

Highlights of the February 16, 2019 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery

- The meeting was held at **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Greenwood with 133 people in attendance. **Commissioned Pastor Jim Blackwelder** (Congaree Presbyterian Church) brought an inspiring message entitled **Open My Eyes** during worship. **Elder Trish Sargent** was commissioned as lay pastor to serve in and for **Petersen Presbyterian Church** in Columbia. An offering of \$778 was collected during worship, with proceeds to be divided between two food banks in the presbytery. The Lord's Supper was celebrated with the **Reverend Brad Christie**, Stated Supply Pastor of the Westminster Church officiating, and Ruling Elders from the Westminster Church assisting. The presbytery necrology, noting deaths in Trinity Presbytery, was read. Trinity Presbytery lost **45 Ruling Elders** and **3 Teaching Elders** during 2018.
- The outgoing Moderator of Presbytery, **Elder Suzie Sherard**, was recognized and thanked for her service. The new Moderator of Presbytery, **Rev. Leon Page** was installed as well as the Vice Moderator of Presbytery, **Rev. Mike McCracken**. The outgoing Moderator of the Presbytery Coordinating Team, **Rev. Alice Odell** was recognized and thanked for her service.
- As a result of an investment of Presbytery funds in 2018, three of our churches who have loans through the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP) were presented rebate checks: **Cherokee** (Gilbert), **Korean Community** (Columbia), and **Providence** (West Columbia).
- **Rev. Dr. Danny Murphy**, General Presbyter, gave his annual report on the activities and direction of the presbytery. He thanked all the members of Trinity Presbytery who serve on our various teams, committees and commissions. He highlighted many accomplishments of the presbytery in the past year. Dr. Murphy ended his report by announcing that after 17 years of consistently drawing down on our unrestricted reserves, Trinity Presbytery's financial position is strengthening. We started January 2019 with an unaudited Unrestricted Fund Balance of \$396,205, compared to January 2018's beginning balance of \$209,149. Dr. Murphy's complete report will be available on the Presbytery's website later this month.
- **Elder Clark Simmons** brought greetings from the Board of Pensions and introduced **Elder Elizabeth Little**, who will be replacing him as church consultant for the presbyteries in North Carolina and South Carolina. Clark is now a senior consultant, overseeing church relations work in six states. Elder Little announced that vacancy dues are gone, the pension program is secure, stable and fully-funded, and for the third year in a row, there are more members in the plan than the previous year.
- The Annual Statistical Reporting Awards were presented to the first three churches to submit their information online. The first and second place churches were **Lake Murray** (Chapin) and **Queen Memorial** (Newberry). **Korean Community** (Columbia) and **Ninety Six** churches tied for third place, and were both awarded. All the churches who had completed the task were thanked for their efforts.
- Presbytery received updates from **Presbyterian College**, **Presbyterian Communities of SC**, **Camping Ministries of the Carolinas**, and the **Texas Presbyterian Foundation**.
- Presbytery enthusiastically approved inquirer **Macy Ruple** moving to candidate in process, under care of Trinity Presbytery.
- **Rev. James Cubie**, Evangelist of the Foundation Church in Dutch Fork, (Daughter Church of Lake Murray Presbyterian Church) brought an encouraging report to Presbytery. They had 63 people in attendance at their first worship service on Christmas Eve. There are plans for an open home and Saturday evening worship services. Rev. Cubie asked that Presbytery be in prayer at two specific times for Foundation Church: 10:02* (a.m. or p.m.) and 1:39** (a.m. or p.m.)

***Luke 10:2** - *He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.*

****John 1:39** - *"Come," he replied, "and you will see." (Pray that people will come and see).*

Learn more about Foundation Church [here](#).

Presbytery learned that **Dr. Phyllis Sanders**, Trinity Presbytery Vital Congregations Coordinator, and **Elder Mozella White**, Moderator of Presbyterian Women in Trinity Presbytery, were unable to be present due to deaths in their families. Dr. Sanders lost her brother and a cousin; Elder White lost her husband. The Moderator called for a moment of silence and asked Presbytery to keep these dear sisters in Christ in our prayers.

- continued on back -

Highlights of the February 16, 2019 Stated Meeting of Trinity Presbytery, continued

- **Elder Bill Wannamaker** reported on the activities of Trinity Presbytery Youth Council. The Council has reviewed their membership application and revised the mission statement. They are planning a youth rally day Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Camp Fellowship. The Council is seeking new members and adult advisors. Please contact Bill Wannamaker for more information: Youthcoord@flpc.org or 803-530-1375.
- **Rev. Molly Spangler**, DCE at our Shandon Church, announced that Trinity Presbytery will be sending a delegation to the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue University, July 16th—20th. The theme this year is “Here’s My Heart”. Rev. Spangler encouraged those in attendance to share this information with their Churches. Adult chaperones are needed for this trip. Registration forms are available. Contact Molly Spangler mspangler@shandonpresbyterian.org or the registrar **Andrea Paschal** andreapaschal@flpc.org.
- **Rev. Dr. Chris Denny** shared some of the successes of the Vital Congregations Initiative, which is in its second year. Plans are being made for the next group of participants. **Rev. Dr. Jeri Parris Perkins**, who is a member of the pastor cohort group, shared how this program has challenged all the participants and has personally impacted her in so many positive ways.
- **Rev. Dr. Robert Scotland** reported for Trinity South Sudan Ministry (TSSM). Dr. Scotland, Rev. Leon Page, and three members of Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church were part of the team that made a mission trip to South Sudan in January.
- **Rev. Robert M. “Bob” Brearley**, retired member of Savannah Presbytery, was introduced to Presbytery. Rev. Brearley will be the Interim Pastor for our Shandon Church beginning March 1st.
- The Presbytery bid a fond farewell to **Rev. Lawrence Peebles**, who will be transferring his membership to Charleston Atlantic Presbytery to begin serving Santee Presbyterian Church later this month.
- **Rev. Dr. Mark Durrett** presented the proposed amendments to the Book of Order from the 223rd General Assembly, as well as the Bills and Overtures Committee (B&O) recommendations. Below is the result of the ballot vote.

Form of Government	
18-A Election of Ruling Elders and Deacons - On Amending G-2.0401	*YES
18-B Renunciation of Jurisdiction	
18-B.1 On Amending G-2.0509	*NO
Rules of Discipline	
18-B.2. On Amending D-10.0401d	*NO
Form of Government	
18-C. Officers - On Amending G-3.0104	+NO
18-D. Membership of Presbytery - On Amending G-3.0306	
*YES	
18-E. Pastor, Counselor, and Advisor — On Amending G-3.0307	*YES
Directory for Worship	
18-F. Welcoming to the Table — On Amending W-4.0202	*YES
Rules of Discipline	
18-G. Disciplinary Offense - On Amending D-2.0203b	*YES
18-H. Time Limit -	
18-H.1. On Amending D-10.0401b	*YES
18-H.2. On Amending D-10.0401c(1)	*YES
<i>* B&O recommendation</i>	
<i>+ B&O divided on recommendation</i>	

The report of the Leaves and Absences Committee was read by **Elder Lilly S. Gallman** (Oak Grove)
The report from the Resolution and Thanks Committee was read by **Rev. Kimani Wright** (Northminster)

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 P.M. with a closing prayer by **Rev. Lawrence Peebles**.