

**HANDBOOK OF REPORTS**  
**for the**  
**153<sup>rd</sup> STATED MEETING**  
**of the**  
**SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY**

**February 11, 2012**

**Place:**

**Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church**  
**9148 Rawley Pike**  
**Hinton, Virginia**

**Shenandoah Presbytery is a covenant body where:**

- ~ congregations are empowered to be centers for missions,**
- ~ people of God are equipped to be disciples of Christ in a  
challenging world,**
- ~ church professionals are nurtured and strengthened for  
service,**
- ~ open communication and information are used constructively  
and creatively to keep us connected.**

MEMO TO: Pastors and Commissioners to Presbytery  
FROM: Dan Williams, (acting) Stated Clerk  
DATE: January 2012  
RE: February 11, 2012, MEETING OF PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Shenandoah will meet in stated session at the Mt. Olive Presbyterian Church in Hinton, Virginia, on Saturday, February 11, 2012. (Directions below.) A nursery will be provided for babies and small children. For childcare, please contact Sandra Wenger at 540-867-5234 no later than February 3, so that proper arrangements can be made.

**LUNCH** can be purchased before the convening hour of 9:30 a.m. for \$10.00

**IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS, PLEASE PHONE SANDRA WENGER AT 540-867-5234 NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1.**

#### **HANDBOOK**

The Handbook of Reports will be available on Presbytery's web site [www.shenpres.org](http://www.shenpres.org). The Handbook contains essential information for advanced study to enable Presbytery to make informed and prompt decisions. Please be sure all voting members of Presbytery receive a copy. They include all pastors and elected commissioners.

#### **DIRECTIONS:**

These directions are based on a common approach point of Exit 247 on Interstate 81, north or south. Exit 247 is the interchange with Route 33. Take the exit towards Harrisonburg, and proceed on Route 33 west through Harrisonburg, and then through Hinton. Mt. Olive Church is approximately two miles beyond Hinton on the right, and is slightly less than eight miles from Exit 247.

If you are using a GPS device, Mt. Olive Church is located at 9148 Rawley Pike, Hinton, VA.

## INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MEETINGS OF PRESBYTERY

**Number of Meetings** – Our *Book of Order* (G-3.0304) requires presbytery to hold stated meetings at least twice each year. There will be four **STATED** meetings for 2012: February 11, May 8, August 25, and November 13. (See Manual, 7.1.1)

**Kind of Meetings** – Besides stated meetings there are adjourned meetings and special meetings.

**Adjourned Meetings** – Held to conclude unfinished business of preceding stated meeting. New Business may be placed on docket.

**Special Meetings** – The moderator shall call a special meeting at the request of, or with the concurrence of, two ministers and two elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three ministers and three elders, the elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The Synod may direct the Presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten (10) days in advance to each minister and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted. (Manual, 7.1.4)

**Who Determines Type of Meetings?** – The presbytery itself. If the business at a stated meeting is not completed in the time allowed on the docket, then the presbytery votes to extend the time on that day or votes to schedule an **adjourned** meeting later. **Special** meetings may be called in conformity with presbytery's policy, expressed in its manual (7.1.4).

**Docket Preparation** – The Presbytery Meeting Planning Committee composes the docket. Time periods for committee reports are arranged in consultation with chairs and others responsible for reports.

**Docket Problems** – The times listed for the presentation of reports are only general orders, and not orders of the day, unless specifically noted (see Procedural Rule A). Frequently, debate bogs down over procedural matters, and controversial issues create considerable discussion. Presbytery can always limit debate. Candidates and transferring ministers of necessity may require special considerations for their examinations because of such things as travel schedules and seminary schedules. The docket may be amended at any time during the meeting. Commissioners should be aware of possible extension of time needed for such amendments and the possible delay in adjournment.

## PROCEDURAL RULES

A. A report of any agency of presbytery requiring more than 10 minutes of presbytery time shall be made an Order of the Day with an allotted time period. Any committee requiring more than the allotted time shall conclude its report following new business.

B. Reports having been provided in advance, the committee chair will not read the report except to make reference to a few highlights of the report and to recommendations by numbers, moving their adoption.

Any report not so circulated shall not be received by the presbytery except by permission of two-thirds present and voting. If a group wishes to submit such a report, a person shall summarize its content and purpose before the vote is taken.

C. On matters where there may be deep concern, possible controversy or lack of information, the division or committee making the report shall provide critical background information, so that the presbytery may expeditiously make wise and considered decisions.

D. Debate shall be free and open, with equal time being given to proponents and opponents insofar as possible.

E. Any member of the presbytery desiring to speak must stand, identify themselves by name and church, be recognized by the moderator, and go to a microphone, if available.

F. A member of the presbytery may speak only once on any particular motion unless he/she is the maker of that motion or unless no one else wants the floor, but not more than twice or for more than a total of five minutes.

G. Lengthy motions must be written out and presented to the Stated Clerk.

H. References to the following procedures from Robert's Rules of Order may prove useful:

1. A division or committee recommendation does not require a second to be on the floor. (Section 7, p. 69)

2. Other motions require a second prior to discussion or action. (Section 4, p. 28-30)

3. When there is no apparent disagreement or objection to a motion, the moderator may declare it is adopted by common or general consent.

I. No flash photography will be allowed during the worship service at meetings of presbytery.

J. When presbytery meets in a location where seating is limited, priority shall be given to voting members for seating within the meeting area. If it is necessary to use other rooms for overflow seating, visitors and other non-voting members shall use these areas.

**QUORUM:** "A quorum of the presbytery shall be any three minister members and the elder members present, provided that at least three churches are represented by elders. The presbytery may fix its own quorum at any higher number." (Manual, 7.5.12)

*Seeking to be Faithful Together:*

**Guidelines for Presbyterians During Times of Disagreement**

*In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will . . .*

<p><b>Give them a hearing . . . listen before we answer</b></p> <p><i>John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13</i></p>	<p>1 <b>Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,</li> <li>• we will not ask questions or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.</li> </ul> <p>2 <b>Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.</b></p> <p>3 <b>State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.</b></p>
<p><b>Speak the truth in love</b></p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:15</i></p>	<p>4 <b>Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teaching.</b></p> <p>5 <b>Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.</li> </ul> <p>6 <b>Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.</b></p>
<p><b>Maintain the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace</b></p> <p><i>Ephesians 4:3</i></p>	<p>7 <b>Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.</b></p> <p>8 <b>Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.</li> </ul> <p>9 <b>Follow these additional Guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;</li> <li>• seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;</li> <li>• be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;</li> <li>• abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with the Guidelines.</li> </ul> <p>10 <b>Include our disagreements in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.</b></p>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REMINDER OF INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

*The Chair of Council, the General Presbyter, and the Moderator together will determine whether to cancel the Presbytery meeting. IDEALLY the decision will be made by noon the day before the Presbytery meeting. Everyone should consult either the web site ([www.shenpres.org](http://www.shenpres.org)) or call the answering machine at Presbytery's office (540-433-2556) for the decision. In case of a cancellation, the Chair of Council, the General Presbyter, and the Moderator will determine the alternate date and place and will announce this as soon as possible*

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IF YOU ARE A FIRST TIME ELDER, BE SURE AND PICK UP YOUR  
SPECIAL BADGE AT THE NAME TAG TABLE

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#### VOTING MEMBERS OF SHENANDOAH PRESBYTERY

All ministers enrolled in Shenandoah Presbytery

Lay pastors commissioned to churches

Elders commissioned by each church session

0-500 members = 1 elder

501-1000 members = 2 elders

1001-1500 members = 3 elders

Certified Christian Educators who are also elders and are currently serving  
in an educational ministry

Elder elected moderator

Elders serving on Presbytery Council

Elder elected as chair of Committee on Ministry

Elders elected by Presbytery as Executive or other exempt staff

## DOCKET

(Members of Presbytery are urged to be registered and seated by 9:30 a.m. If not yet registered, please do so right after worship)

**Elder Paul Dana** is the  
Presbytery Moderator for  
2012

**Rev Olivia Haney** is the  
Presbytery Vice-Moderator  
for 2012

**Karen** is chair of Council  
and ruling elder at  
Tuscarora

**Lisa** is chair of GPSC and  
pastor of Woodstock

**Skip** is chair of O & P and  
pastor of Colliertown

**Dave** is leader of the DRT  
and ruling elder at  
Winchester First

**Carl** is chair of WWM and  
pastor of Hedgesville &  
Little Falls

**Kerry** is pastor of  
Bridgewater

**Tom** is chair of  
Communications and a  
honorably retired pastor

**Rich** is chair of COM and  
pastor of 1<sup>st</sup> Winchester

8:30 a.m.	REGISTRATION BEGINS
9:30 a.m.	Call to Order with prayer Worship – Arranged by the Central Valley Mission Community
10:30 a.m.	Commissioning Service for Moderator, Vice-Moderator and General Presbyter – pages 2-3
10:45 a.m.	Determining a Quorum Welcome and Introduction of Guests First time commissioners Seating corresponding members Appointments by the Moderator Correction and Approval of Minutes New Business Adoption of the Docket Communications and Report of the Stated Clerk – pages 5-10 Presbytery Staff Reports Representative of host church
11:15 a.m.	ORDER OF THE DAY – pages 11-12 Greetings from Union Theological Seminary – Lynn McClintock
11:20 a.m.	Presbytery Council – Karen Thatcher, pages 13-19
12:00 p.m.	General Presbyter Search Committee – Lisa Webb
12:05 p.m.	Office & Personnel Committee – Skip Hastings
12:15 p.m.	Disaster Response Team – Dave Thalman
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Intercessory Prayer
1:35 p.m.	Acting General Presbyter – Randy Webb, page 4
1:55 p.m.	World Wide Ministries – Carl Howard
2:00 p.m.	Presbyterian Campus Ministry – Kerry Foster, pages 20-21
2:10 p.m.	Moffett for Mission – pages 22-23
2:15 p.m.	Communications Committee – Tom Holden
2:25 p.m.	Committee on Ministry – Rich Reifsnyder, pages 24-25
3:15 p.m.	Anticipated Adjournment

## COMMISSIONING OF THE MODERATOR AND VICE MODERATOR

### SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE

There is one body and one Spirit,  
**just as we were called to the one hope of our calling,**  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all,  
**who is above all and through all and in all.**

### CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ,  
a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.

### The great ends of the church are

- **the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;**
- **the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;**
- **the maintenance of divine worship;**
- **the preservation of the truth;**
- **the promotion of social righteousness;**
- **and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.**

The call of Christ is to willing, dedicated discipleship. Our discipleship is a manifestation of the new life we enter through baptism. Discipleship is both a gift and a commitment, an offering and a responsibility. Paul and Olivia, part of your particular discipleship in this year 2012 is to serve as the moderator and vice moderator for the Presbytery of Shenandoah, leading us in our meetings, and serving as a sign of our unity as a council of Christ's church.

### COMMISSIONING QUESTIONS

Paul and Olivia, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved, and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways which serve Christ. God has called you to particular service. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

#### **To the New Moderator and Vice Moderator:**

Who is your Lord and Savior?

*Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.*

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

*I will, with God's help.*

Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

*I do.*

Will you pray for and serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

*I will, with God's help.*

#### **To the presbytery:**

Do you, members of the Presbytery of Shenandoah, confirm the call of God to Paul Dana and Olivia Haney, as moderator and vice moderator for the year 2012, in the service of Jesus Christ?

*We do.*

Will you pray for, support and encourage them in this ministry?

*We will.*

### **INSTALLATION PRAYER**

Faithful God, in baptism you claimed us; and by your Holy Spirit you are working in our lives, empowering us to live a life worthy of our calling. We thank you for leading Paul and Olivia to this time and place. Establish them in your truth, and guide them by your Holy Spirit, that in your service they may grow in faith, hope, and love, and continue as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and forever.

**Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you called disciples and, by the Holy Spirit, made them one church to serve you. Let your Spirit rule your church, so that we may be joined in love and service to Jesus Christ, who, having gone before us, is coming to meet us in the promise of your kingdom. Amen.**

### **CHARGE**

Paul, you are commissioned as Moderator for the Presbytery of Shenandoah for 2012. Olivia, you are commissioned as our vice moderator. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him.

### **BLESSING**

May the God of peace make you holy in every way, and keep your whole being, spirit, soul, and body,

free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## Challenges and Opportunities

Dear Partners:

I am grateful for the opportunity that has been given to me to serve our Lord and Shenandoah Presbytery as Acting General Presbyter. Only God knows how long this term of service will last, as we continue to pray for the General Presbyter Search Committee in their work. We are praying for discernment, that the person(s) whom God has chosen or will choose will be called to lead our Presbytery, and that together we will discern and embrace the future that God has in mind for Shenandoah Presbytery and for each of our congregations.

In the meantime, we should not just be standing still. We have a mission, we are engaged in vital ministries, and we are surrounded by both challenges and opportunities. I believe that God is calling us to meet these challenges and to faithfully engage the opportunities we are being given.

For this purpose, I also believe that God has already equipped us with everything we need to carry out God's mission. We have God's Word. We have a fellowship of believers in whose lives God is working and whose many gifts God is calling into service. We have other partners in our churches as well as nationally and internationally who can reveal to us many other ways in which God is working. And most importantly, true to Jesus' promise we have the living Christ in our midst, empowering us with the Holy Spirit to carry out the mission he gives us.

There is no greater adventure in all human experience than this: being in a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and being called and sent by God to serve God's purpose as we offer our gifts and surrender our wills to him.

I am thrilled to be your partner in this great adventure. I rejoice to see the many ways God is working in your lives and in the corporate lives of our congregations. For however long my term of service as Acting General Presbyter may last, I am honored and humbled to be your pastor.

With you in this great adventure,

Randy Webb

[Randy can be reached at [presbyter@shenpres.org](mailto:presbyter@shenpres.org) , at Presbytery Office (540) 433-2556 Ext. 108, or Cell phone (540) 830-2353]

[Just for Fun: The above letter includes several scripture references that are not specifically identified. Be the first to identify them and you will win a packet of Grandma's Cookies or a pouch of Trail Mix from the Presbytery!]

## Communications and Report From the Acting Stated Clerk

### I. FOR INFORMATION:

- A. **2012 Necrology Report.** This report is on pages 8-9. Representatives from the Committee on Ministry will lead presbytery in a prayer of remembrance for these servants within the Church of Jesus Christ.
- B. **Ministers: non-participation.** The list of honorably retired ministers who have informed presbytery that they will not be participating in meetings of presbytery is on page 10, and provides information for item C below.
- C. **Membership and Attendance Balance.** Each year the Stated Clerk is required to recommend to presbytery a way of balancing the representation of elders and ministers (Manual 7.2.2.C). The following is the analysis for 2012 (for ministers as of 12/31/11 and church membership as of 12/31/10).

#### TEACHING ELDERS:

Total Enrollment of Teaching Elders, 12/31/2010..... 178

#### Active Participants

    Installed Pastors, Associate Pastors, Temporary Supplies..... 79  
 Serving in other validated ministries..... 8  
 Members at Large ..... 21  
 Resident Honorably Retired..... 25  
**TOTAL ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS ..... 133**

#### Non-participants for 2012

Honorably Retired requesting to be inactive..... 25  
 Honorably Retired living outside the bounds of presbytery..... 17  
 Members in transition to another presbytery..... 2  
 Member not serving in a validated ministry..... 1  
**TOTAL NON-PARTICIPANTS..... 45**

**TOTAL TEACHING ELDERS PARTICIPATION..... 133**

#### RULING ELDERS:

One hundred and three (103) congregations send one ruling elder..... 103  
 Four congregations send 2 ruling elders: Lexington, Massanutten, Tinkling Spring, Warrenton. 8  
 Two congregations send 3 ruling elders: Harrisonburg 1<sup>st</sup>, Winchester 1<sup>st</sup> ..... 6  
 Commissioned Ruling Elders for Particular Pastoral Services ..... 13  
 Presbytery staff ..... 3  
 Ruling elders serving on Council (estimated) ..... 8  
**TOTAL POTENTIAL RULING ELDERS PARTICIPATION ..... 141**

**CONCLUSION:** *No imbalance (more Ruling Elders than Teaching Elders) exists for 2012.*

### II. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. **Election of Treasurer.** Office and Personnel has retained the services of Pam Williams to serve as the new Treasurer for Shenandoah Presbytery, to begin on February 1, 2012. This position is also an elected office of the presbytery, so the stated clerk recommends that presbytery take action to elect Pam Williams as treasurer.
- B. **MANUAL AMENDMENT**  
 That Presbytery amend Manual section 7.6. (Suspension and Amendment) as follows:
  - a. In 7.6.1, strike out “enrolled for that meeting of the Presbytery” and insert “present and voting.”
  - b. In 7.6.2, strike out “ministers” and insert “teaching elders,” and strike out “governing body” and insert “presbytery.”
  - c. In 7.6.2, final sentence, insert “and voting” after “present.”

**Effect of amendments:**

7.6.1. Any provision of this Manual may be suspended at any meeting of the Presbytery by two-thirds vote of those *present and voting* ~~enrolled for that meeting of the Presbytery.~~

7.6.2. A proposed amendment to this Manual must be submitted in writing to the Stated Clerk. Prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered, it shall be printed and circulated among the *teaching elders, ministers*, clerks of session, and other elected commissioners to the *presbytery governing body*. If it obtains a favorable vote by two-thirds of those present *and voting*, the amendment is adopted.

**Rationale**

Both of these sections call for a vote of two-thirds of the members of presbytery either enrolled or present for the meeting. This means that if a division for a counted vote is called, the presbytery will not only need to count the number of affirmative votes, negative votes, and abstentions, it will also need to determine the number of voting members who are present at the time the vote is taken. In this type of vote, which is based on the number of members present, whether they participate in the vote or not, an abstention or the failure to vote is the equivalent of a negative vote.

The usual standard in for amending standing rules and manuals of operation is to take the vote on the basis of those present and voting. This is also the standard for amending something previously adopted (without notice). In this scenario, an abstention or the failure to vote yields to the prevailing side, and these are not counted in the determination as to whether the two-thirds threshold has been reached. This is generally considered to be sufficient to protect the interests of the body as a whole, while also making the determination of the vote simpler, without the need to establish the precise number of voting members present each time such a vote is taken.

To be adopted, this recommendation is subject to the existing rule, a successful vote of two thirds of the members present. Later in the meeting, several amendments to the manual will be presented by Council. If this recommendation is adopted, it will affect those votes.

## POLITY CORNER

### **Who owns our church's property?**

I have been serving as acting Stated Clerk for a fortnight as I write this, but already variations of this question have come up twice in conversations. Standing behind such questions is the property trust clause, which is now in G-4.0203:

All property held by or for a congregation, a presbytery, a synod, the General Assembly, or the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whether legal title is lodged in a corporation, a trustee or trustees, or an unincorporated association, and whether the property is used in programs of a congregation or of a higher council or retained for the production of income, is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The first (and simple) answer is, your church's property – buildings, contents, finances, and any other asset – is owned by the congregation. This is the meaning of “all property held by or for a congregation” at the beginning of the trust clause. The congregation owns it, performs maintenance and other upkeep on it, insures it, invests it, and makes decisions whether to buy additional property, sell property held, or encumber it by seeking a loan, subject to the approval of the presbytery, unless the congregation opted for the exemption referenced in G-4.0208. This exemption had to be exercised within eight years of the 1983 reunion. (A list of congregations that took this exemption is kept by the stated clerk, if you are unsure.)

The effect of this exemption is sometimes a cause for confusion, as it relates to the property trust clause. Some believe that the congregation's vote to exercise the G-4.0208 exemption has also exempted them from the trust clause. Such is not the case. The exemption, available only to congregations within the former PCUS, covers only those areas where a congregation “was not subject to a similar provision of the constitution of the church of which it was a part, prior to the reunion ... The congregation voting to be so exempt shall hold title to its property and exercise its privileges of incorporation and property ownership under the provisions of the Constitution to which it was subject immediately prior to the establishment of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” (G-4.0208). The final PCUS Book of Church Order, 1982-1983 edition, had a trust clause (paragraph 6-3), enacted that year. (The trust clause was enacted in the former UPCUSA in 1981-1982.)

To summarize, a congregation owns its property, and exercises the privileges of property ownership under the provisions of the Chapter 4 of the current Form of Government or , for “exemption congregations,” Chapter 6 of the 1982-1983 PCUS Book of Church Order, where the latter differs from the former. The trust clause becomes operative only if there is a movement to depart from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A long-standing principle of Presbyterian polity, stretching back through our antecedent denominations, holds that a presbytery has exclusive power to “control the location of new congregations and of congregations desiring to move as well as to divide, dismiss, or dissolve congregations in consultation with their members” (G-3.0303b).

In 2008, the General Assembly issued an authoritative interpretation (218<sup>th</sup> GA, Item 4-20) that includes this statement: “Withdrawal from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is not a matter that can be considered at a congregational meeting. Section G-7.0304a (now G-1.0503) lists five types of business that a congregation may consider at a congregational meeting.” Taking action to withdraw (or disaffiliate) is not one of those five items of business. Only the presbytery can direct that such a vote be taken, and even then, it is advisory to and not binding upon the presbytery.

The trust clause, then, is a reminder of the essential tension between the congregational and episcopal models of church governance in which we Presbyterian live. It reminds us that, while our congregations own our property, we also own our relationship to the larger church, which cannot be unilaterally changed or abandoned.

*This article is the opinion of the acting Stated Clerk. Official interpretations of the Constitution are made by the General Assembly, either during the biennial meeting, or through decisions of its Permanent Judicial Commission (G-6.02).*

In fulfillment of the requirement of the MANUAL 5.3.2.4.F.1., the Stated Clerk presents this list of elders of the churches of the Presbytery who died in 2011. The information listed depends on reports from clerks of session of the churches.

Ben Salem	Hester Holland	November 5
Bethany	Bob Trayer	March 20
	Bill Binion	June 9
	Pat Swisher	September 21
Bethesda	Bonnie Clemmer	July 8
Broadway	Mae Virginia Runion	January 9
	Frank Moyers	March 22
	Dwen Branner	May 8
	John Wood	September 16
Buckton	Dorothy Burnett	August 20
Buena Vista	Robert Wagner, Jr.	November 3
	Emmett McCormick, Jr.	November 30
Buffalo Gap	Shirley Frank	December 28
Bunker Hill	Doris Roberts	March 16
Burnt	William Michael	April 15
Collierstown	Vincent S Trovato	May 26
Cooks Creek	Newton Liskey	April 11
	Deborah Canter	December 3
Covenant	Robert Wetzel	January 20
	Howard Marshall	March 17
	Don Poulson	April 30
	Carol Robertson	October 12
	Rufus Gardner	December 10
Elk Branch	Eva Link Jones	January 11
Falling Waters	Ethel Runkles	November 26
Halltown	Charles Ruble	June 10
Hebron	Doris Riley	October 3
Hedgesville	Bernice Hiatt	May 24
Hot Springs	Julia Sawyer	January 16, 2012
	Gracie Simmons	January 20
	Ann Fry	February 13
	Emma Baldwin	March 14
	Frances Gwin	April 17
	Dot May	May 12
	Joyce Polane	August 24
	Carl Chestnut	October 22
	Elsie Wolfe	October 26
Ivanhoe	Golda Estelle Ritchie	May 12
Lexington	Ralph Lackey	March 17
	Robert Moses	July 7
	Barbara Brown	August 27
Loch Willow	Vera Travis	October 1
Martinsburg First	Mary "Polly" Hume	March 1

Massanutten	William Jackson	April 26
	Thomas Kegley	August 14
	Frank Way	September 10
Millboro	Bill Deitz, Jr.	June 10
Moorefield	Betty Baker	November 12
	Don Smith	December 31
Mt. Horeb	Rebecca Dawn Bulle	July 23
	Mary Frances Binda	October 12
Mt. Joy	Tracy Cash	February 3
Mt. Storm	Maxine Donovan	August 13
New Providence	John Herbert Brown	May 23
Olivet	Calvin Coyner	July 1
	Robert Hunter	November 23
	Jacob Hevener	September 10
Pisgah	William Richard Bowman	October 7
Romney	Peter Fisher	November 13
Smyrna	Zane Gary Dennison	October 2
Springfield	Richard Robertson	January 20
	Robert Rhea	March 1
	Charlie Homan	March 2
Staunton First	Homer Cain	November 16
	Bobby Dale	December 8
	Dan Tyree	December 18
Staunton Second	Douglas Clayton Wine	July 16
	Elizabeth Ann Varner	November 11
Staunton Third	Helen Fisher	March 20
	Marianne Cashatt	November 14
Tinkling Spring	W. G. Dudley	January 19
Union	William Robert Dacey	August 14
Wardensville	Harry Harman	December 4
	William Sudduth, Jr.	August 4
Warrenton	Eleanor Thompson	January 18
	Warren Larsen	February 8
	Evelyn Withers	August 25
	Charles Heuchert	September 21
	Phillip Barger	November 9
Waynesboro First	J. C. Sullivan	January 29
	Edith Stella	July 6
	Bobbie Dameron	August 21
	Winfred Bell	September 1
Waynesboro Second	Price McDonald	January 2
	Robert Marshall	September 10

NOTE - during 2011 the following minister member of Presbytery died:

Curry W. Davis – December 30. See the supplemental packet for written memorial for Rev. Davis

In October 2003, the Presbytery adopted a policy in response to changes in *Book of Order* g-11.0101b which allows resident retired minister members who for good reason decide that they will not be participating in the Presbytery's voting for the year to remove themselves from the need to attend and the need to be counted in the Stated Clerk's recommendation for balancing minister/elder voting.

While the presbytery strongly encourages participation in the full life of the presbytery, the following have by signed request asked to be automatically excused from presbytery meetings for the year 2011 indicating they will not be voting and will be "inactive participants" for presbytery business: (If you are a resident retired minister member of Presbytery and did NOT sign such a form for 2011, you are counted and expected to attend Presbytery.)

Charles Carlsson, Jr.  
Robert Field  
John Garrison  
Robert Hill  
Donald Jones  
Charles Norville  
C. Richard Slider, II  
Stanton Wilson  
Philip Young

James Cushman  
Otis Fisher  
L. Randolph Harrison  
J. Leslie Inglis  
J. Whitner Kennedy  
Parker Perkins  
John Watkins  
Robert Woodworth

John Earl  
Richard Forbes, Jr.  
Barton Hellmuth  
James Jackson  
Herbert Lewis  
Charlie Reller  
Donald Wilkinson  
Betty Jean Young



# Union Family Reunion

**June 15-17, 2012**

Montreat Conference Center  
Montreat, North Carolina

A Celebration of Union Presbyterian Seminary's  
Past, Present and Future

As part of the seminary's bicentennial celebration, come join a weekend gathering of "family" to play, learn and grow together.

Alumni/ae, friends and their families will gather for fellowship, worship and fun including preaching by President Brian Blount, Bible study by Dr. Patrick Miller, a concert by David LaMotte, an old-fashioned barn dance led by the infamous Glenn Bannerman, presentations by Union faculty members Drs. Pamela Mitchell-Legg and Carson Brisson and an ice cream social with a time for sharing memories!



For more information please contact:

Jane Vann (828)296-7419, [jvann@upsem.edu](mailto:jvann@upsem.edu)

or Lynn McClintock (804)278-4382,

[lmclintock@upsem.edu](mailto:lmclintock@upsem.edu), or register online,

<https://www.regonline.com/unionfamilyreunion>



**Sprunt Lectures  
May 7-9, 2012**

**“Seminary and Church: In This Together”**

**Speakers:**

**Dr. John Kuykendall, President Emeritus, Davidson College**

**Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Ethics,  
Union Presbyterian Seminary**

**Rev. Dr. Craig Dykstra, Senior Vice President, Religion, Lilly Endowment**

**Rev. Mindy Douglas Adams, Pastor, Chapel in the Pines Presbyterian Church, Chapel Hill, NC.**

**Preacher:**

**Rev. Laura Mendenhall  
Senior Philanthropy Advisor, Texas Presbyterian Foundation**

**Register at <http://www.regonline.com/sprunt2012> or call Ms. Mary Dowdy, 804.278.4245.**

## PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

Presbytery Council met twice since the last stated meeting of presbytery. A special meeting was held on November 29, 2011, to consider the response to the recommendations of Shenandoah 2010, which were initially presented to presbytery at the August 27, 2011, stated meeting, and also to consider nominees for presbytery's Nominating Committee. Council then met on January 10, 2012, for its regular stated meeting.

### I. FOR INFORMATION:

- A. **World Wide Ministries.** 65% of presbytery's congregations have responded to the "Catch the Mission Spirit Update" form which describes what mission workers and programs each church supports.
- B. **Office and Personnel**
  - 1. Approved the sabbatical leave of Resource Coordinator Lisa Hedrick, from April 1 – June 30, 2012.
  - 2. Offered the position of Treasurer to Pam Williams, who also serves as part-time secretary for the Parish of the Valleys.
  - 3. Concluded presbytery's relationship with Sally Hinchman by compensating her for unused leave. Sally is moving to the Presbytery of Florida to serve as their Transitional Presbyter from February 1 – July 31, 2012.
- C. **Church Development.** Approved a grant of \$2,000 to the Woodstock Church to help with their audio visual system in their educational facility, to support ESL and GED classes, as well as a Latino congregation that uses the facility.
- D. **Mission Community updates.**
  - 1. Brad Langdon is the new convener for Eastern Panhandle MC.
  - 2. Ann Held is the new convener for Central Valley MC
  - 3. Mountain Valley continues their shower trailer project, with close to half of the funding having been received, as well as a thermal shelter to provide meals and overnight shelter for the homeless.
  - 4. Mimi Moring is the new associate convener for Highland Augusta. The mission community is exploring a Habitat for Humanity house build.
  - 5. Maury River MC held a youth rally on December 29.
- E. **Bernice Hiatt estate bequest.** Presbytery is in the process of receiving a bequest from the estate of Bernice Hiatt, who served as a ruling elder and clerk of session in both the Tomahawk and Hedgesville Presbyterian Churches. These bequests are:
  - 1. \$150,000, already received, with the stipulation that these funds be used for foreign mission. These funds are currently being held by the Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation
  - 2. Forthcoming: two additional checks for a total of approximately \$700,000 for the presbytery to provide assistance to small churches in the former Winchester Presbytery.
- F. **Staff reports.**
  - 1. Lisa Hedrick and Karen Thatcher are working on developing the planning committee for the 2012 Big Event. Lisa is working with the current Rehoboth group.
  - 2. Doug Sensabaugh reported that the Disaster Response Team is planning time during the February 11 stated meeting to package 100 clean-up buckets with materials provided by the mission communities.

### II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. **Shenandoah 2010.** In response to feedback received concerning the recommendations of Shenandoah 2010, presented at the August 27, 2011, stated meeting (*Minutes, pages 82-83*). Council took the following actions:
  - 1. Council approved to add back to the membership of the Presbytery Council the chair of Office and Personnel, the moderator of Presbyterian Women, and the chair of World Wide Ministries. (*First recommendation*)
  - 2. Council affirmed the recommendation in the proposal on the membership of Presbytery Council that the number of representatives from mission communities be reduced from two to one. (*First recommendation*)

3. Council approved combining the outreach ministries and nurture ministries and rename it Nurture and Outreach Ministries. *(Second recommendation)*
- B. **General Presbyter Search Information Forms.** Council approved the search forms prepared by the General Presbyter Search Committee, to go into the opportunities listing maintained by the denomination's Church Leadership Connection.
  - C. **Acting General Presbyter.** Council approved the Rev. Randy Webb to serve in the position of part-time Acting General Presbyter, for a one year contract. Terms: average work week of 35 hours, salary \$34,000, plus Benefits Plan coverage, use of presbytery vehicle and related expenses, 4 weeks vacation, and study leave and expenses. Council also endorsed Randy's prior plans to visit our Ethiopian partners as part of a team traveling February 20 – March 13, and later also endorsed Doug Sensabaugh's participation in this trip.
  - D. **Communion approvals.** Council approved the following requests to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:
    1. Presbyterian Women, at their Spring Gathering at Massenetta Springs on April 14, 2012.
    2. Presbytery staff, at a staff retreat during 2012, details still in planning stage.
  - E. **November 2012 stated meeting.** Council approved the invitation of the Woodstock (Virginia) Presbyterian Church to host the November 13, 2012 stated meeting.
  - F. **April Council meeting.** Council will hold its next stated meeting on Tuesday, April 17, beginning at 1:00 p.m. (after the special meeting of presbytery), at the presbytery office.
  - G. **Financial review.** Council corrected its October 11 minutes to clarify that Council approved the request of Budget and Finance that a financial review of the 2011 and 2012 financial books be conducted in lieu of a full audit.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- A. **Nominating Committee nominees.** Council places the following in nomination for the Nominating Committee:
  1. **Class of 2014:** Christina Tutterow (TE/F; Maury River); Sandi Ey (RE/F; Mountain Valley); \_\_\_\_\_ (RE/M or F; Highland Augusta)
  2. **Class of 2012:** Kevin Hand (TE/M; Potomac Highlands)
  3. **Chair:** Richard E. Johnson / **Vice Chair:** Christina Tutterow
- B. **Shenandoah 2010 recommendations.** Council voted to remove the Shenandoah 2010 items (presented at the August 27, 2011 stated meeting) from the (April) special meeting agenda and now recommends these two items for presbytery's action at this meeting. *(See Actions Taken Item A, above, and the included papers on page 15 for the effect of these actions on the recommendations of Shenandoah 2010.)*
- C. **Manual Amendments.** Council approved the report of the special committee which recommended several amendments to Presbytery's manual made necessary by the new Form of Government. *Please see the included report on pages 16-19 detailing these recommendations.*
- D. **Special Meeting of Presbytery.** Council voted to recommend that Shenandoah Presbytery call a special meeting for April 17, 2012, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Massanutten Presbyterian Church in Penn Laird, Virginia, for the purpose of considering and acting upon the proposed Gracious Separation Policy.

## SHENANDOAH 2010 RECOMMENDATIONS

Presbytery Council made an initial presentation of the following two recommendations of Shenandoah 2010 at the August 27, 2011, stated meeting. Consideration of these items was slated for a special meeting originally to be held in January 2012, but presbytery directed Council to postpone that meeting until after Easter (after April 8, 2012). Council, meeting on November 29, 2011, removed the Shenandoah 2010 items from the special meeting, and slated them for consideration at the February 11, 2012, stated meeting.

Since the initial presentation to presbytery last August, Council considered the responses from the presbytery, including written responses from Office and Personnel, World Wide Ministries, and Presbyterian Women. Council made amendments to the original recommendations of Shenandoah 2010, which are shown below in *italics*. Council recommends that presbytery approve these recommendations, as amended by Council.

### COMPOSITION OF PRESBYTERY

1. Council recommends that Presbytery's manual be amended to change the composition of Council by amending section 4.2.2 of the Manual by striking the entire paragraph and inserting new text, a and b, below:

#### 4.2.2 Membership:

~~The Presbytery Council will consist of a chairperson and Vice chairperson of Council, Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, two people elected by each of the Mission Communities and the chairperson of the following committees: Nominating, Professional Development, Campus Ministries, Camps and Conference, Committee on Church Development, Communications, Budget and Finance, Office and Personnel, Resource Center, World Wide Ministries, Presbyterian Women and the Vision and Mission Committee of Council. All full time professional staff shall serve as advisory members and the stated clerk.~~

#### 4.2.2. Membership:

- a. The Presbytery Council will consist of a chairperson and Vice-chairperson of Council, Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, one person (with voice vote) from each of the Mission Communities (6 or 7 depending on further actions of Presbytery) and the chairperson of the following committees: Nominations, Committee on Ministry (COM), Committee on Church Development (CCD), Budget and Finance Committee, *Worldwide Ministries, Presbyterian Women, Office and Personnel*, Small Church Committee (if approved), and a representative from *Nurture and Outreach Ministries* and a representative from *Nurture Ministries*. All full-time professional staff and the Stated Clerk shall serve as advisory members
- ~~b. Office and Personnel Committee has access to Council but does not need to send a representative to Council unless they have business to conduct.~~

*(This recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the members of presbytery present to be approved.)*

2. That the Manual be amended by adding a new section 4.4.12 (Standing Committees). (Permission is given to the Stated Clerk to reword this section, as needed, for continuity.)

~~One Two Ministries Group has have~~ similar access to Council and shall serve as the connection to Council to bring business to the Council. ~~This These two Ministries Group has each have~~ a Steering Group that is formed of the membership of the groups. ~~This entity is These two entities are~~ a means to bring information and requests to Council for each committee or group. The main function of ~~this group these groups~~ is to be as follows:

1. Permission Giving within bounds of our structure.
2. Empowering current and future groups to develop their own ministries.
3. To allow flexibility in presbytery without creating fixed structures.
4. Develop purpose driven entities.

Each of the committees or groups that fall under ~~this Ministries Group these two Ministries~~ will function on their own, developing their ministries, working to achieve their goals, and completing their mission.

1. ~~Nurture and Outreach Ministries~~: Shall gather and coordinate with groups such as ~~World Wide Ministries, Partnership, I-Care, Hunger, Disaster & Disaster Response Team, Peacemaking, Presbyterian Women, SPYCE, Camp and Conferences, Paddy Run, College Ministry, Resource,~~

Communications, KCC, Website oversight, Leadership Training (the current Big Event group as an example), Older Adult Ministry (another task specific group currently working within our bounds and producing an event) and other entities that further the nurture or outreach function of the presbytery or sub-groups within the boundaries of the presbytery.

*(This recommendation requires a two-thirds vote of the members of presbytery present to be approved.)*

## **AMENDMENTS TO PRESBYTERY MANUAL**

### **New Form of Government**

1. That presbytery authorize the Stated Clerk to make editorial changes to the manual to replace obsolete *Book of Order* references and terminology. (Examples: ruling elder; teaching elder; council instead of governing body; etc.)
2. That Presbytery amend Manual section 7.2.2 by substituting the following proposed text for the existing text *(all of these recommendations require a 2/3 vote of the members of presbytery present to be approved)*:

**SEE FOLLOWING PAGES**

**EXISTING**

7.2.2. When Presbytery meets, each church shall be represented by an elder commissioned by the session with the following additional provisions:

A. Churches with membership over 500 shall be represented as follows:

- 501 1000            2 elders
- 1001-1500           3 elders
- 1501 2000        4 elders
- 2000+              5 elders (G 11.0101)

B. Each year the Stated Clerk is required to recommend to the Presbytery a way of balancing the representation of elders and ministers. The action of the Presbytery may give certain congregations an additional elder representative to Presbytery for that year.

C. In response to G-11.0101b, Presbytery instructs the Stated Clerk before the end of each year to communicate with all resident honorably retired ministers allowing them to voluntarily register in writing as “inactive participants” for the purpose of determining balance of minister/elders for the next year. Such registration will also excuse them from attendance at presbytery meetings for the year.

**PROPOSED**

7.2.2. When Presbytery meets, each church shall be represented by a ruling elder commissioned by the session with the following additional provisions:

A. Churches shall be represented as follows:  
up to 400: 1 ruling elders

- 401-800: 2 ruling elders
- 801-1200: 3 ruling elders
- 1201+: 4 ruling elders

B. Ruling Elders who serve in the following capacities shall be enrolled as members of presbytery for the term of their service:

- moderator or vice moderator of presbytery
- chair or vice chair of council
- member of council
- chairperson or moderator of a committee or commission
- exempt employees of the Presbytery (on at least a half-time basis)
- Commissioned Ruling Elders providing particular pastoral services, as authorized by presbytery
- Certified Christian Educators who are serving in an educational ministry under the jurisdiction of the presbytery

Such service does not count towards the number of ruling elders a congregation is entitled to send.

C. In response to G-3.0301, Presbytery instructs the Stated Clerk before the end of each year to communicate with all resident honorably retired ministers allowing them to voluntarily register in writing as “inactive participants” for the purpose of determining balance of minister/elders for the next year. Such registration will also excuse them from attendance at presbytery meetings for the year.

D. Should the above not yield parity between ruling elders and teaching elders, each year the Stated Clerk shall recommend to the Presbytery an additional way of balancing representation. The action of the Presbytery may give certain congregations an additional elder representative to Presbytery for that year, drawing from the smaller membership churches on a rotational basis.

3. That Presbytery amend Manual section 7.2.3 by substituting the following proposed text for the existing text:

EXISTING	PROPOSED
7.2.3. All Certified Christian Educators and other professionals who are employed by the Presbytery or by churches within the Presbytery on at least a half-time basis are invited to attend and have speaking privileges but without vote at meetings of Presbytery.	7.2.3. All Certified Christian Educators (who are not ruling elders; see 7.2.2 B, above) and other professionals employed by churches within the Presbytery on at least a half-time basis are invited to attend and have speaking privileges but without vote at meetings of Presbytery.

4. That Presbytery amend Manual section 7.1.4 by striking out the final sentence and inserting new text: “Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than fifteen (15) days in advance to each minister and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted (G-3.0304).”

EXISTING	PROPOSED
7.1.4. Special Meetings: The moderator shall call a special meeting at the request of, or with the concurrence of, two ministers and two elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three ministers and three elders, the elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The Synod may direct the Presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. <del>Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten (10) days in advance to each minister and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted (G-11.0201).</del>	7.1.4. Special Meetings: The moderator shall call a special meeting at the request of, or with the concurrence of, two ministers and two elders being of different churches. Should the moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. If both moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three ministers and three elders, the elders being of different churches, may call a special meeting. The Synod may direct the Presbytery to convene a special meeting for the transaction of designated business. <b><i>Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than fifteen (15) days in advance to each minister and to the session of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting and no other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted (G-3.0304).</i></b>

5. That Presbytery amend Manual section 7.5.12 by substituting the following proposed text for the existing text:

EXISTING	PROPOSED
7.5.12. QUORUM: A quorum of the Presbytery shall be any three minister members and the elder members present, provided that at least three churches are represented by elders. The Presbytery may fix its own quorum at any higher number (G-11.0202).	7.5.12. QUORUM: A quorum of the Presbytery shall be any ten teaching elders and ten ruling elders from at least ten different churches and three mission communities. (G-3.0304).

6. That Presbytery amend Manual section 4.3.1 by substituting the following proposed text for the existing text:

EXISTING	PROPOSED
4.3.1. Committee on Representation 4.3.1.1. Membership: Six persons, three women and three men, selected in accordance with (G 9.0105 and G 9.0106).	4.3.1. Committee on Representation 4.3.1.1. Membership: Four persons, two women and two men, at least one, but no more than two, teaching elders.

7. That Presbytery amend Manual section 3.2.6.C by adding striking out the second sentence and by adding a new sentence: “Should both the Moderator and Vice Moderator be unable to serve, the immediate past moderator shall serve as moderator.”

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>C. Moderator - The Moderator shall be elected to serve a term of one full year. The Moderator will also serve as a member of Presbytery Council. The Vice-Moderator shall be elected to serve a term of one full year and shall preside in the absence of the Moderator.</p>	<p>C. Moderator – The Moderator shall be elected to serve a term of one full year. <del>The Moderator will also serve as a member of Presbytery Council.</del> The Vice-Moderator shall be elected to serve a term of one full year and shall preside in the absence of the Moderator. <b><i>Should both the Moderator and Vice Moderator be unable to serve, the immediate past moderator shall be asked to serve as moderator. If none of these persons are available, presbytery shall elect a moderator for the meeting.</i></b></p>

8. That Presbytery amend Manual section 5.3.2.1 by striking out “to be elected for annually,” and amend Manual section 5.2.2 by inserting “elected for a three-year term” for both the Stated Clerk and Treasurer.

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>5.3.2.1. Purpose: The purpose of the position is to provide for a part-time Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Shenandoah, to be elected annually. The Stated Clerk is a ¼-time position.</p>	<p>5.3.2.1. Purpose: The purpose of the position is to provide for a part-time Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Shenandoah, <del>to be elected for annually.</del> The Stated Clerk is a ¼-time position.</p>
<p>5.2.2. Officers: A. Stated Clerk B. Treasurer</p>	<p>5.2.2. Officers: A. <i>Stated Clerk: elected for a three-year term.</i> B. <i>Treasurer: elected for a three-year term.</i></p>

9. That Presbytery amend its Operating Procedures (Manual, 7.5.7; also printed in the handbook for each meeting) by substituting the proposed text for the existing text:

EXISTING	PROPOSED
<p>F. A member of the governing body may speak only once on any particular motion unless he/she is the maker of that motion or unless no one else wants the floor, but not more than twice or for more than a total of five minutes.</p>	<p>F. A member of the presbytery may speak twice on any particular motion, and not for more than a total of five minutes, but the second time may only be granted after all who have not yet spoken have had an opportunity to do so. The maker of the motion is entitled to speak first, if desired.</p>

## **A Report from Presbyterian Campus Ministry at JMU.**

A ministry supported by this presbytery and the Presbyterian churches of Bridgewater, Broadway, Cooks Creek, Elkton, Massanutten, Mossy Creek, Trinity and Moorefield.

“SEEKING STARS” the College Conference at Montreat, 2012

From January 2 to 5, 2012, nine members of this presbytery ministry attended the Seeking Stars retreat for college students, hosted by the Montreat Conference Center. This event entailed travel to and from North Carolina, finding a home to stay in, one or more trips to the grocery store (college kid, you know!), six wonderful worship experiences, small group discussions, a concert, a talent show, and the meeting and making friends of fellow faith-travelers! This year, we had students from James Madison, Mary Baldwin, Roanoke, and Virginia Tech (and one obviously old graduate from Stetson University, Class of 1980, but that’s another story!).

Our speakers at the conference included Sara Miles, a member of St. Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in California. Sara came to faith late in life and is now running a large food pantry at St. Gregory. She is a published author, and a wonderful witness that Christ is alive and well in this world.

Gabe Lyons, researcher and author, spoke to the students, working to help them understand how the world might perceive us. His message is that in our vocations, whatever they may be, there is true ministry to be done, if we listen to Christ and not the world.

J. Herbert Nelson spoke to us several times, and reached out to our students on many levels. Pastor Nelson is the current director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in our capital. His seminars touched upon the means by which one institution (the church) could influence and work with another (Congress). His sermons shared stories of his youth, his studies, his ministry in the parish, and his work in DC, which truly connected with the group that went from this presbytery.

While there, we shared a meal with the campus ministries based at Radford and Virginia Tech. It was a chance for students to meet and mingle, and for older folks (me) to catch our breath!

From this conference, our third trip down, we would want to ask the presbytery to do a couple of things:

1. Begin now to talk about the 2013 Montreat College Retreat to your church young adults. PCM is willing to take the lead on this in securing a larger home and acting as a ‘clearinghouse’ for this process. We had conversations with several of our churches this year, and came close to bringing others on, but the calendar worked against us a bit. If we plan now, that will not happen next year. The conference is the first week of January-mark it down! You can check the Montreat website for more info.
2. For church leaders, pastors, elders, Christian educators, teachers, congregational members—today is the day to begin to have conversations with you students in your middle/high school classes, as well as current college students, about campus ministry. Not just ours at JMU, but any campus they will be going to. Get them involved in campus ministry before they leave. For pastors and youth leaders, contact the campus ministries at the college or university that your student will be attending, and work to connect not just the student to the campus ministry, but your church as well. There are ways to support campus ministry that are more than just funding-care packages, cards, letters, and well, yes, money.

3. For those churches with an existing campus ministry, be it active, somewhat active, or a wishful hopefulness, talk to us at PCM. It is not that we are experts, rather, that we are believers seeking to serve where the Spirit may lead us. I am thinking that if you have read this report this far, the Spirit may just be nudging you along a bit.  
Go with it!

Talk to the students who may be here today; talk with your students when you see them. Talk to me even!

Respectfully submitted:

Rev. Kerry Foster, Bridgewater Presbyterian Church and interim Campus Leader of PCM;  
Stetson University, Class of 1980; Union Presbyterian Seminary, Class of 2001; currently  
enrolled in the University of Hard Knocks (also known as living in the world, but not of the  
world!) Blessings.

## **Report of the Lyle Moffett Grant Fund**

The Lyle Moffett Grant Fund Committee met in Nov. 2011 and approved eleven grants to congregations and mission communities in our presbytery. We had only \$11,424 to respond to request for twice that. The following summary provides a hint of how the Spirit of Christ is at work today through His Church

The Front Royal P.C. continues their work with the St. Luke Community Clinic. They have been providing a variety of health care needs to those in poverty or low income for fifteen years. They served over 900 residents last year. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 for an emergency fund for the uninsured in Front Royal and Warren County.

The Highland-Augusta Mission Community continues its twelve year ministry with the Oaxacan Indian people on the Baja peninsula. Supported by the Central Valley Mission Community, this outreach of over 500 members from 32 of our congregations has helped build houses, schools, churches, and install a water purification system. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 to help them build three/four more houses and to learn and share Christian love with those they meet.

The Highland Memorial P.C. continues its local outreach to those in need through a Food Pantry that was organized in 1982. In 2010 this area food pantry served over 7,000 persons with 4,000 hours of volunteer service. Volunteers come from the Highland members, neighboring churches, the Mountain Valley Mission Community churches, and from the local community. From this core ministry has emerged other programs such as breakfast service, emergency bills paid, Bibles and book distribution, and ESOL classes. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 to assist in a program to educate and engage the greater Winchester area in the opportunities and needs of this mission.

The Loch Willow P.C. plans to increase its congregation's experience in reaching out to the world around by involving its Sr. High Youth in the trip to the Baja area with other Presbyterians. This is their third such trip with other youth participating in '04 and '08. As the youth plan, they will make periodic presentations to the congregation and share with them upon their return. The emphasis is on this mission being something the whole congregation takes part in. The Moffett grant was \$1,000 to assist them in this ministry.

The Middletown P.C. , having seen a growth in request for food assistance, will begin distributing "Bags of Love" for children in need. The food is to help children have something to eat on the weekend. The program is jointly run by several churches and with the help and support of the local elementary school. The cost is about \$20. per month per child. They are starting small and hope that the ministry will grow. The Moffett grant was \$1,250.

The Opequon P.C. has sent its youth on a mission trip for the past four summers. Working through the "Appalachian Service Project", about 21 youth and adults go to a prescribed area to help restore homes, hope, and share Christ's love. Last year they worked in Pike County, KY where three work crews helped improve three homes. The lasting friendships off set the long hours of this week long mission. The cost is between \$4,500 and \$5,000 dollars to the church, the families, and other resources. The Moffett grant was \$1,000.

The Sherando P.C. plans a third summer mission trip for its youth. Working with the Presbytery of West Virginia, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the WV Ministry of Advocacy, about 15 youth and adults will spend one week working to help those in need. Flood victims and homes needing basic assistance, like water pipes, were helped in the past. The cost of this mission trip is between \$250 and \$300 per person. The families involved and the local congregation provide most of the funding. The Moffett grant was \$1,424.

A Trinity P.C. House Church, Bridges to Building Community, is working through the auspices of Bridges of Hope/Harrisonburg/Rockingham affiliate to mentor a single mother and her child as they participate in the 24 month program of Bridges of Hope. This program seeks to enable them to find wholeness and an end to homelessness. The mentors will help her maintain her new home, provide food and other items as needed, and to be a friend to the family that can celebrate birthdays, etc. with them.

The house church will also support the HARTS homeless shelter program buying supplies as needed and helping to host HARTS one week in the year. The Moffett grant was \$500.

The Tuscarora P.C. has heard the call to care for the forty children living in an especially poverty ridden area in their county called "Sportsman's Paradise". In a flood plain in a remote area with high unemployment, the children depend on the public schools to provide them something to eat. In the summer, many of them go hungry. The church will provide bag lunches two days a week, send meals home two days and add special foods each Wednesday when they make home visits. They will also have two picnics in the summer and provide back to school supplies at summers end.

While some help will be given by college students, the 4-H club and another nearby church, most of the challenge will be born by the members of the Tuscarora church family. They are aware that the need is overwhelming and pray for more help as others learn of their mission. The Moffett grant was \$1,250.

The Warm Springs P.C. has accepted the request to administer the pre-school program in Bath County, known as TOTS. TOTS meets in their church and receives its financial support. The families of the pre-school children are introduced to the faith dimension of the curriculum through Bible lessons, prayers, and invitations to attend worship especially when the children help lead in the service. Now, TOTS is at a financial crossroads and is actively reaching out to the community with fund raising efforts to keep it going. The Moffett grant was \$1,000.

The Warrenton P. C. plans to continue its five year ministry called The Haven Dinner Program. Started from a Senior High Sunday school lesson on mission, the Haven Dinner Program enlists the church youth in cooking a meal once a month for the residents of the Fauquier Haven Shelter. The Sr. High youth prepare a variety of nutritious hot meals and take them to the shelter. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Vacation Bible School classes help by adding a "Birthday in a Bag" complete with a cake. This year they plan to expand the ministry to a church wide mission and, with the adults in the church joining in, provide a hot meal at the church for the Haven community as well as any others who seek a home cooked meal. The Moffett grant was \$1,000.

These churches, like many others in our presbytery, have a strong sense of our Lord's call to reach out in ministries of compassion. Their sacrificial efforts, creative plans and vision are an inspiration for us all.

We pray for these activities asking God's blessing on their work.

Don Allen, Chair  
Moffett Grant Fund Committee

**REPORT OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

I. FOR INFORMATION:

Received written reports from visits to the Hedgesville, Little Falls, Seneca Rocks, and Spring Hill churches.

II. ACTIONS TAKEN:

- A. Approved renewing the temporary supply contract between the Piedmont Session and the Rev. Marcia Jaureguizar from December 1, 2011-December 1, 2012.
- B. Approved renewing the temporary supply contract between the Mt. Carmel Session and the Rev. Sandra Rushing from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- C. Approved renewing the stated supply contract between the Hedgesville and Little Falls sessions and the Rev. Carl Howard from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- D. Approved renewing the stated supply contract between the Mt. Storm Session and Rev. Joan Wilson from September 25, 2011-August 1, 2012.
- E. Approved renewing the stated supply contract between the Ben Salem Session and Rev. Larry Miles from October 2011-October 2012.
- F. Approved renewing the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Bloomery Session and Mr. Ron Wilkes from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- G. Approved renewing the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Halltown Session and Mr. Alvin Russell from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014.
- H. Approved renewing the stated supply contract between the Zetta Session and the Rev. Stan Farthing from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- I. Approved renewing the Associate for the Parish contracts from January 1-December 31, 2012, for the following:
  - The Rev. Rose Wayland at Cedar Creek and Middletown churches
  - The Rev. David Duckworth at Clear Brook and Mt. Hope churches
  - The Rev. Lee McDermott at Ivanhoe and Wardensville churches
- J. Approved renewing the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Second Opequon Session and Mr. Alan Morrison from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- K. Approved renewing the interim contract between the Parish of the Valleys Council and the Rev. Sally Robinson from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- L. Approved revising the contracts and terms of call forms to reflect the new language from the *Book of Order*.
- M. Approved the minimum effective salary for full-time teaching elders in their first pastorate be increased by \$2,500 (with a manse from \$27,500 to \$30,000 and without a manse from \$32,500 to \$35,000).
- N. Approved the interim contract between the Tuscarora Session and the Rev. Susan J. Quass, from February 1, 2012-January 31, 2013. (Rev. Quass is a member of Baltimore Presbytery.)
- O. Approved the stated supply contract between the Mt. Olive Session and the Rev. Jan Owen from February 5, 2012-February 1, 2013.

- P. Approved the Mt Olive Church to continue their search for a pastor through their pastor nominating committee during the period that they are being served by a supply pastor.
- Q. Approved renewing the temporary supply contract between the Bethany Session and the Rev. Les LaPrade from January 1-June 30, 2012.
- R. Approved renewing the supply contract between the Nineveh Session and the Rev. Randy Webb through December 31, 2012.
- S. Approved renewing the commissioned ruling elder contract between the Slanesville Session and Michele Elliott from January 1-December 31, 2012.
- T. Approved the temporary supply contract between the Gerrardstown Session and the Rev. John Robinson from November 1, 2011-October 31, 2012.
- U. Approved the church information form from the Olivet Church.
- V. Authorized the Bethany Church to form a pastor nominating committee.
- W. Authorized the Tuscarora Church to form a pastor nominating committee.
- X. Concurred with the following:  
  
*The congregation of Bethel Presbyterian Church voted, with regret and with love, to consent to the Rev. Joel P. Thornton's request that the Presbytery of Shenandoah dissolve the pastoral relationship between Joel and the Bethel Presbyterian Church.*
- Y. Appointed Olivia Haney to serve as moderator of the Bethel Session.
- Z. Denied the request of the Circleville Session requesting permission for a ruling elder to officiate at the Lord's Supper for Circleville Church.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Presbytery approve the commissioning of the following ruling elders for service in the specified field and that the Moderator of the Presbytery commission them for service:

1. Concerning Alan Morrison:
  - a. Mr. Morrison be re-commissioned as ruling elder of the Second Opequon Church through December 31, 2014.
  - b. That Sally Robinson continue as mentor to Mr. Morrison.
  - c. That Mr. Morrison be authorized to perform the functions of the Book of Order 2.1001 at the Second Opequon Church.
2. Concerning Bobby Spurgeon:
  - a. Mr. Spurgeon be re-commissioned as ruling elder of the Parish of the Pastures (Goshen, Millboro, and Rocky Spring churches) through December 31, 2014.
  - b. That John Haney continue as mentor to Mr. Spurgeon.
  - c. That Mr. Spurgeon be authorized to perform the functions of the Book of Order 2.1001 within the Parish of the Pastures.
3. Concerning Jean Steidel:
  - a. Ms. Steidel be commissioned as ruling elder of the Nineveh Church through December 31, 2012.
  - b. That Randy Webb serve as mentor to Ms. Steidel.
  - c. That Ms. Steidel be authorized to perform the functions of the Book of Order 2.1001 at the Nineveh Church.