

EAST CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

Spring 2024 Meeting Minutes, April 19-20, 2024

Following the Friday evening, April 19, gathering of attendees for dinner, worship, and the first of three presentations by Jim Singleton, and Saturday morning's worship service and presentation by the guest speaker, the Spring 2024 business meeting of the East Central Presbytery was convened on Saturday, April 20, 2024, at 10:15 a.m. at Neelsville Presbyterian Church, Germantown, Maryland, and opened with prayer by Rev. L. J. Jaworski.

Having been informed by the Stated Clerk that a quorum was present, the Moderator called the meeting to order. All congregations were represented except The Christian Arabic Church, Crozier, Virginia, First Presbyterian Church, Catlettsburg, Kentucky, and Christ Presbyterian Church, Huntington, West Virginia.

OLD BUSINESS

None

TEAM REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – Kevin Germer addressed the 2024-2025 budget. The annual income of \$20,000 comes from the Synod office and any financial gifts received are directed toward church planting. He mentioned that \$100,000 moved to certificates of deposit during the past year are earning income for the presbytery.

Global Missions – L.J. Jaworski referred to the report in the packet and chose to speak about her recent trip to Central Asia, promoting short-term mission trips as ways to be exposed to, learn about, and encourage those who live and minister in sometimes dangerous settings for the sake of Christ.

Nominating – Rob Laukoter presented a slate of individuals to be elected to positions of service. There were no nominations from the floor and no discussion, and the following were approved by vote of presbytery:

Doug Nagel, Honorably Retired: Vice-Moderator/Moderator/Vice-Moderator rotation, Class of 2028

Bill Smith, Centreville elder: Treasurer, Class of 2026

Jimey Ames, Third elder: MPT, Class of 2027

Steve Hartman, Honorably Retired: MPT, Class of 2027

Larry Moffet, St. Giles elder, MPT, Class of 2027

Sarah Hill, St. Giles elder, Global Missions Chair, Class of 2026

Brett Deal, Eternity pastor, Church Planting, Class of 2027

Josh Modrzynski, St. Giles pastor, Church Planting, Class of 2027

Scott Thayer, First Harrisonburg pastor, Church Planting, Class of 2027

Jon Heeringa, First Harrisonburg pastor, PMOT, Class of 2027

Rick Hutton, Third pastor, PMOT, Class of 2027

Nelson Ould, Community West pastor, Nominating, Class of 2027
Con Sauls, Windy Cove pastor, Nominating, Class of 2027

PMOT – Robin Keesee briefly reviewed the denomination’s general shift in the handling of ordination candidates from presbytery PMOTs to Synod-level oversight; East Central is one presbytery where the original PMOT model continues to function effectively, albeit in conjunction with some oversight managed by the Synod. In light of this, the Moderator moved that proposed language (presented in the presbytery meeting packet) in the presbytery’s Operating Manual be updated to reflect just what our PMOT is doing. The motion was seconded from the floor. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

Church Planting – Moderator Robin Keesee referred those present to the Patron, Partner, Parent Model document contained in the presbytery packet which had been adopted by the Leadership Council. This document will provide framework for church planting within the presbytery and is broad enough to allow every congregation to assume some sort of meaningful role.

NEW BUSINESS

Moderator Robin Keesee brought to the floor the proposed amendments to ECO polity which had been passed at the February 1, 2024, Synod business meeting in Greenville, South Carolina, and had been passed on to the various presbyteries for ratification or rejection:

PD-2: Accountability within Mission Affinity Groups

12 approved, 10 disapproved – motion carried

PD-3: Granting CLPs serving as Pastor/Head of Staff “Honorably Retired” status

20 approved, 0 disapproved – motion carried

PD-4: The Authority of the Session in finalizing terms of call

21 approved, 4 disapproved – motion carried

PD-5: Interpretation of the Constitution

23 approved, 0 disapproved – motion carried

PD-6: Role of the congregation in creating a Pastor Nominating Team

22 approved, 0 disapproved – motion carried

CLOSING

There being no further business, Robin Keesee thanked departing Leadership Council members Kevin Germer (Treasurer), L.J. Jaworski (Global Missions) and John Daniel (Moderator/Vice-Moderator) for their service to the presbytery. Chris Hammond closed the meeting with prayer at 10: 56 a.m. Following a short break, guest speaker Jim Singleton continued his presentation on “Preaching to Those Who Are Not in the Pews.”

Respectfully submitted,
Rusty Gregg, Stated Clerk