

Eastminster Presbytery
 January 8, 2008
Presbytery Meeting

JANUARY CALENDAR

3	-	9:30 am	COM Executive meeting @ Presbyter Center
7	-	2:30 pm	Hudson Commission meeting @ Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church
8	-	3:30 pm	Personnel and JBM Committees @ The Presbyterian Church of Kent
	-	4:00 pm	COM @ The Presbyterian Church of Kent
	-	4:00 pm	Trustees @ The Presbyterian Church of Kent
	-	5:00 pm	Presbytery Meeting @ The Presbyterian Church of Kent
9	-	*****	Directory Information Sheet Sheets from churches due to presbytery office
	-	12:30pm	West Area Retired Clergy Luncheon @ Martin Center, Akron University
13	-	2:00	Installation Service of Rev. Rusty Cowden @ First Presbyterian Church, Warren
14	-	12:00 pm	West Area Clergy Brown Bag lunch @ Goodyear Height Presbyterian Church, Akron
17-18	-	*****	COM/CPM Training for Ohio Presbyteries @ Procter Center in London, OH
21	-	*****	Presbytery Office closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
21-23	-	*****	3 rd . Annual Peacemaking Retreat @ JBM Camp & Conference Center
24	-	12:30 pm	Youngstown Clergy Luncheon @ Park Vista Retirement Center

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

8-9	-	*****	CLP Retreat @ JBM Camp & Conferene Center
10	-	2-4:00 pm	West and North area Reading of the Church minutes @ First Presbyterian, Mineral Ridge
	-	1:30-3:30 pm	East and South area Reading of the Church minutes @ Canfield Presbyterian
11	-	12:00 pm	West Area Clergy Brown Bag lunch @ Goodyear Height Presbyterian Church, Akron
12	-	5:00 pm	Committee Night
13	-	12:30 pm	West Area Retired Clergy Luncheon @ Martin Center, Akron University
20	-	*****	Last day to file Church Statistical Reports
25	-	*****	Presbytery Women Board meeting @ Presbytery Center
28	-	12:30 PM	Youngstown Clergy Luncheon @ Liberty Presbyterian Church
	-	5:00 pm	Budget meeting @
	-	5:00 pm	Coordinating Council Meeting @
	-	6:30 pm	Mission Visioning Council dinner & meeting @

DIRECTIONS TO:

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KENT

1456 East Summit St. Ext.

Kent, Ohio 44240

Phone: 330-673-0661

The Presbyterian Church of Kent is located in the midst of Kent State University, southeast of the center of the city.

From the NORTH: From the intersection of Rts. 43 and 59 in the center of Kent, go 3 blocks south to Summit Street. Turn left and follow it several blocks east and then southeast to the church, on the south side.

From the EAST and SOUTHEAST: Take I-76 to the Rt. 43/Kent exit (#33). Turn right and go north 2 miles to the Rt. 261 intersection. Turn right and go ½ mile to Campus Center Drive. Turn left (north) and go a gently curving ½ mile to a stop sign. Turn left (west) and go ½ mile to Summit St. Extension. Turn right for about 300 yards, and turn right into the church driveway (sounds complicated, and it is, but it works).

From the WEST: Take I-76 to the Rt. 43/Kent exit (#33). Turn left (north) and proceed as described in the previous paragraph.

The inclusion of the material in this packet does not imply any judgment on the part of the council about the merits of this material included and all packet material comes through a Presbytery entity unless otherwise noted.

Eastminster Presbytery
News & Notes

Please keep General Presbyter Dan Schomer in our prayers as he recuperates from double by-pass surgery on December 28. Dan will be out of the office for six weeks but will be able to correspond by email. Perhaps we could just correspond **urgent matters only** for the first week so that Dan can heal from this major surgery.

The Per Capita statements for the churches were mailed out to your Clerk of Session after the per capita figures were approved at the November presbytery meeting.

The 2008 Pledge forms were mailed out to your Clerk of Session. The Trustees requests those back on December 31 or as soon as possible so they can establish the presbytery budget.

The 2007 Statistical Reports were sent out to pastors asking them to get the forms to the person responsible for completing their church's information. The deadline to have data submitted on-line is February 20, 2008.

CHURCH INFORMATION

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Boardman, OH is seeking a **Director of Christian Discipleship** to provide oversight, direction and vision in the education and discipleship of children, adults and families of Westminster Church and outreach to children of our community, combining time-tested and innovative ideas and venues. Position is 20 hours/week..

Interested individuals may send resume to the attention of Lynn Smith at Westminster Church, 119 Stadium Drive, Boardman OH 44512, or e-mail to westch@zoominternet.net - subject: Discipleship. Visit our web-site at www.westminsterboardman.com .

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND EVENTS

COM/CPM Training for Ohio Presbyteries will be held on January 17-18, 2008 at the Procter Center in London, OH. Keynote speakers will be Rev. Lesley Davies, Office of the General Assembly, Manager, Ordination Exams; Elder Betty Lou Stull, C.P.M. Network Trainer, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); Rev Marie Cross, Executive, Synod of the Covenant, and the General and Executive Presbyters of the Synod of the Covenant. Our Rev. Schomer was the chairperson for the Coordinating Team for the State of Ohio for this event.

The **2008 Ohio Ministries Convocation, "Religion and Politics"** is scheduled for January 28 and 29, 2008 at the University Plaza Hotel in the Ohio State University area. Key notes speakers are the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright and The Rev. Dr. Katharine Rhodes Henderson. Visit www.ohcouncilchs.org for more details. The synod will host a luncheon during the convocation on Jan. 28.

The National Presbyterian Stewardship Conference called, "Stewardship Kaleidoscope" will be held March 10-12, 2008 at Fort Wroth, Texas. This is an event for elder and pastors, middle governing body staff and volunteers, featuring keynote presentations, workshops and worship centered on congregational and presbytery stewardship. Come learn about the biblical and theological basis for stewardship and get whole-life, year-round, practical ideas for meaningful stewardship programs. Presenters will be Cynthia Campbell, President of McCormick Theological Seminary, Karl Travis, Pastor of First Presbytery Church of Fort Worth and nationally recognized stewardship speaker and writer; and Charles Eastley, Sr., General Assembly Vice-Moderator, former Development Officer for Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary.

The 2008 World Mission Initiative Conference will be held March 28-29 at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Keynotes speaker are Rev. Dr. William Carl, III; Nard Puyao; Rev. Hunter Farrell and the Rev. Dr. Ken Bailey along with 16 workshops to choose. More information can be found at www.worldmissioninitiative.org.

The 2008 Multicultural Conference called “...Gather All Nations and Tongues” will be held in San Antonio, Texas on April 10-13, 2008. There will be a Pre-Conference Presbyterian Church/Team Training on April 9-10. Registration fee are \$250 if registered by Feb. 15 and \$285 if registering up to March 14. Conference Speakers include the Rev. Ruben, the Rev. Joan Gray, the Rev. Cyprian Guchienda, The Rev. Dr. Rhasell Hunter, the Rev. James Kim, the Rev. Jin Kim, the Rev. James Lee, the Rev. Buddy Monahan, and Linda Valentine.

Small Church Event - The Summer Collegium, a project in support of small congregations, is now accepting applications for the Summer 2008 event, which will take place at Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, VA, from June 25-July 3, 2008. This nine-day, **all expenses paid** conference for clergy and their spouses or partners is open to those who pastor small congregations (100 or fewer average Sunday attendance) and are committed to small church ministry. Singles and non-ordained pastors are welcome to apply for the one of the 25 openings. The conference consists of keynotes and workshops on all aspects of small church ministry, with a special emphasis on worship and preaching. Keynotes include Tony Pappas, who has written extensively on small church life, and Peter Bush and Christine O'Reilly, authors of the new book *Where 20 or 30 are Gathered: Leading Worship in the Small Church*. John Bell of the Iona Community in Scotland will be our music leader. This is an ecumenical project sponsored by the Lilly Endowment Inc. Applications may be downloaded from our website, www.vts.edu/education/collegium, or contact Marilyn Johns (mjohns@vts.edu or 703-461-1760); applications must be postmarked by December 15, 2007.

Seeking to be Faithful Together:

Guidelines for Presbyterians during times of Disagreement

In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...

Give them a hearing...
listen before we answer

*John 7:51 and Proverbs
18:13*

Speak the truth in love.

Ephesians 4:15

Maintain the unity of the
Spirit in the bond of
peace.

Ephesians 4:3

1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;
 - We will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
 - We will not ask question or make statements in a way which will intimidate or judge others.
2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.
3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.
4. Share our Concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teaching.
5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives intelligence or integrity;
 - We will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during, or following the discussion.
6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.
7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.
8. Seek to stay in community with each other through the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;
 - We will be ready to forgive and to be forgiven.
9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision making bodies;
 - Urge persons of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;
 - Seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
 - Be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their right of conscience;
 - Abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways which are consistent with these guidelines.
10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly, and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.

Adopted by the 2004th. General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for use by sessions and congregations.

The Church of Jesus Christ
assembles as a
Stated Meeting of Eastminster Presbytery

Pre-Presbytery Mission Groups Meet

3:30 Personnel and JBM Committees

4:00 Committee on Ministry
Trustees

“The Listening Room Pre-Presbytery meeting by Peacemaking Task Force

5:00 Gathering of God's People: Registration and Refreshments Assembly of Commissioners/Visitors & Convening

Moderatorial Welcome and Comments,
Opening Worship and Prayer of Constitution,
Welcome by the Host Church

5:03 Assembly Formalities

Business of the Clerk; Docket Presentation; Referrals; Correspondence;
Recognition of Corresponding Members; Approval of Minutes of November 13, 2007

5:05 Presbytery Family Remembrances and Celebrations

5:10 – Consent Agenda

p. 7-12

Sharing and Supporting Our Ministries

5:15 – Report of the General Presbyter – Dan Schomer

p. 13-14

5:20 – JBM – Tom Riley

5:23 – Personnel – Alice Jackson

5:33 – SDOP – Jim Ray

5:43 – PW – Goldie Burrier

5:45 – Worship

6:30 – Dinner

7:15 - Resource Center Coordinator – Lorraine Jones

p. 15-16

7:23 - Mission – Elmarie Parker & David Joachim

p. 17

7:33 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Mark Phillips & Amy Starr Redwine

p.18

7:48 - Leadership Development Action Learning Team (Members of the Wickliffe Session)

p.19

8:23 - Hudson Commission – Reford Nash

8:33 - Stow Commission – Trella Johnson

8:36 - Congregational Resources

p. 20

8:41- COM – Nick Mager

p. 21

8:51- Nominations – Bob Forsythe

p. 22

8:56 - Trustees

9:01 - Miscellaneous Business

9:06 - Evaluation

9:11 - Report of Leaves and Absence

9:16 - Adjournment

Eastminster Presbytery
Consent Agenda
January 8, 2008

1. To append the Minutes of the October 25, 2007 Eastminster Presbytery Coordinating Council to the Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting.
2. To append the Minutes of the October 25, 2007 Mission Visioning Council to the Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting.
3. To append the Minutes of the November 29, 2007 Mission Visioning Council to the Minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting.
4. That upon the recommendation of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council the offering of the January 8, 2008 Stated Meeting be designated to be received for the building of a kitchen at the Gidada Bible School in Ethiopia, a project supported by the Ethiopia Education Endowment Fund.
5. That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Dr. Meta Cramer as Designated Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Salem.
6. That upon the recommendation of the Mission Visioning Council the following persons to be approved to be co-opted:
 - Board of Trustees for 2008 – Rusty Cowden
 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry for 2008 – Harold Walker
 - Committee on Preparation for Ministry for 2008 – Lucille Clay
 - Mission Visioning Council for 2008 – Bonnie Dutton
7. The Eastminster Presbytery Coordinating Council presents as a first reading that the *Manual of Operations* be amended at 6.300 to add the words “the Board of Trustees” to the list of committees/commissions that have a representative to the Mission Visioning Council.
8. The Eastminster Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council presents for a first reading a proposed amendment to the *Manual of Operations* as follows: (1) add a new section 3.107, which will read "All substitute motions shall be distributed at least 24 hours before the Stated meeting of Presbytery" and (2) renumber the current section 3.107 as 3.108 .
9. That Eastminster Presbytery concur with the Trustees and the JBM Committee to accept the Oil and Gas Lease agreement from Cobra Resources L.L.C.

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION OF THE PRESBYTERY OF EASTMINSTER
For the Installation of the Rev. Dr. Meta Shoup Cramer as Designated Pastor
First Presbyterian Church, Salem, Ohio
Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 2:30 p.m.

The Commission of the Presbytery of Eastminster, established to install on behalf of the Presbytery the Rev. Dr. Meta Shoup Cramer as Designated Pastor for First Presbyterian Church, Salem, Ohio, convened in the Pastor's Study of that church on Sunday, December 2, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in order to carry out its responsibility in the context of public worship.

Present were ministers: The Rev. Stephen Cramer, Corresponding Member; the Rev. Debby Dockstader, Moderator, Eastminster Presbytery; the Rev. Ross Jackson, Minister member, Eastminster Presbytery; the Rev. Nick Mager, Minister member, Eastminster Presbytery; the Rev. Mark Wilds, Minister member, Eastminster Presbytery. The Rev. Dr. Dan Schomer, General Presbyter, Eastminster Presbytery, was also present.

Present were elders: Elder Mona Bishop, Northminster Presbyterian Church; Elder Joan Harmon, New Waterford Presbyterian Church; Elder Mark Smith, First Presbyterian Church, Salem. The Rev. Debby Dockstader moderated the Commission; the Rev. Ross Jackson was appointed Clerk.

The Commission was constituted with prayer by the Rev. Debby Dockstader.

A motion prevailed to approve the Order of Service as prepared in the printed bulletin as the plan to be followed.

A Motion prevailed that upon the pronouncement of the Benediction of the newly installed Pastor, and the adoption of the Minutes of the Commission, that the Commission stand adjourned.

A motion prevailed to waive the reading of the Minutes of the Commission.

A motion prevailed that the Minutes of the Commission be presented to the January 8, 2008 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery to become a part of its records, with the request that the Commission be dissolved upon their acceptance.

The Commission proceeded into the Sanctuary at 2:20 p.m. for the Service of Installation, which began at 2:30 p.m., the Moderator presiding. The order proceeded as follows:

Preludes	Nancy McNeal, Organist
Welcome	The Rev. Debby Dockstader
Call to Worship	
The Prayer for the Day	
*Hymn "Lord, When I Came Into This Life"	
*Prayer of Confession (Unison)	The Rev. Ross Jackson
*Assurance of pardon (Romans 8:34, 2 Corinthians 5:17)	
Response Hymn 2086 "Open Our Eyes"	
The Word of God Among Us	
The Prayer for Illumination	Elder Mona Bishop
The Old Testament Reading Exodus 34:29-35	
Anthem "Here I Am, Lord"	
Haviland Choir; John Krauss, Director	

The New Testament Reading 2 John 1:1-6	Elder Joan Harman
Sermon	Rev. Stephen Cramer
*Hymn “ <i>Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation</i> ”	
The Installation	
A Litany of Gifts (based on Romans 12:4-8,11-13)	The Rev. Ross Jackson
Statement on the Ministry of the Church	
Constitutional Questions to the Designated-Pastor Elect	The Rev. Debby Dockstader
Constitutional Questions to the Congregation	Elder Mark Smith
Prayer of Installation	The Rev. Debby Dockstader
Declaration of Installation	
Welcome	
Charge to the Pastor	The Rev. Mark Wilds
Charge to the Congregation	The Rev. Nick Mager
Presentation of Symbols of Ministry	
Call to Offering	The Rev. Ross Jackson
Offertory Anthem “Come to the Water” Foley/arr.Shrader	
<i>The offering was equally divided between the Sustaining Fund of Eastminster Presbytery and the provision of Christmas gifts for children in local foster care under the auspices of the Bair Foundation.</i>	
Prayer of Thanksgiving	
*Hymn “ <i>We Are All One in Mission</i> ”	
*Charge and Benediction	The Rev. Meta Cramer
Response Hymn <i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i>	
*Postlude “ <i>Hymn to Joy</i> ” Albert Travis	

A reception for the newly-installed Pastor was held in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Installation Service.

The closing prayer for the meeting of the Commission was led by the Moderator, the Rev. Debby Dockstader.

Rev. Debby Dockstader, Moderator

Rev. Ross Jackson, Clerk of the Commission

DRAFT: NOT YET APPROVED BY THE MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 29, 2007

The Mission Visioning Council of Eastminster Presbytery met on November 29, 2007 at the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Present were: Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator; the Rev. Bonnie Dutton; Elder Bob Gillette; the Rev. Jeanine Haven; Elder Alice Jackson; the Rev. Ross Jackson; the Rev. Elmarie Parker; Elder Carole Rummell.

Staff: the Rev. Meta Cramer

Excused: Elder Molly Halter, Elder Jane Stoffer

Absent: the Rev. Aaron Meadows; Elder Sharon Wood; the Rev. Debby Dockstader; the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant.

The Moderator opened the meeting with the reading of Romans 8:14 along with a devotional commentary by Max Lucado.

The Moderator distributed forms to be returned to the Committees and returned to the Presbytery Office: Committees are to name Mission Vision Council Representatives for 2008; list any requests for co-opted members; and are to be reminded of the Mission Visioning Council Retreat on January 25-26, 2008 at Joseph Badger Meadows.

ACTION ITEM

Motion prevailed to approve the request of the Trustees to co-opt the Rev. Rusty Cowden as a member for 2008.

Motion prevailed to request the Coordinating Council to present, as a first reading to the January 8, 2008 Stated Meeting, that the *Manual of Operations* be amended at 6.300 to add the words “the Board of Trustees” to the list of committees/commissions that have a representative to the Mission Visioning Council.

It was agreed by consensus that the Council would ask the Board of Trustees to send a co-opted member to the Mission Visioning Council until such a time as the Presbytery has the opportunity to make the proposed change to the *Manual*.

It was noted that all members of the Council need to have a copy of the Presbytery’s *Manual of Operations* prior to the Retreat.

NEXT MEETING

The Council discussed the need for a meeting on December 13. It was decided that any necessary, non-controversial issues could be discussed by e-mail and that any actions could be ratified at the next meeting. Therefore, the Mission Visioning Council will not meet in December.

RETREAT

The Council reiterated its desire that the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council be present for the entire Retreat on January 25-26. Bob Gillette will be attending a portion of that Council's December 13 meeting and will express the Mission Visioning Council's concerns.

CONCERN RE CHURCHES' PAY-UP

Ross Jackson reported that Marianne Lidstone has sent out letters re *per capita* and mission pledges for 2008. Ross is considering sending out a letter encouraging churches to complete their 2007 pledges. There was discussion of the need to work cooperatively to "flag" churches which are not paying *per capita* and/or mission pledges so that any possible issues may be intentionally addressed.

The Moderator thanked the members of the Council for their dedication and commitment to the work of the Presbytery.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. with prayer by Moderator Peggy Richmond. The next meeting will be held at the retreat on January 25-26.

Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator

The Rev. Meta Shoup Cramer, Stated Clerk

Draft: Not yet approved by the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY MEETING COORDINATING COUNCIL

December 10, 2007

The Eastminster Presbytery Coordinating Council met on December 10, 2007 at 3 p.m. at the Presbytery Center. The Moderator, the Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, opened the meeting with prayer.

Present: The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Moderator; the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, Elder Lucille Clay, Elder Ruth Cole, Elder Robert Gillette

Excused: Elder Stan Christensen, the Rev. Reford Nash

Staff: Dan Schomer, Meta Cramer

Motion prevailed to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2007 meeting as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE VICE-MODERATOR

Elder Robert Gillette, Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery, presented some suggestions for change in the way that Presbytery meetings are conducted. His specific suggestions included:

- 1) Formal recognition and thanks for people beginning, ending or renewing terms of service on presbytery committees and commissions – a round of applause at a presbytery meeting, perhaps a letter of recognition and thanks, possible a certificate or other enduring token of appreciation.
- 2) A clearly stated expectation that moderators will make a point of recognizing, welcoming and orienting new members to their committee or commission, as well as public thanks to those ending terms or beginning new terms.
- 3) An annual award, given at a presbytery meeting, honoring the Eastminster congregation with the highest percentage of its members involved with the work of the presbytery.

The Coordinating Council took these recommendations under advisement.

DOCKET

The Council approved a docket for the January 8, 2008 meeting with an adjournment time of approximately 9:16 p.m. Worship will include the sermon by the outgoing Moderator, the Rev. Debby Dockstader, and the installation of new moderators of Presbytery entities. Dan Schomer explained that the Leadership Development Action/Learning Team would like to make a presentation lasting from 30-45 minutes.

OFFERING

The Council concurred in recommending that the January 8 offering be received for the building of a kitchen at the Gidada Bible School in Ethiopia, a project supported by the Ethiopia Education Endowment Fund.

PROPOSED *MANUAL OF OPERATIONS* AMENDMENTS

The Council received two requests to present proposed amendments to the *Manual of Operations* for a first reading: one from the Mission Visioning Council and one from the Communications and Nurture Committee. The Council decided to present these first, informational readings as part of the Consent Agenda on January 8, thereby needing to request no docket time.

MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL

It was noted that the Mission Visioning Council would like members of the Coordinating Council to be present for the entire Retreat in January, inclusive of Friday evening. However, it was stressed that it is preferable to be present for only a part of the Retreat than for none of it.

APPRECIATION

Gratitude was expressed by the Council for the leadership of Moderator Sue Ann Schmidt, who is leaving the Council before the expiration of her term in order to serve on the Committee on Ministry.

Appreciation was also expressed for the service of the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, who will be leaving Eastminster Presbytery at the end of 2007 to accept a call in the Presbytery of the Western Reserve. It was noted that the Rev. Mark Phillips and the Rev. Derek Redwine have each agreed to be placed in nomination for election to the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m. with prayer offered by the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant.

The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Moderator

The Rev. Meta Shoup Cramer, Stated Clerk

THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL PRESBYTER
EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY
January 8, 2008

On January 1, 2008, I begin my fifth year as General Presbyter of Eastminster Presbytery. I am frequently asked, “When you began in this position, could you imagine what challenges the presbytery would face?” My honest answer is, “No.” Change has quickly become the new norm and the challenges faced by Eastminster Presbytery and its churches could not have been anticipated.

Change and challenges aren’t bad; they simply are. Change and challenges are a part of our context for ministry. Whether we are speaking of the presbytery or our congregations, it is no longer enough to redo last year’s program. Our mission is defined by Jesus Christ and his call to us to go and make disciples in this rapidly changing and challenging culture in which we find ourselves. Our call is to create and nurture disciple making churches that live out the love of Jesus Christ as he commanded.

How do we lead the church in this time of change and challenges? We can become depressed. We can try and hang on to what was or simply hang on. We can practice paralysis by analysis. Or we can be open to the Holy Spirit and, in a spirit of adventure, discover what God is up to in the midst of these changing and challenging times. I’m in the mood for an adventure. How about you?

Each year I prepare performance goals that are presented to the Personnel Committee and Mission Visioning Council for their review and comment. Allow me to share them with you.

In 2008, as General Presbyter of Eastminster Presbytery, I seek:

1. To work with the Mission Visioning Council to review Eastminster Presbytery’s mission, vision and structure, and to create a process that will invite the presbytery’s input.
2. To work with the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council to redesign the “way we do” presbytery meetings in line with the mission and vision of the presbytery and with input from the presbytery.
3. To continue to resource the Hudson Church Commission as they lead the redevelopment/transformation of the “true” (Book of Order term) Hudson Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The redeveloping congregation has begun weekly worship at the Church on the Green in Hudson and the commission is currently seeking pastoral leadership. I will continue to work with the commission to seek transformation funding from the General Assembly.
4. To continue to focus on Leadership Development and Congregational Transformation within the entities of presbytery, and with ministers and elders/sessions. I will work with the Mission Visioning Council, the Leadership Development Action Learning Team, the Congregational Transformation Action Learning Team, and appropriate presbytery committees in this endeavor.
5. To work with Acts 16:5 Year 3 congregations and to implement next steps. I will work with the eight congregations focusing on discipleship and stewardship in Year Three and with the Evangelism and Church Growth Commission to determine how Acts 16:5 learnings might be shared with the whole presbytery.
6. To participate in a five-year review of my work as General Presbyter. I have asked the Personnel Committee to lead a comprehensive review of my work in the first five-year term of my ministry with the presbytery and consider future needs for presbytery staff leadership.

7. To be actively involved at the synod and general assembly levels in conversations/reflection on the future of middle governing bodies within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Numerous discussions on the role and shape of presbyteries and synods are taking place at the national and regional levels of the church. I intend to be a part of these discussions, to keep the presbytery informed and, as appropriate, engage the presbytery in the discussion.
8. To work with the Mission Committee to continue an effective international mission partnership with Levante Presbytery in Spain.

These goals are not intended to be exhaustive, but to focus my ministry with you. It is my practice to report on a quarterly basis to the Personnel Committee my progress in meeting these goals. I ask for your prayers and invite your input as we begin the adventure of discovering what God would have us be and do in 2008.

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Eastminster Presbytery Office

Email: lorrainejones@faithfulness.com

330-505-2167 or toll free 1-800-215-2416

Lorraine Jones, coordinator

Resource Center Hours:

Mon 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.

Wed 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.

Thurs 9:00 a.m. —2:00 p.m.



Quick Calendar:

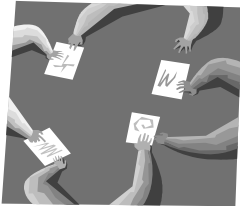
Jan 21	Martin Luther King Day+
Jan 18-25	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Feb 3	Souper Bowl of Caring*
Feb 6	Ash Wednesday

+Visit the Resource Center to sign out Holy Days and Holidays Volume II by Gaynell Bordes Cronin (Harper & Row, 1988). This book shows you how to prayerfully mark holy days and holidays with school-aged children. Each celebration includes prayer, a craft, and background reflections. The celebration detailed for Martin Luther King Day uses Galatians 3:26-28 as the theme.

*Last year, Souper Bowl of Caring raised \$8,127,607 for people in need in the United States. This year, your group can be involved. Register your group at www.souperbowl.org. (You need to do this every year and registering guarantees your group will receive free promotional materials.) Then collect dollar donations or non-perishables on the day of the Big Game. Report your collection details online at www.souperbowl.org or by calling 800-358-7687 (SOUP). Finally, donate your collection to the charity of your choice!

New ➡ The Curriculum Exchange

We are starting the new year with a new idea at the Resource Center! If you have at least nine participant books and a leader book for an adult Sunday school class, you can bring them to the curriculum exchange at the Resource Center. If you are looking for a new Bible study or new adult curriculum, you can come browse the ones available at the curriculum exchange. If you find something you like, take it home with you; it is now yours. You do not have to contribute to the exchange to take items from the exchange. You do not have to take items from the exchange if you contribute items to the exchange. The only rules are that contributions must consist of a complete set (a leader book if one exists, and at least nine participant books) and that people who take items from the exchange must take the complete set.



Lent is a good time to.....**Start a New Tradition**

Who do you need to reach or teach? Working adults? Retired people? Children? People with handicaps that cannot come to church every week? Single parents? After you answer that question, consider offering a special series (maybe 5 weeks) for these people during Lent. Think about the unique needs of the group you wish to target. Offer transportation for people who cannot get out on their own... Make sure babysitting is available at the church for single parents... Next, plan a time that is convenient for the people you wish to reach. Try reaching working adults during lunch hour or plan a pre-work breakfast series. Meet at the local coffee shop for coffee and a Danish. People's attention will be divided between eating and listening but you can still communicate quite a bit in a 15- to 20-minute meditation. For subject ideas, consider the briefs from The Presbyterian Belief Series. This series of full-color, illustrated pamphlets was created in 1999 by Witherspoon Press. Various writers and editors deal with a Presbyterian response to important theological questions such as "What Is Sin?" and "What Is Prayer?" These and other resources are available at the Resource Center.

Resources for Lent

Symbols of Sacrifice by Richard J. Hull II (CSS Publishing, 1991). Create a visual aid for worship during Lent. Each weekly presentation builds a growing reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us.

The list of symbols with explanations includes ashes, sponge and stick, lance, bread and cup, whip, dice, and a linen cloth.



The Matthew Passion by John Fenton (Augsburg Books, 1996). This resource offers a reflection for each day of Lent accompanied by a passage from Matthew, and suggestions for prayer. You will study Jesus' life, passion, and resurrection. The texts for Sundays focus on Jesus' miracles.

Things to Make & Do for Lent & Easter by Martha Bettis Gee (Bridge Resources, 1998). The creative activities in this book are designed to help children hear the Easter story and to respond to it. Activities begin with Shrove Tuesday, continue through Holy week and culminate with Easter. Activities are indexed by age from young children to older elementary children.

Holiday Skits by Tom Boal (Gospel Light, 1995). This resource contains a series of 8 skits for each of the Sundays in Lent as well as skits for Good Friday and Easter. Each of the skits is approximately 8 to 10 minutes long except the skit for

Easter which is 25 minutes long. All of them may be used as reader's theater. The book also has three other skits appropriate for the season including a "Sam Shovel" detective story in which Sam detects reasons to believe in Jesus.



The Mission Committee invites you to a March pre-Presbytery seminar by Rev. Tom Taylor



The Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Taylor is Deputy Executive Director for Mission, General Assembly Council of The Presbyterian Church (USA). He oversees the six General Assembly Council Mission Ministries; Evangelism and Church Growth, Peace and Justice, Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries/Presbyterian Women, Relief and Development, Theology Worship & Education and World Mission.

Taylor is a member of San Gabriel Presbytery. He was ordained to the ministry in 1995 and served as senior minister of the 1,400 member Glenkirk Presbyterian Church in Glendora, California.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he also earned a law degree. Tom received his Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and his Ph.D. from Fuller Theological Seminary in Intercultural Studies, where he also teaches a social justice course. In 2006 Fuller's faculty honored him with its annual Theology Award for his doctoral studies on how concepts of modern jurisprudence affect the church at large.

Tom is professionally active in both law and ministry. He has published numerous academic and popular articles on the interaction of Christian faith and culture. In 1996, he authored an award-winning book, *Seven Deadly Lawsuits: How Ministers can Avoid Litigation and Regulation* (Abingdon Press). His most recent book, *Paradoxy: Coming to Grips with the Contradictions of Jesus*, published by Baker Books, will be available in the summer of 2006. Tom has been or is currently a member of the American Bar Association and the Utah State Bar,

Tom is married to Jan Taylor who works as a Delta Airline Flight Attendant, the proud father of two sons, Aaron and Ryan.

Preparation for Ministry Committee
Statement of Faith
Amy Starr Redwine

We are all children of God, the triune God who created the world, redeemed it through the life and death of Jesus Christ, and sustains it now through the work of the Holy Spirit. God longs to be in relationship with each of God's children and relentlessly pursues us so that this relationship may develop. God's love is unconditional – we are each loved completely, just as we are – but the awareness of God's love inspires us to seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from God and to turn toward God, reflecting God's justice and mercy in our own lives.

The fullest expression of our relationship to God is in worship, when God's people have the opportunity to honor God, remember the words and work of Jesus, and discern the calling of the Holy Spirit in the church community and in our individual lives.

Jesus Christ is God incarnate. With the birth of Jesus, God demonstrated a passionate desire to be with God's people. In Jesus, God chose to become human and walk among us. Jesus taught his followers about God's sovereignty and prepared them for God's coming kingdom.

In the death of Jesus on the cross, God redeemed humanity and the world. Jesus' suffering and death was necessary so that we need not be eternally separated from God because of our inevitable turning away from God in sin. All that is required to receive forgiveness is sincere repentance.

Jesus' resurrection represents God's victory over death. In death we are not separated from God but joined with God and all the saints in a new and profound way.

I believe the Bible is authoritative and that its compilation occurred under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, but I do not believe that the Bible should be read literally. When we read and study the Bible, we have the opportunity to deepen our understanding of God and of how God's people have demonstrated their faith (and sometimes their lack thereof!). By continually interpreting the Bible, we faithfully struggle to understand our relationship to God and our discipleship to Jesus as contemporary Christians.

I have always loved the final declaration of the Apostle's Creed. For me, it is a concise expression of my most significant beliefs: "I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting."

Eastminster Presbytery Leadership Development Action Learning Team
January 8, 2008

1. Which biblical story describing the experiences of God's people best resonates with the themes, experiences, or questions currently facing your congregation, session, committee, or other group? How might this story open new ways for understanding your group's experience? In what ways does this story provide encouragement, comfort, and/or challenge to you as a group and as individual members of that group? How might this story become woven into the experience and practice of your group?

A few of the many stories in scripture (use one of these or another story from scripture):

Adam & Eve expelled from the Garden

Noah building the Ark (or Mrs. Noah hearing that Noah is building an Ark?)

The people of Babel building the tower

Abraham, hearing that he was to move.

Sarah, upon hearing that she will have a child

Jonah in the whale, or just out of the whale

Joseph in the well

Joseph in Egypt

The people of Israel while Moses is on the mountain

Moses, returning from the mountain.

The people of Israel wandering in the desert.

Joshua & Caleb scout out the Promised Land.

Israel in captivity in Babylon or returning from exile

Disciples sent out to fish again after a tiring fruitless time of fishing

Thomas having heard about the resurrection, but not believing.

2. Suggested ways for a commissioner to take and share this experience with his/her session:

The process used tonight is one way we can reinforce the fact that what we are experiencing today can be understood and guided by our study of scripture. How we tell our story can further lead to better awareness of where we are as a committee, session or church. As part of the Commissioner's report to Session, an explanation of this process, together with the suggestion that this could be used initially in at least one committee meeting and later at a Session Meeting could be helpful in spiritual growth and realization of where "we" are today in our own journey of following after God in Christ.

3. Possible ways in which the session might share the use of this process in answering the questions that were posed [see "1." above].

- a. The Session might ask one of the Session committees to conduct a one time exercise using this process to explore the question at one of their meetings. It would be most helpful if the Pastor and/or presbytery commissioner could be present to help in the process. The Moderator/Chair of that committee would report to Session about the experience.
- b. The Session as a whole could use this process to explore the question, and then decide if this question should also be asked at one or more of the session committee meetings.
- c. The session could appoint a small group (either existing or appointed for the purpose) to use this process to explore the question, and report back to session. The report would form the basis for further discussion at Session.

4. What are commissions asked to bring back in May?

At the May Presbytery meeting, small clusters (3-4 persons from at least two churches) will be asked to discuss the process used at their church, name the Biblical story selected, and explain how the story selected is relevant to their church's situation. Each Commissioner will be asked to evaluate their experience with this process.

Congregational Resources Committee
January 8, 2008

Motion: The Congregational Resources Committee recommends that the *2 Cents A Meal For Hunger* offering be divided among Jubilee Gardens in Youngstown, Hunger Program of Dakota Presbytery, the Hunger Network of Ohio, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Presbytery Border Ministry Compañeros en Misión.

Compañeros en Misión

Compañeros en Misión (Partners in Mission) is a program of La Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico and the Presbyterian Church (USA) in the state of Sonora, Mexico, and the state of Arizona, USA. The mission of the program is to increase the reign of God by:

- Establishing self-sufficient, self-governing and self-propagating churches in Sonora;
- Participating in holistic evangelism;
- Strengthening reciprocal and mutual ministries between the churches of the two countries,...always guided by the Holy Spirit.



The site has five mission churches, each with a unique outreach ministry in its own community. In addition, the site assists in several other ministries, including: ministry to migrants, scholarship programs for children and youth, seminary scholarships, and Campaña para Casas (Campaign for Houses). The mission's office is located in Nogales, AZ, about an hour's drive south of Tucson. The ministry is transforming lives on both sides of the border, with its emphasis on evangelism, church development, health education. In working with visiting short-term mission teams, the focus is on three goals:

- 1) Building faith,
 - 2) Building understanding, and
 - 3) Building relationships
- on both sides of the border.

Contact Us:

Liz Toland, US Coordinator
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Nogales, AZ 85628
Phone/Fax: 520.287.3060
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**Eastminster Presbytery
Committee on Ministry**

Items for information:

1. Rev. Rusty Cowden will be installed as Designated Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Warren on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.
2. The COM committee has approved the dissolution of the Interim Pastor covenant between Firestone Park Church and the Ref. Lynn Thompson Bryant effective December 31, 2007 in order that she might accept the call to become Stated Supply of the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Cleveland, Ohio. The Committee has asked Clerk Meta Cramer to transfer Lynn's credentials to the Presbytery of Western Reserve when requested.
3. The COM has approved extending the Interim Pastor Covenant between Rev. Don Aull and the Session of the First United Presbyterian Church of East Palestine through January 31, 2008.
4. The COM adopted the following guidelines for Sessions regarding the designation of Pastor Emeritua/Emeritus.
 1. At the beginning of the process, when the idea emerges, be in contact with the COM for consultation. This should happen before the idea is announced to the congregation.
 2. Be sure there are no impediments to the idea within the congregation.
 3. Decide how and by what standards the person and her/her ministry with the congregation can be described as "honorary."
 4. Will the bestowing of this status to the pastor be the source of conflict and cause concerns and issues in the future?
 5. Will status be bestowed with or without honorarium? Why or why not?
 6. Call the COM for explanation and elaboration of these guidelines.

Items for Action:

1. Recommend that Eastminster Presbytery waive the Book of Order Requirement for rotation of elders, G-14.0222 for the Niles Southside congregation.
2. COM recommends that Presbytery transfer the credentials of Rev. Kay Roberts to the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

Eastminster Presbytery
Nominating Committee Report
January 8, 2008

Resignations have been received from:

Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant, COM Class of 2010
Dave Watts, COM Class of 2009
Lynn Thompson Bryant, Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council, Class of 2008
Rev. SueAnn Schmidt, Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council, Class of 2010
Mary Isa Garayua, SDOP Class of 2008

Nominations:

218th General Assembly:

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine – Alternate Clergy Commissioner
Scott Mentzer -Youth Advisory Delegate

Committee on Ministry:

Class of 2009
Rev. SueAnn Schmidt
Mark Velker (WML) (Canfield)

Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council:

Rev. Derek Starr Redwine, Class of 2008
Rev. Mark Phillips, Class of 2010

Self Development of People:

Class of 2010
Rev. Richard Judy (WMC)
Romeo (Butch) Protacio (AML) – (Barberton)
Charles Williams (BML) – (Goodyear Heights)
Linda Jenkins (BFL) – (New Bethel Baptist)

Class of 2008
Herman Pipe, Jr (Nat. Amer.ML)
Randee Pipe (Nat. Amer.FL)

EASTMINSTER EVANGEL

“I am the gate;

whoever
enters
through me
will be
saved.”

John 10:9

Is available on the website for the January 8, 2008
Presbytery Meeting.



EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY

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DAN K. SCHOMER
General Presbyter

META S. CRAMER
Stated Clerk

October 25, 2007

To: Pastors and Clerks of Churches of Eastminster Presbytery

From: The Task Force on the Reading of Session Minutes and Register Books, Carole Rummell and Alice Jackson

Dear Friends,

I have good news for you. The reading of your session minutes and reviewing of your register books will not take place until **February 10, 2008**. This will enable us to put the reading and review schedule onto a calendar year. In February we will be reading minutes through December 31, 2007. Please put this date on your calendar now.

We have included the newest forms for you to use in preparing for our meeting. You will notice that they have been updated with more information that we will be checking. We are sending two copies of each form. Bring all of the filled out forms with you to our meeting and we will submit one of each to the Presbytery and you will take one home with you.

This meeting will also be an opportunity for new clerks to learn more about their position as clerk. We hope that Pastors will also plan on attending this meeting since it is often the Pastor that needs to help a new clerk learn the job.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind you to check to see if your Incorporation Papers are up to date.

If you have questions, you may call me at 330-652-4603.

Faithfully
Carole Rummell

West and North areas
February 10, 2008, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Mineral Ridge Presbyterian Church

East and South areas
February 10, 2008, 1:30 to 3:30
Canfield Presbyterian Church

An invitation to join in conversation in



The Listening Room

What: An experience in joining together as Christian sisters and brothers to “Express yourself” regarding critical issues that confront us in the 21st century.

When: 4:00-4:50 p. m. January 8, 2008

The Presbyterian Church of Kent, Kent, OH

Who: Any Eastminsterite who is willing to commit the better part of an hour to

Inquire ~ Learn ~ Reflect
on how to live fully in God's holy realm as followers of Jesus Christ.
Reflect on this comment by Margaret Wheatley, management consultant of organizational behavior:

“I believe we can change the world if we start listening to one another again. Simple, honest, human conversation. Not mediation, negotiation, problem-solving, debate, or public meetings. Simple, truthful conversation where we each have a chance to speak, we each feel hear, and we each listen well.” Margaret Wheatley

And join us to reflect on these questions:

1. “What would you like to see as topics for conversation in 2008 ?” and
2. “How would you describe your experience of participating in this project?”

The conversation will be facilitated by Tom Niccolls using Eric Law’s Respectful Communication Guidelines (printed on the next page)

Respectful Communication Guidelines

Developed by Eric H. F. Law

- R** take **RESPONSIBILITY** for what we say and feel without blaming others
- E** **EMPATHETIC** listening
- S** be **SENSITIVE** to differences in communication styles
- P** **PONDER** what we hear and feel before we speak
- E** **EXAMINE** our own assumptions and perceptions
- C** keep **CONFIDENTIALITY** when it is requested
- T** **TRUST** ambiguity