

Highlights of the May 5, 2018 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery

- The meeting was held at **Little Mountain Presbyterian Church in Abbeville** with 116 people in attendance. Presbytery was welcomed and greeted warmly by volunteers and delicious refreshments. **Candidate for Ministry, Ms. Charmaine Smith-Miles** brought an inspiring message entitled ***Not Us, But God*** during worship. An offering of \$701 was collected for hunger issues in Abbeville County through UCMAC (United Christian Ministries of Abbeville County).
- All present participated in the Liturgy of Commissioning for our four Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly: **Rev. Dr. Herb Codington, Rev. Dr. Mark Durrett, Dr. Barbara Freese and Dr. Phyllis Sanders**.
- **Commissioned Lay Pastor Jim Blackwelder** was commissioned to service at Congaree Presbyterian Church in Cayce.
- Trinity Presbytery welcomed four new Minister Members: **Rev. Daniel Loffredo**, Chaplain at SC Dept. of Juvenile Justice, **Rev. Margaret Marley**, Family Teacher at Thornwell, **Rev. Mike McCracken**, *Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Laurens, and Mrs. Charmaine Smith-Miles, +Pastor of Little Mountain Presbyterian Church in Abbeville.
- **Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. David Torrey**, gave his annual report on the statistics of Trinity Presbytery, according to the statistics reported by our churches on the annual statistical reporting system of the denomination. He explained that these statistics are not a true reflection as a number of our churches do not submit these reports, as requested. According to the information available, Trinity Presbytery had a decrease in membership of 677. These losses occurred due to review of membership rolls by sessions, transfers, those who have passed on to the Church Triumphant, and the departure of Fairview Presbyterian Church from our denomination.
- **Dr. Phyllis Sanders**, Moderator of the Committee on Representation reported on the work of the committee, which provides oversight to ensure full participation and access to representation of all persons in the structures of Presbytery. Dr. Sanders asked Presbytery to help identify folks who might be willing to serve.

Dr. Sanders, who is also a Facilitator for the ***Vital Congregations Initiative***, shared with Presbytery the exciting progress of the two-year project. Dr. Sanders and **Rev. Dr. Chris Denny** have been meeting with pastor cohort groups around the presbytery, making intentional efforts for vitality through conversations about authentic relationships.
- **Rev. Liz Cely**, reporting for the Nominating Committee, and **Rev. Alice Odell**, reporting for the Temporary Appointments Committee, presented the names of people who were willing to serve on various Teams and Committees of Presbytery. All were approved to begin service immediately.
- **Ruling Elder Mozella White**, Moderator of Presbyterian Women (PW), reported that there are vacancies on the Presbytery PW Coordinating Team. She reminded Presbytery about the Triennial Church-wide Gathering of PW in Louisville, KY, in August.
- **Reverend Dr. Ben Sloan**, reported on the Trinity South Sudan Ministry (TSSM) trip to Kenya earlier this year. The team distributed 140 solar-powered Talking Bibles (in the Sudanese language), provided medical treatment to over 600 people, distributed \$5,000 worth of medicine, met with 77 pastors from 11 tribes, among other things. Dr. Sloan reported that he would be willing to visit congregations to speak about the ministry of TSSM and reminded Presbytery that for 25 years we have played a major role in negotiating peace for the South Sudanese people, who are in the midst of a civil war.
- **Ruling Elder Lydia Willingham**, Peacemaking Committee Member, reported that the committee hosted three workshops earlier this year entitled ***"A Call to Listen"- "Building Racial Dialogues"***. She encouraged our congregations to engage in dialogues about biases, prejudices and racism.
- **Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant** reported for the Budget and Finance Committee, directing Presbytery to the reports in the commissioners' handbook. The 2017 audit is complete with no issues to report. The YTD financial report indicates a stable financial position. Dr. Fant thanked Trinity Presbytery's Financial Administrator **Louise Carter** for all her assistance.
- **Rev. Dr. Hampton Hunter** announced that **Rev. Dr. Jill Duffield**, Editor of The Presbyterian Outlook, will be leading the Bible Study: ***Anxious Times: The Gift and Witness of Christian Community, A study of I Thessalonians***, at the Fall Adult Retreat October 26-27, 2018, at Camp Fellowship. **Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter** and Rev. Kimani Wright will be worship leaders. Brochures will be available soon.
- **The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.**

*To be installed June 3, 2018, at 3 p.m.

+ To be ordained and installed on June 3, 2018, at 4 p.m.