

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

The Summer Stated Meeting of Trinity was held on **Saturday, August 20, 2022**, at 9:30 a.m. at **Forest Lake Presbyterian Church** in Columbia. The meeting opened with prayer by the Moderator, **Elder Martha Casto**. Worship followed with a sermon entitled ***Builders and Planters*** by Candidate for Ministry of the Word and Sacrament, **Mr. Ed Black**.

- Attending the meeting were: 47 teaching elders, two commissioned pastors, three visiting clergy, one commissioned evangelist, 37 elder commissioners (representing 32 congregations), one corresponding member, *three PCT members, *three staff members and 21 visitors.
- Inquirer **Brian Purcell** was examined and enrolled as Candidate for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament.
- The **Rev. Eddie Davis**, Chief of Chaplain Services at Columbia VA Health Systems, completed his examination on the floor of Presbytery and was enrolled as a Temporary Member of Trinity Presbytery, called to serve as stated supply for our Calvary Church in Winnsboro.
- The Commission on Ministry's Revised Guidelines for Pulpit Supply Honorarium received a second reading and were adopted.
- The **Reverend Lynn Grandsire** and the **Rev. Dr. Ben Sloan** were recognized and congratulated on their recent retirements.
- **Elder Jim Rowell**, Interim Stated Clerk, called attention to the reports of the four Trinity Presbytery Commissioners to the 225th General Assembly and thanked them for their work, which is still ongoing. Those commissioners were: The **Rev. Lynn Grandsire**, the **Rev. Dr. Kyle Hite**, **Elder Tami Richardson** and **Elder Carl Weathers**.
- **Presbytery received oral reports and updates from some of our Teams.**

MISSION and Evangelism Team (MET)

Elder Mark McCain, South Carolina Presbyterian Disaster Team, reminded Presbytery of the importance of our churches having a plan and being prepared for disasters, as well as our responsibility to serve and give.

The **Rev. Dr. Ben Sloan** reminded us of our special partnership with the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan. Sloan also reminded us to continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan.

Dr. Phyllis Sanders, VC Coordinator for Trinity Presbytery, introduced the new model of training for Vital Congregations. The new model is designed to be more inclusive training that will equip leaders in the congregations to work alongside the pastor in the work of Vital Congregations.

David Staniunas, Records Archivist at Presbyterian Historical Society, reported (via video) for PHS. He encouraged congregations, with records that are not in stellar condition, to send those records to PHS for preservation. Mr. Staniunas also announced that PHS has recently organized the African American Leaders and Congregations (AALC) Collections Initiative, which is dedicated to collecting and preserving the archives of historically Black Presbyterian Churches. PHS is offering free digitization of the records of these historic churches. Presbytery was encouraged to contact [PHS](#) for more information.

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PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW):

Elder Amy Alexander, Moderator, brought greetings from PW and announced that the Annual Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of the Synod of South Atlantic, **Celebrating Sabbath: Plug in & Recharge**, will be held on October 21-23, 2022 at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. Information and registration can be found on the [PW website](#).

DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE TEAM (DRT)

Elder Bill Wannamaker, Trinity Presbytery's Youth Ministries Coordinator, continues the search for youth and adults

willing to work on creating a Youth Council for the Presbytery that will best serve the needs of our youth. He is currently working with three of our congregations to combine their youth programs. Mr.

Wannamaker reminded Presbytery that he is available as a youth ministry resource for our churches and individuals.

The **Rev. Dr. Chris Denny**, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church (Columbia), and President of SOAP APCE, announced that the 2022 SOAP APCE Retreat, **Come and Play**, will be held November 3rd-5th at Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA. He also announced that the DRT has set aside \$2,500 for 10 scholarships (up to \$250) for anyone interested in attending. The application form will be available on the Presbytery's website.

The **Rev. Caroline Dennis**, DRT Moderator, reminded Presbytery that Trinity Presbytery voted, in early 2020, to become a [Matthew 25](#) Presbytery, with a focus on congregational vitality. Part of that focus included having discussions around the [7 Marks of Vital Congregations](#) at stated meetings of Presbytery. **Dr. Phyllis Sanders**, Vital Congregations Coordinator for Trinity Presbytery, and **Rev. Jason Hammersley**, Pastor of South Aiken Presbyterian Church, have been leading us in those discussions. They were invited to the floor to introduce and share a little about Mark #3: *Caring Relationships*, as well as *Spiritual Operating Norms*, and how both can be embodied in our congregations. Presbytery then broke into small discussion groups in the sanctuary, using a discussion guide provided by Dr. Sanders and Rev. Hammersley.

- Moderator Casto led Presbytery in a time of sharing and celebrating the good things happening in our congregations.
- The meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer by the Moderator.

The next Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery will be held via Zoom videoconferencing on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, convening at 9:30 a.m.