

May 4, 2024 Presbytery Meeting

The meeting was held at St. Andrew, Lynchburg. Worship was led by Dave Roberts of St. Andrew and guest speaker Hannah Anderson. There were 87 voting members present and a total of 102 people in attendance. Thirty-four churches were represented by ruling elder commissioners.

Hannah Anderson offered a workshop on how the gifts of the land we live on are a part of the way we tell God’s story. What is natural to us in southwest Virginia is not always brought out, and we have many gifts to bring, and witnesses to share because of it. She spoke with the hope, in creation, that spring, and life always come again, and how this is a reflection of the story we are promised in scripture, that God is always promising something new.

Synod Commissioner John Wiederholt presented Campbell Memorial with a Small Church Grant from the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic to be used to update their heating system with ductless pumps that are more efficient and better for the environment.

Delegates to this summer’s General Assembly were also commissioned during the meeting. They are: Teaching Elder Peter Thompson, Teaching Elder Vernie Bolden, Ruling Elder Joyce Perez, and Ruling Elder Michael Whorley.

Nancy Gray, chair of the Task Force appointed to review the Presbytery’s Newly Acquired Assets Policy, gave a verbal report on actions taken to date. The task force anticipates having a final report and any recommendations to bring to the Presbytery by the stated meeting in October.

**Presbytery Actions Taken at the Meeting**

* Dismissed the Rustburg Administrative Commission as of May 31, 2024.
* Commissioned Nancy Gray as a missional commissioned pastor to the Roanoke Valley neighborhood.
* Examined and Approved Christina Cosby for Ordination to a validated ministry as Associate for Domestic Issues for the Office of Public Witness.
* Approved the following candidates to serve on commissions and committees of the Presbytery:

 Justice & Mercy Commission

 Ruling Elders Denise Pillow, Ann Nelson and Jennifer Lawhorne

 Commission on Administration

 Ruling Elder Kim Wiederholt

**Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery Between Meetings**

**Commission on Ministry**

* Approved change of membership ship status of Reverend Terri Cornwell to Member at Large.
* Approved stated supply contracts from January 1 to December 31, 2024 for David Dickerson and Fincastle Presbyterian, Rodney Wilson and Montvale Presbyterian, Randy Bremer and Appomattox (PE)Presbyterian.
* Approved the recommissioning of Phil Berry with Villamont Presbyterian effective January 1 to December 31, 2024
* Approved the Clifton Forge mission study and granted permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.
* Approved the temporary supply contract between Pearisburg Presbyterian and Steve Darr effective February 11, 2024 to February 10, 2025.
* Approved administrative commission to install Steve Willis at High Bridge Presbyterian on March 3, 2024.
* Approved part-time stated supply contract between Shawn Hyska and Westminster Presbyterian Church effective March 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024.
* Approved grants in the amount of $1,488.61.

**Commission on Administration**

* Approved a request from Fairlawn PC to sell their manse.
* Formed an insurance review work group to review the Presbyterian insurance policies.
* Approved the recognition of Juneteenth as a holiday for the Presbytery.
* Provided an update that the purchase of the Presbytery office should be completed in June.

**Justice and Mercy Commission**

* Approved $6500 in Justice & Mercy grants.
* The Earth Care subcommittee approved $1050 in mini grants.

**Church Partnership Commission**

* Created three sub committees:
* Discipleship, Higher Ed, Young Adults, Youth, Christian Ed, The Resource Center and Outdoor Education.
* Church Development and Evangelism, New Worshiping Communities and New Church Development
* Church Neighborhood/Missional Communities
* Voted to set aside $10,000 for scholarship for summer camps.
* Awarded $25,000 in grants.
* Voted for the balance of the Church redevelopment grant awarded to Christiansburg PC be refunded and encouraged them to request another grant if needed.
* Church Partnership was tasked by cabinet to coordinate speakers and educational opportunities for Presbyterian meetings this year. Hannah Anderson was with us in May. Tim Marema, the editor of the Daily Yonder, “the only national news organization for real people and places”, will be with us in October.

Full minutes for this Presbytery meeting, including details on personnel actions can be found under “Resources” on the website, www.p*eakspresbytery.org*.