

Highlights

of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky

Volume 38 No. 1

Wayne Goolsby, Editor

February, 2017

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



The Presbytery of Western Kentucky met for its regular quarterly meeting at Central Presbyterian Church of Princeton, Kentucky, on Tuesday, February 14, 2017. A delightful buffet of breads and beverages awaited members and guests of Presbytery as they visited in the church's beautiful atrium space.

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Teaching Elder Lynn Shurley, Jr., Moderator of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky.

Worship

Ruling Elder Shane Fortner of Central Presbyterian led the Call to Worship. Teaching Elder Sharon Murray led the Prayer of Confession. Commissioned Ruling Elder Charly Morgan read Isaiah 6:8. Commissioned Ruling Elder Tom Thompson led the worship service with a sermon entitled "Whom Shall I Send?". Music was provided by organist Rachel Childress and the Central Presbyterian Chancel Choir. Stated Clerk Ruling Elder Ben Talley read the 2016 Necrology and led in the recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Installation of Moderator

Teaching Elder Lynn Shurley, Jr.; Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick, Coordinating Presbyter; and Stated Clerk Ben Talley presided over the installation of Ruling Elder Mabeth Cortner as Moderator of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky for 2017. Rev.

Shurley recognized Ruling Elder Nancy Tankersley for her service to Presbytery during the time following the resignation of Lisa Troutman in late 2016. Newly installed Moderator of Presbytery Mabeth Cortner noted that she was both honored and humbled to stand as the Moderator and to follow such leaders as previous Moderators Lynn Shurley, Jr.; Nancy Tankersley; Matthew Covington; and Frank Montgomery. She expressed thanks to all those individuals who had been so supportive of her.

Communion

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was observed under the auspices of Teaching Elder Kenneth Godshall, pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, and Commissioned Ruling Elder Tom Thompson.

Welcome

Teaching Elder Kenneth Godshall welcomed members and guests to Central Presbyterian and noted that this year marks the 200th anniversary of the Presbyterian denomination in Caldwell County, Kentucky.

Introduction and Seating of Corresponding Members

Ruling Elder Vera White of PC(USA), Teaching Elder Jeff Otto of First Presbyterian of Franklin, and Teaching Elder Eric Hoey of the Presbyterian Church of Henderson were recognized as corresponding members, granted voice without vote. First-time Elder Commissioner Shirley Michael of First Presbyterian of Madisonville was recognized also.

Stated Clerk's Report

Ruling Elder Ben Talley, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, declared a quorum present. The docket for the day was approved without change. Mr. Talley presented minutes of several meetings as well as information regarding correspondence. It was noted that the 2015 minutes of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky were peer reviewed by the stated clerk of another presbytery during 2016, and were approved without exception.

A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve a resolution in loving memory of Teaching Elder John Griffith, who died on November 26, 2016, following many years of service to the Presbyterian Church and to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in particular.

Mr. Talley also presented an item from the First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville seeking sponsorship for thirteen members of that congregation to travel to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico on April 1, 2017, as part of the Living Waters for the World mission team in order to qualify for travel insurance offered through the PC(USA) at no expense or administrative obligations to the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. Mr. Talley moved to approve the request. Motion seconded and carried.

Teach-In

Ruling Elder Vera White of PC(USA) presented a very interesting and informative session entitled "1001 Worshiping Communities" devoted to new church development, a timely presentation for the Presbytery of Western Kentucky. Following the power-point presentation, a time for questions and answers as well as discussion was provided.

Presbytery adjourned for a delicious lunch in the church fellowship hall following a prayer of grace offered by Teaching Elder Ken Godshall. Following lunch, Presbytery reconvened with prayer by Moderator Mabeth Cortner

Personnel Committee

Ruling Elder Frank Montgomery introduced Nancy Harris who will be the office manager at the Presbytery office. Mr. Montgomery thanked Nancy Tankersley for her time, effort, and energy at the Presbytery office during the past several months.

Mr. Montgomery commented on changes to the Administrative Manual and the Personnel Policy. He reported that the pastoral relationship between Rev. Archie Fugate and First Presbyterian Church of Sturgis had been dissolved; the Covenant between Mr. Larry Isakson and Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church had been dissolved; the Remedial Complaint filed with the Synod of Living Waters PJC by the former members of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Central City had been dismissed by the Synod PJC; and that Mr. Tom Miller of Paducah had been retained to represent the Presbytery and the COM in litigation involving several cases.

Coordinating Presbyter's Report

The Coordinating Presbyter's Report was included in the day's packet. Rev. Dick noted that Ruling Elder Ralph Young of Paducah was serving as Moderator of the Synod of Living Waters. Rev. Dick also reported on workshops regarding abuse prevention to be presented by Commissioned Christian Educator Leslee Kirkconnell to be held on March 9, 2017, at Central Presbyterian Church of Princeton and at the Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green on March 18, 2017.

Joys and Concerns

Wayne Goolsby noted the continuing success of the M.O.T.A. campus ministry at Murray State University; Jenna Goggins reported that a MSU M.O.T.A. student would be a part of a mission team to Guatemala in March; Christine Coy Fohr noted the success of the ecumenical International Center in Henderson and its work with Somali refugees; Leslee Kirkconnell reported on the Educators' Conference to be held next year in Louisville and stated that scholarship money would be available; Tom Moody noted that over 500 people came together to support the international community in Bowling Green and that the Presbyterian Church congregation was well represented there; Nancy Tankersley thanked Presbytery for the opportunity of serving Presbytery in a variety of capacities in the last three years and commented on what a pleasure it was to work with such a great group of ministers and elders. Mabeth Cortner expressed concern for the family and friends of a young Princeton man who had been killed the previous evening.

There being no further business, Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Mabeth Cortner at 1:50 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky will be on May 9, 2017, at the First Presbyterian Church of Murray, Kentucky.



Coordinating Presbyter Report

The presentation at presbytery regarding new worshiping communities was very helpful. It provided a positive perspective as we take steps forward to explore new possibilities in the presbytery. Something especially helpful, as illustrated by the examples presented, is that a successful outcome does not necessarily involve a full-time installed pastor in a stand-alone physical structure with a steeple on top. Church can be created and expressed in many different ways. With that in mind, may we be attentive to the opportunities in our own neighborhood as we seek to share the joy found in our commitment to Christ. And as the Church development and visitation committee is overseeing new outreach in Warren County and Clarksville (as well as other possibilities), a critical mass of people willing to commit to assisting the launch for a limited period of time (usually six months) can greatly enhance the initial work. If you are interested in being part of that critical mass, contact me or the committee for more information.



We look forward to 2017 being a productive year as we connect with one another in new ways of sharing the good news. And that includes a prayer that all our current worshiping communities may know anew the joy of the risen Christ as we travel through the self-reflection of the Lenten season to finally celebrate the victory of Easter Sunday morning.

Ken

