

Highlights

Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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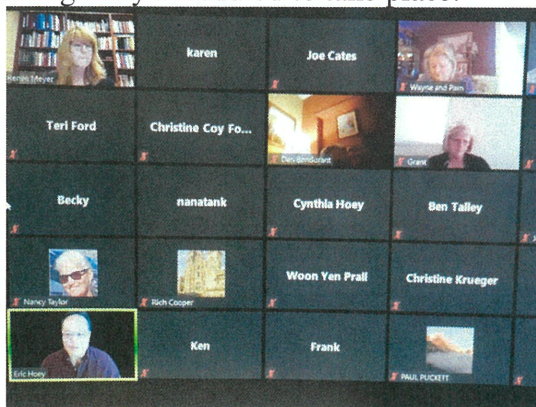
Wayne Goolsby, Editor

May 14, 2020

PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS



In a decent and orderly manner, the Presbytery of Western Kentucky entered the 21st Century on Tuesday, May 14, 2020, when its regular, quarterly meeting, due to the Coronavirus Quarantine, was conducted via “Zoom”. Nearly fifty individuals participated in the unprecedented form of meeting. Many thanks are due to Vice Moderator Ruling Elder Ralph Young who hosted (i.e., “set up”) the meeting along with co-hosts Teaching Elder Renee Meyer, Moderator of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky; Ruling Elder Ben Talley, Stated Clerk; and Teaching Elder Eric Hoey, pastor of the Henderson Presbyterian Church where the meeting was originally scheduled to take place.



Call to Worship and Constituting Prayer

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Moderator Meyer at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Meyer

thanked everyone for their patience and urged us to “be a source of strength for each other...,” as we “try to navigate these uncharted waters”. Rev. Meyer went over Zoom guidelines and policies for everyone.,

Devotional

Teaching Elder Eric Hoey of the Henderson Presbyterian Church offered the morning devotional. In a calm and reassuring manner, Rev. Hoey urged us to do what Jesus did in times of stress and trouble. “Pray,” he said. Reading from I Peter 5:7, Rev. Hoey advised us to “replace worry with prayer.” In closing, he reminded us “Let us never stop being the church”.

Commissioning to the General Assembly

Coordinating Presbytery Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick led the commissioning of individuals who will serve as Commissioners and Delegates to the 2020 General Assembly. It, too, will be held via Zoom and be considerably different from previous General Assembly meetings, but nonetheless, just as important. Teaching Elder Renee Meyer will serve as Commissioner with Ruling Elder Carol Brand serving as Commissioner. Alternate Commissioner will be Teaching Elder Kenneth Godshall and Ruling Elder Nancy Tankersley will serve as alternate Advisory Delegate. It was announced that designated Young Adult Delegate Natasha Taylor would be unable to participate. A replacement will be sought. Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick led the commissioning ceremony, asking questions of the four individuals who answered appropriately. Rev. Dick offered prayers for our Commissioners and

Delegates as well as for the entire General Assembly.

Introduction and Seating of Corresponding Members

It was moved and seconded that Rev. Bobby Spurling of Lester Memorial Church be granted 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 the proposed docket for the meeting as found in attendees' packets. With no changes or additions, it was moved and seconded to accept the proposed docket as the docket for the day's meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Talley presented:

Minutes of Meetings

- a. Oversight Commission meeting of January 14, 2020, approved by Oversight Commission on April 14, 2020.
- b. Presbytery meeting of February 11, 2020, approved by Oversight Commission on April 14, 2020.
- c. Oversight Commission meeting of April 14, 2020, as information.

Correspondence and Information

- a. Session minute reviews will tentatively be held during the August, 2020, Presbytery meeting. For this review date, clerks may leave their Session books with the Stated Clerk at the beginning of the meeting and pick them up at the conclusion of the meeting. In the event that the August meeting cannot be held in person, arrangements will be made for electronic and/or as-requested review.
- b. Correspondence received from the General Assembly Meeting Services setting forth the agenda of the 224th General Assembly.
- c.

The Stated Clerk's report also included the Conditions and Progress Report of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky as of December 31, 2019. It was moved and

seconded to approve the report. Motion carried.

BUSINESS MEETING

Commission on Ministry

Ruling Elder Frank Montgomery reported for the Commission on Ministry. He noted:

- a. A contract between CLP Sharon Murray and the COM for Rev. Murray to serve as director of the Commissioned Lay Pastor Program.
- b. Pastor nominating Committees continue to function at First Presbyterian Church of Hopkinsville, at Franklin Presbyterian Church, and Mayfield Presbyterian Church.
- c. The COM manual has been posted on the Presbytery website.
- d. It was noted that the ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church was "no longer viable" due to mold infection in the main sanctuary and continual decline in membership/attendance despite numerous attempts to address the situation. It was moved for the COM to inform/address the Oversight Commission regarding the future/sale of the property and that the church be officially closed. Motion seconded and carried.

Finance Committee

Ruling Elder Nancy Tankersley reported for the finance committee. It was moved and seconded to establish a Task Force to oversee grants to individual churches of up to \$10,000 to address concerns/crises created by the pandemic with the total grant package not to exceed \$100,000. Funds can only be used for ordinary expenses (salaries, utilities, *etc.*) The task force will develop and review applications for funding and include the moderator of the finance team; the moderator of the board of trustees; and the coordinating presbyter. Motion carried.

Task Force

Ruling Elder Carol Brand reported for the current task force assigned with overseeing the funds

obtained from the sale of the Central City Property. She noted that the task force was meeting regularly and adhering to the guidelines of the Matthew 25 Program. The funds are currently in a CD. The task force will report further progress at the August 2020, meeting of the Presbytery.

Church Development/Matthew 25

Teaching Elder Eric Hoey reported on the continuing efforts and successes of the Matthew 25 Program. He presented a video hoping that it would “inspire Presbytery to do new and innovative things.”

Presbyterian Women

Ruling Elder Christine Krueger reported for PW noting that the spring gathering had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus issues. She stated that PW members should continue to produce the emergency kits and that they would be sent to Louisville soon. PW Birthday offering funds are due by June 1.

Youth Committee

. Certified Christian Educator Ruling Elder Leslee Kirkconnell reported on plans for a November 6-8 Camp Loucon experience for the youth of our Presbytery with leadership from Maryville College. She noted that Montreat activities had been cancelled. Plans are still underway for a Tri-Presbytery event in Bowling Green for November 2020.

Coordinating Presbyter's Report

Coordinating Presbyter Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick offered thanks to everyone who had helped make this meeting a success. He commented on directions from Governor Brashear regarding the opening of churches and plans from Presbytery to that matter. He stated that the current issues and conditions were affording churches the opportunities to try new and varied ways of worshipping. Rev. Dick urged continued patience and ministering together in these tough times.

Joys and Concerns

Concern was shared for Mr. Coverdale, a Ruling Elder at the Bowling Green Church who is very ill in the hospital. (Note: it was learned later that Mr. Coverdale had passed away).

Concern was noted for Teaching Elder Burt McGlawn and the death of his father. Concern was expressed regarding the death of Whitney Stratemeyer's mother, Concern was noted by Rev. Kenneth Godshall over the fact that several members of the Central Presbyterian Church of Princeton, Kentucky, had recently tested positive for the Coronavirus. A joy was shared concerning the successful and delightful use of puppets during the worship service at Franklin Presbyterian Church. Joy was noted over the tremendous participation and success of the meeting! Teaching Elder Gordon Gartrell, missionary to Brazil now here in the States, expressed gratitude over his recent successful cataract surgery and noted that he and Mrs. Gartrell would return to Brazil when travel restrictions are lifted. Moderator Meyer thanked everyone for the successful meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Teaching Elder Eric Hoey at 11:35 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky will be at Franklin Presbyterian Church on August 8, 2020.

