

Highlights of the November 13, 2018 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery

- The meeting was held at **Sion Presbyterian Church** in Winnsboro. Present were 37 Teaching Elders, 2 Commissioned Pastors, 4 visiting clergy, 35 Ruling Elders (representing 27 churches), 2 Christian Educators, 1 Coordinating Team member (not listed elsewhere), 21 visitors, and 2 Presbytery staff (not listed elsewhere) for a total of 104. There were 22 Teaching Elders that were unexcused, 31 churches with no commissioners present (unexcused), and 3 churches that requested to be excused.
- Presbytery was welcomed and greeted warmly by the Pastor, **Rev. Rebekah Carpenter**, volunteers, and delicious refreshments.
- The meeting was called to order by **Rev. Alice Odell, Moderator of the Presbytery Coordinating Team (PCT)**, who opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was declared, and Presbytery elected **Rev. Blaine Hill** as Moderator for this meeting.
- The worship service began in the sanctuary; worshippers divided into two groups for the sermons, which were preached in two locations by **Mr. Brad Christie**, and **Mr. John Hopkins**, both Candidates for Ministry who have completed their requirements for Ordination. The worshippers reconvened in the sanctuary for the remainder of the service and the meeting. A total of **\$836** was collected during the offering for Committee on Preparation Ministry (CPM) scholarships.
- **Synod Executive and Stated Clerk, Rev. Joyce Lieberman**, brought greetings and an update from the Synod of the South Atlantic office.
- **Rev. Alice Odell, Moderator PCT**, reported for the Team on the actions of the PCT since the May 5, 2018 meeting of Presbytery.
- **Dr. Phyllis Sanders, Vital Congregations Coordinator**, and **Commissioned Pastor Jim Blackwelder** reported on the progress of the *Vital Congregations Initiative*. **Dr. Sanders** additionally described her work in this new staff position.
- **Rev. Liz Cely, Moderator of the Nominating Committee**, presented a slate of nominees for vacancies on teams and committees of Presbytery, including Vice-Moderator of Presbytery. The slate was approved as presented with **Rev. Leon Page, Designated Supply Pastor of our Oak Grove Church**, being elected and installed as **Vice-Moderator of Trinity Presbytery**.
- The Mission and Evangelism Team (MET) brought reports of the various focus groups: **Rev. Dr. Herb Codington** reported on the on-going and far-reaching ministry of the Greater Laurens County Cluster Group. **Elder Shirley Greene** reported on the continuing, fruitful work of the **African American Caucus of the Racial Ethnic Concerns Committee**. **Rev. James Cubie, Evangelist for our New Worshiping Community (NWC)**, Daughter Church of our Lake Murray Church, brought an exciting report on the progress of the NWC. They have chosen the name *Foundation*. **Rev. Amos Disasa** and **Rev. Dawn Hyde, Co-Pastors of our Downtown Church** reported on the progress of the new facility at the Bull Street location in Columbia.
- **Rev. Dr. Danny Murphy, General Presbyter**, reminded us of all the good things that have been accomplished through the generous giving of our churches. Citing Paul's letter to the Corinthians (II Corinthians 9:7), Dr. Murphy challenged our churches to meet with our sessions and encourage them to increase their contribution to Unified Giving and Per Capita of Trinity Presbytery, shifting our focus from a mentality of *scarcity* to one of *abundance*.
- Written reports from **Presbyterian Women (PW) of Trinity Presbytery**, the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry** and the **Mission and Evangelism Team** were brought to our attention.

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- **Rev. Dr. Franklin Fant** gave a brief report on the financial status of the presbytery. **The 2019 Proposed Budget was approved as the 2019 Budget for Trinity Presbytery.**
 - We received reports from two of our related institutions:
Thornwell Home— Rev. Eliot Smith
SC Christian Action Council— Rev. Brenda Kneece
 - **Elder Bill Wannamaker, Adult Advisor for Trinity Presbytery Youth Council**, brought an encouraging report from the Youth Council. They are in the process of reviewing by-laws and past procedures in an effort to determine what the needs are for the Youth in Trinity Presbytery today.
 - **Elder Andrea Paschal, Certified DCE and *P.O.I.N.T. person**, reminded Presbytery that she is available to answer questions and/or make suggestions on curriculum for our congregations, as well as provide samples for review. ***Presbyterians Organized in Nurture and Teaching**
 - Two Candidates were successfully examined for ordination:
Mr. Brad Christie, stated supply-elect at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greenwood
Mr. John Hopkins, stated supply-elect for Duncan Creek Presbyterian Church in Clinton
 - Three new ministers were welcomed into Trinity Presbytery:
Rev. James Cubie, Evangelist at Lake Murray Presbyterian Church's Daughter Church
Rev. Frank Cunningham, as an Honorably Retired Member-at-large
Rev. Deborah Wells, an Honorably Retired Member-at-Large, serving in a temporary position at our Shandon Church.
 - **Elder Ray Bell** was commissioned to serve Ninety Six Presbyterian Church as their Commissioned Pastor
- The COM 2019 Minimum Salary Standards of Trinity Presbytery were approved, and will be posted on the Presbytery's website soon.
- An Administrative Commission was elected for our Northminster Church.
 - The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m. with a prayer offered by **Rev. Blaine Hill**.

Trinity Presbytery would like to thank the staff and volunteers of Sion Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro for their gracious hospitality in hosting the 131st Meeting of Trinity Presbytery.

The next Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery will be held

Saturday, February 16, 2019,

at Westminster Presbyterian Church,

2330 Cokesbury Road, Greenwood, SC 29649

(Registration begins at 8:30a.m.; meeting convenes at 9:30 a.m.)