

## **EAST CENTRAL PRESBYTERY**

Spring 2025 Meeting Minutes, April 4-5, 2025

Following the Friday evening, April 4, gathering of attendees for dinner, worship, and the first of three presentations by Scott Cormode, and Saturday morning's worship service and presentation by the guest speaker, the Spring 2025 business meeting of the East Central Presbytery was convened on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at 1030 a.m. at Christ Presbyterian Church, Huntington, West Virginia, and opened with prayer by Moderator Robin Keesee.

A quorum was more than present when the Moderator called the meeting to order. All congregations were represented except the following: Christian Arabic Church, Crozier, VA, Christ Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA, Community West, Henrico, VA, Crestwood Presbyterian Church, Midlothian, VA, HOPE Church, Clarksville, MD, Neelsville Presbyterian Church, Germantown, MD, Sojourners Church, Chesapeake, VA, and Church of the Living Hope, Chesapeake, VA.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### TEAM REPORTS

Treasurer's Report – No report. A printed copy of the budget showing income and expenses was distributed; there were no questions.

Global Missions – Sarah Hill distributed a printed report about missions activity within the presbytery. Two short videos from Egypt were shown, one focused on Don Smith (Third Church) teaching English and another highlighting St. Giles' recent trip centered around worship, youth outreach, and a medical clinic. Todd Lilley gave a verbal report about Spring Hill's hurricane relief efforts in North Carolina, Kentucky and Virginia, and Derek Almarode did likewise with regards to Bethel Church's work in North Carolina in partnership with ECO congregation Walnut Grove Church, Newland, NC.

MPT — Steve Hartman introduced Pastor Dane Lewis from River's Edge Community Church, Cantonsville, Maryland, a PCA congregation in the process of joining ECO. He raised the subject of the 2024 MPT manual provided by the Synod office (which had been sent in advance electronically to commissioners, along with a summary of changes and a copy of the ECP top sheet exception concerning CLP-1 and CLP-2 positions). MPT's motion to adopt the 2024 MPT manual while maintaining the presbytery's top sheet exception was seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion was approved. Though the new policy no longer requires that churches participate in Mission Affinity Groups, the presbytery's MPT continues to encourage doing so and is giving thought to a new means of accomplishing the same objective. He added that MPT is also working on a statement/policy regarding the position of Assistant Pastors in presbytery congregations.

Nominating – Rob Laukoter referred to the lists that had been sent to commissioners in advance electronically, noting the names of those nominated to serve in various capacities and the resulting, updated list of ministry teams. The Nominating Team’s motion was seconded and the nominees were approved to begin service effective May 1, 2025.

Church Planting – In Josh Modrzynski’s absence, Scott Thayer commented briefly about the partnership support from First Presbyterian, Harrisonburg, for Sojourners Church, Chesapeake, and distributed a printed report about ministry within that church plant location. Debbie Coleman reported on Peter Creek Church’s participation in the Christian Community Center in Phelps, Kentucky, where outreach to children and teens centers around a meal, play, and a Christian message; her remarks were following by a short video about the center.

PMOT – No report.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Robin Keesee oversaw the installation of Doug Nagel as the new Moderator of the presbytery with questions of installation as used with officers and a congregation, laying on of hands, and prayer led by Keith Hill. The new moderator thanked the outgoing moderator for his service and example and praised Christ Church for the congregation’s hospitality and service during the presbytery meeting.

#### CLOSING

The meeting concluded at 11:18 a.m. Following a short break, guest speaker Scott Cormode resumed his presentation on being the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty Gregg  
Stated Clerk