

Presbytery in Brief

The 126th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina met on January 30, 2021 via the miracle of Zoom.

Cam Murchison and Marie Palacios were very patient in answering our questions about how to make it work, and how to vote, and how to raise our hands. They'd be good kindergarten teachers! We are grateful for their careful advice and for them and others who ran the technical side of this meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by the moderator, Dick Larson. He immediately installed the moderator for 2021, Hal Bennett, and vice-moderator, Sarah Thornburg.

The moderator called for the Clerk to present the docket, which was adopted by common consent. A quorum was present.

The consent agenda was adopted by common consent.

Beth Gunn, staff Associate Presbyter for Youth, announced that the Presbytery High School Mission Retreat has been rescheduled to March 26-27 with a new format.

Our ever-cheerful General Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, led us in worship, assisted by the Rev. Leah Epps of Fairview and United Churches in Lenoir, and the Rev. John Hagmann of First Church, Morganton. Organist Glenn Little of the Davie Street Church in Raleigh provided the music. The sacrament of communion was celebrated, and all were able to partake in their homes. The sermon was on Mark 1:21-28.

After worship, we were split into twenty-two breakout rooms by our able administrators. We shared with a few people what our congregations have been doing during this very strange year.

Coming back to plenary, we resumed our meeting. Charles Sellers presented the budget for 2021, and answered a few questions. The budget was adopted by common consent.

The Personnel Committee presented the remuneration amounts for the Presbytery's staff; this passed.

Whit Malone attempted to present the COM report, but was overtaken by the radio station PWNC, 530 AM, where "Mo Degrassi" (sometimes known as John Pea) presented several people:

- Rob Warren was welcomed as new pastor at First, Marion;
- Lynn and Robin Honeycutt were examined by the Presbytery to become Commissioned Co-Pastors at the Sweetwater church. The examination was sustained, and Lynn and Robin were commissioned. Sweetwater will celebrate this at a Service of New Beginnings soon.

These presbytery members were recognized for their length of service, retirement or completion of the CLS program:

<u>25 Years Service</u>	<u>50 Years Service</u>	<u>75 Years Service</u>	<u>Honorably Retired</u>
C. Lynn Michie	Patrick Hardy	James A. Cogswell	Wanda Neely
Margie B. Stansell	William J. Serjak		Luke Harkey
Keith B. Freeman	Neal Lloyd		Merri Alexander
			Charles Davenport
			Bobbi White
			Randall Boggs
			Terry Hanna
			Gary Van Brocklin
			Chris Taylor
			Joanne Glaser

CLS Graduates (2020)

Richard Collier
Frank Denniston
Charlita Lytle
Nancy McFadden

The Christian Education Committee reported on the upcoming Celtic Spirituality Retreat. Vivian Hare presented this video. The virtual retreat is scheduled for March 12-13, 2021.

The Rev. Jill Isola reported on the Matthew 25 Initiative and shared a video about it.

Elizabeth Little, our Board of Pensions area representative, reported on the work of the Board. Items of interest:

- On March 1, the Board will go paperless. Invoices will be accessed on line.
- On January 1, prescription service was switched from OptumRX to Express Scripts.
- Temporary disability was added to the benefits package for ministers for 2021.

As always, Elizabeth is ready to help those having trouble with any aspect of the Board's policies.

The General Presbyter, the Rev. Dr. Byron Wade, reported on his activities these first few months, and his offer of "video lunch dates" for those interested.

The Rev. Tempe Fussell prayed prayers of intercession for those whose names we raised.

Moderator Hal Bennett prayed for the Presbytery's work and ministry, and the meeting was adjourned exactly at noon!

Respectfully submitted,

David Roquemore
Pastor, First, Newton