Abingdon Presbytery seeks by the grace of God to nurture its congregations and pastors and to foster Christian unity among them, and to offer and develop leadership in order that congregations will grow in faith and in numbers, and to exhibit the Kingdom of God, thereby witnessing to the Lordship of Jesus Christ throughout Southwest Virginia and the world.
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MINUTES OF ABINGDON PRESBYTERY
112th STATED MEETING – NOVEMBER 8, 2012
HILLSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HILLSVILLE, VA

PRESBYTERY CONVENED

The 112th Stated Meeting of Abingdon Presbytery met at Hillsville Presbyterian Church in Hillsville, VA on November 8, 2012.

PRESBYTERY IN WORSHIP

Morning worship began at 9:30 a.m., which was lead by the Presbytery Mission Trip Team.

ROLL OF MINISTERS

P = PRESENT; E = EXCUSED; A = ABSENT

(E) Aichel, O. George
(P) Baldwin, C.W. Eugene
(P) Bird, Timothy E.
(P) Campbell, Kevin M.
(E) Carlisle, Chris
(E) Carpenter, Catherine Y.
(E) Conn, George M., Jr.
(E) Davis, Mary
(A) Gipe, William C.
(P) Gray, Frederick A.
(E) Guthrie, Weston B.
(E) Haga, Nancy Katherine
(E) Hagen, Ted, II
(E) Heintzeleman, Jack W.
(P) Hendrickson, James D.
(A) Hoffman, Dennis J.
(E) Humphreys, Levi H., Jr.
(P) Kronk, Ronald W.
(P) Lacy, L. Edwin
(E) Liston, J. Miller
(E) Lominack, Robert N., Jr.

(P) Markel, John E.
(P) Martin, Jon E.
(P) Martin, Susanne S.
(E) Mayo, Wiley E.
(E) McChesney, Charles
(E) Muncie, II, Donald R.
(E) Murray, Curtis A.
(E) Nash, Charles E., Jr.
(P) Palubicki, Tony R.
(E) Parker, Donald G.
(P) Parkey, Andrew
(E) Privette, Cynthia E.
(P) Reynolds, Tim
(P) Simpson, Joseph Bradford, IV
(E) Smith, Rockwell M.
(E) Thornton, Robert S.
(E) Tolar, Robert R., Sr.
(P) Wadsworth, P. David
(E) Weller, Michael S.
(P) Whartenby, Thomas J., Jr.
(P) Wood, D. Greg

ROLL OF COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS

(E) Barnett, Madge
(P) Canter, Phyllis
(P) Hutton, Cathy
(A) Inazu, Donald
(A) Litton, Darlene
(P) Matney, Edward
(P) Parish, Bill

(A) Talbert, Stephen
ROLL OF ELDER COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE

ANCHOR OF HOPE – JEWELL RIDGE –
ANDERSON MEMORIAL – LEBANON – David Angle
BETHEL – Jean Dunham LOCUST COVE –
BIG STONE GAP – Grace Bradshaw MAPLE GROVE –
BLAND-LEYBURN – MARY’S –
BUCHANAN FIRST – Kyle McClanahan MARY MARTIN MEMORIAL –
BUFFALO MOUNTAIN – Myrna McGlamery McCALL’S GAP –
CASTLEWOOD – McIVER MEMORIAL – Mary Ann Blevins
CENTRAL – Jean Bane

DAMASCUS – OAKWOOD –
DINWIDDIE – Sandra Quesenberry POUND -
FAIRVIEW – Douglass Dobbins POWELL VALLEY – Walter Rollins
FINCASTLE – Duane Davis RICHLANDS –
GALAX FIRST – RICH VALLEY –
GALENA – Howard Manley RIVERVIEW –
GATE CITY – ROCK SPRING –
GLADE SPRING – Lee Brannon ROYAL OAK – Jim Kelly
GLADEVILLE – SEVEN MILE FORD –
GRACE – SINKING SPRING – Peta Patton
GRAHAM – SPRING CREEK -
GREEN SPRING – Tom Deaton STONE MEMORIAL – Emma Patton
HIGH POINT - TAZEWEWAL – Ward Lester
HILLSVILLE – Matt Hooven THOMPSON VALLEY –

VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE

Mava Vass, Hillsville Kayla Quesenberry, Fairview
David McKee, Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Bessie Rollins, Powell Valley
Guydell Slate, Dinwiddie Michael Crotts, Fairview
Billy Rice, Children’s Home of the Highlands Ron Doerschug, Hillsville
Brenda Lindsey, Buffalo Mountain Sophie Shrader, Oakwood
Allen Bogue, Bethel Alyssa Markel, Walnut Grove
Deanna Grant, Bethel Jason Crotts, Fairview
Becky Grant, Bethel Michael Thomas
Renee Shrader, Oakwood
Hazel Horton, Fairview
Peggy Slate, Dinwiddie
Serving of Communion
Communion Music: “Eat This Bread”

Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Prayer
Closing Hymn: “Have You Seen Jesus My Lord”

Have you ever stood at the ocean
with the white foam at your feet
felt the endless thundering motion?
Then I say...you've seen Jesus my LORD

Have you ever looked at the cross
with a man hangin' in pain
seen the look of love in His eyes?
Then I say...you've seen Jesus my LORD

Have you ever stood in the family
with the LORD there in your midst,
seen the face of Christ on each other?
Then I say...you've seen Jesus my LORD

Passing the Peace of Christ

One: May the Peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.

The worship service this morning is being lead by our Presbytery Mission Trip Team. Last Summer this group of people spent 6 days in New York City working in soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries, and sightseeing. The group studied the New Testament letter of James, studying and worshipping together nightly. The Presbytery, through the Compassion Committee, supported this trip, and this worship service is part of our thanks to God and to this Presbytery, for this opportunity to serve and learn and grow in Christ.

This service is patterned after our Mission Trip Worship services.

Gathering Music
Shine Jesus Shine

Lord the Light or Your Love is shining,
In the midst of the darkness shining,
Jesus light of the world shine upon us,
Set us free by the truth You now bring us,
Shine on me. Shine on me.

Refrain: Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land with the Father’s glory
Blaze, Spirit blaze, Set our hearts on fire
Flow, river flow
Flood the nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord and let there be light.
You Are My All In All w/m Dennis Jernigan

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
I'm seeking You like a precious jewel
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God
Holy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God
Holy is Your name

Taking my cross my sin my shame
Raising again I praise Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I run dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside

As the Deer
As the deer panteth for the water
So my soul longeth after thee
You alone are my hearts desire
And I long to worship thee

You're my friend and You are my brother,
Even though you are a king.
I love you more thank any other,
So much more than anything.

I want You more than gold or silver,
Only You can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy Giver,
And the apple of my eye.

Great is Thy Faithfulness
"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
"Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thine hand hath provided
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord unto me!

Assurance of Pardon- Tony Palubicki

Scripture Readings and Reflections
Those who participated in the mission trip will read selected verses from the Letter of James and reflect upon their experiences.
- Becky Grant
- Peggy Slate
- Sophia Shrader
- Deanna Grant

Prayer - Michael Thomas

Celebration of the Lord's Supper
Invitation to the Table: Andy Parkey and John Markel
Words of Institution
9:00 am  Registration-Fellowship-Refreshments
9:30 am  Morning Worship Service  Abingdon Presbytery Youth Mission Team
10:00 am  Call to Order and Prayer by Moderator of Presbytery  Tony Palubicki
10:00 am  Declaration of Quorum  Tony Palubicki
10:00 am  Appointment of Standing Committees
10:00 am  Welcome and Announcements  Gale Legg
10:00 am  Introduction of Guests and Recognition of First-time Elders
10:00 am  Introduction of New Business
10:00 am  Adoption of the Docket
10:40 am  Stated Clerk’s Report  Kevin Campbell
10:50 am  Council Report  Guydell Slate
10:50 am  Small Group Discussion about Presbytery Leadership Needs
11:00 am  Nominating Committee Report  Jon Martin
11:00 am  Administrative Commission Report  David Wadsworth
11:00 am  Small Group Discussion on Dismissal Policy
11:50 am  Report from GA Commissioners  Grace Bradshaw
11:50 am  Brad Simpson
12:00 pm  Announcements and Lunch Blessing
12:10 pm  Lunch
12:50 pm  Reconvene with Hospitality Committee Report
1:00 pm  Committee on Ministry Report  Bill Parish
1:45 pm  Budget Committee Report  Ron Doerschug
2:05 pm  Personnel Committee Report  Tim Bird
2:30 pm  Compassion Committee Report  Phyllis Canter
2:45 pm  Preparation for Ministry Report  Brad Simpson
2:55 pm  Church Development Committee Report  Greg Wood
3:25 pm  Written Reports
3:25 pm  Presbyterian Women Report
3:25 pm  Children’s Home Report
3:25 pm  Report of Synod Assembly Commissioner
3:25 pm  Closing Worship (Wild Goose Style)  Edwin Lacy
3:45 pm  Anticipated Adjournment
PRESBYTERY IN MISSION & DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The moderator of Presbytery, Reverend Tony Palubicki, called the meeting to order with prayer. The Reverend Kevin Campbell, Temporary Stated Clerk, declared a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET & APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The following Standing Committees were appointed for this meeting of Presbytery:

Recording Clerk: Mrs. April DiYorio, asst. to the stated clerk, Presbytery staff

Hospitality Committee: The Reverend Brad Simpson, Wytheville Church
The Reverend Susanne Martin, Member-at-Large
Elder Peta Patton, Sinking Spring Church

Temporary Clerks: The Reverend Andy Parkey, Locust Cove/Rich Valley Churches
The Reverend Tim Reynolds, Sinking Spring Church

Bills & Overtures: The Reverend David Wadsworth, Central Church
The Reverend Tim Bird, Glade Spring Church
Elder Sue White, Walnut Grove Church

WELCOME

Elder Gale Legg, clerk of session of the host church, welcomed Presbytery to Hillsville Presbyterian Church, Hillsville, VA.

Elders attending Presbytery for the first time and visitors were recognized and introduced to Presbytery.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The docket was unanimously adopted after the Presbytery approved the following amendment to the docket. Upon the recommendation of the stated clerk, and after properly being seconded, the small group discussions that were scheduled as a part of the Committee on Ministry Report and the Personnel Committee report were removed from the meeting agenda.

STATED CLERK’S REPORT & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Teaching Elder Kevin Campbell presented the Stated Clerk’s Report.

The Presbytery approved all of the recommendations contained in the Stated Clerk’s Report. Two recommendations in the report were particularly important. First, the Presbytery unanimously approved a resolution that requested that Abingdon Presbytery quitclaim its interest in the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA. The following is the approved resolution:

Whereas, Abingdon Presbytery dissolved the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA at its stated meeting on July 16, 1968, at the Hillsville Presbyterian Church.

Whereas, Abingdon Presbytery has neither supported nor sponsored a church or worshiping community at the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA for forty-four years.
Whereas, Abingdon Presbytery has ceased approved ministerial work and services at the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA.

Whereas, the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA is to return to the ownership and control of the Brown family if Abingdon Presbytery cease to use the property for church purposes.

Whereas, the Brown family has requested that Abingdon Presbytery support them in the efforts of deeding the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church to charitable, non-profit organization for the purposes of preserving the property and church building of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA as a historical landmark.

Be it resolved that Abingdon Presbytery hereby and henceforth quitclaims any and all interest that it may have in the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church.

The second significant action that Presbytery approved from the Stated Clerk’s Report was the filing of an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia in support of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America and The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in defense of an appeal from The Falls Church concerning who controls the ownership of church property.

The Presbytery also unanimously approved the minutes of the June 14, 2012, stated meeting of Abingdon Presbytery, which met at the Galax Presbyterian Church, and the minutes of the September 13, 2012, called meeting of Abingdon Presbytery, which convened at the Glade Spring Presbyterian Church.

The Presbytery also approved that all ministers requesting to be excused from all or a part of the Called Meeting of Presbytery were granted their excuse, and all Honorably Retired ministers not in attendance were excused; all clergy serving in temporary pastoral relationships with Abingdon Presbytery congregations, as well as representatives from Presbyterian Church (U. S. A.) governing bodies and institutions, were granted the privilege of the floor, without vote. The Presbytery also granted visitors to this meeting of Presbytery also be granted the privilege of voice and participation in the small group discussions. Visitors were not granted the privilege of the floor or vote for the plenary discussions.

Finally, Rev. David McKee, executive and stated clerk for the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, was invited by the Presbytery to serve as acting stated clerk and parliamentarian in the event that temporary stated clerk, Kevin Campbell, needed to be absent or excused from the meeting.

(Please see the Stated Clerk’s Report in the following minutes.)

COUNCIL

Elder Guydell Slate gave this report on behalf of the committee to the Presbytery.

After presenting the informational items in the Council Report, Elder Slate moved action items 1, 2, and 3 on behalf of the Council. The Presbytery unanimously approved these recommendations. Elder Slate then read and presented action items 4-7 to the Presbytery. All four of these action items dealt with various recommendations concerning executive presbyter and stated clerk leadership for the Presbytery. Once Elder Slate presented action items 4-7 to the Presbytery, the moderator of Presbytery then arrested debate on these items and invited the Presbytery to discuss them in small groups. The small group discussion began at 11:10am. At 11:25am, after fifteen minutes of small group discussion, Moderator
Palubicki called the Presbytery back into plenary session. The moderator also invited each small group to share comments and questions with the plenary body that were raised during the small group discussion. After approximately thirty minutes of respectful dialogue, the moderator ended debate and asked the body to vote on the Council’s remaining action items. Elder Slate then moved action item #4, which was approved after it was amended by removing the word “part-time” from two places in the recommendation. The motion as amended and approved by Presbytery is: “That Presbytery begins the process of calling a permanent Executive Presbyter and a permanent Stated Clerk.” Elder Slate then moved action items 5 and 6, which were unanimously approved by the Presbytery. Finally, Elder Slate moved recommendation 7. After some discussion and debate, action item 7 was disapproved by the Presbytery with a vote of 19 “yes” and 22 “no.”

Please see the Council Report in the following minutes.

Following the Council Report, teaching elder Kevin Campbell moved, that because the Presbytery was running almost one and one-half hours behind schedule, that docket be amended and that Presbytery reconvene from lunch at 12:50pm with the Hospitality Committee Report and then pick up the docket starting with the Nominating Committee Report. This motion was seconded and approved.

The Presbytery recessed for lunch with a prayer at noon.

LUNCH

The Presbytery reconvened following lunch at 12:50pm. The following Hospitality Committee report was given by Elder Peta Patton:

Whereas: Abingdon Presbytery was received with genuine Southwest Virginian hospitality to Hillsville Presbyterian Church for its 112th Stated meeting on November 8, 2012.

Whereas: Worship was celebrated with the leadership of the Presbytery’s New York Youth mission team and the coming together of God’s people for Communion.

Whereas: A delicious feast was prepared and enjoyed by commissioners and friends alike.

Whereas: We continue to face the challenges of our Presbytery’s future with trust in the guidance and presence of God’s Holy Spirit.

Whereas: We celebrate with joy the possibilities and potential of the Wild Goose Fellowship and its ministry in our Presbytery.

Be it resolved that: The Abingdon Presbytery thanks God and the members and Pastor of Hillsville Presbyterian Church for hosting our feasting, fellowship and faith gathering.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Teaching Elder Jon Martin presented this report. The committee’s nominations were approved by the Presbytery.

Please see the Nominating Committee Report in the following Minutes.
ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

Teaching Elder David Wadsworth presented this report.

Before placing the revisions to the Guidelines for Churches Seeking to be Dismissed to Another Reformed Body before the Presbytery, Dr. Wadsworth reminded the body of Dr. Jimmy Grant’s death and expressed appreciation for Dr. Grant’s many years of faithful service to the larger Church and to Abingdon Presbytery. Dr. Wadsworth then placed the revised guidelines before the Presbytery for a seconded reading. Immediately, teaching elder Greg Wood moved a substitute motion that the revised guidelines be referred to the Committee on Ministry for further study and revision. The substitute motion to refer was seconded and before the body. At this point moderator Palubicki arrested debate and invited the Presbytery to talk about the revised guidelines and the motion to refer in small groups.

After ten minutes of small group discussion, the moderator called the Presbytery back to plenary session and put this question before the Presbytery: “Shall the substitute motion to refer the Guidelines for Churches Seeking to be Dismissed to Another Reformed Body become the main motion?” The motion passed.

The main motion before the Presbytery was: “That Presbytery refers the Guidelines for Churches Seeking to be Dismissed to Another Reformed Body to the Committee on Ministry for further study and revision.” At this point, an amendment was moved and seconded that the language of “Committee on Ministry” be amended to “Presbytery Council.” After a brief debate the moderator put this question before the body: “Shall the motion as amended that the Presbytery refers the Guidelines for Churches Seeking to be Dismissed to Another Reformed Body to the Presbytery Council for further study and revision become the main motion?” This motion was approved by the Presbytery. So, the main motion before the Presbytery was: “That Presbytery refers the Guidelines for Churches Seeking to be Dismissed to Another Reformed Body to the Presbytery Council for further study and revision.” The main motion was approved by the Presbytery.

Please see the Administrative Commission Report in the following Minutes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS’ REPORT

Teaching Elder Brad Simpson and Elder Grace Bradshaw reported on their experiences at the 220th General Assembly Meeting.

Please see their written reports on the following Minutes.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

Elder Bill Parish presented this report.

At this time a Service of Commissioning was held according to the Book of Order and the Presbytery Manual of Operations. The following Commissioned Ruling Elders were re-commissioned to the church they are currently serving for a new three year term:

   Cathy Hutton – Whitetop
   Edd Matney – Dye Chapel

Ruling elders Bobby Endicott (Walnut Grove PC) and David Kester (Dinwiddie PC) were recognized as CREQ(s), and eligible to be commissioned to serve a congregation.
The 2013 minimum terms of call for full time ministers, the 2013 pulpit supply list, and the 2013 stated supply commissioned ruling elders list were approved by the Presbytery.

Teaching elder Allan Chapman was granted permission to labor inside the bounds of Abingdon Presbytery for 2013. He is serving as the stated supply pastor of the McIver Memorial Presbyterian Church.

Finally, the following church minutes were approved without exception for 2011:

- Anchor of Hope
- Big Stone Gap
- Bland-Leyburn
- Buchanan First
- Buffalo Mountain
- Central
- Clark Memorial
- Fairview
- Fincastle
- Galena
- Gate City
- Grace
- Green Spring
- Hillsville
- Lebanon
- Locust Cove
- McIver Memorial
- Powell Valley
- Riverview
- Rock Spring
- Royal Oak
- Seven Mile Ford
- Sinking Spring
- Stone Memorial
- Tazewell
- Thompson Valley
- Vansant
- West Fork
- Wytheville

Please see the Committee on Ministry’s full written report in the following minutes.

**BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT**

Elder Ron Doerschug presented this report. The Presbytery unanimously approved its 2013 Operating Budget with the following amendments:

1) The line item funds designated to the Church Development Committee be released for Church Development Committee without designation subject to all policy and use guidelines of the Presbytery; and
2) The budget line item (1-50117) designated for the Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community be reduced from $2,400.00 to $500.00.

Please see the committee’s full report in the following minutes.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

Teaching Elder Tim Bird presented this report. The Presbytery approved the committee’s recommendation that Kevin Campbell be approved to serve as acting executive and stated clerk until June 30, 2013. The position description for the acting executive and stated clerk is included in the committee’s report in the following minutes.

**COMPASSION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Elder Phyllis Canter presented this report. On behalf of the committee, Phyllis Cantor highlighted the work of the Compassion Committee and the hunger program of Abingdon Presbytery. All of the recommendations of the committee were approved by the Presbytery.

See the Compassion Committee’s report in the following minutes.
COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT

Teaching Elder Brad Simpson presented this report on behalf of the committee. The Presbytery unanimously approved the committee’s one action item: That the CPM be granted from the Presbytery delegated authority to be used when necessary to move an individual to the next phase of readiness for ministry (after meeting Book of Order requirements) so that the individual may apply for time sensitive scholarships and/or meet timely admission requirements for seminary admission.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Teaching Elder Greg Wood presented this report. The Presbytery unanimously and enthusiastically approved all of the committee’s recommendation concerning the formation of the Wild Goose Worshiping Community and the call to teaching elder Edwin Lacy to be its pastor, worship leader, and presbytery evangelist. The terms of call for Rev. Lacy were approved and are included in the committee’s report.

Please see in the committee’s full report in the following minutes.

PRESBYTERY IN CLOSING WORSHIP

Teaching elder Edwin Lacy led the Presbytery in worship to close out this meeting of Abingdon Presbytery. The closing worship service was in the form, substance, and style of the Wild Goose Worshiping Community.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved that the Presbytery be adjourned. The meeting was closed in prayer by the moderator at 3:15pm. The next meeting will be on March 14, 2013.

__________________________  ____________________________
Tony Palubicki, Moderator    Kevin M. Campbell, Temporary Stated Clerk

SEE ADDITIONAL WRITTEN REPORTS IN MINUTES AS FOLLOWS:
STATED CLERK, COUNCIL, NOMINATING COMMITTEE, ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, GA COMMISSIONERS, COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY, BUDGET COMMITTEE, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, HUNGER AND COMPASSION, COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY, CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN, CHILDREN’S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS, SYNOD COMMISSIONERS REPORT.

COMMITTEES THAT DID NOT REPORT AT THIS MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY ARE AS FOLLOWS:
COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION, EDUCATION COMMITTEE, PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMITTEE AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.
Items for Information:

1. With the exception of opening worship, this meeting of Abingdon Presbytery will be conducted in the fellowship hall of the Hillsville Presbyterian Church. We will be seated at round tables by district. We are attempting something different at this meeting of Presbytery. We are attempting to facilitate conversation and relationships. There will be several instances, throughout this meeting, where the Moderator will arrest debate over a specific action item and invite your table to discuss the particular issue as small group.

The goal of this approach is three-fold: 1) to foster and nurture better communication and relationships among us, 2) to give each of us freedom to ask questions about a particular item in a smaller group that we might not be comfortable asking in the larger group setting, and 3) to begin living into a new and more faithful way of being Presbytery.

One of the hoped for outcomes of this new way of meeting together is that it will help us to take the first steps away from being a Presbytery that is centered around an executive and office building and toward a Presbytery that is focused upon congregations and their mission.

2. Who are the members of the governing body? The members of the governing body are the forty-two teaching elders who are members of Abingdon Presbytery, the 13 Commissioned Ruling Elders, and the forty-eight ruling elder commissioners that represent the forty-eight congregations of the Presbytery. For the purpose of this meeting of Presbytery, the members of the Presbytery are signified by either a blue dot or a yellow dot on your name tag that you received when you registered for this meeting of Presbytery. A blue dot on your name tag signifies that you are a minister member of Presbytery, while a yellow dot indicates that you are an elder commissioner. For this meeting of Presbytery, only minister members and elder commissioners have the privilege of voice and vote at this meeting. If you do not have either a blue dot or a yellow dot on your name tag, then you do not have the privilege of voice or vote at this meeting, only those members in attendance with either a blue dot or a yellow dot on their name tag have the privilege of addressing the Presbytery and voting on action items before the governing body.

3. If you are wearing a clear name tag, this signifies that you are a visitor to this meeting of Presbytery. If the way be clear, then visitors will be permitted to speak and participate in the round table discussions, but shall not be allowed to speak in the plenary discussion or vote on issues before the Presbytery.

4. Thank you goes to the Session and members of the Hillsville Presbyterian Church for their willingness and faithful work in hosting this Presbytery meeting.

5. The 2011 minutes of Abingdon Presbytery were reviewed and approved with exception by the Synod Assembly at its stated meeting, September 17-18, 2012.

6. The stated clerk received correspondence and a proposal from ruling elder Joe Bowen (Tazewell Presbyterian Church) requesting that Presbytery quitclaim any interest that it may have in the
property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA. A copy of Elder Bowen’s proposal is included in your docket materials.

The Brown family of Tazewell, VA deeded Abingdon Presbytery a parcel of land for the purpose providing and maintaining a Presbyterian congregation, which became known as the Cove Presbyterian Church. The only stipulation that the Brown family placed in the deed was, if the property ceased to be used for church purposes, then the property reverted back to the Brown family. A copy of the deed is also included in the docket.

For a period of time, the Cove Presbyterian Church was a federated congregation of Presbyterians and Methodists. The Methodists ceased worshipping at the Cove Church in 1965. At its stated meeting of July 16, 1968, at the Hillsville Presbyterian Church, Abingdon Presbytery dissolved and closed the Cove Presbyterian Church. Presbytery has not supported a congregation or worshipping community at this location for forty-four years. Although Presbytery dissolved the congregation, it did not release its claim to the property so that the reversionary clause of the deed could take effect. The minutes indicating Presbytery’s action to dissolve the congregation are included in the docket.

At this time heirs of the Brown family are requesting that Presbytery quitclaim its interest in the property so that the Brown family heirs may issue a new deed to a charitable, non-profit organization that will obtain ownership of the former Cove Presbyterian Church for the purpose of preserving it as a historical landmark in Tazewell County, VA.

Please see action item #1:

7. On Wednesday, October 31, 2012, the stated clerk received correspondence from The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and The Episcopal Church in the United States of America through Paul Beers, attorney for Abingdon Presbytery, requesting that Abingdon Presbytery file an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia supporting both The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and The Episcopal Church in the United States in defense of an appeal from The Falls Church concerning who controls the ownership of church property.

The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and The Episcopal Church in the United States of America were invaluable partners and resources to Abingdon Presbytery in its church property case with the former Indian Valley Presbyterian Church. They provided Abingdon Presbytery with all of their legal briefs and research and unlimited access to their attorneys and legal team at no cost to the Presbytery. They did not bill Abingdon Presbytery for their expertise, help, or resources. The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and The Episcopal Church in the United States of America have spent several million dollars defending church property cases in Virginia.

In January 2012, The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia won a major property case in Fairfax, VA. The ruling in that case, known as “The Bellows’ Opinion,” directly assisted our Presbytery win its property case with the former Indian Valley Presbyterian Church.

As an act of gratitude and partnership, it is the stated clerk’s recommendation that Abingdon Presbytery file an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia in support of our ecumenical partners, The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and The Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in their ongoing church property dispute.

If Presbytery chooses to approve the filing of the amicus brief, the approximate cost to the Presbytery would be $15,000. This cost would include the legal hours and work of drawing up the brief, filing fees for submitting the amicus brief to the Supreme Court, and printing cost for
the submission of the brief to the nine justices of the Supreme Court. The deadline for filing the amicus brief with the Supreme Court is December 10, 2012.

Currently, Abingdon Presbytery has a balance of $133,964.30 in its designated budget line item for attorney, court, and legal fees. Please see action item #10:

Items for Action:

1. That Presbytery approve the following resolution releasing and quitclaiming its interest in the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA:

   Whereas, Abingdon Presbytery dissolved the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA at its stated meeting on July 16, 1968, at the Hillsville Presbyterian Church.

   Whereas, Abingdon Presbytery has neither supported nor sponsored a church or worshiping community at the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA for forty-four years.

   Whereas, Abingdon Presbytery has ceased approved ministerial work and services at the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA.

   Whereas, the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA is to return to the ownership and control of the Brown family if Abingdon Presbytery cease to use the property for church purposes.

   Whereas, the Brown family has requested that Abingdon Presbytery support them in the efforts of deeding the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church to charitable, non-profit organization for the purposes of preserving the property and church building of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA as a historical landmark.

   Be it resolved that Abingdon Presbytery hereby and henceforth quitclaims any and all interest that it may have in the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church.

   ____✓____Motion Made  ____✓____Approved  _______Disapproved

2. That Presbytery authorizes its trustees to execute any legal documents necessary to the quitclaiming of Presbytery’s interest in the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church, Tazewell, VA.

   ____✓____Motion Made  ____✓____Approved  _______Disapproved

3. That the Minutes of the June 14, 2012 stated meeting of Abingdon Presbytery at the Galax Presbyterian Church be approved.

   ____✓____ Motion Made  ____✓____Approved  _______Disapproved

4. That the Minutes of the September 13, 2012 called meeting of Abingdon Presbytery at the Glade Spring Presbyterian Church be approved
5. That the ministers properly requesting to be excused from all or a part of the 109th Stated Meeting of Presbytery be granted their excuse, and all Honorably Retired ministers not in attendance be excused.

   ___✓___ Motion Made   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

6. That all non member clergy serving in temporary pastoral relationships with Abingdon Presbytery congregations, as well as representatives from PC(USA) governing bodies and institutions, be granted the privilege of the floor, without vote.

   ___✓___ Motion Made   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

7. If it becomes necessary during this meeting of Presbytery for acting stated clerk Kevin Campbell to recues himself from the meeting, that Rev. David McKee, Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, be invited to serve as temporary stated clerk and parliamentarian for the Presbytery while Rev. Campbell is excused from the meeting.

   ___✓___ Motion Made   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

8. That visitors to this meeting of Presbytery be granted the privilege of participating in round table discussions, but not be granted the privilege of the plenary floor nor be granted the privilege of a vote.

   ___✓___ Motion Made   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

9. That all reports with amendments be received as information and be admitted to record and recorded in the Minutes of Abingdon Presbytery.

   ___✓___ Motion Made   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

10. That Presbytery directs its attorney, Paul Beers, to file an amicus brief with the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of Virginia supporting both The Episcopal Diocese of Virginia and The Episcopal Church in the United States in defense of an appeal from The Falls Church concerning who controls the ownership of church property.

    ___✓___ Motion Made   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved
A Proposal

to rescue, save, restore, preserve and protect

The Cove Presbyterian / Methodist Church Building

in

The Cove, Tazewell County, Virginia.

The Cove Church building in Tazewell County in August of 2012.

The wood frame building was built in 1897 - 1898.

This rural, agricultural location is a 22 minute drive west of Tazewell or a 26 minute drive south of Richlands.
The Proposal. This proposal is submitted to the Presbyterian denomination and to the Methodist denomination in southwestern Virginia in the hope that this old, historic church building can be saved by the community where it is located.

This is not a request for money or support. Instead, this request asks that the two denominations both pass resolutions authorizing a deed conveying any ownership interest in the land and building to a local community nonprofit organization for the purpose of maintaining the building.

History of The Cove Church. In 1897, O.M. and Zarilda Brown deeded a parcel of \( \frac{8}{10} \) of an acre to local Church Trustees for the benefit equally of the Southern Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South in the “Cove”.

In the early years, the property was used by both denominations taking turns. The congregation was the same each Sunday regardless of which denomination was leading the service. In later years, most of the services were Presbyterian and the Church was commonly referred to as the Cove Presbyterian Church. In 1967, both denominations stopped supplying ministers due to declining attendance.

Thereafter, until 2008, regular services were conducted by a local resident of the Cove (Mr. Walter “Brownie” Elswick) for the Church of God denomination. His congregation provided maintenance and upkeep with no rent being charged for their use.

At present the church building is not used for regular services, but is sometimes used for weddings and funerals of local residents.

A Description of the Building. This is basically a one room structure with the majority of the building located on one level. There are two small class-rooms located in the front of the building on the first floor and one classroom located upstairs across the front of the building.

The interior has been painted over the years, but additional flooring support is needed.
The exterior of the building and the windows are in most need of immediate attention. Many of the original boards in the front and along the sides need to be replaced. The supporting structure underneath needs to be addressed.

*The exterior of the building is in need of immediate work, including repair to a missing side window now covered by a temporary patch. All of these windows originally had distinctive custom shutters, as the top window still has.*

**What the Presbyterians and the Methodists are being asked to do.** This is a request for a deed. In order to allow the community to receive donations for this building, both denominations should pass resolutions to convey any real estate interest to a community nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.

Descendants of the original trustees and of the Brown family join in this request. Many descendants of the Browns will also sign the deed to release the old deed provision that the property reverts to the Brown family if it ceases to be used for a church. They, and other members of the community, are excited about undertaking the task of restoring the church building for the beauty of the Cove and for the benefit of the community.

For questions, contact: Robert G. Brown, a resident of The Cove, a Great Grandson of O.M. & Zarilda Brown, who gave the land, and a member of The Tazewell Presbyterian Church.
This deed made this the 4th day of February, 1897, between O. M. Brown and Zarilda Brown, his wife, of the first part and Samuel B. Ward, Joseph B. Barnes, Samuel J. Thompson, Henry Bowen and J. O. Brown, Trustees, and their successors to be selected and appointed from time to time, as vacancies may occur in said board of trustees, by the Southern Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South in the "Cove", of the second part.

WITNESSETH: That the said parties of the first part, in consideration of their desire to donate a lot of land for the erection thereof of a church building to be used for the benefit of the two above mentioned religious denominations and to be designated and known as the "Cove Church", in Tazewell County, Virginia, do hereby grant unto the said parties of the second part, all that certain piece, tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the Cove, in said County, upon which the said Cove Church is now situated, and bounded as follows: Beginning in the middle of the public road, at a corner of the said Henry Bowen and O. M. Brown on the Hugh Young line, thence with the line of the said Bowen and Brown N 50 and 1/2 E 14 poles to a stake, thence S 17 E 9 poles and 7 links to a stake, thence S 61 W 10 poles and 15 links to the middle of the public road, thence with the middle of said road, N 32 and 1/2 W 12 poles and 15 links to the beginning.

This conveyance is made to the said parties of the second part in trust for the benefit equally of the Southern Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church South in the said Cove", but should the said property at any time cease to be used for said church purposes, then the same is to revert to the original owners. The parties of the first part warrant generally the title to the within conveyed property.

Witness the following signatures and seals, this 4th day of February, 1897.

O. M. Brown, (Seal)  
Zarilda Brown, (Seal)

Virginia, Tazewell County, to-wit:--

W. L. Moore, a Justice of the Peace in and for the County and State aforesaid, do hereby certify that O. M. Brown and Zarilda Brown, his wife, whose names are signed to the foregoing deed, bearing date on the 4th day of February, 1897, have this day personally appeared before me in my said County and acknowledged the same to be their act and deed.

Given under my hand this 4th day of February, 1897.

W. L. Moore, J. P.

VIRGINIA:-- In the Clerk's Office of Tazewell Circuit Court December 21st, 1903. This deed was presented, and upon the annexed certificate of acknowledgment, admitted to record.

Teste: A. B. Buschmann, D. Clerk.
Flat of Deed Calls for: Cove Church

Deed Book 67, page 197

1 pole = 16.5 feet
1 link = 0.66 feet
1 chain = 66 feet
1 chain = 100 links
1 chain = 4 poles
14 poles = 231 feet
9 P 7 L = 153.12 feet
10P 16 L = 175.56 feet
12P 15L = 207.9 feet

Cove Church
Scale: 42 ft/in
North Shift: +0
East Shift: +0
East rotated: +000.0000

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1. N80.5E 14P
2. S17E 9P7L
3. S60W 10P16L
4. N32.5W 12P15L
232nd
STATED MEETING
OF
ABINGDON PRESBYTERY
Hillsville Presbyterian Church
Hillsville, Virginia
July 16, 1968

NEXT STATED MEETING
ROCK SPRINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Meadowview, Virginia
15 OCTOBER, 1968
ELECTION OF MODERATOR AND TWO TEMPORARY CLERKS

The Rev. Richard F. Taylor, Moderator-in-Nomination, was elected Moderator by acclamation, Ruling Elder Joe S. Miller and Ruling Elder Richard Perkins were elected to serve as Temporary Clerks.

INTRODUCTIONS

The following were introduced to Presbytery: The Rev. Stanford M. Query and the Rev. John Boyd, former pastors of the Hillsville Presbyterian Church. Those ministers to be received into Abingdon Presbytery were introduced: George Achel, David Causey, James G. Edwards, Curtis A. Murray and Earl Miller. The Rev. Donald G. Buchanan, former Superintendent of the Children’s Home was introduced, Kenneth Tutwiler, the present Superintendent of the Home was also introduced.

The following Ruling Elders from their respective churches were introduced: Sam Williams of Rural Retreat, James L. Goveas Jr. of Wytheville, W. G. Bays of Gladeville along with visitors Joe H. Roberts and James E. Marciere of Gladeville, Mrs. J. S. James of Galax First, Archa Vaughan of Pulaski First, along with Robert Bruce, a candidate under Presbytery, and James Glenn, who would come before Presbytery for Candidacy, both from the Pulaski First Church.

The following candidates for the ministry and/or summer workers were introduced: Rodney King, Myron Moore, Robert Sprinkle, Joe Morecraft, Pete Hurst, Donald Buchanan Jr., Basil Albert, David Osborne, Sam Shumate, Wayne Rogers.

EXCUSES

By action of the Court, the following were excused from the 33nd Stated Meeting of the Presbytery: J. D. Arbuckle, Frank Chapo, Hershey Longenecker, Richard Stone, Robert S. Dandy, John Whitner, and Bert Edwards.

PRAYER FOR MISSIONARIES AND ILL AND ABSENT MEMBERS

James B. Hollerhead led the Presbytery in prayer for missionaries of the church and for ill and absent members of the Presbytery.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS

The report of the committee on local arrangements was made by Ruling Elder John S. Fulcher, Clerk of the Session of the Hillsville Presbyterian Church. Mr. Fulcher welcomed the Court and reviewed the interesting history of the Hillsville Church.

ADOPTION OF THE DOCKET

The Docket as presented by Presbytery Council was adopted, with time for lunch recess set at 12:15 p.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. and reconvening at 1:15 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Moderator appointed members of the standing committee as follows:

Bills and Overtures: Rev. Charles S. Ruff, Chairman
Ruling Elder Randolf Scott
Ruling Elder Joe S. Miller

Courtesy:
Rev. James Deisnard, Chairman
Ruling Elder W. D. Carmack
Ruling Elder Archie B. Largen

COMMUNICATION AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW BUSINESS

Letters of transfer of ministers to Abingdon Presbytery were noted and referred to the Commission on the Minister and his Work: Those transfers were for:

Robert W. Cause from Westminster Presbytery, David J. Causey from Hanover, George Achel from Transylvania, James G. Edwards from Appomattox, Earl Miller from Holston, and Curtis Murray from Holston.

The minutes of the Commission to install the Rev. J. Preston F. Stevenson as pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church were received and committed to record:


Present: Goodridge A. Wilson, James W. McChesney, Curtis Wilson, John Stover and T. A. Freeman, Elder R. Graham White, visitor, was present and invited to sit as a visiting brother. Goodridge A. Wilson was elected Clerk. Rev. Goodridge A. Wilson preached the sermon from I Tim. 1:15. Rev. T. A. Freeman presided, propounded the constitutional questions, and declared the Rev. J. P. F. Stevenson duly elected and installed pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church.

The newly elected pastor was asked to pronounce the benediction. After the benediction the commission reconvened in the Session Room. The minutes were read and approved. After prayer led by Dr. J. M. McChesney the commission adjourned.

The Rev. T. A. Freeman presented the following resolution concerning the dissolution of the Cove Presbyterian Church of Tazewell County:

1. That the Cove Presbyterian Church of Tazewell County, Virginia, be dissolved by presbytery effective at this July 16, 1968 meeting in Hillsville, Virginia, upon request of said church,
2. That the remaining members be transferred to the churches of their choice; that any persons, not requesting transfer of letter, be placed by presbytery on the roll of the Tazewell Presbyterian Church. (List of membership transfer in office of Stated Clerk).

3. The Sessional Records shall be placed in the Historical Foundation of the Assembly at Montreat, North Carolina.

4. The Rev. Harold W. Minor, Jr., presented to Presbytery a proposal whereby ministers working in fields other than the pastorate might be enrolled so as to participate in the Annuity program. This was referred to the Commission on the Minister and His Work.

REPORT OF PRESBYTERY COUNCIL

The report of the Council was made by the Rev. J. B. Hollenhead, Chairman, with the following report and recommendations adopted:

Information:

1. Council approved the proposed budget for 1969 as submitted by the Chairman of the Stewardship Committee and recommended its presentation to Presbytery.

2. Council requested a special committee to make a re-study of its proposal to combine the offices of the Stated Clerk and the Executive Secretary into one office and after consultation with the Stated Clerk’s Association, report at the fall meeting of council with recommendations.

3. Council requested that Board of Director’s Presbytery’s Camp, working in co-operation with the Christian Education Committee and the Camp Council, report at the Fall Meeting of the Council (September 24, 1968), with proposals for future construction and/or remodeling of camp facilities with estimated costs and plans for financing such proposals.

Recommendations:

1. That the Rev. T. A. Freeman be elected to serve one year as Executive Secretary of Abingdon Presbytery effective date beginning July 31, 1968 to July 31, 1969. (second reading recorded by unanimous vote.)

2. That the Rev. James B. Hollenhead be elected as Stated Clerk of Presbytery effective date to begin at the January meeting of Presbytery 1969, and that the annual salary of the Stated Clerk be increased from $300.00 to $400.00 and the annual salary of the Clerk’s Secretary be increased from $150.00 to $250.00 effective as of January 1969.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF THE ABINGDON PRESBYTERY CAMP

The report of the Abingdon Presbytery Camp was made by the Rev. P. O. Sartelle, Chairman, and received as information.

LUNCH

The Presbytery was called to order after the recess and the Moderator of Synod, the Rev. W. F. Wadsworth, was called upon for prayer.

The Rev. James McCleary was recognized and invited to speak. The Rev. James McCleary was ordained 60 years ago by Abingdon Presbytery at the Belspring Church. The Moderator of Presbytery led in a prayer of thanksgiving for the ministry of this pastor.

REPORT OF THE AD INTERIM COMMITTEE

The report of the Ad Interim Committee for the study of the Reformed Theological Seminary was made by the Rev. Angus R. Shaw, III, Chairman as follows:

1. FINDINGS:

The process of study by this ad-interim committee consisted of the study of catalogues, brochures, and correspondence from the Reformed Theological Seminary; study of action taken by Synods and Presbyteries of our Church; study of the answers to a questionnaire put to the faculty by this committee; and a visit to the campus of the Seminary for communication with the faculty and student body.

Realizing that there are different points of view theologically within our church, we found the Reformed Theological Seminary to present a strongly conservative theological point of view expressed by its STATEMENT OF BELIEF AND COVENANT, subscribed to by faculty and staff:

1. “All Scripture is self-attesting, and, being Truth, requires the human mind wholeheartedly to subject itself in all its activities to the authority of Scripture complete as the Word of God, standing written in the sixty-six books of the Holy Bible, all therein being verbally inspired by Almighty God, and therefore without error.

2. “Reformed Theology as set forth in the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms as originally adopted by the Presbyterian Church in the United States, is the system of doctrine taught in Scripture, and therefore to be learned, taught, and proclaimed for the edification and government of Christian people, for the propagation of the faith and missions.”
Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2013 is an event for high school youth (entering freshman through graduating seniors) from the Cumberland Presbyterian Churches and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Participants experience the event as a part of a presbytery or a church group.

Currently seeking volunteer registrars for Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presbyteries and congregations. Contact Heather Leoncini for more information: heather.leoncini@pcusa.org

Cumberland church registration information available from Susan Groce: scg@cumberland.org
Cost: $469.00 per person

Full website launch in May! Website will include:
Registration information, registration forms, promotional tools, videos and much more.

www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org
Council Report
Guydell Slate

Items for Information:

1. Received the resignation of Kevin Campbell from the standing Administrative Commission, appointed David Wadsworth to serve as moderator of the commission.

2. Council accepted an invitation from the Hillsville Presbyterian Church to host the November 2012 meeting of presbytery.

3. Council accepted an invitation from the Tazewell Presbyterian Church to host the March 14, 2013 meeting of presbytery.

4. If the way be clear, Council will accept an invitation from the Wild Goose Worshiping Community to host the June 2013 meeting of presbytery.

5. Council received a request from Joe Bowen that Presbytery quitclaim any interest that it may have in the property of the former Cove Presbyterian Church in Tazewell, Virginia.

6. Council appointed Rev. Brad Simpson, Elder Grace Bradshaw, and Rev. Tom Whartenby to an ad hoc committee to make recommendations to the Presbytery concerning the proposed amendments to the Book of Confessions and the Book of Order at its March 14, 2013 stated meeting.

7. Council recommends acceptance of the Presbytery budget for 2013 to be presented by the Budget and Finance Committee.


9. Council received as information from Rev. Kevin Campbell that he wishes to step down from service at the Presbytery level effective at the June 2013 meeting of presbytery.

Items for Action:

1. That Presbytery elect Cindy Privette to serve on the Administrative Commission.

   ![✓](✓) Motion Made   ![✓](✓) Approved   Disapproved

2. That Presbytery nominate (per the Book of Order and Presbytery Manual) the following persons to serve on:

   Nominating Committee:  Rev. Andy Parkey, Class of 2014
   Rev. Will Gipe, Class of 2015
   Elder Dwight Speeks, Class of 2015
   Elder Denys Marcum, Class of 2015

   ![✓](✓) Motion Made   ![✓](✓) Approved   Disapproved
3. That Presbytery nominate (per the Book of Order and Presbytery Manual) the following persons to serve on:

   Committee on Representation:    Elder Joyce Grubb, Class of 2015
   Elder Elizabeth Nash, Class of 2015

   ___✓___Motion Made     ___✓___Approved     _______Disapproved

4. That Presbytery begin the process of calling a part-time Permanent Executive Presbyter and a part-time Permanent Stated Clerk.

   ______Motion Made       ______Approved       ______Disapproved

5. That Presbytery ask the Nominating Committee, in consultation with the Committee on Representation, to provide a slate for an EP/Stated Clerk Search Committee to include one person from each of the five clusters and two persons from Council, for a total of seven.

   ___✓___Motion Made     ___✓___Approved     _______Disapproved

6. That Presbytery direct the Search Committee to determine and recommend the responsibilities, scope of duties, and the amount of hours expected to be worked for the new EP/Stated Clerk. The Search Committee shall determine and recommend if the positions should be filled by one individual or by two individuals. The Search Committee, in defining the roles of EP and Stated Clerk, should be in consultation with Council and any other pertinent committees.

   ___✓___Motion Made     ___✓___Approved     _______Disapproved

7. That Presbytery authorize the moderator of Council to appoint a search committee of four people to search for a part-time Intentional Interim Executive Presbyter to be in position by June 2013, if possible.

   ___✓___Motion Made     _______Approved     ___✓___Disapproved
Items for Action:

1. **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER SEARCH COMMITTEE:**
   
   Mary Ruth Spencer, Vansant  
   Mary Davis, Lebanon  
   Tim Reynolds, Sinking Spring  
   Darlene Litton, Grace  
   Jim Gearhart, Wytheville  
   Greg Wood, Tazewell  
   Guydell Slate, Dinwiddie  
   ____✓____ Motion Made;  ____✓____ Approved  _____ Disapproved

2. **MODERATOR: 2013**
   Phyllis Canter, Vansant  
   ____✓____ Motion Made;  ____✓____ Approved  _____ Disapproved

   Alan Gray, Royal Oak  
   ____✓____ Motion Made;  ____✓____ Approved  _____ Disapproved

4. **COUNCIL**
   Class of 2015:  Mava Vass, Hillsville  Tom Whartenby, Galax  
   ____✓____ Motion Made;  ____✓____ Approved  _____ Disapproved

5. **BUDGET:**
   Class of 2015:  Sue White, Walnut Grove  Will Gipe, Gladeville/Pound  
   ____✓____ Motion Made;  ____✓____ Approved  _____ Disapproved

6. **CHURCH DEVELOPMENT:**
   Class of 2014:  Sharon Lowe, West Fork  
   Class of 2015:  John DiYorio, Wytheville  Greg Wood, Tazewell  
   ____✓____ Motion Made;  ____✓____ Approved  _____ Disapproved
7. COMPASSION MINISTRIES:

Class of 2015: Don Muncie, Gate City    Edd Matney, Dye Chapel
              Kathi Lowe, Green Spring

   ___✓___ Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

8. COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY:

Class of 2013: Alan Gray, Royal Oak    Brad Simpson, Wytheville
Class of 2014: Al Noblett, Hillville
Class of 2015: Jean Bane, Central       Jon DiYorio, Wytheville
              John Markel, Walnut Grove    Jon Martin, Green Spring
              Kathy Haga, Member-at-Large

   ___✓___ Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

9. COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY:

Class of 2013: Dennis Hoffman, Richlands
Class of 2015: Brad Simpson, Wytheville    Jeannie Evans, Green Spring
              Alice Freeman, Glade Spring

   ___✓___ Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

10. EDUCATION:

Class of 2015: Alice Blanton, Central     Jane Davis, Galena
              Donald Inazu, Riverview
              Susanne Martin, Damascus/Rock Spring

   ___✓___ Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

11. PERSONNEL & FACILITY OVERSIGHT:

Class of 2015: Eugene Baldwin, Dinwiddie    Jean Bane, Central

   ___✓___ Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved

12. ELDER COMMISSIONER TO THE SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC:

Class of 2014: Peta Patton, Sinking Spring

   ___✓___ Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved   ______Disapproved
Item for Information:

1) The members of the Standing Administrative Commission are: Sara Hutton-Tallman, David Wadsworth, Guydell Slate, Bill Bradshaw, Cindy Privette, and Karen Loftin.

2) With the death of Jimmy Grant, there is now a vacancy on the Administrative Commission, which will need to be filled by a teaching elder.

Item for Action:

1. That Presbytery refers the Guidelines for Churches Seeking to be Dismissed to Another Reformed Body to the Presbytery Council for further study and revision.

(This is the second reading of the proposed changes to this document. The first reading of the proposed changes occurred at the June meeting of Presbytery. A two-thirds vote of approval is required for the proposed changes to go into effect [Manual of Operations 1.0202 B].)

       ✓ Motion Made;      ✓ Approved      Disapproved
Abingdon Presbytery
Guidelines Policy for Churches Considering a Request to Presbytery to be Dismissed

Introduction:

These guidelines This policy begins with fervent prayer that they it never be needed. If they it should be, then both the church making the request and the presbytery will have failed in their shared responsibility to achieve the reconciliation and the unity to which scripture calls us. Nevertheless, in a time of uneasiness, rumors, and strongly held convictions, we must recognize that human frailty and the reality of sin in all of us. We may fail to realize that high calling and find ourselves faced with the unpleasant and tragic necessity of negotiating a separation between sisters and brothers in Christ. Should that time come, we would have also failed our vows if we did not carry out that process “decently and in order” with as little dishonor to The Church of Jesus Christ as possible. To that end the following guidelines have policy has been prepared. At the very outset it should be noted that this is a contingency paper and should not be construed as a “manual on how to take a church out of the denomination”.

1. Individual members of a particular church may at any time move their membership to another church, whether by reason of convenience, conscience, or indifference. (Book of Order G-10.0302b1-4)

2. A congregation may be dismissed only by the governing body of original jurisdiction (presbytery) and in consultation with receiving denomination’s highest governing body. (Book of Order G-15.0203a and b; G-11.030i)

3. Congregations wishing to be so dismissed shall follow these steps:
   a. The session shall meet with the Committee on Ministry. (Book of Order G-11.0500a, i, and j)
   b. The minister and clerk of session shall request in writing the church’s desire to leave the PC (USA) with attendant rationale and the signatures of the supporting session members.
   c. The session shall call a congregational care meeting, to be held no earlier than one month following its meeting with the Committee on Ministry and in accordance with Book of Order (G-7.0302b and c; G-7.0303a(1), b). At least 33 1/3% of the active membership must be present. Representatives of the Committee on Ministry and Presbytery staff must be present and have the privilege of the floor. The question to be discussed is: “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church request Abingdon Presbytery to dismiss it to ________?” “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church request to be dismissed to the ________ with its property? The following requirements must be met for dismissal:
      • All per capita and yearly requested Declaration of Intent for the last five years must be paid in full. The Stated Clerk of Abingdon Presbytery will provide the actual amount owed.
      • Any loans or other financial obligations to Abingdon Presbytery or any PC(USA) related group must be paid in full.
      • The present name of the church may not be used in the future.
      • Original copies of sessional minutes and other historical documents related to the church’s life as a Presbyterian church (PC (USA) or its predecessors) will be turned over to the Presbytery for transmission to The Presbyterian Historical Foundation.
      • The congregation must remain with the denomination it is dismissed to for at least five years.
If the congregation separates for any reason from the body or its legal successor to which it is being dismissed within a period of five years from the date of dismissal, the congregation will pay 50% of the average assessed value of the property to the Presbytery within 120 days of leaving or the property will revert to this Presbytery or its legal successor.

Equal time will be provided for those on both sides of the question to speak. No vote of any kind will be taken at this meeting.

d. The session, no sooner than three months and no later than six months after the first meeting, may call a second congregational meeting. If called, at least 30 days notice shall be mailed to all the active members of the congregation in advance of the meeting and shall include the nature and purpose of that meeting. At least 67% of the members on the active roll must be present. Due diligence will be exercised to ensure that only those eligible to vote are allowed to do so. The question to be put before the congregation is: “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church request Abingdon Presbytery to dismiss it to ________?” “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church request to be dismissed to the ________ with its property? The following requirements must be met for dismissal:

- All per capita and yearly requested Declaration of Intent for the last five years must be paid in full. The Stated Clerk of Abingdon Presbytery will provide the actual amount owed.
- Any loans or other financial obligations to Abingdon Presbytery or any PC(USA) related group must be paid in full.
- The present name of the church may not be used in the future.
- Original copies of sessional minutes and other historical documents related to the church’s life as a Presbyterian church (PC (USA) or its predecessors) will be turned over to the Presbytery for transmission to The Presbyterian Historical Foundation.
- The congregation must remain with the denomination it is dismissed to for at least five years.
- If the congregation separates for any reason from the body or its legal successor to which it is being dismissed within a period of five years from the date of dismissal, the congregation will pay 50% of the average assessed value of the property to the Presbytery within 120 days of leaving or the property will revert to this Presbytery or its legal successor.

e. Ample Equal time will be provided for those on both sides of the question to speak. Representatives appointed by the Presbytery (Committee on Ministry and staff acting on its behalf) shall have the privilege of the floor. Following discussion and prayer, a secret written ballot shall be taken on the motion. The choices being, “Request Dismissal”, “Do Not Request Dismissal”, “Leave the PC(USA)”, “Stay with the PC(USA)”, or “Abstain”. If three-quarters of the active members present and voting favor dismissal, the request shall go to the Presbytery. If at least one member, present and voting, contests the regularity of the second meeting, he/she may send the details of the allegations to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery, who shall then convene the Permanent Judicial Committee for the purpose of rendering a decision. (Book of Order D-6.0102a(1)-d)

f. At the meeting of Presbytery, which may be either a stated or called meeting, to consider a request for dismissal, the Presbytery shall:

- hear from members of the congregation requesting dismissal
- hear from members of the congregation opposing dismissal
- hear from the PJC if any irregularity has been alleged and if so its findings and recommendations
• hear from representatives appointed by Presbytery (COM and staff) who were present at the second congregational meeting and who may have a recommendation to present to the Presbytery
• be informed of any financial contributions or obligations related to this congregation through its relationship with any governing body of the PC (USA)
• hear whether the denomination to which this church wishes to be dismissed is in conformity with the Book of Order for a denomination to which we may dismiss a congregation and whether we have met all of our obligations in such dismissal. (Book of Order G-15.0201, 15.0202a and b)
• be informed of how this congregation’s dismissal would affect the mission and ministry of this Presbytery.
• hear from a task force appointed by Presbytery’s Council, Committee on Ministry, and the Executive Presbyter detailing any financial arrangements negotiated with the congregation, whether or not a viable continuing congregation loyal to the PC (USA) exists which may make use of the property and what provisions have been made for their care if that should not be the case.

**g.** After discussion and prayer, the Presbytery shall vote by secret written ballot on this question, “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church be dismissed to ________ subject to meeting any financial obligations appropriate to this action?” “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church be dismissed to the ________ with its property? The following requirements must be met for dismissal:

- All per capita and yearly requested Declaration of Intent for the last five years must be paid in full. The Stated Clerk of Abingdon Presbytery will provide the actual amount owed.
- Any loans or other financial obligations to Abingdon Presbytery or any PC(USA) related group must be paid in full.
- The present name of the church may not be used in the future.
- Original copies of sessional minutes and other historical documents related to the church’s life as a Presbyterian church (PC (USA) or its predecessors) will be turned over to the Presbytery for transmission to The Presbyterian Historical Foundation.
- The congregation must remain with the denomination it is dismissed to for at least five years.
- If the congregation separates for any reason from the body or its legal successor to which it is being dismissed within a period of five years from the date of dismissal, the congregation will pay 50% of the average assessed value of the property to the Presbytery within 120 days of leaving or the property will revert to this Presbytery or its legal successor.
- The votes cast must be “yes”, “no”, or “abstain”.

**h.** Following the vote, should the congregation’s request for dismissal be sustained, it may then petition the Presbytery to receive its former property. No debate shall take place or action taken on this petition at this presbytery meeting. Debate and action on such a request must be taken at a separate meeting of presbytery which may be either a stated or called meeting. If representatives of the dismissed body file suit in any secular court for the purpose of leaving the PC(USA) and claiming the church’s real property, or if the majority of the congregation votes to declare its independence from the PC(USA), involved in the dismissal, the actions taken by the Presbytery regarding the dismissal shall become null and void. That committee appointed by the Presbytery to work with the departing congregation shall at that point become shall appoint an Administrative Commission of the Presbytery and to take control of all existing real
property identified with the dismissed congregation. (Book of Order G-8.0200) The Presbytery will hear from a task force appointed by Presbytery’s Council, Committee on Ministry, and the Executive Presbyter detailing any financial arrangements negotiated with the congregation, whether or not a viable continuing congregation loyal to the PC (USA) exists which may make use of the property and what provisions have been made for their care if that should not be the case. After discussion and prayer, the Presbytery shall vote by secret written ballot on the following: “Shall the ________ Presbyterian Church, as it is being dismissed to ________ be allowed to retain its former property with the following provisions:

- The following financial arrangements _________________.
- The present name of the church may not be used in the future.
- Original copies of sessional minutes and other historical documents related to the church’s life as a Presbyterian church (PC (USA) or its predecessors) will be turned over to the Presbytery for transmission to The Presbyterian Historical Foundation.
- If the congregation separates for any reason from the body or its legal successor to which it is being dismissed within a period of ten years from the date of this Presbytery meeting, ________, the property will revert to this Presbytery or its legal successor. The votes cast shall be “yes”, “no”, or “abstain”.

4. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in the appointment of an administrative commission and assumption of original jurisdiction in accordance with Book of Order G-11.0103s.

5. The intent in any dispute within the life of the church is to achieve reconciliation. To that end, we wish to make clear our intention to continue to seek that goal and to assure any congregation which should separate from us of our continuing prayers for them and a willingness to welcome them back to that part of God’s family known as the Presbyterian Church (USA).

6. To determine the average appraised value of the property, two appraisals are required—one by the church and one by Abingdon Presbytery. The two appraisals will be added together and then divided by two to get the average of the two appraisals, and to establish the average appraised value of the property. Example: Abingdon Presbytery’s appraisal comes in at $350,000. The church’s appraisal comes in at $250,000. Add the two figures together and then divide by two to arrive at the average appraisal amount (350,000 + 250,000 = 600,000. 600,000/2= 300,000). In this scenario, the average appraised value is $300,000.
I don’t know about you, but I have been worrying about the state of the Presbyterian Church USA for the past several years. Conflicts within our own church in Big Stone Gap, and within Abingdon Presbytery have made all too plain the deeper conflicts within the whole church denomination over ordination standards, Biblical authority, and form of government. I was wondering as I stepped on the plane to Pittsburgh if the 2012 General Assembly would make a difference in the direction of the church or if we were destined for a big split in the denomination. I have since heard that this year’s General Assembly was called the “do-nothing” assembly. But I think that we accomplished something very special. We as a group and as individuals searched deep within ourselves for what holds us together as one in Christ. We found that despite our differences, we loved each other and wanted to remain united. This yearning for unity seemed to transcend the difficult issues that we faced. As the week progressed, I found in conversations, in church visits, and in the joint worship services held at G. A. that we have much to hope for in our future. I want to share with you the source of the fulfillment and excitement that I brought home with me after General Assembly.

One thing that I noticed from very first day in the meetings of the Social Justice Committee was that the Young Adult Delegates were well trained and eager to participate in the discussions involved. On my committee, the YADs facilitated a difficult compromise on an issue involving prison reform. They did so by remaining late and revising extensively the proposition that had failed in a committee vote. The YADs met every night until late and studied each issue they would discuss in committee. They were prepared to speak persuasively on their points of view when they came to committee meetings and plenary sessions. I felt sad that we did not send a YAD to G.A. from Abingdon Presbytery. The experience these young people gained in learning about and clarifying important issues and speaking publicly about their beliefs will prepare them for leadership roles in the years to come. The YADs did not have a vote in General Assembly, but they did have voice and an advisory vote. I learned that their presence and participation made a real difference. I also learned that UPUSA has some very passionate potential leaders in the youth sector.

Kevin had told us that the election of the moderator would set the tone for the whole assembly, so I went to hear all the moderator candidates in an informal session known as “Riverside Conversations.” The candidates were all articulate and interesting but one pair of candidates concerned me. Neal Presa and his vice-moderator candidate explained that they held different positions and opinion on the issue of changing the language of the Book of Order to read that marriage is between two persons, instead of “a man and a woman.” Tara McCabe had actually signed the marriage certificate uniting a same-sex couple in Washington D.C., where such unions are legal. She was a proponent of the change in the Book of Order. Neal Presa was not. He said he had chosen Tara as a vice-moderatorial candidate to prove that two people of divergent opinions could work together for the good of the church. Randy Branson, while not taking a stand on the issue, said he was good at handling conflicts. Robert Austell was clearly not in favor of any change in the standards for marriage. Sue Krummel claimed she had lengthy experience running committees and would “run a tight ship.” She made a comment in answer to a question and her comment stayed with me the whole week. She was asked, “Should the church influence culture, or should culture influence the church.” Her answer referenced the story about Peter’s dream, where he recognized that all foods are clean. She explained that Biblical traditions can be changed when God inspires people to think differently. She did not connect all the dots to the question of changing standards of marriage, but the thought was there.

I was surprised when Neal Presa won the nomination for moderator. As it turned out, Tara McCabe resigned after only one day of serving as vice-moderator. She was dismayed by the threats and criticism she had received as a result of her open approval of same-sex marriage and her action of signing a marriage certificate for a same-sex couple. At that point, I thought we were heading down a road of divisiveness and turmoil. Luckily, the vice-moderator chosen by Presa the second time was Tom Trinidad, and he proved to be very capable, using light humor to ease over some of the tough moments.
When the committee that explored the issue of redefining marriage reported to the Assembly, they offered both the resolution to study for two years the Issues of Marriage and Civil unions, and the resolution to change the definition of marriage as a civil contract between a man and a woman. By a narrow margin, the resolution to change the definition of marriage did not pass. Although I am concerned about the social justice issues involved in same-sex marriage, I felt that the Assembly acted with love and compassion in the ultimate decision. A change in the Book of Order of that magnitude, one that conflicts with the Confessions to which we adhere, is a major change. Perhaps that change may come, but the period of discernment and study is something we need to undertake in order to approach the topic in a Christ-like and loving mode.

Finally, we were shown a number of videos linked with 1001 worshipping communities. These videos detail how new Presbyterian Churches are being born in communities across America and how they are meeting the needs of their communities in vital ways. I think the best way to demonstrate the hope and possibilities these experiments represent is to show one of the videos.

I came away from the General Assembly of 2012 hopeful and inspired. The active leadership demonstrated in the Young Adult Delegates, the yearning for unity in diversity, and the hopeful signs of regeneration in 1001 Worshipping communities all inspired me to hope that here in Abingdon Presbytery we will try to be more connected to our denomination and use the resources they offer to work toward developing youth leadership, unity in diversity, and new worshipping communities.
Report on the 220th General Assembly Meeting of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) by Commissioner Brad Simpson

The General Assembly meeting in Pittsburgh in 2012 was one of those “mountaintop experiences” along my faith journey and I sincerely thank the churches of Abingdon Presbytery for the opportunity to serve as a Commissioner at this meeting. Previously, I had attended three other General Assembly meetings in other roles; therefore, I understood fully the importance of this gathering of Presbyterians. However, I never anticipated the excitement and genuine enthusiasm that I would feel during these ten days. Each day was an adventure and each new adventure opened my eyes to the truth of the Scripture verse that was the “theme” of the GA meeting - “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)

This report is divided into three parts that provide a framework for describing my experience. Summarizing this in a brief written report is challenging and my prayer is that many of you will have the opportunity to experience a General Assembly meeting first-hand. The GA will meet in Detroit in 2014 and Portland in 2016.

Pastoral Response: As a Teaching Elder in our denomination since 1991, I am very familiar with the word “connectedness” used to describe the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and I looked forward to experiencing the connections and relationships of the General Assembly. I was not disappointed! As soon as Grace Bradshaw and I were seated at our table in the plenary hall that would be home for the week, we realized that the other Commissioners seated near us would become our brothers and sisters for the week. Before each plenary session, the Moderator would ask us to turn to each other in groups of @7 Commissioners and to share prayer concerns and other thoughts of the day. This sharing reminded us that, regardless of where we lived, we were one family connected by faith, polity, and mission. In addition, on Sunday, rather than worshipping at the convention center, the Presbytery of Pittsburgh invited commissioners to attend the Presbyterian Churches of Pittsburgh. Grace and I attended the Bidwell United Presbyterian Church where we experienced an inspiring, dynamic worship service and luncheon afterwards. From the moment we entered the sanctuary, we were embraced with love and hospitality that made everyone feel at home. Finally, the connectedness of our denomination was reflected in the multiple organizations that provided displays and programs of information in the Exhibit Hall. I especially enjoyed my visits to the following booths: Medical Benevolence Foundation, Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Camps and Conference Center, Presbyterian Council of Chaplains and Military Personnel, Boy Scouts of America, and the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song. I also shopped at the Global Marketplace sponsored by the Presbyterian Hunger Program. Crafts made in 3rd World countries were available there through the shops of SERRV International, Girls at Risk Project (Pakistan), and other groups.

The worship services of the General Assembly were amazing, inspiring moments that emphasized our unity as God’s people even in the midst of our diversity. These times to sing, pray, and proclaim together were extremely important after the divisive debates that often happened at the plenary and committee sessions. I especially enjoyed the inspiring music that included accompaniment and singing by the Rev. Sheldon Sorge, the Presbytery Executive of Pittsburgh Presbytery and a son of Abingdon Presbytery.

Polity and Politics: All of the issues and decisions before the General Assembly were handled decently and in-order according to our polity. Though the moderator, the Rev. Dr. Neal D. Presa, was in-charge of the plenary meetings most of the time, I was most impressed with the knowledge and handling of situations by our GA Stated Clerk, Gradye Parsons, who was re-elected to a second year term without opposition. With
his guidance and Robert’s Rules of Order before us, we worked through an agenda that included at least 66 denominational acronyms, 21 Committee reports/recommendations, numerous motions/substitute motions/amendments, presentations by our ecumenical and mission partners, and more examples of protocol and tradition than I could ever describe in one report. Amazingly, the business of the General Assembly concluded on-time on the final day. However, this was possible only because we adjourned at 1:30 AM during the next-to-the-last plenary session.

There were many differences of opinion among the 688 Commissioners, 160 Young Adult Advisory Delegates, and multiple other participants at the GA meeting. Discussions were particularly passionate surrounding the issues of Middle East peace and divestment, same-gender marriage, denominational special offerings, and doctrinal statements. Politically, these conversations reflected many of the same conversations happening in other arenas of our society. Thankfully, most of the time, people who spoke on the floor of the GA and in committee spoke with compassion and love and many people listened to each other. Many decisions included referrals to our Presbyteries for further prayer and study about various issues (e.g. the meaning of Christian marriage). All decisions made by the GA commissioners were made only after recommendation votes by the Advisory delegates that included young adults/older youth, theological students/faculty, missionaries, and ecumenical advisory delegates.

**Personal Reflection**

With prayer, hope, and faith, the General Assembly concluded with a positive outlook for our future as the PC (U.S.A.). Unified by our belief in the Lordship of Christ, we departed with a vision for 1001 new worshipping communities being established and $20 million being collected for our 4 denominational offerings (Pentecost, Peacemaking, Christmas Joy, and One Great Hour of Sharing) in the next 10 years. There are still many challenges facing our denomination; however, I returned from the GA meeting with a renewed faith that we will meet these challenges together!

I sincerely thank Grace Bradshaw, Kevin Campbell, and Tim Bird for the many opportunities we had to gather for reflection, prayer, fellowship, and meals together. The General Assembly experience was a “mountaintop experience” for me because I experienced this Assembly with these members of my Presbytery family.
Committee on Ministry Report
Bill Parish, Chair

Items for Information:

1. The Committee has met four times since the last meeting of presbytery: July 19, August 30, September 27, and October 25.

2. The Committee:

   A. Completed a Session Records Review (See attached sheet);
   B. Approved Buchanan First’s Church Information Form;
   C. Approved a temporary supply contract between Buchanan First and Rev. Bob Tolar;
   D. Relinquished COM involvement in the Indian Valley proposal and turned it over to the Church Development Committee;
   E. Appointed a team to work with West Fork to secure a replacement for Terry Morris who is leaving the area;
   F. Appointed a team to work with Mary’s and Thompson Valley as they complete the process for churches considering a request to Presbytery to be dismissed to another denomination;
   G. Heard a report from the Task Force on Minister Care;
   H. Appointed a committee to revise the COM Handbook to conform to the new form of government;
   I. Appointed Rev. Kathy Haga as moderator for Stone Memorial;
   J. Heard a report from the Church Development Committee on the Wild Goose proposal;
   K. Approved Bland-Leyburn’s request to be excused from vacancy dues;
   L. Appointed a team to work with Bland-Leyburn upon the dissolution of the parish;
   M. Gave permission for Rev. Susanne Martin to conduct an infant baptism at Rock Spring;
   N. Approved a temporary supply contract between Damascus and Rock Spring and the Rev. Susanne Martin;
   O. Approved a Tynes Fund loan for Lebanon;
   P. Held a well-attended Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) picnic;
   Q. Scheduled a class on the Bible for Commissioned Ruling Elders to be taught by Rev. Edwin Lacy; and
   R. Received a written notice from the Evangelical Presbyterian Church that Hurley, Clark Memorial, and Walker’s Creek have been received as provisional members.
   S. The following session minutes for the year 2011 were approved without exception:

   Anchor of Hope   Gate City   Royal Oak
   Big Stone Gap     Grace       Seven Mile Ford
   Bland-Leyburn     Green Spring Sinking Spring
   Buchanan First    Hillsville  Stone Memorial
   Buffalo Mountain  Lebanon    Tazewell
   Central           Locust Cove Thompson Valley
   Clark Memorial    McIver Memorial Vansant
   Fairview          Powell Valley West Fork
   Fincastle         Riverview   Wytheville
   Galena            Rock Spring

   ~ÖÉ=QM=çÑ=TR
T. The following churches have not presented their 2011 session minutes to be reviewed as required by the Book of Order:

Anderson Memorial  Graham  Oakwood
Bethel  High Point  Pound First
Castlewood  Hurley  Richlands
Damascus  Jewel Ridge  Rich Valley
Dinwiddie  Maple Grove  Spring Creek
Galax First  Mary Mart. Memorial  Walnut Grove
Glade Spring  Mary's  Whitetop
Glamadeville  McCall's Gap

Items for Action:

1. That the Rev. Bruce Ford be dismissed to New Harmony Presbytery;
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

2. That the Pulpit Supply List for 2013 be approved (Copy attached);
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

3. That the 2013 Minimum Terms of Call for Ministers be approved (Copy attached);
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

4. That the 2012 terms of call for called and installed pastors be approved (Copy attached);
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

5. To accept Elder Danny Whitt’s renunciation of jurisdiction and that a letter be sent to him and to Mary’s and Thompson Valley directing that he cease all pastoral and leadership responsibilities;
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

6. That a service of Commissioning be conducted at this meeting of presbytery for Elders Cathy Hutton and Edward Matney; (Copy attached)
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

7. That the Stated Supply and Commissioned Ruling Elder List for 2013 be approved; (copy attached)
   
   ___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved
8. That permission be granted for Rev. Alan Chapman to labor within the bounds of Abingdon Presbytery for 2013;

___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved

9. That Presbytery approve the above-referenced church minutes for the year 2011 as being approved with or without exception.

___✓__Motion Made  ___✓__Approved  _____Disapproved
APPROVED PULPIT SUPPLY LIST – 2013

Rev. George Aichel  Dr. David Kester  Rev. Don Nance
Wise, VA  Hiwassee, VA  Wytheville, VA
276-328-3465  540-577-9854  276-228-8981

Rev. Eugene Baldwin  Mrs. Bonnie Lester  Rev Elizabeth Patrick
Marion, VA  Meadowview, VA  Bristol, TN
276-783-3319  276-944-5340  423-956-9716

Mrs. Grace Bradshaw  Mr. Ward Lester  Mr. Rex Spencer
Big Stone Gap, VA  Tazewell, VA  Vansant, VA
276-523-4926  276-988-4396  276-935-5937

Rev. Cathy Carpenter  Rev. Kathy Haga  Ms. Patricia Neel
Bluefield, VA  Wytheville, VA  Abingdon, VA
276-322-5303  276-625-0207  276-628-3345

Rev. Matt Chambers  Rev. Susanne Martin  Rev William Washburn
Bristol, TN  Abingdon, VA  Bland, VA
423-366-6368  276-451-8512  276-682-4573

John Davis  Rev. Curtis Murray  Dr. Roy Wright
Cripple Creek, VA  Bristol, VA  Cedar Bluff, VA
276-621-4415  276-591-1662  276-963-9413

Alan Baldwin  Mr. Joe McGlothlin  Ms. Amanda Wise
Marion, VA  Cedar Bluff, VA  Bristol, VA
276-780-2124  276-963-3065  276-591-5235

Mr. Nathan Harper  Rev. Neville Mozingo  Rev. Bob Tolar
Grundy, VA  Marion, VA  Abingdon, VA
276-935-7946  276-783-4777  276-739-0013

Mr. Eddie Doerr  Debbie Ginder
Kingsport, TN  Hillsville, VA
423-278-4742  276-733-3218

King College Supply List
Bristol, TN
423-968-1187

(See next page)
Honoraria

1 Service - $125.00 plus mileage*
2 Services - 150.00 plus mileage*

*Mileage to be reimbursed at the current Federal Government Rate.

At this printing the mileage rate is $0.55 per mile.

Approved Pulpit Supply Guidelines

- Ministers and Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) on the approved supply list have been given permission by the Presbytery to fill the pulpits of our churches on an occasional basis. They may lead worship on Sunday or other services at the invitation of the session.

- Ordained minister members of Abingdon Presbytery may, in addition, lead the Lord’s Supper in worship at the invitation of the session. Other pastoral activities such as baptisms, marriages, providing pastoral services such as office hours or visitation, moderating session or congregational meetings must receive prior approval of the Committee on Ministry at the request of the session. If the church and supply wish to enter into a more ongoing relationship, the COM must be contacted first for consultation, prior to any movement towards the establishment of a temporary supply contract.

- Ordained ministers who are not members of Abingdon Presbytery must receive prior approval from the Committee on Ministry to lead the Lord’s Supper or to perform any other pastoral activities upon request of the session.

- Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE’s) may lead the Lord’s Supper in worship only with the approval of the COM at the request of the church session. All pastoral activities and any movement toward the establishment of a temporary supply contract must receive prior consultation with and approval of the COM to begin the process.
1. COMPENSATION

CASH SALARY $29,774

MANSE VALUE $8,932.20
Manse value is 30% of cash salary

½ SECA $2,920
This is determined by “cash salary”
plus 30% of “cash salary” for manse value
x .9235 x .0765
Example: $29,774 + $8,932.20 + 2,625 x .9235 x .0765 = $2,920

MANSE EQUITY ESCROW $1,050
Placed in an escrow account and paid to pastor when
pastoral relationship is dissolved or call is amended to
provide for housing allowance. Purpose is to provide for
future housing of pastors who live in manses and don’t
accumulate equity in a home.

UTILITIES $2,625

TOTAL COMPENSATION $45,301.20

2. PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES (Travel and Professional Expenses are required to be vouchered)

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE $3,326
Mileage reimbursed at Federal Gov’t Rate
plus necessary meals,
housing, etc. away from home

EDUCATION ALLOWANCE $1,000
Includes books, magazines, and continuing education costs.
Allowance & study leave can be accumulated up to
3 years or $3,000

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES $4,426

3. BENEFITS

PENSION/MAJOR MEDICAL Medical 22.0% $9,513.25
This is determined by “cash salary” plus Pension 11.0% $4,983.13
manse value plus manse equity Death & Disability 1.0% $453.01
plus utilities x 33.0%
Example: $29,774 + 8,932.20 + 1,050 + 2,625 x .330 = $14,949.39

VACATION – 4 WEEKS
EDUCATION LEAVE – 2 WEEKS
MOVING EXPENSES PROVIDED

TOTAL BENEFITS $14,949.39

TOTAL COST TO CHURCH $64,676.59
2013 PROPOSED MINIMUM TERMS OF CALL FOR FULL-TIME INSTALLED PASTORS  
(If Housing Allowance Provided)

1. COMPENSATION

CASH SALARY/HOUSING  $41,221
Amount designated for “housing”
determined by estimate of cost of
mortgage payments/insurance/taxes/
utilities/maintenance & repairs/
furnishings, etc.

½ SECA
This is determined by “cash salary/
housing” x SECA
Example: $41,221 x .9235 x .0765 = $2,912

TOTAL COMPENSATION  $44,133.17

2. PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES (Travel and Professional are required to be vouchered)

TRAVEL ALLOWANCE  $3,326
Mileage reimbursed at Federal Gov’t Rate
plus necessary meals,
housing, etc. away from home)

EDUCATION ALLOWANCE  $1,000
Includes books, magazines, continuing
education costs)
Allowance & study leave can be accumulated
up to 3 years or $3,000

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES  $4,426.00

3. BENEFITS

PENSION/MAJOR MEDICAL  Medical  22.0%  $9,267.97
This is determined by “cash salary/
housing” x 33% = $14,563.95
Pension 11.0%  4,854.65
Death & Disability  1.0%  441.33

VACATION – 4 WEEKS
EDUCATION LEAVE – 2 WEEKS
MOVING EXPENSES PROVIDED

TOTAL BENEFITS  $14,563.95

TOTAL COST TO CHURCH  $63,123.12

*If the effective salary is less than the Board of Pensions median effective salary, then their Pension dues
will be calculated on the BOP median effective salary.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location/Parsonage</th>
<th>2011 Compensation</th>
<th>2012 Compensation</th>
<th>Total Compensation</th>
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<td>GIPE, William C.</td>
<td>Gladeville (60%)/Pound (40%)</td>
<td>$10,200</td>
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<td>Gray, Frederick A.</td>
<td>Royal Oak</td>
<td>$23,819</td>
<td>$23,819</td>
<td>$72,822</td>
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<td>$26,265</td>
<td>$27,053</td>
<td>$82,454</td>
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<td>Parkey, Andrew</td>
<td>Locust Cove (40%)/Rich Valley (60%)</td>
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<td>$11,910</td>
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<td>$24,678</td>
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<td>Whartenby, Thomas Jr.</td>
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<td>$40,500</td>
<td>$80,500</td>
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<td>Wood, Greg</td>
<td>Tazewell</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>$46,818</td>
<td>$86,818</td>
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**Pension:**
- GIPE: $18,000
- Gray: $16,964
- Martin: $20,344
- Parkey: $6,823
- Privette: $10,951
- Wood: $14,964
- Total: $123,457

**Total Compensation:**
- GIPE: $39,200
- Gray: $72,822
- Martin: $82,454
- Parkey: No Report
- Privette: $48,406
- Wood: $86,818
- Total: $360,687
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<td>Bob Thornton</td>
<td>Seven Mile Ford</td>
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<td>Alan Chapman</td>
<td>McIver Memorial</td>
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<td>Bill Lively</td>
<td>Graham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don Muncie</td>
<td>Gate City</td>
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<td>Eugene Baldwin</td>
<td>Dinwiddie</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Commissioned Ruling Elders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phyllis Canter</td>
<td>Oakwood/Vansant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darlene Litton</td>
<td>Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Hutton</td>
<td>Whitetop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madge Barnett</td>
<td>Whitetop</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Talbert</td>
<td>Maple Grove/Spring Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Parish</td>
<td>Castlewood/Mary Martin Memorial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edd Matney</td>
<td>Dye Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don Inazu</td>
<td>Riverview</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Call to Worship and Discipleship

Leader: As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.
People: There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all are one in Christ Jesus.
Leader: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
People: There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.
Leader: We are called by God to be the church of Jesus Christ, a sign in the world today of what God intends for all humankind.
People: The great ends of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Propounding of the Constitutional Questions

Tony Palubicki

Commissioning Prayer

Bill Parish

A Charge to the Commissioned Ruling Elders

Phyllis Canter

A Charge to the Presbytery

Tony Palubicki

Benediction

Brad Simpson
Too often we forget the mission of Abingdon Presbytery so I am quoting it below.

“Our mission is to support churches and their leaders; providing up-to-date information and material on mission opportunities, evangelism, peacemaking, hunger issues, leadership development, and other means to enhance our relationship with God, to strengthen the local churches for more effective witness, to share the ministry of the greater Church in the world, as we serve our Lord together.”

Abingdon Presbytery is often thought of as a building in Wytheville needing funds to maintain a building and a staff of two or three persons. After November 30th the building will no longer exist and its personnel will occupy two offices within Wytheville Presbyterian Church. Many of the costs to own and maintain a building will go away.

The Presbytery Budget Committee has struggled for many years to reduce the expenses to our member churches but still support our mission. Below is a graph showing reductions in the budget over the last six years.

This year the Budget Committee is recommending that the per-capita and designated intent requests be combined into one Unified Mission Request. Furthermore, the request will be calculated on the per-member basis using the previous years reported membership. There is will also be an opportunity to further your mission support if you wish. Also enclosed with this letter is a summary of the Proposed Presbytery Budget. Because the budget has been significantly reduced many churches will actually see a reduction in our request.

The proposed budget for 2013 totals $244,310, a reduction of over $40,000 from this year. Based on the total 2011 church membership in Abingdon Presbytery, the per member cost is $58.80. The per-member requests for the Synod is $0.85 and for the General Assembly $6.87. Therefore the total per-member
request is $66.52. The Proposed 2013 Budget follows on the next two pages. Although many of the budget lines are self-explanatory the following gives more details on the two wonderful mission projects we partially support are the Project Homecoming in New Orleans and two mission co-workers in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Project Homecoming is a rebuilding effort of The Presbytery of South Louisiana in partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Mark Hare and Jenny Bent are working with small farmers improve to improve their living conditions in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. More details of these projects may be found on the PCUSA.ORG website by searching on “Project Homecoming” or “Marc Hare” or at www.pslrecovery.org/ and www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/haiti/.

Items for Presbytery Action:

1. That the Proposed Budget for 2013 be approved with the following amendments: 1) The line item funds designated to the Church Development Committee be released for Church Development Committee without designation subject to all policy and use guidelines of the Presbytery; and 2) the budget line item (1-50117) designated for the Sunnyside Presbyterian Retirement Community be reduced from $2400.00 to $500.00.

   ___✓___Motion Made   ___✓___Approved _______Disapproved

2. That the Unified Mission Request of $65.91 per 2011 church member be approved.

   ___✓___Motion Made   ___✓___Approved _______Disapproved
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<td><strong>$242,410.00</strong></td>
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Items for Information:

1. Signing of contract to sell present Presbytery office building to Dodge dealership, as approved by Presbytery at meeting of September 13, 2012, to be completed by November 30, 2012 by trustees.
2. Action/Work plan for transition to Wytheville Church office space approved. (see attached)
3. Approve Affinity Consulting Group of Roanoke, VA to provide new office equipment and phone service in transition to office space at Wytheville Presbyterian Church.
4. Received an extremely positive evaluation of office administrator April DiYorio and set her salary for budget year 2013 at $37,400 with benefits. (see budget)
5. Developing more accurate job description of office administrator to reflect changes in staffing and work of Abingdon Presbytery.
6. Continue to fund expenses of Phyllis Canter as Hunger Action Enabler
7. Updating Personnel manual

Item for Action:

1. To approve Rev. Kevin Campbell as acting executive presbyter and stated clerk while search committee seeks to define and call individual (s) to permanently fill the position (job description and terms attached).

   ____✓____Motion Made;  ____✓____Approved _______Disapproved
PART-TIME INTERIM EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER AND STATED CLERK

PURPOSE:
A. To facilitate, challenge, and encourage ministry, mission and people.
B. To be the administrator of the Presbytery and fulfill the responsibilities outlined in the Book of Order (G.3.06, G.3.0110).
C. To be head of staff; to develop, supervise, motivate, and coordinate the staff team to provide the needed ministries to carry out the mission of the Presbytery.

RESPONSIBILITIES:
A. Shall be the chief administrator/facilitator, accountable to the Presbytery through Council for the implementation of the Presbytery’s decisions and matters of mission, strategy, program, and resources, and shall provide staff services for the Presbytery’s Book of Order committees.
B. Shall interpret, in collaboration with committee chairs, moderator and council, the decisions, programs, and policies of the Presbytery to the sessions, congregations and membership of the Presbytery, as necessary.
C. Shall oversee and lead the staff of the Presbytery in the implementation of the Presbytery’s policies and decisions
D. Shall serve as ex officio, without vote, on the Council and Book of Order committees.
E. Shall help the Presbytery develop its vision and sense of direction.
F. Shall act as stated clerk of the Presbytery and perform those duties as described in Book of Order G.3.0305.

ELECTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Shall be elected by the Presbytery; and, shall be accountable to the Presbytery through the Council.

EVALUATION: A performance review and evaluation shall be made by the Personnel Committee and reported to Council and Presbytery, as necessary.

COMPENSATION: $2,000 per month

TERM OF SERVICE:
A. The part-time, interim executive is elected until June 2013.
B. The present part-time interim executive/stated clerk is ineligible for this position.
## OFFICE MOVE ACCOUNTING

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<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$18,396.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>36.79%</strong></td>
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Action/Work Plan for Closing and Moving the Presbytery Office

Preamble:

The goal of this action/work plan is to assist Abingdon Presbytery to take the first steps toward a new identity and understanding of itself and its office. By moving from the Spiller Street office location to a two room office at the Wytheville Presbyterian Church, the focus of Abingdon Presbytery is no longer on supporting a building and an office, but on supporting a community of disciples, churches, who do the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ in southwest Virginia. This action/work plan initiates a new way being for Abingdon Presbytery.

I. Information Technology—Computers, Server, WiFi, Etc.

A. Meet with Hungate Business Solutions to discuss information technology needs. (Task accomplished on 8/24/2012—Jim Gearhart, April DiYorio, Kevin Campbell)

B. Meet with Affinity Consulting to discuss information technology needs. (Task accomplished on 9/6/2012—Jim Gearhart, April DiYorio, Kevin Campbell)

C. Receive and accept proposal from either Hungate Business Solutions or Affinity Consulting to provide information technology services to Abingdon Presbytery. (Personnel Committee—9/18/2012)

D. Set-up of servers, new computer, routers, etc. by provider. (Nov. 1 – Nov. 30)

E. Transfer of data from old computer system to new system. (11/28/12 –IT provider)

F. Disposal of old server and computer equipment (11/30/12—April DiYorio, Kevin Campbell, IT Provider)

II. Telephone and Internet Service

A. Contact Shentel about providing internet service. The Presbytery office is transitioning from DSL for internet to fiber optic. Fiber optic provides greater bandwidth for both internet and phone system. (Task Accomplished on 10/11/12—April DiYorio)

B. Our telephone system is moving from a landline system to an internet based system described as IP Voiceover. This type of phone system will give the Presbytery office greater flexibility and accessibility in telecommunications. With an IP Voiceover, neither the Office Manager nor the EP/Stated Clerk needs to be physically present in the office to answer the telephone. With this system, phone calls may be received away from the office. Both of the information technology providers can assist in the establishment of the IP Voiceover system. However, a question remains: Who provides the Presbytery’s actual phone service?—Proximiti (Task Accomplished on 10/18/12 - April DiYorio)

III. Document and Records Destruction and Shredding

A. Contact companies about destroying and shredding documents, files, and records that will not be moved to the new office. (Task Accomplished—April DiYorio)

B. The Presbytery staff has retained Kodiak Information Management to destroy documents, files, and records that will not be moved to new office. It will cost $300-$500 to accomplish the
shredding. Information about Kodiak Information Management is attached. (Task Accomplished on 10/22/12—April DiYorio and Kevin Campbell)

C. Documents, files, and records to be destroyed before the move will be sorted in the following process:

1. Financial Records—The only financial records that will not be destroyed, and that will be scanned into the server, are the last three years of financial records, Presbytery audit reports since 2005, and all employee payroll since 1980. All other financial records will be destroyed. Our auditor has approved this process.

2. Middle Office—This room has become a storage room over the years. Only the hardbound Presbytery minutes will be moved to the new office, almost everything else in this room will be destroyed. We will not be scanning the old hardbound Presbytery minutes. We are required by the Office of the General Assembly to maintain a hardbound copy of all Presbytery minutes. Starting with 2006 Presbytery minutes, the Presbytery will maintain both electronic and print versions of Presbytery minutes. The print versions of the minutes must be maintained in the Presbytery office, preferably in a fire proof space.

3. The Executive/Stated Clerk Office—Many of the minister and church records in the executive’s office are duplicates. Therefore, most of the documents, file, and records in this office will be shredded.

4. The Minister and Church File Cabinets—These files will be sorted and cleaned up so that non-essential items in each file may be destroyed. The Presbytery staff would like to scan and archive these files as they are cleaned up; however, time may be a factor so the cleaned up paper files may be moved to new office and archived sometime after the first of the year.

5. The Main Office—This will consist of shredding old forms and documents that are no longer used or necessary.

D. The Presbytery staff estimates that it will take one work week to sort through all of this material. (Task accomplished the week of 10/15/2012)

IV. Disposal of Old Furniture

A. Identify furniture that we are moving to new office. List is attached. (Task Accomplished—April DiYorio)

B. Contact Auction Services Company about items not being moved. (10/1/2012—Kevin Campbell)

C. Contact local movers about estimates for moving furniture to new office location. (Task Accomplished 10/16/2012—April DiYorio, Retained Landmark Moving Services for $675)

V. Copy Machine and Scanner

A. Contact copy machine company about moving copier to new location. (Task Accomplished 10/17/2012—April DiYorio)
B. Identify and hire an electrician to assist in the install of the copy machine. (11/26/2012—April DiYorio)

VI. Purchase of New Furniture for Presbytery Office

A. Several pieces of new furniture will need to be purchased. Listed below are anticipated items of furniture that will be needed:

1. New desk for April DiYorio.
2. 1 or 2 office chairs for April’s office so that visitors to the office have a place to sit.
3. 2 computer stands
4. 1 or 2 bookshelves for April’s office
5. 2 bookshelves for Executive/Stated Clerk office

B. The staff is currently looking for these items of furniture and getting estimates. (New furniture to be purchased by 11/26/12)

VII. Packing Up Spiller Street Office

A. Collect Boxes for packing.
B. Start Packing of non-essential items.
C. Entire office packed and ready for 11/26/12 move to WPC by 11/21/12.
D. Spiller Street Utilities (electric and water) turned off. (11/30/12—April DiYorio)
E. End all other business contracts that will not be carried over to new office:
   1. Postage Machine Contract and Lease (Task Accomplished 9/11/12—April DiYorio)
   2. Lawn Care Service (Task Accomplished 10/11/12—April DiYorio)
   3. Cleaning Service (Task Accomplished 10/18/12—April DiYorio)
   4. Orkin Contract (Task Accomplished 10/10/12)—April DiYorio
F. Move Furniture and boxes to WPC office. (11/26/12)

VIII. Set-up New Office at WPC Nov. 26-30, 2012

A. Place furniture and unpack boxes.
B. Computer and telephone system operational.
C. Organize office.
IX. Closing on Sale of Spiller St. Office—Nov. 30, 2012

A. Meet with attorney Chuck Lacy about legal documents that are needed to execute the sale of the Presbytery office to Direct Dodge of Wytheville. (Jim Gearhart, Kevin Campbell—9/18/12)

B. Legal Documents that will need to be executed:

1. Formal contract and settlement agreement with Direct Dodge of Wytheville

2. New Deed and Title will need to be drawn up.

3. Presbytery Trustees will need to be approved by the Circuit Court of Wythe County so that the sale may proceed.

X. Presbytery Office Opens at New Location—Dec. 3, 2012
Compassion Committee Report
Jennifer Parish, Chair

Items for information:

1. The committee worked on and approved the Grant Application form for the five churches to request the monies appropriated from the Norton Church to be used for Mission. A letter along with the application will be sent to the churches. A Task force from the committee will meet with the churches to review the grant proposal.

2. The committee heard a report from the HAE concerning the 2-cents A-Meal offering and the balances in the Local and International/National Funds. Due to the more frequent requests from local needs in the present economic crisis, it was discussed to ask Presbytery to approve transferring up to $10,000 from the International/National Fund to Local to meet the demand of grant requests for the Christmas Season.

3. The committee also discussed asking Presbytery to adjust the percentage of 65% Local-35% International/National to 80%-20% so that we may better meet the needs of our local request in the light of economic conditions and the lesser 2-Cents-A-Meal offerings in the past 2 years.

4. The committee also discussed the adjustment of 2-Cents-A-Meal to 5-Cents-A-Meal as some churches are already doing this.

5. The committee was treated to a wonderful presentation from Greg Wood and Tony Palubicki on the Mission Trip they led to New York. They will lead another one in 2013 and it will be such an exciting opportunity for this Presbytery.

Items for Action:

1. That the Presbytery approve transferring up to $10,000 from the International/National 2-Cents-A Meal Funds to the Local Fund.

   ___✓___ Motion made  ___✓___ Approved  _______ Disapproved

2. That the Presbytery approve changing the percentage of 65% Local-35% International/National to 80%-20% so that we may better meet the needs of our local requests.

   ___✓___ Motion made  ___✓___ Approved  _______ Disapproved

3. That the Presbytery approve adjusting the 2-CentsA-Meal to 5-Cents-A-Meal so that all churches will be promoting the same amount as some churches are already doing this.

   ___✓___ Motion made  ___✓___ Approved  _______ Disapproved
Ruth 2:17. So she gleaned in the field until evening; then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

One of the most successful projects we have had this summer has been the results of the gleaning efforts. One group from the Hurley area who has been working with me for over twenty three years has been blessed with over 100,000 lbs of fresh veggies and fruit, consisting of green beans, squash, cucumbers, cabbage, beets, collard greens, pumpkins, peaches and apples. They have gleaned from Galax to Roanoke and VA Tech and North Carolina. They have harvested in the hottest weather and stormy weather. They return home tired and satisfied from their efforts. A story I like to relate about my gleaners is as follows: One gentleman reported gleaning 5,000 lbs of green beans in a morning’s time. I was aghast for I had bent over in the fields and could never reach that amount. I ask him how this was possible for I knew how hard picking green beans is. He laughed and told me that they took the trucks into the fields and pulled up the bean vines and threw them into the truck and went back home and let the community volunteers pick them off the vine. I thought this was ingenious. I learn something new each day. Also, we have a new group led by a young man in Buchanan County who has joined us. He is taking up the projects that my other helper had to stop because of illness. We are proud that younger blood and energy is eager to enter the Hunger Force. Our gleaning will continue beyond frost season. Our 2-Cents-A-Meal offerings have been down the last two years. This is understandable due to economic causes. We had set our goals for $30,000 in the past years. The 2011 gifts were $24,117.90 and the offering to date in 2012 is $12,392.17. I like to think that the 2-Cents-a-Meal is a dedication instead of just an offering. We will be granting the Christmas request at our November meeting. We will be about $6,000 short of the requests and that is the reason for the Committee’s request to transfer some monies from the National/International funds to the Local fund so that we might meet these needs.

Remember, that I am still available and eager to speak to churches and meetings about the Hunger Program and projects that exist and to hear about missions taking place in your churches. If it is possible for me to help please let me know.

We have several Back Pack Programs happening in our churches as well as new Senior Citizen Programs evolving throughout our Presbytery. With these new programs joining with our, already established projects, we can feel proud of all the mission efforts that take place in Abingdon Presbytery. Each year I report this to the Presbyterian Hunger Program of General Assembly. I take great pride in sharing what we do with the other Presbyteries. Of course I always remind them that we are the best.

God’s Blessings in all you do,

Phyllis
Item for Information:

The Committee on Preparation and Abingdon Presbytery continues to prayerfully and financially support our Candidate, Sarah Bird presently in her second year at Princeton Theological Seminary and Zac Holt who is attending Union Theological Seminary at its satellite location in Charlotte, North Carolina for weekend classes. Both Sarah and Zac engaged the CPM in their annual consultations during the month of August when they identified their academic and personal goals for the academic year. They will meet again with the committee next summer.

Item for Presbytery Action:

1. The CPM request that they be granted from Presbytery, “delegated authority” to be used when necessary to move an individual to the next phase of readiness for ministry (after meeting Book of Order requirements) so that the individual may apply for “time sensitive” scholarships and/or meet timely admission requirements for seminary admission.

   (Appearance before and recognition from Presbytery would follow at the next stated meeting of Abingdon Presbytery).

   ____✓____ Motion Made   ____✓____ Approved   _______ Disapproved
CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT
Greg Wood, Chair

WILD GOOSE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

With the 2012 General Assembly’s initiative to start 1001 New Worshipping Communities, we of Abingdon Presbytery have a unique and historical opportunity. Before you today is a proposal to create a new worshipping community in the former Indian Valley Presbyterian Church that will serve the greater Floyd area in ways that celebrate the region’s distinctive cultural and social personality.

Our denomination has defined New Worshipping Communities as those who “take on varied forms of church for our changing culture and seek to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ.” Wild Goose will endeavor to create a worship atmosphere that will be welcoming and inviting to anyone who has felt estranged and disconnected from traditional church experiences by creating a context of Christian community bonded initially through our shared Appalachian heritage.

A New Worshipping Community is defined as one who is “gathered by the Spirit to meet Jesus Christ in Word and Sacrament and sent by the Spirit to join God’s mission for the transformation of the world.” Wild Goose will use our shared interest in Appalachian traditions as a springboard to create a uniquely mountain style of Reformed worship that will celebrate the music, arts and crafts of our region and share those gifts of the community as a Christian expression of love and compassion reaching out into the world.

And finally, A New Worshipping Community is one who will “practice mutual care and accountability and develop sustainability in leadership and finances.” Wild Goose will focus on understanding and living out the teachings of Jesus Christ in all aspects of our lives. We will be a community that represents not just the hopes and dreams of one individual or even one church. Wild Goose will be an innovative and eventually self-supporting opportunity for all of Abingdon Presbytery to take part in the exciting new direction our denomination is heading and to be the Body of Christ in Southwest Virginia and beyond.

To facilitate this, the Church Development Committee (CDC) moves:

1. That Presbytery designate “Wild Goose Christian Community” as a Worshipping Community of the Abingdon Presbytery with full use of the former Indian Valley Presbyterian Church Property.

   ____✓____ Motion Made;    ____✓____ Approved _______Disapproved

2. That Presbytery enter into a five (5) year commitment, reviewed annually by the Committee On Ministry and CDC, to support the “Wild Goose Christian Community” through the prayers and participation of the congregations of Abingdon Presbytery and the Church Development Committee, and funds designated for that Committee (proposed costs on next page).

   ____✓____ Motion Made;    ____✓____ Approved _______Disapproved

3. That upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, Rev. Edwin Lacy, be designated as an “Evangelist” in Abingdon Presbytery.

   ____✓____ Motion Made;    ____✓____ Approved _______Disapproved
4. That upon recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, the Terms of Call for Rev. Lacy be approved as:
   a. Cash Salary and Housing Allowance: $42,000
   b. Medical Reimbursement 1,000
   c. School Loan Reimbursement 2,000
   d. ½ SECA 2,968
   e. Reimbursed Travel Allowance 4,500
   f. Education/Book Allowance 1,000
   g. Pension/Major Medical (BOP) 15,323
   h. Total Terms of Call 68,791
   i. To include 4 weeks’ vacation and 2 weeks study leave

   ___✓___Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved _______Disapproved

5. That Abingdon Presbytery appoint the members of the Church Development Committee as an Administrative Commission to oversee the mission and ministry of the Wild Goose Christian Community.

   ___✓___Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved _______Disapproved

6. That Abingdon Presbytery serve as treasurer for the Wild Goose New Worshipping Community.

   ___✓___Motion Made;   ___✓___Approved _______Disapproved

Other Business:

After several years of discussion and education, Tazewell Presbyterian Church is beginning the Natural Church Development process with the Rev. Tony Palubicki as their coach. The CDC, Rev. Tony, and Tazewell Presbyterian Church would be happy to talk with you or your congregation about this Church health and growth program.

Presbytery Financial Commitment to “Wild Goose”

Begin work January 1, 2013 with worship to begin around Easter

2013: Operating: 100,000
       Renovations: 50,000

   Renovations to include: bringing the former Indian Valley Presbyterian Church up to current standards; removing carpet, reconfiguring, and redecorating sanctuary, purchase of furnishings, and other needed and/or unexpected items.

2014 Operating: $100,000
2015          Operating:       $100,000
2016          Operating:       $75,000
2017          Operating:       $50,000

==================================
Total for commitment for initial 5 years    $475,000

Funding to be approved by Committee on Ministry one year at a time. At present, total funds to come from the Church Development Committee, while CDC researches and applies for grants and matching funds available through the G.A.
Presbyterian Women of Abingdon Presbytery  
October 11, 2012

The Synod of the Mid-Atlantic held their annual Summer Gathering at Massanetta Springs in June. Elaine Alderman our Coordinator for Justice and Peace served as Resource Chair for the conference. Eight women from our presbytery attended. Included in this group were two new attendees. Next year Edna Noblett will serve as Assistant Hospitality Chair.

Representatives Bettie Galliher and Peta Patton were not able to attend the 2012 Summer Gathering because of cost concerns.

The Coordinating Team met on Saturday, August 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Walnut Grove Presbyterian Church in Bristol. A report on the Twenty-fourth Annual Gathering at Lebanon Presbyterian Church was given. Fifty-six women from seventeen churches and three visitors attended. Phyllis Canter installed the new officers. Each Cluster leader presented a report on the work being done in her cluster.

The annual Fall Gathering was held at Marys’ Presbyterian Church in Tazewell on August 8, 2012. Bettie Galliher and Elizabeth Nash presented the Bible Study for the coming year – DISPATCHES TO GOD’S HOUSEHOLD THE GENERAL EPISTLES. Training workshops for the various officers were provided for Moderators, Treasurers, Spiritual Growth, Missions, Justice and Peace, Historians, and Cluster Leaders.

The fall CT meeting will be a retreat and held on October 26-27 at Cox’s Barn at Dugspur, VA. The Reverend Mary Davis minister of the Lebanon Presbyterian Church will lead the retreat beginning on Friday evening and concluding Saturday morning. At the conclusion of the retreat the Coordinating Team will have a meeting.

Co-Moderator Bettie Galliher attended the Synod Coordinating Team meeting at Massanetta Springs on October 11-12.

Our women have been very busy in missions locally and worldwide, serving the Lord in many ways. We pray that we will continue to be witnesses throughout this coming year!

Respectfully submitted,
Bettie Galliher and Elizabeth Nash
Co-Moderators of Presbyterian Women of Abingdon Presbytery
THANK YOU
Abingdon Presbytery
FOR HELPING US GIVE CHILDREN HOPE AND PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE

CHILDREN’S HOME OPENS INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

On September 5th the Children’s Home opened an Independent Living Program in Gilmer Cottage. The program is designed for young men from 17 to 21 years old who have decided to remain in the foster care system and recognize the need for help in their transition to independence. The residents receive extensive guidance in skills such as money management, job interviewing and how to hold a job, how to purchase a vehicle, food preparation, and other needed skills. The program has a maximum of five residents, and there are currently three in the program. We have been working on this program for the past year, and are pleased to have it up and running.

CHILDREN’S HOME VIDEO AVAILABLE FOR USE

As I mentioned in our last report, our promotional video of the Children’s Home has been completed and is ready for distribution. Produced in-house by our Development Director, E.C. Hill, the video recounts the history and current status of our ministry through video footage and interviews with staff and former residents. The video runs just over 18 minutes, which makes it a perfect length for a group presentation or a Sunday night supper. At the present time only our Board Members and our staff have access to the video, but any of our churches or supporters can request one for viewing at a meeting or individually. You can call our office or contact one of Board Members and we will make sure you get one. The video comes with a booklet that gives facts about the Children’s Home that may not be explained in the video. We will also be glad to have a staff member come to your meeting to help with the presentation if you wish. It is also a great way to introduce us to someone who may not be familiar with our ministry. Thanks for your help!
NEW DAWN SOCIETY

We are searching for supporters who wish to become members of the New Dawn Society. The New Dawn Society consists of friends of the Children’s Home who include PCHH in their estate planning, regardless of the amount. Members of the New Dawn Society receive a certificate and an engraved leaf will be placed on our donor tree, which is located in our conference room. Gifts such as these provide the funds to ensure that the Children’s Home will be here to serve children long past our lifetimes. Members of the New Dawn Society who have passed away recently have made a tremendous contribution to the financial health of the Children’s Home. Please consider how your gift can impact the lives of our children as you enter into your estate planning.

If you would like for one of our staff members to visit your church or civic group so you can learn more about the Children’s Home, please let us know. It is a pleasure to share with you what your support means to us as we watch over the children God has blessed to our care.

Thank You for Your Support!
SYNOD OF THE MID-ATLANTIC -230TH STATED MEETING
September 17th and 18th, 2012
Richmond, VA

Report of Commissioner

The Synod Assembly met at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church on the above dates. I served as the Elder Commissioner from Abingdon Presbytery. The Synod continues to work on restructuring itself to become more responsive to the needs of its Presbyteries and to seek to be more efficient by controlling the costs of Synod operations.

The Commission to study operations of Middle Governing Bodies reported this summer to the General Assembly. To the surprise of many the Commission suggested that the period to study the operation of Synods be extended until the next Assembly. The expectation is that Synods will be reduced in number and will serve larger numbers of Presbyteries. In essence this action gives the Synods as we know them at least two additional years of existence.

The Synod has sold its office building on the Union Seminary Campus and continues to operate in offices in the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. The proceeds from the sale of the building will be designated for Synod operations. The Synod Assembly also approved the move from a full-time Executive/Stated Clerk to a half-time person for this position. Our present executive, the Rev. Dr. David McKee, is retiring. He has graciously agreed to continue to serve in the part-time position while the Synod organizes and conducts a search for a new Executive/Stated Clerk. This reduction in staffing costs should reduce the per capita of Synod approximately to $0.70.

The Rev. Tanya Wade from Baltimore Presbytery has been selected as Synod Moderator for this year. I was honored to be chosen as the Synod Moderator-elect. We were both installed at this meeting.

- The Assembly approved a motion from the Presbytery Initiatives Committee to grant $10,000 to the Pastoral Skills Development Project sponsored by National Capital, Baltimore, and New Castle;
- The Assembly approved the awarding of $2,500 to each of eight churches from the New and Small Church Grant Fund;
- The Assembly approved the awarding of $3,600 in Peacemaking Grants;
- The Assembly approved $7,600 in Visionary Grants; and
- The Assembly also voted to establish a task force to study the formulas for distributing its grants and awards in view of the restructuring plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Parish, Elder Commissioner
### CHRONOLOGICAL LISTING OF PAST MODERATORS OF ABINGDON PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

**JANUARY 1, 1980 – NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

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NINETY-SIXTH called Mtg Lee Willard (E)
NINETY-SEVENTH laughing English (E)
NINETY-EIGHTH Calvin Free (E)
NINETY-NINTH F. Gurley (E)
SIXTIETH David E. Jordan (E)
SIXTY-FIRST CLINTON DONALDSON (E)
SIXTY-SECOND Nancy A. Price (E)
SIXTY-THIRD Mary M. Cassell (E)
SIXTY-FOURTH David P. Brown (E)
SIXTY-FIFTH Tommy R. Walker (E)
SIXTY-SIXTH David M. Horsley (E)
SIXTY-SEVENTH N. J. Olson (E)
SIXTY-EIGHTH Cooling (E)
SIXTY-NINTH Woodrow Lewis (E)
SEVENTIETH Paul A. Brown (E)
SEVENTY-FIRST Delmar Peas (E)
SEVENTY-SECOND Cliff Greer (E)
SEVENTY-THIRD Ralson Johnson (E)
SEVENTY-FOURTH L. J. Magee (E)
SEVENTY-FIFTH L. D. Chastain (E)
SEVENTY-SIXTH Sydney R. Adkison (E)
SEVENTY-SEVENTH Paul Hamilton (E)
SEVENTY-EIGHTH Moody T. Walker (E)
SEVENTY-NINTH Garret E. Smith (E)
EIGHTIETH Jimmy Collins (E)
EIGHTY-FIRST W. C. Reynolds (E)
EIGHTY-SECOND H. E. Ham (E)
EIGHTY-THIRD Glenn L. Jones (E)
EIGHTY-FOURTH Woodrow Lewis (E)
EIGHTY-FIFTH L. J. Magee (E)
EIGHTY-SIXTH Sydney R. Adkison (E)
EIGHTY-SEVENTH Paul Hamilton (E)
EIGHTY-EIGHTH Moody T. Walker (E)
EIGHTY-NINTH Garret E. Smith (E)
NINETIETH George Aichel (E)
NINETY-FIRST Frank Preston (E)
NINETY-SECOND Brad Simpson (E)
NINETY-THIRD Mike Shortridge (E)
GAP/Powell Valley
NINETY-FOURTH William Wing (E)
NINETY-FIFTH Grace Bradshaw (E)
NINETY-SIXTH Cindy Privette (E)
CALLED MEETING Cindy Privette (E)
NINETY-SEVENTH Terry Morris (E)
NINETY-EIGHTH Cathy Carpenter (E)
NINETY-NINTH GUYDELL SLATE (E)
ONE-HUNDREDTH David WADSWORTH (E)
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