

Upcoming Events

Presbytery Staff Retreat – October 1-2, 2007
Council – First Church, Ripley – October 23

YOUR PRESBYTERY STAFF

Gay Mothershed Executive Presbyter
John Bolt Stated Clerk
Lois Coffey Financial Administrator/Treasurer
Terry Cunningham Ministry with Older Adults
Susan Sharp Campbell..... Associate for Educational Ministries
Karen Robinson..... Resource Center Director
Sherri Walker Information Services Director
Margaret Bolt Office Coordinator
Erica Panaro Bluestone Conference Center Secretary
Mark Miller Director of Bluestone Conference Center
Carolyn Arbuckle Hunger Action Enabler/Co-Staff Resource for Quadrant 3
Mary Jane Knapp..... Special Presbyter for Quadrant 1
Peter Vial.... Assoc. for Congregational Development/Co-Staff Resource for Quad 3

PRESBYTERY OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Monday thru Thursday

Phone (304) 744-7634 Fax (304) 744-7649

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Presbytery Digest

Presbytery of West Virginia

Quadrant Presbytery Meetings

September 6, 7, 10 & 11, 2007

The Presbytery met in quadrants in the following locations: Quadrant 2 - September 6th at **Glenville Church**; Quadrant 3 - September 7th at **Trinity Church, Shady Spring**; Quadrant 1 - September 10th at **Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, Hurricane**; and Quadrant 4 - September 11th at **Elk Hills Church, Charleston**. Moderator **James Harless** presided at all four meetings, which were attended by 234 individuals. A number of individuals attended more than one of the quadrant meetings so that total attendance was 286.

Presbytery welcomed **Stephen Baldwin**, pastor of **Ronceverte Church**, during the Quadrant 3 meeting and recognized the retirement of **Kay Hollis, Summersville Church** in Quadrant 2 and **John Niles, Enslow Park Church, Huntington** in Quadrant 4.

Each meeting began with afternoon worship and the focus of each of the meetings was a Bible study using Romans 12:1-2. Then the Congregational Development Committee's Transformation Team led a discussion of the missional church. These small group discussions are part of our effort to reexamine our mission statement and to imagine new possibilities for our future.

Because the intent of the quadrant meetings was to promote fellowship and our connectional life little business was included. However, some essential business was conducted and votes were recorded by hand counts in each meeting with the final vote total determining whether or not a recommendation was approved. Business items that were considered include the following:

- The 2008 Presbytery budget was presented in a narrative form that emphasized the mission and people represented by the dollars. The budget for 2008 includes expenses of \$1,006,830 and income of \$1,006,830. Income comes from congregational giving through per capita, which remains at \$25.00 per person, and shared mission giving; the Presbytery's donor designated funds; outside funding from the Presbyterian Housing Foundation and Hunger Program, which help support two staff positions;

and interest income and gifts. The budget was approved as presented with a vote of 167 to 1.

- The Personnel and Administration Committee recommended that Presbytery concur with the request of **John Harris** for the dissolution of his relationship as the Special Presbyter for Quadrant 2 and pastor at **First Church, Buckhannon** effective July 29, 2007 so that he might follow his wife, **Vicki Moss**, to New York where she has accepted the call as pastor of the Ridgewood Presbyterian Church. **George Spransy** read a letter in Quadrant 2 in recognition of John's 6 years of service to the Presbytery and the letter was also read in the other quadrants by Stated Clerk **John Bolt**. The recommendation was approved with a vote of 144 to 0.
- The Committee on Ministry presented a recommendation that the minimum compensation for pastors and Christian educators in 2008 be increased by 2.5% to a minimum cash salary of \$28,290. This recommendation is based on the cost of living as determined by the US Department of Labor Statistics. In addition, they recommended that those persons above the minimum also receive at least a 2.5% increase. This recommendation was approved by a vote of 143 to 2.
- The Nominating Committee presented two names for nomination for service to Synod: **Mavis Grant-Lilley**, elder from First, Morgantown Church, as a synod commissioner in the class of 2010 who was elected by a vote of 137 to 0; and **Mary Arritt**, elder from Fayetteville Church, as a youth advisory delegate in the class of 2008 who was elected by a vote of 138 to 0.

Gay Mothershed, the Executive Presbyter, introduced the Presbytery staff at each of the meetings and gave a brief summary of their job responsibilities. The Personnel and Administration Committee reported that they are experimenting with alternative ways of providing staff support because of the three vacant Special Presbyter positions and distributed a questionnaire asking for feedback on the Special Presbyter model. In addition, there was a first reading of a *Manual* change to increase the Stated Clerk's position from 1/4 time to 3/8 time, this recommendation will be voted on at the November Presbytery meeting.

The Mission Interpretation and Stewardship Committee recommended that the offering from the quadrant meetings be designated for earthquake victims in Peru through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. A total of **\$1,454.33** was received. They also reported that three delegates from the Presbytery of Nyeri will be visiting from November 19 to December 3, 2007.

The Finance and Development Committee approved a \$1,505.00 grant for **First Church, Dunbar** from the Mission Development Fund to provide handicap accessible restrooms.

The Christian Nurture and Worship Committee announced plans for a **Confirmation Retreat** on October 12-13 at the Montgomery Church or October 26-27 at Clifton, Maxwelton; for **Equipping Elder Events** October 28 at Clifton, Maxwelton and November 4 at Beckley Church or Beverly Church; for the **Older Youth Retreat** at Bluestone Camp on November 9-10; and once again appealed for information on how congregations are serving children in their church and community as part of the Decade of the Child.

The Committee on Ministry recommended approval of the renewal of the stated supply covenant between **Richard Hill** and **Richwood Church**; and the approval of seven moderators. All of these recommendations were approved on the consent agenda. They also reported the following covenant agreements: **Pamela Eliason** as pastor of the **Union and Centerville, Greenville Churches**; **Mike Ducheneau** as pastor of **Bates Memorial, Huntington Church**; **David Bush** as interim pastor of **McKinnon, Charleston Church**; and **Cameron Harkness** as interim pastor of **Marlinton Church**. They have approved the ordination and installation commission of **Stephen Baldwin** as pastor of the **Ronceverte Church** and dismissed the following pastors: **Ed Thompson** to Presbytery of Northern Kansas, **George Bendall** to Presbytery of Mississippi, **Malcolm Brownlee** to Shenandoah Presbytery, **Gene Lassiter** to New Harmony Presbytery, and **Dong Chan Kim** to North Seoul Presbytery in the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea.

The Social and Ecumenical Ministries Committee announced plans for a **Mission Trip** to work with the RHINO - Rebuilding Hope in New Orleans - project of the St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church in New Orleans the week of February 10. You must be 16 years old or older to participate and both skilled and unskilled labor will be needed. If you are interested in participating, contact either George Lilley at (304) 599-2352 or Pamela Eliason at (304) 772-3332.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reported that **Leslie Clay** had completed her final assessment and has been certified ready to receive a call and that **Joanne Glaser** has been enrolled as an inquirer under care and is a student at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

The Trustees reported that the congregation of the **Richwood Church** was given permission to sell their manse.

**The next Presbytery meeting will be:
Thursday, November 29, 2007 – Riverlawn Church, St. Albans**