

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

September 27th, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church Belmar

Tuesday evening's meeting began early, well before 4:00 p.m. in the lower level of Belmar's church, in a flurry of activity. The registration desk and Genesis Center tables were surrounded by Pastors, commissioners and visitors, all checking in, perusing resources, and conversing with one another.



Rev. Gary Filson, Monmouth's moderator, was soon up in front of the sanctuary, a floor above, precisely at 4:00 p.m. where he began the meeting. After a couple of announcements, most were seated in the sanctuary as the meeting got under way.

The full docket began with a presentation by Ruling Elder Walt Vincent. He gave a report on the work of the Protestant campus ministry of Rutgers University and encouraged congregations to continue supporting this ecumenical organization.

Next, Mr. Vincent, along with Rev. John Monroe and the Rev. Merideth Mueller, reported on their time spent at the General Assembly this past summer in Portland, Oregon. Each spoke of their respective committee work, their awe at the sheer number of people in attendance, and the honor of representing Monmouth Presbytery.

Rev. Bill Walker of Sykesville, and Myrlene Hamilton Hess of Bayville were recognized for their respective retirements and ministries. Rev. Wendy Bailey led the Presbytery in a liturgy, followed by Rev. Merideth Mueller and the Rev. Christina Hindley, each took a moment to express gratitude for the positive role Ms. Hamilton Hess played in their individual ministries. The Rev. Suzanne Schafer-Coates acknowledged Rev. William Walker for his ministry at Sykesville Presbyterian church. She also noted his involvement at ground zero in New York after the 9/11 attacks.



Also recognized at this time was Rev. Doug Chase (left), for his 25 years of service at Brick Presbyterian Church.



The Rev. Myrlene Hamilton Hess (right), introduced Rev. Ellie Johns-Kelly (left), keynote speaker from the PCUSA Foundation.



Ms. Johns-Kelly spoke of the socially-conscious investment opportunities available to congregations through the Foundation, as well as various consulting and educational options she and other Foundation staff members can provide.



After the dinner break, the Presbytery gathered for worship, led by some of the members of the Presbytery's Youth

Triennium Delegation followed by a report by those that had attended.

Kathleen

McGovern observed it to be the largest group ever to attend. Molly Boysen of Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick, delivered the sermon.



At the end of worship, Rev. Bill Morris introduced 10-year-old Meghan DeLuca, a fifth grade student who delivered the ministry minute. After observing a homeless man in Washington D.C. while on vacation with her family a couple of years ago, Meghan was moved to do something about the plight of the homeless. She began fundraising for Cardboard Box City, an advocacy and awareness project under the umbrella organization Family Promise of Monmouth County. Over \$1,000 was raised by the presbytery that evening. (Anyone wishing to donate can make checks payable to Belmar Presbyterian Church, with Cardboard Box City in memo.)



Rev. Gary Filson took to the floor to commission two of the Synod Commissioners, Rev. Carl Wilton and Elder Sue Smith.



In addition to other Committee on Ministry business, Ruling Elder Thad Livingston had the privilege of presenting five people who are, or will be fulfilling calls in the Presbytery! Several commissioners came in support of their candidates.





Rev. Robbie Ytterberg (left, second in line), is now Senior Pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Toms River.

Mr. Anthony J. Maimone (right), a candidate under care of the Presbytery, is to become Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Tuckerton.



Mr. William M. Stell (right), a candidate under care of the United Church of Christ, will enter a covenant agreement with Rev. Terry Faust to provide supervision and mentoring as Mr. Stell becomes Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church Bordentown.



The Rev. Tom Robinson (left), is now serving as Interim Pastor at Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury

Rev. David W. Cobb (right), an honorably retired member of the Presbytery of West Jersey, will be serving as pastor of New Gretna.



The Mission Council report was given by the Vice Moderator, Ruling Elder Sue Smith.

Vitality Grants are now being accepted for 2017 with a deadline of December 31st.

February's Presbytery meeting in 2017 will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Cherry Hill in West Jersey Presbytery. Author Rev. Carol Howard Merritt will be presenting the keynote address. Her book, [Reframing Hope](#), will be referenced.

Another Presbytery meeting change for 2017: **May's meeting is now slated for Tuesday May 30th**.

Location to be determined.



Rev. Dierdre Thomson and other members of the Leadership Training Working Group presented a report on the "What Does It Mean to Be Presbyterian" event recently held. Rev. Wendy Bailey was the keynote speaker. The next training event, "Ideas That Can Work for You," will be held on November 13th from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Middletown.

That's all folks! Next Presbytery Meeting: Saturday, November 18th at 9:30 a.m. in Tuckerton

Stay tuned!