

EAST CENTRAL PRESBYTERY

Fall 2024 Meeting Minutes, October 18-19, 2024

Following the Friday evening, October 18, gathering of attendees for dinner, worship, and the first of three presentations by Eric Laverentz, and Saturday morning's worship service and presentation by the guest speaker, the Fall 2024 business meeting of the East Central Presbytery was convened on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 10:05 a.m. at Bethel Presbyterian Church, Staunton, Virginia, and opened with prayer by Rev. Rob Laukoter.

A quorum was more than present when the Moderator called the meeting to order. All congregations were represented except The Christian Arabic Church, Crozier, Virginia, Shepard Memorial Church, Stopover, Kentucky, and First Dublin Presbyterian Church, Dublin, Virginia.

OLD BUSINESS

None

TEAM REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – Bill Smith reviewed the annual budget, reminding all that the fiscal year runs from May 1-April 30 each year. There were few expenses over the summer. Available funds amount to approximately \$132,800.

Global Missions – Sarah Hill referred to her electronic report as well as that from Pastor L.J. Jaworski who had attended the summer's Lausanne Conference in Seoul, South Korea. Sarah introduced Austin and Sinte House (Validated Ministry) who showed a brief video about their ministry in Asia.

Nominating – Rob Laukoter reported that his team has nominees for six of eleven slots that will become available and require approval at the Spring 2025 meeting.

PMOT – Todd Lilley shared that only two PMOTs remain across the ECO presbyteries, East Central's being one of them. He reminded those present of the two functions of PMOT: (1) to find mentors to come alongside and support ordination candidates and (2) to participate in the recruitment of candidates. The presbytery has eight active candidates (two others recently asked to have their ordination process put on hold) and he asked for prayer for both candidates and their mentors. Jon Heeringa joined him to announce an email sent by Rebecca Modrzynski to pastors and Clerks of Session to intentionally consider who they may know that should explore ministry.

MPT — Steve Hartman introduced Jesse Hill, new pastor at Grace Covenant, and SeongSu Hong, Assistant Pastor at Neelsville, who were attending the meeting after their recent ordinations and/or installations. He mentioned the recent ordination and installation of Marty O'Roark in a Validated Ministry role centered around student ministry at Falls Church Anglican. He announced that the 2024 version of the Synod MPT manual will be presented (and approved, if a quorum is present) at National Gathering in Dallas in January 2025 and that the Stated Clerk will send that document, as well as the

East Central MPT's amending top sheet, in the next month. He reminded everyone of the big change to the policy, that being that participation in MAGs is no longer required but is encouraged and that the presbytery, with assistance from the Synod, must develop a new approach to encouragement, accountability and discipline among our congregations.

Church Planting – Josh Modrzynski shared his sense that the Lord is on the move in our presbytery — cause for rejoicing and pressure to rise to the occasion — and suggested that East Central's efforts might even prove to be an example to the denomination. Beth Doriani provided an update on Church of the Living Hope in Chesapeake, Virginia, now officially an ECO church recognized on the denomination's website. Bethel Presbyterian has come alongside CLH in support. Next, Chaplain Brandon and Pastor Dorothy Hood made a presentation about Sojourner's Church, also in Chesapeake. This initiative is still awaiting Synod recognition as an official plant. In a transient area where folks are looking to connect with others, they are reaching out to neighbors through Bible study and support for mothers with special needs children or simply dealing with parenting issues.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CLOSING

Moderator Robin Keesee called forward Pastor John Minihan who spoke of the pleasure that will be Christ Presbyterian's when that congregation hosts the Spring 2025 presbytery meeting in Huntington, West Virginia. He showed a short video to introduce the church. In his closing prayer at 11:03 a.m., Robin Keesee expressed thanks for the hospitality of Bethel Presbyterian Church. Following a short break, guest speaker Eric Laverentz presented his final session on the role and leadership of elders in the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Gregg
Stated Clerk