

Highlights

Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

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PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its regular quarterly meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, with First Presbyterian Church of Paducah, Kentucky, acting as the host church. The meeting was held via Zoom with more than forty people participating.

Call to Worship and Constituting Prayer

The meeting was called to order with prayer at 10:00 a.m., by Teaching Elder Renee Meyer of First Presbyterian of Murray and Moderator of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky.

Devotional

The morning devotional was led by Teaching Elder Charlie Evans who is currently serving as interim pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville. Currently serving as Stated Clerk of the Synod of Living Waters, Rev. Evans brought greetings from the synod leadership. Rev. Evans chose as his text Isaiah 6:1-8. A familiar passage, Rev. Evans, who is also serving as interim director of the Commissioned Lay Pastor program of the Presbytery, devoted much of his devotional message to the men and women who currently serve as lay pastors in many of the churches of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. He noted that presently there are nine churches in our presbytery

being served by lay pastors. Rev. Evans saluted those individuals who had answered a call with the familiar phrase from the book of Isaiah "Here am I. Send me." Rev. Evans stated that many of the individuals serving as CLPs had additional part- and full-time jobs as well as their pastoral duties. He closed by commenting on the continuing need for CLPs and urged those present to look around their congregations and see if they noticed any elders who might be interested in serving in such a capacity.

Installation of Moderator and Vice-moderator for 2021.

Rev. Meyer Moderator of Presbytery; Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick, Coordinating Presbyter; and Ruling Elder Ben Talley, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, presided over the installation of Ruling Elder Ralph Young of First Presbyterian Church of Paducah and Commissioned Ruling Elder Pam Goolsby of First Presbyterian Church of Hopkinsville as moderator and vice-moderator respectively for 2021. Mr. Young and Mrs. Goolsby answered the traditional questions of installation. Rev. Meyer offered a prayer for Mr. Young and Mrs. Goolsby seeking blessings and offering thanks. Rev. Dick thanked Rev. Meyer, outgoing moderator, for her service. He promised to deliver the official gavel and chain to Mr. Young soon. Mr. Young, too, thanked Rev. Meyer for her leadership and service.

Introduction & Seating of Corresponding Members

Moderator Young recognized the following individuals as corresponding members: Rev. Bobby Spurling, Donna Webster, and Rev. Charlie Evans. It was moved and seconded to grant these three individuals the right of voice without vote. Motion carried.

Stated Clerk's Report

Ruling Elder Ben Talley, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, declared a quorum present. He presented requests for excuses for the meeting. It was moved and seconded to approve the requests. Motion carried. The docket for the day was presented. With no changes, it was moved and seconded to approve the docket. Motion carried.

Mr. Talley noted that the minutes of the following meetings had been approved by the Oversight Commission on January 14, 2021:

- a. Oversight Commission meeting of October 13, 2020.
- b. Presbytery meeting of November 10, 2020.

The minutes of the Oversight Commission meeting of January 12, 2012, were presented as information.

Mr. Talley reported that the 2020 Session Statistical Report is to be completed and submitted on or before February 18, 2021. He provided a link to the website for completing the report online and stated that Karen Harris at the Presbytery Office would be available for help to anyone having difficulties completing the form.

Mr. Talley noted that the Administrative Manual of the Presbytery required the Stated Clerk to take note of resident Teaching Elder members of Presbytery in order to ensure a balance between Teaching Elders and Ruling Elder Commissioners. Upon review, he stated that there remains an adequate balance with no adjustments needed at this time.

Mr. Talley presented the 2020 necrology report and offered a prayer of thanks for the service of the following individuals:

Mr. Talley reported that the 2019 minutes of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky were peer reviewed and approved without exception by the Synod of Living Waters.

Teach-In

Stated Clerk Ben Talley led the mornings teach-in. Devoted to church security, Mr. Talley's presentation was both informative and timely. He employed a PowerPoint presentation and noted that the slides would be available on the presbytery's web page in the event that a congregation wished to present them for discussion and/or information.

BUSINESS MEETING

Commission on Ministry

Teaching Elder Timothy Davis reported for the COM. He noted the following:

1. A motion to dissolve the relationship between the First Presbyterian Church of Murray and the Rev. Renee Meyer effective March 1, 2021, as requested by the congregation of First Presbyterian of Murray. Motion carried. Rev. Meyer has accepted another position in Rome, Georgia.
2. At the suggestion of Rev. Sharon Murray, it was moved to combine the director of CLP and CRE coordinator. Rev. Charlie Evans will prepare such a job description.
3. The COM is currently developing a visitation plan.
4. The COM is in the process of developing a program wherein a COM member will be assigned as liaison to each PNC. This is currently being developed by Rev. Davis and Rev. Kenneth Dick.
5. The covenants of Tommy Thompson at Russellville, Don Crousore at Ebenezer and Caney Fork, Pam Goolsby at Hopkinsville, (Donna Webster has been approved as temporary pastor at Princeton United

Central) have been reviewed and approved by the COM.

Rev. Davis asked that the COM remain in the prayers of all members of Presbytery.

Nominating Committee

Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick, Coordinating Presbyter, reported for the Nominations Committee. He noted that the departure of Rev. Renee Meyer from the Presbytery of Western Kentucky left a vacancy on the Oversight Commission. It was moved that Ruling Elder Carol Brand continue for a second term as moderator of the OC. Motion carried.

Finance Committee

Ruling Elder Nancy Tankersley reported for the finance committee and called attention to the financial report provided for January 2021, in the day's packet. She noted that 2020 year-end financial reports were available from the Presbytery office. Mrs. Tankersley reported on the continued success of various Presbytery grants and noted the March 15, 2021 deadline for emergency grant applications. Mrs. Tankersley asked those present to refer to the brochure in the day's packet that addressed the *Per Capita* funding and stated that additional brochures were available at the Presbytery office. It was moved to raise the *per capita* funding to \$12.07 per individual for the year 2022. With no opposition, the motion was passed unanimously.

Ruling Elder Carol Brand spoke to the continuing activities of the Muhlenberg County Task funding and grants and noted that four Muhlenberg County agencies had benefited from the grants and were serving the community. Thanks to the task force were expressed by several individuals. It was noted that Ruling Elder Eric Hoey had asked to be relieved of his duties on the task force. Thanks were expressed to Rev. Hoey for his service. A replacement for him will be chosen by the Church Development committee, according to Rev. Dick.

Youth Committee

Ruling Elder Leslee Kirkconnell reported for the Youth Committee. She stated that there were plans for a youth fall retreat at Camp Loucon scheduled for October 29-31, 2021 and the Tri-Presbytery event scheduled for November 12 & 13, 2021, at the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green. Mrs. Kirkconnell noted that a number of new pieces of curriculum materials were currently available and that she would be happy to assist any congregation with selections.

Presbyterian Women

Ruling Elder Chris Krueger reported for Presbyterian Women. She noted a meeting via zoom scheduled for Monday, February 15, 2021. Miss Krueger reported on the seventy-year mission success of Mission Haven and addressed the seven dollar per person support and/or the seventy dollar per church support for the Mission Haven endeavor. She also reported on plans for the PW Spring Gathering scheduled for April 15, 2021. It will be announced at a later date whether the Spring Gathering will be an in-person meeting or via zoom.

Church Development

Teaching Elder Hoey reported for the Church Development Committee. He noted the continued success and growth of the Matthew 25 Vision initiative and told of a few opportunities to learn more about Matthew 25 including at the May 2021, meeting of Presbytery. He brought the good news that the Presbytery of Western Kentucky has been chosen to be a part of the Vital Congregations Initiative

Coordinating Presbyter's Report

Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick, Coordinating Presbyter of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, echoed Rev. Hoey in celebrating the success of the Matthew 25 program, stating that over ⅓ of the churches in our presbytery are participating in the program. Rev. Dick reminded that there would be a Presbytery Retreat on Saturday, February 27, 2021. In-person meeting (complete with lunch provided!) will be at the First Presbyterian Church

of Madisonville and that the retreat will also be available (sans lunch) on zoom. He urged all committees of Presbytery to schedule a meeting for that day. The retreat will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:00 noon. Additional information will be sent to the churches next week.

Joys and Concerns

Rev. Renee Meyer announced that First Presbyterian Church of Murray was offering members of Presbytery the opportunity to view the documentary "The Long Shadow" and participate in discussions. The documentary will be available for viewing through February 17, 2021.

Rev. Kenneth Dick requested prayer for the congregation of Owensboro Central Presbyterian Church who have suffered the deaths of three members in the last few months.

Teaching Elder Matthew Covington of the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green reported that the Bowling Green congregation had been active, along with the participation of other agencies, in providing internet access to over one thousand school children in the community.

Rev. Covington suggested that we continue to pray for the leaders of our churches as they make important decisions regarding the reopening of the churches along with such issues as church safety.

Teaching Elder Daniel van Beek of Franklin Presbyterian Church reminded us of the importance of praying for the homeless in our communities.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Ralph Young at 11:55 a.m.

The next meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky will be on May 11, 2021. The Presbyterian Church of Henderson will serve as host.