

PRESBYTERY IN BRIEF

Providence Presbytery held its Spring 2017 meeting on Thursday, March 23, 2017 at Grace Presbyterian Church in Fort Mill, South Carolina. Highlights of the meeting included:

- Opening worship with communion led by Retiring Moderator, Joe Hardy, Ruling Elder from First, Rock Hill and Teaching Elder Beth Lindsay Templeton (Foothills Presbytery)
- Morning plenary led by the Rev. Beth Lindsay Templeton, Founder and CEO of *Our Eyes Were Opened*. Her theme was on the topic of Poverty in our midst
- Election of Teaching Elder Marty Simmons (Grace-L) as Moderator
- Update from the Board of Pensions by Clark Simmons, BOP Church Consultant
- Remembrance and prayers for Ruling and Teach Elders who have entered the Church Triumphant during the past year
- Approval of the 2017 Budget. To balance the budget, which had a short fall of \$58,361.32, two Presbytery Staff positions had to be eliminated: Part time Associate for Education and Resourcing and part time Associate for Congregational Development and Mission. The Bethelwoods line account for Summer Intern was also reduced by \$3,113.
- Renewed the Covenant between the Five Presbyteries of South Carolina and Presbyterian Communities of South Carolina
- Heard an update from the Strategic Planning Task Force and voted to send to various Ministry Teams and Committees the Task Force recommendations that were approved at the October 2016 Presbytery meeting
- Examined and received into Providence Presbytery the Rev. Dr. Paul Abell who is serving as Interim Pastor at the Tirzah (Y) Church
- Celebrated the ministry of the Rev. Betty Salmond and conferred upon her the status of Honorably Retired
- Heard the report of the Advisory Committee on Constitutional Amendments and voted on the amendments to the *Book of Order*
- Bethelwoods Ministry Team was presented a check from First Presbyterian Church of Union for \$17,852.76 for camp scholarships

The next Stated Meeting will be Sunday, June 25, 2017 at the Purity Church in Chester, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Mark Verdery, Stated Clerk