

Highlights of the February 11, 2017 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery

- The meeting was held at **First Presbyterian Church** in Greenwood with 126 people in attendance. The **Reverend Dr. Alice L. Ridgill** brought a dynamic message entitled ***A New Thing*** during worship. A total of **\$765** was collected during the offering, with proceeds to be divided between two food banks in the presbytery. The Lord's Supper was celebrated with the **Reverend Dr. Kyle Hite** officiating, and 12 teaching and ruling elders from the presbytery assisting. The presbytery necrology was read. Trinity Presbytery lost **45 Ruling Elders** and **five Teaching Elders** during 2016.
- The **Reverend Dr. Brad Smith** presented a slate from the nominating committee, which was approved. Dr. Smith distributed a report showing the participation (per congregation) on the committees of Presbytery, reminding Presbytery that all of our congregations need to be represented in the work of Presbytery.
- **Andrea Paschal**, Christian Educator at our Forest Lake Church, was officially installed as a Certified Christian Educator in the **Presbyterian Church (USA)** in a service led by Retired Christian Educator, **Peggy Hammett**.
- The outgoing Moderator of Presbytery, **Ruling Elder Lovic Brooks** was recognized and thanked for his service. The new Moderator of Presbytery, the **Reverend Alice Odell** was installed, as well as the Vice Moderator of Presbytery, **Ruling Elder Suzie Sherard**. The outgoing Moderator of Council **Elder Jane Brissette** was recognized and thanked for her leadership of Trinity Presbytery's Coordinating Team for the past year.
- The Annual Statistical Reporting Awards were presented to the first three churches to submit their information online. First and second place churches were **Westminster** (Columbia) and **Rocky Springs**. **Hodges and Grace Covenant churches** tied for third place. All the churches who had completed the task were thanked for their efforts.
- The **Reverend Dr. Danny Murphy**, **General Presbyter**, gave his annual report on the status and direction of the presbytery. He thanked all the members of Trinity Presbytery who serve on our various committees or as officers in their congregations. Their work has allowed our presbytery to move ahead. He highlighted many of accomplishments and achievements of the past year as well as some transitions that have the potential to result in huge transformation for the presbytery in the near future.
- **Ruling Elder Larry Huckabee** and the **Reverend Dr. Franklin Fant** reported on the work of the **Financial Task Force**. A financial audit is scheduled. An interim budget for 2017 was approved, with the understanding that a final budget may be presented at the stated meeting in May.
- **A delicious lunch was provided by our host church, First Presbyterian** in Greenwood.
- **Ruling Elder Diane Hamrick** reported that the Annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women of Trinity Presbytery will be on Saturday, March 4th at our South Aiken Church.
- **Ruling Elder Mac Brown**, Moderator of Trinity South Sudan Ministry (TSSM) brought an encouraging report on the work of TSSM. A team of volunteers will be traveling to Uganda to work at Sudanese refugee camps, taking with them 150 talking Bibles to distribute. He thanked Presbytery for the generous donations received during the special offering in October which allowed construction on the new church in Pibor to begin. He reminded Presbytery that February is also a month in which a special offering for TSSM is collected. These funds will be used to help purchase the talking Bibles for South Sudan.
- The **Reverend Dr. Ben Sloan** presented a report from the **Presbytery Vision Team**, which has completed its work. He recognized and thanked the Team members for their hard work and diligence in seeking God's wisdom for the future of Trinity Presbytery. The Team's recommendations were presented and approved for implementation.

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- Presbytery approved a **Transition Team** of three: The **Reverend Dr. Ellen Fowler Skidmore** (Forest Lake Church), **Ruling Elder Larry Huckabee** (Cherokee Church), and **Ruling Elder Trey Harrell** (Lake Murray Church) to work with the Outdoor Ministries Division to come up with a strong Covenant Agreement for May's Presbytery meeting as the Team considers moving Fellowship Camp & Conference Center to 501(c)3 status. Dr. Skidmore invited members of Presbytery to contact any Transition Team member with suggestions, ideas or concerns. Dr. Skidmore's email address is ellenskidmore@flpc.org.
- Our **Fairview Congregation** in North Augusta, SC, was dismissed, with sadness, to **A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians** on a vote conducted by written ballot. **Associate Pastor Masaki Chiba** was dismissed to the same. A prayer was offered for our brothers and sisters at the **Fairview Church** as they continue their ministry in a new reformed denomination.
- The **Reverend Joseph Kim**, Associate Pastor at our Korean Community Church, was endorsed for Chaplaincy in the United States Air Force on a recommendation from the **Committee on Ministry**.
- **Outdoor Ministries Division** reported that the part-time Camp Administrative Assistant/Registrar provided by **Westminster Church** in Greenwood has begun work. **Emily Kienker**, Assistant Director of Camp Fellowship shared exciting news about the 2017 programs and retreats at our camp. She encouraged folks to check the camp website for dates of the Spring Preview, Open House and Summer 2017 programs.
- The **Reverend Kevin Cartee** reported for the **Division of Education and Nurture**. Several events are being planned for 2017: TrinityFest, Fall Adult Retreat and an All-Youth Retreat.
- **Inquirer Asher Din** (First Greenwood) moved to Candidate status on a motion from the **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**
- The meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.
- The next Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery will be held on Saturday, May 6th at **Congaree Church** in Cayce.

Presbytery minutes and supporting documents will be available online in the near future.

Trinity Presbytery would like to thank the staff and volunteers at First Presbyterian Church in Greenwood for their wonderful hospitality in hosting the 124th Meeting of Trinity Presbytery.