

**MINUTES OF THE
PRESBYTERY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 11, 2011
Revised 1/2012**

Members present:

Dan Williams, Council Chair
Karen Thatcher, Council Vice-Chair
Jonathan Bunker, Presbytery Moderator
Paul Dana, Presbytery Vice-Moderator
Charlie McFarlin, Church Development
Will Heyward, Resource
Kerry Foster, Shenandoah 2010
John McDonald, Nominations

Randy Webb, World Wide Ministries
Skip Hastings, Office & Personnel
Beth Pyles, Budget & Finance
Martin Stokes, Communications
Phil Zirkle, Central Valley
Patrick Pettit, Central Valley
Sandi Ey, Mountain Valley
John Bethard, Eastern Panhandle

Staff present:

Sally Hinchman, Interim Presbyter/Clerk
Doug Sensabaugh, Communications/HAE
Lisa Hedrick, Resource Coordinator

Lucille Gohdes, Treasurer
Kim Stroupe, Asst. to the Constitution

Dan Williams opened the meeting with prayer.

The Council approved the minutes of July 12, 2011, as distributed.

nFOG and Presbytery

Sally Hinchman reviewed possible changes that can be made since the approval of the new Form of Government. Motion made, seconded and approved to create a working group consisting of the Council chair and vice-chair, Presbytery moderator and vice-moderator, and Acting Stated Clerk to make recommendations to the next Council meeting relating to nFOG and the Manual.

Separation Policy Task Force

Olivia Haney reported for the Task Force noting the draft policy that had been previously emailed to the Council. Suggestions for the policy were referred to the Task Force. It is the plan of the Task Force to have a first reading at the November 8 Presbytery Meeting. It was suggested to have a Special Meeting of Presbytery to approve the final recommendation from the Task Force. Council voted to recommend that Shenandoah Presbytery hold a special meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2012, in order to act on the gracious Separation Policy and the two items from the Shenandoah 2010 report presented as a first reading at the August 27, 2011, stated meeting (Council composition and Nurture/Outreach ministry groups proposal).

Committee Reports

World Wide Ministries – Randy Webb submitted a written report noting that Kes Tariku, the President of the Illubabor Bethel Synod, will be visiting Shenandoah Presbytery October 28-November 21 and will be preaching at the November Presbytery meeting. The Committee brought a recommendation to the Council, which was dealt with during the Shenandoah 2010 discussion later in the day.

Resource – Lisa Hedrick noted that “drop in” visitors are growing. Advent resources are already being checked out so plan early!

Office and Personnel – Skip Hastings reported that the Committee is seeking a part-time General Presbyter and a part-time Stated Clerk beginning January 1, 2012. Also Lucille Gohdes plans on retiring as Treasurer early in 2012. The Committee brought a recommendation to the Council, which was dealt with during the Shenandoah 2010 discussion later in the day.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend to the November 8 Presbytery meeting that Lucille Gohdes serve as Treasurer through February 29, 2012.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to recommend to the November 8 Presbytery meeting that Dan Williams serve as the acting stated clerk beginning January 1, 2012.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to empower the Office and Personnel Committee to retain the services of a part-time acting general presbyter beginning January 1, 2012.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to empower the Office and Personnel Committee to develop a list of persons to cover tasks within the General Presbyter position, should there be a need between the departure of Sally Hinchman on December 31, 2011, and the retention of someone to serve as part-time Acting General Presbyter.

Communications – Martin Stokes reported they are planning on recognizing the key church communicators at the February 2012 Presbytery Meeting. The Committee is in the planning stage of hosting webinars. Google Apps is being offered free to churches and has the potential for a unified and highly inclusive approach to communication.

Church Development – Charlie McFarlin reported on two conferences *Getting Unstuck* and *Standing at the Crossroads*. Approved funding request from the Seneca Rocks session. Noted several churches are in the process of mission studies.

Budget & Finance – Beth Pyles reported for the committee noting that the Committee did consider the request from the floor of the August Presbytery concerning funding of the mission communities and elected to continue with the same recommendation it previously made and Council approved.

The following recommendation to the Council was approved:

To amend the 2012 budget to include \$3,000 for the Virginia Chaplaincy Services.

Council went into Executive Session to discuss personnel costs. The minutes of the executive session will be presented and approved during an executive session at the next Council meeting. The recommendation in the 2012 Budget for a 1% cost of living adjustment for all staff was not changed.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to authorize the General Presbyter Search Committee to advertise \$65,000 to \$75,000 for the base salary range.

Council voted to suspend the policy of bringing into balance the 2012 budget with the top figure of the negotiating range for the General Presbyter position, as this will not be an issue until 2013. This will be reported to the presbytery as a challenge towards their giving in the upcoming budget years, and will not be referred back to the B & F. (Beth Pyles voted no)

Council voted to create a special committee of Council to review the staffing priorities of Shenandoah Presbytery. The committee will consist of Patrick Petit, Beth Pyles, Karen Thatcher, and two members to be named by Office and Personnel. The committee shall report on their progress to the January meeting of Council.

Council approved the request of the Committee that a financial review of the 2011 and 2012 financial books be conducted in lieu of a full audit.

Nominations – John McDonald reported the following slate of commissioners for the 2012 General Assembly will be presented at the November 8 Presbytery meeting:

Principal Teaching Elders: Bob Osborne, Sally Robinson, & Patrick Pettit

Alternate Teaching Elders: Ann Ross, Tim Arnold, & Charlie McFarlin

Principal Ruling Elders: Mary Lou McMillin, Jim Johnston, & Linda Koogler

Alternate Ruling Elders: Ellen Blose, Janet Scott, & Linda Ritchie

YAAD: Logan McDonald

Presbyterian Women – submitted a written report noting the moderator-elect for 2012-2014 is Sue Hotinger.

Eastern Panhandle – reported the music festival held at Tabler Church was the best ever! Officer training will be held at Little Falls Church on November 5.

Central Valley – submitted a written report noting they are exploring a joint mission trip in 2012.

Mountain Valley – submitted a written report noting a successful CROP Walk was held October 2 and officer training will be held November 13 at Sherando Church. Beginning fund raising for constructing a multi-use shower trailer for use by WATTS (Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter), possibly by Camp Paddy Run, and if needed by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Highland-Augusta – upcoming meeting October 18. Dan Williams noted that the report of this past July's Baja Mission Trip is posted on the presbytery web site under the HAMC page.

Maury River – reported the last contracted trip for Living Waters for the World to Guatemala is scheduled after Easter in 2012; the Mission Next Door work done in Glades Springs was successful; elder training to be held October 29 at New Monmouth; considering a Holy Week services in 2012 to encompass all of the Maury River churches; and will hold a youth rally at Bethesda Church on December 29.

Staff Reports

Interim General Presbyter/Stated Clerk – Sally Hinchman reported that an elder from the Hedgesville Church who recently passed away, has named Shenandoah Presbytery in her will, specifically for world missions and small churches from the former Winchester Presbytery. Sally attended the dedication of the new windows at the Chapel at Westminster-Canterbury. In the process of title transfer for Round Hill Church for closure and becoming a chapel of Second Opequon Church. In the process of title transfer to the Clark County Cemetery Association of the Stones Chapel property. Looking at a possible sale of the Poplar Hill property.

Treasurer – received audit to present to the November 8 Presbytery meeting. Recognized Lucille for her faithful years of service.

Resource Coordinator – Lisa Hedrick reported the Big Event attendance was 270+ and very successful.

Communications/HAE – Doug Sensabaugh reported while updating the Shenpres web site allow more interactivity with possible conversation and video and online event registration. Volunteer Farms did not have a successful year due to weather conditions.

Unfinished Business

Facilities Task Force – discussed the proposed recommendation of the Task Force to recommend to the November 8 Presbytery meeting that the property of Shenandoah Presbytery be sold.

Motion made, seconded, and approved to refer to a special committee of Council to obtain additional options if and when the property is sold. Authorized the Council Chair, Interim General Presbyter, and Presbytery Moderator to form the special committee.

Shenandoah 2010 – it was 3:20 p.m. when this item came on the agenda. Motion was made, seconded and approved to hold a special meeting on November 29 to address the remaining items from Shenandoah 2010 and the membership of the Nominations Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m. with prayer by Charlie McFarlin.

Next meeting: SPECIAL MEETING November 29, 2011, 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by,

Kim T. Stroupe