



# Presbytery of New Harmony

*Nurturing Churches and People*

## Summary of the Eighty-Fourth Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Harmony

The Eighty-Fourth Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of New Harmony was held at First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, on October 20, 2015. The moderator, Ruling Elder Margaret Cooper (Presbyterian Church at Manning) called the meeting to order. Teaching Elder Bruce Ford led worship preaching on the topic, “The Health We Seek.”

During the meeting the Presbytery accepted reports and took positive action on recommendations from:

The **Stated Clerk**, including receiving eight overtures from Foothills Presbytery, which were referred to a Bills and Overtures Committee for study and to bring recommendations to the Presbytery of New Harmony; receiving communications from the Sessions of Morton Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, and Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church; and information on how the Presbytery is working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to respond to the need of flood relief in our presbytery.



The Rev. Dr. Bruce Ford, Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of New Harmony, leading worship during Presbytery meeting.

The **Administrative Council**, including recommendations to approve the request of the Administrative Commission of Westminster Presbyterian Church that the Commission be dissolved; that the Presbytery receive its first reading of the 2016 Operating Budget; that the Presbytery change all references in the Manual of “divisions” within the Program Council to “ministries”; that the by-laws of PADD be changed per request of its Board; and that all actions of the Council become the actions of the Presbytery.

The **Committee on Preparation for Ministry**, including information on annual reviews conducted with inquirer Trip Brogdon (First Presbyterian Church, Sumter) and candidates Vikki Brogdon (Presbyterian Church at Manning), Anna Owens (First Presbyterian Church, Sumter), and Neeley Rentz Lane (First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville); that Ruling Elder Farrar Griggs, after meeting with the Committee, and with prayer and consideration, has decided not to pursue ordination at this time; meeting with EJ McIver to discuss the possibility of him pursuing ordination as Teaching Elder within the PCUSA (he is currently ordained in the Church of God) providing steps for him steps to consider as he seeks to serve the PCUSA as a teaching elder or commissioned ruling elder; received from Hannah Gordon and concurred with her request to withdraw from the process and have her name removed from the roll of inquirers.

The **Committee on Ministry**, including recommendations for approval of minimum salary for Teaching Elders for 2016; concurred with the request of Teaching Elders Gloria J. Williams and Ella F. Busby to be Honorably Retired (service of Honorable Retirement was held); that Teaching Elder Tony Larson be received as Pastor for Trinity Presbyterian Church, Surfside Beach (including approval of his terms of call and installation commission); that Teaching Elder Joshua H. Jang, be received as Pastor for Korean-American Presbyterian Church, Sumter (including approval of his terms of call and installation commission); and the commissioning of Ruling Elder Robert Sloan, as Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) for Patrick and Society Hill Presbyterian Churches according to parameters of an approved covenant.

The **Nominating Committee**, including recommendations to fill vacancies on Committees, Councils, Ministries of the Presbytery, and Commissioners to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly.

The **Administrative Commissions for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alcolu** (with request to be dissolved); **Celebration Presbyterian Church and White Oak Presbyterian Church** reports with no action required. **Presbytery Response Teams of Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church, Murrells Inlet Presbyterian Church, and Kingston Presbyterian Church, Conway**, reports with no action required. The Administrative Commission of First Presbyterian Church, Loris, with the following actions: approval of the “Gracious Terms of Dismissal”, dismissal of First Presbyterian Church, Loris, effective on October 31, 2015, dismissal of the Rev. Tim Osment effective October 31, 2105, to the Presbytery of East Central, ECO, and dismissal of the PRT with appreciation for their service.



The Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough making comments at the retirement ceremony of The Rev. Drs. Gloria J. Williams (left) and Ella F. Busby (right).

## Reports of Program Ministries

The **Camping Ministry** reported information relating to facilities upgrades, group utilization of the Retreat Center, summer camp, and upcoming events to reach members of New Harmony Presbytery. Program Director Kelly Boone Sloan reported verbally on summer camp and plans for 2016. There will be four weeks of camp in 2016 (July 10-August 5) plus a specialty Mission Camp June 4-10.

The **Congregational Development Ministry** continues to evolve with ears listening for the Will of God as our hearts focus on helping those congregations who find themselves in tough places. Closer work with the Committee on Ministry has led to better planning in matching Teaching Elders with churches. The goal remains to assist churches through prayer and finances to carry the message of the Gospel to their community and the world.

The **Education & Nurture Ministry** partnered with the Camping Ministry to plan and facilitate a successful Senior High Retreat in August. This partnership will continue into the next year as plans are being made for a Middle School Retreat.

The **Mission Ministry** has responded favorably to requests of PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer Caitlyn Hathaway, First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville; First Presbyterian Church, Cheraw’s Annual Mission Trip to Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, VA; and for the Book Club at Evans Correctional Facility from Grandview Presbyterian Church, Chesterfield. Reports were received from Community VBS from St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church, International Peacemaker’s Visit, “Living Waters for the World” mission trip, and the status on revised guidelines for grant requests.

The **Worship & Spiritual Formation Ministry** has planned worship for the August 13 and October 20 meetings of Presbytery; considered its budget and proper use of funds made available to the Ministry; granted a \$100 scholarship for a member of the Presbytery to attend a conference with workshops on future of African American church within the PCUSA.

**Presbyterian Women** held its annual Helpshops on August 8, 2015, at John Calvin Presbyterian Church, Florence. Ruling Elder, Othan Franklin gave an overview of the Horizon Bible Study for 2015 entitled, “Come to the Waters.” Organizations receiving the offering were Thornwell Home for Children and The Care House of the Pee Dee. Each received \$303.00. A Spiritual Retreat will be held February 6, 2016, at Latta Presbyterian Church.

**Presbyterian Men** sponsored its annual Golf Outing and Picnic on Saturday, June 6. Teams from Mt Pisgah Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, and Tirzah Presbyterian Church, Dalzell had the lowest scores. The Fall Conference was held on October 18, with The Rev. Dr. Frank Colclough leading the event.