

**A Summary of the
137th MEETING OF THE SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY
February 9, 2008**

Hosted by the Collierstown Presbyterian Church,
Held at Effinger Elementary School, Lexington, Virginia

Presbytery met in a cheerfully updated rural school with a great variety of home made treats available prior to the Call to Order and enjoyed lunch in the Firehouse across the road. The Maury River Mission Community led the Service of Worship. Musical treats included the Schofield Family Singers. The Lesson was Matthew 4:1-11 and the Sermon entitled "Provision, Protection and Power" delivered by April Cranford, who was later approved by the Presbytery to become Associate Pastor at Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church.

The Gavel was passed from Bob Osborne (Pastor, Berkley Springs Church) to Elder Ron Wilkes (CLP, Bloomery Church), Moderator for 2008. Ann Reed Held (Pastor, Trinity Church) is the Vice-Moderator for 2008.

As is our custom at the first Stated Meeting of the year, the Necrology, names of Elders and Ministers who had died during the previous year, was read followed by prayer for their families, friends and churches. Memorials to the Rev. Dr. David Rodney Bluhm and The Rev. Dr. Woodward D. Morriss were entered into the Presbytery Minutes.

The Presbytery elected Inquirer Emily Miller, a member of Cooks Creek Church and student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, which nominated her, to serve as a Theological Student Advisory Delegate to the 218th General Assembly (2008).

Presbytery also excused from attendance for 2008 retired resident Ministers (33) who requested "inactive participant" status.

An Overture from the Session of Westminster Church was referred to the Bills and Overture Committee upon its appointment by the Moderator. It pertains to financial reporting for General Assembly Taskforce Workgroups.

In addition to its "Information" and reports on "Actions Taken", the Committee on Ministry (COM) recommended and the Presbytery approved the terms of call and Commissions to Install Ernest L. Poland as Pastor of Keyser Church on Sunday, April 6 at 4:00 p.m., and Candidate April Cranford as Associate Pastor of the Tinkling Spring Church, on Sunday, June 8.

April will be Ordained in her home church, Indian Trail Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC, on March 2, 2008. Also, the COM recommended and the Presbytery approved: receiving John M. Watkins, H.R. from Geneva Presbytery; a continuing education requirement for Commissioned Lay Pastors (CLP); and a Parental Leave Policy. The retirement of CLP Ken Bran was recognized by Douglas Sterrett, H.R. who was then presented with his Certificate of Retirement before the gathering.

The Presbytery approved Committee on Preparation for Ministry's recommendation to receive Inquirer Marie Mainard O'Connell from the Presbytery of Arkansas. She may now join Covenant Church and be under the care of Shenandoah Presbytery. Presbytery also approved authorizing Commissioned Lay Pastor Patrick Lanaghan, a Candidate and second year student at Union/PSCE, to preside at the Lord's Supper on three occasions while he is serving the Burnt Church through May.

The Presbytery received from the:
Budget and Finance Committee a Condensed 2007 Budget Report (handout);

Moffett Fund a verbal report from recipient Aaron Crosby from Loch Willow Church, a high school student, about his experience at CROSS in Charlotte, NC (where April Cranford is staff); World Wide Ministries Committee news of the sending of Cliff Gilchrest, Reed Hopkins and Bob von Oeyen to Ethiopia for the celebration of 20 years and the renewal of partnership with the Illubabor Bethel Synod, plus the Ethiopia Mission Network Conference, April 24-26 in Washington, D.C., and eight other items – see handout;

Committee on Church Development that the New Church Development Team met for the first time, a “Magnetic Church” workshop will be held November 14-15 at Opequon Church, a mass mailing permit paid by CCD can be used for congregational mailings (handout);

Communication Committee is offering software training, no-cost web site hosting and assistance in developing church web sites.

Hunger Action Enabler – Doug Sensabaugh about receipts for hunger in 84 participating Presbytery churches (76%) in 2007 totaled \$94,500 (local, national and international), and that 37 million people live below the poverty line in the USA. We are aiming for 100% of congregations and \$100,000 annually.

The Administrative Commission authorized by Presbytery November 13, 2007 distributed a one page report which cited its purpose, members, meetings and two conclusions followed by four recommendations. The Presbytery approved the report that in part stated: “1. The matter be referred back to the CPM to review with immediacy....” “3. The COM and CPM receive for information, consideration and counsel specific recommendations from the Commission with regard to their mutual participation and communication in the candidacy and call processes.”

Presbytery Council, Actions Taken - E. notes it will create a Taskforce to study the motion referred to it at the November meeting of Presbytery regarding directing the Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation to comply with the denominational investment guidelines (MRTI). The Taskforce will report to the Summer Council meeting and Council in turn to the August Presbytery meeting.

The vital work of the Nominations Committee was acted on including approval of additional persons and alternates to complete the six Commissioners from our Presbytery to the 2008 General Assembly.

The Office and Personnel Committee initiated the election of the current Stated Clerk to serve until a new one is elected.

The Final Report of the Administrative Commission authorized by Presbytery on February 10, 2007 “*to study the request of the Barton and Lonaconing Presbyterian churches to transfer their membership from Baltimore Presbytery to Shenandoah Presbytery*” recommended the request be denied. The Presbytery reviewed the report in the Supplement, had time for discussion and then voted to concur. In addition, reports from the Committee Of Counsel And Support for the Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church and of the Administrative Commission to Dissolve the Poplar Hill Church were received by the Presbytery.

Philip L. Sieck, M.Div., Ed.S.
Stated Clerk

Next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Shenandoah is
Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Hebron Presbyterian Church, Staunton, Virginia
In the Highland-Augusta Mission Community