

# Highlights

## Presbytery of Western Kentucky

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Wayne Goolsby, Editor

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### ***PRESBYTERY HIGHLIGHTS***



The thermometer read thirty-three degrees and there was snow on some vehicles in the parking lot, but everything was warm and welcoming in the fellowship hall of First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, as members and friends of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky found a delightful buffet of pastries, fruits, and beverages waiting for them prior to the day's meeting.

#### **Call to Order**

Teaching Elder, Rev. Dr. Anthony Barta, Moderator of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky welcomed everyone to the meeting with the constituting prayer.

#### **Worship**

Reverend Christine Coy-Fohr, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro, led the morning worship by reading from the Gospel of St. Matthew 14:22-33. Relating a few of her experiences with the Young Adult Volunteer Program, she taught a song, the refrain of which noted "Christ is coming to make all things new". Rev. Coy-Fohr challenged those present by asking "What will your verse be?"



#### **Welcome**

Rev. Coy-Fohr welcomed members and guests to the First Presbyterian Church of Owensboro and noted the presence in the building, also, of a number of cute preschoolers!

#### **Introduction and Seating of Corresponding Members**

Rev. Dr. Barta recognized corresponding members Rev. Charlie Evans, now of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, Rev. Emily Blue of Dubuque Seminary, and Rev. Shin Choi Koan of the Presbytery of San Francisco who is currently serving at First Korean Church, along with Rev. Bobby Spurling, supply pastor at Lester Memorial. Ruling Elders Frances Griffith, Phyllis Renfrow, and Sandra Binham were also recognized. It was moved to seat these individuals, granting them the right of voice without vote. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded to allow the Elders from Central City to speak following lunch. Motion carried.

#### **Stated Clerk's Report**

Ruling Elder Ben Talley, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky, presented the Stated Clerk's Report. Mr. Talley declared a quorum present. With a few minor adjustments to the agenda, the presented agenda was approved as the working agenda for the day. Mr. Talley presented information regarding Session minute reviews held on May 8 and August 11, 2018, noting approved without exception: Bowling Green, Caney Fork, Henderson, Highland, Hopkinsville First, Lester Memorial, Madisonville, Mayfield, Mt. Zion, Murray First, Owensboro Central, Owensboro First, Paducah First, Pine Grove, Princeton United

Central, Russellville First, and Smith's Grove; approved with exception : Calvert City First, Ebenezer, Trenton; minutes not read: Auburn, Central City, Cecelia Memorial, First Korean, Franklin, Graham, Greenville, Morganfield, and Sturgis.

Mr. Talley reported that the Book of Order (D-5.0206) requires that the "stated clerk...shall keep a roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired during the past six years" and "...shall report the roster annually." The following are those former commission members still eligible for service:

2018: Rev. John Guthrie  
2017: Mrs. Jane Mosley, Madisonville First  
2016: Mrs. Donna Grant, Highland  
2016: Rev. Lynn Shurley, Jr.  
2014: Mrs. Vickie Davis, Sturgis  
2013: Mr. Frank Montgomery, Hopkinsville First

Mr. Talley reported an invitation from the Presbyterian Church of Henderson inviting Presbytery for the February 12, 2019, meeting of Presbytery. It was moved and seconded to accept Henderson's invitation. Motion carried

### **Teach-In**

The day's teach-in was led by Teaching Elder Emily Blue, Director of Continuing and Lay Education at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.

### **Business Meeting**

Ruling Elders Sandra Benham and Phyllis Renfrow of First Presbyterian Church of Central City spoke to their reaction to the recent closing of their church and of their hopes and plans for the future of that church and community.

### **Lunch**

Rev. Coy-Fohr offered a prayer of grace and thanksgiving prior to lunch in the fellowship hall.



### **Business Reconvened**

Following lunch, Rev. Dr. Barta offered a prayer as Presbytery reconvened for the remainder of the business segment.

### **Guatemala Mission Trip**

Teaching Elder Jenna Goggins reported on plans for the March 16-23, 2019 mission trip to Guatemala. She noted that the venture was a part of Promised Land Ministries, an organization with a successful twenty-year history. The group will build a house as well as engage in medical mission activities.

### **M.O.T.A. (Ministry Open to All)/Murray State University Campus Ministry**

Ruling Elder Mabeth Cortner reported for Ruling Elder Teri Ford. A written report from M.O.T.A. was included in the day's packet of information.

### **Bills and Overtures**

Ruling Elder Mabeth Cortner addressed the eight proposed amendments to the Book of Order that have been sent to the Presbyteries by the General Assembly. The Bills and Overtures Committee recommended passage of all eight items. It was moved and seconded to separate item 18-C from the list and that it be addressed separately/individually. Motion carried. Vice-Moderator Carol Brand moderated the discussion inasmuch as Moderator Anthony Barta spoke regarding the item. Following discussion, the amendment was rejected by a vote of twenty-two to three. Moderator Anthony Barta resumed his duties. It was moved and seconded to approve the remaining amendments. Motion carried in a unanimous vote of twenty-five to zero.

### **Finance Committee**

Ruling Elder Phil Fort presented the financial report, noting that the Presbytery was currently within the budget. He presented the 2019 budget. After several questions and comments, it was moved and seconded to approve the budget. Motion carried. Mr. Fort reported that, in an attempt to cut expenses, the Presbytery had adhered to a financial review rather than the more expensive audit procedure. It was moved and seconded to accept the financial review report. Motion carried.

### **Committee on Ministry**

Ruling Elder Frank Montgomery reported for the committee, noting that (1) the final worship service at First Presbyterian Church of Central City was held on Sunday, September 30, 2018, with a well-attended community-wide dulcimer concert. The AC for Central City remains in place, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Barta; (2) the final worship service at Auburn was a community-wide Veterans' recognition service held on November 11, 2018. Commissioned Ruling Elder Tom Thompson has provided valuable pastoral leadership to this congregation through their final decisions. Mr. Montgomery stated, "in both of these settings, exploration for next steps continues, with the aim of protecting the interests of the remaining members and the Presbytery of Western Kentucky in coordination with the Committee on Ministry and the Trustees". A number of comments were made, and questions raised by those present regarding the situations at the two churches.

Mr. Montgomery noted that pastoral leadership covenants had been approved by the COM between (1) Elder Don Barger and Highland Church; (2) Rev. Bobby Spurling (Cumberland Presbyterian pastor) and Lester Memorial; Mr. Billy Taylor and Cecelia Memorial Church; and Rev. Sewang Na of Tennessee and the Murray Korean Church. Rev. Shin Choi Koan is providing pulpit supply at First Korean Church of Clarksville and CRE Mike Bourland is leading worship at Tennessee Hills Fellowship in Clarksville.

The ordination commission for Rev. David Madewell has been dismissed with thanks. The Permanent Supply Pastor relationship between Rev. Charlie Evans and Hopkinsville First Presbyterian ended on October 31, 2018. Rev. Evans has moved his membership to the Mid-Kentucky Presbytery effective November 1, 2018, where he has accepted a call at First Presbyterian Church of Glasgow. A one-year agreement with Rev. Evans for the continuation of his duties as CRE Director is being developed. Administrative support of CRE programs will be provided by the Presbytery Office.

Mr. Montgomery asked for prayers for these congregations during their times of transition.

### **Youth Committee**

Ruling Elder Leslee Kirkconnell reported that forty-six individuals attended the recent retreat held at Camp Loucon this fall. She presented plans for a high school mission trip Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center in Lithia, Florida, on June 22-29, 2019. Mrs. Kirkconnell presented flyers promoting the event. She also reported that plans were in the making regarding a possible youth meeting next spring open to people from all three Kentucky Presbyteries similar to the recent conclave held at Danville.



### **Committee on Nominations and Representation**

Rev. Charlie Evans reported for the committee. It was moved that Teaching Elder Ken Godshall and Teaching Elder Lynn Shurley, Jr., be appointed to the Committee on Nominations and Representation, a motion from the Oversight Commission. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded to approve the nominations slate as presented. Motion carried.

### **Coordinating Presbyter's Report**

In addition to his written report, a part of the day's packet, Teaching Elder Kenneth Dick, Coordinating Presbyter, commented on plans currently being made for a January 19, 2019, committee meeting for training for mission insight. He expressed thanks to those individuals who had attended the recent Tri-Presbytery meeting held in Danville. He noted that the Murray Korean Church had recently installed two new Elders and that he was aware of a number of positive things happening in the Presbytery. He extended holiday blessings to those present.

### Joys and Concerns

Joy was expressed for the great morning worship service. Thanks were noted for those individuals who had worked for the betterment of the churches which had recently closed. It was noted that the need for communication among and between the churches was still needed. Karen Napier expressed thanks for cards and prayers for her and her ministry following her recent surgery. Owensboro Central Presbyterian noted thanks for Rev. Blair's continuing radiation treatments. Thanks were noted for Rev. Charlie Evans' friendship and encouraging attitude. Joy was celebrated with First Presbyterian Church of Madisonville's recent successful clean water project in the Yucatan last month. Rev. Spurling expressed thanks to Rev. Evans for his leadership and involvement in the Christian County Ministerial Association. Concern was expressed for clergy who often struggle with finding the right and appropriate words to express world events in preparation for messages. Concern was expressed for the health of Ruling Elder Bell Muth.

*It had been a day of much seeking and searching...a day when passions often ran high and emotions ran deep...but still things progressed in the prescribed decent and orderly manner of the Presbyterian church. May the sweet spirit of our Lord and Savior bring peace to all concerns and situations.*

-T.W.G.

With no further business, it was moved and seconded to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Moderator Anthony Barta at 3:00 p.m.

**The next scheduled meeting of the Presbytery of Western Kentucky will be at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, February 12, 2019, at the Presbyterian Church of Henderson, Kentucky.**



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