbyterian Women requested permission to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at this spring gathering. Members of Council were polled by email and approved the request. ***Council acted to affirm this email vote.***

MISSION COMMUNITIES

Eastern Panhandle – received a written report noting the session enrichment program set for April 30 and planning for the music festival on September 25.

Central Valley – received a written report noting a successful Blanket Mission Drive was held in December, planning a personal hygiene "drive" for spring, and working on a list of mission activities of each church to distribute among the CVMC.

Mountain Valley – received a written report noting the completion of the second successful season of the WATTS Program. (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter) More churches are becoming involved which enables the shelter to be open longer. Mission trip to the Gulf in February was successful.

Highland-Augusta – received a written report noting the planning of the annual pulpit exchange, picnic, and the mission trip to Baja.

Maury River – Skip Hastings reported they contributed to the Adult Retreat and to the Windy Cove Church mission trip to Haiti. A hymn sing will be held June 12 at Windy Cove Church and elder training on October 29 at New Monmouth Church.

STAFF REPORTS

Interim General Presbyter/Interim Stated Clerk – Sally Hinchman reported that Emily Peterson will serve with the Young Adult and National Volunteer Program in Atlanta during the 2011-2012 YAV cycle. ***Council approved a motion to communicate to the churches of the presbytery the opportunity to support Ms. Peterson in this work.*** FAQ if changes in ordination standards is approved. Received an invitation from the Presbytery of the James to participate in a Presbyterian Day. Facility use task force has met once. Property and 4.5 acres 1.150 million dollars.

Treasurer – Lucille Gohdes reported the income for 2010 was just under a \$19,000 loss. The office received \$21,000 after the cut-off date toward the 2010 budget. This will be shown as income in 2011.

Resource Coordinator – Lisa Hedrick noted the Big Event will be held September 10, 2011. New folks using the Center.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Accepted the resignation of Scott Hammer, Class of 2011, of the Nominating Committee.

Council discussed the use of identification cards for voting members of Presbytery used at the February stated meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommend the following to the May Presbytery meeting – If the New Form of Government is approved by the majority of the presbyteries, the Presbytery of Shenandoah will follow the current Book of Order (2009-2011) in areas no longer covered by the New Form of Government until revisions to Presbytery's manual are developed.

Rufus Burton presented a list of examination questions for ministers and candidates seeking membership in Shenandoah Presbytery that had been developed by the Martinsburg First session. After discussion, Council took no action on the proposed list, and encouraged the Martinsville Session to continue work on the list, in consultation with the Committee on Ministry and the Examinations Subcommittee.

NEXT MEETING of Council: Tuesday, May 31, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was closed at 3:10 p.m. with prayer by Dan Williams.

Submitted by,

Kim T. Stroupe