

*Eastminster Presbytery*  
July 11, 2006  
*Presbytery Meeting*

**JULY CALENDAR**

|    |   |         |   |
|----|---|---------|---|
| 4  | - | *****   | Office Closed   |
| 11 | - | 4:00 pm | COM meeting @ JBM Camp  |
|    | - | 5:00 pm | Presbytery Meeting and Picnic @ JBM Camp                      |
| 21 | - | 9:30 am | COM East Area Meeting @ First Presbyterian Church, Youngstown |

**AUGUST CALENDAR**

|     |   |         |   |
|-----|---|---------|---|
| 3   | - | 9:30 am | COM Executive Meeting @ Presbytery Center   |
| 4-5 | - | *****   | Youth Leaders Gathering @ JBM Camp  |
| 8   | - | 5:00 pm | Committee Night @ Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron                            |
| 14  | - | 1:00 pm | Presbyterian Women Board Meeting @ Presbytery Center                                |
| 24  | - | 5:00 pm | Asking Budget for Committee Representatives @ New Waterford Presbyterian Church     |
|     | - | 5:00 pm | Coordinating Council Meeting @ New Waterford Presbyterian Church followed by dinner |
|     | - | 6:30 pm | Mission Visioning Council meeting @ New Waterford Presbyterian Church               |

*Helpful Items of information for pastors, presbytery commissioners, chairpersons of Session committees, and all congregational leadership. Please deliver this information to persons in your church whose service and ministry will benefit by it.*

**DIRECTIONS TO:**

**JOSEPH BADGER MEADOWS CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER**  
7166 Hayes-Orangeville Road  
Burghill OH 44404

“JBM” is located just east of Rt. 7 in Trumbull County, north of Hartford Center and south of Kinsman.

**From the NORTH:** Take Rt. 7 south from Kinsman about 7 miles to Hayes-Orangeville Rd. Turn left and go about 1/2 mile to the entrance to the facility, on the right.

**From the SOUTH:** Approach on Rt. 7, 193, or 11 depending on one’s point of departure. If using Rt. 11 or 193, exit at Rt. 305, go east to Hartford, and then north on Rt. 7, 2 ½ miles to Hayes-Orangeville Rd. This is the first side road after Rt. 609 intersects. Go east about 1/2 mile on Hayes-Orangeville to the facility.

**From the WEST:** Take I-76 east to the Ohio Turnpike interchange, and continue straight east on I-80. from the south will join I-80 for a while. When Rt. 11 diverges to the north (left), take it. Go north to the Rt. 305 exit. Turn right and go about 7 miles to Rt. 7 at Hartford Center. Turn left (north) and go 2 ½ miles to Hayes-Orangeville Rd. This is the first side road after Rt. 609 intersects. Go east about 1/2 mile on Hayes-Orangeville to the facility.

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

## Directory Changes

Please update your 2006 Eastminster Presbytery Directory with the following corrections. Remember much of the directory can be found at [www.eastminsterpresbytery.com](http://www.eastminsterpresbytery.com) under “members” area and using your password sent to all pastors. Please call the office if you are having any problem accessing this information.

| Page   | Change   |
|--------|--|
| 14     | Change email address of Akron, New Covenant’s President of Gov. Bd. David Weida to <a href="mailto:dweida@neo.rr.com">dweida@neo.rr.com</a>        |
| 15, 44 | Change Rev. Todd Allen’s phone number to 330-697-4236  |
| 16     | Change Canfield’s Clerk of Session, Mark Kostyk’s email to: <a href="mailto:mkostyk@modernbuilderssupply.com">mkostyk@modernbuilderssupply.com</a> |
| 16     | Correct Marilyn Stillwell, Columbiana’s Clerk of Session, email address to <a href="mailto:m.stillwell@comcast.net">m.stillwell@comcast.net</a>    |
| 17     | Delete Dr. Sue Reynolds as TS for East Palestine First United Presbyterian Church  |
| 19, 48 | Change Rev. Kay Roberts to Co-pastor of Kent Presbyterian Church   |
| 19, 47 | Add Rev. Aaron Meadow as Designated Co-Pastor to Kent Presbyterian Church  |
| 26, 47 | Removed Rev. Robert Offerdahl from Christ Church   |
| 27, 46 | Add Rev. Jeanine Haven as TS to Liberty Presbyterian Church  |
| 35     | Add Rev. Brian Nutt as Co-opted member of Evangelism Commission  |
| 35     | Add Thomas McKee as Co-opted member of Evangelism Commission   |
| 36     | Change Email address of Com’s Patricia Farmwald to <a href="mailto:waf777@ohio.net">waf777@ohio.net</a>  |
| 40     | Change phone number of Trustee Pam Sharick to cell-330-716-3960  |
|        |  |

## **EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY NEWS & NOTES**

Congratulations to our 33 churches who sent \$48,959.60 for the **One Great Hour of Sharing offering**. Presbyterians have joined with Christians from many other denominations to support ministries of justice, compassion, and hope through One Great Hour of Sharing. Gifts supported by this offering support three programs: 36% to Presbyterian Hunger Program, 32% to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and 32% to Self-Development of People.

**From Presbyterian Women:** On July 7th - July 11th, the Presbyterian Women will be holding the 2006 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY. Goldie Burrier, Elaine Karnes, and Irene Sams will be attending the gathering on behalf of the PW leadership at Eastminster. Pastor Janet Lowery of the North Springfield Church will be conducting a workshop, "When Pregnancy Involves Loss" at the gathering.

We have **one 2006-2007 Presbyterian Planning Calendar still available** for \$8.75 at the Presbytery Office.

Your **2007 Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study** orders have been received at the presbytery office and will be ordered this week.

### **Please keep the following people in your prayers:**

- Bo Schneider who most recently served the Youngstown, Gibson Heights Church as Commissioned Lay Pastor, and is a member of the Akron, Goodyear Heights Church, will be having quintuple heart by-pass surgery on July 6 at Akron General Hospital.
- Wendell Cole is continuing to go through chemo therapy.
- Kate Treasure, Financial and Clerical Assistant for Eastminster Presbytery, recently went in for a heart catheterization. We were thrilled to find out the test was a false positive and nothing further had to be done.
- Gene Douglass, husband of Rev. Jan Douglass, recently suffered a partial stroke. Thanks to the power of prayer, there is no permanent effects. He is just having a few sessions of speech therapy and he's good to go!
- Rev. Peter Lawson is now state-side at Camp Shelby, Mississippi after serving a tour of duty in Iraq. Peter is scheduled to be back in the pulpit at the Brownlee Woods Presbyterian Church on July 23, 2006.

## **CHURCH INFORMATION**

**Looking for Liturgical Furniture:** Petersburg PC is asking if any church has 2 "liturgical chairs" they are not using and would be willing to donate. Petersburg will place them in their sanctuary behind the pulpit, one for use by the minister and one for the lay reader at worship each Sunday. If you know of any available, please contact either Rein Krone ([rkrone@ameritech.com](mailto:rkrone@ameritech.com)) or Molly Halter ([christian@cboss.com](mailto:christian@cboss.com)).

### **Goodyear Heights Presbyterian Church is looking for an Organist/Music Director.**

Recommendations and resumes should be sent to the church at 1430 Goodyear Blvd., Akron, Ohio 44305 or emailed to [ghpcoffice@neo.rr.com](mailto:ghpcoffice@neo.rr.com), phone: 330-874-7633.

**The Personnel Committee of the Canfield Presbyterian Church is accepting applications for the position of Church Secretary.** A copy of the position description is available by e-mail from the church office at 330-533-5509. The position is full time (Monday through Friday 8:30 – 4:30 p.m.). Anyone interested in applying may forward their resume' to: Canfield Presbyterian Church Attn: Personnel Committee, 140 W. Main Street, Canfield, OH 44406.

### **CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND EVENTS**

**Come to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry** on July 17-21, 2006. Join religious leaders, seminarians, Christian Educators, and other faith-based advocates for children at CDF Haley Farm in Clinton, Tennessee, for five days of spiritual renewal, networking, movement building workshops, and continuing education about children. \$325 covers the five-day registration fee and all sessions, meals and materials. Call Ericka at 865-457-6466 with questions.

**Interim Pastor's Seminar** will be held July 16-21 at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center in Lake Tahoe. This is an accredited program for both those interested in this ministry and those serving as interims. The Synod of the Pacific and Synod of Southern California and Hawaii are endorsing this program. More information can be found at the Presbytery Center.

**Horizons Bible Study 2006-2007 called "Perspectives on Genesis"** will be held on Saturday, August 19, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Registration is \$40 and can be handled through the Office of Continuing Education, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary at 412-362-5610 ext. 2196 or emailing ConEd@pts.edu. Author Celia Brewer Sinclair is a lecturer in Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and will be the keynote speaker.

**Northeast (PA) Wee Kirk Conference** will be held October 9-11, 2006 at the Laurelville Mennonite Church Center in Mt. Pleasant, PA. The purpose of the conference is to "inspire, equip, motivate and encourage small PC (USA) Churches and to provide rest and refreshments for the Clergy and Lay Leader of those Churches." The plenary speaker will be Harold Kurtz speaking on "What in the World is God Doing?"; Dale Allison "The Old Testament in the New Testament"; and Bruce Stevens "Changing Expectations in Ministry." This is a ministry of Presbyterians for Renewal and Co-sponsored by Evangelism and Church Development, National Ministries Division, PC (USA) and the Synod of the Trinity. Registration forms can be found at the presbytery office or by calling 740-922-9190.

**Greater Endowment for Greater Ministry**, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Presbyterian Endowment Education & Resource Network Conference will be held October 19-20, 2006 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia. Endowment 101 seminar will offer primary information on endowment building for the local church. Investments 101 will explore the stock and bond markets and determine why one would venture into this arena. Keynote speakers will be Dr. Robert Wood Lynn, an independent teacher and researcher and one of today's most profound thinkers about religion and money; and the Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, currently President of Columbia Theological Seminary. More information can be found at [www.peernetwork.org](http://www.peernetwork.org).

**Pastor's Seminar, "Can 'Old Dogs' Learn New Tricks?"** will be held November 6-9 at the Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center. This center is owned by The Synod of the Pacific and Synod of Southern California, and offers an inspiring panorama of Lake Tahoe, high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Seminar Leader, Ed White, assists congregations to 'grow in grace' and to embrace change in order to be faithful and fruitful for the gospel. He is currently a senior consultant with Alban Institute. Dr. White is an author, a former pastor, and former General Presbyter of the National Capital Presbytery. More information is available at the Presbytery Center.

**Mark your calendar for the 2007 Youth Triennium** "Hope is in Our Midst." This event will take place on July 17-22, 2007 at Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. More information will be coming soon and you can visit the Triennium website at [www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

# Seeking to be Faithful Together:

## Guidelines for Presbyterians during times of Disagreement

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

**G**ive them a hearing...  
listen before we answer

*John 7:51 and Proverbs  
18:13*

**S**peak the truth in love.

*Ephesians 4:15*

**M**aintain 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 2004<sup>th</sup> 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

- 4:00 Committee on Ministry
- 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 Camp Director Karen Riley
- 5:05 Assembly Formalities  
Business of the Clerk; Docket Presentation; Referrals; Correspondence; Recognition of Corresponding Members; Approval of Minutes of May 9, 2006
- 5:07 Presbytery Family Remembrances and Celebrations

Sharing and Supporting Our Ministries

- 5:09 Consent Agenda p. 9
- 5:11 Report of the General Presbyter – Dan Schomer p. 20-25
- 5:16 Committee on Nominations – p. 26
- 5:18 Committee on Mission – Paul Johnson p. 26-28
- 5:23 Trustees – Trella Johnson p. 29-35
- 5:26 Self-Development of People – Jim Ray
- 5:29 Resource Center Coordinator – Lorraine Jones p. 36-37
- 5:31 Report from Synod of the Covenant – Joe Atkins p. 38-39
- 5:36 Report from the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly – Harriet Chapman, Nick Mager, David Cramer
- 5:56 Committee on Ministry – Nick Mager p. 40-44
- 6:11 Coordinating Council – Sue Ann Schmidt p. 45
- 6:21 The Presbytery at Worship - Vespers
- 6:35 Adjournment to Fellowship at the Dinner Table and at JBM

**Eastminster Presbytery**  
Consent Agenda  
July 11, 2006

1. To append the Minutes of the April 27, 2006 Presbytery Coordinating Council to the minutes of the May 9, 2006 meeting.
2. To append the Minutes of the April 27, 2006 Mission Visioning Council to the minutes of the May 9, 2006 meeting.
3. To append the Minutes of the May 25, 2006 Mission Visioning Council to the minutes of the May 9, 2006 meeting.
4. To append the Minutes of the June 15, 2006 Mission Visioning Council to the minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting.
5. That Eastminster Presbytery receives for record the minutes of the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Aaron Meadows as Designated Co-Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Kent.
6. That upon the recommendation of the Trustees that Eastminster Presbytery concur in approving the loan application, and guarantees the payment of principal and interest on the loan of the Common Ground Church Community Presbyterian Church with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Investment and Loan Program of \$525,000.
7. That upon the recommendation of the Trustees that Eastminster Presbytery concur with the actions of the Session and Congregation of Niles/South Side Presbyterian Church to sell the Manse, located at 2171 102 F Second Street, Niles, Ohio. Appraised value of said property is \$60,100.

For Information:

1. Thirteen people were served communion at JBM during staff training. The service was led by David Black.

*Draft: Not yet approved by the Coordinating Council*

PRESBYTERY MEETING COORDINATING COUNCIL

June 27, 2006

The Presbytery meeting Coordinating Council met on June 27, 2006, at the Presbytery Center.

Present: Sue Ann Schmidt, Ruth Cole, Stan Christensen, Lucille Clay, Lynn Thompson  
Bryant, Reford Nash

Staff: Dan Schomer, Meta Cramer, Marianne Lidstone

The meeting was convened with prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt.

The minutes of the April 27, 2006 minutes were approved as submitted with one grammatical change.

2007 ASKING BUDGET

The "Askings" of the Council for the 2007 Budget were discussed. The Stated Clerk suggested that the line item covering expenses for her attendance at the Fall Polity Conference would be appropriately moved to the Personnel Committee budget.

Motion prevailed that the Askings Budget be \$50 for Administrative Expenses and \$100 for Presbytery worship expenses.

The first round of Budget Negotiations for the Asking Budget will be held at New Waterford on August 24 (concurrently with the next Coordinating Council meeting).

JULY 11 STATED MEETING OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Council reviewed packet material from the Dakota Presbytery Mission Exploration Team.

Motion prevailed that the Council bring the following motion to be brought to the July 11 meeting:

*"That Eastminster Presbytery approve a Commission {G-9.,0503 a(4)} to be empowered to respond to expressions of concern by ministers, sessions, and congregations in Eastminster Presbytery relating to the actions of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Authority granted to the Commission includes seeking communication with ministers, sessions, and congregations who express deep concerns relating to actions of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; seeking resolution of conflicts; and contracting with legal counsel if deemed necessary by the Commission. The Commission is expected to act in accordance with the Book of Order, with ordination vows, and with concern for all of God's people. Actions concerning the relationship of any ordained officer or congregation to Eastminster Presbytery must come as recommendations to Eastminster Presbytery for approval. This Commission is to be comprised of 4 clergy persons and 3 elders, or 3 clergy and 4 elders, as follows:  
One member of the Coordinating Council, appointed by the Moderator of the Council;  
Two members of the Committee on Ministry, appointed by the Moderator of the Committee on Ministry;  
Two members of the Board of Trustees, appointed by the President of the Trustees;  
Two persons appointed by the Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery;  
General Presbyter Dan Schomer (ex-officio)."*

Requests for docketed time were approved.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Items already planned for the September 12 meeting in Poland include: approval of the 2007 Askings Budget; a presentation by the Trustees on “Presbytery Funding 101”; a hunger bulletin by Jane Stoffer; approval of minimum terms of call; a display table for JBM; commissioning of Synod commissioners during worship; and the designation of the offering for the Theological Education Fund.

The Moderator reported that communication had been received from the Rev. Dick Braun requesting that the Rev. Michael Weller be asked to preach at the September Presbytery meeting.

Motion that he be asked to speak during the Committee on Mission report, and invite him to preach a 10-minute sermon during worship.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on August 24 in New Waterford at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:37 p.m. by the Rev. Lynn Thompson Bryant.

Respectfully submitted,

Meta S. Cramer, Stated Clerk

## MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL

April 27, 2006

The Mission Visioning Council met on April 27, 2006 at the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church

Present: Peggy Richmond, Moderator; Molly Halter; Bob Gillette; Dick Ferris; Cal Bennett; Paul Johnson; Bonnie Dutton; Debby Dockstader; Alice Jackson; Ross Jackson; Carole Rummell; Harold Walker

Staff: Meta Cramer

The meeting was convened at 7 p.m. by the Moderator, Elder Peggy Richmond.

The Rev. Sue Ann Schmidt, Moderator of the Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council, promoted the July 11 meeting and picnic. She also shared a request that information about "Acts 16:15" be placed on the Presbytery's website.

Spiritual Discernment Advisor Molly Halter led the Council in a time of worship, which included the reading of Romans 8:28, a reflection by Stan Ott, and a time of silence in which to anticipate the goodness of God.

The minutes of the March 23 meeting were approved as submitted, although it was noted that Trustees President Trella Johnson is not actually a member of the Council.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Prior to the meeting, Mission Committee Moderator Paul Johnson had distributed a paper, "Next Steps of the Mission Visioning Council," which is attached to these minutes.

Paul Johnson reported that the Committee on Mission has adopted a 4-part stance:

1. To request all congregations to evaluate themselves with Bullard method,
2. To have all congregational evaluations submitted to the MVC
3. That the evaluations will be reviewed and discussed with the members of the GA Congregational Transformation Team.
4. To provide Congregational Transformation funding, all Eastminster Presbytery congregations will be asked to contribute to a Congregational Transformation Fund, in addition to supporting the normal Presbytery mission projects.

Bonnie Dutton reported that the Trustees want to visit all churches starting in the fall, and plan to send questions to be discussed in advance of the visits.

Carole Rummell shared that she, Alice Jackson and Larry Stewart have been empowered by Congregational Resources to read minutes in a different way in the North Area this year.

Paul Johnson recommended the book *Holy Conversations* by Gil Rendle and Alice Mann. Paul suggested focusing time and energy on the 20% of our congregations which are faithful, effective, healthy and missional congregations.

Peggy asked that the Council spend a month in discerning whether to take this direction. Paul asked Council members to consider initiating an evaluation of their own congregations, and to consider committing to being part of a team to go to Sessions and do these evaluations.

#### REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Peggy reported that she had talked to the Rev. Bob Butcher, who is willing to do a two-day, one night retreat on “Spirituality and Reformed Tradition” which would include sufficient time for personal reflection. Peggy asking permission to set up such a retreat for the last week of September or the first week of October, either from Tuesday to Wednesday or from Wednesday to Thursday. The Council agreed to this plan by consensus.

#### REQUEST FROM JBM COMMITTEE

Cal Bennett reported that the JBM Committee would like to have a Presbytery-wide Sunday when churches would present a “Minute for Mission” regarding the capital campaign. Bulletin inserts would be sent to each church, perhaps for a Sunday in September just prior to the anniversary celebration on October 7. .

#### BOUNDARY WORKSHOPS

Carole Rummell shared information about the boundaries workshop presented by Dan Schomer and the Rev. Debby Dockstader on April 20. About 40 people were present. Carole reported that it was a good time for fellowship as well as an excellent time of learning.

#### EVANGELISM AND CHURCH GROWTH

The Rev. Richard Ferris, Moderator of the Evangelism and Church Growth Commission, asked about the possibility of a policy stating that, when churches close, the recommendation be made that the assets go into New Church Development.

#### THE BOOK “LEADERSHIP FROM THE INSIDE OUT”

Peggy stated her hope that we can incorporate some of the ideas from this book, which has been distributed to MVC members, into our own discernment of what God is calling us to do as a Council.

#### APRIL 29 DIALOGUE MEETING

This gathering has been put on hold. Initiated by a Session, it was intended to be a “safe place” to discuss the Peace, Unity, and Purity Report.

It was noted that the Rev. Nick Mager has been assigned to the committee that will deal with the Report at General Assembly.

Meeting was adjourned with prayer by Harold Walker at 8:45 p.m.

#### FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Council will meet on Thursday, May 25 at the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church. The Church will be asked to provide sandwiches at 6:30 p.m.

The Council will meet on Thursday, June 15, at a location to be announced.

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Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator

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The Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk

*Appendix to April 27, 2006 MVC minutes*  
NEXT STEPS of THE MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL

PEJ/April 29, 2006

The role of the Mission Visioning Council is to help people leading congregations and committees have “a purposeful and meaningful conversation about who they are and what they believe is important to do”(Gil Rendle and Alice Man: Holy Conversations; Strategic Planning as a Spiritual Practice for Congregations. The Alban Institute, 2003.

The remarkable thing about Eastminster Presbytery is that at least 20% of the congregations are “faithful, effective, healthy and missional churches.” Our conversations and resources need to be refocused on these congregations in order that they will be able to “fulfill their Kingdom potential” (George Bullard) and act as shining beacons for their sisters and brothers in ministry.

A number of congregations are obviously ‘numerically plateaued’ or declining in either number of worship attendees and/or financial support by members.

The question: What strategy can the Mission Visioning Council discern and recommend to its committees and commissions that will best deliver needed resources to the congregations?

1. Determine to approach each congregation with action-learning teams that will assist in developing ‘healthy’ churches.
2. Focus on the seven principles that tend to form the character and nature of healthy congregations.

They are:

1. Healthy congregations know who they are.
2. Healthy congregations know where they are headed.
3. Healthy congregations seek to fulfill God’s vision for them through intentional actions.
4. Healthy congregations focus on addressing individuals human hurts and spiritual hopes.
5. Healthy congregations share their gifts and resources.
6. Healthy congregations stay flexible and creative.
7. Healthy congregations know how to disagree without being disagreeable.

3. Focus services on the congregations that demonstrate great urgency for and openness to change, transition, transformation. *Congregations ready for learning will make much greater progress than when the Presbytery seeks to work with them without a great urgency for change.*

4. Identify the most innovative, healthy congregations apparently ready to take the next steps in seeking to reach their God-given potential.

*(These will not necessarily be the largest or fastest-growing congregations. These congregations, self-motiated and self-directed on the seven principles of healthy congregations, probably have a vision of larger or deeper service. They need to be in conversation with each other and with the Mission Visioning Council in order to be challenged and coached to reach their potential.)*

5. This may call for the Presbytery to eliminate some services we have provided and develop new services not considered previously.

6. It may call for developing strategic alliances or partnerships between congregations and with organizations outside the denomination, which either have or can develop the capacity to deliver needed resources to congregations.
7. Reform the “Triennial Visits” to Action/Learning Teams composed of key leaders of committees and commissions (specifically, COM, Mission, Trustees, and Congregational Resources). These will be focused on “Coaching”, i.e. asking the right questions, rather than “Consulting”, i.e. providing programs.

## MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL MINUTES

May 25, 2006

The Mission Visioning Council met on May 25, 2006 at the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church.

Present: Peggy Richmond, Moderator; Molly Halter; Dick Ferris; Cal Bennett; Paul Johnson; Bonnie Dutton; Debby Dockstader; Alice Jackson; Ross Jackson; Carole Rummell; Harold Walker

Excused: Bob Gillette

Staff: Dan Schomer, Meta Cramer

### OPENING

The meeting was convened at 7 p.m. by the Moderator, Elder Peggy Richmond.

Spiritual Discernment Advisor Molly Halter led the Council in worship as she re-told the story of Jesus calming the storm.

The April minutes were received with minor corrections: “The Trustees hope to visit some (not all) of the churches in the Presbytery” and Nick Mager is serving on the General Assembly Committee that will deal not with the PUP Report, but with issues pertaining to G-6.0106b.

PASTOR RETREAT – JBM prefers any Tuesday-Wednesday in September for the pastor’s retreat.

NEXT STEPS – The paper, “Next Steps of The Mission Visioning Council,” which was distributed prior to the April meeting, was further discussed at some length.

### REPORT ON MISSION FUNDING

A motion prevailed to adopt a plan suggested by the General Presbyter Dan Schomer, Bonnie Dutton of the Trustees, and Paul Johnson of the Committee on Mission to address concerns about mission giving patterns.

Paul Johnson reported that a young man from Levante Presbytery in Spain will be visiting the Presbytery this summer. He will be attending the New Wilmington Missionary Conference with David Joachim.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. with prayer by the Rev. Paul Johnson.

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Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator

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The Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk

*Draft - Not yet approved by the Mission Visioning Council*

EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY MISSION VISIONING COUNCIL

June 15, 2006

The Mission Visioning Council met on June 15, 2006 at the Lake Milton Presbyterian Church

Present: Peggy Richmond, Moderator; Molly Halter; Bob Gillette; Carolyn Griffeth; Dick Ferris; Paul Johnson; Bonnie Dutton; Debby Dockstader; Alice Jackson; Ross Jackson; Carole Rummell

Staff: Dan Schomer, Meta Cramer

Absent: Harold Walker, Cal Bennett

The meeting was convened at 7 p.m. by the Moderator, Elder Peggy Richmond.

The minutes of the May 25, 2006 Council meeting were approved with the exception of adding Carolyn Griffeth to the list of those excused.

Spiritual Discernment Advisor Molly Halter led the Council in a time of worship.

#### BUDGETING PROCESS

Dan Schomer presented a proposal for a new budgeting process emerging from work which began with Trustees and was then completed on by Dan Schomer, Paul Johnson and Bonnie Dutton.

It was reported that a number of churches will be visited by MVC teams by mid-July.

#### USE OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS

The Council discussed the use of assessment tools at some length. There was conversation about how to define what constitutes a “missional” church. The need to support pastors who engage in transformative ministry was affirmed.

#### NEXT MEETING

Given that many MVC members will be on vacation in July, the suggestion was made for a smaller group of persons to meet and begin to prepare proposals for August. Peggy Richmond and Debby Dockstader volunteered to work with Dan on this.

The next meeting will be on August 24, 2006 at the New Waterford Church with a dinner following the Coordinating Council meeting.

Peggy announced that the Pastor’s Retreat is being planned for September 26-27 with the Rev. Bob Butcher as leader. Brochures are being printed.

Dan shared that Jan Douglass’ husband Gene had suffered a stroke that morning.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9 p.m.

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Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator

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The Rev. Meta Cramer, Stated Clerk

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION OF EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY  
For the Ordination/Installation of the Rev. Aaron Ludlow Meadows as Designated Co-Pastor  
June 11, 2006  
The Presbyterian Church of Kent

The Commission of Eastminster Presbytery, established to ordain and install on behalf of the Presbytery the Rev. Aaron Ludlow Meadows as Designated Co-Pastor of The Presbyterian Church of Kent convened in the sanctuary of that church on June 11, 2006 at 2:15 p.m. in order to carry out its responsibility in the context of public worship.

Present were commission members: Elder Peggy Richmond, Moderator (Petersburg); the Rev. Dr. J. Nicholas Mager Jr., (Youngstown First); Elder Erma Lewis, (Kent); the Rev. Dr. Lynn Thompson Bryant, (Firestone Park, Akron); and the Rev. Brian Nutt, (Akron, Oak Hill).

Lynn Thompson Bryant was appointed clerk of the commission.

The Commission was constituted with prayer by Peggy Richmond.

Motion prevailed to seat the Rev. Jerry Snyder, (Muskingum Valley Presbytery); Elder Stacy Yaniglos, (Kent); Elder Daniel Meadows, (Muskingum Valley Presbytery); Elder Alice McVetty-Vars, (Kent); the Rev. Douglas Patton, (Muskingum Valley Presbytery); the Rev. Kay Roberts, (Kent); the Rev. Dr. John Wilson, (Pittsburgh Presbytery) and the Rev. Martin Sweeney, (Beaver Butler Presbytery); as corresponding members of the Commission.

Motion prevailed to approve the Order of Service as prepared in the printed program as the plan to be followed.

Motion prevailed that upon the pronouncement of the Benediction by the Rev. Aaron Meadows, the Commission stand adjourned.

Motion prevailed to waive the reading of the minutes by the Commission, and to present the minutes to the July Stated Meeting of the Presbytery to become a part of its records, with the request that the Commission be dissolved upon their approval.

The Commission proceeded into the Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. for the Service of Installation. The order proceeded as follows:

|  |                                       |                        |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Prelude                                  |                                       | Penny Graves, Organist |
| Welcome                                  |                                       | Peggy Richmond         |
| Call to Worship                          |                                       | Jerry Snyder           |
| Opening Prayer                           |                                       | Jerry Snyder           |
| Hymn of Praise                           | “Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty” |                        |
| Prayer of Confession                     |                                       | Stacy Yaniglos         |
| Declaration of Forgiveness and the Peace |                                       |                        |
| Prayer for Illumination                  |                                       | Jerry Snyder           |
| First Reading                            | Isaiah 6:1-8                          |                        |
| Psalm                                    | 132                                   | Erma Lewis             |
| Gospel Reading                           | Matthew 28:16-20                      | Martin Sweeney         |
| Second Reading                           | 2 Timothy 1:13-14                     | Alice McVetty-Vars     |
| Sermon                                   | “Guard the Good Deposit”              | Martin Sweeney         |

|  |                        |                                |
|--|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Song   | “How Great is Our God” |                                |
| Ordination and Installation:                         |                        |                                |
| Statement on the Ministry of the Church              |                        | Nicholas Mager, Jr.            |
| Constitutional Questions                             |                        | Peggy Richmond                 |
| Prayer of Ordination and Installation                |                        | Nicholas Mager, Jr.            |
| Declaration of Ordination and Installation           |                        | Peggy Richmond                 |
| Welcome  |                        |                                |
| Charge to the Newly Ordained and Installed Co-Pastor |                        | Brian Nutt                     |
| Charge to the Congregation                           |                        | John Wilson                    |
| Presentation of Symbols of Ministry                  |                        |                                |
| Charge to the New Installed Co-Pastors               |                        | Lynn Thompson Bryant           |
| Invitation to the Table                              |                        | Douglas Patton                 |
| Offering   |                        | Daniel Meadows                 |
| Offertory Music                                      | “The Lord’s Prayer”    | Keith Christensen              |
| The Great Thanksgiving                               |                        |                                |
| Communion  |                        | Kay Roberts and Douglas Patton |
| Communion Music                                      | “Coming Down”          |                                |
| Hymn   | “Be Thou My Vision”    |                                |
| Charge and Blessing                                  |                        | Aaron Meadows                  |
| Postlude   |                        |                                |

The reception for the newly-installed Aaron Meadows and family was held following the service in Grazier Hall and was cared for by the church Deacons, the Fellowship Committee and Presbytery Women.

Motion prevailed to adjourn. Nick Mager led the commission in closing prayer.

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Peggy Richmond, Moderator

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Lynn Thompson Bryant, Clerk of the Commission

**Report of the General Presbyter**  
**Eastminster Presbytery**  
**July 11, 2006**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Eighteen months ago, Eastminster Presbytery began a series of studies and discussions on the Preliminary and Final Reports of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church (PUP Report). At two presbytery meetings, significant time and attention were given to reflecting on the Report. Three Theological Reflection Groups were also formed to study the Preliminary Report. I believe Eastminster Presbytery took seriously the request of the General Assembly that we study and reflect on the Report.

The commissioners to the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly considered the PUP Report on June 20. Presentations of a Minority Report, amendments, and a great deal of discussion took no less than three hours of the Assembly's time. All viewpoints were represented and expressed. When the votes were taken, the Recommendations of the PUP Report were approved with a significant amendment to Recommendation 5.

Beginning on June 21, newspapers, periodicals, and websites, began to comment on the implications of the PUP Report. Some critics condemned Recommendation 5 as providing "local option" to sessions and presbyteries. Such criticism appears to be a sweeping generalization and ignores what the Report, in fact, says. So what does the PUP Report mean for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)? It means that we will intentionally seek together through discernment and dialogue the nature and purpose of our shared ministry as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It means that we will seek to discover new ways to develop consensus as decisions are made. It certainly means that ordination and installation examinations will take on new rigor and vigor. It means that, while the ordination standards of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) remain unchanged, sessions and presbyteries have the responsibility of applying those standards to candidates for ordination and installation. The amended Recommendation 5 drives home the point that sessions and presbyteries are accountable for their application of the standards.

What difference can the PUP Report make in the life of the PC(USA)? The answer depends upon how pastors and congregations, session and presbyteries, seek to live out the report. It is significant that the first four recommendations were adopted by the commissioners by a 91% affirmative vote. I believe the key that unlocks the gift that is the PUP Report is found in the first four recommendations. We cannot "be" and "do" church in the same old way. The 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly has sent the whole church a guide for how to be the Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that is both faithful to Christ and faithful to one another.

In Christ's service together,  
Dan Schomer

## Recommendations of the Final Report of the Theological Task Force on the Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church as approved by the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Seeking the peace, unity, and purity that God offers us in the work of our loving Savior, the task force offers the following seven recommendations.

1. The task force recommends that the General Assembly strongly encourage:
  - a. every member of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to witness to the church's visible oneness, to avoid division into separate denominations that obscure our community in Christ, and to live in harmony with other members of this denomination, so that we may with one voice together glorify God in Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit; and
  - b. all sessions, congregations, presbyteries, and synods to renew and strengthen their covenanted partnership with one another and with the General Assembly.
2. The task force recommends that the General Assembly urge governing bodies, congregations, and other groups of Presbyterians to follow the example of the task force and other groups that, in the face of difficult issues, have engaged in processes of intensive discernment through worship, community-building, study, and collaborative work.
3. The task force asks the General Assembly to commend for study the Theological Reflection that heads the task force report.
4. The task force recommends that the General Assembly direct the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and urge those who plan and moderate meetings of other governing bodies to explore the use of alternative forms of discernment and decision-making as a complement to parliamentary procedure, especially in dealing with potentially divisive issues.
5. The task force recommends that the 217th General Assembly adopt the following authoritative interpretation of section G-6.0108 of the *Book of Order*:
  - (1) *The Book of Confessions* and the Form of Government of the *Book of Order* set forth the scriptural and constitutional standards for ordination and installation.
  - (2) These standards are determined by the whole church, after the careful study of Scripture and theology, solely by the constitutional process of approval by the General Assembly with the approval of the presbyteries. These standards may be interpreted by the General Assembly and its Permanent Judicial Commission.
  - (3) Ordaining and installing bodies, acting as corporate expressions of the church, have the responsibility to determine their membership by applying these standards to those elected to office. These determinations include:
    - a. Whether a candidate being examined for ordination and/or installation as elder, deacon, or minister of Word and Sacrament has departed from scriptural and constitutional standards for fitness for office,

b. Whether any departure constitutes a failure to adhere to the essentials of Reformed faith and polity under G-6.0108 of the *Book of Order*, thus barring the candidate from ordination and/or installation.

(4). [Whether the examination complies with the constitution of the PCUSA, and] [~~W~~][w]hether the ordaining/installing body has conducted its examination and ordination and installation decision reasonably, responsibly, prayerfully, and deliberately in deciding to ordain a candidate for church office is subject to review by higher governing bodies.” (*amendments made by the 217<sup>th</sup> G.A. are underlined*).

(5) All parties should endeavor to outdo one another in honoring one another’s decisions, according the presumption of wisdom to ordaining/installing bodies in examining candidates and to the General Assembly, with presbyteries’ approval, in setting standards.

6. If the 217th General Assembly adopts Recommendation 5, the task force strongly encourages

- a. the 217th General Assembly to adopt no additional authoritative interpretations, to remove no existing authoritative interpretations, and to send to the presbyteries no proposed constitutional amendments that would have the effect of changing denominational policy on any of the major issues in the task force’s report, including Christology, biblical interpretation, essential tenets, and sexuality and ordination.
- b. all church members to acknowledge their traditional biblical obligation, as set forth in Matthew 18:15-17, Matthew 5:23-25, and in the Rules of Discipline in the *Book of Order*, “to conciliate, mediate, and adjust differences without strife...prayerfully and deliberately” (D-1.0103) and to institute administrative or judicial proceedings only when other efforts fail to preserve the purposes and purity of the church.

7. Finally, the task force recommends to the 217th General Assembly that this report answer the following: Overture 01-33, Commissioner Resolutions 00-28, 01-23, and Item 02-10.

## **Frequently Asked Questions about "The Trinity: God's Love Overflowing" Office of Theology and Worship - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)**

### **Did the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) vote to replace the language "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"?**

In a word, no. The report states, "The language of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, rooted in scripture and creed, remains an indispensable anchor for our efforts to speak faithfully of God."

### **What exactly did the General Assembly do?**

The PC(USA) received and commended for study "The Trinity: God's Love Overflowing."

### **What does "received and commended" mean?**

It means that the paper will be recorded in the 217th General Assembly *Minutes*; it will be disseminated in the church; and the Office of Theology and Worship will develop study and worship materials.

### **What does "The Trinity: God's Love Overflowing" say about language for the Trinity?**

- One of the ways to help us reclaim the doctrine of the Trinity in the church's theology, worship, and life is to provide ways of speaking of the glory of the Triune God. These echoes of work of the Triune God are not replacements or alternatives to the anchor language of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are ways to expand and enhance our appreciation of the one God: "If our lifeline to the anchor is frayed or severed, the historic faith of the one holy catholic and apostolic church risks being set adrift. With this anchor in place, however, we are liberated to interpret, amplify, and expand upon the ways of speaking of the triune God familiar to most church members."
- This expansive language is an ancient tradition of the church, as familiar as the words of the well-known hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy": "Perfect in power, in love, and purity." Most of these three-fold echoes of the Trinity do not correspond to one or another persons of the Trinity—they are ways to express the whole work of the Triune God: "As we read, proclaim, hear, and live out the message of scripture, the triune God is known to us as Speaker, Word, and Breath (Heb. 1:1; John 1:1; John 20:22; Ps. 104:30)" and "When we speak of God's wrath in the face of evil, the triune God is for us Fire that Consumes, Sword that Divides, and Storm that Melts Mountains (Deut. 5:25; Matt. 10:34-35; Ps. 97:5)."

### **Do Presbyterians have to do what the report says?**

No. This paper is not "theological policy" for the church. Only *The Book of Confessions* plays that role in the PC(USA).

### **Why was the paper written?**

It was requested by a previous General Assembly growing out of a concern that a kind of "functional unitarianism" was replacing Trinitarian faith out of neglect of this essential doctrine.

### **Is the Trinity paper about language for God?**

Actually, the heart of the paper is a deep and abiding affirmation and exploration of the gift of the Trinity: The doctrine of the Trinity is good news for the church because the Trinity is a summary of the gospel: "God loved the world and gave the Son for our salvation (John 3:16); Jesus Christ, God's only Son our Lord, loved us and gave his life for us (Gal. 2:20); the gift of God's love in Christ has poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 1:22). We know that God is this way because of God's own self-revelation, not because we construct our own ideas of God.

To read the full action of the 217th General Assembly, go to <http://les-pcusa.org/Item.aspx?IID=193&>. To read the entire paper, go to <http://www.pcusa.org/theologyandworship/issues/trinityfinal.pdf>.

## **Frequently Asked Questions about the Actions of the 217th General Assembly (2006) on the Report of the Theological Task Force on Peace, Unity, and Purity of the Church**

### **What did the 217th General Assembly (2006) do?**

The General Assembly retained the ordination standards and lifted up the historic responsibility of governing bodies to examine rigorously each and every candidate for minister, elder, or deacon, considering whether they are qualified and called, and whether they adhere to the essentials of Reformed faith and practice.

### **So what's different now?**

The standards of the church didn't change; it is the spirit that has changed. The action encourages a more pastoral approach to ordination and encourages governing bodies to do thorough work in examining individuals for office.

### **What was the Theological Task Force created to do, and how did their report do that?**

The task force was appointed in 2001 to address deep divisions in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The unanimous report of the twenty Presbyterians on the task force from all over the country, representing the full breadth of the theological spectrum, models hope for the church moving forward together in unity.

Obviously, the fifth recommendation (concerning ordination standards) has received a lot of attention. But many may not realize that the first four recommendations of the report, adopted almost unanimously by the assembly, carry enormous significance for the future of the church. Those four recommendations are:

- that the Theological Reflection section of the task force report—a very strong faith statement about God's love and salvation made known to us in Jesus Christ, and about our call to proclaim the gospel—be commended for study;
- that every Presbyterian would witness to the church's visible oneness, avoiding division;
- that every governing body, congregation, and group of Presbyterians engage in processes of intensive discernment through worship, community building, and study;
- that the General Assembly consider exploring the use of alternative forms of discernment preliminary to decision-making, especially when dealing with divisive issues.

### **Will gays and lesbians now be ordained?**

Presbyteries and sessions have been reminded of their historical responsibility to examine candidates for ordination and decide, on a case-by-case basis, about a person's qualifications for ministry. The constitutional standard in the Book of Order (G-6.0106b) requiring "fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman" or "chastity in singleness" remains in place.

Each governing body will be required to decide if a departure from a standard of faith or practice represents a violation of an "essential" of the faith. Governing bodies have been encouraged to strive to honor one another's ordination decisions. Still, these decisions continue to be subject to review by higher governing bodies.

***What are the "essentials"?***

The General Assembly has never had a list of "essentials," and, except for a few years in the early twentieth century, has always explicitly maintained there can be no list. We have a confessional foundation, and it has always been the responsibility of ordaining bodies to determine what tenets of faith are "essential" and to make decisions about ordination and installation accordingly.

***Are congregations going to leave the PC(USA) because of the assembly's actions?***

Hopefully not. A few have said they are considering departure, but most have indicated they will stay and work to reshape and renew the denomination. The report the assembly approved was intended to bring a new spirit to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in which individuals who disagree deeply about important issues can still participate faithfully together as disciples of Jesus Christ. The assembly's actions will make it possible for all Presbyterians to not merely stay together, but to strengthen one another's faith and ministry, honoring God, who alone is Lord of the conscience.

***What will this mean to congregations?***

The intent of the General Assembly was that all governing groups—sessions that govern congregations, as well as presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly, which are made up of ministers and elders—will be empowered to bear with one another in Christian love, to exercise discernment, and to proclaim Good News in a new day of unity and faithfulness. In particular, nominating committees and examining bodies are called to a rigorous and thorough examination of every candidate for church office, discerning the totality of their faith, theology, and practice, and making wise decisions about those who will lead the people of God.

To read the full actions of the 217th General Assembly on these recommendations, go to <http://les-pcusa.org/Item.aspx?IID=129&> . To read the report of the Theological Task Force, go to [pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity](http://pcusa.org/peaceunitypurity).

**Committee on Nominations  
July 11, 2006**

For Action:

Kelsey Francis, Columbiana 1st, to be Synod Youth Advisory Delegate.

**Mission Committee  
July 11, 2006**

For Action:

Motion to join with The Westminster Presbyterian Church, Akron to invite Alice Winters, missionary to Colombia, for a Fall Itineration.

For Information:

A "Share the Story" campaign was approved by the Mission Committee. The goal is to provide 3 minute Minute for Mission reports from currently funded Mission Projects at every meeting of Presbytery.

DAKOTA PRESBYTERY  
Mission Exploration Team  
(located in the Synod of Lakes and Prairies)

On Friday-Sunday, May 5-6-7, 2005, Dakota Presbytery met at Lindsey Memorial Presbyterian Church, Poplar, Montana. Eastminster was represented by Thomas and Kathy McKee (Akron-Oak Hill), and Pastor Bob Offerdahl (retired from Christ Church, Youngstown) at the Spring Meeting of Dakota Presbytery.

Thomas and Kathy *once again* brought out a pickup load of donated / reconditioned computers (20 complete sets) which were distributed to several pastors and churches to help improve communications / information sharing between the churches *as well as* to train their members in using computers. We also had preliminary conversations about the possibility of taking youths from Eastminster to participate in Dakota's Summer Youth Camp at Camp Rimrock in the Black Hills and / or having some of the Dakota youths attend the New Wilmington Missionary Conference.

Saturday, July 29th, a Summer Mission Work Team from Stow Presbyterian will travel to south-central South Dakota to spend a week working with the elders and members of two Native American congregations - Cedar Presbyterian and Greenwood Presbyterian. The work team will return to Ohio on August 6th. On the reverse side of this page you will find the names of the work team. Please take some time, from July 29th - August 6th, to pray for the team members: pray for our physical and spiritual health, safe travel, and safety as we are working. Also pray that we will be witnesses to those we encounter along the way. Also that the Lord will work in the hearts of the Native Americans to get them excited about our coming out there to help them repair their church buildings, that they will take special pride in doing the work along with us, and that the Lord will give us wisdom to show them how to build the body of Christ but most of all that we will be open to learn from our Native brothers and sisters what God wants to teach us.

Again ... outside of the business meetings; during meals, before and after worship, a "ministry of presence" was continued ... to renew old friendships and to develop new relationships. This underscores our teams primary purpose, developing personal relationships long before we try to develop "hands-on ministries." Our ultimate goal is not to do things for our Native American brothers and sisters. Rather, our goal is to work with them; seeing how we might support them in their ministries and mission while at the same time inviting them to come and share with us the unique gifts and graces of their culture and their own faith journeys.

The fall meeting of Dakota Presbytery will be Friday-Sunday, September 22-24, 2006, at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church, Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

For further information ... to indicate your interest in attending a meeting ... to be part of a mission work team ... please contact Bob Offerdahl (330-792-1436 or by e-mail [pastorbobccp@yahoo.com](mailto:pastorbobccp@yahoo.com)).

DAKOTA PRESBYTERY  
Summer Mission Work Team

From Stow Presbyterian Church :

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| John Benedik   | Dave Buchanan  |
| Bill Craig     | Cara Craig     |
| Mike Douglas   | Cindy Duniver  |
| Dave Fast      | Jay Gardiner   |
| Karen Mascolo  | Dennis Matheny |
| Pam Matheny    | Andy Russell   |
| Ashley Russell | Hannah Russell |
| Bill Sagaser   | Daniel Shrack  |
| Barb Shuber    | Andy Walls     |
| Jenny Walls    |                |

from Christ Church Presbyterian :

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| Doug Chumita       | Shawn Chumita |
| also Bob Offerdahl | Sue Reynolds  |

**Eastminster Presbytery**  
**REQUEST to CONCUR in the SALE of REAL PROPERTY**

A. The Session and Congregation of \_\_\_\_\_ located at : \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully requests that the Presbytery Board of Trustees recommend that Eastminster Presbytery concur in the sale of real property as described below.

Legal description of the property to be sold:

B. Name of Realtor:

Asking price: \_\_\_\_\_ Offer to purchase price: \_\_\_\_\_ # of days before offer expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional terms of sale, if any:

C. Buyer/s Name/s:

Buyer/s intended use of property:

D. Date of Session recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of congregational action: \_\_\_\_\_ # attending congregation meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

E. Voting method at congregation meeting (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ voice. \_\_\_\_\_ show of hands or standing. \_\_\_\_\_ secret ballot.

Indicate: # of votes for the sale \_\_\_\_\_. # of votes against the sale \_\_\_\_\_.

F. Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contacts Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

G. Attach the following items for information:

- 1) a copy of any appraisal available on the property for sale.
- 2) a brief statement of the reason/s for selling the property.
- 3) a brief statement on how the proceeds of the sale will be used and/or invested.
- 4) a projection of the future impact of the sale on the annual budget and terms of call (if any).
- 5) a copy of the most recent year end financial report.
- 6) a copy of the current annual budget.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please be advised that the concurrence process takes time. Sessions and congregations are encouraged to provide as much information as possible as soon as possible. It may be better to submit a partially completed request form early and to fill-in-the-blanks along the way, than to wait until-the-last-minute and risk an undue delay in closing the sale.

Action by Presbytery Trustees: \_\_\_\_\_ Concur. \_\_\_\_\_ Not Concur. Date \_\_\_\_\_.

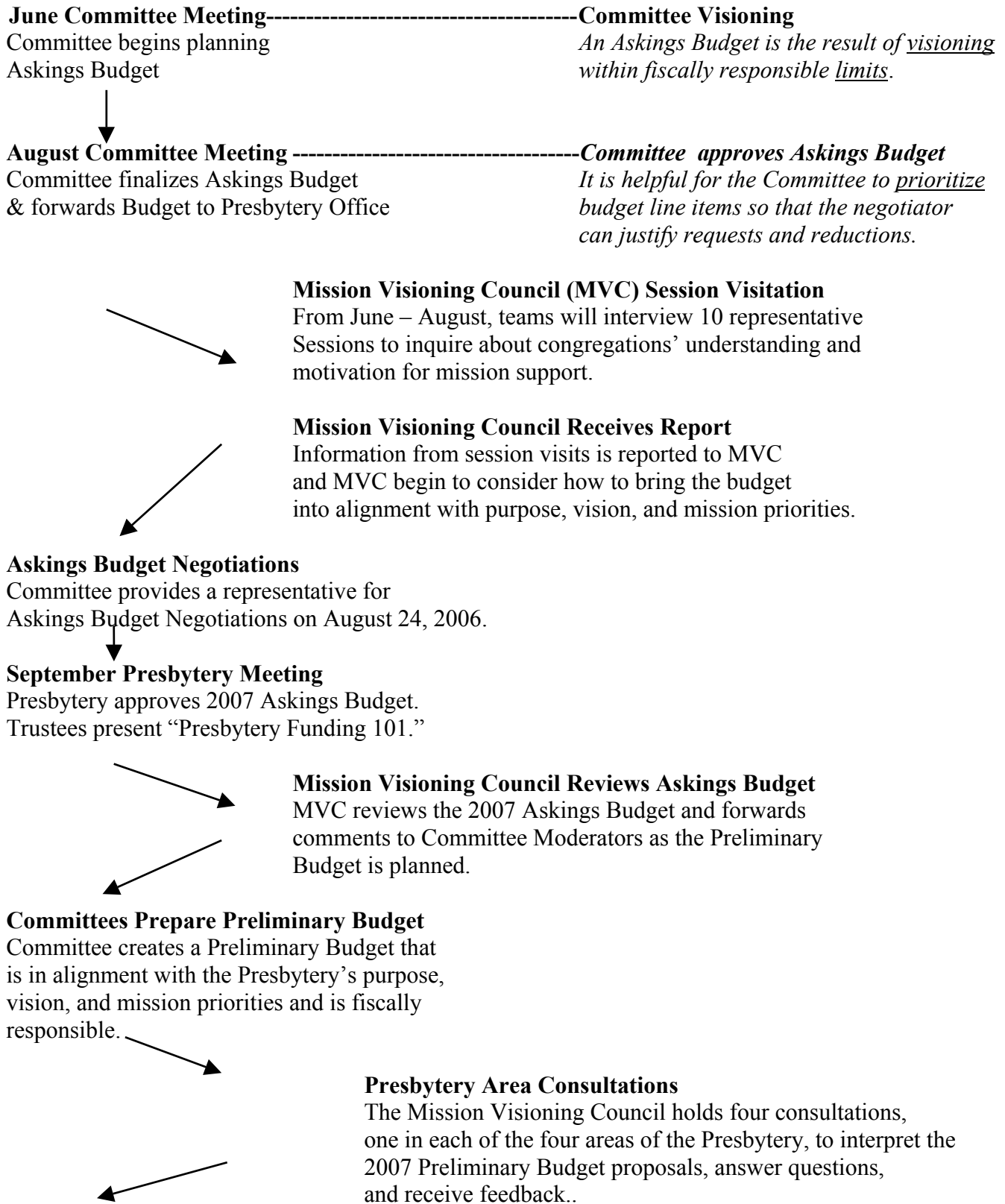
Action by Presbytery: \_\_\_\_\_ Concur. \_\_\_\_\_ Not Concur. Date \_\_\_\_\_.

*Reviewed by Trustees: July 2006*

**Eastminster Presbytery**  
**INFORMATION FORM FOR OBTAINING A LOAN**

- A. Name and address of church \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Reason for securing loan \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- C. Financial Information:
1. Name of lending institution \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Amount of money to be borrowed commercially \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Annual rate of interest \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Security for loan \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Proposed schedule for repayment \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Anticipated period of loan \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Amount desired for Synod-General Assembly loans \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Amount of current indebtedness and mortgages \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  9. Evidence of the church's ability to meet repayment schedule: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  10. Schedule of repayment of current indebtedness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  11. Current status of Per Capita Payments: Billed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Current status of Presbyterian General Mission: Pledged \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  12. Attached copy of most recent Annual Report.
- D. Date of session  
recommendation \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Date of congregational action \_\_\_\_\_ # attending congregational Meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
Give the number of "yes" and "no" votes preferably taken by ballot: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact's Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Action by The Board of Trustees:  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
- H. Action by Eastminster Presbytery:  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## HOW THE 2007 BUDGET IS CREATED BY EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERY



**Preliminary Budget Negotiations**  
Committee provides a representative for Preliminary Budget Negotiations on October 24.

**November Presbytery Meeting**  
Presbytery approves the 2007 Preliminary Budget & sets per capita and Personnel budget.

**February Committee Night**  
Committee finalizes Operation Budget Proposal.

**February Budget Negotiations**  
Committee provides representative to the Operating Budget Negotiations on February 22, 2007.

**March Presbytery Meeting**  
Presbytery approves a balanced 2007 Mission Budget

***Establishing Part of the Budget***

*A key responsibility of the October negotiations is to set the Administrative portion of the budget by establishing per capita and the Personnel budget so that staff salaries can begin Jan. 1.*

***Balancing the Budget***

*With the mission pledges reported by congregations, the Committee considers what is essential in the Mission Budget.*

### 2006 Church Per Capita Payup

| CHURCH NAME           | 2006 Total<br>Per Capita Due | Total Paid<br>to Date | Balance<br>Due      | Percent<br>Payup |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| AKRON ALLENSIDE       | \$1,473.12                   |                       | \$1,473.12          | 0.00%            |
| AKRON FIRESTONE       | \$5,468.40                   | \$1,694.81            | \$3,773.59          | 30.99%           |
| AKRON FIRST           | \$6,785.28                   |                       | \$6,785.28          | 0.00%            |
| AKRON GOODYEAR HTS    | \$6,450.48                   | \$3,260.11            | \$3,190.37          | 50.54%           |
| AKRON NEW COVENANT    | \$2,343.60                   | \$1,942.00            | \$401.60            | 82.86%           |
| AK. NORTH SPRINGFIELD | \$2,990.88                   | \$2,991.00            | (\$0.12)            | 100.00%          |
| AKRON OAK HILL        | \$9,664.56                   | \$4,113.81            | \$5,550.75          | 42.57%           |
| AKRON UNIVERSITY      | \$892.80                     |                       | \$892.80            | 0.00%            |
| AKRON WESTMINSTER     | \$15,088.32                  | \$7,544.16            | \$7,544.16          | 50.00%           |
| BARBERTON FIRST       | \$6,004.08                   | \$2,985.70            | \$3,018.38          | 49.73%           |
| CANFIELD FIRST        | \$14,530.32                  | \$7,530.32            | \$7,000.00          | 51.82%           |
| COLUMBIANA FIRST      | \$7,209.36                   | \$2,925.44            | \$4,283.92          | 40.58%           |
| CUY. NORTHMINSTER     | \$4,977.36                   | \$2,488.68            | \$2,488.68          | 50.00%           |
| CUY - UNITED          | \$8,035.20                   | \$6,035.20            | \$2,000.00          | 75.11%           |
| EAST PALESTINE        | \$4,910.40                   | \$1,486.16            | \$3,424.24          | 30.27%           |
| ELLSWORTH             | \$2,165.04                   | \$2,165.04            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| GIRARD                | \$1,696.32                   | \$1,696.32            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| HUBBARD               | \$5,914.80                   | \$2,958.00            | \$2,956.80          | 50.01%           |
| HUDSON                | \$10,936.80                  |                       | \$10,936.80         | 0.00%            |
| KENT                  | \$6,405.84                   | \$6,405.84            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| KINSMAN               | \$3,013.20                   | \$3,013.20            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| LAKE MILTON           | \$915.12                     | \$915.12              | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| LISBON                | \$6,852.24                   | \$6,852.24            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| MINERAL RIDGE         | \$4,419.36                   | \$2,651.64            | \$1,767.72          | 60.00%           |
| NEW WATERFORD         | \$1,205.28                   | \$1,205.28            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| NILES FIRST           | \$3,169.44                   | \$1,320.60            | \$1,848.84          | 41.67%           |
| NILES SOUTH SIDE      | \$1,049.04                   | \$1,049.04            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| NORTH BENTON          | \$4,575.60                   |                       | \$4,575.60          | 0.00%            |
| NORTH JACKSON         | \$1,316.88                   |                       | \$1,316.88          | 0.00%            |
| PETERSBURG            | \$2,388.24                   | \$1,400.70            | \$987.54            | 58.65%           |
| POLAND                | \$24,239.52                  | \$12,119.76           | \$12,119.76         | 50.00%           |
| ROGERS CLARKSON       | \$848.16                     | \$424.08              | \$424.08            | 50.00%           |
| SALEM CONCORD         | \$1,093.68                   |                       | \$1,093.68          | 0.00%            |
| SALEM FIRST           | \$12,588.48                  | \$12,588.48           | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| SEBRING               | \$6,383.52                   | \$3,191.50            | \$3,192.02          | 50.00%           |
| STOW                  | \$5,825.52                   |                       | \$5,825.52          | 0.00%            |
| STRUTHERS             | \$5,022.00                   | \$3,348.00            | \$1,674.00          | 66.67%           |
| VIENNA                | \$2,098.08                   | \$2,098.08            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| WARREN CALVARY        | \$2,276.64                   | \$2,276.64            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| WARREN CHAMPION       | \$9,218.16                   | \$3,076.82            | \$6,141.34          | 33.38%           |
| WARREN COVENANT       | \$1,249.92                   |                       | \$1,249.92          | 0.00%            |
| WARREN FIRST          | \$7,611.12                   | \$7,611.12            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| YO. BROWNLEE WOODS    | \$4,173.84                   | \$1,500.00            | \$2,673.84          | 35.94%           |
| YO. BUTLER MEMORIAL   | \$580.32                     |                       | \$580.32            | 0.00%            |
| YO. CHRIST            | \$4,464.00                   |                       | \$4,464.00          | 0.00%            |
| YO. COITSVILLE        | \$1,428.48                   |                       | \$1,428.48          | 0.00%            |
| YO. FIRST             | \$5,066.64                   | \$5,066.64            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| YO. GIBSON HEIGHTS    | \$2,232.00                   | \$1,210.29            | \$1,021.71          | 54.22%           |
| YO. HUNGARIAN         | \$3,080.16                   |                       | \$3,080.16          | 0.00%            |
| YO. JOHN KNOX         | \$2,499.84                   | \$2,499.84            | \$0.00              | 100.00%          |
| YO. LIBERTY           | \$1,874.88                   | \$647.02              | \$1,227.86          | 34.51%           |
| YO. PLEASANT GROVE    | \$6,874.56                   |                       | \$6,874.56          | 0.00%            |
| YO. WESTMINSTER       | \$10,378.80                  | \$5,249.40            | \$5,129.40          | 50.58%           |
| YO. WICKLIFFE         | \$4,285.44                   | \$2,146.00            | \$2,139.44          | 50.08%           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>\$278,241.12</b>          | <b>\$141,684.08</b>   | <b>\$136,557.04</b> | <b>50.92%</b>    |

### 2006 Church Mission Payups

| CHURCH NAME          | 2006<br>Mission Pledge | 2006<br>Payup       | Balance             | Percent<br>Payup |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| AKRON/ALLENSIDE      |                        |                     | \$0.00              |                  |
| AK./FIRESTONE PARK   | \$1,000.00             | \$1,000.00          | \$0.00              | 100.0%           |
| AKRON/FIRST          | \$15,000.00            | \$5,000.00          | \$10,000.00         | 33.3%            |
| AK./GOODYEAR HTS     | \$10,000.00            | \$2,666.66          | \$7,333.34          | 26.7%            |
| AK./NEW COVENANT     | \$2,220.00             | \$1,034.00          | \$1,186.00          | 46.6%            |
| AK/NORTH SPRINGFIELD | \$6,000.00             | \$2,500.00          | \$3,500.00          | 41.7%            |
| AKRON/OAK HILL       | \$10,000.00            | \$4,166.81          | \$5,833.19          | 41.7%            |
| AK./UNIVERSITY       |                        |                     | \$0.00              |                  |
| AKRON/WESTMINSTER    | \$25,375.00            | \$12,497.70         | \$12,877.30         | 49.3%            |
| BARBERTON FIRST      | \$16,715.00            | \$8,357.52          | \$8,357.48          | 50.0%            |
| CANFIELD FIRST       | \$19,500.00            |                     | \$19,500.00         | 0.0%             |
| COLUMBIANA FIRST     | \$1,000.00             | \$958.33            | \$41.67             | 95.8%            |
| CUY. /NORTHMINSTER   | \$2,000.00             | \$105.00            | \$1,895.00          | 5.3%             |
| CUY. FALLS/UNITED    | \$15,000.00            | \$6,750.00          | \$8,250.00          | 45.0%            |
| EAST PALESTINE       | \$1,417.71             | \$749.32            | \$668.39            | 52.9%            |
| ELLSWORTH            | \$3,000.00             | \$1,500.00          | \$1,500.00          | 50.0%            |
| GIRARD               | \$3,670.00             | \$1,834.98          | \$1,835.02          | 50.0%            |
| HUBBARD              | \$10,000.00            | \$4,980.00          | \$5,020.00          | 49.8%            |
| HUDSON               | \$15,000.00            |                     | \$15,000.00         | 0.0%             |
| KENT                 | \$10,000.00            | \$4,166.65          | \$5,833.35          | 41.7%            |
| KINSMAN              | \$7,000.00             | \$3,500.10          | \$3,499.90          | 50.0%            |
| LAKE MILTON          | \$1,125.00             | \$300.00            | \$825.00            | 26.7%            |
| LISBON               | \$10,000.00            | \$5,000.00          | \$5,000.00          | 50.0%            |
| MINERAL RIDGE        | \$7,704.00             | \$3,852.00          | \$3,852.00          | 50.0%            |
| NEW WATERFORD        | \$1,000.00             | \$320.00            | \$680.00            | 32.0%            |
| NILES FIRST          | \$5,200.00             | \$2,166.65          | \$3,033.35          | 41.7%            |
| SOUTH SIDE           | \$780.00               | \$390.00            | \$390.00            | 50.0%            |
| NORTH BENTON         | \$3,000.00             | \$999.32            | \$2,000.68          | 33.3%            |
| NORTH JACKSON        | \$500.00               | \$500.00            | \$0.00              | 100.0%           |
| NORTH LIMA/CGCC      |                        |                     |                     |                  |
| PETERSBURG           | \$3,990.00             | \$1,265.00          | \$2,725.00          | 31.7%            |
| POLAND               | \$6,886.00             | \$3,442.98          | \$3,443.02          | 50.0%            |
| ROGERS/CLARKSON      | \$525.00               |                     | \$525.00            | 0.0%             |
| SALEM/CONCORD        | \$1,000.00             |                     | \$1,000.00          | 0.0%             |
| SALEM FIRST          | \$28,300.00            | \$28,300.00         | \$0.00              | 100.0%           |
| SEBRING              | \$9,000.00             | \$3,750.00          | \$5,250.00          | 41.7%            |
| STOW                 | \$19,250.00            | \$11,053.11         | \$8,196.89          | 57.4%            |
| STRUTHERS            |                        |                     |                     |                  |
| VIENNA               | \$5,225.00             | \$1,306.25          | \$3,918.75          | 25.0%            |
| WARREN/CALVARY       | \$250.00               | \$250.00            | \$0.00              | 100.0%           |
| WARREN/CHAMPION      | \$7,890.00             | \$1,775.04          | \$6,114.96          | 22.5%            |
| WARREN/COVENANT      | \$200.00               |                     | \$200.00            | 0.0%             |
| WARREN FIRST         | \$9,000.00             | \$6,000.00          | \$3,000.00          | 66.7%            |
| BROWNLEE WOODS       | \$8,000.00             | \$3,806.75          | \$4,193.25          | 47.6%            |
| BUTLER MEMORIAL      | \$1,500.00             |                     | \$1,500.00          | 0.0%             |
| CHRIST               | \$2,500.00             |                     | \$2,500.00          | 0.0%             |
| COITSVILLE           |                        |                     |                     |                  |
| YOUNGSTOWN FIRST     | \$13,600.00            | \$5,669.00          | \$7,931.00          | 41.7%            |
| GIBSON HEIGHTS       | \$0.00                 | \$873.04            | -\$873.04           |                  |
| HUNGARIAN            | \$0.00                 |                     | \$0.00              |                  |
| JOHN KNOX            | \$3,500.00             |                     | \$3,500.00          | 0.0%             |
| LIBERTY              | \$1,100.00             | \$495.60            | \$604.40            | 45.1%            |
| PLEASANT GROVE       | \$3,000.00             |                     | \$3,000.00          | 0.0%             |
| WESTMINSTER YO       | \$10,500.00            | \$6,100.00          | \$4,400.00          | 58.1%            |
| WICKLIFFE            | \$2,200.00             | \$1,100.00          | \$1,100.00          | 50.0%            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>\$340,622.71</b>    | <b>\$150,481.81</b> | <b>\$190,140.90</b> | <b>44.2%</b>     |

**Eastminster Presbytery's Obligation to GA**

**June 30, 2006**

|             |       |             |                                       |   |
|-------------|-------|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>2001</b> |       |             |                                       | <i>2001 Balance - \$0 paid in 2002</i>          |
| <b>2002</b> |       |             |                                       | <i>2002 Balance - \$137,713.30 paid in 2003</i> |
| <b>2003</b> |       |             |                                       | <i>2003 Balance - \$103,118.16 paid in 2004</i> |
| <b>2004</b> | Jan.  | \$ 8,235.51 | Wired 7-13-04                         |   |
|             | Feb.  | \$17,196.10 | Wired 7-13-04                         |   |
|             | Mar.  | \$ 8,176.71 | Wired 8-25-04                         |   |
|             | April | \$32,395.08 | Wired 10-13-04                        |   |
|             | May   | \$26,835.88 | Wired 12-17-04                        |   |
|             | June  | \$37,833.59 | Wired 1-12-05                         |   |
|             | July  | \$22,801.62 | Wired 1-12-05                         |   |
|             | Aug.  | \$12,080.75 | Wired 1-12-05                         |   |
|             | Sept. | \$17,854.44 | Wired 3-4-05                          |   |
|             | Oct.  | \$21,620.39 | Wired 4-18-05                         |   |
|             | Nov.  | \$17,609.78 | Wired 4-18-05                         |   |
|             | Dec.  | \$47,861.18 | Wired 5-20-05                         | <i>2004 Balance - \$104,945.79 paid in 2005</i> |
| <b>2005</b> | Jan.  | \$18,712.98 | Wired 7-08-05                         |   |
|             | Feb.  | \$32,550.75 | Wired 7-18-05                         |   |
|             | Mar.  | \$19,109.95 | Wired 7-18-05                         |   |
|             | Apr.  | \$33,965.78 | Wired 7-18-05                         |   |
|             | May   | \$25,129.44 | Wired 7-18-05                         |   |
|             | June  | \$24,887.75 | Wired 8-10-05                         |   |
|             | July  | \$28,146.28 | Wired 8-29-05                         |   |
|             | Aug.  | \$14,119.76 | Wired 9-27-05                         |   |
|             | Sept. | \$30,086.04 | Wired 10-07-05                        |   |
|             | Oct.  | \$33,095.73 | Wired 1-12-06 & 2-14-06               |   |
|             | Nov.  | \$25,997.72 | Wired 1-12-06 & 4-10-06               |   |
|             | Dec.  | \$31,085.87 | Wired 1-12-06 & 5-1-06                | <i>2005 Balance - \$44,806.38 paid in 2006</i>  |
| <b>2006</b> | Jan.  | \$23,727.41 | Wired 5-10-06 (still owe \$5,225.95)  |   |
|             | Feb.  | \$7,604.81  | Wired 5-10-06 (still owe \$3,975.00)  |   |
|             | Mar.  | \$15,882.84 | Wired 5-10-06 (still owe \$12,820.85) |   |
|             | Apr.  | \$ 9,469.76 |                                       |   |
|             | May   | \$58,323.83 |                                       |   |
|             | June  | \$16,115.56 |                                       |   |
|             |       |             | <b>Total owed to GA \$105,930.95</b>  |   |

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

**Eastminster Presbytery Office**

Email: [lorrainejones@faithfulness.com](mailto:lorrainejones@faithfulness.com)

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

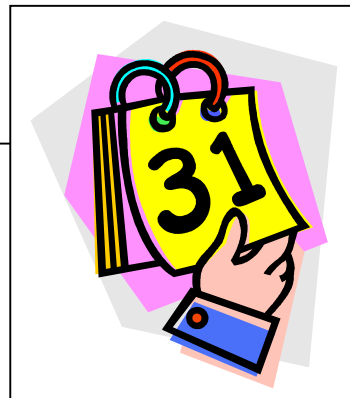
Lorraine Jones, coordinator

**Resource Center Hours:**

**Mon Noon—5:00 p.m.**

**Wed Noon—5:00 p.m.**

**Sat 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.**



**Visit the "mini"  
Resource Center  
at the Presbytery  
meeting!**

Quick Calendar:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| July 23           | Emphasize Metropolitan/Urban Ministry*    |
| August 13         | Homelessness/affordable housing emphasis+ |
| September 3       | Christian Vocation                        |
| September 10 – 16 | Christian Education Week                  |

\*A new book available at the Resource Center, “Vital Signs of Urban Congregations” (PCUSA, 2006) lifts up the stories of twelve urban congregations that have experienced significant transformation in ministering with their congregations and communities. For other resources, visit [www.pcusa.org/urban](http://www.pcusa.org/urban) or visit the Resource Center if you need help accessing the internet.

+Receive a resource packet for Homelessness/Affordable Housing emphasis by calling (888) 728-7228 ext. 5244 or go to [www.pcusa.org/urban](http://www.pcusa.org/urban). At the Resource Center we carry “Jean Kim’s “End Homelessness Jubilee Manual” (PCUSA, 2000) which contains 7 steps and 77 ways to end homelessness. OR, you may wish to sign out the 20-minute video “Jean Kim Says End Homelessness” (PCUSA, 2000) which includes background information, program examples and a challenge to churches to become more involved in homelessness ministry.

***The fall curriculum is in!  
See what's new  
at the Resource Center.***

## New at the Resource Center

### What It Means to Be a Presbyterian Book Package

The Presbyterian Publishing Corporation offers a series of 13 books to help inform laity in PC(USA) churches about “what it means to be a Presbyterian.” Come to the Resource Center or visit the “mini” Resource Center at the Presbytery meeting to check out some of these great books:

“Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt” by Ted V. Foote Jr. and P. Alex Thornburg, (Geneva Press, 2000).

“A Brief History of the Presbyterian” by James H. Smiley, (Geneva Press, 1996).

“Calvin for Armchair Theologians” by Christopher Elwood, (Westminster John Knox Press, 2002).

“Definitive Guidance: The Church’s Statements on Homosexuality” from the Office of the General Assembly PC(USA), (Geneva Press, 2004).

“Faith in Words” edited by Ann Weems and Louis B. Weeks, (Geneva Press, 2004).

“How to Spell Presbyterian, Revised Edition” by James W. Angell, (Geneva Press, 2002).

“Living Water: A Guide to Baptism for Presbyterians” by James E. Davison, (Geneva Press, 2000)

“Presbyterian Beliefs” by Donald K. McKim, (Geneva Press, 2003).

“Presbyterian Creeds” by Jack Rogers, (Westminster John Knox, 1991).

“Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers” by Donald K. McKim, (Geneva Press, 2003).

“This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterian Affirm” by Stephen W. Plunkett, (Geneva Press, 2002).

“To Be a Presbyterian” by Louis B. Weeks, (John Knox Press, 1983).

“Witness Without Parallel: Eight Biblical Texts that Make Us Presbyterian” by Earl S. Johnson, Jr., (Geneva Press, 2003).

### Presbyterian Leader Book Package

A series of 9 books from the Presbyterian Publishing Corporation to help people train to be leaders and to understand what it means to be a Presbyterian leader. Check out these great books at the Resource Center or at the Presbytery meeting:

“Companion to the Constitution, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.” From the Office of the General Assembly PC(USA), (Geneva Press, 1999).

“Devotion and Discipline: Training for Presbyterian Leaders” by Guy D. Griffith and Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, (Geneva Press, 1999).

“Making Disciples, Making Leaders” by Steven P. Eason, (Geneva Press, 2004).

“The Ordination Questions” by Howard L. Rice and Calvin Chinn, (Geneva Press, 1996).

“The Presbyterian Deacon” by Earl S. Johnson, Jr., (Geneva Press, 2002).

“The Presbyterian Elder” by Paul S. Wright, (Geneva Press, 1992).

“The Presbyterian Trustee” by Earl S. Johnson, Jr., (Geneva Press, 2004).

“Selected to Serve” by Earl S. Johnson, Jr., (Geneva Press, 2000).

“The Price of Faith” by Marie T. Cross, (Geneva Press, 2002).

SYNOD OF THE COVENANT  
COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 17-18, 2006  
MAUMEE, OHIO

Following worship on the evening of Wednesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, an exhilarating report on the work of the Mobile Health Fair was presented by its director, Tammy Sheuermann. Forty-five (45) separate Health Fairs have been scheduled for 2006. This is ten (10) more than last year. After some discussion, Tammy introduced the director of the Ohio Migrant Education Center, Jose Molenos. Mr. Molenos told his personal story of growing up in a migrant worker family and of his continuing enthusiasm for the contributions such programs as the Mobile Health Fair make to the well-being of migrant worker. The report was an up-lifting, inspiring affirmation of this ministry of the Synod.

Personnel Services Committee requested time for a matter of special concern. With this time being granted, Co-Executive Richard Brownlee presented his request for medical leave and for the dissolution of his relationship with the Synod, effective June 1, 2006. His letter of request is attached to the end of this report. His request was received with genuine sadness. Time was taken for Council members to offer comments of appreciation for Richard's work with the Synod. The evening closed with a circle of prayer focusing especially on concern for Richard and his wife, Barbara, in days ahead.\*

The Council meeting continued the following day with reports from:

- The Task Force on Higher Education, the Synod Treasurer, the Committees on Nominations, Multicultural and Justice Ministries, Church Development and Transformation, Covenants and Connections, and Operations.
- General Assembly Council member Carol Hylkema, who humanized the deep budget cuts being made at GA with the phrase "Every decision, we knew, had somebody's name next to it".
- Co-Executives who report focused on the many unresolved questions of organization that call for our continuing reflection, asking each committee to bring a statement of mission including objectives, priorities and budget for consideration at the August Council meeting. There was a good deal of discussion relative to how a budget is developed and how "new" things can happen and be funded and how "other" things can be evaluated as to their continuing validity.

The meeting closed with a real sense of forward movement in this "new" structure and its ministries, but also with a deep sense of sadness over the retirement of the Rev. Dr. Richard Brownlee, who contributed a great deal to this forward movement in the course of his brief time as co-executive.

Council member – Joseph W. Atkins, Jr.

An occasion for the celebration of Dr. Brownlee's work and recognition of his retirement will be announced as soon as arrangements have been finalized.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

PRESBYTERY OF CINCINNATI    PRESBYTERY OF DETROIT    PRESBYTERY OF EASTMINSTER    PRESBYTERY OF LAKE HURON    PRESBYTERY OF LAKE MICHIGAN  
PRESBYTERY OF MACKINAC    PRESBYTERY OF MAUMEE VALLEY    PRESBYTERY OF MIAMI    PRESBYTERY OF MUSKINGUM VALLEY    PRESBYTERY OF SCIOTO  
VALLEY    PRESBYTERY OF THE WESTERN RESERVE

May 22, 2006

Dear Synod Commissioner,

The Statement below was accepted by the Synod Council at its May 17-18 meeting, and we agreed that my last day of work will be May 31, 2006. It is my understanding that we will have an opportunity to celebrate our time together.

---

In 1968, with the encouragement of a Sunday School class, I accepted a call to prepare for the ministry of Word and Sacrament. I left behind a career in Data Processing, to respond to God's call. Since that time I have served four congregations, and two presbyteries. In 2003 as part of my continuing response to God's activity in my life, I accepted a call to be a Co-Executive of the Synod of the Covenant.

In March of 2005, without warning, I found myself in the hospital, diagnosed with Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis, a chronic liver disease. Thus began a great internal struggle. I wanted to be faithful to my call, but I needed to pay attention to reduced physical abilities. I hoped I could return to normal, but after a year of struggle, I have finally come to agree with my doctors that I have reached Maximum Medical Improvement. That means that I can continue to enjoy life, but that I am not physically able to tolerate the normal stresses that go with being a Synod Executive. In this year of struggle and reflection, I have also begun to believe that God is calling me into a new vocation, which some call retirement. So, I have asked the Council of the Synod of the Covenant, effective June 1, 2006, to grant me medical leave, and to begin to dissolve our relationship.

I remain confident and grateful that God called me to this Synod. I am particularly grateful to Marie Cross, the Synod Staff, and the Council for their support during this time. I am aware that they picked up the slack while I was in the hospital, and as I recovered, but what I shall always remember is their personal support during this time of trial.

I am grateful that I have been able to respond to God's call to serve the church for 34 years, and that my last years could be in this position. I will leave with some sadness, for I have enjoyed the relationships with my colleagues here on staff and the council. But I have no fear about the future of the Synod of the Covenant. God called us together, and as I move on to a different kind of calling, I know that the Synod remains in God's hands, and in the hands of many able servants. I pray and shall pray often for God's blessings on the Synod, its leaders, its presbyteries, and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as we try to respond to God's call to be the church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

Richard D. Brownlee  
May 17, 2006

cc: Council

**Eastminster Presbytery  
Committee on Ministry**

Items for Information:

1. The COM adopted the report and recommendations of the Sub-Committee on Commissioned Lay Pastors. (see page 41-44).
2. The COM approved the extension of the Interim Pastor Covenant between the Session of Canfield Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Carolyn Griffeth through 6/16/07.
3. The COM approve the extension of the Interim Pastor Covenant between the Session of Poland Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Rusty Cowden through 10/15/06.
4. The COM approved the dissolution of the Interim Pastor Covenant between the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Akron and the Rev. Todd Allen as of August 31, 2006. Rev. Allen's last Sunday in the pulpit will be July 9, 2006.
5. The COM approved the replacement of Rev. Jan Douglass by Rev. Ross Jackson to serve as moderator of the United Presbyterian Church of East Palestine effectively July 1, 2006.
6. A workshop for Church Treasurers is being planned for Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. The location is yet to be determined. The workshop will be led by the Board of Pensions and will do done in conjunction with neighboring presbyteries.

Items for Action:

## COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Approved by Committee on Ministry 6/13/2006

Eastminster Presbytery

Your subcommittee offers this executive summary of the recommendations to follow in this paper.

We recommend that:

- 1) A two year training course be offered for any elder in Eastminster Presbytery from which candidacy for Commissioned Lay Pastor may evolve with a training course beyond this required for those accepted.
- 2) An enlarged and more accountable CLP application process be used by elders in training, involving more responsibly the Sessions of those elders.
- 3) An increased amount of information be available to the subcommittee in preparation for the interview by which an elder in training may be received for the final year in becoming a Commissioned Lay Pastor.
- 4) Specific junctures within the training and application process be named where an elder in training may receive a "no" in response to her/his aspiration to become a trained CLP.
- 5) The title for elders working toward or attaining CLP status shall be Elder, particularly those CLPs providing ministry in a congregation (not Pastor).
- 6) The privilege and task of the administration of the sacraments, of marrying and of funerals, also of moderating a Session, rarely, if ever, be granted to Elder CLPs in Eastminster Presbytery.

Your subcommittee believes that the trained/commissioned lay pastor program is fundamentally good, helpful, and beneficial in the life and ministry of this Presbytery. However, some of the results of the ministry have been negative: for example, misunderstandings have occurred based on some lay pastors' actual practice of such ministry. While the overall process which produces this ministry needs to be more defined and clarified, with procedures and purpose more specific and obvious, we believe that elders trained and ready for commissioning will serve the Presbytery well. It will assist in clarity if elders who have attained a status to function as CLPs (Commissioned Lay Pastors), but are not certified, be termed TLPs (Trained Lay Pastors). Much negativity concerning the ministry has come from the assumptions and resulting conduct of some of the lay pastors who have been "in service" as well as those not in service engaged in personal pursuits to acquire churches for ministry. These assumptions need to be challenged and corrected so that future incorrect assumptions will be minimized or eliminated. To this end, your subcommittee makes these recommendations to the Committee on Ministry.

### RECOMMENDATION ONE

**We recommend** that candidates for CLP status, from this time on, evolve from a training course of two years of study offered generally to all elders in Eastminster Presbytery who wish to grow in an understanding of Scripture, in spirituality and in the capability to perform the roles and function of an elder as described in the Book of Order, augmented by other tasks for an elder emerging in this post-Christendom period of the PC(USA). As elders progress through the training course, each may make a decision simply to complete the course, realizing that s/he will serve more competently as an elder in whichever congregation s/he is a member, or in the process of the training course s/he may make application to be considered for the special elder function of CLP. Application (which may be made within the second half of the second year of elder training) does not guarantee acceptance. Further, if an elder completing the two year general study applies for CLP status and is accepted, the successful applicant will be required to engage in a third year of training directed specifically to probable issues and concerns of being a CLP: visioning, planning, mission strategy and evaluation; integrity of ministry within the PC(USA) polity and theology; theology and practice of sacrament administration; being in between

congregation and Presbytery, as leader in a congregation and also Presbytery's presence and spokesperson. Additionally, annual training designed by the subcommittee will be required of all CLPs and TLPs.

## RECOMMENDATION TWO

Application (along with a statement of faith) by an elder in training to become a CLP shall be made first to the Committee on Ministry's subcommittee on CLPs, who will review the application and the statement, determining suitability for candidacy. Along with information from the application, the subcommittee will receive information from the training faculty concerning suitability for CLP status, will interview the applicant's pastor, and will require a battery of psychological and personality tests from a source determined by the subcommittee. If suitability is affirmed based upon this data and subcommittee predetermined criteria, the application (with notes from the committee) will be taken personally to the elder's Session, along with a request for the Session to review the application and interview the elder following its own line of inquiry as well as using any questions and information the subcommittee may submit. From that interview, the Session will be asked to decide regarding endorsement of the elder to be a candidate for CLP – making its decision based on its knowledge of the candidate's suitability for and attitude toward a calling to be a CLP, not on the basis of affection and affiliation with the candidate – and to send the endorsement in letter form to the subcommittee, citing the reasons for their affirmation, including the strengths and weaknesses of the applicant as revealed in the interview. **We recommend** this application process.

## RECOMMENDATION THREE

The application form shall be designed not only to gather background information about the applicant but, more importantly, to ascertain information about the applicant's understanding of ministry, her/his motivation for pursuing this particular and special form of elder ministry, the connection between faith and ministry, and personal experiences that point to her/his answers to these inquiries (e.g. Who is the applicant's ministry role model?). It will be necessary for the subcommittee to develop criteria by which evaluation will be made to decide about the applicant at this level of the process. The subcommittee will either accept or reject the elder for an interview before the subcommittee based upon the application, the letter of endorsement and the Session's opinions of the applicant, the psychological and personality testing, the statement of faith, information about the candidate received from the training faculty, and criteria developed for this interview and stage of the process. Based on a positive interview, the candidate may be given the opportunity to enter the third year of training (Recommendation One). **We recommend** this procedure.

## RECOMMENDATION FOUR

We affirm this approach in that it presents several junctures in the process at which the Presbytery's agents may say a loving "no" to the applicant's desire for this particular expression of the office of elder: 1) at the receipt of the elder's written application; 2) by the Session based on its interview (which needs to be made very clear to the Session); 3) upon receipt of the Session's letter of endorsement; 4) at the completion of the subcommittee's interview. **We recommend** that these opportunities to end the pursuit of CLP status by an elder be used justly and courageously.

## RECOMMENDATION FIVE

The fundamental role and function of a CLP as stated in the Book of Order must be made clear at every level in this process, emphasizing the two components: 1) a CLP is an elder of the PC(USA) who is set apart (not elevated) within that office by a particular call, training, screening, and commissioning to provide leadership and ministry in and for a congregation; and 2) said CLP ministry, within the resulting relationship with a congregation, is to fit within and complement the overall mission strategy of the Presbytery for that particular church and its participation in the Presbytery community. We believe that increasingly it is the task of the Committee on Ministry to distinguish those missional situations and conditions which genuinely call for, if not require, the ministry of an Elder CLP. An understanding of this working definition and its implications should be the basis for the elder's application, the Session's interview, the subcommittee's acceptance, the content of the application form, and many of the interview questions by the Session and the subcommittee. One such implication of this definition is the title by which a CLP shall be called. We believe ELDER is the appropriate title for a functioning CLP, not "pastor". **We recommend** that this definition and its implications, and the title by which a CLP will be called, be lifted up with regularity and at every turn of this process: e.g. Elder Jane Doe, Trained Lay Pastor or Commissioned Lay Pastor.

Two misunderstandings often feed upon one another toward a perception of self which extends beyond the CLP identity described here (misunderstanding of CLPs to be "junior grade" ministers of Word and sacrament in their work and in their being): 1) an incorrect understanding of the definition in the Book of Order distorted by self identity and ego; and 2) a congregation's eagerness to "elevate" the CLP to something the office does not make available as a sign of satisfaction and appreciation. Any description or interpretation of this ministry, orally or printed, must make clear the content of this recommendation so that a participant in the elder training, an applicant to become a CLP, or the agents of the Presbytery conducting this ministry are clear as to the identity and function of this office and the person in it.

## RECOMMENDATION SIX

Two issues of conflict and misunderstanding in the CLP ministry are the privilege of administering the sacraments and officiating at weddings and funerals, and the appointment to be moderator of Session. The reason these become an issue stems from the perception some CLPs have of themselves and their "necessary" roles and functions, and a sense of urgency they feel generated by the congregation (their "minister" – the CLP – needs to "be complete"; therefore she/he should be able to do these things). While we can make a distinction between the nature of sacrament administration and that of officiating at weddings and funerals, we see these functions commonly as holy moments and thus to be addressed together. To administer the sacraments and officiate at weddings and funerals, even if such fits within the strategy of the Presbytery for the CLP in a particular congregation, should be based upon the following, all pointing to the integrity of ministry within the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, and rarely, if ever, granted in this Presbytery to elders serving as CLPs:

1) a clear understanding of the meaning and theology of the sacraments. It is inappropriate for a person to administer the sacraments not knowing thoroughly why it is done and how that relates to what is done. Generally, a person's attention is upon the mechanics and logistics of the sacrament, not upon the fundamental meaning and how that meaning relates to overall ecclesiology. The same can be said of celebrating the marriage rite and officiating at funerals. "Status" afforded by doing these things is NOT the issue; being an instrument of God's grace and love by knowing what is to be done and how, within the context of the community of saints, is the point.

- 2) knowing how, why, and where the sacraments fit into the entire Reformed worship experience.
- 3) knowing where and when the sacraments can and should be administered, to whom, and how such administration is recorded in the “journal” of the congregation.

These concerns listed above are fundamental issues of theology, church history, and Biblical record. The other “side of the coin” is seen in functional or “mental” issues, which often are expressed by congregations being served by CLPs in these words:

- 1) it is too difficult for the church to acquire an ordained minister for Sundays when the sacraments are to be administered, or for a wedding or a funeral.
- 2) “paying double” is a problem: compensation to a CLP plus a minister to do the sacraments.
- 3) a CLP is so good for us (we like her/him so much), s/he should be able to do these things (what’s the problem?) – a reward for good work.
- 4) “having our own minister” is not complete without being able to do these things.
- 5) not letting “our minister” do these things means you do not like us or her/him; it is hostile in nature.

As for moderating the Session, this responsibility is highly dependent upon a CLP’s understanding of Presbyterian polity, Roberts’ Rules of Order, and the ability to be a part of the Session while at the same time providing leadership which enables good decision- making, spiritual and temporal guidance of the congregation, and faithfulness to the Lord of the church in all things. The capacity to moderate a Session is highly dependent upon wisdom and knowledge, which stem from experience rarely achieved through the training leading to CLP role and function.

**We recommend** that these matters of the sacraments and the moderating of a Session be clarified: in the course of training; at the time of interview of the Elder CLP for commissioning; at the time of negotiation with a prospective congregation wishing an Elder CLP; and that an agent of the Presbytery conduct a short “installation liturgy” before the congregation in Sunday worship at the start of an Elder CLP’s ministry within which clarity is offered about administering the sacraments and officiating at weddings and funerals, plus moderating a Session. It must be made clear that granting permission, if ever provided, to do these tasks is the prerogative of the Presbytery and is a matter between the Presbytery and Elder CLP.

These recommendations must be understood in the context of a genuine and faithful interest in our congregations and their ongoing ministries by the Presbytery, including the Committee on Ministry. While by nature these recommendations must be definitive, they are not to be understood as punitive to anyone or any congregation; rather, they are offered to strengthen the Presbytery’s CLP ministry along with the ministry and mission of our Presbytery’s congregations.

Subcommittee members:

David Robert Black

Ruth Gerrard Cole

Paul Gaug

Wally Kukuk

Peggy Richmond

Irene Sams

John Sharick (ex officio), Convener

**Eastminster Presbytery Meeting Coordinating Council**  
**July 11, 2006**

**For Action:**

“That Eastminster Presbytery approve a Commission {G-9.,0503 a(4)} to be empowered to respond to expressions of concern by ministers, sessions, and congregations in Eastminster Presbytery relating to the actions of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Authority granted to the Commission includes seeking communication with ministers, sessions, and congregations who express deep concerns relating to actions of the 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly; seeking resolution of conflicts; and contracting with legal counsel if deemed necessary by the Commission. The Commission is expected to act in accordance with the Book of Order, with ordination vows, and with concern for all of God’s people. Actions concerning the relationship of any ordained officer or congregation to Eastminster Presbytery must come as recommendations to Eastminster Presbytery for approval. This Commission is to be comprised of 4 clergy persons and 3 elders, or 3 clergy and 4 elders, as follows:

One member of the Coordinating Council, appointed by the Moderator of the Council;  
Two members of the Committee on Ministry, appointed by the Moderator of the COM;  
Two members of the Board of Trustees, appointed by the President of the Trustees;  
Two persons appointed by the Moderator of Eastminster Presbytery;  
General Presbyter Dan Schomer (ex-officio).”

## **Communication & Nurture Committee 2006 Eliza Doolittle Award**

The Communications and Nurture Committee is offering financial and technical assistance to one congregation in Eastminster Presbytery for the purchase and installation of new worship technology. Past recipients of this assistance include First Church of Girard and Petersburg Presbyterian Church. The committee has \$2,000 available for the project. In addition, committee members will be available to assist the church chosen to receive the award with 1) forming the church committee, 2) choosing the equipment, and 3) training members to use the equipment.

Two important points:

1. The financial award is probably **not** sufficient to pay for the purchase and installation for sound and projection equipment in most sanctuaries. The congregation selected for the project should be prepared to match the \$2,000 or so that the committee is providing.
2. Before applying for the funding, the session of the prospective congregation should survey its membership to make sure that there is interest in the new worship technology. If there is substantial resistance to the idea, it would be better to know this before an application is submitted. (If members would like to see this kind of technology in action before making up their minds, contact the Communication and Nurture Committee through the presbytery offices, and we'll identify a site near you where it can be seen and heard.)

A letter of application should be sent to John Graves, Moderator of the Communications and Nurture Committee, at [jgraves2@ameritech.net](mailto:jgraves2@ameritech.net). The application should be received by August 1st.

**Please note:** Although funding assistance can only be provided to one congregation this budget year, committee members are available to help other congregations with advice and support in the selection and use of worship technology. If your congregation is considering such technology, please feel free to contact John Graves at [jgraves2@ameritech.net](mailto:jgraves2@ameritech.net). He will arrange for committee members to visit your church and provide assistance.

Many congregations are finding that new worship technology is helping to bring their members into a closer and more powerful experience of God in worship, and some report that it's helping them attract new members. The committee urges the sessions of the presbytery to give prayerful consideration of how this technology can enhance the worship life of your congregation.