

Presbytery-in-Brief **October 21 - 22, 2011**

The **90th Stated Meeting** of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina convened at Lake Junaluska Lambuth International Room at 9:00 AM on October 21, 2011. *James Aydelotte*, Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and with attendees singing the Doxology. The Stated Clerk *Bert Sigmon* declared a quorum. The proposed docket was adopted. The **Omnibus Motion** was moved and approved.

Attendees participated in a **Service of Worship** including the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Worship leaders were retiring moderator *Dr. James Aydelotte* and incoming moderator *Patricia Clark*. Keynoter, *Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer*, Editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, preached a sermon entitled "The Wheat and the Shark," with scripture from Matthew 13:24-30. He implored those present to "elevate your vision – see beyond the field, see beyond the sheep." Music for the service of worship was led by Mike Barker and The Prophets of Praise from the Black Mountain Presbyterian Church.

Following his morning sermon, Jack Haberer led two subsequent presentations entitled, "*Prophet in Residence*" and "*What is to Become of Our Church?*" His presentations may be available as webinars in the near future. Small group discussions about the future vision of our churches followed his afternoon discussion.

Bert Sigmon, Stated Clerk, presented three recommendations from the **Coordinating Council**. All three were approved. They included: (1) Mrs. Florence Shelor (Black Mountain), Mrs. Mollie Trosper (West Avenue), Dr. Hamp Lefler (FPC Hickory) and Mrs. Ginny Gernoske (Trinity) to serve on the Nominating Committee; (2) the revised Standing Rules for the Presbytery, effective January 1, 2012; (3) permission to Third Street Presbyterian Church to refinance their existing loan. The report also included a suggested Manual of Administrative Operations for all congregations.

Sarah Thomas spoke for the **Christian Education Committee**. She told of a day retreat planned for February 25th led by Mary Todd Peters – at FPC Morganton. Eade Anderson told of the hope for the creation of the **Resource Center** at Montreat by moving materials from Morganton if funds can be raised.

Florence Shelor, chair of the **Nominating Committee** reported on their work and presented nominations for commissioners to the 220th (2012) General Assembly. The following were elected as commissioners from the Presbytery of WNC: Revs. Riley Covin, Margaret Torrence, and Bill Campbell; Elders Barbara Ross, Gayle Deas and Jay Crane. Miss Emma Frellick was elected as Youth Advisory Delegate. The following were elected as alternate commissioners: Revs. Shannon Kershner and David Morgan and Elder Frela Beck. Two commissioners to the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic were also approved: Rev. Eddie Deas and Mrs. Martha Rockett.

Cindy Moore gave a report on behalf of the **Hunger Committee**.

Dave Cohn reported on behalf of the **Peace and Justice Committee**. Kevin Frederick reported on the work to prevent domestic violence in Guatemala and on AIDS education.

Billy Lowe spoke on behalf of the **Mission Committee**. He spoke of the mission teams to Malawi, members of teams and introduced Tommy Burlison as a key member of the teams. He also expressed the need for stethoscopes and knit baby caps (no red). Prayers are also needed.

Bill Kantonen, newly elected moderator of the **Synod of the Mid-Atlantic**, spoke of the reorganization of Synod. Meetings of Synod now take place at Ginter Park PC in Richmond.

Nancy Dimmock who is a Missionary to Africa spoke of the work she and her spouse Frank are doing in Africa with children orphaned by AIDS. Nancy then led **Prayers of Intercession** pending our break for lunch.

Bobbi White, General Presbyter, spoke of our being "the vine and the branches" of the church – connected by God's grace. Next year our focus will be *evangelism* – reaching out. She proposed that we fish not just with poles, but with nets!

Ed Brenegar spoke of **Stewardship**. He pointed his perception of the good work of this Presbytery as he works with other NC Presbyteries. He works with colleges and universities in all NC Presbyteries. We

need to grasp the image of the Presbytery as connectional. The PWNC provides help to 25% of our churches transitioning to new pastors and support is provided for small churches. There are advances in medical programs in Malawi because of money from PWNC churches. John McCall, Becca Young, Barbara Nagy, and others, are making a difference in the world because of funds from here. *New church development* is alive and well in the Presbytery of Western North Carolina.

Testimony about help from PWNC: New Vision Church (Conover, NC), Crossnore PC (Barbara Ross speaking), United PC, Lenoir (Steve Austin speaking), Community Kitchen in Canton (Beverly Brock speaking). *Church works for those who work in the church!*

Dwight Christenbury spoke on behalf of the **Care of Church Professionals Committee**.

Grace Boyer and Dave Cohn were introduced as recently married (not to each other!) church professionals and a reception was held to celebrate their marriages.

Following supper, the Presbytery had a spontaneous hoe down of singing “the old songs.” This was a delight of many.

Bob Craddock, from Kenilworth PC spoke of work they do through a garden and a pantry which serves many in their community . . . *Good News from Churches*.

Beth Gunn spoke of the work of the **Youth Committee**. A Middle-School Retreat is planned for November 11-13 at Camp Grier on February 24-25, a Senior High Mission Retreat is planned in Asheville.

Barbara Ross, on behalf of the **Committee on Ministry** introduced new ministers who are coming to PWNC: Deneise Liss from Salem Presbytery as interim pastor at Long Creek PC; Margie Boyd from Salem Presbytery as designated pastor at Cullowhee PC; Bob Lowry as honorably retired; Judith Weger and Brian Weger from Presbytery of the Peaks as honorably retired. *Barbara Ross* continued with a recommendation that Tom and Pat Queen and Marcia and Russ Reighley be commissioned, which was approved. Tom and Pat Queen have been called to be the CLPs at Union Mills. Marcia and Russ Reighley have been called to be the CLPs at Sweetwater. The commissioning service was led by the moderator. Also approved were the validated ministries of the following: David R. Lytle, William Buchanan, Mike Johnston, Robert A. McCully, Jr., Joan C. Martin, Lynn Michie, Robert Tuttle, and Monty B. Burnham.

The Presbytery joined in a reflective evening worship. Following worship, some people joined Jack Haberer and Nancy Dimmock for further discussions.

At the request of the Session from Dulatown Presbyterian Church and upon recommendation from some members of the Committee on Ministry, an Administrative Commission was appointed for Dulatown Presbyterian Church.

Joseph Washburn, presented a report from the **Campus Ministry Committee**. He spoke particularly of the involvement of students at Lees McRae College in church work at Banner Elk PC.

Sarah Thomas, **Black Mountain Home for Children** and *Mae Weed*, **Grandfather Home for Children**, shared the services and work of the homes. They encouraged churches in the Presbytery to have a liaison for the Homes and to continue to keep them in prayer.

Nancy Dimmock of *Ministry of Hope Lesotho* spoke once again of the situation in Africa. She said that 15 Million children have lost parents to AIDS. There are 180,000 orphans in Lesotho alone. Malawi has a program for orphans. There were 60 to begin with, now 3,500 in day care – “Ministry of Hope.” HIV is destroying families. Work for infected families/parents is scarce. Nancy is excited about working with mothers, children and orphans in Lesotho. “I’m excited about adoption!” She and Frank have adopted several children themselves.

Bob Tuttle, on behalf of the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**, introduced Shelby Ethridge, from First Presbyterian Church, Burnsville, as a candidate for ministry, which was approved by the Presbytery.

Following the prayer of a **resolution of thanks** by *Allen Smith*, and closing worship led by *Charles Davenport*, *Ellen Dozier* and *Anita Bernhardt*, Moderator James Aydelotte closed the meeting with prayer and a blessing.