

## PRESBYTERY IN BRIEF

January 28, 2017

On a crisp winter's day, 191 Presbyterians gathered in the lovely Lincolnton First Church and participated in an inspiring service of Word and Sacrament, led by **Danny Trapp** (host pastor), **Terry Cline** (co-host pastor from the Pine Street congregation in Lincolnton), and **Joan Martin** (Covenant Village, Gastonia) - which was enhanced by a fine choir under the direction of **John Lineberger**. The two congregations also provided splendid hospitality, which was much appreciated.

If any think that our PCUSA cannot adapt to new and effective ways of worshipful ministry, they should have witnessed the examination and approval of **Lisle Garrity** for ordination as a "pastor and sanctified artist - a creative entrepreneur, seeking to deepen our worship experience by filling Christ's Church with more color, paint, mystery and creativity." Our Presbytery also welcomed **John Pope** (professor at Montreat College in Charlotte), **Thom Nelson** (retired but still active) and returning (yeah!) **Wanda Neely** (transitional pastor for Morganton First).

As is the case every other January, there were proposed amendments to the Constitution. With spirited but respectful debate on some, all but one was approved. The amendment concerning persons who had renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA – was disapproved. The Presbytery seemed especially pleased to welcome back the title "Minister of Word and Sacrament," along with "Teaching Elder."

Two more proposed amendments concerning the revised Directory for Worship are scheduled for the next Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, April 25 in Montreat. A good overview of the revised Directory was given by **Jane Vann**, assisted by **Kathy Campbell** and **James Aydelotte**. All are urged to attend one of two in-depth seminars on this important change: Tuesday, February 28 in Canton, or Tuesday March 28 at Northminster (Hickory).

This meeting was ably led by newly installed Moderator **Susan Denne** and Vice-Moderator **Melvin Meares**, along with Stated Clerk **Cam Murchison**. Other important actions were:

- Adoption of the budget for 2017, well explained by **Jay Crane**. The contributions of all congregations were listed, including 27 non-giving churches.
- Deceased Teaching and Ruling Elders during 2016 were movingly remembered.
- **Otis Wilson**, for the Personnel Committee, recommended modestly increased stipends for the Presbytery staff, which were enthusiastically approved,
- **Adam Bowling** and **Rick Leissner** announced a Spiritual Retreat on March 31–April 1 in Flat Rock.
- **Dick Larson** and **Feild Russell** (variously disguised) stated that the H.O.P.E. Campaign had reached \$1.7 million, with the anticipation of additional contributions by the end of March. They also praised several good projects already being funded.
- **George Hutchins** was honored on his retirement.
- **Daria Ragan** offered our prayers of intercession.
- Reports from several administrative commissions were received, and the one for the Walnut Grove church was dissolved with the thanks of Presbytery.
- Several exciting Youth Events were announced (details on the Presbytery website).
- A mission trip to West Virginia to help with flood recovery will be on April 30–May 6.
- The Guatemala Partnership has scheduled several trips and meetings in 2017 (email [pwncguatemala@gmail.com](mailto:pwncguatemala@gmail.com) for details.)
- The Hunger Committee announced seven grants, totaling \$47,520.
- All were urged to remember the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 5.
- Good reports were received from Associate Presbyter **Billy Robinson** and General Presbyter **Bobbi White** (to whom we sang "Happy Birthday").

Work well completed, the commissioners were blessed on their homeward journeys by the Moderator.  
James Aydelotte, scribe

## **RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

Teaching Elder John Pruitt, Transitional pastor of New Hope Presbyterian Church, Gastonia and Ruling Elder Linda Hobson, Montreat Presbyterian Church, submitted the following Resolution of Thanks for the 111<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina held at the historic First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton, NC.

WHEREAS being able to assemble, walking on heart of pine wooden floors where many saints have trod for 100 years to worship and to address church business we are grateful, and

WHEREAS the assembly was welcomed with warm hospitality by the body of believers at First Presbyterian Church, Lincolnton

AND WHEREAS we give thanks for:

- A service of worship and celebration of the Lord's Supper that inspired attendees to think about God's call to unlikely people as we all are directed to "Go To The Street Called Street"
- Service of Necrology celebrating the life and ministry of Teaching and Ruling Elders who entered the church triumphant in 2016;
- A decent and in order discussion and vote on Amendments 16.B, 16.C, 16.E, and 16.F;
- Jane Vann's paper power point presentation, Introduction to the proposed Revisions to the Presbyterian Church (USA) Directory of Worship;
- The inspiring examination and approved ordination of Lisle Gwynn Garrity to a validated ministry as Creative Director, A Sanctified Art LLC;
- For ministers transferring: Teaching Elders Wanda Neely, John Nelson Pope, and Thom Nelson;
- Recognition of the honorable retirement of Teaching Elder Joel David Cherry;
- The latest edition of Wait, Wait, Don't Ask with reports from Bo Cephas, Percy of Possum Trot, and several other friends on the progress of the Building Hope Campaign;
- The work of the Finance Committee in presenting a sustainable 2017 Budget;
- The planning of the Christian Education Committee for a Spirituality Retreat this spring, including writing and receiving a grant to make it an affordable retreat for all;
- For the fine work of the Youth Committee in developing programs and mission trips for our youth;
- For Bobbi White's encouragement of all Presbyterians to invite people to come to worship at their churches;
- The good news Jordan Davis shared of the ministry of Union Presbyterian Seminary;
- Andy Thomas' faith testimony on being a YAD and the ministry of 12 Baskets in Asheville;
- The staff and leadership of the Presbytery office for their hard work in preparing all the materials for the meeting, sending them to participants, and ensuring that the meeting runs smoothly;
- People across the region who give of their time, talent, and resources to serve God through the Presbytery and for those visitors who attended the meeting;
- A time of fellowship with friends from across the Presbytery;
- The Installation of 2017 Moderator Susan Denne and Vice-Moderator Melvin Meares;

NOW THEREFORE, we resolve that God, from whom every good and gracious blessing comes, be praised, and we offer thanksgiving to God for the divine love and mercy that surrounds us all the days of our lives, both as a covenant people and as individuals, nourishing us with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to respond to God's calling in the night with "Here Am I Lord, I will go Lord if you lead me" to witness and service so all will know of God's gracious love and care.