

**146th Meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery
Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church
Harrisonburg, Virginia**

Shenandoah Presbytery was called to order with prayer at 9:00 am on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 by Moderator Elder Mary Lou Cox, at the Cooks Creek Presbyterian Church. The greeting inside for food, fellowship and registration was warm and welcoming. Worship was planned and arranged by the Central Valley Mission Community, members of which led the service of worship. The sermon for the occasion, entitled *Encounters* was preached by Rev. Patrick Pettit. The gathering was treated to a moving arrangement of *Shall We Gather at the River*, sung by Shannon Kiser. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered to those attending worship.

Upon request by the Moderator, the Stated Clerk affirmed that a quorum was present for the meeting. Elder Cox welcomed those in attendance, recognized first-time commissioners and seated Helen Locklear, representing the Board of Pensions and Rev. David McKee, Executive/Stated Clerk of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic. Rev. George Evans, pastor of the host church, welcomed the Presbytery and noted the location of available restrooms. Moderator Cox appointed Alex Banks, Don LaRue and George Chapman to serve as temporary clerks. With gratitude for his continuing service, she named Fred Holbrook as Parliamentarian. The minutes of the February 20, 2010 meeting of the Presbytery were approved as presented. There being no new business, the docket was adopted.

The Stated Clerk gave his report, calling the commissioners attention to the written report on page 2 of the handbook. He then moved that Marie O'Connell, a student at New Brunswick Seminary be elected TSAD (Theological Seminary Advisory Delegate) to the upcoming General Assembly meeting in Minneapolis. She was elected. Upon recommendation, the omnibus motion was approved by the commissioners without exception. Interim General Presbyter reported on growth in the Church, noting that several churches had membership gains, including the Sunnyside Church which had received six new members recently. She communicated that a film, *Celebrate What's Right with the World*, would be shown in the Fellowship Hall just prior to lunch, concluding her report by noting that "mission and ministry are alive and well." Lisa Hedrick, Resource Center Coordinator, invited the commissioners to the display table, encouraging them to check out new materials that were available and reminded us to sign up for the drawing. Doug Sensabaugh, Communications Director and Hunger Action Enabler urged the Presbytery to go to www.shenpres.org, where there is a "wealth of news and information."

Sarah Hill reported for the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** and recommended that Candidate Patrick Lanaghan be permitted to be examined in the area of Theology by alternative means (G-14.0472). With 172 voting commissioners present, the Presbytery authorized an exception allowing an alternate means of examination in the area of theological competence by a vote of 169 for, 0 against. The Committee also nominated Rufus Burton, Gary Edlind, and Mary Lou McMillin to be the presbytery's primary readers for the Fall 2010 reading of the Standard Ordination Exams in Raleigh. They were elected, along with Kevin Hand, Carrie Evans, and John Bethard who would serve as alternate readers. Rev. Hill called the Presbytery's attention to the Statement of Faith and Biography of Marie O'Connell, an Inquirer now "ready to move to Candidacy. She offered the commissioners the opportunity to ask biographical questions and allowed time "to hear from Ms. O'Connell" concerning her statement of faith. Following the constitutional questions and a charge by the Moderator, she was approved as a candidate.

Helen Locklear, our representative from the Board of Pensions, gave a brief presentation, giving a "sampling of updates and highlights." She called attention to a written hand out, noting that the investment portfolio was on the rebound, she explained why there was no increase in experience apportionment, with reserves at 118%, less than the preferred 125%. Given the recent health care legislation, she assured the commissioners that any resulting changes in the plan would be communicated to all plan members. One new feature of the Board of Pensions program is the New Health Management Service Provider which includes a \$100 incentive for those who go online and sign up. Catherine Lynch made a brief presentation from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP), noting that the challenge was to "bring in investments equal to loan demand" and that they are currently offering a rate program allowing investment up to three (3) years at 3 %. Howard Newman and Carol Miller reported on the upcoming Big Event, scheduled for 9/11/2010 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Massanetta Springs Conference Center. The Big Event is a combination of the Mission Fair and Presbyterian Women efforts.

Ron Potter, Chair of the **Office and Personnel Committee** reported that the Stated Clerk, Jan Owen, would be "stepping down at the end of May." He then moved that the contract with Sally Hinchman be renewed from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011 with the understanding that she will be serving as Interim General Presbyter/Stated

Clerk. This was approved by the Presbytery. The Presbytery meeting was then moved to the Fellowship Hall for the viewing of the film, *Celebrate What's Right with the World* and lunch.

Following lunch, the Presbytery reconvened with **Prayers of Intercession**, led by Rev. Jonathan Bunker. Rev. Lisa Webb, Chairperson, reported for **the Presbytery Council**, calling the commissioners' attention to the written report, which included information and actions taken. There was one recommendation: "that all prior administrative commissions concerning the Stone's Chapel property be dismissed," which was approved by the Presbytery. Lisa summoned several outbursts of laughter from the Presbytery as she disclaimed any "involvement in a pharmaceutical enterprise," noting that she had enough to do "staying up with Council business." The Moderator called forward elder commissioners Tom Clayton, Merrily Kohler and Susanne Taylor and minister commissioners John Bethard, John Leggett, and Bob Osborne, along with Young Adult Advisory Delegate Kathi Crites and Theological Student Advisory Delegate Marie O'Connell for a Commissioning service. John Bethard reported for the **Committee on Ministry**, referring to three written pages in the handbook and supplement, including information and actions taken. The following recommendations, made by COM, were approved by the Presbytery: The ministries of Tom Hay, Fred Holbrook, Paul O'Gorek, Elizabeth Lewis and William Moore "in Other Service of this Church;" the ministry of Lee Corder, "in Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of the Church;" Parish Associates, Jim Cushman, Doug Sterrett, and Herbert Lewis; and Philip Sieck, Sheryl Dobyns, Lynn McClintock, Donna Coffman, Marcia Jaureguizar, Olivia Haney and Deb Klein as Parish Associates. The Presbytery approved the recommendation that the Rev. Thomas J. Holden, III be granted the status of honorably retired, effective April 1, 2010. Rev. Sally Robinson spoke, honoring Rev. Holden, citing his service to the denomination in general and to the Presbytery, in particular. Philip Sommers, who had earlier been granted honorable retired status, was also recognized for his service and invited forward. Rev. John Leggett spoke on his behalf. Both were invited to speak briefly and both received certificates of appreciation from the Stated Clerk. At the recommendation of COM Elder Judy Hensley was commissioned as lay pastor of the Union Church through December 31, 2010 and was authorized to perform the functions of the Book of Order G-14.0562 a-e at the Union Church, following answering the constitutional questions. Upon COM recommendation, the Presbytery approved that the Rev. Dan Matthews be placed on the inactive roll effective May 11, 2010, that Pat Hunt be given at-large status at the end of the school year at Mary Baldwin College, and that the Committee of Advice and Counsel to the Mt. Olive Church be dismissed with thanks. COM presented a paper on recommendations for Church Family and Medical Leave Policy and Practice to the Presbytery, which was received.

Rev. David Witt reported for the Committee on Church Development, referring the Presbytery to pp. 12-13 in the handbook. CCD recommended that section 9.2.5 of the Presbytery Manual, allowing Sessions to consider requesting a grant from CCD, when justifiable salary increases result in the church being unable to meet its budget, be eliminated. After discussion, the motion passed, eliminating the section from the manual. Rev. John Peterson reported for the Bills and Overtures Committee, calling attention to their written report on S-9 and 10, and recommending that the overture, in support of missionary funding, not be approved. After discussion, the Presbytery followed the recommendation of the committee and did not support the proposed overture, noting that it may have financial implications and would not arrive within the stated time limit for such proposals. John Bethard presented his thanks to the Moffett for Mission program for their assistance for their program for children with special needs. He concluded by saying that phase one was complete and the second phase, involving being more public about this ministry, would move forward. Rev. Randy Webb reported for World Wide Ministries, referring to seven items written on p. 14 in the handbook. He gave a brief history of the relationship with the Church in Ethiopia and urged the Presbytery to "continue to step up to the challenge." He also called attention to the upcoming Leadership Fair at Massanetta Springs, September 11, 2010, called the Big Event. Kerry Foster reported for Shenandoah 2010, stating that they had received responses from 67 out of 110 churches and that 62% was "excellent." He noted that the second phase will involve talking with the mission communities. Rev. John McDonald, reporting for the Nomination Committee, asked the Presbytery to approve Elaine Hurd for the Class of 2010 to the Church Development Committee and Richard Travis for the Class of 2012 to the Professional Development Committee. Noting that there were still a "lot of blank spaces" on presbytery committees, he urged the commissioners to make recommendations.

Moderator Mary Lou Cox asked the Stated Clerk, Jan Owen, to come forward and be recognized. She expressed thanks for his service to and with the Presbytery for the past two years and wished him well in his future ministry. She then said a prayer, blessing Jan and asking God's continued guidance. Lisa Hedrick announced the winner of the drawing. Upon motion and second, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer at 3:10 p.m.